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"Habla con Ellas: Mujeres en Astronomía"
team

Physics and Engineering are areas that continue to be perceived by society as "male professions" and in which women are still under-represented. In 2017, a group of female colleagues from the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC) began to meet with the aim of co-creating activities that would contribute to changing gender stereotypes in these areas. This is how **"Talk to them: Women in Astronomy"** came about, an initiative in which IAC astrophysicists and engineers, together with collaborators from other institutions, hold videoconferences with schools in which we explain our work and answer students' questions about scientific and technological careers, the Universe and the methods and tools we use to study it. The project started in 2019 and has continued during the current school year, even during the COVID-19 health alert.

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TALK TO THEM: Women in Astronomy

CHALLENGES:

How to stimulate girls' interest in science and technology?
How to break gender stereotypes in these areas?

WHAT IS IT?

- VIDEOCONFERENCES with astrophysicists and engineers
- FORMATS: presentation + Q&A, talk + Q&A, debate
- TOPICS: the speaker's profession, her field of work, the scientific-technological career, any astrophysical topic

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

- Make visible the work of women in Astronomy-Astrophysics
- Offer girls inspiring models to promote their STEM vocations
- Increase student interest in STEM

WHO IS IT AIMED AT?

- Schools all over Spain
- Primary, secondary and vocational education



www.iac.es/en/projects/talk-them-women-astronomy

Coordinator: Nayra Rodríguez (nre@iac.es)

RESULTS



27 women astrophysicists and engineers
From IAC and collaborator institutions
(ESO, CTAO, TNG, MPIA, IAPS-INAF, OU,
Univ. of Leicester, INFN-Padova Univ.)

2019

- 30 videoconferences
- 1,300 students
- 8 Autonomous Communities



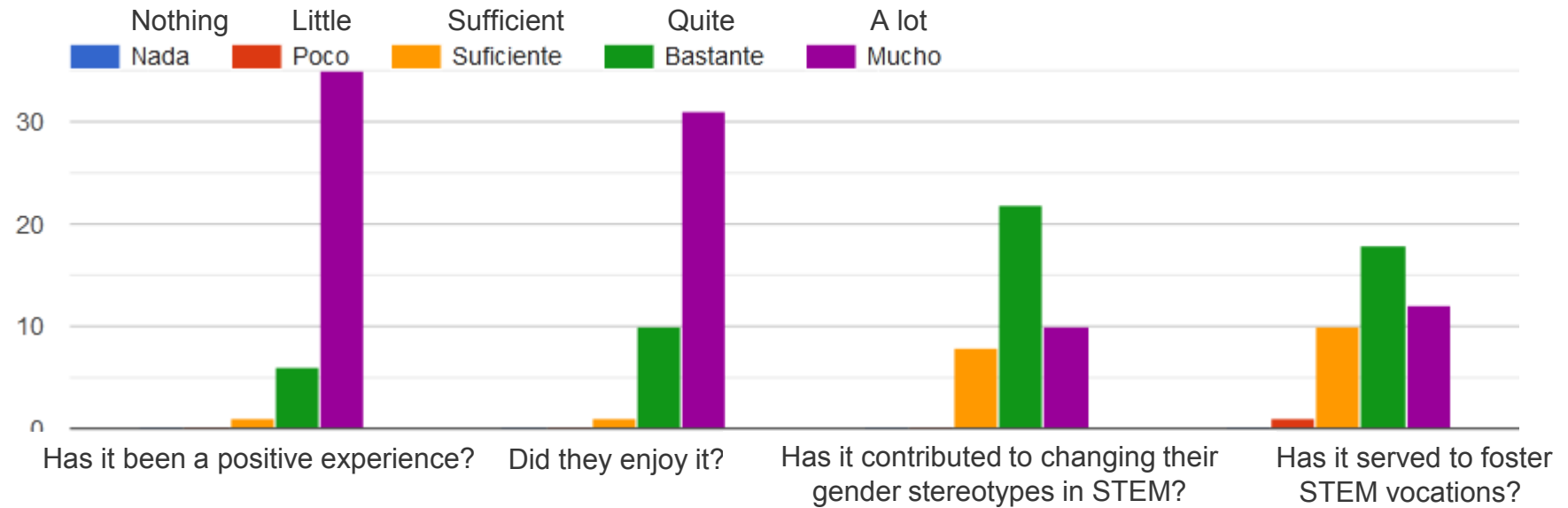
2020 (until June)

- 27 videoconferences
- 750 students
- 6 Aut. Comm., 2 international

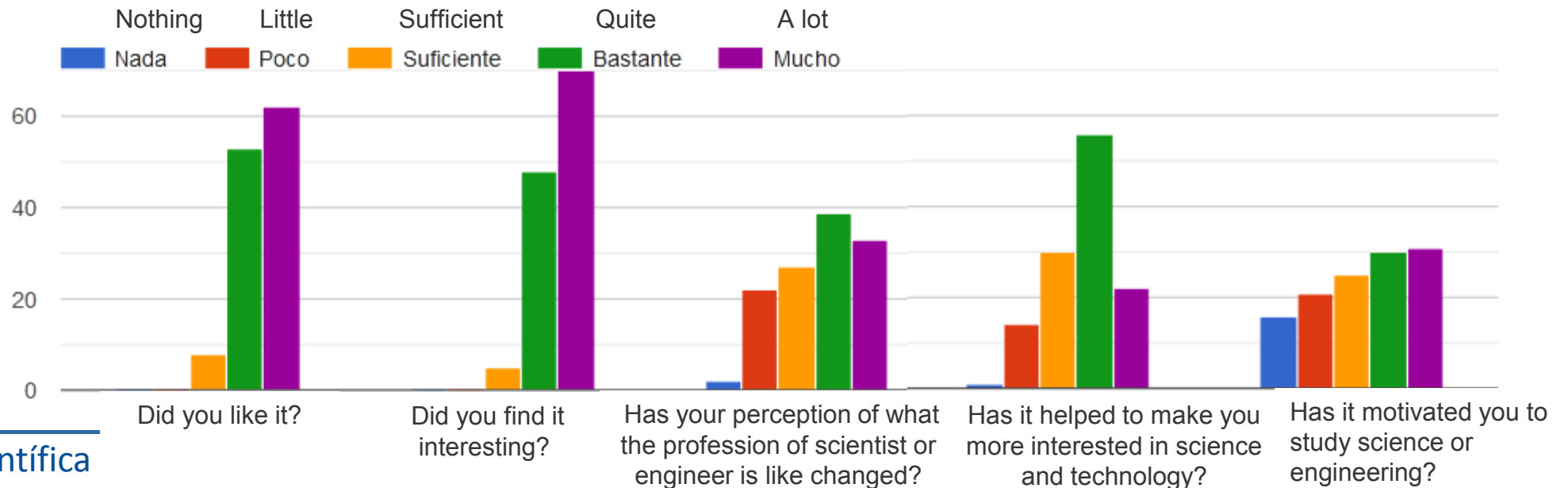


EVALUATIONS

According to the teachers,
the activity for the students...



What students
say about the
activity...



CONCLUDING REMARKS

EFFORT MADE PER EDITION:

- 1 month of work by the coordinator
- 2-3 hours of work by the designer
- 2-3 hours of each speaker per activity
- Economic costs: 0 €
- Environmental costs: very low

SCOPE:

> 2,000 primary-secondary-vocational school students
11 Spanish Autonomous Communities

IMPACT ON STUDENTS:

- 93% liked the activity quite/a lot
- 96% said it was quite/very interesting
- Helped changing stereotypes of the STEM professions: 59% quite/a lot
- More interest in STEM: 63% quite/a lot
- Fostering the STEM vocation: 50% quite/a lot



This is an ideal experience to be reproduced by other research centers.