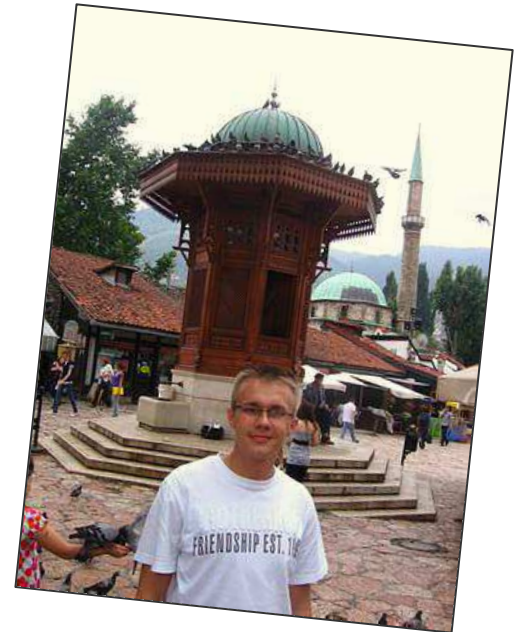


STUDENT: **Łukasz Kempny**
FROM: **Poland**
LC: **Sarajevo, year 2009**

At the beginning I would like to introduce myself. My name is Łukasz Kempny and I am a student of Computer Science on The Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland.



During the two months of my practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the company that I had the pleasure to be hosted in is **COMP 2000 ltd**. The company located in the capital of B&H – Sarajevo - is one of the leading ICT companies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They provide software and hardware solutions for the specific market of B&H.

Apart from being professionals they are great friends and what I liked the most – they never argue, always willing to cooperate and very helpful. The first days at work were full of discussions about our countries, culture and habits. It is worth to notice that Polish language is quite similar to Bosnian, so we had a lot of fun with words, translations and so on. I found the atmosphere at work very friendly and unusual. Twice a day there is a coffee break, so that all employees may meet at one table to relax and share their opinions. The director of the company – Mr. Bakir Zadiragid – is not a “typical” businessman, but great person, who, apart from giving instructions, can talk about life, history and the world. Sarajevo was the city that I spend two months with other six trainees. We were living together in one house on the hill. The best thing was beautiful panorama of the city that we could observe from our balcony. While we were living there, we became very close friends. Apart from sharing flat and cooking common food, we were exchanging our opinions, explaining cultural differences and discussing about our countries.



For me it was very important experience, because most of the people were not from Europe. I learned a lot about Islamic countries from Hazem (Syria), Ahmed (Egypt) and Taci (Turkey). Also I got to know how looks life in India, because of Nutesh. The only person from Europe was Joan (Spain). And there was also Mesut (Turkey), who was living with his family.

We had a lot of fun spending time all together after work. We were meeting our new friends from Sarajevo. They were mostly from IAESTE, but we got to know also other citizens. As we were seven guys, we were meeting only girls ;) We had a great time sitting in the pubs, smoking shisha and going to discos. We have even been to football match between Bosnia and Iran.



Apart from great city life, Sarajevo is completely different town. It is the only city in Europe that got mosques, synagogues, Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, that have been built for four hundred years and are standing side by side. Here citizens of different nationalities and confessional orientations live and work together. It is good to know that 80% of them are muslims.

While being here I also learned a lot about war, not only from books and movies, but from the experience of citizens. It is hard to imagine how people could live without electricity, water and food supply for three years. Sarajevo was under the longest siege in the history of modern warfare.

But now, when you walk through Sarajevo's streets you can't even tell that they had a war. Sarajevo got a lot of places worth seeing. Starting from old town, where you can feel typical oriental atmosphere, going through the modern city center, ending in calm and quiet park with springs of river Bosna. Bosnian cuisine is very specific and tasty. There are two major meals. First one is Cevapi - grilled minced meat served with special bread – Somun and onion. Second one is Burek - is a type of baked or fried thin flaky dough and are filled with salty cheese, minced meat, potatoes or other vegetables.

During this two months, we were travelling around Bosnia and Hercegovina with trainees and members from Banja Luka and Mostar. Every weekend was organized by IAESTE in a very good way. We were sightseeing old cities like Mostar and Jajce, having fun on rafting on Una River, getting close to nature on Zelenkovac weekend. Once there was organized International Evening, where all the trainees prepared food and drinks from their own countries. It was one of the best parties I have ever been. Moreover, I have been abroad two times. We went to see the most beautiful city of Croatia - Dubrovnik and a week later to Belgrade – capital of Serbia. I have to admit that IAESTE members worked in a very friendly and professional way.

In a conclusion, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a beautiful country with many places that are uncovered by the mass tourism. It is really worth to visit country of good weather, food, traditions and people who are very friendly and open to strangers.