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Email: [philippe@jaeurope.org](mailto:philippe@jaeurope.org)**AVANADE TEAMS WITH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TO PROMOTE STEM EDUCATION  
FOR MORE THAN 500 GIRLS GLOBALLY**

**LONDON – December 12, 2016:** [JA Europe](#) and [Avanade](#) are launching a new program focused on empowering, upskilling and educating more than 500 girls. The program is designed to provide the students with skills and opportunities that will support their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) studies and careers.

Despite the rising demand for STEM professionals (expected [to grow by 8%](#) between 2013 and 2025), women are still underrepresented in these fields ([only 28%](#) of the world's researchers are women).

The program being established by Junior Achievement (JA) and Avanade will span four academic years (2016-2019) across five selected countries – Brazil, China, Norway, Spain and Sweden – and has the potential for expansion in the future. Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services and is firmly committed to closing gender, technology and income gaps for women, making it partner-of-choice for JA. By taking part in JA programs like job shadow days (Leaders-for-a-Day), the JA Company Program and Innovation Camps with the support of Avanade employees, the female students will gain a greater understanding of the many and varied employment opportunities available to them in the IT sector.

“There is evidence of skills shortages in STEM in spite of high unemployment rates in many countries around the world. The proportion of students going into STEM is not increasing and underrepresentation of women in STEM persists. Our work with Avanade volunteers is helping combat those issues: raising young women’s awareness of the skills they will need in the future, providing role models and giving them greater confidence in their abilities,” said Caroline Jenner, CEO JA Europe and Global Head of Regional Development at JA Worldwide.

Avanade employees will have the opportunity to become volunteers, mentors, advisors or classroom presenters to the students. As important role models, the Avanade volunteers will be a source of practical advice and experience as well as encouragement and motivation throughout the year.

Avanade also works closely with the [Aspire Foundation](#), providing mentoring to women working in charities and social enterprises. JA Europe local country offices employees will now be invited to join the Aspire Foundation community and benefit from valuable mentoring opportunities that will help them in turn to be more efficient and impact better on young women.

“I am delighted Avanade can support this important effort. As a CEO and the father of two daughters, I am personally passionate about seeing more women in STEM fields in the near and long term. Diversity drives creativity, innovation and a more human approach, which is at the heart of innovation and digital change. Junior Achievement (JA) is working hard to bring more girls into STEM studies and careers and Avanade is excited to be part of that,” added Adam Warby, Avanade CEO.

### **About JA Europe**

JA Europe is Europe’s largest provider of education programmes for entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy, reaching 3.5 million students in 39 countries in 2015. It was founded in 2001 when Young Enterprise Europe and Junior Achievement International Europe merged. JA works with the education and business communities as well as governments to provide young people from primary school to university with experiences that build the skills and competences they will need to succeed in a global economy. JA’s activities have been endorsed as best practice by the European Commission. JA Europe is the European Regional Operating Centre for [JA Worldwide](#)<sup>®</sup>. Learn more at [www.jaeurope.org](http://www.jaeurope.org)

### **About Avanade**

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals combine technology, business and industry expertise to build and deploy solutions to realize results for our clients and their customers. Avanade has 29,000 digitally connected people across 23 countries, bringing clients the best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at [www.avanade.com](http://www.avanade.com)

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