Women in H2GLASS

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Tell us a bit about yourself and your role in H2GLASS.

I am an engineer with a focus on sustainable innovation, having worked in the field for over seven years, three of which have been in the glass industry. My role primarily involves developing and implementing solutions that increase the sustainability and efficiency of glass manufacturing processes.

At Stara Glass, I help coordinate the H2GLASS project internally and contribute to the technical activities. This includes managing financial reporting, project communication, and dissemination efforts. For example, in WP3, I am involved in the automation and control systems of the project, helping improve how we control and monitor glass furnaces. In WP2, I contribute to designing hydrogen-powered furnaces and creating combustion systems that are ready for hydrogen use. My role allows me to combine strategic planning with technical execution, making sure we advance innovation while keeping sustainability at the forefront.

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What challenges do you think women face in the STEM field, and how can we address them?

Women in STEM often face challenges such as being underrepresented, having fewer mentorship opportunities, and needing to prove themselves more than their male counterparts. For instance, in some technical fields, women are still often seen as outliers, which can lead to a lack of confidence or opportunities.

To address these challenges, we need to build more inclusive environments where women's contributions are recognized. In my experience, having mentorship—whether from a senior woman or a supportive male colleague, can make a huge difference. Companies should also ensure equal representation in leadership roles and provide platforms where women can share their expertise and successes.

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What advice would you give to young women looking to start a career in the STEM field?

My advice would be to not shy away from challenges. STEM is full of opportunities, but it also requires persistence and resilience. For example, when I started in the glass industry, I had no prior experience, but I focused on learning as much as I could and developing my skills.

I also recommend seeking mentorship from those you admire, getting involved in relevant projects early on, and staying curious about the ever-evolving technologies and fields within STEM. The more you learn, the more confident you'll become. Most importantly, trust that your perspective is valuable, and your contributions will help shape the future.

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