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Press Release

<u>Greece gains international acclaim for the "Women and Girls Go Digital"</u> <u>initiative of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality</u>

Greece gained a major international award in the category of "digital opportunity" for the national initiative of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Interior entitled "Women and Girls Go Digital" The <u>WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards</u> is a biannual event for the recognition of excellence in digital technology, established by the World Information Technology and Services Alliance.

The award for the "Women and Girls Go Digital" initiative in the category of "digital opportunity" was announced on September 30th 2014, as part of the 19th World Information Technology and Services Conference held in Mexico. The WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards are granted to institutions and enterprises that capitalize on ICT innovation for the benefit of the public sector and the citizen, creating new opportunities for employment and sustainable development.

The "Women and Girls Go Digital" is a multi-stakeholder public-private initiative, which kicked off in April 2014, aiming at boosting female entrepreneurship and employment in the ICT and the digital economy sectors.

As stated by the Secretary General for Gender Equality, Ms Vasso Kollia: "It is with great pleasure that we received news of the WITSA Global ICT Excellence Awards for the 'Women and Girls Go Digital Initiative,' coordinated by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality. This international recognition creates new pathways for women in innovative technology and the digital economy, which are sectors crucial for development. As Secretary General for Gender Equality I feel pleased and even vindicated for private and public institutions –a total of 20 so far- entrusted us and believed in the power of this alliance. This award comes in recognition for Greece, of everything we can achieve when the state, the market and civil society coordinate their efforts towards the same trajectory. I would like to express my appreciation to the Federation of Hellenic Information Technology & Communications Enterprises (SEPE) for nominating us for one of the most acclaimed international awards of the global digital community."

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