

**Turning**

**RED**

**into**

**BLUE**



**WIKIPEDIA**

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# Turning RED into BLUE

## Closing the Gender Gap on Wikipedia

Celebrating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science  
11 February 2025

# Bridging the Gender Gap in STEM Recognition

Despite the increasing presence of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), their portrayal in historical and digital records remains deeply imbalanced.

Studies show that women scientists are significantly less likely to have Wikipedia pages than men of comparable achievement. The broader phenomenon of gender bias on Wikipedia (e.g., fewer female contributors, fewer biographies of women, and shorter or more deletion-flagged articles about women) has been widely documented.

Wikipedia is one of the primary gateways for knowledge access in our digital world. When women scientists are under-represented, it not only affects recognition of their achievements but also influences how society perceives whose contributions “count”.

## The Initiative

On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February), MaX Centre of Excellence launched the initiative “Turning Red into Blue”, with the goal of actively reducing the gender-bias in digital knowledge infrastructure by improving the representation and visibility of women scientists on Wikipedia.

Our objective was to move the “red links” (missing or under-represented biographies) into “blue links” (well-documented, visible entries), thereby contributing to a more inclusive scientific digital legacy.

By addressing the gender gap in Wikipedia content, MaX aims to help shift the narrative so that future generations see women in science not as exceptions, but as integral voices in the story of scientific progress.

# What we did

On 11 February 2025, we carried out the following activities:

- Biography edit: We focused on the biography of our own Coordinator, Elisa Molinari (CNR-Nano & UNIMORE). We reviewed, updated and improved her English-language Wikipedia page, ensuring accuracy, citations, completeness and visibility.
- Multilingual expansion: We created Molinari's biography in additional languages beyond English, thereby broadening the reach of her profile (and by extension, the visibility of women scientists) internationally.
- Awareness-raising: We communicated internally and externally around the initiative, highlighting the systemic bias in Wikipedia and inviting members of the MaX CoE, our network and the wider research community to reflect on their role in improving representation.

# Impact & Outcomes

The initiative achieved the following measurable and qualitative results:

- The biography of Elisa Molinari now features updated content and is available in multiple language editions of Wikipedia, reinforcing her visibility as a prominent woman scientist.
- Internally within MaX CoE and among our collaborators, the campaign initiated conversations about digital representation and documentation of women in science, a first step toward embedding this awareness into our culture.
- The initiative served as a concrete example to our digital community: that creating or improving a biography is a small but lasting action - one that helps close the gender gap in knowledge archives and inspires future scientists.

# Final thought

The screenshot shows the English Wikipedia article for Elisa Molinari. The page title is "Elisa Molinari" with a language selector for 4 languages. The article text describes her as an Italian physicist from the University of Modena and a member of CNR, Italy. It details her research interests in computational materials science and nanotechnology, and her role as Director of MaX – Materials design at the exascale. A sidebar on the right contains a table with her birth information (Modena, Italy), scientific career, and institutions (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart, and Grenoble).

Representation matters - in history, in science, in digital knowledge.

With "Turning Red into Blue", MaX CoE has taken one deliberate step on 11 February 2025 to amplify the voices of women scientists, ensuring their achievements are documented, celebrated and accessible. It may be a small step in the grand sweep of scientific history, but one grounded in lasting impact.

The screenshot shows the French Wikipedia article for Elisa Molinari. The page title is "Elisa Molinari" with a language selector for 4 languages. The article text describes her as an Italian physicist from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, a member of CNR in Italy, with over thirty years of experience in the simulation of materials and nanosystems. It mentions her research interests in computational materials science and nanotechnology. A sidebar on the right contains a table with her birth information (1958), nationality (Italian), activities (Physicist, researcher), and distinctions (Member of the American Physical Society).

One biography at a time, one woman in science at a time, we help to rewrite the narrative.

# Contact

[www.max-centre.eu/](http://www.max-centre.eu/)



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