



SCTE® Balkans

Update from Ambassador-at-Large

Broadband Journal caught up with our Ambassador-at-Large, Besim Latifi based in Kosovo to find out what is happening in the Balkans.



**Besim Latifi, SCTE®
Ambassador-At-Large**

What's been happening at your end Besim?

We are very excited. Our plans are now coming to fruition. We have established relations with all local partners in the region, enabling the first round of training to the market. It's a great time for us.

That's right - we have actually just welcomed Next Gen Networks Institute from Kosovo to the SCTE® as Corporate Members, so that's great news! What happens next?

Now we need to start the actual SCTE® training in Kosovo in partnership with Next Gen. This is going to have a big impact on the number and quality of fully trained telecoms engineers in the Balkans.

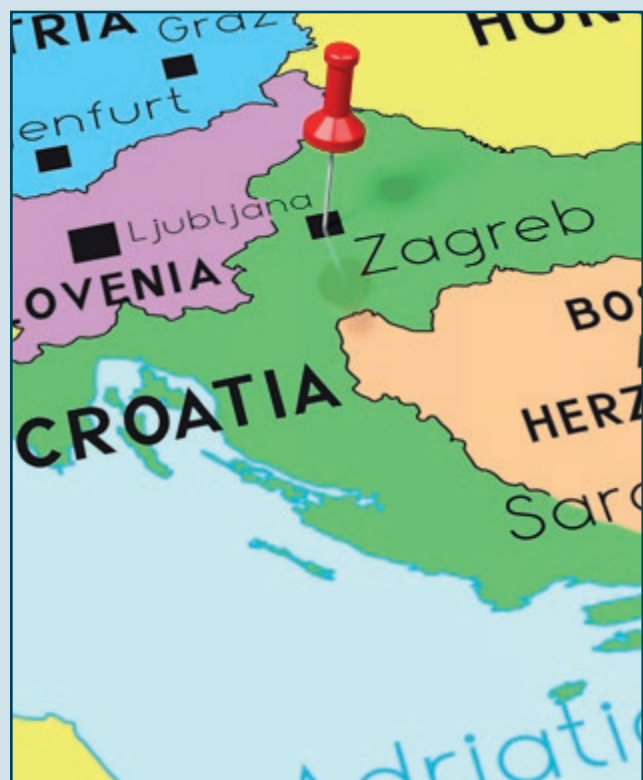
How is this being funded?

Most probably they will qualify for EU funding to develop education for the industry, which is a huge step and a great endorsement of our training programme. It's very good from my perspective as there are a lot of stakeholders with a vested interest in this success right across the supply chain. Once this is in place so much more is going to happen to improve telecoms for residents, premises, and we will see a fully trained

workforce out there, earning money and adding value to the country's GDP ultimately. It's all good.

How does this fit into your plans more broadly across the region?

Our next move is on to Croatia - due to COVID we have obviously suffered a delay, but we have the same plan as in Kosovo.



Cookie cutter then?

No, it'll be a slightly different approach actually – we are integrating the SCTE® training programme into Croatia's existing education syllabus, as currently students aren't that vocationally trained. The strategy will be to offer SCTE® training courses to students as a post-diploma in Croatia.

Sounds impressive – and useful. Implementing such strategy must vary a lot from one territory to another in your region.

It really does. After that we are looking forward to building up relations with Ukraine. It's a very big market, Vodafone are the market leaders there. There are a lot of stakeholders to manage but it's certainly achievable.

Will your funding mechanisms vary from one territory to another?

The aim is to find a business model that is similar to those we are employing in Kosovo and Croatia. For the SCTE® it is important to expand the education in countries where they don't quite have the infrastructure yet. That's where we can be most useful.



**Do you have training requirements in your organisation?
Contact Besim Latifi today at besim@theSCTE.eu**

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SCTE® members can now **Ask the Expert** via a facility that allows members to ask technical questions and receive considered responses and answers from experienced SCTE® Executive Committee Members. Questions and answers will be posted on the SCTE® website and also emailed directly to the enquirer.

You can ask your question now by logging into the member section of the SCTE® website and accessing www.theSCTE.eu/members/ask-the-experts or you can email us at technical@theSCTE.eu, citing your member number and question.