

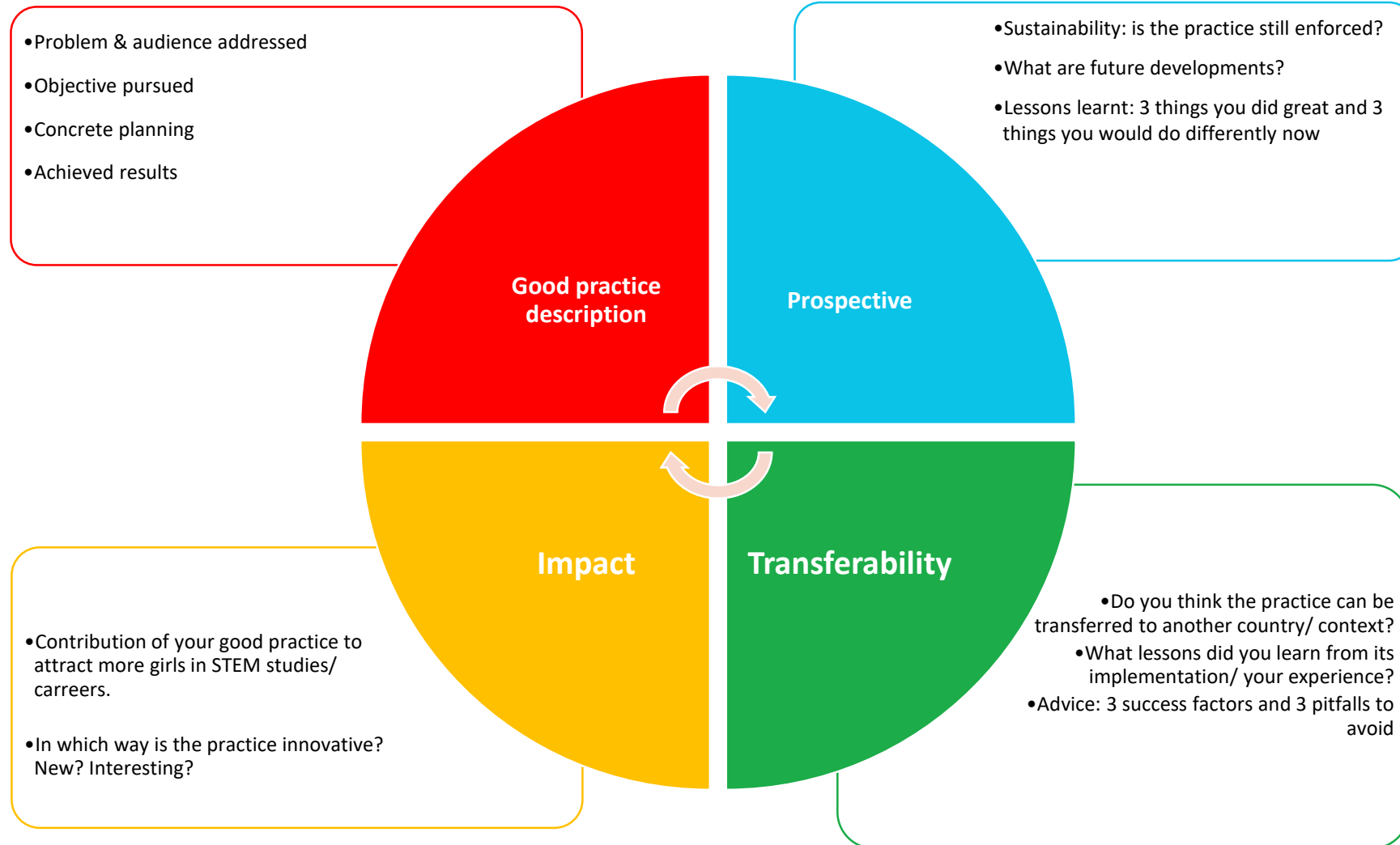


*How to increase girls' participation in STEM disciplines?
Gender fair teaching good practices*

June 7th, 2018 | IFEN | Walferdange, Luxembourg

Speeddate-activities with female role models
Katharina Müller, VHTO

Speeddate-activities with female role models in Dutch high schools



Girls speeddate with female STEM-professionals

Problem and audience tackled:

- High school girls (12 to 18 years old), all education levels
- Tackling the stereotype 'Women do not belong in STEM' and 'STEM is nerdy, boring and dirty and thus not interesting for girls'

Planning

- Planning of speeddate several months ahead of time
- Inviting role models: at least 6 weeks in advance
- Introduction of 30 min. by VHTO employee
- 4x15 min. speeddates with female role models
- Preparation done with teacher, often feedback afterwards with mentor

Achieved goals

- Reached more than one third of all high schools in NL



Girls speeddate with female STEM-professionals

Sustainability:

- Taken place for more than 15 years (+ funding for the following 4 years)
- Recognized as one of VHTO's core activities

Things that work well:

- Should not be single activity, but embedded in bigger programme
- VHTO professional should be present to give context
- Variety of jobs, types, careers

In an ideal situation:

- Should take place at multiple times during education
- Preparation and feedback should always be done by/for every student
- Role models should prepare their pitch and get regular didactive trainings

Girls speeddate with female STEM-professionals

- Definitely transferrable to other countries!

Advice:

- Only organize a speeddate if you have time for it!
- Let girls speeddate in small groups (< 8 students)
- Big network is necessary
- Education levels should match that of the girls
- Briefing of role models is crucial

Girls speeddate with female STEM-professionals

- Girls choose more technical focus after speeddates
- Girls revise their prejudices on STEM
- Girls get to know careers they did not know before

- Impact of one single intervention is hard to be measured
- Speeddating is embedded in a set of activities

-- “Every girl, but also every teacher should speeddate!”, career advisor during expert meeting. --