



**Alina  
Karpeļceva,**  
Riga Tech Girls



<http://rigatechgirls.org>

ALINA KARPEĻCEVA is a Latvian girl who’s always been animated by a strong passion.

Now, many of you are probably thinking: what could this girl’s passion possibly be? Maybe dancing? Painting? Or sewing? And how about cooking?!

I’m sorry... you got it wrong. This sweet girl is nothing less than a little tech genius! That’s right, Alina is a web developer, unusual job for a woman, but not for her, for her the fact that only few women work in the tech industry is just absurd, a waste of talent. Unfortunately though, we live in a society where stereotypes that see women confined to certain kind of jobs are still very strong, and this needs to be eradicated. And we can firmly say that this girl is really fight-

ing for this cause. In fact, in 2016, Alina became one of the founders of Riga Tech Girls. This organization is the first community in Latvia dedicated to educating and inspiring girls and women about technology. The idea behind RTG was born in November of 2015, in a tech meeting in Riga, where between the participants there were some women presenting their success stories. In that same event Laurel Freyja, an American woman, found herself hearing some silly comments made by some men that perfectly embodied the stereotypes on women’s skills in the IT fields. Maybe, with hindsight, we should thank them, because that was the fuse that lit the desire in that woman to show how wrong they were. And so Latvian women’s technological revolution started!

The organization promotes two kinds of events: workshops, where basic coding and IT skills are taught to participants; and meetups, where women that work in the tech industry are invited to tell their success stories, and by sharing their experience they become a source of inspiration for other women.

Today, there are a lot of stories of women that found a job or developed a career in IT thanks to Riga Tech Girls; one of the most inspiring is certainly the one of a doctor that after attending several workshops decided to start her own virtual reality start-up to help autistic children.

But this is just of the many stories that make Alina proud, this is the kind of change that motivates her to keep educating lots of women around the country, with the hope that one day women in tech will be the rule, and not the exception.

