

Introduction of Albanian Women in Nanotechnology - AWIN as part of NanoAlb

Marinela Barci

Principal Engineer at Huawei R&D Belgium

Founder of Albanian Women in Nanotechnology - AWIN

Marinela.barci@huawei.com

Abstract

As part of the Albanian Research Center - NanoAlb, a volunteer group of ~ 50 women decided to found Albanian Women in Nanotechnology – AWIN, with the aim to create a network of wonderful Women scientist and engineers, who are keen to share their work and experience and motivate other Women to inboard the wonderful world of Nanotechnology.

AWIN - Mission and Vision

- ❖ AWIN wants to bring together Women who are involved in Nanotech, or who share the passion about advanced technology and its application.
- ❖ AWIN wants to give to Women the right to speak, share their opinion and give their solutions to worldwide problems (Women, Society, Climate, Healthcare,...).
- ❖ We aim to motivate young generation to pursue a degree and career in the field of Nanotechnology (coaching and mentoring with seminars, workshops, technical courses and tutorials).

AWIN – Moto

- ♥ Women support other Women

AWIN - Latest and new projects

- 1- First step of AWIN was in creating a common space to share information and connect with other members and institutions who work in the same field. That's why we have our LinkedIn page [1], where we post info related to our seminars, projects, collaborations and share info and update on latest news, with link to NanoAlb website [2]
- 2- AWIN is the co-organizer and promotor of Workshop entitled Women in Tech during NanoBalkan2024 conference in collaboration with NanoAlb. The purpose of this workshop is to connect women from Albania and abroad to discuss the latest news on Nanotech and exploit the future possibilities Nanotech can bring to empower Albanian Women and their career growth. This workshop has brought together 30 participants, which address technical and scientific work related to Medical and Healthcare, Digital and Innovation (Telecommunication, Transport, Services) and how the advanced technology has reshaped the way of making research and business [3].
- 3- AWIN organizes each year a seminar on 8th March (link to previous 2023, 2024) to promote the role of Women in Nanotech from academia, research and industry and discuss important topics related to Women and our society [3-6]:
 - a. Past years were focused on sharing good recipes and advices on How to balance Professional and Personal life; Labour Market and its impact on Women on Nanotechnology.
 - b. **Save the date for 2025:** This year, the seminar is entitled: How to preserve identity in the area of Globalization using Novel Technologies (VR glasses, 3D view, holograms, digital libraries, etc are just some of the many novel technologies)
- 4- As part of Albanian Research Center – NanoAlb, we want to link our technical work to our native and unique Albanian language. That's why we have created in collaboration with Quarz [7] and NanoAlb, a competition on December entitled Nanoteknologjia flet shqip; where we invite young researchers to description their technical study in 3-5min in Albanian/2 slides

max. Our aim is to promote interest in STEM from the new generations and connect people with the Nanotech community.

- 5- We are planning to conduct a research study related to gender gap data and how Nanotech seems to be a good opportunity for Women to grow professionally with title: **Metrics to evaluate impact of Nanotechnology in Women Growth in a timeline of 5 years** (2014 to nowadays).
- 6- October is the Pink Month as the Fight against Breast Cancer; AWIN wants to be part of the sensibilization, prevention and detection methods link to the latest Medical and Engineering research; an online seminar entitled “Medicine meets Technology to fight Breast Cancer” is scheduled on October 24th [8]
- 7- AWIN is planning to organise a photo exposition with famous Albanian Women using novel technology methods combining art and science.
- 8- Inspired by the volunteering activities of our members such as **European Research Night – Research Buffet**: a group of researchers are planning to make a meeting face to face with universities to address to young generations what is the real job (poster, panel discussion) as a Scientist and Engineer in STEM. Target public: Universiteti i Tiranes, Western Balkan, TUMO research center etc.

As our group increases in size, also our mission and ambitions increase and what is important we want to be open to new ideas and collaborations, while being up to date with latest news and research in the field of STEM and Nanotech.

Acknowledgment: AWIN wants to give special thanks to all the members for being active advocates in STEM. In particular we want thank our promotors Professor Majlinda and Professor Arben from NanoAlb, who support and motivate us in all the projects.

References

- [1] <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13011213>
- [2] <https://nanoalb.al/nanoalb/resources/news/2024.03.08.Program-of-Women-in-Nanotechnology-2024.pdf>
- [3] <https://www.nanobalkanconf.com/2024/WorkshopWomen.php>
- [4] <https://www.susnano.eu/post/empowering-women-in-nanotechnology-highlights-from-the-2024-forum>
- [5] [https://nanoalb.al/nanoalb/resources/news/2023.03.08 Program Albanian Women in Nanotechnology.pdf](https://nanoalb.al/nanoalb/resources/news/2023.03.08.Program%20Albanian%20Women%20in%20Nanotechnology.pdf)
- [6] <https://opinionstage.com/page/4b72450c-af3b-4b2d-a41d-517c4274794a>
- [7] https://nanoalb.al/nanoalb/phd_meetings.php
- [8] https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7254775604909162496?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios



Workshop on 29th October in Tirana, Albania

