



SCTE Training Initiative

SCTE interviews its alumni

By Melissa Cogavin, Managing Editor, SCTE

Jakup Ratkoceri is Director of PLM, FTTx Systems at Technetix and Professor at UBT (University of Business and Technology in Pristina, Kosovo). In the mid 2000s Jakup took several SCTE Training Courses which, by his own admission altered the course of his career forever. We talked to him about his journey.

What has your involvement with the SCTE done for you and your career development?



**Jakup Ratkoceri is
Director of PLM, FTTx
Systems, Technetix**

The SCTE opened a huge number of doors for me. It was big deal, it really was. Especially for countries like Kosovo where, after the war, we were only just getting back to normal. And then after a few years as a young aspiring engineer, to get these kinds of opportunities just to look beyond Kosovo, just to visit big shows, meet people, have dinner with

people that have built this industry - it was surreal sometimes and very inspiring.

One of the reasons why I am here today is because of the SCTE. I have nothing but great things to say about you

guys, because that's the truth, it's not that I just want to say something nice just for the sake of it. I can't overstate how big a deal it was for us, and when I say us, it doesn't mean just me, but for whole IPKO. I was in IPKO for 14 years and I know every year people were looking forward to your training programmes to see who was going to be picked up to go to ANGA, or to other shows because SCTE has sponsored us, to the tune of three or four different shows over the year. These opportunities, for us to go outside to meet people, to see the how industry is moving was key because we are a small country.

I can see how passionate you are about this.

Exactly. If you don't have this support you'll never get out. You'll never be able to really see the world and meet the people and get inspired by that. I will always be grateful to the SCTE and to you all. I feel at home with you guys really, I mean it.

In terms of more the actual training you received, which courses did you do? Did you do actual training courses with us?

I did a course on becoming a fibre technician and at that time, even for Western Europe, fibre was still a new technology. And then I did a series of trainings more on HFC on RF side, which got you qualified to work on a network. The first one was basic RF technician training, then it was troubleshooting the network. And the third one was network planning. Basically over these three courses, I learned everything about how HFC network works.

How did that complement what you'd already learned at university?

I just finished my bachelor's degree in our faculty of electrical engineering. But in faculty it is a very generalised sort of learning. And then at IPKO, I was working in a specific field - the SCTE training I received focused on specific issues that we were dealing with on a daily basis.

It was also important because we felt that outside of Kosovo, when visiting ANGAs for example, that training really helped, thanks to the SCTE. You feel that you belong. Because even though you come from a Balkan country, a region in development phase, you don't feel that you are far behind in terms of knowledge, in terms of what you're doing.

Obviously a great leveller then.

Working in the industry, receiving such training, meeting influential people increasingly gives you confidence. And obviously the confidence that I got from industry and trainings and meeting people, they prepared me to apply for my PhD, to be prepared for the interviews, to act with confidence, to know what you want.

I don't think I would have been able to do what I did in academia without access to the industry and without having the opportunity to meet people from the SCTE. A big part of who I am is down to the SCTE.



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