

## V/C Student Activities

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### Goals

IEEE R8 SAC aims to reach the following goals:

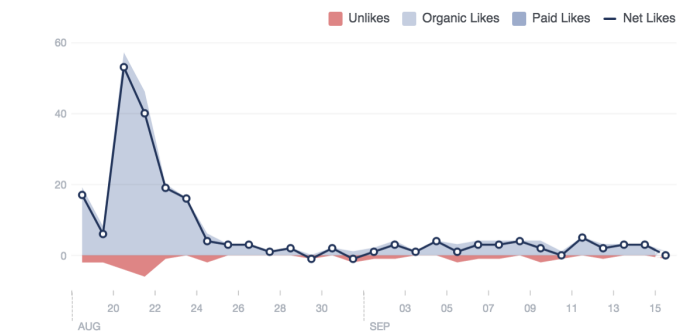
Monitoring SB activities through the Student Branches revitalisation program and the new Student organisation units' (OUs) formation process and pre-approval forms. Our report on revitalisation project and the growth of over 53% OUs in the past 20 months indicates our success rate. Maintaining a lively community of IEEE Students across the region through Cross-Sectional Congresses and Region 8 SYP Congresses. Promoting excellence and competition spirit through the annual Awards and Contests, such as MadC, Mind the Gap! and the Student Paper Contests. Our record of submissions and awards indicates our achievement level. Getting closer to students and counselors through the social media channels such as Collabrotec, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn platforms as well as our website and eNotices. Monitoring our Industry Relations as a start for more engagement to come.

### Status and Past Contributions

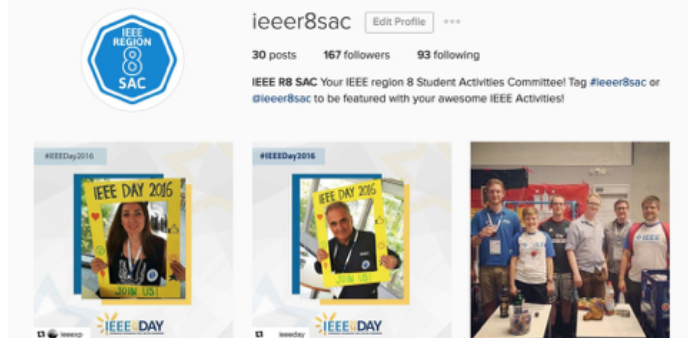
- **Electronic Communications:** [by Ahmet Taygun and Mehrshid Fadaei Nejad - Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinators]

We have continued improving our online presence and communication:

- The R8 SAC **Facebook** page is extensively used to update all the news regarding student activities starting off as well as Award Campaign, posting news about the deadlines and the awards. Our Facebook page now has 6930 likes, and steadily increasing with a minimum rate of 20 likes per week. The total number of "Page Likes" as of 12th Sep 2016 is 6,930. More detailed stats is presented in the following graph:



- We are always thinking about new ways to communicate easier with students and as a result, we joined **Instagram** in August 2016 to expand our social media. IEEEr8SAC account has gained more than 150 followers in less than 2 months. We were also able to report live during the IEEE R8 SYP 2016 in Regensburg for IEEE members who were not able to join us in the congress. Follow us on Instagram and use our r8sac hashtag when posting a relevant picture. A snapshot of our Instagram account is presented as of 4th September 2016 in the following:



- We have also successfully launched our **LinkedIn** group. The link provided below is the link for the official group of IEEE region 8 SAC <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10319015>
  - The R8 SAC website (<http://www.ieeer8.org/student-activities>) is used for posting all results about IEEEEXTREME, SPC, and Student Revitalisation Project documents
- **The student branch revitalisation project** proved to be a huge success! [by Lebogang Madise - Region 8 Student Branch Coordinator]

This is a continued program of which we rely on feedback from both students and sections chairs to know how we can best be of service.

From the feedback we received, we revised our pre-approval (<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities/student-branch-vitality/>) forms to be shorter, i.e. have fewer yet important questions along with links to valuable resources. Following stats report our OUs' growth: In the past quarter, we saw a spiked increase in the number of new student branch formations leading up to Region 8's flagship event: The Student and Young Professional's congress, which was held in Regensburg, Germany.

In this year's congress we were happy to have student branches from previously dormant sections such as Algeria and

|                        | Pre - Dec'14 | Jan'15 - Aug'16 | Pre - Aug'16 | Growth rate over 20 months |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Student Branch</b>  | 449          | 122             | 571          | 27.17%                     |
| <b>Student Chapter</b> | 125          | 165             | 290          | 132.00%                    |
| <b>Affinity Group</b>  | 58           | 54              | 112          | 93.10%                     |
| <b>Total OUs</b>       | 632          | 341             | <b>973</b>   | 53.96%                     |

revitalised student branches from various sections.

We would like to continue to highlight the importance of having a Section Student Representative (SSR) in all sections as the new rebate model for student branches requires more engagements from the Section. Thank you to all sections that supported the students along with Student Branch Coordinators to attend the R8 SYP.

- **10th IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress** successfully took place from 17th till 21st of August 2016, in Regensburg, Germany. [by Efthymia K. Arvaniti - Region 8 Student Representative]

It attracted more than 400 participants representing 52 sections, with a strong industrial presence of many companies such as Akamai, Intel, Maschinenfabrik Reinhausen (MR), Kaspersky, giving the attendees the chance to meet and discuss about cutting edge technology and potential job interests. Moreover, this year, the funded participants increased, with over 350 applications and 179 approved funded Students and Young Professionals.

During the congress, a variety of IEEE related talks and workshops took place, informing about the current trends and projects in IEEE, as well as providing the participants with the tools needed to embrace and enhance the activities in their Branches and Sections. A wide variety of soft-skills workshop resulted in enriching the Congress program and raising the value.

The interest that rose from the student to potentially organize similar congress like the Cross-Sectional or Regional was significantly higher than any previous years. The R8 Student Activities Committee held several workshops that helped the team to engage with the attendees and better understand the needs of the students. The ideas and suggestions that were exchanged during the congress led to exponential growth of the student activities in all participating Sections and the Region as a total.

- **Awards and Contests** have successfully engaged region 8 student members and branches: [by Dinko Jakovljevic - Region 8 Awards and Contest Coordinator]

- 35 submissions for IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award
- 10 submissions for Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award

We have achieved record number of submissions and awarded student branches this years for IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award. During the gala dinner at R8 Student and Young professionals Congress we have awarded 15 student branches with IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award. Unfortunately this year we didn't have winner for Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award. We are preparing materials and plan for next year's Awards Contest campaign which will start from December until February.

- Beside these submissions, after 2 successful pilot runs in 2015, Mind the Gap! Contest (<http://mtg.ieeer8.org/>) (MtG 1.0) was launched for the first time across Region 8, where 17 teams competed. [By Youmna El Bitar - Region 8 Projects Coordinator]

Winners of MtG 1.0 are as followings:

- 1) Zlatko Ofak and Meri Tukac (Croatia) for "Escape the Gap!",  
Joao Santos, Carina Fonseca, and Miguel Dias (Portugal) for "Giving Agency",
- 2) Wafa Ben Hmida and Ikbel Azaiez (Tunisia) for "GG-M: Generation Gap Mobile",
- 3) Skander Mansouri, Slim Bouakez, and Ahlem Jedidi (Tunisia) for their project "Break the Gap Camp".

## Outlook

**50th IEEE region 8 R8 Student Paper Contest for 2017** [by Paul Micallef - Region 8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator]: Last year there were 30 students from more than twenty different Student Sections. The papers are judged by an international R8 jury, and as usual the students submitting the five chosen papers will have an oral presentation at one of the prime IEEE R8 conferences. This year it will be IEEE R8 Eurocon 2017 in July at Ohrid, Macedonia.

The travel and accommodation will be funded by IEEE R8. There will also be three prizes for the first three papers, chosen after the oral presentation. The prizes are US\$800, US\$500 and US\$200 respectively. The student branch of the student who wins first prize also gets as an award the Region 8 "Dick Poortvielt Award" of US\$250.

So we encourage Student Branch Counsellors to encourage students to prepare themselves and participate. Ideally there would be a student paper contest organised within the student section to choose the best paper. Further information regarding deadlines, the eligibility, the rules and the requirements are available from IEEE R8 SAC website (<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities/>). A webinar will be arranged with the support of past SPC winners. Furthermore we will run this contest as the second time over Exordo (<https://www.exordo.com/>) online submission platform. **IEEE Region 8 Student 2016-2017 contests**

- We are conducting campaigns for IEEEExtreme 10.0 programming contest which begins 22nd October 2016 00:00:00 UTC
- "Mind the Gap" contest (a R8 SAC initiative) in 2017
- "Mind the Gap!" contest - phase 2: Announcing the winners in 2016 marks the end "of Mind the Gap!" Phase I. To proceed with "Mind the Gap!" Phase II (where winners are provided financial and mentorship support to realise their idea and transform their project into reality for the benefit of society) within an agreement reached with EPICS in IEEE, who will provide up to 10,000 USD for each of the 4 winners.

### **Points of Concern**

- 1) Keeping counsellors updated by sending email to them and engaging them on our LinkedIn group,
- 2) Promoting the cross sectional activities between neighbouring sections,
- 3) Making Twitter more active and create a hashtag for reaching more students,
- 4) Sending emails and e-Notice reminders for SAC major events to reach the students and counselor while avoiding the sense of spamming,
- 5) While the role of corresponding members proved to be supportive to the committee, it is required to have some form of trainings provided to the volunteer members at the start to use throughout their assignments. A mentor can be assigned within the committee should each member require additional support to fulfill his/her tasks to insure a sustainable and healthy way.