



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO MALAGA UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Mijas, 21 August 2017

Soroptimist International Costa del Sol is delighted to announce that a local student from Malaga has been awarded 5.000€ from the Scholarship Fund of Soroptimist International of Europe. Estefanía Torreblanca Fernández is a graduate student at the University of Malaga currently studying for a PhD in Biological Diversity and Environment.

“We are happy that our STEM student application was successful, “ says Amelia Martínez Hockley, President of SI Costa del Sol. “Supporting female students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is of key importance for Soroptimist International, as women are under-represented in these important fields.” Reducing this gap is also one of the goals of the United Nations in order to achieve gender equality.

The announcements of this year’s scholarships took place just before the European Soroptimist Congress in Florence, Italy. The main focus of the congress was on stimulating young women to choose a STEM education and there was a stimulating program with powerful speakers, female pioneers from all over Europe who were a special inspiration for the more than 50 female STEM students who were present.

Estefanía was born in Malaga where, from a young age, she loved the sea and sea life, and has always been keen to learn more about it. Over the years she found out that abuse and pollution is causing many problems for the animals living in the sea and also for people who want to enjoy that sea life. The data she is studying could give vital information and clues as to how best protect it.

Estefanía already has a Masters in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Marine Resources and Sustainability. She is not only a dedicated student, but also an active volunteer working with children, both in Africa and here in Spain. The aim of her PhD project is to study the movements of turtles and whales within the Mediterranean, the consequences of environmental dangers including climate changes and how these

sea creatures can be protected, for example by reducing the speed of ships passing the Straits of Gibraltar. Estefanía is looking to publish her research to share her findings with the scientific community.

Soroptimists are women in professions and business who work together at local, national and international levels to educate, enable and empower women and girls with an aim to improving their lives. Soroptimist International Costa del Sol is part of a strong international network of some 75.000 women in 132 countries, who are powerful and effective advocates of women's and girl's rights.

For more information: www.soroptimist.es

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