

FROM TRADE SCHOOL INTERN TO INTERNATIONAL EXPERT

I first heard about Promeco while I was studying to become an export assembler at Finland's Satakunta Trade School in 2004. I had courses there in electricity as well as machine and metal technology, and Promeco offered a number of good internship possibilities in both. I was selected as an intern at their Pansia factory in Kankaanpää, Finland, and my training there emphasized the electric side.

At first I was under the close supervision of the more experienced workers, who helped me a lot, both with the work itself and also about how to adapt to the everyday routines of the workplace. When Promeco established production units I received further training as a project assistant. During this time, I also continued working nights while I was studying. In the spring of 2005 Promeco hired me as a full time worker and among other tasks I spent the summer doing logistics that involved handling shipments and receiving materials.

The responsibility of the production units grew and I was able to focus on verifying and filing the orders of the units, sourcing and controlling the materials, work and production planning and working as a customer contact person. In the beginning there were a lot of things to learn, but as the process standardized and my experience level rose I began doing planning work for other customers as well.

My original plan - to continue studying to become an engineer - was replaced by my work, but as the tasks at work became more routine I decide to start studying during the weekends at the Centria University of Applied Sciences. Work and school went together quite well; in school I was able to mirror examples straight from my work, and my work tasks gave me a good base for my school exercises. The long hours were worth it - and I graduated as an Automation Engineer from the University's technology management program.

My studies were delayed because of the new challenges at Promeco. I switched from the Pansia factory to the Jämijärvi and Häämenkyrö factories as a part of a project group, where my responsibility was to develop new processes for the processing, purchasing, production planning and billing of the orders - and teach the new operating models to the employees. The assignment deepened my own understanding of how various parts of a project fit together and impact each other.

After the project ended I moved to Promeco's Polish factory in Gościcino for a year to help get the production system there up to speed. In Poland I became properly familiar with the management of the warehouses, the business' finances and expense calculations. In Poland I realized I had worried about having to speak English professionally for no reason. The biggest challenge was simply to start speaking! During the year the most significant thing I learned was how to work effectively within a different culture.

Feeling much richer for the experience I returned to Finland and began working as the lead user of ERP in Finland, which meant I learned much more about the maintenance of the system and the parameters involved. Maintaining the corporate management reports and making new ones when necessary extended the company's understanding of the production units to the corporate level. With the powered-production system I got a glimpse of the lean production system and the full range of processes of the Promeco Vaasa unit.

Today I am head of the work and production planning at the Pansia unit and even after more than a decade on the job I learn something new every day.

Sini Hakkio

Age: 35 years

Educational degree: Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering

Job title: Planner

Time with Promeco: 12 years