

ERASMUS PROJECT MASCOTTE

Meeting Toulouse (1-16-2017/1-22-2017)

Einstein High school (Italy)

Working group: Daria Gastaldi and Caterina Jervasi
from 2LA

Samantha Cristoforetti



Born in Milan in 1977. She graduated in 2001 from Technische Universität Munich in Germany, she studied in Toulouse(France) and also for 10 months in Moscow at the Mendeleev University. In 2005 she came back to Italy to complete her bachelor's degree at the Federico II University. From 2005 to 2006 she went to Texas(USA) where she completed the EURO-NATO jet joint pilot training. In 2009 she was selected as ans ESA astronaut, she was the first italian spacewoman and the third in the European ranking. In 2014 she participated to the Futura Mission and she stayed in the space for 199 days. In 2016 she had a daughter with a French engineer.

EQUAL GENDER IN SPACE

In 2013 for the first time NASA has chosen an equal number of men and women (4+4), this class of astronauts will be a part of the first human mission to an asteroid in the 2020s and onto Mars in the 2030s.. These are Jessica Meir, Anene McClain, Nicole A. Mann and Christina Hammock. It's an improvement, in the past out of 534 astronauts only 57 were women. The Soviets beat the U.S. by 20 years with the first woman sent in the space in 1963, Valentina Tereshkova.

Why It's Still a Struggle to Put Women in Space in 2016

In 2016 Claudia Kessler launched her new initiative called «Die Astronautin» in March, the mission will take place in 2020. If Kessler succeeds, she would only slightly shift the overall gender imbalance in spaceflight.

But why progress for spacemen has come in fits and starts?

In 1950 Randy Lovelace after plenty tests stated that women might be better suited physically for flying spacecraft. But the space program authorities deemed it "too dangerous" to send another woman, after Tereshkova, to space after her milestone mission.

Now the future is a little brighter for gender equality in space. NASA's most recent class of astronauts, announced in 2013, is 50 percent female.

Sergei Ponomarev reportedly said. "We consider the future of space belongs equally to men and women and unfortunately we need to catch up a bit after a period when unfortunately there haven't been too many women in space."