

The 10th Anniversary of EESTEC Local Committee Sarajevo

Speech by Faris Nizamić, founder & 1st chairman

Dear EESTECers, esteemed guests,

Today is a day to celebrate!

Ten years have passed since the founding of our association. Ten years, a decade, one-tenth of a century. That is not an inconsiderable amount of time at all.

I have had the great honor and privilege to be the one of those who started this Association and now, looking back, I am very proud to see what our Association has grown into.

Back in 2006, when we were first starting out, we had nothing! Nobody knew what EESTEC was, our association was not registered - we did not have any members, either. No office space, no website, no resources. Nothing. We had to build everything from scratch - and that was much fun!

We did have something, though; we had a vision, a great desire and courage to move forward!

We were aware that we need to lay out a good foundation of the Association in order for it to be successful and last a long time. The fact that we are all here today, together, is a proof that we managed to do it.

Looking back, it is obvious that we had planted healthy roots and that we now have an Association that we can talk about with our heads held high. An Association that serves as an example to other associations. An Association we should indeed be proud of!

During the first mandate of our board we organized first EESTEC events, first celebrations, first motivational weekends and first international exchanges. We got the official status as a local committee and made first steps in the history of our LC.

Now, first I want you to picture how many of our members grew through travel, making new experiences and forming lifelong friendships. How many of our members lived unforgettable moments through EESTEC, found their true love, their soul mate.

Next I want you to picture how many happy moments, hugs, exciting encounters and sad departures there was, how many sacrifices were made for our EESTEC friends. How many tears, how many smiles? A lot of things have happened in ten years.

Ten years ago, when we still needed visas to travel through Europe, EESTEC also represented hope. Hope and an opportunity to get out of the isolation, to meet our peers from other countries, broaden our horizons and discover different options. It meant a great deal for our personal growth and for that we're very thankful to EESTEC.

The skills we made through EESTEC are indisputable and are definitely something that can help ourselves, our industry and our society. After our experience in EESTEC each and every one of us is more capable and more useful on the job market. A lot of local companies have recognized that and decided to support us throughout the years. I would like to thank them for that!

However, today I want to talk about something very important, something that concerns all of us. My message can be summarized in two words: courage and dedication!

From my own experience I would like to draw a conclusion and give an advice to each of you. And that advice would be: if you have a vision that you believe in - never give up!

As hard or as impossible it may seem in the beginning - don't back down. The environment will surely work at your disadvantage, but don't pay attention to that. Do what you feel is right, and what makes you satisfied.

Be brave. Follow your heart and your dreams - whatever they may be. Because you never know if it can grow into something special. Something that exceeds all of your expectations.

Here with us today are a lot of dear friends and important guests. I would like to thank them all from the bottom of my heart for being with us on this, for us very special day.

As I've said at the beginning today is a day to celebrate! We at EESTEC work hard, but party even harder. Tonight, we all have a mission, to show we can celebrate responsibly and ten times better.

Now, my dear colleagues, chairwomen and chairmen of the Association will take you on a journey and tell you about their experience during their respective mandates. Sit back and enjoy this exciting time travel!