



My name is Rinat Gabitov, born in Russian city Sterlitamak, near Ural Mountains. One and half year ago I moved to St.Petersburg to be closer to Finland. I work here in Gas Company as a Installation Engineer, leading projects in St.Petersburg and Moscow. This job takes lots of time from me, but I try to find as much time as possible for trainings and competitions.

When I was junior my coach was Afanasjev Evgeny. I start doing orienteering from 10 years old in our local city club, actually because of the fact that they had a football trainings, which I was eager to participate. But then I realized that orienteering is very

interesting by itself and with time it became the most important part of my life. I start to train a lot, often skipping school lessons because of competitions. My first big achievement I did in 14 year-old when I won Russian Championship. Starting from 16 y.o. I became member of Russian Junior National team, participating in EYOC (2005, 2007), JEC 2007, JWOC 2009. In 2010 I start my collaboration with Espoon Suunta. First two years I ran in EsSu so awful, that I was afraid that club will never ask me for competitions again...but the club members and especially Petri Vesanto believed in me more then I believed in myself. From 2012 situation became better, I start to visit Finland more often and hence understand Finnish terrain much better. I start to spend all of my available free time from work, visiting Finland trying to concentrate on Scandinavian orienteering, and because of that neglecting all Russian important championships, selections for National team. Currently I mostly interested to increase the quality of my night orienteering skills.

EsSu has brought a lot to me, namely changed my life. In Essu I have met good friends and my wife. Hope for long-term collaboration in future,

Best Regards,
Rinat

