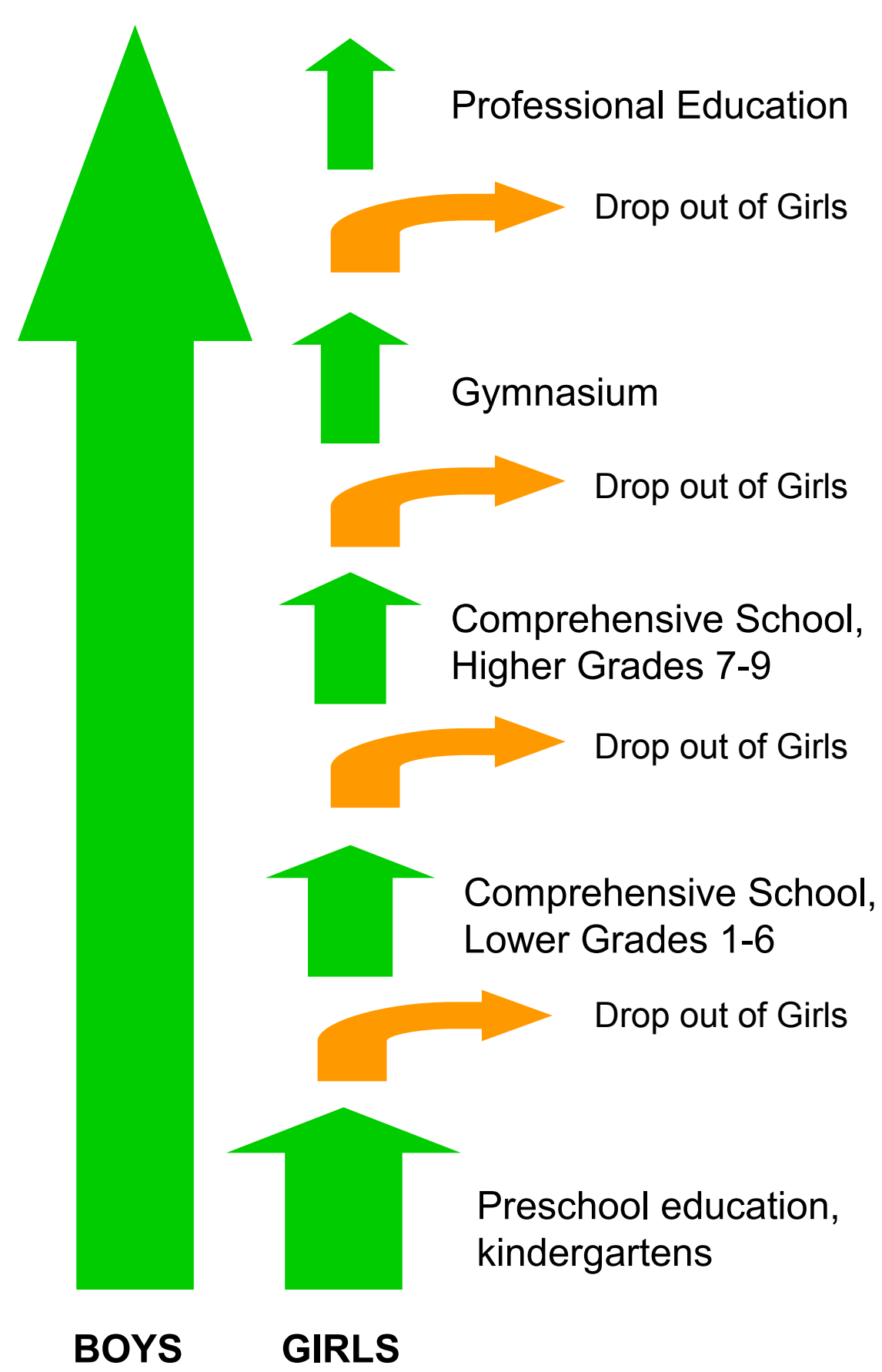


Empirical and Theoretical Background

Several studies conducted by the European Union (e.g., Eurostat 2004, Implementation of "education & training 2010" work programme) demonstrate that women and girls are continuously dramatically underrepresented in science and technological education, areas, and jobs. This is highlighted in the Joint Interim Report "Education and Training 2010" by the European Commission under domain of Maths, Science and Technology (MST). The joint report calls on Member States to encourage the development of a scientific and technical culture among its citizens. In particular, action was recommended in order to motivate young people, especially girls, to undertake scientific and technical studies and careers.

Current State of Technology Education

UPDATE includes a strong focus on early childhood and primary education. Both theory on the development of gender identity and empirical research on gender differences demonstrate, that boys and girls start to differ in their interests and behaviours at a very early stage.



Children get reinforcement for gender appropriate behaviours by their social environment. In addition, having recognised their own gender, children long to behave in a gender appropriate way and scan their environment for information on appropriate attributes and behaviours. Technology is a matter that is still very closely associated with the male stereotype. Furthermore there is a lack of female role models, who deal with technology competently. Girls avoid technological issues and drop out from Technology Education. In the end, the distinction of boys' and girls' technology education results in a very small number of women in technology careers.



Best Practise:
Tiny Tots Science Corner



Best Practise:
School Project Power to Madagascar

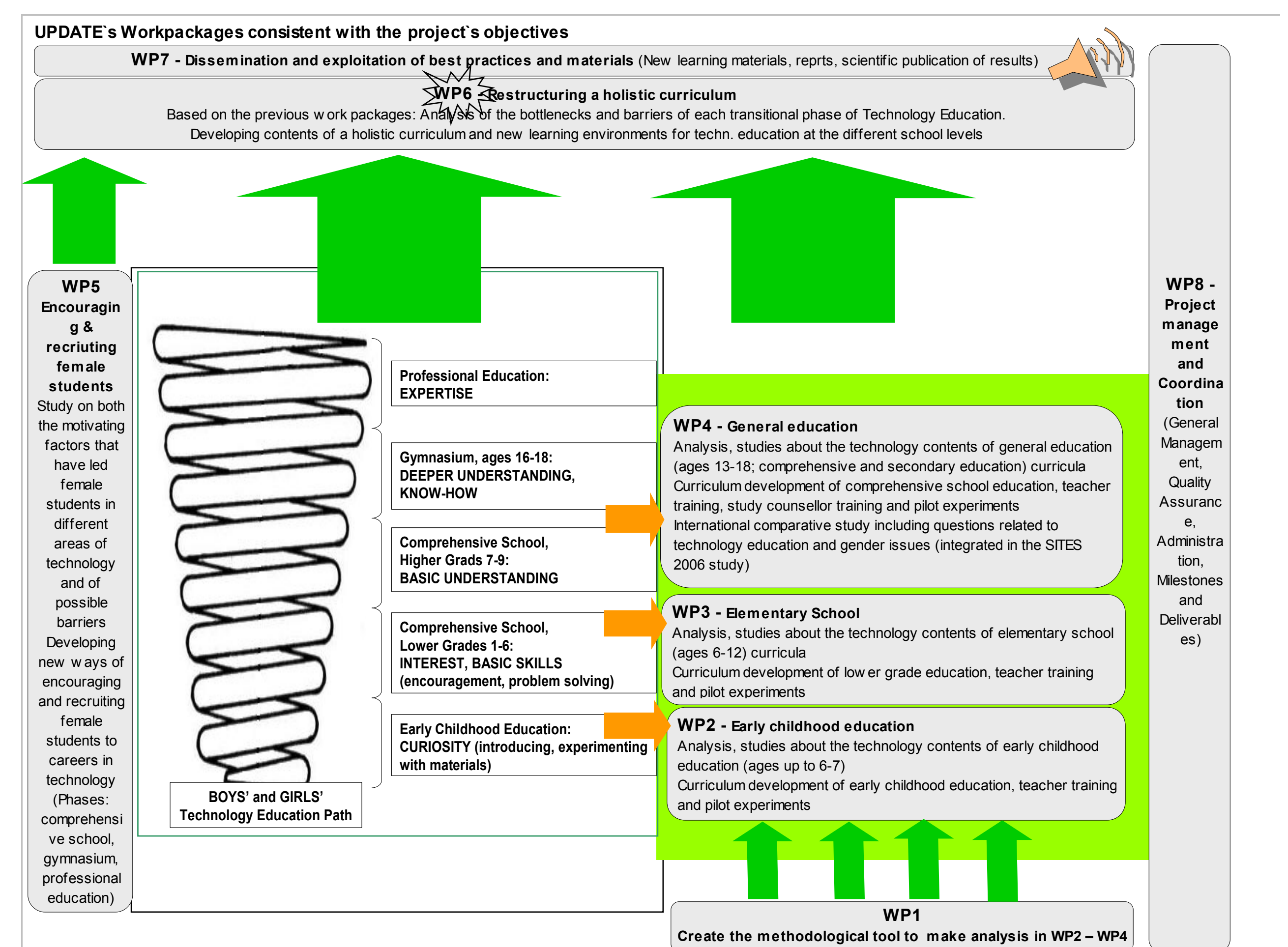
The UPDATE Project's Aims

- To examine why girls drop out from technology education at different stages of their education,
- Creating new ways and educational methods to make the image of technology and technological careers more attractive for both boys and girls,
- Promoting, encouraging and mobilising especially girls and young women for engineering and technology both as a career, and as active users of modern technology.

Finally, UPDATE aims at building a European network for continuous Technology Education enhancement, supplemented with national networks. The network members will continue collaboration, collecting both research knowledge and best practises for creating models for enhanced learning environments for boy's and girl's technology education.



Best Practise:
Girls'Day - Future Prospects for Girls



UPDATE Website

The website provides a collaborative working space for the online editing and compilation of questionnaires and texts. It contains a blog for supporting partner communication and dissemination activities, also participations of schools and children.

<http://update.jyu.fi/>

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