



Emils Lukjanskis,
Zinoo Science
Center



EMILS LUKJANSKIS is about to turn 24, and he is the managing director of one of the most known science centers in Latvia: Zinoo. His story begins in Cesis, a charming town just under two hours away from Riga where Emils was born and raised, and where he started his university course in journalism. In his hometown, he also started to actively participate in the community's social life by taking part in the Youth Council. Things began to change for Emils when one day, participating in the municipality council as he usually did to represent the interests of Cesis' youth, he found himself in a heated discussion with a local entrepreneur: Paul Irbins. Some days later, Emils received a phone call: his fervid discussant had a proposal for him, he asked Emils to join

<https://www.zinoo.lv>

Zinoo's team and work for him. Paul Irbins is an entrepreneur, a science lover who founded Zinoo Science Center in 2011 in Cesis. Apparently, the willfulness and the intelligence of that young man had impressed Paul, and so he thought that Emils could just be what his organization needed. Emils was surprised by this proposal, but he didn't think twice and he accepted the challenge.

This is how his work and life experience in Zinoo Science Center began. When he started this job he was in his second year of journalism, but soon he realized that he wanted to focus all his power on his new job, and so he left the studies to later become director of the organization.

Paul had made the right choice to trust that young man, and he did the same with many others like him, he trusts young people: "you know, we make mistakes all the time, but we have great curiosity and creativity, which can really make a difference" says Emils. Today, the organization

has about 40 employees, with an average age of about 29.

What kindled Emils' passion for this job, bringing him to such a prestigious position at the age of 23, was the mission pursued by this organization: to foster the interest for science in children.

Thus, through bizarre interactive exhibitions in four centers across the country, and workshops constantly organized in schools, Zinoo Science Center attracts more than 30000 children every year to the world of science, with the hope to shape lots of little scientists that in a near future would use science to bring Latvia towards a path of sustainable development.

