



The path from geoscience to road engineering: experience in Russia and Norway

Elena Kuznetsova

Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Civil and Environmental engineering, Trondheim, Norway
(elena.kuznetsova@ntnu.no)

In the presentation I would like to talk about my personal path from taking the education in geoscience in Russia to getting job as a researcher in road engineering in Norway. I completed my master and PhD at one of the best universities of Russia before getting job in Norway, first at the research institute and the university after. What I noticed was the main different is the role of woman in the research and management positions. I feel that I have more rights and more opportunities for my career in Norway than as it was back in Russia.

Road engineering does not sound as very “feminine” specialization, however I have many female colleagues who are doing great job and enjoying their work. I made a lot of observations of my female and male colleagues when it comes to do the laboratory and field work, and to have leadership and management positions. Time to time I am in contact with some former bosses or colleagues from my university in Russia and I see the huge difference with how the communication goes with them and with my colleagues here, in Norway.

Few words about myself. I am 31 and I am working as a researcher at the Norwegian university of science and technology. I have 5 years of working experience after obtaining my PhD. My primary background is engineering geology and geocryology. Last 4 years I am working in the field of road construction engineering and one of my main responsibilities is managing the large research project financed by the Norwegian Research Council. During my working life I found a lot of advantages to be a woman in a men world of engineering.