

What if you could go to work in a red and blue helicopter, flying at high speed and low altitude, above the fierce grey waves of an ice-cold sea? What if you were to meet customers in the vast plains of Kazakhstan to discuss a one million dollar project? What if you were to see Ankara by night? How does it feel to stay in a five star hotel in Budapest, before heading to the wild and rough landscapes of the Carpathians? As your speedboat approaches the floating drill rig set in the mangroves of Borneo, are those signboards 'beware – crocodiles' for real? How much safran can you buy with a million manats, in the open market of Ashgabat?

Not all of us dream of adventure, but as I finished my studies, I just knew I wanted to travel. I wanted a job that would bring me something different, where I would feel my contribution would matter. After three months training in Belgium with a diamond drilling tools company, I packed my bags and started a thirteen years long journey that would take me all over Europe and in countries I hardly knew existed. This really put everything I thought I knew in perspective. The technical responsibilities entwined with the intense human bond that brings people together on large projects.

I graduated in 2002 as a Mining Engineer, and spent nine year in several positions related to drilling operation for oil and gas wells. I spent two years in Dubai as a technical instructor, then moved back to Scotland to support steel tubing installation for some of the deepest wells drilled by BP in the North Sea. The large scope of technical and soft skills I had learnt at the FPMs revealed invaluable. I now am working on a PHD in rock mechanics, as I decided to see what it is like to teach at University. Life is a learning curve and if you have a thirst for challenge, being a Mining Engineer is a great place to start!