MAX

DRIVING
THE EXASCALE
TRANSITION

Women

in the eXascale era

Women in the eXascale Era

A Campaign by MaX – Materials design at the eXascale

Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science
11 February 2024

Towards inclusive excellence in HPC

Despite decades of progress, women and girls remain significantly underrepresented in advanced scientific and technological fields, from materials science to high-performance computing (HPC) and computational modelling. This underrepresentation is not merely a question of fairness: it directly limits the scope and quality of scientific inquiry. Research consistently demonstrates that diverse teams produce more innovative solutions, ask deeper questions, and challenge assumptions that homogeneous groups may overlook.

At MaX, the European Centre of Excellence for materials design at the exascale, we recognise that scientific breakthroughs will not be achieved by computational power alone. They require vision, creativity, and the full participation of all talented scientists, regardless of gender.

To advance this goal, on February 11, 2024, we launched a social media campaign to give visibility to the women scientists involved in the MaX project. By highlighting their work, we aim to provide visible role models, challenge persistent stereotypes, and inspire the next generation of girls and young women to envision themselves as leaders in HPC and materials science.

The results - what we achieved

Though the campaign is just one step in a much larger journey, it achieved meaningful outcomes.

It raised visibility: by using MaX social-media channels, we brought attention not only to the women scientists, but to materials modelling at the exascale.

It helped humanise science: rather than machines, we introduced real people, women with stories.

It offered inspiration: girls and young women wonder if a career in science, HPC or materials modelling is open to them. We pointed to role models within the MaX project.

It reinforced the message of inclusion and diversity: that excellence in HPC and materials simulation does not happen by chance, but by design. And part of that design is ensuring that all voices are heard.

It reinforced the message: the campaign tied into the broader efforts of European Centres of Excellence to promote gender equality in HPC.

What we did - the campaign story

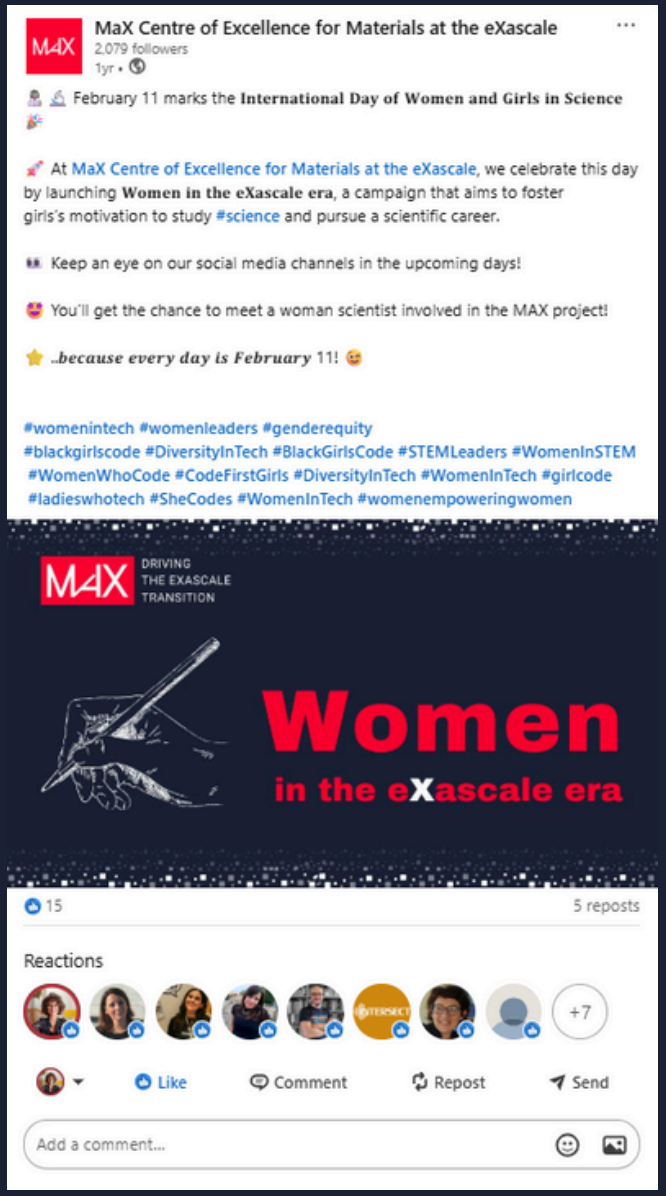
From 11 February 2024 onward, we ran a social-media campaign under the banner "Women in the eXascale era":

1. On 11 February, we published the launch post: explaining the campaign's aim, marking the International Day, and announcing that over the coming weeks, we would introduce women scientists from MaX.

2. On Twitter and LinkedIn, we posted a series of photos and quotes from MaX women scientists sharing their perspective: why they chose science, how they came to HPC or materials modelling, and what advice they would give to the next generation of women scientists.

3. Each post invited engagement: we encouraged viewers to comment, ask questions, and follow our pages, creating a living conversation about science, careers, and possibilities.

4. We used the campaign to highlight the broader context: the exascale transition in HPC, the role of materials simulations in tackling big societal challenges, and the fact that women must be part of this advance.



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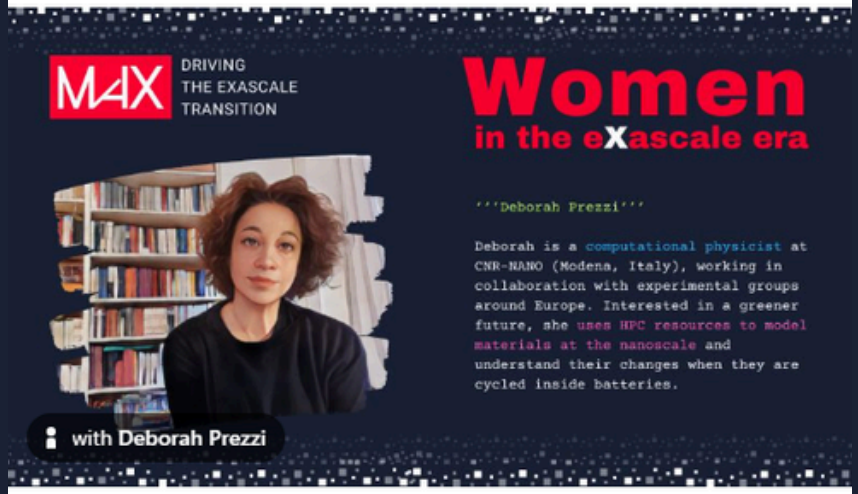
Women in the eXascale era

Meet Deborah Prezzi, #Computational #Scientist at Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Instituto Nanoscienze.

Every day is February 11!

#STEMLeaders #WomenInTech #GirlCode #SheCodes



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Women in the eXascale era

Meet Cláudia Cardoso, #Researcher at CNR Instituto Nanoscienze, where she develops #software and uses #HPC computer simulations.

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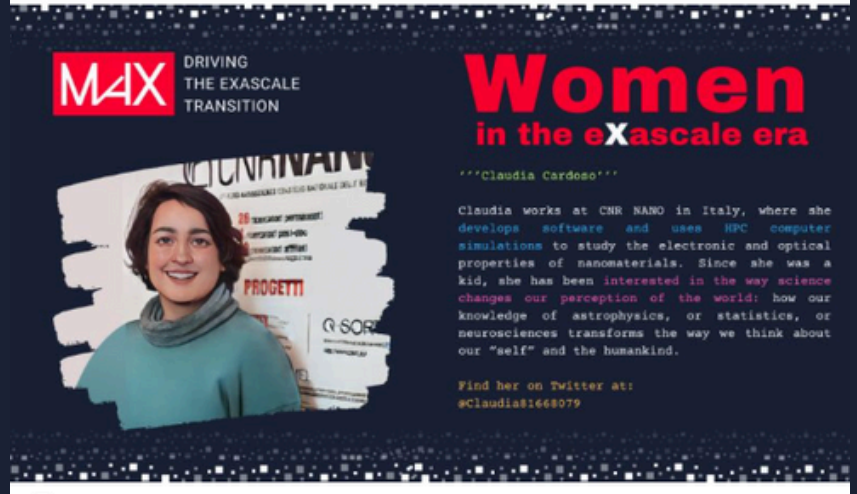

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Women in the eXascale era

Meet Alice Ruini, Associate #Professor of Condensed #Matter #Physics at the Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia.

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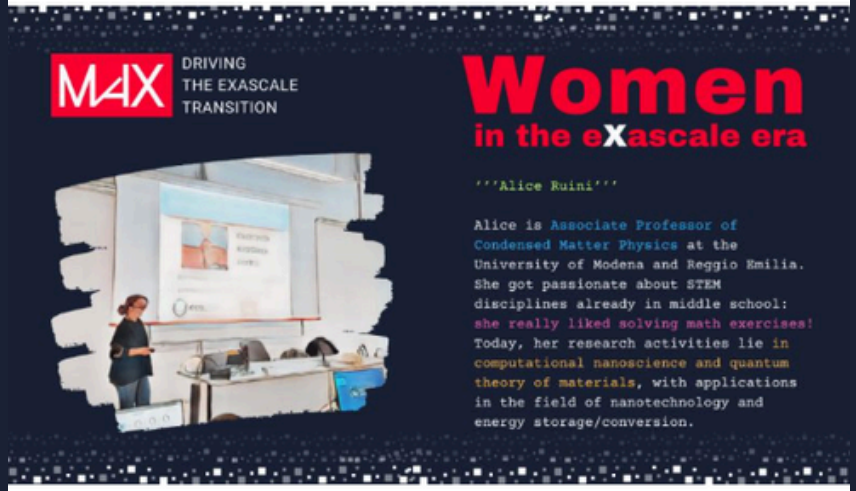

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Women in the eXascale era

Meet Mariella Ippolito, #HPC Specialist at CINECA.

Find her on LinkedIn

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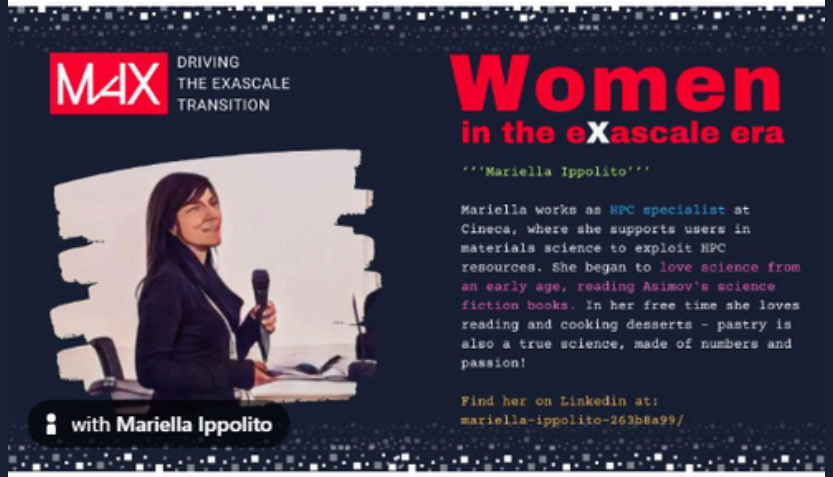

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Women in the eXascale era

Meet Ada Böhm, a #computer scientist and #programmer at IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Center.

Find her at https://github.com/spirali

Every day is February 11!

#STEMLeaders #WomenInTech #GirlCode #SheCodes

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github.com

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Women in the eXascale era

Meet Roberta Farris, a #computational physicist at Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia (ICN2).

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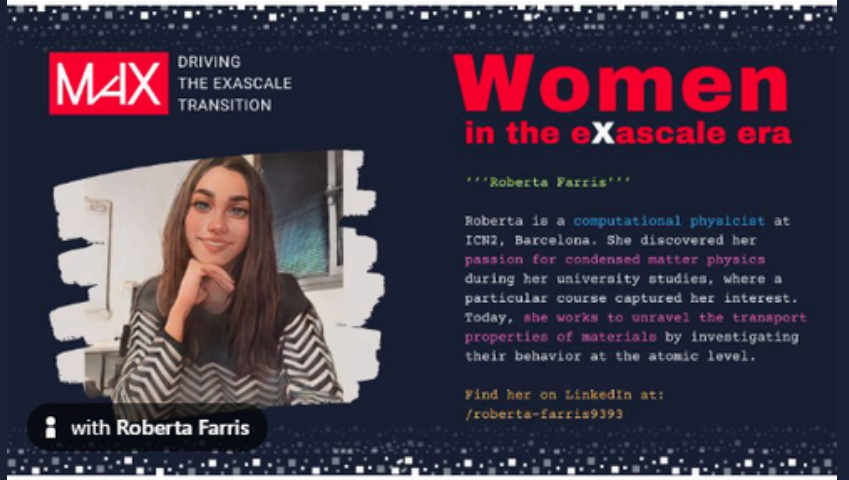

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Acknowledgement

This campaign was made possible by the MaX Centre of Excellence (Grant Agreement No. 101093374) under the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking.

We thank all the women scientists who contributed their photos and voices, the communication teams, and all of you who engaged with the campaign.

Together, we are helping to build a future in which science is truly open to all.

Co-funded by the European Union

EuroHPC Joint Undertaking