

Seeing the Power Grid in Serbia

An internship at Elektromreža Srbije (EMS)

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I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Electrical Engineering in Germany. This summer, I travelled to Serbia through IAESTE and completed an internship at Elektromreža Srbije (EMS), the country's transmission system operator. For me, it was not only my first experience working in a power company, but also a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Serbian society and culture.

At EMS, my colleagues introduced me to the company's organisational structure, power losses in the grid, asset management and SCADA systems. I also visited transmission and substation facilities at different voltage levels, including a 400 kV substation. These visits allowed me to see first-hand how electricity is transmitted through a high-voltage network and how large-scale power equipment is monitored, maintained and managed. I was especially impressed by EMS's use of digital technologies. Data collected by sensors is transmitted to control and management systems, enabling staff to monitor the condition of infrastructure on large display screens. Drones and LiDAR are also used to inspect substations and create three-dimensional models. These experiences showed me that a modern power grid depends not only on traditional electrical engineering, but also on automation, data analysis and intelligent monitoring.

Beyond the technical knowledge I gained, I truly enjoyed the atmosphere of everyday life and work in Serbia. People were warm and welcoming, and my colleagues were highly professional while also being friendly and easy-going. They patiently answered my questions, invited me to join them for lunch, recommended places to visit in Belgrade and shared stories about Serbian history. They also took me to see other cities. Through our conversations, I came to understand the country more deeply and developed great admiration for the warmth of its people. Belgrade, the city where I lived during my internship, was lively and often felt as if it never slept. It offered

beautifully designed restaurants, historic cafés and a strong sporting culture. The Sava and Danube rivers meet in the city, and the riverbanks are filled with activities. Watching the sunset from Belgrade Fortress was another memorable experience. Even after work, every day felt full. During the internship, I also met IAESTE interns from different countries. Although we came from different linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds, we lived together, travelled together and shared our stories. This experience taught me to approach different ways of life with greater openness and understanding.

I am grateful to IAESTE, EMS and everyone who supported me during my time in Serbia. This internship took me beyond the familiar environment of university and allowed me to experience the meaning of “Work. Experience. Discover.” in a very real way. I returned with not only a clearer understanding of the power industry, but also precious friendships, unforgettable memories and greater courage to step into an unfamiliar world.

