

**Gender Summit 7 - Europe**  
**Berlin, 6 November 2015**

# **Gender gaps in STI in Latin American and the Caribbean**

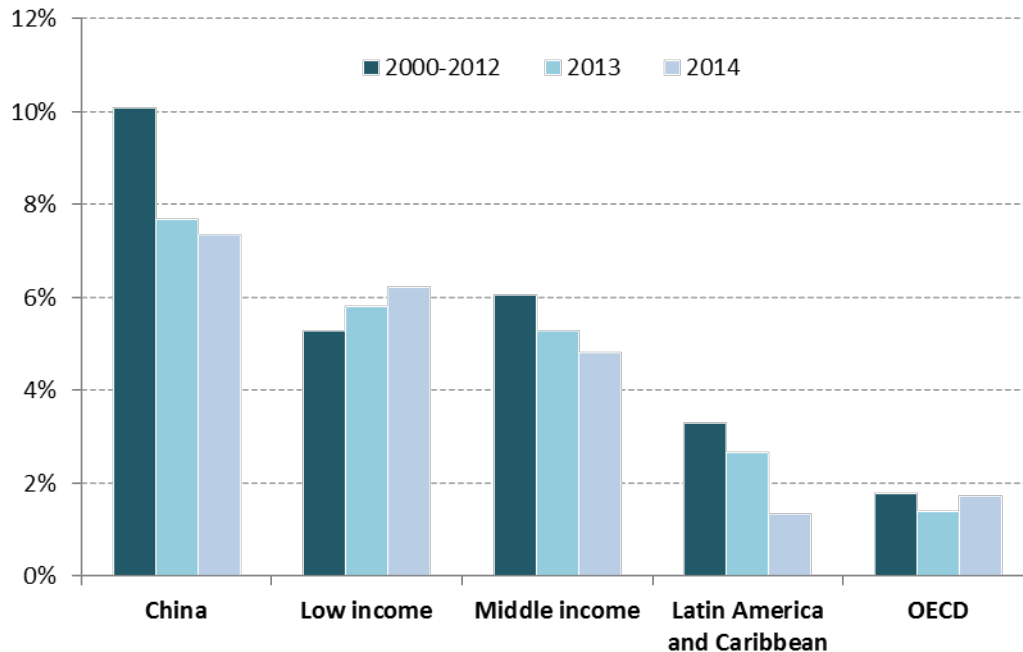
Matteo Grazzi

Competitiveness and Innovation Division  
Inter-American Development Bank



# Economic Trends in LAC

## GDP Growth (annual %)



1.79%

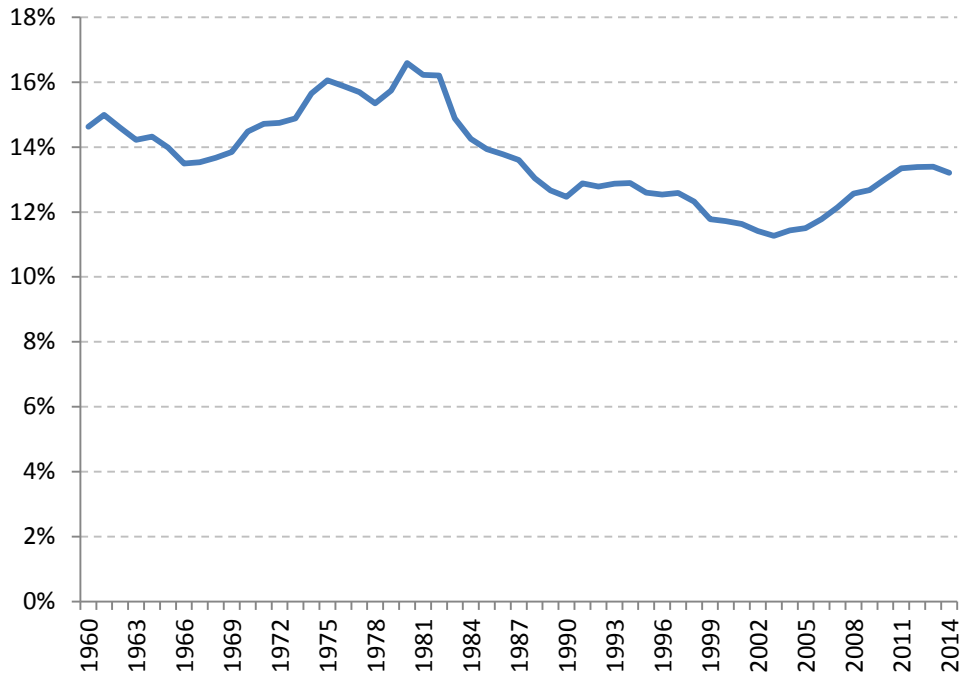
LAC average  
growth rate of  
GDP per capita  
1960-2011

## Strong growth over the past decade

But lower than other emerging regions and slowing down.....

# Economic Trends in LAC

**GDP per capita in LAC relative to the USA**



Source: World Bank

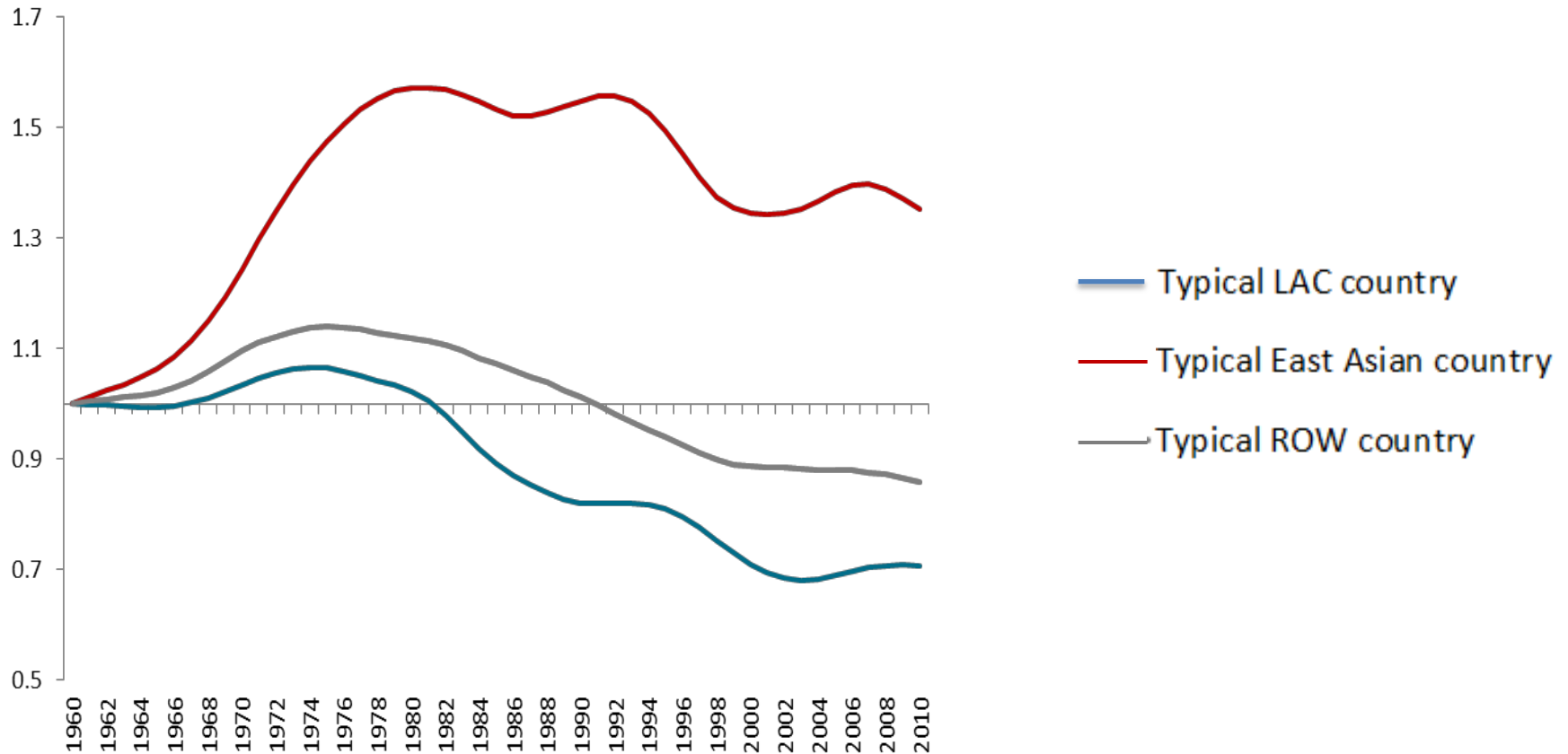
Lac GDP pc was 14.8% compared to the US in 1960

Now it is 13.2%

## And the region is not catching up

# What is the problem?

Index of Productivity Relative to US (1960=1)

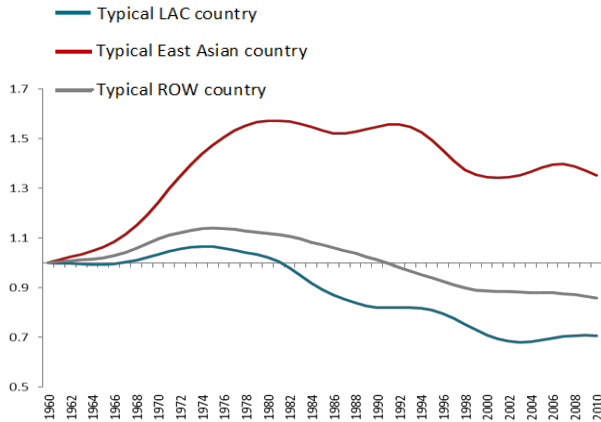


Source: Fernandez-Arias (2014)

# Low Productivity Growth!

# What is the problem?

Index of Productivity Relative to US (1960=1)



Source: Fernandez-Arias (2014)



## Low Productivity Growth

Table 1: Growth Accounting: LAC vs Comparison Countries (1960-2011) (%)

Country/Region	D GDP per capita (a)	D Factor Accumulation (b)	D TFP (c)	% Share (c) / (a)
LAC	1.79	1.80	<b>-0.01</b>	<b>-0.006%</b>
East Asia and Pac.	3.69	2.85	<b>0.83</b>	22.5%
United States	1.99	1.21	<b>0.78</b>	39.2%
China	6.04	4.21	<b>1.83</b>	30.3%
Finland	2.74	1.44	<b>1.30</b>	47.4%

# INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY



**Innovation**



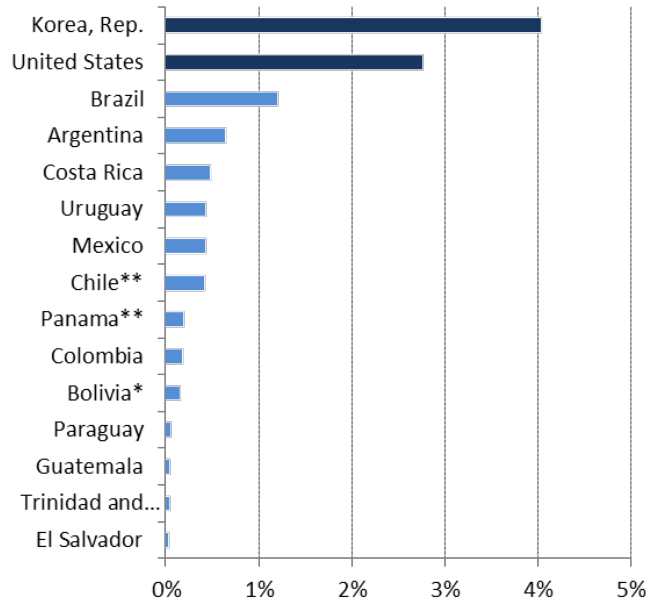
**Productivity  
Growth**



**Economic  
performance**

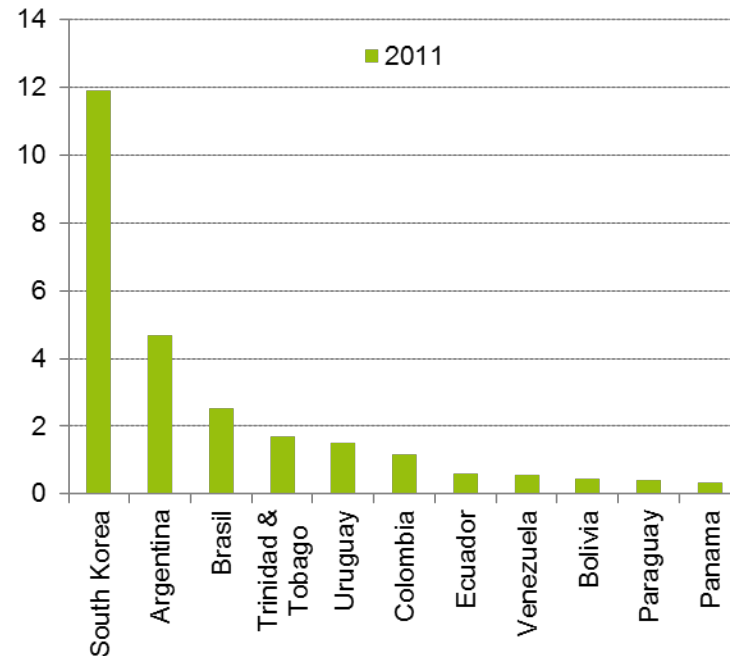
# Innovation Deficit

Research and development expenditure (% of GDP, 2011)



\*2009, \*\*2010

Researchers (per 1,000 employed)

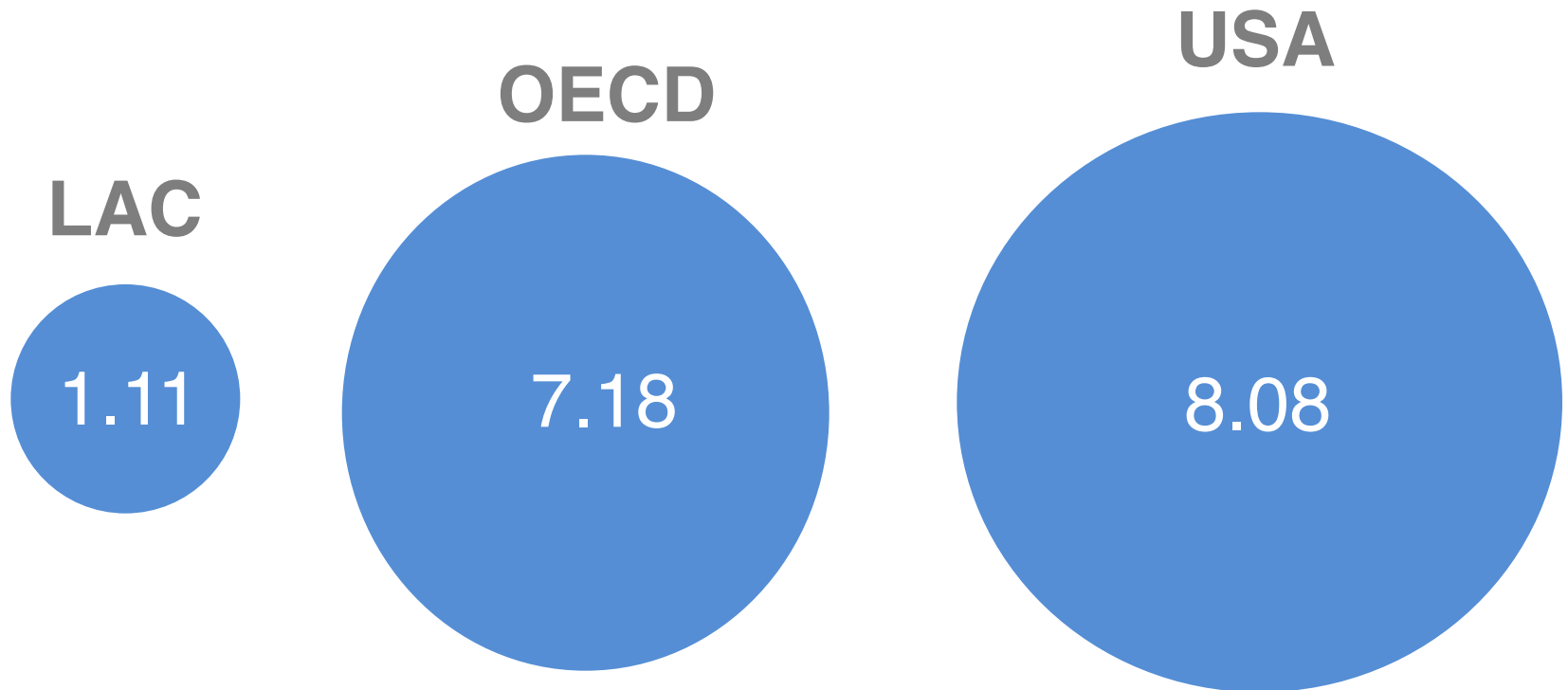


## Significant gap in R&D investment

However, there are significant differences across countries in LAC

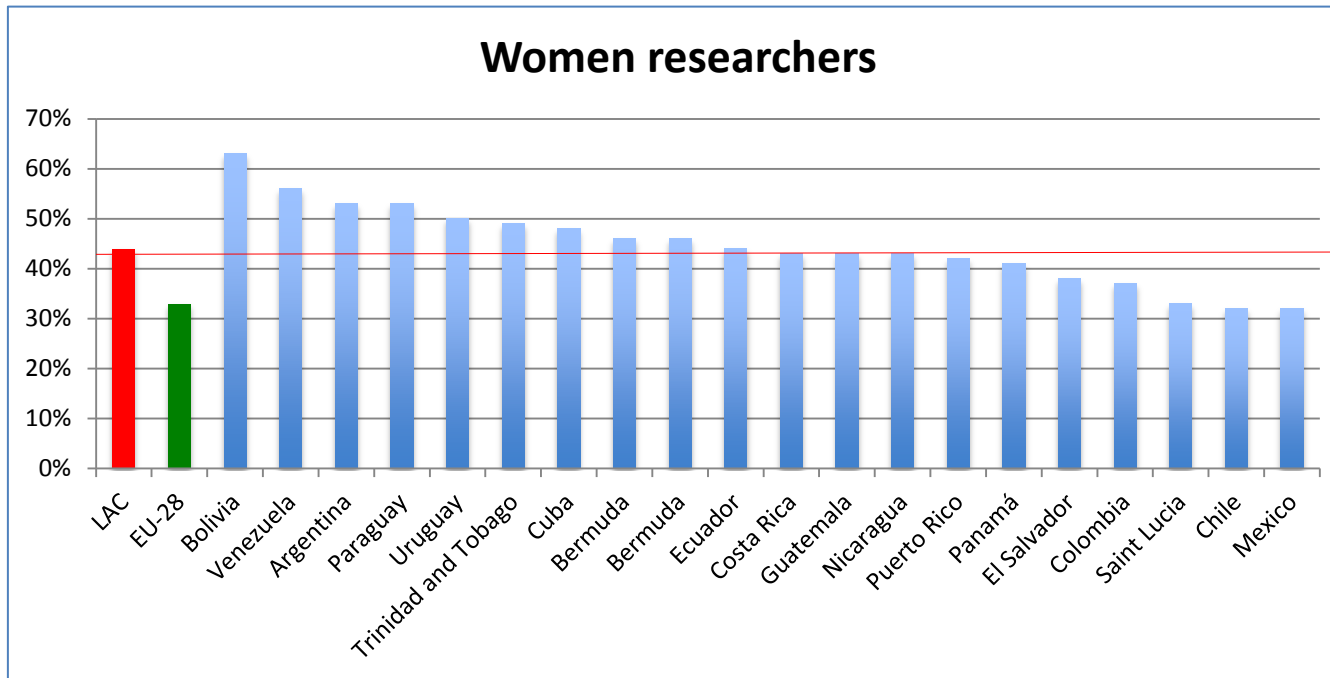
# Shortage of human capital for innovation

Researchers per 1,000 in the labor force





# Also in LAC: women under-represented in STI



Situation in LAC looks a bit more promising than in the EU:  
43% vs 33%

However, **composition** matters!

(not enough data)

Source: Women is Science, UNESCO; SHE Figures 2015, EU.

## Women researchers by field in Colombia

- Natural Sciences: 32%
- Engineering & Tech: 21%
- Medical Sciences: 48%
- Agricultural Sciences: 40%
- Humanities: 37%

- Low women patent ownership in LAC:  
6.7% women-only  
69.6% men-only

Source: Morales and Sifontes (2014)

# Women and innovation

## Some evidence about Chile

Country: **Chile**

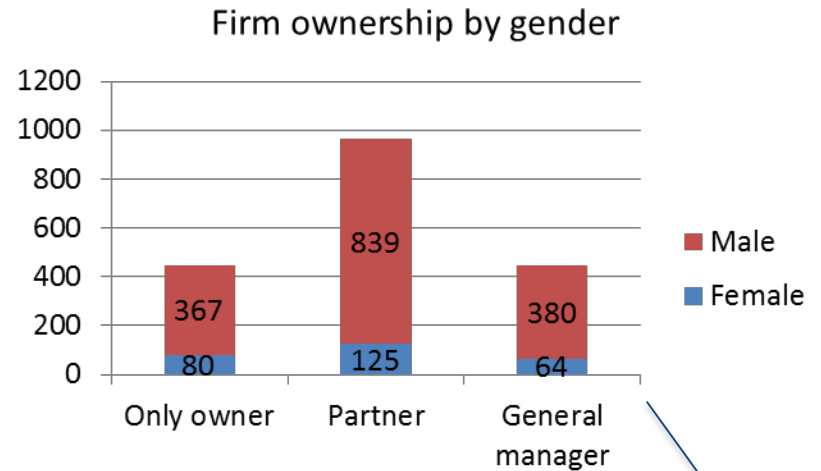
Data: Longitudinal Firm Survey (ELE)

Year: 2009

Total sample: 7,062 observations

Sample covered in this exercise: **1,855**

- Micro, small and medium sized firms
- With 5 or more employees
- With information about ownership
- With information about innovation



Females are less represented in the business population

Grazzi & Olivari (2015)

But how innovative are female-led firms compared to male-led firms?

# Some evidence about Chile

Ownership status	Gender	% of innovator	% of product innovation
Only Owner	Female	50	31
	Male	50	31
General manager	Female	47 ** *	20 *** ***
	Male	58	38

Grazzi & Olivari (2015)

## Mean test:

diff = mean(Female) - mean(Male)

Ha: diff < 0

Pr(T < t)

\* (10%) \*\* (5%) \*\*\* (1%)

## Mean test controlling for firm size and sector:

\* (10%) \*\* (5%) \*\*\* (1%)

Few female owners. But are as innovative as male owners.  
But not general managers....

# Some evidence about Chile

Ownership status	Gender	Proportion of females in overall firm workforce (in %)	Proportion of females in top occupations* (in %)
Only Owner	Female	41 *** **	55 *** **
	Male	27	20
General manager	Female	38 *	50 *** **
	Male	33	21

Grazzi & Olivari (2015)

\* Top occupations include: Directors professionals and/or technicians.

## Mean test:

diff = mean(Female) - mean(Male)

Ha: diff > 0

Pr(T > t)

\* (10%) \*\* (5%) \*\*\* (1%)

## Mean test controlling for firm size and sector:

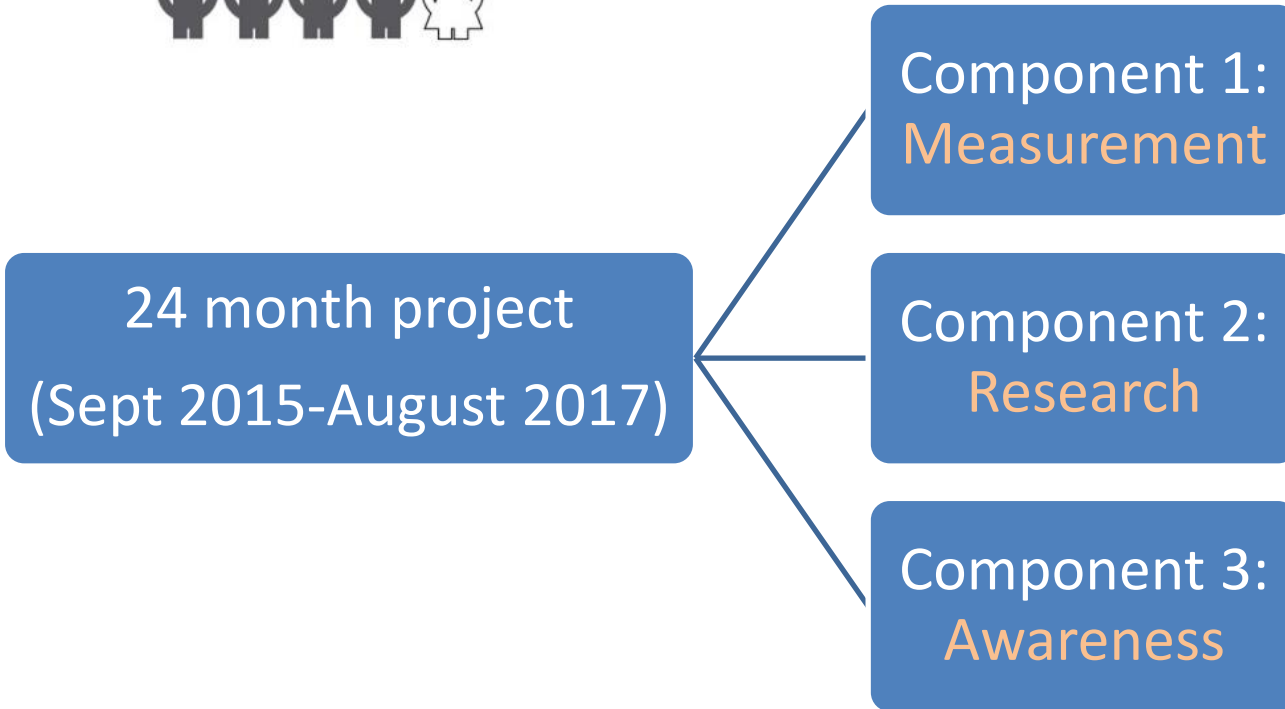
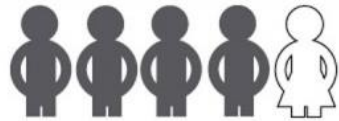
\* (10%) \*\* (5%) \*\*\* (1%)

Better gender balance in workforce when female are involved in business ownership and management.

# Why does it matter?

- To **address** the problem of gender gaps in STI, LAC countries need to **acknowledge first** that **there is a problem** and that **it matters**.
- It matters because we are losing valuable talent
- It matters because diversity is productive
  - Socially diverse groups are more innovative and creative than homogeneous groups.
  - New topics into the research agenda; including the integration of gender dimension on research content.

# How the IDB is addressing this issue for LAC?



# Component 1: Measurement

- Objective:
  - Produce a set of gendered indicators in science, technology and innovation (STI) for the Latin American and the Caribe region.
- Activities:
  - What needs to be measured? (Concepts)
  - How do we measure? (Indicators)
  - What data do we need? (Data)
  - Where is the information we need? (Sources)
- Output:
  - A dataset

## Component 2: Research

- Objective:
  - Understand the costs the LAC region faces due to the under-representation of women in STI
- Activities:
  - Definition of a conceptual framework to guide **research about costs** derived from gender gaps (to be carried out by an expert advisor).
  - Call for papers: Selection of 5 papers
  - Presentation of papers in a Technical Workshop (Gender Summit 2016)



# Component 3: Awareness

- Objective:
  - Promote awareness, dialogue and action for gender equality in STI activities in LAC.
- Activities:
  - Support the organization of the Gender Summit 8 North America – 2016
  - A panel about LAC in the GS8
  - Elaboration, publication and dissemination of the project results
    - Source of robust evidence for policymakers, science leaders, science stakeholders, institutions, gender experts and science strategy decision makers when discussing, designing and evaluating policy actions.
  - Presentation of monograph in a Regional Workshop organized by the IDB

Thank You!!

