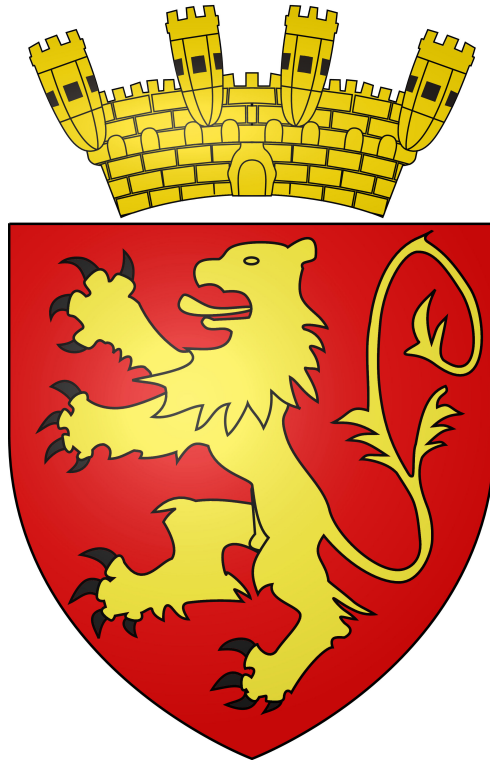# IEEE

The 112th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting

16-17 of March 2019
Valletta

Agenda Book

This document contains the Agenda Book for the The 112th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting . Due to the technical constraints when compiling this document from over 111 individual reports, the layout of some reports may have been slightly modified. You will find an electronic version of this document, together with the original version of each report on http:/www.ieee.org/r8. Feel free to contact George Michael (xeirwn@ieee.org) with related questions.

The following is from the IEEE Policies, Section 7 - Professional Activities (Part A - IEEE Policies).

7.8 IEEE Code of Ethics

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

1) to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
2) to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
3) to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
4) to reject bribery in all its forms;
5) to improve the understanding of technology; its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
6) to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
7) to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
8) to treat fairly all persons and to not engage in acts of discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;
9) to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
10) to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

Contents

I. General Information

Agenda

Saturday, 16 March 2019

Time	Duration	#	Type	Item	Presenter
6:30	1:30:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00	0:05:00	100	**Procedural**	**Call to Order**	**Magdalena Salazar**
8:05	0:15:00	101	**Procedural**	**Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers**	**Ana Madureira**
8:20	0:05:00	102	**Procedural**	**Welcome by Malta Section**	**Malta Section Chair**
8:25	0:05:00	103	**Procedural**	**Introductory Remarks**	**Magdalena Salazar**
8:30	0:05:00	104	**Action**	**Approval of the Agenda**	**Magdalena Salazar**
8:35	0:05:00	105	**Action**	**Approval of the Consent Agenda**	**Magdalena Salazar**
8:40	0:20:00	106	**Discussion**	**IEEE Region 8 Director's Address**	**Magdalena Salazar**
9:00	0:30:00	107	**Discussion**	**IEEE President's Address**	**Jose Moura**
9:30	0:15:00	108	**Discussion**	**IEEE Past President's Elect Address**	**Jim Jefferies**
9:45	0:10:00	108	**Discussion**	**IEEE President's Elect Address**	**Toshio Fukuda**
09:55	0:05:00	110	**Procedural**	**Introduction to Poster Session**	**Ana Madureira**
10:00	0:45:00	111	Poster session	Committees Poster session+RSYP poster+coffee break	All subcommittees
10:45	0:25:00	112	**Discussion**	**Student Activities**	**Maciej Borowka**
11:10	0:25:00	113	**Discussion**	**Member Activities**	**Adeel Sultan**
11:35	0:25:00	114	**Discussion**	**Technical Activities**	**Sohaib Sheikh**
12:00	1:00:00		Social	Lunch	
13:00	0:20:00	201	**Discussion**	**IEEE VP MGAB**	**Francis Grosz + Cecelia Jankowski**
13:20	0:10:00	202	**Discussion**	**IEEE Region 7 Director's Adress**	**Maike Luiken**
13:30	0:10:00	203	**Discussion**	**IEEE Region 10 Director's Address**	**Akinori Nishihara**
13:40	0:45:00	204	Poster session	Poster Session 1/2 Sections + Humanitarian Activities Workshop	1/2 Sections
14:25	0:20:00	205	**Discussion**	**TA Presentation**	**Kathy Land**
14:45	0:15:00	206	**Discussion**	**Vienna Office Activities**	**Clara Neppel**
15:00	0:45:00	207	Poster session	Poster Session 2/2 Sections + Coffee Break	2/2 Sections
15:45	0:20:00	208	**Discussion**	**TA Presentation**	**Dejan Milojicic**
16:05	0:15:00	209	**Discussion**	**Publications and Communications Committee**	**Christopher James**
16:20	0:05:00	210	**Discussion**	**Strategic Planning Committee**	**Antonio Luque**
16:25	0:05:00	211	**Discussion**	**Voting system of Posters to be presented on stage**	**Ana Madureira**
16:30	0:05:00	212	**Discussion**	**Closing of day one**	**Magdalena Salazar**
16:35	0:05:00	213	Social	Group photo	Ana Madureira
17:00				**Recess**	

Saturday Afternoon, 16 March 2019

17:45	0:15:00	Social	**Meeting Point: Outside Hotel**	
18:00	2:00:00	Social	**Boat Tour**	
20:00	2:00:00	Social	**Dinner at Casino Maltese, city centre**	
22:00	0:00:30	Social	**Return to Hotel walking**	

Sunday, 17 March 2019

Time	Duration	#	Type	Item	Presenter
6:30	1:30:00		Breakfast	Breakfast in the breakfast room	
8:00	0:05:00	300	**Procedural**	**Call to Order and Roll Call**	**Magdalena Salazar**
8:05	0:15:00	301	**Discussion**	**Presentation of Section poster voted best Industry Activity+discussion**	**Ana Madureira**
8:20	0:15:00	302	**Discussion**	**Presentation of Section poster voted best Membership Activity+discussion**	**Ana Madureira**
8:35	0:15:00	303	**Discussion**	**Presentation of Section poster voted best Section Vitality Activity+discussion**	**Ana Madureira**

8:50	0:15:00	304	Discussion	Presentation of Section poster voted best Action for Africa+discussion	Ana Madureira
9:05	0:10:00	305	Discussion	Nominations and Appointments	Margaretha Eriksson
9:15	0:30:00	306	Discussion	Treasurer's Report	Adam Jastrzebski
9:45	0:15:00	307	Discussion	Africa Council	Habib Kammoun
10:00	0:30:00		Social	Coffee Break	
10:30	0:40:00	308	Action	Motions, presentation, discussion, voting	Antonio Luque
11:10	0:30:00	309	Discussion	Presentation of President-Elect Candidates	Kathy Land , Dejan Milojicic
11:40	0:20:00	310	Discussion	New Business	all
12:00	0:10:00	311	Discussion	Next Region 8 Committee Meeting	Spain Section representative - Manuel Ballesteros
12:10	0:10:00	312	Discussion	Closing Remarks R8 Director	Magdalena Salazar
12:20	0:05:00	313	Procedural	Adjournment	Magdalena Salazar - All
12:25	1:00:00		Social	Lunch	

Consent Agenda

501	Action	Approval of the minutes of the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting
502	Report	Reports

List of Participants

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Unapproved Minutes of the 111th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 20-21 of October 2018 in Belgrade, Serbia

100 Call to Order

Director Margaretha Erikson calls the committee to order and opens the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting.

101 Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers

Secretary Jan Verveckken invites the full committee to present themselves in name and function. The full committee members and invited guests present themselves.

102 Welcome by Serbia and Montenegro Section

Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair, Vera Markovic, welcomes the Committee to the Section. She mentions the social program and her wishes for a fruitful meeting.

103 Introductory Remarks

None.

104 Approval of the Agenda

There are three discussion points related to the motions to create Burkina Faso and Yemen Subsections, and to elevate the Uganda Subsection to Section. These points are moved to the corresponding part of the agenda, i.e., Motions. The motion to accept the agenda passes.

105 Approval of the Consent Agenda

A clarification on the elevation of the Uganda Subsection to Section is requested. It is clarified that this point has been taken off the Consent Agenda and placed in Motions. The consent agenda consist on the approval of the minutes of the 110th meeting, as well as the approval of the Committee member reports. The motion to approve the consent agenda passes.

106 IEEE Region 8 Director's Address

Region 8 Director thanks everybody for the fantastic work that has been done this year and the great results that have been achieved. She commends the Africa Council creation, and mentions the progress that Region 8 has experienced also in other areas, among them: Communications, where Region 8 Today complements Region 8 News. Region 8 Director thanks both teams for their cooperation and their work together. Region 8 membership is growing. This means that we are delivering something of value. She commends also the work done in Standards.

107 Discussion - Africa Council: A lasting step to an invigorating future, next steps

Past Africa Area Chair and Pro Tem Africa Council Chair, Gloria Chukwudebe thanks everybody involved in the formation of the Africa Council, from IEEE Presidents, Region 8 Directors, IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa (AHCAA), and supporting staff, IEEE Region 8 Africa Area Committee members, and the various Africa Section and Subsection Chairs. Africa encompasses at this point in time 9 Sections and 7 Subsections, with over 6,000 active members in 54 countries.

1) During the last 9 years IEEE activities in Africa, increased thanks to IEEE AHCAA. The trip of two IEEE Presidential delegations helped to better understand Africa needs.
2) R8 Africa Area was formed in 2016. In recent past up to 10 meetings occurred.
3) R8 Africa Council was approved by Region 8, MGAB, and, finally, IEEE BoD, in June 2018. The first Africa Council meeting took place in Tunis, on June 2018. Pro Tem officers were appointed by R8 Director.

Pro Tem Africa Council Chair presents some of the activities held during these months, in particular Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Workshops. Pro Tem Africa Council Chair presents a summary of the Africa Council Bylaws that the Region 8 Committee will be asked to approve. She also highlights the first steps taken by the Africa Council:

1) attended an Innovation Summit,
2) reported Pro Tem Officers,
3) developed Africa Council website,
4) had discussion with India Council.

Finally she presents Africa Council next steps:

1) identify areas of needs and opportunities of individual OUs,
2) identify activities that can be hosted jointly,
3) formulate short and medium term plans.

Africa Council Chair invites the audience for comment or questions. Region 8 Director thanks her for the great work done. Adam Jastrzebski asks how Africa Council is going to finance itself, since no money is going to be received from MGA. Africa Council Chair replies that a seed fund will be started with 1000$ per section from the sections. Adam Jastrzebski asks about reporting. Africa Council Chair replies that details are still to be sorted out. Czechoslovakia Section Chair mentions that in their reporting they always get a question on how to help IEEE Africa and they don't really know how to. He asks for advice on this. Africa Council Chair says that they are going to discuss that as a Council and for the projects that they will manage. Region 8 Director adds that whenever a Section has students over from Africa, they should make them know IEEE, and help them feel at home in IEEE and so when they go back home they will look for IEEE. Help to make the connections. In general, take good care of foreign students. More questions: Do you have a program for sister sections? Africa Council Chair

replies that it is a great idea, and they would very much like European sections to mentor Africa Council smaller sections. The Portugal Section Chair, Josè Silva, mentions that as a follow up to the answers in the report, he thinks one of the ideas from the France Section on mentoring Africa French speaking areas was very good. There are also Portuguese speaking countries in Africa and they are willing to help. Many universities already have programs. Toni Mattilla, from Finland Section mentions that maybe a small meeting on how to do this could be organized at the next Region 8 Committee meeting. Albert Lysko, from South Africa Section proposes a way to assist, even beyond Africa Council, which is to help promote each other events. The Hungary Section Chair mentions that Hungarian Government approved a year ago large support for African students. Africa Council Chair informs that during the IEEE PE-S Conference in Ghana last year, some students used the opportunity to attend it. Other Section Chairs contributed to the discussion. Africa Council Chair thanks the Committee for their questions and the suggestions for help.

108 Section's financial health and reporting, rebates

Adam Jastrzebski presents a follow up from his work in helping the Sections with financial reporting. He mentions that there is information available in two articles in Region 8 News. Some conclusions from this work are:

1) Rebates are the main source of section and chapter financing.
2) Region 8 has increased the use of the template from 33% to roughly 70% now.
3) The treasurer interacts with the bank, with IEEE NetSuite for its Financial Report, and with the Spreadsheet or Financial Software to produce the Reports Audit Data.

He believes the number of interactions can be reduced if there was a link between the Financial Software and NetSuite. He presents GnuCash as open source financial accounting software. Dirk van Hertem, Benelux Section Chair, comments that NetSuite is not the best of products and asks if this is something that Region 8 needs to do, or if it is IEEE as a whole. Maybe a side project like this might work, but is this a long term solution? NetSuite has been chosen by IEEE. Adam Jastrzebski comments that there are ways to work around. Region 8 Treasurer, Ralph Kennel mentions that in Region 8, we are anyway already going our special way, namely, by introducing SAGE. We expected it to work with NetSuite. But it didn't. It is a problem for Regions 8 and 10, not for the rest. Dirk van Hertem makes the point that R8 and R10 are already more that 150k members. In his opinion this should be brought and voted upon about at the next Sections Congress. Russia Section Chair mentions that there is an impedance mismatch between R8 and US. NetSuite is OK for US accounting procedures. Adam Jastrzebski mentions that after the articles were published, many questions were formulated. GnuCash is able to answer those questions, but it doesn't have to be GnuCash. Ralph Kennel mentions that nothing else should be started, if it doesn't work with NetSuite Brian Harrington, R8 Past Treasurer, mentions that nobody thought it would be such a bad user interface, and he advises to be cautious about using open source software for financial tools, because any prospect of tailoring it ourselves could be difficult. Dirk van Hertem asks what the actions are after this presentation. There is awareness about the topic but we need to know what to do next.

109 Discussion Themes

Region 8 Secretary introduces the discussion themes for the workshops to follow later today.

Coffee Break

George Michael, Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator, introduces the IEEEXtreme competition. The people taking part on the competition are highly motivated. They have been working for 24 hours.

110 Workshop 1: Section's Dashboard

R8 Member Activities Vice Chair, Antonio Luque, R8 Section Vitality Coordinator, Aleksandar Szabo and R8 Membership Development Sub Committee Chair, Andrej Romanovs, introduce the topic of the Workshop. They first mention that elections should be had on time, so we may have the updated list of Section Chairs as soon as possible. Aleksandar introduces IEEE OU Analytics and briefly explains how it works. Andrej takes the Committee through five exercises. A final advice is to use IEEE eNotice instead of direct mailing.

111 Member Activities Results

R8 Member Activities Vice Chair, Antonio Luque, summarizes the results of the various Sub Committees under him, introduces their Chairs and thanks them for the work done.

Membership Development (MD) SC Chair, Andrej Romanovs:
The 2018 membership as of the end of August showed a strong growth (1.2% YoY), outpacing last year, when the month ended in decline (-1.1% YoY). 22 Sections met both their recruitment and retention goals (vs 10 in 2017), 32 sections met recruitment goals (vs 25 in 2017), while 28 sections exceeded retention targets (vs 21 in 2017). This is also the trend for IEEE as a whole. R8 Membership Development Sub Committee focused on coordination, informing, teaching and guiding Sections MD officers (MDO), to serve as a main MD information hub, to ensure and coordinate MD activities and information flow. Informing and educating is done through monthly reports (emails to MDOs, important - to Section Chairs too), monthly MD Webcast, semiannual MD Sub Committee telco, MD Corner at R8 News (from 2018), pages in Collabratec, Facebook, email & Skype on demand. A face-to-face MD Workshop was also held in Cape Town, South Africa, on March 23-24, 2018. For control and evaluation, feedback from MDOs, Sections Chairs and volunteers is used; and evaluation of MD programs, questionnaires for volunteers.

Women in Engineering (WIE) SC Chair, Youmna El-Bitar:

WIE SC was recently established as R8 Standing Sub Committee. WIE thanks R8 Committee for that. Achievements: From December 2016 to December 2017: 24% membership growth. There are WIE Affinity Groups in 41 Sections and in 115 Student Branches. Eight of WIE Subcommittee members participated in more than 25 events. R8 WIE volunteers obtained 4 awards, for the first time in 2018. In 2017, there was an IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit in Region 8, for the first time. In 2017, there were four of them. R8 WIE SC created its own design theme, and is now stronger on social media. Next step will be to get in touch with R8 WIE members.

Humanitarian Activities (HuA) SC Chair:

The HuA Subcommittee held project management training sessions for Student and Young Professionals in Athens (March) and Porto (June); final year projects review for forty-five (45) Turkey Section Student Braches (Sakarya University, August); an exposè at IEEE Italy Section event (Politecnico di Milano, September); solar energy for illumination in unserved locations (July - October); an African energy competition partnership (April); Women empowerment scheme through solar energy (July - October); Regional SYP congresses (June - November); projects that improve lives through technology (October 2018 - April, 2019); and continuous learning hub through HuA webinars/workshops (May - November). Future plans are: Start partnership with IEEE and non-IEEE Organizations interested in Technology and Engineering management. Participate in IEEE and non-IEEE events to promote SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technologies). In order to obtain the required investment from SIGHT: Have a booth in Regional or global IEEE events; initiate partnership with well-known organizations like Engineers without Borders and Engineers for Change. For handover: Anticipating the need for an upcoming -fresh- generation of volunteers to steer Humanitarian Activities in R8, a Region-wide recruitment process has been started; forty (40) applications were collected and thoroughly evaluated; the volunteers selected will be introduced in a trial/training stage before the next Regional meeting.

Life Members (LM) SC Chair, Victor Fouad Hanna:

R8 is the Region with the highest number of active LM Affinity Groups (AG): 13; 23% of total R8 Sections have LM AG. Efforts are needed in order to increase this percentage. Efforts have started with Sweden Section (LM counts 100). The total number of meetings for R8 LM AG were 32 (highest: 10 in France Section); only Greece Section LM AG has not reported 2 meetings for 2017. Many LM AGs have cooperated with the History Activities (HA) Subcommittee to propose IEEE Milestones. A team composed of the R8 LM Coordinator and 3 corresponding members has been formed. Message sent to R8 Section Chairs recommending: Each Section should have a LM Coordinator whose contact details should be included on the Section website; the Section website should have space for news of interest to LM. Eight answers received: 5 Sections have applied the recommendations and 3 have applied them partially.

Region 8 News Editor, Alistair Dabbs:

R8 News is back on track with four issues per year. For 2019, smartphone and tablet apps will be provided, with text-searchable archive, Region 8 live feeds and built-in media support (video).

Professional Activities (PA) SC Chair, Jan Haase:

PA supports a Speaker program. Sections can invite them to give talks on topics such as: Project Management, Time Management, Stress Management, Brand Building, Consulting Skills, Networking, Digitalization, Startups, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Leadership Skills, Manager Skills, Thesis Writing, Writing Papers, and others. PA SC funds travel, Sections fund local transportation and accommodation! History Activities (HA) SC Chair, Tony Davies: Main activities are: encouraging History Milestone Proposals and preparations for HISTELCON 2019 in Glasgow, Scotland, at Strathclyde University. IEEE History Committee may hold its Fall meeting in Glasgow at the time of HISTELCON 2019. Involvement of a number of organizations in HISTELCON is arranged, including: Computer Conservation Society, National Museum of Computing, British Society for the History of Mathematics, DHST/DLMPST Commission for the history and philosophy of computing, LEO Computers Society, Inst. for Contemporary History. Application for a grant to support HISTELCON has been made to IEEE Foundation. History Committee Chair, Bob Dent, is promoting Milestones to recognize Space Program achievements, to correspond with 2019 being 50th anniversary of human landing on the moon. Should be some in the Sections of Region 8, and perhaps could be 'fast-tracked' through approval processes. LM AGs have been encouraged to try to interest retiring IEEE members who are not yet qualified to become Life Members (often the case in Region 8, where members joined IEEE well into their career and not as students). Mike Geselowitz, Senior Director at IEEE History Center, proposes to run an IEEE REACH (Raising Engineering Awareness through the Conduit of History) workshop alongside HISTELCON 2019. Such workshops are aimed particularly at teachers involved with children.

Questions and/or comments from the Committee:

Regarding Life Members, the comment is not to help the life members, but make USE of them, have them help you! Alistair Dabbs, Region 8 News Editor, mentions that the intention is to increase the number of times it comes out. In the past years, only sporadically, now every three months, with double page count. Region 8 News available at R8news.ieeer8.org . Dirk van Hertem comments that since he does not ask for a printed version of R8 News, he does no longer read it. He thinks it could be interesting to have printed copies. Alistair Dabbs replies to let him know how many and where he wants them and he will provide them. Costas Stasopoulos, Region 8 Past Director reminds everybody the micro volunteering initiative which was started in Region 6, for volunteers with little time. This is a way to bring somebody in, without being committed for a full time or position.

112 Young Professionals and MGA plans

Lunch

200 Call to Order

201 Technical Activities Results

Technical Activities Vice Chair, Christopher James, summarizes on what his team supports: namely, Technical Activities (mainly events), Educating volunteers/members & Outreach, and Collaboration/integration with industry. The goals he set for himself are: Support the Sub Committee (SC) Chairs & members through continuing dialog; empower the SCs to challenge the status quo; learn best practice within this role from wider IEEE regions; ensure a stable, long-term view on the Region's conference program; place particular emphasis on Standards & Industry programs; and highlight and celebrate technical achievements within R8. He presents the Sub Committee chairs, and thanks them for the fantastic work they have done: Chapter Coordination SC Chair, Amara Amara. Conferences Coordination SC, Peter Nagy: There is a SC website which includes an eNotice service (form, TCS, R8 members, ..., approval), Co-Sponsored conferences, TCS fee / GDPR, and information regarding IEEE R8 Flagship conferences: Energycon, Melecon, Eurocon, and Africon. At this point in time, site-selection for Melecon 2020, Eurocon 2021, and Africon 2021. Information regarding IEEE Convene 2018 in Berlin, Germany, and 2019 in Washington DC, USA is also provided. In 2020 IEEE Convene will be in held in Denmark, although it is not official yet. Recent Webinars can be found at the Center for Leadership Excellence. Also, there is an IEEE Conference Organizers' Newsletter. Request for conference organizer's contact in Sections is also possible. He also informs about the recent Region 8 Flagship Conferences: IEEE Melecon 2018 (Marrakesh, Morocco) 2-7 May, 2018, and IEEE Energycon 2018 (Limassol, Cyprus) 3-7 June, 2018. He encourages the audience to host a conference in their Section (Eurocon 2021, Africon 2021), to participate in the organization or to attend conferences. Finally he also encourages volunteers interested in organizing conferences to learn through the available resources: SC Website, IEEE Conferences website, IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence, IEEE Conference Organizers' newsletter, Webinars, and possibly attending IEEE Convene.

Educational Activities SC Chair

Sohaib Qama: EA focuses on supporting Section Educational Activities officers and organizing, promoting and supporting educational activities in Region 8. Main activities have been:

- Support Educational Activities officers in Sections by organizing an online meeting (March, 2018) to increase awareness of programs and to understand their challenges.
- Organize a Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Week program of Section-level TISP workshops for educators in the Region. Done in collaboration between R8 and R10 and sponsored by IEEE EAB. Workshops in Uganda, Greece, Croatia, Tunisia, UAE, Ukraine, and Malta Sections, with about 500 educators to be trained.
- Organize an Educational Activities track at the Region 8 Student and Young Professional (SYP) Congress, sponsored by IEEE R8 SYP. Held 2 plenary sessions and 4 workshops at the congress covering Pre-University and University activities.
- Promote Educational Activities Board programs and resources in the Region: done continuously through e-notices and social media.
- Organize a competition, known as EA SC Acceleration Program, to promote Section level educational activities: Ongoing.
- Collaboration with Action for Industry: Liaison with Action for Industry, UK I Section Industry Activities and EAB to potentially develop continuing education resources for Rolls Royce.

Action for Industry

Marios Antoniou: He presents the Internship program, with a total of 65 summer internships for 2018 advertised through social media, engaging industry corporations, startups and entrepreneurs, and mentoring young entrepreneurs. Around 30 industries have participated. Internship posted and visibility given through Region 8 Facebook page. Other web pages used to share announcements were: IEEE R8 SAC, IEEE R8 YP. Some Industry engagement events during 2018 are:

- Smart city, Opportunities and Prospects, Cyprus, 20 March 2018.
- Industry forum during IEEE International Conference on Industrial Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS 2018), Saint Petersburg, Russia, 15-18 May 2018.
- 4th International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry (RTSI), Palermo, Italy, 10-13 September, 2018.

Standards

Recent highlights:

- May 2018: IEEE-SA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna;
- June 2018: IEEE-SA Standards Board meetings in The Hague;
- June 2018: IEEE-SA partnered with IEEE Turkey Section: standards events in Istanbul and Ankara;
- July 2018: IEEE Young Professionals in Space Conference, Barcelona, Spain: IEEE simulation 'Mars Space Colony: A Game of Standardisation';
- August 2018: IEEE R8 Students and Young Professionals Congress: IEEE-SA provided a number of standards sessions.

Outlook:

- March 2019: IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting in Munich, Germany;
- May 2019: IEEE-SA Board of Governors meeting in Tallinn, Estonia.

Outreach and engagements in conjunction with these meetings is exploited. Opportunities:

- Potential individual standards speakers and/or whole tracks;
- Promotion of IEEE Standards University and Education Grant.

He strongly invites everybody to attend the conferences and events, as well as to contact him about the grants and other projects about standardization. Dirk van Hertem comments that the report was not very positive about the activities of the Chapter Coordination SC. Maybe this SC should be revitalized next year.

202 Technical Sponsorship - Financial Sponsorship of Conferences

Region 8 Director Elect, Magdalena Salazar Palma, mentions that during the previous Region 8 Committee meeting there were many questions regarding Technical Sponsorship of Conferences. She introduces Pèter Nagy, R8 Conferences Sub Committee Chair, who gives a presentation on the topic. He starts by explaining what is to be understood in IEEE by sponsorship: How Can Organizations Participate in an IEEE Conference?

- As Sponsors and Owners in two different ways:
  - Managing the financial and technical responsibilities in running a conference, or
  - Managing the technical responsibilities in running a conference.
- Or as Contributor, Patron, or Supporter (no ownership): Contributing funds in exchange for brand exposure.

While the business world typically thinks of sponsorship as paying for brand exposure, in IEEE Conference, sponsorship relates to ownership. Sponsoring an IEEE conference refers to the ownership of the conference and what is your percentage of the financial and technical responsibilities in running an IEEE sponsored conference. There are two types of sponsorship of IEEE Conferences:

- If there is a financial investment:
  - Sole Sponsorship: Your OU has 100% ownership for both the financial and technical responsibilities related to your conference;
  - Co-Sponsorship: Your OU has shared ownership (%).
- If there is no Financial investment:
  - Technical Co-sponsorship: Your OU will have direct and substantial involvement in executing a high quality technical program and oversight of IEEE brand usage.

Sole Sponsorship: Indicates your OU has full ownership of the conference. Key Responsibilities:

- Validating the conference scope is aligned with IEEE, setting parameters to execute a high quality technical program.
- Executing a successful conference that produces a positive surplus (20% goal).
- Your OU will receive 100% of surplus or be responsible for a deficit.
- Ensuring appropriate representation of the IEEE brand on all communications, websites and marketing materials.

Co-Sponsorship: Indicates your OU has a shared ownership of the conference. Key Responsibilities:

- Validating the conference scope is aligned with IEEE, setting parameters to execute a high quality technical program.
- Executing a successful conference that produces a positive surplus (20% goal).
- Your OU will receive XX% of surplus or be responsible for a deficit, depending on the financial share.
- Ensuring appropriate representation of the IEEE brand on all communications, websites and marketing materials.

Co-Sponsorship - Shared Responsibility:

Conference execution responsibilities are shared: venue selection, negotiating services, exhibit management, publication of programs and proceedings, obtaining approval of the conference from IEEE, social media, coordinating resource management and full administration of conference, marketing and public relations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required. It defines the responsibilities of each party.

Technical Co-Sponsorship:

Indicates your OU has no financial investment in the conference. But direct & substantial involvement in the Technical Program. An IEEE volunteer is the Technical Program Chair / Track Chair / Assign reviewers / Conference Quality. The financial sponsor/s is allowed to use the IEEE brand to promote the conference - Protect the IEEE Brand. The conference's proceedings are eligible for publication in Xplore. IEEE can decline to publish the conference proceedings that don't meet IEEE's quality standards.

Reasons to Provide Technical Co-Sponsorship:

To become involved with new, cutting edge science or technologies where IEEE is not a major player; or to increase the IEEE brand exposure to a new audience. Providing technical co-sponsorship is an effective way for you to determine if a non-IEEE organization should be considered for financial sponsorship in the future; and a testing ground, developmental conference. Also to provide an activity for your OU members to participate in; or when you have a lack of resources to financially sponsor a conference or you can only provide resources to assist with the technical program execution.

Technical Co-Sponsorship (TCS) of Conferences in Region 8 - Requirements:

Conference organizers should contact OU leadership before submitting the application; agreeing to the conference means involvement of the OU in the conference organization for quality control; plagiarism check needs to be done; 1 Section and 1 Society or Chapter involved; Technical Program (co-)Chair is well known IEEE member; two R8 committee members involved in review process; reduced fees for IEEE members; dates should not conflict with other R8 conferences.

TCS fee Overview and how to avoid it:

For any technically co-sponsored conferences in which there is no (0%) IEEE financial interest the MGA co-sponsor shall arrange (via an approved MoU) for recovery of IEEE operation costs. Effective for conferences for which the creation of the MoU starts after 1 January 2018, the fees are $1000 per event plus $15 for each paper that is optionally published in Xplore. As an exception to this general policy, MGA will continue to pay those fees if the external (non-IEEE) financial sponsor has a National Society Agreement with IEEE or has a Sister Society Agreement with one or more of the IEEE Societies. However, Financial Co-Sponsoring can be cheaper than TCS, and OU receives some funds (and takes the risk too). Pèter Nagy gives some more details on the topic.

203 Section Business Model Canvas

Mohamed El Dallal introduces Workshop 2 "My IEEE Section - Business Model Canvas (BMC)". He first explains what BMC is: BMC is divided into 9 building Blocks. It helps you to Map, Design, Visualize, Organize, Explore, Enhance your work. It's not only for entrepreneurs. It's also for executives and top management. It's not only for profit organization (Donor and beneficial BM). Map your Organization in ONE image. Three main principles:

- Strategic planning is not only budgeting
- Visuals and images enhance dialogue (Team/board).
- Not only financial outcomes: Social Impact /membership /behavior changing.

The back stage presents the costs - As seen by business. The Front stage presents the value - As seen by customer. He then presents in detail the BMC to the audience and how to construct it, so that Section Chairs can construct it for their Sections. Then he leads the audience through the exercise.

204 Group Photo

205 Presentation of Election candidates

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos gives an overview of the N&A process for the Region 8 elections with the following candidates:

- 2019-2020 Secretary:
  - Ana Maria Madureira (Portugal)
- 2019-2020 Treasurer:
  - Adam Jastrzebski (UK & I)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Member Activities:
  - Sara Barros (Benelux)
  - Adeel Sultan (UAE)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Student Activities:
  - Maciej Borowka (Poland)
  - Ana Inłs Inácio (Benelux) (Who has withdrawn her candidacy for personal reasons)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Technical Activities:
  - Albert Lysko (South Africa)
  - Sohaib Sheikh (UK & I)

and

- N&A Subcommittee members
  - Habib M. Kammoun (Tunisia)
  - Vera Markovic (Serbia & Montenegro)
  - Sergey Shaposhnikov (Russia North West)

The election process itself is described as follows:

- There will be presentations from the candidates running for the first 5 positions.
- For the first 5 positions Committee members may choose one candidate.
- For the N&A positions, Committee members may choose up to three candidates.
- Discussions about the candidates and voting will be done in executive session.

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos calls all candidates for the first five positions to make their presentations. Presentations can be found on the meeting website. After the presentations, the audience formulated questions to the candidates.

206 Executive session: Discussion on Election candidates

All discussions were held in a closed executive session.

207 Executive session: Voting

Elections were held in a closed executive session.

208 Presentation of election results

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos presents the results of the elections.

- 2019-2020 Secretary:
  - Ana Maria Madureira (Portugal)
- 2019-2020 Treasurer:
  - Adam Jastrzebski (UK & I)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Member Activities:
  - Adeel Sultan (UAE)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Student Activities:
  - Maciej Borowka (Poland)
- 2019 Vice Chair, Technical Activities:
  - Sohaib Sheikh (UK & I)

and

- N&A Subcommittee members
  - Habib M. Kammoun (Tunisia)
  - Vera Markovic (Serbia & Montenegro)
  - Sergey Shaposhnikov (Russia North West)

209 Recess

300 Call to Order and Roll Call

Director Margaretha Eriksson welcomes everybody back to the second part of the meeting.

301 Student Activities Committee report

Region 8 Student Activities Vice Chair, Efthymia Arvaniti, starts her report presenting her team and thanking them for their hard work during these two years. She addresses next the Section representatives summarizing how they can help student members:

- Engage the students with the Section Student Representative
- Bridge students and YPs in joint events
- Bring Industry closer to the Student Branches
- Allocate budget for student activities
- Invite them in Sectional & Regional Activities
- Involve Section & Region Student Activities Committee
- Support Students & Student Branches
- Encourage new members
- Listen to their voice
- Make them feel appreciated

Students are the future leaders! She then presents the main activities supported by R8 SAC:

- Cross-Sectional Students and Young Professionals Congresses that are organized every odd year, gathering students and YPs from nearby Sections, of mini-regional scale. A R8 Cross-Sectional Student and Young Professional Congress Manual has been prepared. In 2017 there were a total of 8 events of this type:
  - Gulf Council Cooperation SYP - Manama, Bahrain
  - Middle East SYP - Tunis, Tunisia
  - Africa SYP - Abuja, Nigeria
  - Eastern Africa SYP - Kampala, Uganda
  - Central European SYP - Lviv, Ukraine
  - Hellenic SYP - Athens, Greece
  - Nordic SYP - Vilnius , Lithuania
  - Western European SYP - Valencia, Spain The Call for Proposals for 2019 Cross-Sectional Congresses is going to be released soon. Some locations are confirmed.
- IEEE Region 8 Student & Young Professional Congress happens every even year. In 2018 it took place in Porto, Portugal, 24th to 29th of July, 2018.
- A student paper contest (SPC) is organized every year. The winners of the first, second and third awards are invited to present their papers at one of the Region 8 flagship Conference. The award includes a cash prize, free travel plus accommodation and conference fee (for the main author), plus lots of fun, experience and fame. In 2018 the awards were presented in Melecon 2018, Marrakech, Morocco:
  - 1st Prize: 800 , Ahmed Abdelraouf Mohamed, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport Cairo Student Branch, Egypt Section, "A Multi-Objective Distributed Generation Allocation and Sizing using Swarm Intelligence Based Algorithms"
  - 2nd Prize: 500 , Benjamin Chiłm, Universitè Catholique de Louvain Student Branch, Benelux Section, "Supervised classification of structural brain networks reveals gender differences"
  - 3rd Prize: 200 , Marko Mihajlovic and Nikola Popovic, University of Niš Student Branch, Serbia & Montenegro Section, "Fooling a neural network with common adversarial noise" In the past, SPC awards were given in Limassol, Cyprus (2016), Ohrid, Macedonia (2017), Marrakesh, Morocco (2018). In 2019 the awards will be given in EUROCON, Novi Sad, Serbia.
- IEEE Student Awards campaign for 2018 was launched on the 20th January. The deadline submission was on 15th February. There were 140 submissions from R8 out of 303 (46% in R8)
  - Student Branches - SAC Interaction: Report!
  - Submit your annual report via sbr.vtools.ieee.org
  - Report your officers annually at officers.vtools.ieee.org
  - Electronic Communications provides a number of tools:
  - Survival Guide
  - SB Cookbook
  - IEEE calendar
  - Cross-Sectional Congress Manual
  - SYP Manual
  - SPC Rules

- ○ SAC Website https:ieeer8.orgstudent-activitiessac
- ○ R8 SAC is on Facebook (¿8.5k followers)

After the presentation a video about 2018 Region 8 SYP is presented. The audience comments on the activities and, in particular, the R8 SYP Congress and the Cross Sectional SYP congresses. Past Director, Costas Stasopoulos, encourage Sections to send not just one person to these events but more. Other comments regarding deadlines for Cross Sectional SYPs, and Visa problems were addressed.

302 Communication Strategy

Vice Chair for Member Activities, Antonio Luque, addresses the audience giving a background of the R8 Communication Strategy:

- Many members cite "being informed" as one of the top reasons for joining or staying in IEEE
- Conferences, publications, are the standard way of keeping members informed, and this is done at different IEEE levels: Spectrum, The Institute
- At R8 we have the duty of producing the information our members and society request, within our role in the IEEE structure Objectives of R8 communication:
- Inform members of events, activities, ways to participate
- Keeping members updated on relevant technological news
- Showcase IEEE to encourage others to join
- Promote volunteering
- More...

Media:
Email, Paper publications, Web posts, Social media, Other? Current status: eNotice, Web site (ieeer8.org), R8 News, R8 Today, Facebook, Twitter,... We need to define the role and place of each one, to provide a coherent view to users. Targets: Our users can be:

- Members
- Society in general
- Potential members

We can further segment into:

- Good/limited internet access
- Younger/Senior
- Volunteers/non-volunteers

The future:

- New publications to fill the gaps
- Take care of overlap between communication channels
- Be aware of changes and adapt to them

Then he presents the proposed R8 Communication channels (and how we can use them) and introduces the R8 volunteers working on them:

1) Region 8 News - Alistair Dabbs
2) R8 website - George Michael
3) Digital marketing and social media - Dora Fourou
4) Region 8 Today - Stamatis Dragomaunos
5) IEEE igma - Christopher James

Region 8 News - Alistair Dabbs:
The Region 8 News Editor, Alistair Dabbs, presents its status:

- Published every 3 months
- Print edition is sent to R8 members
- Bulk copies are sent to Sections, AGs, universities, etc.
- Printed by IEEE in Piscataway
- Mailed out with IEEE Spectrum
- PDF edition is ... free for everyone: r8news.ieeer8.org
- Join the email list
- Want to share a story about your Section, AG, chapter, conference etc.? r8news@ieee.org (but... note the long lead-in times)
- Coming in 2019: smartphone app, tablet app, text-searchable archive, Region 8 live feeds, built-in media support (video)

Digital Marketing and Social Media - Dora Fourou
Dora Fourou, Social Media coordinator, presents first the concept of Digital Marketing: There is a huge spectrum of tactics and assets that fall under the umbrella of digital marketing such as: Google search, social media, email, online advertising, websites which connect a brand/company with their current and prospective customers. Then she addresses what a Digital Marketer does:

- have a clear picture of how each asset or tactic supports their overarching goals.
- need to understand how different platforms work
- have to analyze the psychology and the behavioral patterns of online users.

For Region 8 digital promotion the tools available are:
- Corporate Website: ieeer8.org, including Social Media: Facebook (Page & Group) / Twitter
- News Portal: IEEE Region 8 Today, region8today.ieeer8.org, including also Social Media: Facebook / Twitter
- Magazine: IEEE Region 8 News

When designing our strategy we need to take into account that bombarding your audience with the wrong content has serious repercussions to your marketing effort. Also overloading with irrelevant content can drive away those who have been your serious fans.

Region 8 Today - Stamatis Dragomaunos

Stamatis Dargomaunos, Editor of Region 8 Today, starts saying that it took 1,5 year of preparation for what is now Region 8 Today. From spotting and describing the problem, designing a solution, and fine-tuning it, to designing and developing the platform, establishing collaborations, training and testing. He summarizes what Region 8 Today is: The Official News Portal of IEEE Region 8 (https:region8today.ieeer8.org).
- All Organizational Units can post their news
- IEEE members read news from all IEEE: volunteering, achievements, events, awards innovation, and so on.
- Collaboration with: IEEE Spectrum, The Institute, Region 8 News
- Search by date (archive)
- Search by location

He then explains the Organizational Structure and Philosophy, from R8 OUs (contributors) through the Editorial Board (in charge of maintaining quality and conformity to rules) to the Web Portal. Regarding the current status of Region 8 Today he presents the following statistics:
- 1964 users from 77 countries
- Facebook page (@ieeeregion8today) has 547 followers
- Twitter account has 58 followers
- 7 Section Contributors, 6 AGs Contributors
- 3 Editors
- 66 articles: 14 from The Institute, 12 from Spectrum, 11 from UAE, 19 Global or Regional. 2 from Region 8 News, 8 from several Sections

Search Engine Optimization: 3rd when searching "IEEE Region 8 Today"; 1st when searching "Region 8 Today"; 4th when searching "IEEE Region 8 news portal" With respect to the near future and distant future outlook, some ideas are:
- Contributors from all Organizational Units
- Webinars and Training
- Optimization of platform and procedures
- Participation to all main IEEE events
- 2 articles per day
- 2 more editors
- Increase of quality of articles
- Increase portal's awareness
- Increase portal's engagement with its readers
- Become multilingual

Our vision for Region 8 Today is to be the source of IEEE daily news within Region 8; a platform where well trained and experienced volunteer - journalists will share their articles; and a reference point for volunteers, inventors, entrepreneurs and scientists.

IEEE igma - Christopher James

Christopher James, VC for Technical Activities, presents his initiative related to an IEEE Magazine for Region 8 to be called Sigma. The objective is to create a technical publication that is a celebration of the people, technology, projects and achievements within IEEE Region 8. The content could be: in-depth interviews with technological innovators/leaders; reporting on big/ important technological projects; opinion pieces on topical issues; innovations in countries or sub-regions within R8; reporting on achievements by individuals or groups; and students and YP voice. In order to make this a reality, the next steps are:
- Initial conversations with IEEE Pubs;
- Establishing initial editorial board;
- Preparing Sigma as an IEEE publication;
- Costings/ budget; Sponsorship possibilities;
- Preliminary timeline/content;
- Format (paper/online) & Frequency

This journal/magazine will complete R8 communications = R8 News + R8 Today (online) + Sigma + R8 Web.

303 Treasurer's Report

Ralph Kennel, Region 8 Treasurer, presents his report. He starts clarifying some issues related to claiming expenses. He reminds everybody that copies of receipts and vouchers are required. He also reminds the audience that when transferring money for expense reports the bank is requested to cover the fees on both sides. He then addresses the interim cost distribution for 2018. As of the end of September 2018 a sum of 167.9 ($K) is our surplus. However there are still expenses to pay. In general our expenditures are according to budget. But each year we are expending more money than our income. He then proposes a budget for 2019 in case we just take similar numbers as experienced in 2018. But we need to cut down expenses on our

meetings and in other areas, which means that we should all save money. He proposes a budget of 675 $K. Then he informs that 2018 R8 SYP in Porto has a surplus of 13,078.68 which should be forwarded to the organizing Student Branch and the next SYP congress. He then mentions some issues, in particular greater investment in the VCs operations, with the current situation of the budget he believes we cannot do. In terms of Region 8 Treasurer's objectives he refers back to those mentioned in 2016 by him, namely, to maintain the cash position (cash flow in R8 can be sensitive), promote R8 initiative strategy (which unfortunately cannot be done), and improve section and chapter reporting. Brian Harrington, Past Treasurer, presents Region 8 Treasury administration. Region 8 Finances use a set of tools. Among them, the SAGE software, based on Windows 10, XP Systems to support archive data. The current contract with SAGE allows for 5 licenses plus technical Support, report design assistance, automatic updates and Microsoft interface support. This is a Web based system. Normal offering is for 2 full users plus 6 other users. No server required by Region 8. General cloud and Web based have advantages. Advantages of adopting this approach:

- To spread the administrative workload by enabling shared working on Region 8 financials
- To enable project cost tracking by Region 8 budget holders (OpCom members)
- To enable enquiries on payments and receipts to be made by budget holders
- To enable the automatic update and reconciliation of Sage Drive accounts on bank account movements
- To offer Region 8 volunteers (OpCom) free access to the Microsoft Office 365 suite and to the Microsoft OneDrive Cloud
- To extend access to mobile devices - selected countries

He also explains that because of the diversity of Region 8 (variety of currencies, etc.) it is particularly important to have a good control of financials. Because control is important, the help of an external auditor has been used in the past.

304 External Auditors report

Colin Taylor, from UK, is the External Auditor. He starts his presentation by introducing himself and his credentials. He explains next what his work consists of and how it is done in collaboration with the Region 8 Finance team. He first needed to understand Region 8 operations. A characteristic of Region 8 finances is its fluctuations from year to year due to many issues, but mainly because of the Sections Congress and the meetings in expensive venues.

305 R8 Budget, priorities, decisions

After these presentations the Committee discussed how to set the priorities regarding R8 budget. Possible ways of reducing the expenses are to: reduce the number of meetings, reduce the number of committees, or committee members. Research should be done about other possible sources of income, like download of papers from R8 Conferences which proceedings are included in Xplore, the use of the 50% of surplus or 1% of reserves, and so on. Other comments emphasize that the money should be used to support Sub Committees activities, in particular MD SC meetings. The establishment of a Finance Committee could also help to establish strategies, savings, and so on. Also long term planning will help to stabilize the financial results from year to year.

306 Upcoming Flagship Conferences

Peter Nagy, Conference Coordination SC Chair, presents the upcoming Region 8 Flagship Conferences. The SC is now releasing the call for the site selection of Eurocon 2021 and Africon 2021: letter of intent should be sent by February 1, 2019, with an initial bid by February 28, 2019. Educon 2019 will be held in Dubai, UAE, 9-11 April, 2019. Eurocon 2019 will be held in Novi Sad, Serbia, 1-4 July, 2019. Histelcon 2019 will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, 18-19 September, 2019. Africon 2019 will be held in Accra, Ghana, 25-27 September, 2019. Energycon 2020 will be held in Gammarth, Tunisia, 13-16 April, 2020. Melecon 2020 will be held in Palermo, Italy, June 16-18, 2020.

307 IEEE and Industry

Dejan Milojicic, IEEE Division 8 Director, presents a report on 2018 IEEE Industry Engagement. Industry membership has been in decline. An Ad Hoc Committee on IEEE Industry Engagement Committee was established in 2014. In November 2017 it was establishes as Standing Committee with a number of priorities and offerings to engage practitioners. A Conference took place in 2018. A number of lessons were learned. A corporate membership has been proposed. A new IEEE member grade is been explored for IEEE Senior Members from industry: Distinguished Technologist. Awards also explored as well as an Industry Congress. Questions from the audience included Startups, presentation to industries of the corporate membership, and other activities.

308 IEEE Vienna Office

Clara Neppel, Senior Director for European Business Operations, IEEE Technology Centre, gives a progress report on the activities of the Vienna office. She first presents the Vienna office current staff. Then she explains how the office helps achieve IEEE goals by supporting local and global initiatives. IEEE has a unique value proposition: a trusted platform of collaboration. Three stages of the approach:

- Raise awareness of holistic IEEE offering,
- Identify areas of common interest and explore engagement possibilities,
- Impact, new engagements and collaborations within IEEE and with external stakeholders.

She mentions a number of activities, engagements (including with the European Parliament, but also with members), invitations, awards, standards, and more. The activity with IEEE European Public Policy continues. Questions from the audience include the possibility of help with H2020 projects, with cooperation between EU and Africa Union, the Parliament Magazine, maybe

getting online access. The office cannot engage in the bidding because it will compromise neutrality. The office can work in workshops, advisory boards and so on. Also it was asked if the office can help on Conference organization. Also if the Vienna office is generating income. The answers to both questions were affirmative.

309 Motions, presentation, discussion, voting

1) Motion to approve the Bylaws of the Africa Council. The Bylaws were posted beforehand. The Africa Council Pro Tem Chair move to approve the Bylaws. No need to be seconded because it comes from the Council. No discussion takes place. The motion is voted and approved with one abstention. Motion passes.

2) Motion to approve the addition of Botswana Subsection, Sudan Subsection, Tanzania Subsection, Mauritius Subsection and Uganda Subsection to Africa Council. These subsections have sent the petition to Africa Council. Africa Council has approved it. Now the approval of Region 8 Committee is requested. The motion comes from the Africa Council. No need to be seconded. No discussion takes place. The motion is voted and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

3) Motion to approve the elevation of the Uganda Subsection to Uganda Section with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of the country of Uganda. The motion is put forward and seconded. No discussion takes place. The motion is voted and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

4) Motion to approve the formation of Yemen Subsection under Region 8 with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of the country of Yemen. Moved by Egypt Section Chair. A friendly amendment by Director Elect is to change the first signatory of the petition to someone whose primary address is in Yemen. The friendly amendment is accepted. The motion with the mentioned amendment is seconded and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

5) Motion to conditionally (Region 8 Director needs to wave the condition of signatories being IEEE members for at least six months) approve the formation of Burkina Faso Subsection under Region 8 with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of the country of Burkina Faso. Moved by Tunisia Section Chair. The motion is seconded and discussed. The motion is voted and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

6) Motion to change the Operations Manual as sent to the R8 Committee. Change to R8-6.1.3.2 Add ", with the provision that the Chair has to be at least of Senior grade" after "as well as recommendations by the Region 8 NA Subcommittee". Change to R8-8.1 Final wording of the particular paragraph is: "Reasons for formation of a Subsection not within a Section (e.g. under the supervision of the Region) are usually that the members making the petition are in a location / country where there are insufficient IEEE members to justify a petition to form a Section. This enables the petitioners to start local IEEE activities and may encourage membership growth. Forming a Subsection under Region control does place an obligation on the Region to forward the rebate received for the Subsection, if it fulfills the meeting activity and compliance with finance and officer reporting requirements. However, the Region is not obliged to reimburse the attendance costs of the Subsection Chair at Region 8 Committee meetings, so that a Subsection constitutes a smaller financial burden on Region 8 than a Section. Moved by Region Past Director and seconded. No discussion takes place. The motion is voted and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

310 New Business

The audience is invited to attend the 10th GCC Conference and Exhibition to be held in Kuwait, 21-23 April, 2019. The SYP Congress will take place on April 19-20. Tutorials and WIE meeting will also take place concurrently. Saudi Arabia Section Chair questions the duration of the term of the Chair. He thinks is too short. Past Director explains that the duration can be extended for two more years. The same person can be reelected, after taking a break, for two more years, in order to fulfil the rule of not exceeding a total of six years. Saudi Arabia Section Chair mentions that he would like that the second term can be extended without the need of new elections. In some countries holding elections is not easy. Past Director says that the rule is not a R8 rule but an MGA policy. Norway Section Chair asks about working groups on European Public Policy and how to be accepted in them. South Africa Section Chair thanks R8 support to OUs and events in Africa.

311 Next R8 Meeting

Conrad Attard, Malta Section Chair, invites everybody to the 112th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting which will take place in Malta. The dates are still to be decided, either March 15-17 or March 29-31.

312 Welcome from the incoming Region Director

Magdalena Salazar Palma, 2017-2018 Director Elect, presents the incoming OpCom members and thanks the outgoing OpCom members for their work and support. She presents her objectives for the incoming years, which are based in looking ahead of the goals of the past four years: Focus on Students and YP, Industry, Section Vitality (with focus on elections), Africa Council support, Membership model, Technical Activities as they relate to members, and R8 Committee structure. She congratulates Vera Markovic and Serbia & Montenegro Section for an excellent meeting. She thanks them also for their hospitality.

313 Closing Remarks leaving past Region Director

Costas Stasopoulos, 2017-2018 Past Director, mentions that he has been R8 OpCom member since 2007 until 2018, first as Secretary, then as Director Elect, Director, and finally, Past Director. He express his thankfulness for all the opportunity to meet great people, great volunteers, attend many and varied meetings and serve Region 8 members. He thanks all OpCom members, Section Chairs and Sub Committee members with whom he has worked during all these years, as well as all R8 volunteers.

314 Closing Remarks leaving Region Director

Margaretha Eriksson, 2017-2018 Director, addresses the Committee with a word of thanks for what has been achieved during these two years. She gives some tokens of appreciation to the OpCom members and to Vera Markovic. She also recognizes the local volunteers.

315 Adjournment

Region 8 Director calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting is adjourned, SOCIAL LUNCH

Section/Subsection Officers

(GEO) Current Reported Section Chairs_R8_12Jan2017

Organizational Unit Name	Position Description	Position Start Date	Position End Date	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Algeria Section	Chair	01/01/2018		Abdelouahab	Mekhaldi	wamekhaldi@yahoo.fr
Austria Section	Chair	12/10/2017	31/12/2019	Reinhard	Pfliegel	reinhard@pfliegl.at
Bahrain Section	Chair	01/01/2019	31/12/2020	Eshaa M.	Alkhalifa	eshaa@silvertair.com
Belarus	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Yuri	Bobkov	bobkov.yuri@gmail.com
Benelux	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Mark	Bentum	m.j.bentum@tue.nl
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Meliha	Selak	meliha.selak@gmail.com
Bulgaria	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Kiril	Alexiev	kiril.m.alexiev@ieee.org
Croatia	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Maja	Matijasevic	mmatijasevic@ieee.org
Cyprus	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Elias	Kyriakides	elias@ucy.ac.cy
Czechoslovakia	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Frantisek	Mach	mach.frantisek@ieee.org
Denmark	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Yongheng	Yang	yoy@et.aau.dk
Egypt	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Samir	Shaheen	sshaheen@ieee.org
Estonia	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Peeter	Ellervee	p.ellervee@ieee.org
Finland	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Toni	Mattila	toni.mattila@hut.fi
France	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2019	Frederique	Vallee	frederique.vallee@sarl-fandco.fr
Germany	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Ingo	Hahn	ingo.hahn@ieee.org
Ghana	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	George	Eduful	georgeeduful@yahoo.com
Greece	Chair	04-02-2019	31-12-2020	Konstantina	Nikita	knikita@ece.ntua.gr
Hungary	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Levente	Kovacs	kovacs.levente@nik.uni-obuda.hu
Iceland	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Jacob	Sigurdsson	jakobs@hi.is
Iran	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Hadi	Moradi	moradih@ut.ac.ir
Iraq	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Sabiha	F. Jawad	fathiljawad@gmail.com
Israel	Chair	15-01-2018	31-12-2019	Uri	Shaked	shaked@eng.tau.ac.il
Italy	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Bernardo	Tellini	bernardo.tellini@ing.unipi.it
Jordan	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Gheith	Abandah	abandah@ju.edu.jo
Kenya	Chair	01-02-2018	31-12-2019	Charles	Onyango	oniangoco@gmail.com
Kuwait	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Mansour	Jaragh	m.jaragh@ieee.org
Latvia	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Nadezda	Kunicina	nadezda.kunicina@rtu.lv
Lebanon	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Bachar	Elhassan	bachar_elhassan@ul.edu.lb
Lithuania	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Dalius	Navakauskas	dalius.navakauskas@ieee.org
Malta	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Conrad	Attard	conattard@gmail.com
Morocco	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Mohammed	El Mohajir	m.elmohajir@ieee.ma
Nigeria	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Raphael	Onoshakpor	maejow007@yahoo.com
Norway	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Runar	Soeraasen	runar.soeraasen@ieee.org
Oman	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Ahmed	Al Maashari	maashri@gmail.com
Poland	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Mariusz	Malinowski	malin@isep.pw.edu.pl
Portugal	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Jose	Pedro Silva	jose.pedro.silva@ieee-pt.org
Qatar	Chair	20-05-2015	19-05-2019	Somaya	Al-maadeed	s_alali@qu.edu.qa
Republic of Macedonia	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Pero	Latkoski	pero@feit.ukim.edu.mk
Romania	Chair	20-10-2018	31-12-2019	Cristian	Negrescu	negrescu@elcom.pub.ro
Russia	Chair	28-01-2019	31-12-2020	Sergey	Bankov	sbankov@yandex.ru
Russia (Northwest)	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2020	Mikhail	Shestopalov	shestopalov_08@MAIL.RU
Russia (Siberia)	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Alexey	Rodionov	alrod@sscc.ru
Saudi Arabia (East)	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Mohammad	Al-Muhaini	muhaini@kfupm.edu.sa
Saudi Arabia (West)	Chair	01-01-2014		Mohamed	A T Turki	mtmm@mtmm.com.sa
Serbia and Montenegro	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Boris	Dumnic	dumnic@uns.ac.rs
Slovenia	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Andrej	Trost	andrej.trost@fe.uni-lj.si
South Africa	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Darrin	Cornish	Darryn.Cornish@ieee.org
Spain	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Jesus	Fraile-Ardanuy	jesus.fraile.ardanuy@upm.es
Sweden	Chair	14-03-2018	31-12-2019	Samarth	Deo	samarthdeo@ieee.org
Switzerland	Chair	28-04-2017		Maria-Alexandra	Paun	maria_paun2003@yahoo.com
Tunisia	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Adel	M. Alimi	adel.alimi@ieee.org
Turkey	Chair	01-01-2016	31-12-2019	Murat	Uysal	murat.uysal@ozyegin.edu.tr
Uganda	Chair	07-02-2019	31-12-2020	Vincent	Olema	vincent.olema.o@ieee.org
UK and Ireland	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Michael	Hinchey	mike.hinchey@lero.ie
Ukraine	Chair	01-01-2018	31-12-2019	Evgen	Pichkalyov	pichkalyov@gmail.com
United Arab Emirates	Chair	01-01-2019	31-12-2020	Fatma	Taher	fatma_taher@ieee.org
Zambia	Chair	01-01-2017	31-12-2018	Simon	Muwowo	smuwowo@zesco.co.zm

II. OpCom Reports

Director   Magdalena Salazar Palma

Goals

1) The Region 8 (R8) Director is the Chair of the R8 Committee, which consists of the Operating Committee or OpCom (which besides the Director includes the Past Director, Director Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the three Vice Chairs for Student Activities, Member Activities, and Technical Activities), the Section Chairs, and the various Sub Committees (SC) under the purview of the Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, or the Vice Chairs (VC). Special mention should be made of the Africa Council. As Committee Chair the job of the Director is to support the Committee operations, which include overseeing the Committee operations, support the Section Chairs, and strongly support the VCs, the various Sub Committees and Africa Council in their strategy and goals.

   The Director's goals are aligned with the goals of the VCs, SCs, and Africa Council. Concrete goals include:

   - Devise a financial plan which will support increased activities of the SCs.
   - Membership, including Students:
     - Consolidated the growth trend (see below),
     - Increase the retention through programs like Senior Member elevation campaign, Students and Young Professionals retention strategies, and so on,
     - Continue R8 focus on Students and YP,
     - Support Women in Engineering (WIE) SC,
     - Focus on Humanitarian Activities.
   - Technical Activities:
     - Continue to focus on becoming closer to industry with the scope of better serving practitioner members, and increasing the number of members from industry,
     - Revitalize R8 chapters,
     - Reinforce relations with IEEE Societies and Technical Councils.
   - Consolidate R8 flagship conferences and increase the portfolio of financially and technically cosponsored conferences.
   - Increase R8 visibility.
   - Increase R8 member and OU recognitions through IEEE level, MGAB (Member and Geographic Activities Board) and R8 awards.

2) R8 Director serves as member of IEEE MGAB and as member of the IEEE Board of Directors (BoD). Besides attending the various meetings of the MGAB and BoD, this part of the job includes supporting their strategy and operations. Thus, the Director's goals are aligned with those of the MGAB and BoD. The Director is member of MGAB Strategic Planning Sub Committee and IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics.

   - Concrete goals include:
     - Devising and supporting MGAB Strategic Plan, in particular for the future structure of Regions
     - Support IEEE BoD strategy on a new membership model,
     - Support IEEE BoD activities on diversity, inclusion and ethics.

Status

1) R8 Statistics and Achievements
   a) Membership statistics:
      As of January 2019 and comparing with January 2018, there is an increase of 1,128 members, i.e., a 1.5% growth, with a total of 78,616 members. By grade:

      - 10 Honorary members (+1); 0.01% of total R8 members.
      - 1,276 Fellows (+37); 1.6% of total R8 members.
      - 8,695 Senior members (+531); 11.1% of total R8 members.
      - 42,557 Members (-327); 54.1% of total R8 members.
      - 1,530 Associates (+92); 16.8% of total R8 members; 1.9% of total R8 members.
      - 11,304 Graduate Student members (+367); 14.4% of total R8 members.
      - 13,244 Student members (+427): 16.8% of total R8 members.

      At the IEEE level, there has been a global positive growth of +0.9%, but this has been achieved thanks to the increase in members on just three Regions: Region 7 (with a 6.1% spectacular growth), Region 8, and Region 10 (+3.4%). All other Regions (1-6 and 9) are still having a decline between -0.4% and -2.8%.

   b) R8 OUs statistics:
      - 58 Sections; during the 112th R8 Committee meeting the elevation of Mauritius Subsection to Section will be moved and hopefully approved by the Committee;
      - 10 Subsections; during the 112th R8 Committee meeting the formation of Liberia Subsection will be moved and hopefully approved; four African countries (Angola, Namibia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe) and one Eastern European country (Georgia) are potential candidates for new Subsections (with total number of members between 25 and 50);
      - 405 Chapters; since January 1st, 2019, four new Chapters have been formed;
      - 147 Joint Chapters; since January 1st, 2019, three new Joint Chapters have been formed;
      - 675 Student Branches; since January 1st, 2019, four new Student Branches have been formed;

- 378 Student Branch Chapters; since January 1st, 2019, seven new Student Branch Chapters have been formed (one of them in Africa);
- 220 Affinity Groups (AG), among them:
  - 52 YP AGs; two more are under petition process; it is worth noting that more than 24,000 R8 members are YPs;
  - 155 WIE AGs (41 at Section level and 114 in Student Branches); since January 1st, 2019, four new WIE AGs (1 at Section level, 3 in Student Branches) have been formed (one of them in Africa: Uganda Section WIE AG);
  - 13 Life Member (LF) AGs; a petition for one new LF AG is under process.

c) R8 achievements:
- More than 340 YP activities organized across R8 during the past two years,
- Seven WIE International Leadership Summit (ILS) held in R8 since 2017: 1 in 2017, 4 in 2018; 2 will be held in 2019: in Porto (Portugal), and Ibadan (Nigeria)
- Six R8 flagship conferences, usually organized in the span of two years (incoming in 2019: Eurocon, Africon, Histelcon, and Educon; in 2020: Melecon and Energycon)
- 817 Conferences took or are going to take place in R8 in 2018-2019:
  - 22 cosponsored by R8
  - 278 cosponsored by Sections
  - 204 cosponsored by Chapters/AG
  - 466 cosponsored by Societies/Councils
- A number of History Milestones have been granted by IEEE in R8 during the recent past. In 2018, a Milestone was dedicated to "First Studies on Ring Armature for Direct-Current Dynamos, 1860-1863, Italy".
- Awards received by R8 teams or individuals during 2018:
  - Five IEEE Medals (out of 22):
    - Founders Medal to Sir Robin Keith Saxby, ARM, London, UK
    - Maxwell Medal to David Flynn, University of Southampton, Cambridge, UK
    - Edison Medal to Ursula Keller, NCCR MUST (Swiss National Centre of Competence for Research in Molecular Ultrafast Science and Technology), ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
    - Picard Medal to Richard Klemm (non-member), Fraunhofer Institute for High Frequency Physics and Radar Techniques, Muenchen, Germany
    - Simon Ramo Medal to Harold Lawson, Lawson Konsult AB, Stockholm, Sweden
  - Two IEEE Technical Field Awards (out of 32):
    - James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing award to Hermann Ney, RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Aachen, Germany
    - Frank Rosenblatt award to Erkki Oja, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland
  - One IEEE EAB (Educational Activities Board) award (out of 10) to Tariq S. Durrani, London, UK
  - From IEEE MGAB, 4 awards (out of 19):
    - Two Achievement awards: Alaa Khamis (Egypt), Eva Esther Shalin (Ghana)
    - Larry K. Wilson Transnational award: Josip Balen (Croatia)
    - Outstanding Small Section Award: Cyprus Section
  - From IEEE YP:
    - IEEE YP AG Hall of Fame Award to Poland Section YP AG (for 6 years in a row a R8 YP AG has achieved this award),
  - From IEEE WIE:
    - Honorable mention, WIE Inspiring Student Member of the Year award to Mayssa Mannai, Tunisia Section WIE AG

2) Director's calendar from January 1st, 2019:
- IEEE BoD retreat, Cascais, Portugal, January 19-21, 2019
- R8 OpCom meeting, WebeEx, January 23, 2019
- IEEE Meeting Series, including MGAB, IEEE Assembly and IEEE BoD meetings, Tampa, FL, USA, February 13-18, 2019
- R8 OpCom meeting, WebEx, February 28, 2019
- 112th R8 Committee meeting, Valletta, Malta, March 15-17, 2019

3) Status of actions taken to achieve the goals:
- Finances: An Ad Hoc Finance Committee has been established.
- R8 membership, Students and YP:
- From the membership statistics, it may be concluded that the strategy followed in R8 with respect to membership is paying back. However the growth trend needs to be consolidated and improved. In order to achieve that, VC for Member Activities (MA) and the various Sub Committees under him, and the Student Activities (SA) Sub Committee, are already working in their strategies and goals.
  - Membership Development (MD) workshops are been planned

- ○ During the past four years R8 has been focusing on engaging and retaining Students and YPs. All the good practices are to be maintained and reinforced:
  - ▪ Regional Student YP (SYP) Congresses on even years,
  - ▪ Cross Sectional SYP Congress on odd years (8 in 2018: Gulf Council Cooperation SYP, Middle East SYP, Africa SYP, Eastern Africa SYP, Central European SYP, Hellenic SYP, Western European SYP, Nordic SYP)
  - ▪ Follow up of active Student Branches (SB), revitalize dormant SBs
  - ▪ Follow up of active Affinity Groups (AG): YP, WIE and LF (Life Members)
  - ○ Training campaign of new volunteers for Humanitarian Activities already started
- • Technical Activities:
  - ○ Action for Industry program is being maintained and reinforced with plans for engaging more companies, internships, and so on
  - ○ Chapter Coordination Sub Committee has been revitalized. Corresponding members are all Division Directors and Society/Technical Council Presidents of R8.
  - ○ Plans to improve flagship conferences and to increase the number of financial and technical cosponsored conferences are been analyzed.
- • Africa Council is going to celebrate its third meeting during the 112th R8 Committee meeting.
- • R8 visibility: An Ad Hoc Publications and Communications SC has been established to coordinate existing publications (R8 News, R8 Today, Social Media, Webpage) and to analyze the opportunities of a R8 Technical Magazine.
- • Campaign to nominate R8 members to the various awards will be started soon.
- • Alingment of the Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals on new membership model, possible restructure of Regions and diversity, inclusion and professional ethics.
- • All SCs started their work well before the 112th R8 Committee meeting.
- • Sections reports show a high level of activities and engagement. Sections vitality is good in the overall.

Outlook

Local activities at the Section and Subsection level are the basis of IEEE. The operation of all R8 Sub Committees is vital to increase the benefits offered to R8 members and make IEEE their professional home. R8 OpCom will be overseeing and trying to help the operations of Sub Committees, Sections, Subsections, and Africa Council.

Points of Concern

The finance situation of the Region is a point of concern. While reserves for 2017 were nearly 1,000 K USD, there was a loss result (negative surplus). The Finance Committee needs to look into ways of reducing expenses and increasing the income, in order to reach a healthy cash flow.

Past Director   Margaretha Eriksson

Goals

To chair the Nominations & Appointments Committee and the Awards and Recognitions Committee, as well as being member of the Financial Committe in Region 8. Also appointed to the MGA Awards Committee and a few more.

Status

I am getting started with the new commitments and the new teams, and hope to see everybody in Malta.

Outlook

New areas of responsibility! Let's work together!

Points of Concern

None at the moment.

Other Issues to report

Director-Elect   Antonio Luque

Role of Region 8 Director-Elect

1) The Director-Elect is responsible of Region 8 (R8) Strategic Planning and Region 8 Vitality.
   - The Director-Elect chairs the R8 Strategic Planning Sub Committee (SPSC). The SPSC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
   - In order to ensure the Region and Sections vitality, the Director-Elect is helped by the Sections Vitality Coordinator (SVC). The SVC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
2) The Director-Elect participates in IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGAB) meetings and Board of Directors (BoD) meetings, during the February, June, and November IEEE Meeting Series.
3) The Director-Elect represents R8 in meetings at the request of R8 Director or as needed. The following report refers to these last two roles of the Director-Elect.

Goals

To participate in IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGAB) meetings and Board of Directors (BoD) meetings, during the February, June, and November IEEE Board meeting Series. To represent R8 in meetings and events at the request of R8 Director or as needed.

Status

After the transition to the 2019 OpCom, the Director-Elect attended the Board meeting series in February 2019 in Tampa, FL, USA, including the MGA Board meeting, TAB meeting, and Board of Directors meeting.

Outlook

During the rest of the year the Director-Elect will continue with the tasks assigned to this position in the governing documents, supporting the Director and the rest of the OpCom in the Region operation. At the same time, he will coordinate the Strategic Planning Committee and will work with the Region Vitality Coordinator.

Points of Concern

None at the moment.

V/C Member Activities   Adeel Sultan

Goals

The VC Member Activities coordinates the following activities: - Membership Development - Professional Activities - Region 8 News - Affinity Group Activities (Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering) - Humanitarian Activities - Publications & Communications (Region 8 News, Electronic Communications, Region8 Today, Social Media and Webpages) - Affinity Group Activities (Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering)

The primary goal of VCMA is to establish efficient coordination among various SC's, while the main objectives of the MA sub-committees is to engage members, by providing them the initiatives and programs of non-technical nature. One of the long-term goals of MA is to increase the level of volunteering among all members, so that new activities and programs can be initiated and maintained.

Status

Coordination is key and is achieved through various multi-faceted means, one of which is periodic conference calls with all SC chairs and extended teams. This helps fostering the common MA goal of engaging members with non-technical activities. Below, some highlights from the different subcommittees under MA are summarized. Please refer to the specific reports for full status descriptions. - Membership Development. YoY member increase is 1.5%, almost 2 times the global increase of 0.9% - Young Professionals. Planned Participation in several events planned throughout the year. - History activities. Several Milestone proposals underway in the Region. HISTELCON 2019 preparations in progress - Life members: Continued campaign to increase the number of LMAGs and the support from Sections. - Women in Engineering: Persistent efforts to Increase the number of WIE AGs in the Region. - Professional activities. A motion to merge PA with EA will be initiated during this meeting. - Humanitarian activities. Plan to recruit new and more volunteers to improve outreach and manage activities. - Publications & Communications: A new committee in place this year to consolidate various components of communications.

In the last months there have been changes in the leadership of the Life Members and Humanitarian Activities subcommittees and also in the editorial board of Region8 news. New volunteers will be coordinating these teams in 2018.

Membership in the Region keeps declining at approximately 1% yearly rate. This can have an impact on the level of activities that we can develop and the total income of the Region. The trend is similar to Regions 7, 9 and 10, and significantly better than in Regions 1-6, where the decline is even larger.

I invite all volunteers to look at the reports from the different subcommittees under Member Activities for more details of the current status and planned activities for 2018.

Outlook

In the coming months, most of the efforts will be focused in planning activities and in optimizing coordination, cooperation and communication within the Region such that all initiatives converge to ensure overall member growth and satisfaction.

Points of Concern

The membership increase looks good but we need to make sure that the trend stays. There is also a need to improve the perception of members in their first years of membership so that they value their membership from the beginning.

Other Issues to report

V/C Technical Activities   Sohaib Sheikh

Goals

1) Revitalise the Chapter Coordination sub-committee
2) Expand Action for Industry programs and align them with the IEEE Industry Engagement Committee
3) Achieve a healthy conferences outlook, explore new flagship conferences and industry focused events
4) Improve educational activities programs with specific emphasis on University and Continuing Education
5) Coordinate the potential merger of Educational Activities and Professional Activities
6) Expand our standards-related offerings
7) Engage with Africa Council to expand TA activities in Africa
8) Increase TA activities focused on Students and Young Professionals
9) Increase coordination between sub-committees

Status

All sub-committees were appointed in February 2019 and I have had an initial meeting with the Sub-Committee (SC) Chairs to align strategy, focus and goals,

- All sub-committees were appointed in February 2019 and have started their work;
- I had an initial meeting with the SC Chairs to discuss 2019 TA strategy, focus, budget and goals. The SC Chairs meetings will be held quarterly to increase collaboration, identify SC challenges and receive an update on SC goals and KPIs;
- The TA Section of the Region 8 website has been refreshed and all the SCs have updated their sections and included relevant information to keep the content current;
- Motion for the EA and PA merger will be presented in the R8 Meeting in Malta;
- Society Presidents and Divison Directors originally from Region 8 have been invited to be coordinating committee members of the Chapter Coordination SC.

Outlook

- Continued oversight of SC work with regular meetings to understand progress against established KPIs and challenges;
- Increased collaboration with Sections and Global Committees to make the work of our committees more effective;
- Increased collaboration with the Societies to help the revitalization of Chapter Coordination;
- Expansion of Standards activities to include structured programs;
- Focus on Industry-focused programs and initiatives across all SCs,

Points of Concern

- Revitalization of the Chapter Coordination committee is a major task and will require active contribution from SC members and Societies. The success of this exercise depends on the response from Societies and Chapters;
- Initiating industry activities across majority of the SCs will require detailed planning and collaboration.

Other Issues to report

Secretary   Ana Madureira

Goals

- Use of collaborative and efficient tools that contribute to a greater involvement and an effective communication;
- Propose new initiatives for agile coordination of activities to build a closer cooperation between R8 Committees, OU's and with national/international organizations intending the IEEE mission accomplishment;
- Stimulate the cultural diversity of Region and to create a fruitful platform for the ideas, good practices and experiences exchanging, that should lead to innovation, rejuvenation and specially the visibility improvement of R8 activities;
- Contribute to the R8 meetings dynamics with timely, quality information and collaborative agendas contributing to its effective and productive results:
  - Agile Communication;
  - Consensus;
  - Vitality;

Status

Malta meeting organization and all the the related procedures are undergoing. Secretary team is actively involved to ensure all the conditions to a very rich and productive meeting. The IEEE 113th Region 8 in meeting in Valencia is already in preparation.

Outlook

Serve the needs of all the members, by enhancing and supporting the Region 8 Committee (Section representatives, Operating Committee, Appointed Members) and its OU's on their activities.

Points of Concern

Timely information.

Other Issues to report

III. Subcommittees

Action For Industry (AfI)   Marios Antoniou

Goals

- Expand AfI to new countries and new companies via SIAs, YPs, WIE, Seniors & Fellows;
- Add new companies in the AfI internship program;
- Increase the number of industry and enterpreneurship events organized by IEEE in R8.

Status

An initial meeting with the AfI sub committee members took place to discuss 2019 Action for Industry strategy, focus, action plan, budget and goals. The AfI sub committee meetings will be held quarterly to increase collaboration, identify challenges and receive an update on AfI goals and KPIs. Communication with Sections will take place in an effort to increase engagement and collaboration for industry and enterpreneurship activities. Increase collaboration with YPs, WIE, Educational Activities, Standards and Conferences R8 sub committees in an effort to create programs that provide value to IEEE members who work in indusrty and to students.

Outlook

Our next steps are:

1) Secure internship positions for 2019 from companies that have already participated in AfI internship program in 2018 and add new companies in the internship program;
2) Participate in industry forums and workshops that will take place during IEEE conferences;
3) Mentoring to enterpreneurs and young professionals.

Points of Concern

Sections in R8 should set as a proiority to get closer to industry and organize evetns with industry. Sections should appoint at least one Industry Ambassador and set a budget for industry and enterpreneurship events. Young Professionals should be part of Section Industry Ambassador teams.

Other Issues to report

Awards & Recognition Subcommittee (A&RSC)   Margaretha Eriksson

Goals

To recognize and reward the great work of IEEE volunteers within IEEE Region 8. Awards are also important to put forward role models among student members, Young Professionals and members at large.

Status

The 2019 Awards and Recognition team has starting the work. Piotr Graca who was administrering the Awards portal has left the committe and is handing over the work to Meriem Kilani, the new administrator. The Awards portal will open as soon as she has received proper training. The main R8 awards will be presented at the autumn meeting.

Outlook

Good, so many activities and great volunteers to reward in Region 8!

Points of Concern

We have a new team, so we need to learn each other, as well as the procedures.

Other Issues to report

Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC) — Albert Lysko

Goals

1) Successful Chapters Coordination subcommittee (ChCsC) meeting in Malta;
2) Informing Chapter and Section Chairs about ChCsC and its function;
3) Understanding the current state of the Chapters in R8;
4) Sharing and promoting best practices and information relevant to starting and running successful Chapters.

Status

The ChCsC is just a few weeks old, yet has already made some progress towards achieving the Goals (as per the Goal numbered points):

1) Preparing for the meeting in Malta. The Society representatives from R8 have been invited. Few representatives of Societies already confirmed attending ChCsC Meeting in Malta;
2) The information and eNotice are being prepared and is intended to be sent prior to the Malta meeting (key points have already been presented in the ChCsC's web page at https:ieeer8.orgcategorytechnical-activitieschapter-coordination);
3) We have so far gathered basic statistics from the IEEE web site and OU Analytics, and have contacted MGA for assistance with getting more advanced statistics.
4) Collecting information.

Outlook

To achieve the Goals, we plan to (as per the Goad numbering points):

1) Invite representatives of Societies and Section Chairs (if space permits) to attend the meeting, prepare a program useful for the attendees and developing the Best Practices;
2) Send eNotice to Chapter and Section Chairs informing them about ChCsC and its function, Presentations in R8 meeting, Article(s) in R8 News, Presence in social media;
3) Collecting the statistics from IEEE web, OU Analytics, VTools and other sources;
4) Collecting information about best practices (incl. from Vitality), inviting Chapter Chairs to share their best practices via IEEE media and their success stories in IEEE and non-IEEE media, getting access to and inviting the Chairs to join the Facebook page.

Points of Concern

- Late set up of the ChCsC gives little time to prepare;
- Weak response from Societies/Councils with regards to attending the meeting in Malta.

Other Issues to report

- We have set up a draft web page https://ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/chapter-coordination/
- We have set up an internal to the subcommittee whatsup group
- We have started to collect and analyse information (e.g. there are nearly 600 technical Chapters and around 350 student branch chapters in R8);
- We have identified and clarifying the status of and processes related to the R8 Chapter of the Year Award.

Photos and figures

IEEE R8 (EMEA) Chapters Coordination subcommittee

Albert Lysko
Chair

Matej Zajc
Member

Sarra Ben Rabii
*Member,
Coordinator for SAC*

Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)   Ljupco Karadzinov

Goals

1) Regular and timely handling of the TCS requirements, FCS information sharing;
2) Recruiting good candidates for R8 Flagship conferences, supporting and steering the awarded conferences;
3) Explore options for new R8 flagship conferences on trending topics or new geographic areas;
4) Explore industry-focused events in collaboration with other R8 sub-committees;
5) Reporting to MGA and MCE, good relation with other regional conference coordinators;
6) Adding KPIs and success criteria. Primary indicators of success in achieving the goals (KPIs) can be: the number of approved TCS and FCS, the quality and the number of bids per flagship conference, number of regular web meetings, recommendations at the end of the year to OpCom.

Status

1) Committee website;
2) eNotice service;
3) Co-Sponsored conferences;
4) Upcoming flagship conferences (Eurocon, Africon);
5) Site selection Eurocon 2021, Africon 2021;
6) IEEE Convene 2019, 1-2 August Washington, D.C., USA;
7) Conference resources, templates, webinars.

1) Committee website The website is updated with the new committee members, list of upcoming R8 flagship conferences, upcoming webinars (and listings of older ones) and other information relevant to our members and conference organisers. http://www.ieeer8.org/technical-activities/conference-coordination/conference-coordination-subcommittee-cocsc
2) e-Notice service e-Notice requests are approved by IEEE R8 CoCSC member (Tomislav Capuder) after checking whether the conference requesting e-Notice service is financially/technically co-sponsored conference of the R8. IEEE R8 Director and Vice-Chair is kept in the loop of all communication and have a final word in case of any issues. https://enotice.vtools.ieee.org
3) Co-Sponsored conferences Region 8 is still leading the other IEEE regions in the number of IEEE conferences organized in its different sections:
Technical co-sponsorhips by IEEE Region 8 for conferences starting after 1 January 2019: 17 submitted, 13 approved, 4 declined/pending. In 2018 there were 22 conferences which requested Region 8 Technical co-sponsorship, 20 were approved, 2 declined.
Increased number of TCS IEEE Region 8 due to eNotice for ALL Region 8 members being available only to IEEE R8 TCS Conferences. Globally IEEE has 1966 conferences in 2018. Almost 50-50% are Financial (co-)sponsored and Technical (co-)sponsored conferences. Societies are dominant among Financial sponsored and GEO units (Regions, Sections, Chapters) are more likely Technical sponsoring conferences.
For all conference applications received after 1 January 2018, in which an MGA Geographic Unit is a technical co-sponsor and there is no IEEE financial sponsorship, the MGA TCS Fee policy applies. This fee is $1000 per TCS conference, and $15 per paper sent to IEEE Xplore. If multiple IEEE Organizational Units (OUs) technically co-sponsor the same conference, the fee is divided between all IEEE sponsors (i.e.: Society, Council, MGA Geographic Units). MGA Geographic Units will have the option to bill the TCS fees directly to the Conference. An exception to this general policy! MGA will continue to pay these fees if the external (non-IEEE) financial sponsor has a National Society Agreement with IEEE or has a Sister Society Agreement with one or more of the IEEE Societies. Last webinar presentation: http://ieeer8.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Understanding-MGA-TCS-Cost-Allocation-2282018.pdf https://ieee-elearning.org/CLE/course/view.php?id=293 (requires log-in)
4) Upcoming flagship conferences (Eurocon, Africon) Eurocon 2019, 1-4 July 2019, Novi Sad, Serbia http://eurocon2019.org Paper submission is closed.
Histelcon 2019, 18-19 September, Glasgow Scotland, UK https://www.histelcon2019.org Paper submission deadline: 4th March 2019 (by the time of R8 meeting will be closed already)
Africon 2019, 25-27 September, Accra Ghana http://africon2019.org Paper submission deadline: 14th May 2019
5) Site selection Eurocon 2021, Africon 2021 We are in the process of selecting the site for IEEE Eurocon 2021 and IEEE Africon 2021. The result will be announced later this year. Eurocon was hosted recently in Macedonia, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Russia, Poland, Serbia. Africon was hosted in South Africa, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Zambia, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana.
6) IEEE Convene 2019, 1-2 August Washington, D.C., USA IEEE Convene is an annual event for leading scholarly conference organizers around the world. Join organizers from more than 31 countries to discover, discuss, and design new innovations for your conference. Theme: Enhancing the Attendee Experience. Hot topics: Successful Conferences Today, Food Trends, Engaging Local Community. IEEE Convene is an invitation only event. Attendance is limited but your request will be considered. https://ieeeconvene.org
7) Conference resources, templates, webinars We would like to share important information regarding an upcoming pilot program offering dedicated conference support in Region 8. Beginning on 4 February 2019, MCE is implementing a six-month trial designed to provide enhanced support to: ?Region 8 conference organizers and MGA leadership. Melinda Stembridge, Customer Relations & Operations Administrator will provide dedicated support to Region 8, as well as continue to support all India-sponsored conferences. Melinda will provide oversight and support, and serve as the primary point-of-contact for Region 8 conference activities including: conference sponsorship, the IEEE Conference

Application, finance, contracts, publications, copyright, conference quality, conference activity data, general inquiries. Melinda will be working remotely with hours aligned to the European time zone: 9am-5pm GMT Please direct all questions, concerns, and feedback to Melinda at: E: ieee-mce@ieee.org ?P: +1.732.562.3974

There are many resources, templates, tutorials at IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) website. The new redesigned CLE offers a ?one stop? training solution designed to serve the multiple and diverse range of IEEE user communities. From volunteers, non-volunteers to students, members and conference organizers, the site offers a simpler and effective learning experience. https://ieee-elearning.org/CLE/ The IEEE Conference Organizers Newsletter is intended to communicate important information about conference organizing practices, new services and tools available, IEEE policy changes, and industry information or issues relevant to conference organizing. https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/organizer newsletter.html

Outlook

- Relations to other IEEE units Ljupco Karadzinov as the R8 Conference Coordinator is invited to the quarterly conference calls for Regional Conference Coordinators and invited for IEEE Convene in August so he can benchmark our activities among the IEEE Regions.
- Khaled Mokhtar is involved with the IEEE Industry Engagement Committee overlooking all industry outreach with IEEE, also part of the Educational Activities Board part of the Certificates Committee, Khaled is also involved with the IEEE IT Center of Excellence overlooking the IEEE App.
- Peter Nagy is MGA representatives to IEEE Conferences Committee and in this role he has more insights to MGA and MCE procedures.

Looking forward to see the synergies among these activities!
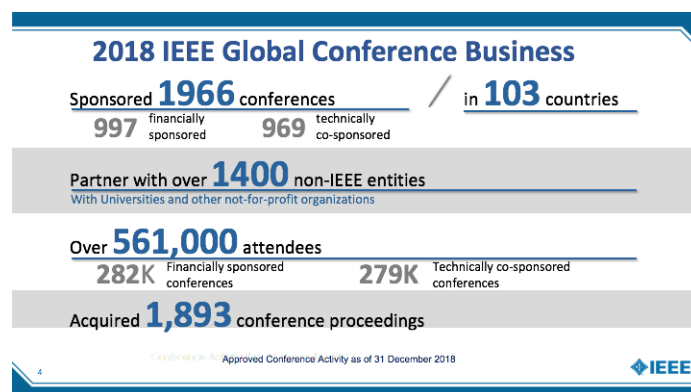
Points of Concern

Conference coordinators in Sections It would be beneficial if Sections provide us a Conference coordinator's contact details, to provide relevant information regarding conferences, procedures, webinars. Please, send the contacts to Peter Nagy (nagy.peter@ieee.org)

See you at the Region 8 meeting in Valletta, Malta!

Ljupco Karadzinov, Peter Nagy, Tomislav Capuder, Khaled Mokhtar and Vikass Monebhurrun as corresponding member.

Photos and figures

Ljupco Karadzinov
(North Macedonia)
Chair

Peter Nagy
(Hungary)
Past Chair

Tomislav Capuder
(Croatia)

Khaled Mokhtar
(United Arab Emirates)

Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)   **Stamatis Dragoumanos**

Goals

2019 EASC goals are:

- To merge Professional Activities SubCommittee and Educational Activities SubCommittee;
- To promote EA as a tool for membership development;
- To revitalize Continuing Education Activities by combining them with Professional Activities;
- To maintain Pre-University Activities momentum (TISP, TISP week, EPICS);
- To explore the potential and promote IEEE Learning Network and IEEE eLearning Library;
- To collaborate with other OUs in order to increase EAs impact;
- To train Section Educational Activities Officers and promote EA volunteer manual.

Status

- Merging of EA and PA is in it's final stages. Changes in IEEE R8 Operations Manual are suggested to the opCom, in order to reflect the merging of the two committees;
- EASC is in the process of agreeing this year's procedures and schedules;
- There is refinement of this year's activities and events going on in order to serve 2019's goals.

Outlook

This year we expect the merged Professional and Educational Activities subCommittee to present programs and events that will add value to IEEE membership. This involves a combination of promotional efforts, organizing face-to-face and online events, exploring partnership opportunities inside of IEEE and externally, and supporting Section level efforts.

Points of Concern

Region 8 has 58 Sections and 7 subSections and spans in 3 continents. It's clear that there are very different educational needs and educational customs within Region 8's Sections. A huge effort is needed in order to adjust our activities in such way that they add value to the membership of all members of all Sections. Also there is need for more resources and detailed control in order our activities are effective and productive.

Other Issues to report

Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC)   George Michael

Goals

The Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator's job is to facilitate communication, both between members of the Region 8 Committee, and between this committee and present or future IEEE members.

Status

Performing updates to our new web server. Updates include new security features and logging in an attempt to identify potential risks. A new malware scanner was installed and a second daily backup is in place on a remote server. We are expanding the content on our server by hosting more and more OUs that require free Wordpress-based hosting. Redirects: To make it easier for our volunteers to promote the content they post on the website, we created redirects for their pages to shorten the URLs and make them more user friendly. For example our news feed can be accessed from this URL http://news.ieeer8.org, Student activities from http://student.ieeer8.org and http://students.ieeer8.org. The same functionality is being applied to sections, for example http://cyprus.ieeer8.org translates to http://ieee.org.cy Sections and groups that want to use this functionality, please contact us. Presentation Tools:

- The on screen clock / counter we use at the Region 8 meetings is available for download here http://link.ieeer8.org/timer2
- The Android and Windows applications that allow users to control PowerPoint presentations via their smartphones and tablets are available for download here http://link.ieeer8.org/clicker.

Outlook

We seek to improve the mobile applications that are used during the meetings and to provide tutorials for the various tools we support (including but not limited to our website, mailing lists, presentation tools etc).

History Activities Coordinator   Anthony Davies

Goals

General goals are unchanged: encourage interest in the History of Technology in fields of interest to IEEE, especially among students and early career professionals, who cannot 'invent the future' with no knowledge of the past. Also, to make known more generally technical achievements and the people who were responsible for them. Particularly to raise awareness of the many new ideas and inventions that originated in parts of IEEE Region 8.

Status

Key activities are encouraging IEEE History Milestone Proposals, of which several are 'in progress'. Giving occasional invited lectures on History of Technology topics. Support for relevant conferences, now particularly HISTELCON2019 to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, September 2019. Website is ¡www.histelcon2019.org¿

Outlook

There are many History Milestone proposals 'in progress' and it is hoped that several will be approved and unveiled in 2019. The IEEE History Committee may hold a meeting in Glasgow in September 2019. Coordination with IEEE History Center staff is considered important and valuable

Points of Concern

Difficulty in finding champions for Milestone Proposals who have the stamina to see them through to completion (takes at least two years, normally). Delays in the 'advocate' process which assesses proposals prior to their presentation to the History Committee. Difficulty in getting sufficient financial support and sponsorship for events such as HISTELCON2019, which is needed to keep the cost of attendance low enough for those whose employers will not pay for them to attend by sponsoring meals, conference bags, USB sticks with conference proceedings on them and so on, and perhaps paying travel costs for some key speakers.

Other Issues to report

The pictures show: 1. Squinty Bridge and Crane (Glasgow) - the HISTELCON locatio. Photo (c) Alan Roberston 2. plaque unveiling in Germany 3. plaque unveiling in Dundee, Scotland.

Photos and figures

Humanitarian Activities Subcommittee   John Funso-Adebayo

Goals

Main Mission: Increase awareness of IEEE HAC programs and funding opportunities and help increase the level of participation by means of assisting, consulting, encouraging local groups and communicating the output of their work.

Sub-Goals:

1) Increase number of SIGHT groups and projects;
2) Ensure a healthy and effective operation of these groups by remaining in contact and monitoring their status regularly;
3) Work in spreading awareness within and outside IEEE on the funding opportunities offered by HAC;
4) Provide managerial support and proposal writing support to all interested groups in the region;
5) Standardize the way we operate as a sub-committee with a sustainable structure.

Status

Active

Outlook

Short Term (Tactic):

1) Develop and establish a team operation manual, with clear role assignments and relevant success KPIs to drive activities;
2) Work towards establishing a network of Humanitarian Activity Ambassadors in each section;
3) Build team capacity and knowledge

Long-Term (Strategic):

1) Integrate new corresponding members and educate them to ensure SC continuity and vitality in the future;
2) Build collaborations with external organisations for more on-the-field operations;
3) Identify best practices and communication channels to develop SIGHT groups in countries with high quality of life.

For example here in Switzerland it was really difficult for us to develop our SIGHT and the person wishing to take on this actually gave up, although I advised him that many things can be done nonetheless by collaborations with other countries and deploy the projects where they are necessary. Get in touch with similar humanitarian activities groups/NGOs in each country.

Points of Concern

Critical issue is the budget. We need to cover representatives for the trips, considering the expansive nature of Europe, Middle-East and Africa. So many unserved locations with technologies, future directions and foortprints for the IEEE.

Other Issues to report

Required Investment for the HuASC:

1) Take booth in regional or global IEEE events;
2) Initiate partnership with well-known organizations like Engineers without borders and Engineers for change.

Photos and figures

IEEE R8 HuASC – All Coordinating Members (without Section SIGHT Chairs)

Life Member Coordinator — Victor Fouad-Hanna

Goals

1) Helping section officers in the establishment of possible connections between their LMAGs and other IEEE Operation Units in their Sections (Student Branches, YP, WIE, conferences committee, Help with Senior Member elevation, Help in seeking Fellow nomination when applicable, Mentoring, Provide talks at workshops and conferences;

2) Raising awareness among Region operating units of the IEEE Foundation Grants Program and of the coordination of region operating units demands to participate in these programs;

3) Raising awareness among Region operating units of the Life Members Fund in support of activities that are of professional concern and interest to Life members in region sections, also encouraging LMs to submit more articles to R8News.

Status

Milesones Activities in R8 in 2018

- Many LMAGs in Sections in R8 participate with the History Committee to propose IEEE Milestones, Examples :
  - A milestone plaque was unveiled at Dundee University in Scotland on Thursday 5 April, 2018 at the university laboratories where Spear and LeComber carried out their experiments which led directly to the world of flat screens and smartphones we live in today
  - A dedication ceremony was held on September 6, 2018 to honor an Engineering Milestone: The French Transatlantic Telegraph Cable, 1898. IEEE President James Jefferies unveiled two plaques (English and French versions) honoring the Cable at the French Cable Station Museum (FCSM) in Orleans, MA.
- The LMAG of France Section is working now to propose the Storage Battery (Plante, 1859) and Transformer (Gaulard/Gibb, 1881) as IEEE Milestones.
- Administrative Status of R8 LMAGs at 2018:
  - There are currently 13 LMAGs in the Region :
    - Benelux, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, UK and Ireland
    - Total of meetings for R8 LMAGs (29)
      * 8 BENELUX LM80001 3
      * CROATIA LM80065 2
      * FRANCE LM80005 7
      * GERMANY LM80017 0,
      * GREECE LM80029 0,
      * HUNGARY LM80051 0,
      * ISRAEL LM80009 2
      * ITALY LM80011 1
      * LEBANON LM80091 5
      * SLOVENIA LM80067 0,
      * SPAIN LM80023 2
      * SWITZERLAND LM80007 2
      * UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND LM80015 5
- 23% of total R8 Sections have LMAG : more effort has to be done for increasing this percentage.
- Efforts are started with Sweden Section (LM counts 100), also two new LMAGs to be created in Poland (33 LM) and Egypt (51 LM).
- Efforts have to be done with other Sections having 30 or more LMs : namely :Austria Section (32 LM), Denmark Section (48LM), Finland (40LM).
- Norway (54 LM), Portugal (30 LM).
- No R8 LMAG is recently dissolved.

Outlook

Increased collaboration between LMAGs and other IEEE Operation Units in their Sections is very important as the Section can make use of the knowledge and experience of Life Members and also from the more time that they can devote for IEEE Section activities. It is agreed that the inclusion of older members approaching LM status, together with retired members, would transform the viability of the smaller LMAGs. More resources from MGA (Life Member Committee), Region 8, and Sections, would be needed if LMAGs wished to expand their activities. Sponsorship from industry and Government organisations is available for certain types of projects.

Points of Concern

Recommandations to R8 Chairs of Sections having LMAG (13 Sections) :

1) It is important that each Section nominate in its bureau a Correspondant (it is not necessary that the correspondant be himself an IEEE Life Member) to the R8 Life Sub-Committee, even if there is no LMAG formed yet in the Section.

2) We suggest that a formal invitation to older members approaching LM status to join their Section's LMAG which would help to remove the confusion over who is eligible to participate in LMAG activities (i.e. not just LMs).

3) Make use of Life Members knowledge and experience (Mentoring Opportunities/Engaging the Young)
   a) Assist your Student Branches

- Resource for soft skills for job interviews and early career know how
- Student paper contest judging
- Host book sharing day

b) Involvement with local school districts (pre-university)
- Hosting Career Day
- Science Fair Judging

c) Assisting the Section in:
- New Unit Formations:
  - LMs provide assistance in getting new student branches and Young Professional Affinity Groups.
  - LMs can be a reference point for new officers.
- Form Section Senate/Advisory Panel:
  - Mix of past chairs and life members.
- Senior Member Elevations:
  - Produce reference letters for local members.

Recommendation to R8 Chairs of Sections not Having LMAG in their Sections. This recommendation concerns the following Sections that have 30 or more LM : Austria Section (32 LM), Denmark Section (48LM), Egypt (51 LM), Finland (40LM), Norway (54 LM), Poland (33 LM), Portugal (30 LM), Sweden (110 LM).

- You are advised to create a Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) in your Section;
- LMAG can be established by petition to fulfill the mission of IEEE;
- LMAG Comprises a minimum of six (6) IEEE voting members and having an officer bureau composed of at least 2 LM;
- Petitions can be located online at: http:www.ieee.orgsocieties_communities/geo_activitiesforms_petitionsindex.html.

Other Issues to report

Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)   Ievgen Pichkalov

Goals

Due to the large geographic area and more than 60 Sections and Sub-Sections in R8, the role of Section MD Officer became vital component of the overall health of the Section and Region as a whole, and need to be nominating in every Section. IEEE R8 Membership Development Subcommittee working aligned with IEEE Member Activities goals in general, which are increasing R8 membership (through recruiting new members as well as retaining current members and recovering members in arrears), to promote grade elevations, and to increase awareness of IEEE membership's values.

Status

January 2019 showed strong growth of 1.5% (same time last year: -0.9%) with the HG increase 0.6% and Students increase 3.3% (same time last year: -1.7%, +1.0%) and are poised to have a larger base of members to renew. Big increase in shown in Sections performance against their MD goals:
2 Sections met their recruitment goals. Same time last year: 1

Outlook

Informing and training are two keywords describing MDSC activities in 2019. Different channels are in use, both face to face and digital, to provide direct and frequent communication with not only Sections MD Officers, but also Section Chairs, IEEE Members and volunteers, e.g. Skype and WebEx meetings, teleconferences, email communication, Collabratec & Facebook. Last year MD Subcommittee have organized a very successful MD Workshop in South Africa, we would like to continue this approach by organizing new R8 MD Workshop mainly focused on Middle East IEEE Sections in 2019. The good results are achieved by combining MDSC activities with other IEEE units activities, such as Society Chapters, Professional Activities and SYP, together promoting IEEE membership during common events.

Points of Concern

Evaluation and control are the next important keywords for MDSC activities in the eve of 2019. Primary indicators of R8 MD success can be determined by the level of membership, retention and retaining rate by Sections and in R8. The previous practices shows, that in a line with MD informing and training activities (Workshops, Webcasts, teleconferences, WebEx & Skype meetings, discussions in Collabratec and Facebook), always the most successful event in informing and training MDOs is an annual face to face workshop, as people like to be a part of something bigger and feel the energy. The analysis of MD trends for Sections, where representatives are active in MD activities, especially in MDW participation, is a tool to evaluate and develop MD politics for next year. Other tool is a Comparative analysis performed on separate MD programs too, e.g. strategizing with sections to plan more SM elevations. Feedback from the IEEE Sections officers and volunteers is a very helpful tool to improve MDSC activities and politics, Sections best practices are the main source of increasing the level of membership and development of the additional knowledge-sharing platform could increase the interest in MD activities; e.g. running a series of MD best-practice articles in IEEE Region 8 News.

Other Issues to report

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)   **Mohamed El Dallal**

Goals

1) Setting a new manual and guideline for the PA Speakers program;
2) Having a PA officer in Each section;
3) Connecting with the YP and AFI committees to collaborate having joint events and projects;
4) Setting an offline and online marketing plan for branding.

Status

We have 8 speakers on our website to support the PA speakers program, visibility and promotion are not to the required quality.

Outlook

1) Increase the visibility of the committee;
2) Having list of 20+ speakers covering most of the Region;
3) Having local PA officer per section to support local activities. .

Points of Concern

The merging of the PA with EA committee, the PA speakers program will be included to the EA and the confusion that may happen for the IEEE members.

Other Issues to report

Region 8 News   Alistair Dabbs

Goals

To expand readership and improve the reach of IEEE Region 8 News, both within Region 8 and with other Regions.

Status

After a couple of years in which the newsletter appeared only intermittently, its original quarterly publishing cycle was restored during 2018 and the issue page-count was increased.

Outlook

A more frequent publishing cycle could bring the newsletter more up-to-date and make it more relevant; options are being investigated;

Another priority should be to ensure the newsletter reaches more Region 8 members who choose digital-only IEEE publication subscriptions;

From 2019, the role and development of IEEE Region 8 News will be defined and co-ordinated by the new Publications and Communications Subcommittee.

Points of Concern

Only half of the membership in Region 8 receive a printed edition of the newsletter by post;

The existing means of announcing the availability of each new PDF download edition is ineffective;

Increasing the publishing frequency would dramatically increase print and mailing costs.

Other Issues to report

Region Vitality   Aleksandar Szabo

Goals

The basic goal is to have vital Sections serving better their members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (ofcers, meetings, nancials) to receive the rebate, retaining and recruiting members, training new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service following the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual. Regarding nancial reporting, the goal is to maintain 100% submission rate before the reporting deadline and to encourage GEO units to qualify for the 10% rebate bonus by early reporting (third Friday in February). Another goal, initiated by Adam Jastrzebski, is promoting the adoption of open-source nancial accounting software operating in different languages and with multiple currencies, tailored to local nancial requirements and enabling simplified section nancial reporting by linking it with the IEEE corporate NetSuite nance system. An important goal is to increase the activity of Subsections having Region 8 as their parent.

Status

Since 2015 the section vitality has been signicantly improved. Especially the situation with elections and reporting has been much better from year to year. The Sections ofcers' sense of duty has been signicantly increased. Great progress has been made in Sections nancial reporting . It was achieved by systematic collaborative work with section treasurers and the IEEE Finance team. The number of sections qualifying for the 10% rebate bonus increased as well. Region 8 is now amongst top performing regions in IEEE in that respect. Adam Jastrzebski has done a great job by helping many Sections in finance reporting. He is now the Region 8 Treasurer and his successor in the Region 8 Vitality Subcommittee is Andreas Koltes. Since Region Ofcers start their terms on 1 January we are asking Sections and its organizational units for having start terms of their Ofcers on 1 January as well. Ofcers in most sections already start on 1 January. For the Region it is important to have an updated list of Section Ofcers before the beginning of the calendar year. Elections should be organized in many of our Sections during 2019 for ofcers starting their term on 1 January 2020. The election process should start early enough and nish well before the end of the calendar year to enable a long enough transition period and to report the new ofcers before 1 January.

Outlook

What should be done to improve vitality?

- Section self assessment ? Use the Section Vitality Checklist. Complete the MGA Geographic Units Organization Support Committee Section Vitality Self-Assessment Report;
- Be familiar with the use of the IEEE OU Analytics and v-Tools;
- Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9), the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E);
- Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current ofcers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. Ofcers start date should be 1 January;
- A Section may dene in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term (Operations Manual, 9.4.F). Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be lled by a majority vote of the Section ExCom;
- Be informed and efcient. Section ofcers should do their jobs on time;
- Increase membership and member engagement. Recruit and train volunteers and look for successors. Contact members and obtain member feedback. Fulll membership needs;
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives;
- Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, afnity groups, student branches;
- Have a chapter and afnity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and afnity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and afnity groups and organize a yearly meeting/workshop with chapter and afnity group ofcers;
- Form new chapters, afnity groups and student branches;
- Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, afnity groups, student branches). Conduct events with students;
- Get closer to industry (involve practicing engineers). Involve Young Professionals;
- Organize Educational (preuniversity, lifelong) and Professional (leadership, management).

Activities

- Have an active Student Activities Ofcer and a Student Representative in your Section. During the year they should keep a vigilant eye on the activity of student branches together with their chancellors and take care about activity/vitality of all SBs in the Section, involve students into section and chapter activities, help students;
- Have a Section Life Member Coordinator taking care about activity of Life Members and elder members. Encourage cooperation of young and older members;
- Awards (member/volunteer recognition, member grade elevation, Section yearly awards);
- Organize a Section annual social event;
- Maintain Section website including all organizational units (chapters, afnity groups, student branches) always up to date;
- Take care about, encourage and increase activity/vitality of Subsections having R8 as their parent to achieve conditions for upgrading them to Sections;
- We have managed to change the culture and the attitudes of Sections regarding reporting and we hope that these will be passed on to new ofcers. We therefore believe that our very good results can be improved or at least maintained;
- The nancial software initiative will depend on nding volunteers with right competences to develop and adapt the software to section requirements.

Points of Concern

All Sections, Chapters, Afnity Groups and Student Branches should take care about doing their basic job following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual. Ofcers should train themselves, possibly before running for a position. All our Regional Coordinators/Subcommittees should continue to help and encourage activities in Sections, Chapters, Afnity Groups and Student Branches. Additional efforts should be taken to increase activity of organizational units outside Sections in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual (9.0.E.8). Region 8, as their parent, should take more care about progress in activities in these units. We have huge diversity and a lot of dynamics in our Region. Therefore, it is difcult to guarantee that there will be no problems in the future in some sections. Organizing Section Operation/Vitality workshops (possibly together with MD workshops) on the Regional level should be taken into consideration.

Other Issues to report

Standards Coordinator — David Law

Goals

Build a structured program to expand standards-related offerings consisting of:
1) Standards speakers for events and conferences;
2) Whole standards tracks at events and conferences;
3) Section and student branch events;
4) Standards events;

Status

Two corresponding members have been appointed to the Standards Coordination Subcommittee, Almir Badnjević (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Vikass Monebhurrun (France). Welcome to them both!!

We are starting the process to build a structured program to expand standards-related offerings consisting of:
1) Standards speakers for events and conferences, this could be a keynote speaker on standards, a presentation such as demystifying standards, or a tutorial;
2) Whole standards tracks at events and conferences, this could be multiple speakers, presentations and/or tutorials;
3) Section and student branch events, these could be similar to standards tracks at events and conferences with the added potential to run the Standards Game;
4) Standards events which are when a local Section can work with the IEEE-SA to build a local standards event.

In December 2018, IEEE-SA held a workshop on 'Standards for Connected and Autonomous Transportation Nurturing the Era of e2e Mobility as a Service (MaaS)', hosted by IBM in their Watson IoT Headquarters in Munich. Sessions with presentations covered Disruption or Evolution, Vehicle Platforms and Platform Business, Technology Enablers for Autonomy, and Hitting the Safety Spot - The Driver as Operator and Passenger, followed by a concluding panel session. More than 350 prospective participants subscribed to the event, while the venue allowed 70 to be in the room. The presentations are available at: https:standards.ieee.orgeventsevent-autonomous-transportation-maas.html

In February 2019, IEEE-SA held an event on the Digital Citizen, in partnership with ETH Zurich, ITIS Foundation, Wireless Research Center and the EMB Society. Four sessions covered various aspects of in-body, on-body, near-body networks in an end-to-end healthcare service environment. Presentations were followed by thematic panel discussions covering electromagnetic compatibility, sensor performance, data quality, and semantic interoperability. About 50 attendees engaged in passionate expert discussions. Opportunities for standardization were identified in sensor characterization, information modelling, and testing.

Outlook

19th to 21st March 2019 : IEEE-SA Standards Board will hold its meeting in Munich, Germany. 17th and 18th May 2019: The IEEE-SA Board of Governors will hold its meeting in Tallinn, Estonia.

Points of Concern

Looking for potential opportunities for Standards speakers, Whole standards tracks at events, Section and student branch events or Standards events.

Other Issues to report

Strategic Planning Subcommittee   Antonio Luque

Goals

The SPSC is responsible for developing R8 strategic and long-range plan, with goals and objectives.

The Region 8 Strategic Planning Subcommittee (SPC) is responsible for developing and recommending strategic and long-range plans, goals and objectives.

The Subcommittee helps the Region 8 Committee to develop in an appropriate manner to meet all the IEEE-related needs of the Region and to continue to adhere to the R8 Committee Vision and Mission and to advise on amendments to this Vision and Mission and to monitor compliance with the IEEE Strategic Plan.

The Goal for 2019 is to work towards creating a Region strategic plan which is aligned with IEEE Strategy 2015-2020 (http:www.ieee.orgstrategic-plan).

Status

The SPC composition for 2019 is finalized and the commitee is composed of:

- Antonio Luque, Spain, Chair;
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma, Spain, ex-officio
- Margaretha Eriksson, Sweden, ex-officio
- Raphael Onoshakpor, Nigeria
- Victor Fouad-Anna, France
- Sara Barros, Benelux
- George Papadimitriou, Greece
- Simay Akar, Turkey

The first call of the committee took place on 28 February, when preliminary ideas were shared. The initial work is directed towards compiling quantitative data of the working of the Region, with the aim of using these data in creating specific initiatives in the second half of the year.

The first face-to-face meeting will take place in conjunction with the 112th Region 8 Committee meeting in Valletta, Malta.

Outlook

- Determine current status. The actual and quantitative situation of the Region with respect to R8 strategic lines and IEEE Strategic Plan;
- Identify what's important. Which of the IEEE objectives involve geographical units and collaboration of GeoUnits with other OUs;
- Define what must be achieved. Determine what can be achieved at Region level. Create specific initiatives;
- Determine who is accountable. Assign responsible committees or teams to each initiative;
- Review. Establish measurements and ensure proper review in due time.

Points of Concern

Diversity and width of the Region, with many different points of view, can be an obstacle to define clear objectives and make everybody align with them. We will work in the direction of including as many people as possible in the discussion, trying to balance all viewpoints.

Other Issues to report

Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator   **Andreas Koltes**

Goals

The Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF) provides support for technical activities of members with low income (below $10,000 per year). The main focus of the fund is to support travel and subsistence costs of researchers presenting their research at conferences in Region 8, which they would not be able to do otherwise due to the lack of finance. The main sources of the fund are additional voluntary contributions declared by IEEE members during the annual renewal of their membership.

In order to fulfil the mission of the fund, the key goals for 2019 are:

- Maintain the stabilized income stream of the fund of at least $10,000 per year by raising awareness for the fund amongst the membership.
- Continue to increase awareness of the fund amongst potential applicants in order to issue at least 15 grants per year making full use of the target budget of $10,000.
- Stabilize VCF publicity and promotion increased in previous years.

Status

Over the course of 2018, the income situation of the VCF has been stabilized with the income from donations in that year totaling $13,937. This is an increase of roughly 20% over the situation before 2017. This means, that the fund is in the fortunate situation to be able to continue operating at the target budget level of $10,000 while maintaining and even strengthening its reserves. This in turn will permit compensating future fluctuations of the income stream.

At the time of this writing, all pending activities stemming from 2018 have been completed. During 2018, a total of 11 payments have been made to grant holders totaling $6,109. A delayed reimbursement has been completed in January 2019 amounting to $500. Unfortunately, 3 grants approved totaling $2,300 were not claimed by their holders as the holders decided to cancel their respective planned conference activities. Therefore, the fund used only 2/3 of its target budget in 2018 with the remaining funds going to its reserves.

The VCF continues to see more diverse applications from a larger number for different countries, particularly from the African continent. This was achieved by continuing to raise awareness of the fund with Section Chairs and conference organizers in Region 8.

With the exception of 3 approved grants not being claimed, the goals of the VCF set for 2018 have been achieved. The fund is in a healthy state of operation.

Outlook

On the income side, the donation situation is expected to continue to be reasonably stable at a slightly increased level compared to previous years. Assuming reasonable management of the income stream in the future, the donation income will permit the VCF to continue operating at its target budget of $10,000. Given the reduced spending in 2018, an increased number of grants might be awarded in 2019 depending on the application situation.

The measures implemented to increase diversity across application source countries show effect and are expected to continue supporting increased application diversity in the future.

Points of Concern

The positive operating situation of the VCF will require continued active management in the future in order to sustain it. Care must be taken to sustain both the income stream and the level of applications for the fund to continue meeting its performance targets.

Other Issues to report

Women in Engineering Coordinator   Ana Cigarn Romero

Goals

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups, by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs;
- Increasing awareness about R8 WIE programs and awards, and engaging WIE members;
- Reaching out to the members through regular webinars;
- Establishing WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events;
- Reaching out to R8 WIE members, via a survey, to establish communication channels and find out about their expectations;
- Ultimately increasing the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growth trend achieved in 2017.

Status

- R8 WIE became a standing subcommittee effective 2019, which will help it in achieving its goals to the benefit of R8 members. We would like to thank the R8 Committee for its support through the years and through becoming a subcommittee;
- Currently, R8 WIE members are distributed among 155 Affinity Groups: 41 Sections and 115 Student Branches;
- In line with the aforementioned goals, R8 WIE has successfully achieved stronger communication channels, was represented in various SYPs and other IEEE Events across Region 8, and increased awareness about its programs and activities;
- A pilot for new awards recognizing R8 WIE volunteers was successfully carried in 2018, and the awards ceremony was held as part of the WIE ILS in Tunisia in August 2018. This year, the awards campaign was launch for the second year;
- The first WIE International Leadership Summit took place in R8 in 2017; 4 Summits followed in 2018. In 2019, two WIE ILSummits are taking place in R8: Porto (Portugal), and Ibadan (Nigeria).

Outlook

- After becoming a standing subcommittee, plans are being drawn for the future, based on success stories as well as on lessons learnt;
- Focusing on communicating with R8 WIE members in Region 8 is one of the most important goals, to reach out and most importantly stay in touch;
- Recognizing our members and their achievements is important, through awards and by sharing their events and success stories on our channels;
- Stronger collaboration with MGA WIE as well as a with societies is necessary. This it expected to be enhanced through the 2 ex-oficio R8 WIE members who are members of MGA WIE as well.

Points of Concern

Due to the large number of WIE Section and Student AGs, effective ways of establishing connection and most importantly keeping the exchange going regularly is a challenge for the limited number of WIE Subcommittee members;

WIE AGs do not have sources for funding within Region 8. The only funding is an amount of 300 USD that should be requested from MGA 3 months prior to the event.

- Sections should be encouraged to financially support their WIE AG events
- It is preferable to have regional support in case the Section is not able to

There is no support for WIE AG representatives to attend events such as the SYP or other conferences

- As a start, active Section WIE AGs could send a funded representative (who is also a Student member or a Young Professional) to the SYP, which will provide significant motivation

Means of involving WIE officers in various trainings, especially with the lack of funding

Other Issues to report

Young Professionals Subcommittee   Vinko Lesic

Goals

The main goals of the Region 8 Young Professionals team for 2018 are to:

1) Improve the status of Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, consisting of:
   - no inactive or dormant Young Professionals Affinity Groups in the Region;
   - reporting their activities on vTools in a timely manner, and they all having the minimum required 2 activity reports before the end of the year;
   - having their chairs in good standing, i.e., IEEE members and not chairing for more than 2 years without elections;
   - create at least 1 new Young Professionals Affinity Group in the Region;

2) Facilitate the implementation of Young Professionals programs, both existing ones: STEP (500$), Meet-Up (1500$) and Local Activity Funding (750$, former Seed Funding); and new ones scheduled for 2019: IEEE Xplore Flex, uVolunteering (micro volunteering), Loyalty and Recognition program;

3) Bridge the gap between the 3 main segments of Young Professionals by:
   - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organize more STEP events and work closer with students in their Section;
   - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organize more Meet-ups events and work closer with industry in their Section;
   - Supporting and encourage Young Professionals Affinity Groups to allocate resources to entrepreneurship activities;

4) Encourage and ensure the activities' visibility and recognition of Young Professionals Affinity Groups in the Region by Region 8 Young Professionals Newsletter and social media, Young Professionals Impact Blog, Region 8 News and IEEE Region 8 Today;

5) Cooperate with SAC for the continuous success of Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses and the Region 8 SYP Congress;

6) Cooperate with the other MA subcommittees and take advantage of each others' strengths to achieve our goals, particularly with PA, WiE and HuAC;

7) Create, update and share support material and manuals relevant for Young Professionals, focusing on strategies for getting funding and sponsorship for events and how to increase the publicity and visibility of their activities;

8) Focus not only on supporting active Young Professionals volunteers, but also on the development of programs that directly aim at increasing Young Professionals members satisfaction based on segmentation studies.

Status

Last year, we continued pursuing the 2-year term goals defined in the beginning of 2017. For a complete overview of our strategy, please refer to the reports submitted during the previous year.

1) Currently, there are 52 Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, a steadily increasing number in the last couple of years and closing to the number of sections and subsections. From these groups, all are active and with their reporting up to date, for the exception of a minority with whom we are closely working to ensure revitalization. In order to maintain our close relationship with the local volunteers, we kept the Affinity Groups equally divided by the R8YP team members, method that has been proven successful in the past. Email is the communication mean of choice, though Skype calls are frequently held with Affinity Groups facing more serious issues, on the process of being revitalized or with brand new committees.

2) Region 8 Affinity Groups maintain the success and visibility of the Region 8, delivering a high number of activities with exemplary quality. This is reflected on the usage of funding provided by IEEE YP and on the continued presence of Region 8 volunteers receiving recognition awards.

3) Last year, the Region 8 SYP Congress took place in Porto, Portugal. Tighter reimbursement measures and attendance criteria were implemented with good results. For further details on this matter, please refer to the SAC report.

4) Collaboration with the fellow subcommittees under Member Activities as so far been successful with:
   - PA - joint efforts on the delivery of content and presence at IEEE Flagship conferences;
   - SIGHT - by foresting the delivery of soft-skills training by local Young Professionals to newly formed SIGHT groups, by carrying the word of the humanitarian cause as part of the Young Professionals message and mission, by working on a joint presentation during the European Microwave Week 2018;
   - LM - by encouraging the subcommittee to be involved in the SYP Congress through the delivery of talks and experience sharing.

5) Based on the results from the segmentation study, two main programs and one visibility strategy were designed, focusing on reaching out directly to the Young Professional members:
   - Company Branch Program, now re-branded to "IEEE, Connecting Experts"; after the positive outcome of the survey (in 2017 and repeated in 2018), showing that the YP members in Region 8 consider such an initiative added value, a couple of companies and societies have been contacted, in order to establish a pilot program. The response is positive and supportive, opening way to the next steps and attracting more collaboration possibilities.
   - The YPitch competition has also been re-branded in to a broader program called "Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative". The new scope includes not only the competition, but also a mentorship platform, which could be supported by the Action for Industry Subcommittee's network. Up to this point, the focus has been on creating a strong standing of the entrepreneurship pillar within Region 8, increase the visibility of the initiative, fostering relations with suitable submits and constructing the database of mentors (which can double as judges for the competition). Official launch occurred during the Region 8 SYP Congress.

- Several meet-up events have been organized across Region. The R8 YP team has focused their efforts in 2: the Young Professionals in Space, which took place in July, in Barcelona, and the European Microwave Week, which took place in September, in Madrid. Both events aimed at exposing IEEE Young Professionals and its mission inside and outside the IEEE community, while at the same time providing the participants with opportunities of professional growth and networking environments. The efforts have shown to deliver positive results and been highly appreciated by the participants involved.

6) Increase of the visibility of Young Professionals in Region 8 has been achieved by participation and delivery of workshops in the Region 8 SYP Congress, support of Meet-up events at technical conferences, redaction and publishing of the YP Newsletter, launch of the Region 8 Entrepreneurship initiative and other online media campaigns. During the past year, we recorded a 20% increase in the number of likes of our Facebook page, maintaining the growth trend of the Young Professionals community and its engagement with the Region 8 team.

7) The overall status of Young Professionals Affinity Groups and Region 8 Young Professionals Programs at the end of 2018 has been recorded and the smooth transition is performed for the new Subcommittee, which has readily continued the work and coordination of the activities.

Outlook

This year's plan to attain the goals listed in the beginning of this report is given under the same order below:

1) Given its success, the "divide and conquer" strategy will be carried on during this year. As most of the existing Young Professionals Affinity Groups are currently in good standing or guided towards it, efforts will be directed mainly to revitalization and initialization. This requires constant collaboration with the parent Sections and even local Student Branches, who often have the manpower or connections to older volunteers fit to transition into the Young Professionals world. A new "group call" concept will be employed among neighboring Young Professionals Affinity Groups. The 50 groups have been split into 6 smaller groups based on their geographical location and the initiation of Denmark Young Professionals Affinity Groups as 51st is imminent. This will enable the Affinity Groups to share their practices and learn from each others' challenges on a regular basis. By getting acquainted with the surrounding Young Professionals Affinity Groups experiences, each group should feel less lonely in their struggles and learn new tricks on how to overcome them. In return, motivation and engagement should go up and the number of dormant groups should remain low or null. An increase of Cross-Sectional activities and cooperation beyond the SYP Congresses is also expected.

2) The information is set to be facilitated by active and regular communication with affinity groups and by sharing with them the latest information about the incoming and existing programs through e-mails, social media, Skype calls and the Newsletter. Region 8 meetings will be used as a mean to share the information and raise awareness of young professionals programs in front of Section chairs, especially important for the spring meeting since the lot of chairs are newly elected.

3) This year, the main focus will be on the implementation of initiatives and support of activities that aim to serve the Region 8 Young Professionals members in industry and tie them closer to academia, all the way from the ones at big well sustained companies to the ones that just started their own small business. This will be handled in 3 fronts:

- Connecting Experts Program aims at reaching out to industry young professionals by bringing distinguished lecturers and R8PA Speaker Program lecturers to companies to show them significance and benefits of knowledge sharing, life-long learning and network of contacts and thereby the importance of IEEE membership. In 2017 and 2018 the surveys among all IEEE Young Professional members in Region 8 resulted in bringing focus on the power and energy sector, large companies and young professionals that have about 5 years of experience to lead the organization from the company side to host a lecture. Countries (sections) chosen for the pilot program are Germany and Italy as they showed the highest motivation in the responses. Pilot program includes organization of two different events at companies in those two countries. The program is proved to be a suitable ground for initiating collaboration with societies Young Professionals / Student and Young Professionals programs.
- The IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative aims at the segment of members that habit the Entrepreneurship ecosystem. The end-goal of this Initiative is three-folded: to strengthen the knowledge of our young entrepreneurs by providing them mentorship, boosting their network by putting them in contact with the relevant stakeholders and getting them global exposure by sponsoring their participation in Summits and other Entrepreneurship events of the kind. This transversal vision is achieved through two main platforms: a mentorship platform and a competition platform. There is currently no support or entrepreneur-aimed program in Region 8 and wider. On the other hand, this segment of young professionals is constantly growing and this is identified as one of significant reasons of losing members.
- Meet-ups, new funding opportunity from IEEE Young Professionals. The Young Professionals Affinity Groups have now the chance to apply for up to 1500$ to support the organization of meet-ups at relevant IEEE technical conferences in their Section. Since the relevant conferences are often globally renowned and are annually changing locations, the Region 8 Young Professionals team has put together a list of relevant conferences in the Region and is encouraging the Young Professionals Affinity Groups in the hosting sections to introduce high quality content for the younger participants. This is beneficial in 2 ways: on one hand, it stimulates networking between Young Professionals members and on-site training of essential technical and soft skills at their career stage; on the other hand, it increases the visibility of Young Professionals in Region 8 and attracts new (young industry) people to join IEEE.

4) The information is also set to be facilitated by active and regular communication with affinity groups and encourage them to actively participate in the dissemination of their events within the Young Professionals and Region 8 communities.

The dissemination is proved to provide the added gain for the motivation among the affinity groups and create the necessary momentum.

5) Parallel to selecting and guiding the organization of GCCSYP, CEuSYP and NSYP, SAC and YP teams are looking into possible hosts for HSYP, MESYP, WESYP and African SYP Congress.

6) Bridging the gap between the 3 main segments of Young Professionals by implementation of programs is envisioned to be carried out in the collaboration with MA subcommittees (and also wider). The Connecting Experts Program is planned to be discussed and carried out together with the support of AfI and TA. IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative implementation is planned as a joint activity with PA. Meet-up encouragement is planned to be carried out together with WIE and HuAC.

7) The Guidelines to Organize a Cross-Sectional SYP Congress and the standalone Young Professionals slide presentation will be updated within the next month. During the remainder of this year, the following additional manuals will be prepared: IEEE YP and R8YP Programs brochure for existing and new programs, the OU Analytics for YPs manual as a guide to fetch the member list easily, update of the How to organize a Region 8 SYP Congress manual and update of the vTools Reporting Manual according to the new user interface.

8) Young Professionals are at the core of IEEE's strategy for 2025. Representing a considerable slack of the totality of IEEE members and active volunteers, this is the period in which the personal decision of committing to IEEE and its ideology or not is taken. Focusing on this membership segment and its community needs is vital. Region 8 is one of the largest and, without a doubt, most culturally diverse of all Regions 1 to 10. As so, the Region 8 Young Professionals team plans to share its vision and concrete near future plan by contributing to the pool of recommendations being collected to the IEEE Sections Congress. Furthermore, an efficient approach will be well-thought-out and beforehand defined to gain (and give) the most out of (to) the event on-site;

Points of Concern

Young Professionals in Region 8 have grown immensely in the past few years. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement. This improvement is inherent to the successful development of programs focusing on Young Professionals in industry and connected to the entrepreneurship life; programs that are not only designed to be exploited by volunteers, but by members, which is expected to result in the highest return in form of retention. The Region 8 Young Professionals team has developed two programs to address the before mentioned point, but further support of the Region 8 OpCom and other closely related subcommittees, as PA and TA, is required. Another point is related to Cross-Sectional and Region 8 SYP Congresses. It has been statistically seen that volunteering activity and member engagement has its peak right after these events. The participants have the chance to connect to and learn from other volunteers as well as receive training directly from Region 8 Committee representatives. The success of these events has been substantial, which has led to unseen numbers of attendees and, in the case of the Region 8 SYP, volunteers fulfilling the funding criteria. With the increased number of congresses, additional effort is required from R8 SAC and YP. Deeper insight in the organizational process and necessary involvement of more experienced volunteers (Young Professionals category) as advisors is crucial to maintain the quality of the events since majority of them are facing the danger of losing participants. Financial support of these events by Region 8 might be required to maintain their quality and sustain the possibility of delivering training tracks to the participants by Region 8 Committee volunteers.

Young Professionals have always represented a major fraction of the IEEE members, over 25%, but only recently it has become undeniable their impact and contribution to the future of the institution. With retention and satisfaction rates steadily decreasing among young people, IEEE is finally realizing that it is essential to adapt to this new changing world in order to remain a relevant engineering organization. As a result, the Young Professionals program is exponentially growing and becoming inherent to IEEE's strategy. We hope that Region 8 will continue showing its constant support and enables the growth of this program to its full potential, in the same fashion IEEE as an institution is.

Other Issues to report

IV. Sections

Algeria Section   Abdelouahab Mekhaldi

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

A conference with the National Company of Electricity and gaz (Sonelgaz) will be organized on February 2019.Some industrials are promoting financial sponsor for our conferences organized with IEEE.We aim to involve some industrials in promoting research at universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

In general, international conferences are technically sponsored by our section and IEEE, students are encouraged to participate by papers or thesis for award.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Our section encourage some PHD student to have a free membership during conferences, they are selected according to the best presented papers

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Our section has proposed some activities like creating websites or sponsoring meeting in Algeria to promote IEEE in Africa. Our recommendation consists of linking the different sections involved in this activity to share ideas related to IEEE activities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We wish to have some benefit from IEEE R8 such as facilitating the participation of distinguished lectures in conferences organized in Algeria. We hope to benefit from IEEE Support in Engineering Education.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Algerian section has highlighted some activities such as the creation of the new journal "International Journal of Electronics and Electrical Engineering Systems IJEEES", created and edited by "Association Algèrienne de Gènie Electrique et Electronique (AAGEE)". This project aims to promote research in the field of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in Algeria and try to achieve a high level of published papers. The first issue was announced in March 2018.

Austria Section   Reinhard Pfliegel

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

works well:

- Contact with industry is handled in multiple ways. Invited speakers from industry share their insights in various events organized by the section itself and its student branches and chapters. Conferences and workshop for 2019, next to others, include
  - RAS Summer School;
  - Austrian Robotics Workshop (ARW);
  - International Conference on Connected Vehicles and Expo (ICCVE);
  - Workshop on Smart Antennas (WSA);
  - Conference on Research and Education in Mechatronics (REM);
  - International Conference on Telecommunications (ConTel);
  - International Conference on Industrial, Engineering & Other Applications of Applied Intelligent Systems (IEA/AIE).
- ExCom and officers represent a good mix of persons from academia and industry.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- Two very active student branches make IEEE locally accessible for future members.
- Local events are open for non-IEEE members.
- Non-IEEE members are invited to the meetings and encouraged to actively participate in the various activities.
- Revitalized YP group is active aiming to offer workshops, events for graduates to stay active in IEEE.
- WIE hands out awards showing good presence at conferences and IEEE events also reaching out to non-IEEE members.
- The majority of the rebate is invested in the SBs, YP, WIE by sponsoring events and awards.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Section vitality is managed by incentives such as awards to honor achievements of e.g. the SBs. For example, the TEMS chapter is handing out a distinguished award to honor achievements. Additionally, regular updates and meetings to present and honor activities and achievements of the various officers and chapters.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The best way to support IEEE activities in Africa for us is to know about the specific needs. Once needs/problems are identified, we can actively start to look for solutions to support the needs. Possible suggestions received from Gloria and other members of the Africa Council often focused on advertising events. However, advertising conferences or events in Austria taking place in Africa seldom attract people. Due to the large number of events in Austria and its neighboring sections, many members feel overwhelmed already.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The section is in contact with the Vienna office. The office joins in section meetings on one hand, on the other they share events, which may be of interest to our members, so we can distribute them with IEEE.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The section celebrates this year its 40th anniversary.

Bahrain Section   Eshaa M. Alkhalifa

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- Section registration completion with government as a local Bahrain branch of the international IEEE Worldwide Limited, started collaboration with Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs (EWA);
- An Industrial Applications Society Chapter CH08843-IA34 was formed and it will be re-activated;
- New AESS Society Members were enrolled to form an AESS Bahrain Chapter to cooperate with Bahrain National Space Science Agency (NSSA);
- A new Computer Society Chapter CH09480-COM16 was formed, made its election and started its activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- Three Membership Development Presentations were made: two at University of Bahrain (both Campuses) and one at AMA International University, April 2018. The fourth will be held on 27 September 2018 at Applied Science University (ASU);
- New Officers were appointed/ elected as the section grows in size:
    - Section Honorary Chair / Award & Recognition Committee Chair - Dr. Isa Qamber;
    - STB Counselor for AMA University - Dr. Zainab AlAnsari;
    - STB Counselor for Bahrain Polytechnic University - Mr. Abdul Monem Ali;
    - STB Counselor for a newly formed student branch at Applied Science University (ASU) - Dr. Moaid Khedr;
    - New Educational Activities officers were appointed - Ar. Adel Abdulla & Dr. Resala Aladraj;
    - MDO (Dr. Ali Zolait) and Assistant MDO (Eng. Asmaa Hassan);
    - Industry Relations Coordinator (Dr. Mohamed Al Khalid);
    - Student Activities Chair (SAC) (Dr. Ghossoon Al Saadoon);
    - Two SAMIEEE/ vTools Coordinators (Dr. Bassam Al Hamad and Dr. Abdulla AlAsaadi); As you can see the section is very active and its members are involved in various activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

- Bahrain Section Celebrated IEEE Day, with the theme of: "Leveraging Technology for a Better Tomorrow" It was held at Applied Science University on October 2018, the next celebration will be on October 2019 with another party.
- Social Evening December 2018
- Technical Sponsorships of the following conferences:
    - 45410, International Conference on Innovation and Intelligence for Informatics, Computing, and Technologies (3ICT), 18-20 Nov 2018, Bahrain Website URL: iiict.uob.edu.bh
    - 44789, 8th International Conference on Modeling Simulation and Applied Optimization (ICMSAO), 15-17 April 2019, Bahrain Website URL: icmsao.uob.edu.bh
    - 45648, International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution, 19-21 Feb 2019, Bahrain Website URL: industry4conference.org
    - 10th. IEEE-GCC Conference & Exhibition, 19-23 April 2019, Kuwait Website URL: http:ieeegcc.comindex.html

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- The past chair has contacted Gloria and agreed to start an inter-continental collaboration that the new chair intends to pursue by helping launch a new subsection at Somalia under the IEEE Bahrain section.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- The past chair has contacted Prof. Clara at Belgrade and agreed to meet her during the 112th R8 meeting as IEEE Bahrain section is planning to have IEEE Joint events and that office can be the agent to Europe by sharing all mutual events with it to arrange, so they can help in providing a technical supports effectively.
- Moreover, we may create a similar IEEE office at Bahrain.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Participation in R8 SYP Congress, July 2018, Porto;
- Participating in IEEE Convene arranged by Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE), scheduled for 19-21 July 2018 at Berlin;
- Re-activation of the pre-university education program by holding 2nd meeting with Talented Students Center officials March 2018;
- Participation in IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training Program (VoLT).

Photos and figures

Benelux Section   Mark Bentum

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

There are a couple of things we do in the section to increase industry participation in the IEEE activities. For a start, we try to find industry partners in the Section board. We also motivate Chapters to do the same. Some Chapters in the Section are even run by volunteers from industry. In the upcoming year we will organize a special event to bridge the gap between industry and academia ... "IEEE Benelux - Industry meets Academia 2019". Provisional data is in June 2019.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

In the Benelux we are addressing the future IEEE members in the Student Branches at the various Universities. This is working very well. In most universities the Student Branches are very vibrant. In case this is not the case (this was for instance the situation in one of the Dutch Universities) we actively approach active members and stimulate them to start up a meeting to engage students (MSc PhD students) to setup a Student Branch. In this particular situation this was successful. The Section is supporting the Student Branches financially and content wise as well. In the Benelux the number of members is increasing.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The vitality in the Section, Chapters, Student Branches is one-on-one related to the number and quality of the activities (to our opinion). Stimulating to organize local activities like conferences, network opportunities, cross-chapter activities etc, is one of the actions of the Section. In our ExCOMs we invite the Chapters explicitly, let them present their activities and help them wherever we can. Of course, some Chapters are more vibrant than others, but in general we are very pleased with the local activities in the Benelux.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We can (and will) support it. However, no opportunities have come on the radar at this moment. Something to put on the ExCOM agenda.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

As a new chair of the Section, I will put this on the ExCOM agenda. We can think about support actions, but no action have been taken yet.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

This year, the Benelux session exists 60 years. Of course we will have a celebration event. This is scheduled for this summer.

Bosnia & Herzegovina Section   Meliha Selak

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our PES and IAS chapters are very active. Both PES and IAS organized a few significant technical events dedicated to our industry needs. Our section together with the University of Sarajevo organized and hosted the IEEE PES ISGT Europe 2018 in Sarajevo, in October 2018. We also invited DLP Lecturer, Dr. Damir Novosel to talk on: "Industry trends and innovations for the electrical system of the future", (20.10.2018, Tuzla). One important goal of our section is "The Role of IEEE PES of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Link the Real Sector and Research Institutions"; Also, we had a DIgSILENT Workshop that was dedicated to industry needs.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The three year in row, our Young Professionals and Students organized "IEEE Student and Young Professional Congress B&H" (30.11.-02.12.2018; Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina);

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Provide and organize the high quality technical sessions including the Innovative Smart Grid Technologies, Robotics, and Smart Cities.
The Days of Young Engineers 2018, IEEE PES DIgSILENT Workshop,
"Leadership & Body Language Workshops" (06.-07.12.2018).

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We, in our section are willing to provide any help if we can to improve IEEE Africa and the African sections.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We still do not understand what the role of this office is related to the section activities. We were looking for help in promoting the IEEE PES ISGT Europe organized and hosted by our section but it was no responses from this office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

1) Mentoring of IEEE B&H PES members on Main Student Projects: "Modern Renewables - Brighter Future";
2) Hosted the IEEE R8 PES Chapter Chair training (19 .10.2018);
3) Organized "beENG 2018", (12.09.2018. - 26.12.2018., Sarajevo), that involved about 20 student members to be practicing engineering in a few Bosnian companies;
4) Member Education of Tehnical English.

Bulgaria Section   Kiril Alexiev

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

For many years, we have reported a not very successful collaboration with the industry. We had specially appointed section officers to encourage our relationship with the industry, we attracted several small business engineers to serve in the Chapters' committees. We invited companies to participate in our best organised events. But all this did not help us spread IEEE membership among non-academic engineering staff. This year, for the first time, we had a request from an innovative company - MatriQx Antenna Systems - for several of its employees to become members of the IEEE. We are still not aware of how this breakthrough occurs, but we will study it well and try to expand it..

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Over the past year, we have been trying to attract new members of the IEEE by increasing the number of organised conferences under the IEEE logo. We succeeded to organise several conferences successfully and their popularity significantly arises. We are in the process of developing of rules for the organisation of such conferences, in which we have imposed mandatory quota for the participation of IEEE members in the Program and Organising committees, significant fee reduction for the members of the IEEE. This year we look forward to summarise the results of this approach.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

This year, the terms of all the officers in the chapters and in the section ExCom with the exception of two chapters expired. We tried to organise new elections, but we managed to do it only partially. We already have newly elected Section ExCom and leaders of one of the Chapters. There are several Chapters with illegitimate Chairs, which will make it harder to work with them. We would like to finish elections in the Chapters before our annual meeting in April. We continue our efforts for the membership renewal and membership fees collection for more than half of our members. This is an good activity to drive the vitality and sustainability in the Section.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Africa is the fastest growing and developing continent, and I believe that the role of IEEE will grow there faster than in other countries in Region 8. However, serious barriers are the existing political instability. Despite these harsh conditions, I believe that the colleagues from African countries are doing fine. If they need from some support I'm ready to help them.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

I exchanged some thoughts with an officer from the Vienna IEEE office for joint activities, but we did not succeed to organise such joint events.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- In the past year, our focus was on organising conferences under the IEEE logo. This year we will try to apply rules in this activity in order to increase the membership.We will continue to stimulate organisers to apply for IEEE Registration and we help them in the preparation of the applications and the Memorandums of Understanding.
- Bulgaria Section has along tradition in maintaining good relations with the local National Science & Technology Societies. The three agreements between IEEE and the National Union of the Electronics, Electrical and Communication Engineers, National Union of Automation and Informatics and the Federation of the Science & Technology Unions in Bulgaria have been regularly signed. This year the term of Agreements expires. We are preparing new ones and will initiate procedure to sign them.

Croatia Section   Maja Matijasevic

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- As reported previously, the main contributing factors to the relatively low number/percentage of IEEE members from industry in our Section include high cost of membership relative to the benefits, as well as competition from local and long-established professional organizations which are deeply rooted in the industry communities.
- We will continue improving IEEE visibility through collaboration with local industry associations and develop connections with local start-up ecosystem to attract young companies in technological sector that can benefit from access to international IEEE network and knowledge. We believe that the new industry players, who are more globally oriented business-wise, can be attracted to IEEE with more success than the ?traditional? industry players who already have established long-time relations with other professional organizations.
- Croatia Section has appointed a Section Industry Ambassador (SIA) to act as a link towards Action for Industry in 2018 - IEEE Europe South Area. A Section?s Industry Ambassador team was established, which also includes young professionals.
- IEEE and the Region 8 should support efforts of local SIA teams by dedicating budget for Industry Relations projects and providing a platform for sharing ideas and success stories between SIA team coordinators.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Activities/programs/initiatives which work well include:

- The annual Croatian Student and Young Professionals Congress (CroSYP), hosted in a different city every year. The 2018 event took place in Osijek, Croatia, from 9th to 11th November 2018. The congress was organized by the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Student Branch with the support from both Croatia Section and Young Professionals AG. CroSYP events encourage networking among student members, and provide a great venue for the exchange of best practices and ideas. This event is also attended by industry representatives who, through their professional lectures and workshops, promote their companies and employment opportunities. It has also proven to be a great opportunity for team building, which enables smooth transition from SM to GSM (and YP) status for volunteers and motivates them for further work in their student branches.
- IEEE Day celebration and promotion, which was organized by the student branches of universities in Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka.
- Participation in IEEEXtreme 12.0 programming competition.
- In the next period we are planning to organize following events:
  - IEEE Promotional activities by student branches during March 2019 at the start of the summer semester. The goal of these promotional activities is to motivate existing student members to continue their membership and attract new members.
  - IEEE TOPWeek (Technical OPportunities Week), which will be co-organized by IAS chapter, PES chapter and YP AG in cooperation with local university, innovation center and alumni organization.
  - IEEE Step lecture will be organized by YP AG.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Our success is the result of the continuous work of our Section officers/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. We ensure timely annual reporting of officers, meetings and finances to be eligible for the bonus. The activities / programs / initiatives that work well include:

- Organizing and technically cosponsoring meetings, workshops and conferences in the Section;
- Cooperation of students and young professionals, and among organizational units within the Section;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- Section awards;
- Section annual meeting/dinner.

From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for volunteers to improve Section operation and vitality. To foster Section vitality in our Section we will follow our current best practices:

- Taking care of members ? membership is increasing (762 at the end of 2018, compared to 721 at the end of 2017);
- Member retention and recruitment ? we have excellent track record in both retention (98.6 % goal achieved) and recruitment (147.6 % goal achieved);
- Recruitment and training of new volunteers;
- Inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
- Local IEEE Senior Member initiatives based on personal invitations to outstanding members to be nominated by the Section.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- We will consider involvement of ERASMUS exchange students from Africa in our student branch activities and volunteering, and encourage our IEEE members to mentor the students in technical and organizational manners to bring back the experience and implement the knowledge in their local community.
- We see the most significant contribution of IEEE in Africa by means of technical education of the students and young professionals, and encouraging the local volunteers to transfer the knowledge within their communities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- The Croatia Section currently has no need for staff support from the new IEEE office in Vienna. We expect administrative and financial support to be provided for the Region 8.
- The existence of this office has not influenced our Section since its inauguration.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Special achievements include:

- Josip Balen received the MGA Larry K. Wilson Transnational Award for pioneering, championing, and leading IEEEmadC, a global project with transnational impact.
- A team led by Tomislav Jagust, won the IEEE Region 8 Educational Activities Acceleration Program 2018 competition in Pre-University Education category.
- Danijel Topic received the IEEE PES Outstanding Volunteer Award.
- University of Zagreb PES SB Chapter has won the IEEE PES High Performing Student Branch Chapter Award.
- Our Section received the 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance Award.

Cyprus Section   Elias Kyriakides

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The IEEE Cyprus Section supports the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative IEEE Region 8 in order to rejuvenate IEEE's involvement with the industry and develop strong working partnerships between IEEE and industry. The IEEE Cyprus Section in 2018 has implemented the MOU agreements for internship programs with 10 big companies from the telecom, energy and computer sectors and has secured 50 internship positions for our student and YP members. The IEEE Cyprus Section participated in the following industry events:

- Co-organizer of the "Smart City - Opportunities and Prospects" workshop (Feb. 2018) that saw the participation of major industrial partners and local authorities
- Participation in the CYTA Smart City CrowdHackathon (Feb. 2018).
- Co-organizer of the "Innovation in the era of digital economy" workshop (Oct. 2018).

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The IEEE Cyprus Section will continue sponsoring events, activities, competitions and seminars, related to new technologies and other issues that are for the interest of the students, organized by the student branches in cooperation with their universities. The implementation of internship and mentoring programs through the Action for Industry Initiative will provide value to students and young professionals. Through the internships they will be able to acquire working experience and opportunities for future employment. We have appointed the outgoing Chair of our very successful University of Cyprus Student Branch as the Student Branches coordinator to stimulate all Student Branches to further upgrade their activities. The seminars organized frequently by the University of Cyprus Student Branch are especially successful for student recruitment.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Since vitality is one of the three focus areas of Region 8, it is also of high priority for the IEEE Cyprus Section. For the next period we are planning the following activities:

- Finalize the Legal Registration of the IEEE Cyprus Section
- Update our website http://ieee.org.cy/
- Keep metrics related to membership development. Contact deactivated members and ask them to renew.
- Motivate members to apply for Senior Membership.
- Further enhance the collaboration between SBs
- Organize seminars and workshops for our members.
- Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) : organize workshops in high schools
- Continue supporting the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative.
- Encourage the chapters that are not so active to organize more activities : a Chapters Coordinator has been appointed.

Note that the IEEE Cyprus Section has been recognized in July 2018 that it has met its recruitment and retention goals for 2018.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

There are several conferences on electrical and electronic engineering and information technology organized in Europe. The IEEE R8 could sponsor the participation of students and young professionals from Africa to these events. The IEEE R8 could also provide support and training to volunteers from Africa in order to coordinate activities and organize events in Africa. Furthermore, professors and industry experts from other areas can be encouraged and sponsored to participate in IEEE events that will be organized in Africa. Due to its proximity, the IEEE Cyprus Section is willing to help the activities of African sections.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The staff of IEEE Office in Vienna could implement regional activities and strategic initiatives and objectives of the R8. For example, it will be very useful for the whole IEEE R8 if the IEEE Office in Vienna could provide professional support for the organization of conferences and other events in the region.

Outstanding new initiatives

2018 marked the 25th anniversary of the IEEE Cyprus Section which was celebrated through a special event.

Denmark Section   Yongheng Yang

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The section has supported three local workshops which all had attendance from the local industry. One workshop was related to satellite communication, another to machine learning and the third to future communication networks. In addition, the PE31 sub-chapters arranged another workshop in relation to Power Electronics, which also had attendance from the industry. Several smaller events of interest to industry were held at the Technical University of Denmark and Aalborg University.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The section has just been establishing a Young Professionals (YP) Affinity Group, believing this will work better in creating activity and making awareness of the IEEE to students at the academic institutions. In 2018, the two students branches in the IEEE Denmark Section have been very active organizing events (e.g., IEEE Day at Aalborg University), making newsletters, etc., but it has also been recognized that it is difficult to maintain that active level. We believe that a YP group could be a better platform to have more continuity in the activity level. The section has had, and will continue to have, a focus on attracting new student members, and promoting the IEEE activities among the students in Denmark.

In this year, we, as the IEEE Denmark Section, will show more support to the local student chapters and the YP Affinity Group. It is expected to be more involved and visible to all Danish students and young professionals. Moreover, we will increase our activities at the regional level.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

There have been 13 IEEE related activities in the section during 2018, which is considered to be high. Out of these, 10 had involvement from the section. We will not be able to have such an active level in 2019. Generally, we see the situation to be somewhat challenging, since it is difficult to demonstrate significant value for the IEEE membership to Danish members. Currently, we are trying to be more active in academia and to be more involved/supportive in the students' activities, where the students are very dynamic and they may leave the Section due to graduation or job transitions. Beyond this, the IEEE Denmark Section is in competition with a very active Danish union of engineers. They are very active on the event side, and in addition, they can actually serve in union matters, offer discounts and other concrete membership benefits. It makes no sense to compete on this, and therefore, for some time, we have been trying to establish a collaboration with the union. This is still an ongoing activity. The most concrete offering that the IEEE has to Danish members is the access to the IEEE periodicals. It would be helpful, if the Region can help to make concrete membership benefits at a, if not national, then at least European level.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Council Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The section has not had so much focus to support IEEE activities in Africa, but we had discussions to have a mutual conference in Ghana. This has been started, and it's been preliminarily planned for late Autumn 2019.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We have not yet had any interaction with the Vienna office, but we would expect more here in the year. In particular, we hope that Region 8 or the IEEE Office in Vienna could provide supports in, e.g., industry contacts, dissemination of Good Practices, new initiatives, and lectures. Currently, we expect Region 8 could smoothen the process of the IEEE YP Affinity Group.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The IEEE Denmark Section had its 50th Anniversary in 2018. For the achievement, the section received the IEEE MGA Section Significant Anniversary Banner. The Section has had a slightly increasing membership over the years, and is now close to 1000 active IEEE members. Now, we are working on getting Danish students to participate in the 2019 competition of the annual meeting.

Egypt Section
Samir I. Shaheen

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Egypt Section held a series of Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries including Machine Learning, Embedded Systems, Micro-Electronics, Image Processing, Automotive Systems, Self-Driving cars, Smart Grid, etc. Moreover, Egypt Section linked industry to Students and Educational institutes through its annual competitions on Graduation Projects (EED) and Made in Egypt (MIE) which involves linking industry to students in their graduation year to present their projects through an annual meeting in 15-16 September 2018. In 2018, more than 200 projects and 1500 student presented their projects in EED. In MIE more 65 projects competed in the event. More than 9000 visitors from industry and students attended the events held during 2 days in September 2018. Moreover, agreement with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate for cooperation on developing innovation workshops for students has been initialized and will be signed in in January 2019. More than 65 workshops and seminars and 180 training hours for young professionals has been held during EED2018 and MIE brining technology and engineering experts to exchange their knowledge with students and young professionals. Other Several workshops for YP and Student Branches training were arranged in several cities on Professional development and IEEE Xplore with EKB (Egyptian Knowledge Bank. More than 180 professionals from industry attended EED2018 either to judge graduation projects or to search for positional engineers and employees or to sponsor their projects and incubate it. A similar competition is performed in Aswan under the name "Upper Egypt in Action" for the south of Egypt Students in April 2018 and is planned in 2019 in Marchl. This involves several Educational and Professional activities for Engineers and Students. It attract 2500 attendees. Eleven Conferences were sponsored by Egypt Section in different geographic areas in Egypt and in cooperation with the industry and universities.

EED Web Site: http:eed.eng.cu.edu.egeed.egindex.html

Closing Ceremony Video for EED: http:eed.egimagesvideosEED17-final.mp4

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Egypt Section is making many Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries to attract new members. Several meeting with Engineers and Professional training has been conducted to involve volunteers to be members of IEEE. Moreover, Students are encouraged to work in student branches and as volunteers in the events EED and MIE to encourage them to join the student branches.

Eleven Conferences were technically sponsored by Egypt Section and posted in Xplore. In all conferences, industry was present and an average deduction of 40 US$ in registration fee were applied. For members and student members. These conference span most Egyptian universities and Geographic locations in Egypt:

1) 14th International Computer Engineering Conference (ICENCO).
2) 28th International Conference on Computer Theory and Applications (ICCTA).
3) 9th International Conference on Intelligent Computing and Information Systems (ICICIS)...
4) ICASIS, 2017.
5) 2018 Intl Conf on Advanced Control Circuits Systems (ACCS) Systems
6) 2018 Intl Conference on New Paradigms in Electronics & Information Technology (PEIT).
7) 2018 Japan-Africa Conference on Electronics, Communications and Computers (JAC-ECC)
8) 2018 12th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Systems (ICCES)
9) 36th National Radio Science Conference (NRSC).
10) 2nd International Conference on Innovative Trends in Computer Engineering (ITCE) Aswan University.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Since the Egyptian Pound devaluation against the US$ on November 2016, we have a very hard time keeping our members and attracting new ones. Moreover, after the Egyptian Knowledge Bank allowed IEEE Digital Library for all Egyptian Universities Staff, students and researchers. This made the drive to maintain IEEE membership less attractive. The current member Fees for One Year (without any societies) is around 85 US$. This represent half a month's salary for a young Engineer. In 2017 the values of US dollar increased from 6 .5 Egyptian Pounds to 18 Egyptian Pounds. This put a pressure on our membership. Student's membership also has been affected. We reached a solution by asking technology companies to subsidies some young members and students by contributing 30% of the cost which allowed Egypt Section to maintain its membership vitality. More than 150 YP and Students members used this sponsorship from industry to renew or to join IEEE.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Egypt Section can help nearby Countries that does not have IEEE activity (e.g. Sudan / Eretria, etc.) in starting their activities. The current proposal for bylaws for Africa need studies to be able to really apply it. The current proposal to get operating fund from African sections to operate Africa Area is not reasonable and will not be accepted. That is, we are just able to meet the needs of members and activities in Egypt. Distance and Cost of travel between Egypt and faraway African Countries is very high.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

No we did not feel till now the existence or benfits of Vienna Office. We need to know what services Vienna office can perform. We need to know how it will help sections and student branches.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Egypt Section has one MOU's with the Academy of Science and Technology in 2017. There is a plan to sign two other MOUs. The MOU signed in 2017 with the Egyptian Academy of Science and Technology (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) facilitates the continuous support to Egypt Section innovation workshops and student's projects and events. Currently, the Academy sponsors some of the section events, Moreover, the successful projects in EED and MIE get incubated in the Academy and the industry. In 2019, there is a plan to sign an MOU with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate. This will mark a new cooperation with the largest Engineering Organization in Egypt. IEEE section will help in Education and professional activities for young Engineers. Moreover, the Engineering Syndicate is planning to sponsors some of our events. The signing of MOU in 2018 with Nokia-Egypt, attracted more members to be among our professional network and join IEEE Egypt Section volunteer community.

Photos and figures

Estonia Section   Peeter Ellervee

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Contacts with the national industry associations are rather good. Wider distribution of information about different events like DL visits have made members from industry more active. This helps them to feel they will too benefit from being IEEE member. The traditional summer seminar in August will bring together both industrial and academic members of the section. Presentations at the seminar are from both groups and of interest for all.

One of the industry oriented new joint chapters, created two years ago - IE/PEL (Industrial Electronics / Power Electronics) - has been rather active thus proving the need for such chapters. The second one - IA/PE/RA (Industry Applications / Power & Energy / Robotics and Automation) - has been rather inactive but with the help of new chapter chair their is a hope to have them active too.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The two student branches are rather active, although now and then they forgot about reporting. One of the reasons is the increasing number of foreign students at universities. Student members participated actively at IEEEXtreme and the majority of the participants had renewed their membership.

To attract more student members, the Section is supporting their participation at various events. The students are also welcome to participate at Section's events. Representatives of Student Branches are present at ExCom meetings.

Young Professionals affinity group was launched last year to as a one option to attract more members. Their representative is also present at ExCom meetings.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

There are two ways to address current and potential members, essentially. First to make IEEE more visible among students who are often working already during there studies.

This will also improve contacts with industry. Another way it the use of our traditional summer seminar by inviting non-members from industry to participate.

In 2019, the seminar will be most probably in the southern area of the country and we are looking to a co-locating possibility with one of the doctoral school events. Among traditional topics from wide areas at the seminar, membership and vitality issues will be addresses more clearly.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Student Branches at universities where many students from African countries are studying, seems to be a good way to distribute information about IEEE and its activities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

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Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Estonia section joined the IEEE Blockchain Groups initiative in the end of 2018. Two conferences were technically co-sponsored by the section in 2018 - CyCon 2018 and BEC 2018. The section also participated organizing IEEE NorCAS 2018 conference in Estonia in October.

Finland Section   Toni Mattila

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Today academic members of IEEE gain a lot from their IEEE membership but IEEE, as a whole, should be able to serve its industrial members better by creating higher value for them especially. The Finland Section has chosen two focus themes for the year 2019 and 'value for industry' is one of them. Firstly, we are closely engaged with the IEEE Action for Industry initiative and through our Section Industry Ambassadors. Secondly, we require a 'value for industry' plan from all activities (conferences, seminars etc.) that we provide support for. For conferences especially, we require a technical exhibition, invited keynote speakers from industry, or other means of concrete involvement of industrial members. Over the past two years the number of industrial contacts has increased substantially within the Finland Section.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Even though we have been actively looking for new ways to provide value to our membership base, meetings, seminars and conferences seem to be the most effective way to do that. Finland Section actively engages and supports events that are of high quality and in the field relevant to our current and future members. Promotion of IEEE membership and value of becoming a member works relatively well especially for regular members. As for increasing the number of student and young professionals members, we have revitalized our local activities in the section and managed to engage dozens of new young professionals, in particular, through the active engagement with them. We also encourage our technical chapters to level up their activities. Over the past year, these activities have been particularly worthwhile.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Finland Section is seeking to engage in collaborative relations with other societies with similar focus. One example of such activity is the collaboration with the local branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) with whom we organized two joint seminars in 2018 and plan to continue our successful collaboration also in the future. Finland Section is also supporting its Technical Chapters to collaborate with their counterparts in other Section in the Nordics. For instance, in 2017, Chapters of the IEEE/EPS society merged together to form a Nordics-wide joint chapter and now they organize together a technical conference exhibition NordPac that is traveling from one destination to another within the Nordic states. The IEEE/Educational Society followed the same model of establishing a pad-Nordic chapter in 2018.

Finland Section also seeks to engage new members by inviting them to events and to participate in volunteering activities. We support our less active technical chapters to initiate new activities and encourage the more active ones to expand their activities and make them visible beyond the current members in the hopes to engage new people and new members. We have been quite successful in engaging new members but this activity should be made continuous.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The existing activities among the different Sections in Region 8 are a good benchmark. Similar models/ideas that work in Europe and Middle-East may work in Africa as well.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Finland Section has so far not been engaged with the Vienna ofce. We would need to understand better how Vienna ofce can support our local activities.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Revitalization of YP activities in Finland should be considered as a Special Achievement.

France Section   Frédérique Vallée

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our workshops oriented towards industry in order to give a better visibility of IEEE activities are going on with a rather good success. One has been organized in October 2018 dedicated to "Blockchain and energy" with around 50 participants, one has been handled in December 2018 for discussing "Microgrids" with around 25 attendees and the last one has been organized in January 2019 on the topic of "Quantum-computing" and has attracted around 60 persons. We are still willing to nominate new SIAs (Section Industry Ambassador) in order to multiply our workshop initiatives and to foster Industry Relations.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

We strongly encourage students and young academics to join IEEE. For example, some targeted emails have been sent in different French universities / graduates schools of engineering for explaining to students and young academics the interest and benefits of IEEE. This message is also delivered at IEEE conferences attended by the Section Officers. We also encourage the creation of new student branches.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

We continue to:

- Engage with Regional Leadership and activities, e.g. attend annual regional meeting (IEEE R8 MD Workshop);
- Conduct a Membership Development activity, e.g. membership recruitment or elevation;
- Encourage members to renew;
- Use of the Member-Get-a-Member (MGM) program;
- Promote IEEE activity in my area;
- Encourage Senior Members to hold executive IEEE volunteer positions;
- Participate in IEEE MD Webcast monthly events.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We are candidate to support activities in Africa especially for French speaking countries.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We still think that this new office can help us to foster industry relations. We would like to find workshop subjects that could motivate both French chapters and the Vienna Office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

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Germany Section   Ingo Hahn

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our IEEE Society chapters are organizing their regular chapter meetings together with industrial companies in Germany. Usually, the industrial host participates actively in the technical programs of these chapter meetings and often provides a factory or lab tour. Furthermore, in Germany we have the very comfortable situation that academia and industry are working very close on solving research challenges and participate actively in joint development projects. This leads to a vital exchange of ideas and further close connections between industry, academia and members of the IEEE Germany Section.

The main work on industry relations between the IEEE Germany Section and Industry is performed within the chapters. However, in the case of some other planned events on the Section level, like IEEE Milestone presentations, the IEEE Germany Section is actively contacting industrial companies to request their support and active participation.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Within the IEEE Germany Section we have very active IEEE student branches and IEEE society chapters. These are the main actors for attracting future members. Also the colleagues in academia are the main sources for recruiting new IEEE members. Our IEEE Germany Section ExCom meets regularly twice a year. During these meetings all chairs of the chapters and student branches are invited to participate and to share their experience and knowledge. Especially, the students, young professionals and WIE volunteers present their ideas for future activities and are in most cases financially supported to realize their activities. In Germany we have the a very strong national association of electrical engineers (VDE) which is very active on a local level. At nearly every university, where technical sciences can be studied, VDE has active student groups. Getting closer to these VDE student groups could be an opportunity to attract future members for IEEE. One of the most important arguments to attract young members is the networking opportunity not only on a local and national level, but on an international level with IEEE.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

To support the section vitality the most effective and sustainable tasks are the regular chapter meetings and the regular ExCom meetings of the IEEE Germany Section. During these meetings all participants get to know each other very well and, furthermore, can brainstorm about future activities. The ExCom also expects regular reports on each chapter's activities. The chapter chairs are invited to hold a presentation about their chapter's meetings and other activities. Reporting at the ExCom meetings is mandatory, if the chapters or student branches request for financial support of their future activities.

To support and supervise these chapter activities we have an officer in the ExCom, who is responsible for the chapter coordination.

At the moment we try to register the IEEE Germany Section as a legal entity according to German law. We started this process round about one year ago. To be active, the student branches and chapter need bank accounts, but to open and to manage these accounts is quite difficult, especially, when the officers change after elections. We are working together with the IEEE Headquarters to solve this issue pragmatically.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Each IEEE Section in Africa should try to find a sister Section in other parts of IEEE R8. The sister Section could provide some insights in the best practices of successfully running a chapter. But, in any case, it is necessary to check for applicability of these best practices, because it is not for sure that practices which work very well in one section, automatically will work in another section. It depends strongly on the local circumstances and culture.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Honestly speaking, the IEEE office in Vienna is in some kind unnecessary. If there is a problem which the Section faces, this office provides only some contacts inside the IEEE Headquarters. The IEEE Vienna office hasn't influenced in any way our daily Section leadership business.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE Milestone for Jan Czochralski and its invention of the crystal growth method in collaboration with and based on the initiative of the IEEE Poland Section is approved by the IEEE History Center. At the moment we are planning the milestone ceremony at three different locations within Poland and Germany for September 2019.

Another IEEE Milestones for the invention of the radar in 1904 by Christian Hlsmeyer is in preparation. This proposal is still awaiting the IEEE History Committee action.

Ghana Section   George Eduful

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We invited distinguished personalities from the industry to give technical talks and also share experience with university student at well organised fora. We also invited the industries to nominate personnel for IEEE Programme. Also sought sponsorship from the industries to support IEEE major programme such Power African Conference. The industry also invited IEEE members to give presentation at their engineers' forum

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Organised Research Seminar Series as a way of building research capacities in the universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Volunteers were taking through a number of training programme to update their knowledge on their role as volunteers. We intend to maintain this approach and also introduce tech-talks in the universities as a way of building sustainable visibility of IEEE activities in the country.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Africa area Chair should encourage IEEE members to take positions and actively be involved in IEEE activities. Some of our members are already leading members of the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Africa.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

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Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We are trying to Institute IEEE Excellence Awards Night in the Country.

Photos and figures

Greece Section   Athanasios Kakarountas

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- A series of lectures are given based on the following initiatives and programs
  - DLP
  - Participation to the Action for Industry initiative of IEEE
- Students get to know industry operations through Field / Educational Trips (thanks to Student Branches and IAS Chapter)
- Section supported as community sponsor/partner events of other organizations that are industry-oriented.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- Excellence, collaboration and creativity are supported by contests:
  - Student contests
  - Maker fairs and shows
  - Promotion of IEEE R8 contests and awards
- Network of collaborations
  - Strategic collaborations of IEEE Student Branches
  - Support of SYP 2018
  - Support for the organization of Hellenic SYP 2019
  - Social Media Networking
- Participation as sponsor/supporters of local conferences and scientific events.
- Participation of the Membership Development officer to Regional workshops.
- Some changes that are required by IEEE/the Region/ Section to better Attract and Support Future Members, are the following:
  - Offer more opportunities for networking in R8
  - Provide access to a number of services by IEEE for students and Young professionals that are not available in Region 8
- The Section has supported the SBs and YP AfG to attract Future Members
  1) Support of Section's Student Branches
     - Role allocation to Student Branch Officers
     - SB workshops
  2) Support of YP AfG

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Awareness
- Website
- Social media
- Lectures in technical events
- Participation in well known scientific events for the public

Summits
- Section summits
- Organization of a summer camp for SB officers
- SB summits

Young officer development
- YP and SB Officers assigned active roles in Section

Elections
- New Section board has been elected

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The Section in not engaged at the moment with IEEE Activities in Africa, but is willing to assist after exploration of potential activities

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The Section needs guidance for participating (via the Section's members) to more initiatives of IEEE Region 8, and also for getting information about issues of serving and communicating with members (e.g. GDPR)

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The organization of a summer camp for all SB officers

Hungary Section   Levente Kovacs

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Industry oriented technological seminars have been organized inside universities. At our local IEEE HS sponsored conferences we started to invite industry partners as plenary speakers. First industrial partners to sponsor given sessions of our conferences will appear at our conferences in 2019. IEEE Hungary Section (HS) industry award was established.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Fortunately IEEE Hungary Section members do not need much membership advertisement as they are aware with the benefits of IEEE. However, young or new members need several activities. The Best Student Paper award turned to be a great success in 2018 as well, we have 58 applications for three categories: BSc, MSc and PhD. The number of IEEE student members increased, increasing the overall number of IEEE HS. This was one of the reasons why we got the gold award for IEEE Outstanding Section Membership Retention Performance in 2018. Based on last years experiences invited seminars proved to work attracting students and Young Professionals (YP) to IEEE (it was presented at the YP congress in Porto). Hence, we intensified these activities. We are still maintaining the reduced registration fees for students and YP at our IEEE HS conferences. In 2019 we will be present with IEEE prices at the most prestigious national engineering student competition the biannual National Student Conference. IEEE CS Chapter, RAS Chapter and SMC Chapter organizes seminars and/or technical meetings, furthermore the members are encouraged to attend technical booths organized by mainly multinational companies. Our own IEEE HS conferences organized PhD sections involving PhD students from different universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

IEEE HS continuously increases in members in the last 7 years. Local operation procedures are updated or under update. Most of the HS chapters have been revitalized in 2018, chapter leaderships renewed together with section leadership. The IEEE HS WiE Affinity Group was formed at the IEEE day celebration in 2018. We continued to award the Rudolf Kalman professor title created in 2017 and we will announce in 2019 autumn the student competition as well, where we hope to have the same success as the last 2 years. The MD officer sends out renewing e-mails for the IEEE HS members. Non-renewing members are asked to give feedback why not renewed their membership.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

By the Stipendium Hungaricum program, big number of students arrive from Africa and other parts of the world in Hungary to learn (BSc, MSc or PhD levels). We advertise them the IEEE benefits, give possibilities to publish at our IEEE HS sponsored conferences. We have started to work on common mobility grants with Ghana and Nigeria.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

MD materials

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Mobile conference application, Best Student paper award, IEEE HS WiE establishment, IEEE HS industry award. IEEE Control Systems Hungary Chapter formation in 2018, Rudolf Kalman professor title (involving the Hungarian Academy of Sciences).

Iran Section   Hadi Moradi

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

To increase industry relation, the new chair of the industry relation is chosen directly from an industry. We also, asked a vice chair for this committee who is another person with good industry affiliation and academic affiliation. We also negotiated with an accelerator to conduct 4 workshops for 2019 to encourage our students and other members to look into startups and relation with industry.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

I enjoyed the idea of business canvas for student branches, presented in the last R8 meeting. Thus, I have asked an accelerator to conduct a workshop on this issue for the student branches to attract more members.

It should be noted that we have a huge problem in the next year or two with the membership. Due to a huge devaluation of Rials with respect to other currencies, our members would not be able to renew for 2019 and/or 2020. So we expect to have a huge decline in the number of members. I have talked to MD in the headquarters. Their suggestion was to talk to R8 to help us in this regard. Thus, we need R8 help to keep our members.

We have conducted IEEExtreme, IEEE Day, and two annual meetings to keep all the students and members in close interaction with the BOD, ExCom, and each other.

To support students and YPs, we have planned to get more in touch with our industry to support them.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

We have two major meetings annually which help us to keep the section lively and active. The students enjoy these meetings a lot. Our awards program encourages the students to become more productive and more interested in IEEE. Also, it is a way to recognize our YPs. We have several workshops conducted and/or sponsored by the section which have been very attractive to the students. We help and evaluate several international conferences in our country to help them conduct high grade conferences and be able to index their papers in IEEEXplore.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We are interested in conduct joint activities with African sections. I think we can conduct workshops which would be very interesting and useful for African sections. I have sent a letter to Eric, the chair of AFRICON, and expressed my willingness to help in giving talk. We have great students who have been successful in IEEExtreme and similar competitions. These students can conduct workshops for the students in the African sections to empower them. Our student branches run many workshops in different areas which may be useful for the students in African continent

We stand ready to help IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe in the implementation of the above proposals, or in any other way that our help is asked for.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We have not felt any benefit from this office last year. The support that this office can provide us, considering the restriction by the US government, are:

1) Helping in inviting and supporting distinguished lecturers for our conferences.
2) Since we have not received our rebates for the past 20 years, it would be helpful if the office can help our members to reduce the membership cost, cost of registering for conferences, etc.
3) The office may help our section to be able to get into projects, such as SIGHT, to collaborate with other sections.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We have started the new award for the late Prof. Caro Lucas. This award is for the great contribution in control and intelligent systems. We are getting close to our 50th anniversary. We are planning to have ceremonies in 2020. We have improved our WIE award to be more closer to IEEE's WIE award. We have been able to get support from industry to increase WIE activities. we have been successful in keeping the number of members fairly steady during the past several years. We are planning to have new supports for our student branches to start new initiative toward the goals of SIGHT.

Photos and figures

Israel Section   Uri Shaked

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The section is collaborations with industry in conferences. The industry got a stage at the icsee2018 conference as well in the upcoming COMCAS 2019. The section also started to arrange tours in the industry for IEEE members as a pilot.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The section is a supporting the young professionals as well as the students affinity groups in their acrivities in order to help the to engage to more graduate students. Moreover, the section as decided to subsidize a second year of membership fees to students.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The section is increasing its visibility by signing agreements with the Israeli engeeninrs assosiation as well as an MOU with the Italian section and we are negotiation the same agreement with the Cyprus section. We also support the chapters in professional conferences.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

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What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We did not have any engagement with the Vienna office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We are very proud of the MOU with the Italian section and the future cooperation with them.

Italy Section   Bernardo Tellini

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The activities that work well in Italy Section to foster Industry Relations are:

- The Industry Relation Committee works to establish direct dialogue with industry firms, to facilitate engagement of industry firms in IEEE initiatives, to increase the number of industrial companies participating in the R8 Programs (Mentor and Internship) and Italy Sections Programs (forum, panels, workshops, job fairs, awards, Student Branch initiatives, special meetings).
- Benedetto Vigna (STM), which received the 2017 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award, held three conferences in 2018. Since the last R8 meeting, he held the lecture on "Innovation in big companies: the MEMS in STM" by the Politecnico di Torino, 26 October 2018, and by the Università of Pavia, 15 November 2018, invited by SB and Chapter.
- The 2018 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award (http:sites.ieee.orgitalyfiles201802DistIndustryAward-SECTION-2018-1.pdf) has been given to Enrico Ragaini (ABB). He already received eight invitations by several IEEE Italy Section Chapters/Student Branches in 2019 sponsored by IEEE Italy Section, to give a lecture on: "Not only smart grid: the many links between electronics, software and power systems"
- Two new members were appointed as Industry Ambassadors in collaboration with the Industry Relation Committee of the IEEE Italy Section: Valerio Grassi from ATLAS Advanced Technologies s.r.l., and Enrico Ragaini from ABB.
- The new Entrepreneurship Committee was established in 2019 with the aim of analyzing the Italian Entrepreneurship scenario, promoting events in collaboration and developing agreement with startup incubators, accelerators, venture capital, collaborating with R8 and IEEE Entrepreneurship. Vincenzo Piuri from University of Milan was appointed as the Committee Coordinator.
- We will have, in Florence, the fifth edition of IEEE RTSI (Research and Technology for Society and Industry) (9-12 September 2019) http:rtsi2019.ieeesezioneitalia.it, as the annual flag event of the Italy Section. As for the past editions, the forum foresees important initiatives devoted to industries such as: 4th Industry Forum, Forum on Innovative start up and entrepreneurs, panels with industries. The program is still in progress.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The number of activities by the Student Branches registered an increasing trend. They play a very important role to attract new Student Members. The Section promotes and supports their initiatives as well as their interaction with the Young Professionals. A novel Student Branch was formed since the last R8 meeting: SB Campus Bio-medico of Rome (Councelor: Emiliano Schena). Possibly other SB will be formed during the year.
The active Student Branches have increased their membership, reaching more than 1000 student/graduate student members. This contributed to the formation of novel SB Chapter and AG.
The Section will open this year the call for four (4) Exemplary Student Branch Awards.
The annual meeting of students and young professionals will be held during the IEEE RTSI 2019 (9-12 September). This event, students and YP will be put together to work towards new initiatives, interacting with representatives of the industry world in an international contest.
Several awards for Master and PhD Students are foreseen with the support of Industry and IEEE Societies.
The IEEE Computer, IM, IE/IA/PEL, Sensor Council Chapter together with IEEE Italy Section and the patronage of several institutions are organizing an IEEE Student Hackathon in Naples, June 5-6, 2019.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The Chapter and AG activity is well organized. They receive financial support by the Section for their technical activities, whose number is increasing every year.
Milestone "Pacinotti's ring armature of direct current dynamos" - the Dedication Ceremony was held on December 4th 2018, in Pisa hosted by the University of Pisa. The event was a great success with a wide participation and presence of students. 2018 IEEE President Jim Jefferies participated at the event.
The History activity committee is working on two new milestones, one for Galileo Ferraris together with Politecnico of Torino and the other for Giovanni Giorgi together with the University of Roma La Sapienza.
WIE Affinity Group is still fast increasing its activity. This thanks also thanks to the financial support by the Section and to the cooperation with other Italian Association and Industrial firms having same purposes.
On November 9, 2019 WIE and the Italy Section, organized together with the support of Tuscany Region, University of Pisa and other institutions the event: "L'ICT non e roba da donne?".
The Section has a very reach Section Award Program. In 2018, 47 awards have been assigned by the Section and Chapters. For 2019, the following awards have been defined: Honorary award (1), Industrial Distinguished Lecture award 2019 (2), Distinguished service award (2), Best Chapter award (4), Exemplary SB award (4).
The Section continues to foster its collaboration with Italian Technical Associations. In particular, with AEIT (www.aeit.it) and with AICA with which the Section signed a MoU. Novel events promoted in collaborations are foreseen for 2019.

The Section sponsored the event Lab-on-chip & Bio-data analytics of the 19th November 2018 together with three Italy Section Chapters.

The newsletter of the Section (available on: http://sites.ieee.org/italy/newsletter/) informs the Section members on the recent news, activities, announcements.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

No news on this activity.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

IEEE Office in Vienna could help to have reimbursement from IEEE Legal Office of the managerial/administrative costs of the Section (expert in commercial Italian law, annual account auditing, GDPR consultant, treasurer assistant). Such expenditures are requested by the Italian law in order to prepare the annual budget, pay VAT, ... and according to the IEEE Bylaws the rebate has to be used to financially support the technical activity of the Section/Chapters/SB/AG and it cannot be used to pay these consultants and experts.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- The Section reached in 2018 40 Chapters.
- The Chapter Activity Coordinator and Treasurer play a crucial role to make efficient and well organized the activity by the Chapter and AG.
- Number of Student Branches is still increasing as well as their activities, also because of the attention and financial support by the Section.
- The RTSI forum is becoming more and more important with the contribution of other R8 Sections and the R8 technical co-sponsorship. For RTSI 2019, we already received the technical co-sponsor by Israel, UK&Ireland, and Switzerland. Possibly other Sections will also support the 5th edition.
- The award program of the Section has been increased with new awards sponsored by Industry and more awards for active SB and chapters.
- In collaboration with the University of Padua, the Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Sensor Council, Computer Intelligence, Computer Chapter, the Section organizes the summer school: "Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for ICT Applications" which will be held in Bressanone, Italy, on July 8-12, 2019.
- Together with the IEEE Switzerland Section, the Italy Section is organizing a joint event to celebrate the IEEE Day 2019, on 2019, 1 October. The venue of the event should be Como by the Fondazione Alessandro Volta, in order to celebrate twenty years by the Volta Milestone. Topic of the event will be on "batteries".

Jordan Section   Gheith Abandah

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We are trying to get closer to industry through the following techniques:

- Having more members in the section committee from industry; five members of this committee are now from industry
- Our young professionals hold several professional and technical activities that involve young professionals from industry.
- We have expanded our annual student branches congress to include young professionals last year. JSYPC 2019 will be held in August.
- Our biannual conference on applied electrical engineering and computing technologies targets participants from industry and focuses on academia/industry relationships and joint research. AEECT 2017 was held in October 2017. AEECT 2019 has merged with other two conferences JIEEEC 2019 and ICIT 2019. The JIEEEC is organized by Jordan Engineers Association. This will enable us to reach more industry members. The name of the merged conference is JEEIT 2019 and will be held in April 9-11, 2019.
- We organize special workshops targeting engineers from industry such as Amman Metro Area Workshop. The second workshop of this series was held in September 2017. The third workshop will be in April 2019 in conjunction with JEEIT 2019.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Jordan Section has witnessed large increases in its membership. The section now is a large section with more than 1,500 members. We attract and support future members through the following techniques:

- Our section, chapters, affinity groups, and student branches hold many activities every year that give value to members and generate great visibility to IEEE in Jordan. Such activities continuously attract new members.
- We encourage and support creating new student branches and student chapters; several new branches and chapters were created last year. Such new organizational units attract new members and hold additional activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

We continue to foster section vitality and sustainability through the following techniques:

- Holding periodic elections for all organizational units including the section, the chapters, student branches and chapters, and affinity groups.
- Encouraging all units to hold periodic activities and meetings and to report these activities.
- Continue attracting new members and improve the retention rates.
- Hold general meetings and congresses such as JSYPC 2018 and the annual Section General Meeting. Last year's Section General Meeting was in May. In this meeting, we had our annual recognition ceremonies and a keynote.
- The section financially supports activities organized by affinity groups and students and supports their participation in regional and international professional meetings. We supported four participants in R8 SYP 2018.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Jordan Section is open to collaboration with IEEE activities in Africa.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

To facilitate the mobility of the Region 8 members between the different countries, e.g., help in securing visas. To help in legalizing the existence of IEEE offices in the various countries of Region 8.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Jordan Section continues to achieve good results:

- Jordan Section has received the IEEE Silver Medal for 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance.
- Our YP AG received Region 8 Outstanding Young Professionals Affinity Group Award.

Photos and figures

Kenya Section   Charles Oduor Onyango

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

1) Having Industry Gala Night where Industry players were invited. Several major organizations agreed and paid membership for some students, young professionals and women in engineering;
2) Relating with industry to provide internships for students and young professionals;
3) Activated social media platform where opportunities are shared to spread the information;
4) Having students plan for Industry visits;
5) In the coming year, we will enhance our engagement with industry

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

1) More events increases new member interest
2) Facilitation of membership renewal as awards after local students' competitions sponsored by our section
3) Increasing opportunities for volunteership within the section
4) Increasing more students activities, students branches
5) Increase participation of students in IEEE worldwide events like madC, IEEE Xtreme, TISP

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

1) Sponsoring conferences. Last year, for the first time our section had Technical Sponsorship of ISCM 2018 at the University of Nairobi. This year, we are already in progress with another Technical sponsorship;
2) Encourage members to improve their membership grades;
3) Holding IEEE Day, Society days like PES;
4) Organizing monthly meetings and section year work plan;
5) Continue partnering with Industry to sponsor membership for staff and students;
6) Updating our online presence in social media, website and brochure publicity;
7) Mount more IEEE virtual events, distinguished lecture and physical knowledge leveraging on IEEE technical knowledge base as continuous professional development (CPD) for local Engineers to get points towards practice licence renewal;
8) Encourage members to be active in member driven initiatives(MDI) in different societies.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

1) Commence sister sections partnerships;
2) Support and provide resources for AFRICON;
3) Assist in developing a strategic plan for IEEE African Council;
4) Continue to help potential opportunities for new sub sections and elevation of sub section to full sections.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We have not ha opportunity to interact much with Vienna office

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

1) Our members have participated as presenters during virtual events;
2) Some of our student members got IEEEmadC Best Team Award Winner 2018 for their App called Darasa;
3) One of our IEEEmadC Ambassadors 2018 was placed 4th globally for best ambassadors;
4) One of our IEEEmadC Ambassadors 2018 got special mention ranked '1st globally;
5) The section had the first ever Technical sponsorship in 2018 for ISCMI 2018;
6) Our IEEE Day 2018 cake got special show during 111th meeting in Belgrade;
7) Section awarded for reaching membership growth target for year 2018.

Kuwait Section   Mansour Jaragh

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Meeting with Kuwait Industrial Union CEO and General Managers to Coordinate Mutual Relationship with the Industrial Companies to get more details about job opportunity in different production Factories. Join the Industry in Exhibitions to promote IEEE. Arrange field trips to the factories to University Students .

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Attracts Young Engineers and Future Engineers to participate in the Social and Technical Events arranged by the Section and SYP Affinity Group . Volunteers are working in Team Work in the 10th IEEE GCC Conference in different Committees. Conference Organizer is arranging with the Kuwaiti Industrial Union to encourage Industrial Entities to participate in the Coming Conference to be held in Kuwait 19th to 23rd of April 2019 in Kuwait Regency Hotel.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Kuwait Section with collaboration with the GCC Sections working very hard to set the Technical Program for the 10th IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition , also the 2nd GCC SYP Congress Event where Robotics Challenges, Competitions and Contests shall be held and teams from all GCC Countries Universities and Colleges shall Participate in these . students events.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

It is recommended to ask some of the developed African Countries to Guide the Under Developed African Countries , to promote and help the concerned Section to initiate the MD Workshops , Seminars and Technical Events together to get them started in different fields of Engineering and Technology.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Not engaged that much in the activities of Vienna Office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Senior Members increased in Kuwait Section , A strong relationship tied the Section with different Universities and Colleges led to more involvements in activities related to IEEE Areas of Interest.

Latvia Section   Nadezda Kunicina

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- Collaboration with the largest professional associations; (e.g., Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association, Association of Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Enterprises)
- the collaboration agreement between IEEE Latvia Section COM/MTT/AP Joint Societies Chapter and Association of Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Enterprises is signed in December 2018;
- organizing of Industry Tracks on Section supported conferences and events;
- technical and financial sponsorship of local IEEE events with invited industry speakers;
- organizing of industrial visits for pre- and university students.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- Regular students visits to industrial and research institutions (e.g., contest for robots builders "Robotica", visits to Kegums power plant , Getlini landfill station);
- Organization or support of student competition programs, which provides IEEE student membership to awardees;
- Collaboration training for secondary schools in electrical engineering and computer applications, promoting IEEE membership;
- Organization of the scientific events (open for non-members) with publications, included in IEEEXplore and indexed in WoS and Scopus (higher level students are interested in) and regional practical and scientific events with neighboring countries with social programs; Baltic cooperation would be beneficial.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

- Regular face-to-face ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events, usually inviting students and guests;
- Increasing efforts from chapters and societies to encourage students and young professionals;
- Student competition programs, which provides IEEE student membership to awardees;
- Co-sponsorship of scientific and popular events, like AIEEE Workshop, RTUCON, RTUWO, summer schools, with special IEEE prizes;
- Organisation of meetings during big events in Riga, like IEEE PELS Young Professionals Meet-Up @ EPE'18 - ECCE Europe Tuesday, September 18, 8 PM - 10:00 PM Faculty of Architecture, Riga Technical University Campus (6 Kipsalas St.), Riga, Latvia;
- Application as future host for flagship IEEE R8 conferences, like EUROCON 2021;
- Direct mailing special events.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Collecting the best working practices from different regions of Africa and development of the working tools for African Sections is a key to success -the ideas, that works in EU of northern Africa may not work in central or south Sections. Traveling grants for students and young professionals from African academia or industry to R8 organized conferences can increase interest in IEEE membership, the same with the invitation of speakers from Africa to our local events (free of charge or funded by R8). 2 project proposals are ready to be submitted for ERASMUS plus KA 2 call in cooperation with South Africa and Tunisian section

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Vienna Office can organize promoting IEEE in EU and provide legal support for R8 Sections, e.g. visas to EU for non-EU volunteers, visiting R8 organized events; helping in foundation of IEEE legal entities in EU countries. Still, the clear leadership in H2020 project promoting by Vienna Office is welcome.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE honorary chair L. Ribickis: organisation of IEEE PELS meeting, during EPE'18 - ECCE; Organisation of meetings during big events in Riga, for example IEEE PELS Young Professionals Meet-Up @ EPE'18 - ECCE Europe Tuesday, September 18, 8 PM - 10:00 PM Faculty of Architecture, Riga Technical University Campus (6 Kipsalas St.), Riga, Latvia Preparation of Erasmus plus KA 2 project proposal, lead by IEEE Latvia past chair Andrejs Romanovs in cooperation with South Africa Section and by IEEE chair Nadezhda Kunicina with Tunisia section.

Photos and figures

Lebanon Section   Bachar Elhassan

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We, at Lebanon section, consider that the relation with Industry is a key point in our work. That is why we signed MoUs with many company such Alfa (one of the two mobile operators in Lebanon), Nokia, Ericsson and the order of Engineers of North Lebanon (All Engineers of north Lebanon are member of this order.

In addition, and to improve the relation of all our chapters with industry sector, this year we opened a new subcommittee called Industry Subcommittee. All chapters and affinity groups had a representative in this subcommittee and it is coordinated by the section industry Ambassador.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Attracting news Members is very important to our section. We set a target to increase each year the number of our section members. We are respecting it and The number of Lebanon section was always increasing during last years.

To achieve this goal, In all our activities there is a Global presentation about IEEE, Benefits of Being IEEE members, how to join IEEE and a general description of our mission, vision and activities. The section will continue targeting Young professionals and student members in order to maintain a sustainable growth in membership.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

To keep the viability of our section we have to maintain our members and we have to find fund to our activities.

To achieve the first point, we always request from all our chapters and student branches to organize high level events targeting all our members : students, engineers and researchers. Based on these events and to encourage chapters and student branches to maintain their activities, each year we select the best chapter and best student branch in our section and award them prizes.

Concerning the second point (Fund), The relation with industry is always assuring to us financial support. Also we invented the IEEE Lebanon section conference : IEEE IMCET. It is a biannual conference. It was organized 2 times till now. In 2016 and 2018. It can introduce to us some spare money that will help us to fund our activities.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Not engaged in such activities

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The office supports sections in Europe. That is why we did not got any relation with this office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Other than the regular activities we are organizing each year, We will organize this year a competition among all university final year students. It will be as student national conference. Each student will present his project and a Jury from industry and University professors will select the best projects in each track. The winning projects will receive prizes.

Lithuania Section   Dalius Navakauskas

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

IEEE Lithuania Section is constantly intermediaries between local electronic, communication and IT industry and universities, assisting in the establishment of contacts, such as searching for employees, monitoring of study programs, counseling, organization of internship.

Changes would be required by the Section:

- Seek to sign legal agreements with major domestic business associations;
- Actively campaign representatives of the industry to join the members of the IEEE.

Major successes:

- During the 19th joint IEEE Lithuania and Belarus Section meeting, organized on December 7, 2018, industry representatives presented their latest developments, exchanged views, seek joint solutions to problems and they were asked to renew their IEEE membership;
- The Section supported, financially and organizationally, a meeting called the "Green Meeting" between representatives of the Industry and students of final courses. The purpose of the meeting was to increase the motivation of graduate students to continue their studies in the master degree study.

In continuation to foster Industry Relations the Section intends to:

- Invite representatives of the industry (electronics, electrical engineering, communication and IT specialists) to participate in social activities, that are organized by the Section;
- Promote the participation of the industry in the exhibitions organized within the conferences and workshops, supported by the Section.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well in the Section:

- Organization of the annual contest ""Best Master Thesis"";
- Co-sponsorship of annual Conference for Lithuania Junior Researchers ""Electronics and Electrical Engineering"";
- Series of technical meetings presenting frontiers of research in recently defended Doctoral Dissertations.

Changes would be required by the Section to draw up a detailed list of the benefits of being a student member of IEEE. Major successes:

- IEEE Lithuania Young Professionals and Women in Engineering organized IEEE Day 2018 Workshop event on 11th of October;
- The 6th joint Workshop "AIEEE'2018" of IEEE Latvia and Lithuania Section was held;

In continuation to support Students and YP the Section intends to:

- Support the YP representatives who work actively in the competition commission "Best Doctoral Dissertation in Lithuania" and advertise IEEE;
- Support the YP representatives, leading educational work on behalf of IEEE among students and pupils;
- Prepare leaders to form IEEE Student Branch of Vilnius University;
- Support IEEE Student Branch of Kaunas University of Technology;
- Search sponsors for financial support of the IEEE Student membership.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well in the Section:

- The best volunteer of the year reward program;
- Regular face-to-face ExCom meetings preparing for and organizing all major events;
- Awarding or co-sponsoring visits of the best volunteers to workshops and congresses;
- Promotion of IEEE in carrying out such activities as "IEEE Day", workshops, congresses and conferences.

Changes would be required by the Section to have more industry people in the board. Major successes:

- The election of the Section Chair and the Chair of the Lithuania Computer Chapter was organized in November-December 2018;
- Discussions were held with representatives of Kaunas University of Technology on increasing the activity of the University's Student Branch.

The Section must always take care of:

- Organizing elections using v-tools to engage more members in nomination and voting process;
- Constantly updating the Facebook page of the Section (https:www.facebook.comIEEE-Lithuania-Section-462539263947774) and the website: http:ieee.lt.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We encourage more active involvement of the competent representatives of Africa countries in the working Committees of the IEEE R8.

We plan to invite and appoint a reduced registration fee for IEEE members from Africa going to participate in conferences and workshops, supported by the Section.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

In fact, the office in Vienna has been working for a relatively short time and our Section did not need to contact the office to solve any problems or seek support during this time. It can be noted, however, that all Sections of R8 are very promptly informed about the initiatives of the IEEE European Public Policy Committee.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Outstanding new initiatives:

- the Section ExCom decided to support the organization of the International Conference MIKON 2020 in Vilnius and gained support from the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania;
- the Section has supported the initiative of the YP and Student Branch of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University to establish a photo exhibition at the Faculty of Electronics.

Malta Section   Conrad Attard

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

In our section we are supporting existing events where several professional meet by participating actively and organizing the events ourselves as a section or chapter. In 2018 we have supported the digital health ecosystem and ERP debate by industry. We plan other events involve the computer society and WiE.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Most of the activities we organise are related to Industry, Education and Science (STEM). We also participate in strategic groups sessions designing for tomorrow (for both ICT and Engineering). While doing so we notice that more people become aware of IEEE and want to join. Every time we meet new people we speak of the advantages of being part of IEEE. We feel the best way to retain and attract people is to be part of new forums that are interested in our subjects. They might not be engineers or ICT professionals.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Our major success was setting a computer society chapter. The support we are finding will help us achieve more. The activities we organise are targeted to a specific audience allowing us to attract and retain our members. We also have new active members who are willing to be part of our section and affinity groups and committees. This was only possible due to the fact that we are managing our section effectively and succeeding in obtain support. Our events are liked and more and more people are joining each time.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We are focused on attracting more active members to allow us to share resources with IEEE in Africa. As suggested several times in past reports, lets map two section one from Africa and one from the rest of our region to help and support both sides.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

I have support when I asked and she was very helpful. Thanks

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We are celebrating 10years of Robot wars. The section this year is working hard to setup an arena and organize a great event once it will be rebuilt.

Morocco Section   Mohammed El Mohajir

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- We are running an IEEE initiative in our section called the "Industry.Connect" where we organize joint workshops with SMEs, public institutions and government offices to exchange latest development and collaboration for advancing technological projects. We are now working with some companies and governments on projects related to ERPs, Business Intelligence, Data Analytics and Digitalization. Our IEEE Young professionals are maintaining the Industry.Connect function and widen it to a larger audience;
- Internships for our IEEE student members in SMEs and companies is still an interesting formulae to engage with industry;
- R&D projects run by a mixed team from IEEE and SMEs;
- Our section offers training and continuing education for staff members who then become IEEE members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- We offer our members the possibility to initiate and develop new projects, organize events and network with communities worldwide to enhance their visibility and reach more opportunities. This is considered as a very attractive program for many students and professionals in Morocco;
- We run many types of activities and many join IEEE to be part of it. They can be technical, professional, social , humanitarian, networking, or team building activities. Reduced IEEE rates for attending high quality events encourage many students and professionals to join IEEE;
- Existing members are also very good ambassadors for attracting new members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

- Organizing the 19th MELECON 2018 Flagship Conference in Marrakech, Morocco. The event gathered about 80 participants from 25 countries was held on May 2018 in Marrakech and was considered as an intensive learning and capacity building event where a community composed of highly talented and distinguished researchers, professionals, and experts from Morocco and abroad got together to broaden their knowledge and share their experiences. The event was also an opportunity to reinforce networking and discuss innovative ideas and opportunities for synergies to start new projects and collaboration at various levels, within academia and between academia and industry. This is the spirit of the IEEE community and this is how we want it to work towards our human and socio-economic development, and for advancing our research work and maintain it at the required international academic standards.
- The 2018 IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit in Marrakech, Morocco On the 23rd of October 2018, in Marrakech, the WIE Affinity Group of the IEEE Morocco section celebrated the Women In Engineering International Leadership Summit. The event provided national and international networking opportunities to foster communication and collaboration between members of the WIE groups, empower and inspire them. The IEEE Women in Engineering Leadership Summit was an opportunity to provide a platform for women researchers, professionals, innovators and entrepreneurs working in ICT to learn from each other, share their knowledge and experience and create an inclusive community that commonly innovates to the benefit of the society; as well as promote the sense of collaboration, leadership, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit among attendees. A panel session under the topic "Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: "What opportunities & challenges for women in Technology? and What perspectives for tomorrow" took place at the end of the event with speakers from academia/Research and IT industry to discuss the main challenges and benefits related to technological transfer and transformation of research innovation conducted at the university level into entrepreneurial project that benefits our societies.
- Plan and run high added value events and conferences with more members and volunteers, the smartest!
- Get more experts for our activities, support for training and certification
- Enhance the visibility of our Members, researchers and professionals by Internationalizing our activities
- Encourage members to Submit Innovative Projects

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- Plan events where sections representatives in Africa can come together to share and discuss their latest project development and the challenges they are facing to do more.
- Our section successfully organized the 2018 IEEE Morocco HUMANITARIAN SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA SUMMIT, in October in Marrakech, Morocco With the goal to gather representatives from several IEEE AFRICAN SECTIONS to share their stories and experiences in conceiving and implementing humanitarian projects, the IEEE Morocco Section Held its first ever IEEE HAC event "HUMANITARIAN SUCCESS STORIES IN AFRICA

SUMMIT" in Marrakech Ouarzazate the 24th and 25th of October 2018. During this summit, distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds presented different Humanitarian projects, and discuss the problems and issues they encountered during the development of their ideas. During the first day, the summit brought together researchers working in the field of children with learning disabilities, with the aim to present and understand solutions developed to support rehabilitation of children with Autism and Dyslexia for reading deficiencies. There have been also talks by Moroccan IEEE groups working on communities' projects, Sight and HAC projects leaders from Africa and the official talk about the ingredients for a successful humanitarian initiative by the HAC committee Chair, Paul Cunningham. During the exhibition, Tunisia and Egypt representatives presented their SIGHT projects and shared their experiences, as well as the Moroccan student branches who talked about humanitarian projects for Moroccan remote villages. Two final technical talks about HAC initiatives and SIGHT have enabled a constructive discussion between participants, and a fruitful sharing of ideas, vision and experiences. The second day of the summit was devoted to a visit of an important local ONG in Ouarzazate called "Horizon". The latest empowers individuals with disabilities by providing them with medical assistance and technical training. The visit was an opportunity to discuss how HAC initiatives can provide support to this kind of ONGs, and how sustainability can be ensured for the projects that can be launched in collaboration with this kind of nonprofit organization. This summit has allowed the initiation of a collaboration between Local ONGs, IEEE HAC, and other IEEE groups in Tunisia, Egypt and Uganda. Such actions help to create synergies and collaborate within IEEE groups to develop joint humanitarian initiatives that meet better the needs of the respective local communities, actions that can endure on a 100 years period.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We would like the Vienna office help us disseminating the events organized by our section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- The launch of the IEEE Morocco Junior Innovators. This initiative targeted pre-university students interested to engage in new ways of learning. Our student Branches worked on a program called "Mechatronics engineering for innovative education" and they are offering tailored STEM training and competition challenges to our junior members using VEXIQ, Arduino and FABLab products.
- Award event for our IEEE Student Branches

Photos and figures

Nigeria Section   Raphael Onoshakpor

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Regarding industry engagements, the Section entered into various collaborative agreements with private companies during the year that include collaboration with the Electrical Division of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), and IBM. The section also got the approval to host the PES/IAS power Africa conference in August 2019 in Abuja. Several awareness campaign were carried out during the year, one of such example is membership drive during the digital Africa conference. 2 new Student branch were approved in 2018.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Following an aggressive awareness campaign, the Section active Membership grew from 502 Members in June 2018 to 862 active members in Dec, 2018. About 100 inactive members were reinstated while over 250 new members joined. The Section also won the 2018 Outstanding Section membership Recruitment and Retention performance award. The section now have a total of 53 Senior Member of IEEE.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The Newly elected exco member for the Section commenced work in January 2018 and officially inaugurated during the first section meeting in March in Abuja. The Nigeria Section had a total of 47 activities during the year 2018. These activities include Humanitarian, Technical Meetings, Administrative, virtual conferences and webinars to mention a few.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The Section has provided assistance to Gloria and has supported the Africa Council in terms of participation in activities (Tunisia meeting in 2018) and Also Council discussions at the Region 8 meetings.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The Vienna office appears to be giving support to region 8 although as a member section, the Nigeria Section does not presently have an active communication with the office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE Nigeria Section marked 40 years in 2018.

Photos and figures

Norway Section   Runar Søråsen

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We have identified that to foster industry relations, active chapters with industry participation is a necessity. The section is doing its best to support the chapters, both by inviting them to the Section ExCom meetings and by assessing the chapter structure. In addition, we are strengthening our collaborating with the national professional association Tekna, and in November 2018 we arranged a IEEE Distinguished Lecturer speak in collaboration with them.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The section has one Young Professionals Group. This group is quite active, and the new Chair works well in the role. To better attract and support future members we are motivating the Chapters to arrange seminar/workshops where also non-members are invited, but possible charge them a participant fee. Regarding recruitment of student members, we experience that a lot of national and local student organisations are competing about their attention. We should consider new incentives for them to become IEEE members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The re-instated Section ExCom (where the section board and the chairs of all chapters and affinity groups meet) has been partly a success. Still difficulties in assembling all the participants to the monthly/bi-monthly telcos.
Section vitality is to a large degree dependent on active chapters. Some chapters shows decreasing activity. Need to reach out to them to both assess the motivation of the chapter chairs and to ask if the section can provide some support.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Currently nothing planned, but open to suggestions of how to support IEEE in Africa.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Expect increased visibility of IEEE in Europe.
Development and support of further membership benefits adapted to the needs of members in R8.
The office in Vienna has currently not influenced our section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

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Oman Section   Ahmed Al Maashari

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The Section has developed "Benefit Package" document to be circulated and presented to the industry to encourage joining IEEE and participating in its activities. We currently have two IEEE members who are taking care of this task; namely, the honorary chair of the section and current Ambassador for Industry.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The Section has increased its support to Students and Young Professionals. In fact, the section is sponsoring a local SYP Congress to be organized this March. The congress will be an opportunity to recruit more members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

We find that organizing seminars and workshops work well for the section. In addition, we have scaled our capacity to technically sponsor conference, since this give an opportunity to recruit more volunteers.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Currently, the Section has not participated in activities in Africa.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Until now, the Section has not taken avail of the services provided by the Vienna office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Recruited more volunteers. Technically sponsoring 3 conferences. Organizing the first local SYP congress.

Poland Section   Mariusz Malinowski

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

IEEE Poland Section built with industry two initiatives:

- Common best thesis contest for students;
- Common platform, where industry can propose subject for thesis, which can be realized at university;

Moreover, IEEE Poland Section join to Polish Standard Committee, what is very attractive for industrial members, because they can influence created standards.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

IEEE Poland Section:

- Promote in very intensive way Senior Membership;
- Organize Student Branches (number of student branches were doubled);
- Organize workshops for YPs and WiEs.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

- IEEE Poland Section was officially registered in 2018. It was done after 46 years of activity in Poland;
- IEEE Poland Section is financial and technical sponsor of most important regional conferences;
- IEEE Poland Section co-organize very attractive events as exhibitions and Rover Robot Challenge.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

It was recommended already by IEEE Poland Section many times: "Sister Sections Program", where be created sister sections (one in Europe, one in Africa). Sister sections will support each other by invited lectures, scholarship, short visits etc.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Office can help local sections and R8 by support in efficient financial management, link with industry, link between European and African Sections etc. Current existence of office not influenced our section and their activity.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- 2017 Region 8 Outstanding Medium Section Award;
- 2018 IEEE YP Hall of Fame Award";
- Region 8 Exemplary Student Branch Award" for IEEE Opole Student Branch;
- 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance;
- "C-016 Computers"received "2017 Outstanding Chapter Award";
- IE013/PEL035 Industrial Electronics/Power Electronics received "2018 IEEE IES Best Chapter Activity Award;
- increased 10% membership;
- increased over 20% number of Senior Members;
- Doubled number of student branches;
- Women in Tech Summit with over 3k participants;
- Poland Section and German Section received common Milestone " Czochralski Method of Crystal Growth";

Portugal Section   José Pedro Silva

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

During 2018 we started an initiative to foster closer interactions with the Industry. With this in mind we signed the first PT Section Industry multi-year MoU with Bosch Portugal.

As a result Bosch participated in several IEEE activities such as Engineering Day and Leadership Camp. At the same time IEEE student members had the opportunity to do a visit do Bosch plant in Braga.

For 2019 we have already one MoU being finalized with Critical Manufacturing, a Software company in Porto area, following the model already tested with Bosch.

To help us reach more companies and with a more complete proposal, I believe IEEE is lacking an online training platform, covering all of our areas of expertise, in a easy and simplified access format.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Depending on the membership grade we are targeting, different activities are giving different results.

For students, we find Student Branches to be the best way to communicate and promote new membership opportunities. Each University/Polytechnic has it's unique set of challenges and needs, making each Student Branch uniquely qualified to organized different activities that match their specific need. Examples are technical workshops, job fairs, Industry visits...

For YP we currently supporting the new Affinity Group leadership to develop an activity program to develop throughout the next two years. We expect to reboot their activities as soon as possible.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Chapter's Summit - a full-day event were we provided training to all Chapter Chairs - was one of the major successes of 2018. This is impacting OU activities since their are now more informed and aware of new opportunities.

We also organized 2 face-to-face Executive Committee meetings (including Chapter and AG Chairs) per year, and the last one occurred this past January. In are now putting in place decisions take during the meeting.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We continue to be available to support IEEE Activities in Africa, specially in the Portuguese speaking countries. Despite some communication during the last R8 Meeting we are yet to receive further information on how we can help these activities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

None so far.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE University of Porto Student Branch was selected to organize one Women's Leadership Summit this year. We are starting now the process of helping the Student Branch to organized this activity.

Qatar Section   Somaya Al-maadeed

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

1) Activities/Programs/Initiative to Foster Industry Relations:
    ○ Need to have more International Industry Exposure;
    ○ Communication between the Industry Relation officers of various section can help in sharing experiences.
2) Changes required by IEEE to Improve Industry Relations:
    ○ More IEEE funding to encourage meetings with Industry People at initial stages
3) Major Successes in terms of Industry Relations:
    ○ So far only assigning Industry Relation Officer for the section
4) Steps to foster further Industry Relations:
    ○ Arranging Technical Workshops, Seminars for the Members from Industry (based on their feedback)

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

1) Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to support Students and Young Professionals
    ○ Technical Seminars and Field trips focusing the Student Members, exposing them to the Work environment and opportunities to work there in the future
    ○ Encourage and funding them for next SYP Congress
2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better support Students and Young Professionals
    ○ Subsidies for conferences and broadcasting it so that students members are aware of it
3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young professionals
    ○ Increase in the numbers of student members
    ○ Winner of the ?Best Student Branch? in the GCC Student Congress
    ○ Tasks to support the Students and Young Professionals
    ○ Conducting regular meetings with them
    ○ Informing them regarding the technical seminars and Field Trips
    ○ Student Branches aiming for more awards in the region
4) Things to do to continue Supporting Students and Young Professionals
    ○ More workshops on the benefits of joining IEEE
    ○ More Examples of success stories of Student and Young Professionals
    ○ Allocate fund for the SYP Congress

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

1) Activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section
    ○ International Conferences in the region
2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability
    ○ Provide Support and opportunity for hosting international conferences
3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality
    ○ Student Branches are winners in various Student Congresses
    ○ Received Recognition Award from Membership Development office for meeting goals regarding retention
    ○ Formation of the IEEE Legal Entity in Qatar
    ○ Student Branches are involved in meetings
    ○ Initiatives to have more Affinity Groups
4) Tasks to Foster the Section Vitality
    ○ Communicate with all the Officers in the Qatar Section
    ○ Hold Elections or nominate officers for vacant positions
    ○ Conducting Seminars/Technical Talks
    ○ Organizing International conferences in Qatar

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

1) Recommendations:
    ○ Student Congress in Africa

- ○ Motivate more students from Student Branches to apply for the IEEE SYP congress
- ○ Noting down all the recommendations and discussing during the IEEE Region 8 Meeting
2) Support from Qatar Section
    - ○ Send some students in the Student Congress in Africa to share their experiences with them.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Invite students from Qatar Section to visit the office and get motivated to be more active in IEEE Excom from all the sections in Region 8 to have annual meeting in the IEEE office and share experiences among each other.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

None

Republic of Macedonia Section   Pero Latkoski

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our section has a continuous problem with lower number of members coming from the industry. This number is around 10% of the total members, leaving the other 90% with academia background. The main reason for this lays with our humble industry capacity, as well as because of the ever increasing brain-drain that is happening in Macedonia. In order to foster the industry relations, we are still looking for a suitable industry relation ambassador who has an industry involvement at the moment and who will hopefully find a practical means to get the Section closer to our industry. The very first step will be to determine the actual needs of the colleagues from the industry, and to identify their benefits in joining and actively participating the IEEE society. Then, our plan is to organize meetings with the industry managers and higher level executives to present the IEEE benefits and to recruit more members and volunteers among them. Our extended plan includes signing MoU agreements with companies for internship programs, which will result in IEEE-aware young people within the industry.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The work of our new MD officer started to give results. According to the December 2018 MD report, our Section takes the second place in recruitment and we have reached 133.3% of our goal. Our MD officer gives a special attention to the student membership recruitment and retention by informing targeted students about the IEEE and by providing instructions and practical help for the students so they can easily pay the membership fee in our local currency. The Young Professionals are very active in our Section, organizing several activities per year. The Section supports all these events. Our Facebook page is continuously updated with the forthcoming events and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are member or not yet. Over 1000 people follow our posts about Section's activities. Finally, we have also appointed a Life Member Coordinator and an Education Activities officer who will help in our goas to attract and support our future members. We have already asked and received a membership development kit from the IEEE central.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

This is the second year of our section's officers, so the things are going easily now. Our past officers are helping as well, providing valuable experience in many aspects related to the Section Vitality. We are continuing with regular ExCom meetings where all the activities are planned. Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about our efforts and activities. In order to achieve an increase in the visibility of our Section among the general public and in particular to foster the importance of our IEEEE members' achievements, we have proposed an IEEE milestone named as "First control of a robot using brain signals", an event that has happened in 1988 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Skopje (http:ieeemilestones.ethw.orgMilestones_Status_Report). We have also prepared suitable gifts for our members as a part of our Member Loyalty Program recognition, including IEEE jacket pin for every member.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Council Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Maybe the IEEE R8 could organize and sponsor selected members and volunteers from Africa to visit and participate some of the IEEE events organized in Europe (e.g. flagship R8 conferences). Also bringing some R8 events to Africa could foster IEEE in Africa, as more members from there can participate the events without significant travel expenses.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

So far we didn't have any contact with the Vienna office. We expect that they can serve as a more accessible liaison to support us in the communication with the appropriate IEEE stuff members and in getting more timely support when needed. For example, many of our valuable volunteers upgraded to Senior member level, are waiting for their plaques for years. Maybe Vienna office can help with this kind of geographically related problems.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Our COMSOC chapter has been selected winner of 2018 Communications Society Chapter Achievement Awards. Winning COMSOC chapters are selected by Regional Directors and the Membership Services Director and have received a plaque and honorarium ($1,000), which were presented at the IEEE GLOBECOM conference in Abu Dhabi in December 2018. On the other hand, our Section once again supports the biggest student event in the area of robotics called RoboMac which will take place in March 18-21, 2019 and will be organized by our student branch. We have successfully obtained a sponsorship ($3,000) from the US Embassy for this international competition for robotics and artificial intelligence. The vision of this event is to popularize robotics among students and young people in the region.

Romania Section   Cristian Negrescu

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- Invited presentations of distinguished lecturers are hosted by various companies. Also, companies are invited to attend such lectures hosted by universities.
- Companies are involved in organizing conferences together with universities. Over the years, many engineers from industry understood that IEEE is the best way to publish their work, to increase their personal visibility, to be up to date with the newest technology advancements. The visibility of their work helps them to participate in EU funded research projects.
- Some chapters present awards, on yearly basis, to engineers from industry. For instance, PES Chapter presents the Outstanding Engineer Award.
- The Section helps engineers from industry to elevate to Senior Member.
- Engineers from industry are invited to universities to share their professional experience. The most active chapters are CS, EMB, PES, and MAG.
- Extensive participation of IEEE members into IEEE Standards Association and other standardization bodies (IEC, CEN-CENELEC, ASRO), which is usually attained through a strong collaboration with industrial representatives in these bodies. Most active: IEEE-PES and IEEE IMS.
- ntensive courses for local national and international companies are organized and are well attended.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- In order to encourage the future engineers to become IEEE members, the IEEE Romania Section pays the membership fee for the first-year membership for students proposed by chapters.
- We believe that free access free to IEEEXplore for students will help IEEE to reach its goals. Most of the students cannot afford to pay for having access to IEEE publications, but their access will help the science. IEEE will have no financial loss from this.
- Representatives of the Section participate to various conferences held in Romania to present the benefits of being an IEEE member.
- The Section supports financially (awards) all IEEE student competitions organized by the Romanian chapters (SSC, ED, EMB, CS).
- A new Student Branch was formed at University Politehnica of Timisoara last year. We are in progress of creating two new SBs, one at Technical University of Cluj-Napoca and one at the Technical University of Iasi.
- The YP AG celebrated the IEEE Day.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

- The number of members of the IEEE Romania section was maintained over 1000 last years. This was also possible because of young professional and student members who understood the benefits offered by IEEE.
- The IEEE Romania Section contains 24 Chapters and 2 Affinity Groups. Many of our chapters (CS, PES, IAS, ES, and MAGS) are very active and organize various activities in the spirit of IEEE. Examples of activities are conferences, one-day workshops, invited speakers, student competitions, promotional activities and others.
- In 2018 we had elections within the Women in Engineering AF. We have now an enthusiastic team who did an interesting program of activities for 2019. Also, 2018 was successfully closed, with two meetings.
- The Section encourages members to apply for Senior Member and Fellow.
- Conferences and technical events are good practices to keep the members active within the IEEE. The Section promotes IEEE and the Section?s activities during the opening ceremonies organized in Romania. On the other hand, rules have been introduced to increase the quality of the conferences.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The IEEE Romanian Section would like to support IEEE members from Africa by tutoring them.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- Still not very clear how this office can support our Section. However, we expect support in dealing with local rules when organizing conferences financially co-sponsored by IEEE Romania.
- It would be great to have free access to webinars/short courses/ on research ethics (IEEE code of ethics).

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- ○ Two Chapters were created in Romania in 2018, i.e. "Robotics and Automation Society" and "Antennas and Propagation Society and Council on RFID Joint Chapter".
- ○ However, although the Section develops activities to attract industry, the large number of members are from universities.

Russia Section   Sergey Bankov

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in Russia Section to foster Industry Relations:

- Arrangement at sponsored conferences special boards about IEEE and IEEE advantages for Russian industry;
- Participation in our meetings leaders of Russian engineering for better understanding industrial needs;
- Close cooperation with national professional societies: Popov radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russian academy of Electro Engineering, Russia URSI branch;

Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry relations:

- We need to arrange regular meetings with participation of industry leaders, students, IEEE activists;

Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations:

- We initiated a discussion with Russian industry leaders with purpose to arrange mentioned above meetings and we hope that the industry will become more active.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members:

- Regular information distributed via Internet about advantages of IEEE membership.
- System of discounts for IEEE members participating in conferences sponsored by IEEE;
- System of discounts for students and young professionals participating in conferences sponsored by IEEE.

Required changes: more active promotion of IEEE in student and young professional community Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young Professionals:

- Activity of new young professionals affinity group arranged on the base of South Federal University.

Future plans:

- We are planning to arrange together with IEEE Russia North-West Section conference for students and young professionals.
- We are going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals: establishing of new IEEE student branches in universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Activities/programs/initiatives well to drive the vitality and sustainability of our Section:

- Creation of new and development of existing territorial Russia section branches: Saratov, Nijniy Novgorod, Rostov-on-Don IEEE chapters;
- Close cooperation with national professional societies: Popov radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch;
- Promotion of IEEE Russia Section via sponsored conferences.

Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability:

- Regular administrative meetings including chapter chairs meetings;
- Regular meetings with Russia industry leaders;
- Regular publishing in IEEE Russia section web site information about events and activity in Russia section.

Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality:

- Section chair elections in January 2019;
- Design of section logo and its distribution at IEEE conferences in Russia;
- Raising of IEEE members number in Russia Section;
- Raising of IEEE conferences number sponsored by Russia Section.

Future plans: we are planning to activate our work directed to establishing of student branches in Russian universities.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- Organize online course, webinars and workshops;
- Organize student contests for both undergraduate and graduate students;
- Organize regular African conferences sponsored by IEEE;
- Organize regular African administrative meetings for IEEE officers;
- Apply mass media (TV, newspapers, Internet, social networks etc.) for IEEE promotion.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

This subject requires more time to get experience in interaction with new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We are planning together with Popov radio engineering and communication society and National academy of electrical science to organize new conference covering wide range of topics and financially sponsored by IEEE Russia Section. Russia section was awarded by a special honorary badge for an outstanding achievement in the 2018 membership year.

Russia (North West) Section   Mikhail Shestopalov

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Annual Conference on Strategic cooperation of academia and industry, establishing joint research and teaching labs at universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Annual conference of young researchers sponsored by the Section. We are going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals in establishing of new IEEE student branches at universities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Seminars for young researchers with invited speakers from industry and academia.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Inviting African students studying at Russian universities to join IEEE.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

There was no need to contact the Office last year.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Section member Damir Imaev elevated to Life Member.

Russia (Siberia) Section   Alexey S. Rodionov

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Industrial applications that are closely connected with tasks of development North, Far East and Asia-Pacific regions are of the prime interest for the Section. Special sessions and exhibitions devoted to industrial applications took place at the conferences supported by the Section, for example at the" XII International scientific and technical conference *Dynamics of Systems, Mechanisms and Machines (Dynamics-2019) 13-15 November 2018, Omsk, Russia" and "XIV International scientific-technical conference "Actual Problems Of Electronic Instrument Engineering", Novosibirsk, 3-6 October 2018. Such events are welcomed and planned in all conferences and scientific schools supported and organized by the Section, IT technologies, wireless networking and Involving of the biomedical engineers in IEEE through development of relationship with the Siberian Branch of Medical Sciences (The Russian Academy of Sciences) and the Novosibirsk Technopark is our current task. Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd from China is our new partner in development IT projects and organizing conferences.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Regular meetings with students in main universities are organized. Special reports and presentations are included in programs of all conferences that are supported and/or organized by Section. As a result, the Section has received Certificate for "2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance". For better development and attraction of new members special programs are needed for supporting participation of young professionals and students in events in Europe: travelling expanses are too high for Siberians (about 500 EUR from Novosibirsk versus 80-100 from Paris for flight to Stockholm) Student Paper Contest are included in programs of conferences that are supported and/or organized by Section, for example, Student Paper Contest and Conference on the Information Security (SIBINFO) on April 17-18, 2018, Tomsk.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Organizing the following conferences:

- XII International scientific and technical conference "Dynamics of Systems, Mechanisms and Machines (Dynamics-2019) 13-15 November 2018, Omsk, Russia";
- XIV International scientific-technical conference "Actual Problems Of Electronic Instrument Engineering", Novosibirsk, 3-6 October 2018;
- 19th International Conference of Young Specialists on Micro/Nanotechnologies and Electron Devices (EDM) (29 June - 3 July 2018);
- Siberian Symposium on Data Science & Engineering 2018 (SSDSE), 30-31 October 2018;
- The 11th International Conference on Bioinformatics of Genome Regulation and Structure
  System Biology BGRS
  SB'2018, 20-25 August, Novosibirsk, 2018, and others.
- In the course for expanding IEEE into Central Asia the International Conferences on Wireless and Optical Communications Networks were organized in Kyrgyzstan (WOCN2018KG, 15-17 November, 2018, Bishkek), and Tajikistan (WOCN2018TJ, 7-9 November 2018, Dushanbe) were supported by the Section
- Support of scientific activity and involving of the Students, Masters and Postgraduates in the IEEE Members through the Weekly IEEE SibSUTIS Scientific Seminar on the 4G/5G & Next Generations of Information (IT), Communications (ICT) and Computer (CT) Technologies.
- Support of professional activity of the IEEE Members through the Monthly IEEE Seminar on Radio Engineering organized by Siberian Federal University and Krasnoyarsk Joint IEEE Chapter.
- Cooperation with Technopark of Novosibirsk Akademgorodok is needed in organizing and carrying out seminars and scientific schools.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Gloria Chuckwudebe should study the experience of promoting IEEE in the regions of Central Asia, where there is also poor infrastructure, often poorly educated people and the needs for energy, communication and water are similar to those in Africa.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

May be we are just too far from Vienna, but we have not feel any difference.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We need a lot of support from IEEE management in the participation of Siberian students and young professionals in the organization's events.

Saudi Arabia (East) Section   Mohammad Al-Muhaini

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The section appointed an industrial relation officer that is required to provide leadership necessary to build relationships between the section and local employers of electrical or computer engineers. He will also work with industry to establish an understanding of their needs and demonstrates that the IEEE can help address their needs Identifies ways to recognize industry for technical or professional achievements relevant to the IEEE. The section is also in the process of preparing sponsorship packages for the industry to engage them to the section's activities. Many speakers are also invited from the industry to deliver technical seminars and presentations.

We will keep working to improve the level of collaboration through the following actions,

- Inviting industry representatives to IEEE meetings;
- Visiting industrial organizations and promoting IEEE;
- Collaborating with industry in organizing technical seminars;
- Contacting industrial organizations to sponsor technical dinner meetings.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The main goal in 2018 was to increase the number of activities within the section on both levels, students and professionals. The increase in activities will naturally increase the number of memberships. The section organized more than 50 events last year attended by more than 2000 members and guests. A Student Coordinator was appointed to coordinate activities of various student branches within the Kingdom. The section is also planning to keep organizing high quality events and big initiatives within the section in 2019.

The section will also keep implementing the following tasks,

- The section organized the 1st SYP GCC in the region with the help of student branches and YPs in the region.
- Officers will visit several universities and introduce IEEE benefits.
- Several events will be sponsored at different student branches around the kingdom.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The section is planing to create a long term plan for all activities and conferences and create a step-by-step planning criteria to be followed by all society chapters and student branches.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

More collaboration between the sections in Africa and Middle East is needed in terms of competitions and joint workshops.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

We need legal services and support from the office of Vienna.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

More than 50 events were organized in 2018 attended by more than 2000 members and guests. 4 technical sponsored conferences will be organized within the section in 2019. New initiatives will be also planned for YP and WIE within the section.

Serbia & Montenegro Section   Boris Dumnic

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Attracting more interest from the Industry towards the activities of IEEE has been in the focus of the Section in the recent years. In order to encourage the partners from the Industry to assume more prominent role in the IEEE, their benefits need to be reconsidered and novel services need to be established and offered to Industry partner. The global IEEE community (including Regions and Sections) needs to utilize and promote concept of knowledge-based production offering accumulated knowledge and experiences to the Industry partners. The modern Industry is facing with numerous challenges such as: innovative projects (product, service or process), projects with many uncertainties, complex projects, multidisciplinary teams, multicultural, multi-site etc., and it is very demanding to increase (or even just keep) productivity. Agile methodology and concepts, (developed by IEEE in close cooperation with Industry partner) can answer these industrial challenges and should be offered to all industry sectors - from innovative services to heavy industries.

Section supported and will continue to support projects with the topic of Industry (particularly Industry 4.0) and digitalization, trying to bridge the gap between the technical knowledge and applicable solutions. In that regard, the Section has supported numerous activities organized at the national and international conferences that have included a significant number of representatives from the leading companies within the region. In 2019 one of the key event for Section is EUROCON 2019 conference, which will be organized from 1st to 4th July in Novi Sad. In order to make conference more attractive and to improve cooperation with Industry - during the conference Industry Panel Session and Exhibition will be organized with prominent companies (such us Continental AG, Schneider Electric DMS NS, Typhoon HIL, IGB Automotive?). This event will offer the opportunity for the Companies to voice their needs and requirements, among the other benefits (recognition, new products and services presentation, attracting new employees?).

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Different activities and events aimed at promoting IEEE membership benefits are constantly organizing in the Section. As for example, the Section is always organizing joint membership renewal process (constantly keeping track of the statistics and encouraging the individual institutions to improve membership development activities), campaign for new members (organized at main University centers in a duration of several weeks), presenting benefits of IEEE membership at all conference/events where the Section is involved. As the result of these activities the Serbia and Montenegro Section has been awarded with Gold medal for 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance. To better attract and support future members, new services should be established offering an additional value to the current and future IEEE members. Currently, one of the most attractive service of the IEEE is the IEEExplore, which is usually unavailable to the student and young professional members. Additionally, following the new trends more interactive content should be made available on all IEEE related websites. However, increased availability and clarity of the information is necessary within the Section especially for the Section Chapters.

The Section will continue to support Student Branches within their activities as well as YP Affinity Group with all necessary logistic and financial support. The Section (and IEEE in general) should recognize and make use of the potential in student and young professional members, helping them transition into future Industry leaders, while simultaneously facilitating their interest for IEEE activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

In order to drive the vitality and sustainability of the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section special attention is given to definition and adoption of the plan and budget for the yearly Section activities. The Section has a formal process for these activities.

Section officers maintain good relationship with organizing committees for different national and international conferences, organizing IEEE section presentations and various events at the respective conference venues.

IEEE S&M Section web page (http:www.ieee.uns.ac.rs?r) is updating regularly and contains all the necessary information required by the perspective members or other visitors. The information regarding every event sponsored or supported by IEEE S&M Section is available online at the Section website.

The Section has recognized that the recruitment of the membership is one of the most important condition for the section vitality. In that regard, the Section officers maintain extraordinary efforts in attracting new members and offering interesting new activities for all interested parties.

For running the Section activities vTools are regularly used (reporting, nominations for leadership roles, officer?s election). Additionally, the Section nominated the Chapter Coordinator whose (in cooperation with Sections officers) continuously review meeting reporting on vTools and contact volunteers to update if necessary.

Additionally, the Section has very active base of ?regular? members, vigorously operating through a number of different chapters in order to organize different technical meetings, events and distinguished lectures with the aim to provide the additional value to the members for professional development. Since the last Region 8 meeting, the Section was organized

workshop entitled ?Tools and techniques for Cost and Time Management in Project Management?, lectured by Amith Khandakar.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section together with Section officers are more than willing to take part in any activities created by the Region 8 and aimed at fostering the IEEE in Africa.
The Section can offer the experience in membership development within the low income economies, as well as a good practice example for professional cooperation among the territories and countries with difficult and demanding political and ethnical situation.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna,Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The Section members are firmly convinced that IEEE Office in Vienna is beneficial to all IEEE Region 8 members, however more information?s about offered services and achieved results needs to be easy available to all members. Additionally, the information and the dissemination of the Office activities so far are not easily found online and in those available, there are so many general claims without clear indications of the achieved results (for example: Vienna Office: ?help shape public policy in Europe for the benefit of the profession and humanity?. This general claim must be accomplished with concrete activities and result.)

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The most important recent event for the IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section was the 111th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting, which was held successfully in Belgrade, on October 19-21, 2018. The Section hosted this meeting and was in charge of the local organization of the event.

Slovenia Section   Andrej Trost

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The Section maintains industry relations by continuously inviting researchers from industry to present their work at conferences and local chapter events. We also encourage the IEEE members from the local industry to attend the IEEE technical events such as IEEE fellow invited talks. Our student branch was involved with organization of PLC+ student challenge with Siemens. A representative from Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia was invited to talk at IEEE open day event.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

We support the future members by providing opportunities to be connected with the best professionals in their field of interest and to educate them at every stage of ther career. There are many societies and organizations competing to attract our students with social and professional events sponsored with the state funds. We have a challenge to present the benefits of the IEEE membership, specifically to young students. The IEEE student members and young professionals involved in volunteering are eager to attend SYP congress or other international events motivating them to continue their engagement with the IEEE.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The IEEE members in Slovenia section regularly renew their membership and we have outstanding retention rate. We will continue to support our local chapters to carry out several technical activities for the IEEE members. The YP affinity group was involved in many events and we revitalized WIE. We get a lot of advice regarding the Section operation from the life members who initiated the IEEE Slovenia section. Our plan is to open one or two new local chapters to foster the Section vitality. The results of continuous support and promotion are high retention numbers for our members.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We recommend the chapters to organize the IEEE conferences in Africa and support collaboration of the professionals, researchers and students. The IEEE should help to promote the engineering education in Africa and exchange of the students with the European universities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The Vienna office could gather specific needs and promote best practies to support the IEEE members in central European contries. So far, the office did not influence our section.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We received in 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance award.

South Africa Section   Darrin Cornish

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We are finding that the chapter initiatives serve to increase the industry participation, most likely owing to the specialised nature of chapters. Thus we are making a concerted push to increase the number of chapters locally to help foster engagement from members and industry.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

Our members are attracted to value-add for themselves. The conference fee discount etc. are not viewed as a high add for the majority of professionals as they can't afford either the time or money to attend these conferences. Note the majority of IEEE conferences occur relatively far away from SA, incurring a very large travel fee which combined with a relatively low exchange rate makes the travel far more expensive than the actual conference fee. Thus what has worked well are local value adds such as workshops and distinguished lecturers/speakers. Our membership has continued to grow, and we are working harder to local value-add.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

A large push towards increasing the number of chapters/ branches within the section to increase value for members. The specialised nature of chapters/branches allowed for focused value-add on an individual basis and increase the number of local conference hosts. On that note conferences have also been increasing and student branches are becoming more active with workshops and several events on IEEE Day pushed by the IEEE student branches. THis course seems to work well for our members and tus we will continue to develop these types of activities.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

As South Africa, we would be excited to see increased African hosting of large conferences, as it reduces travel costs significantly. WE are currently apart of the African Area Council.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Logistics and coordination. Not in a very noticeable way given the distance.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Once again awarded a gold medal recognition from IEEE for membership development and retention. Significant push towards increasing local chapters.

Spain Section   Jesus Fraile-Ardanuy

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations?
Working in touch with young professionals and other IEEE Spain members who are currently working in Industry. We have actively collaborated with Endesa (one of the biggest electric utilities in Spain)
What changes would be required byIEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations?
Provide new contacts in international companies.
What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of IndustryRelations?
We organized our IEEEDay with some speakers from different companies: technical talks provided by people from Endesa, a WIE panel discussion with several women engineers from Telcom companies, a YP panel discussion with several YP members from different companies.
How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations? *
We are participating in some entrepreneur programs of universities and acting as mentors of new companies, fostering relations with them, and publishing the opportunity for them to obtain collaboration from IEEE members and IEEE Spain section.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

We are increasing our support to YP activities and promoting IEEE through our Student branches in different Universities. We have created a new Student Branch in Valladolid University.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

We have launched a new senior member promotion pilot program with great results. During 2019 we will expand this program to the rest of our members. We are increasing the number of activities (WIE, YP, Chapters, etc.) and promoting through a new web site. We have kept our awards program with great results. Our members are better informed and, for this reason, they feel more a part of IEEE Spain.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We don't have programmed any activities to support IEEE Activities in Africa.
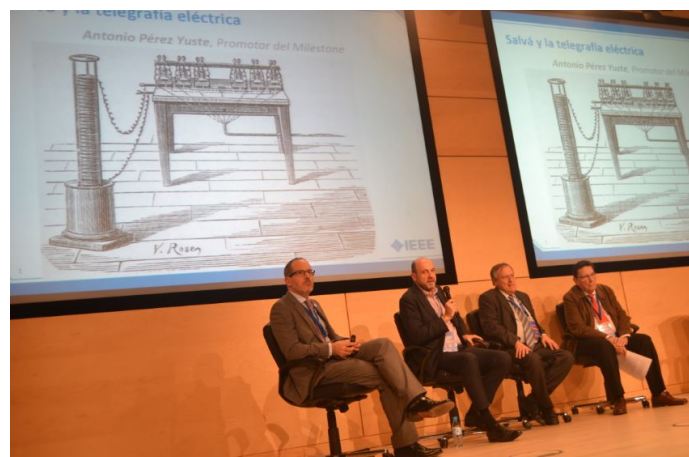
What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

TI don't know what are the main objective of this IEEE Office, therefore the influence of this office in our section is null.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We have celebrated our 50 Anniversary.

Photos and figures

Sweden Section   Samarth Deo

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Almost all the activities we do in the section is done in collaboration with industries- either it is co-sponsored or hosted. One of the most successful events in the section has been a panel discussion, where we invite one speaker from academia and one from industry and discuss a common topic of interest. This annual event has seen high participation and has been a flag bearer for the section.

One of the ways we can foster better industry relations is to collaborate with YP more. At the moment the YP Sweden Section is full of talents working in different parts of industry. Some have been working for big names like Spotify, Google, ABB among others. Our aim is to let this mutual beneficial relation foster more in the years to come.

The improvement I would suggest to IEEE or the Region 8 is to be inclusive when it comes to industry. While we always run for big names- Google, Intel, Microsoft, we should not forget that there are a ton of other firms that are of interest to IEEE. We should try to reach out to them for partnerships and collaborations.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The "IEEE Sweden Section Annual Chapter Chairs Workshop" is an annual event organised by the section, where all the chapter chairs, affinity group chairs and student branch chairs meet and discuss how we can take section activities to the next level. This is a face to face meeting in Stockholm, which also gives a platform for all the chapters to discuss their ideas and if possible- collaborate and conduct joint events. We have run this workshop for the fifth time in row in 2018.

For students and young professionals, industry visits are very attractive. Further CV writing and interview workshops are quite famous, specially if it is conducted by another young professional. We see a good participation in such events and we try to advertise IEEE as much as possible here.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

A quarterly newsletter published and circulated to all the members in the section increases the visibility of events we do during the year. We also include any awards won by the section volunteers. This has received good feedback from the members.

We conduct a senior member drive event under the banner of membership development, where we invite all the members eligible for senior membership and explain them what an IEEE senior member drive is about and how could one apply for. This has only increased the number of senior members in the section over the years.

For students and young professionals, there is an induction program in autumn, soon after the new students join universities. This is a social event where we talk about the benefits of IEEE and how can one involve himself/herself in activities.

Owing to the above efforts, we received the silver medal for membership retention and growth from the MGA in 2018.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

Be close to industry while conducting events and always involve the younger generation.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

The IEEE plaques, certificates we order at the moment come from the IEEE office in NJ, USA. While the product itself is cheap usually, the shipping costs a lot. This can be very well taken care by the Vienna office.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

2018 Outstanding Section Membership Retention Performance.

Switzerland Section   Maria-Alexandra Paun

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

Our Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches have organized many events in which the industry was involved. Below are three reports from IEEE Swiss Chapters on their main events, which highlight the Industry Relations.

1) Report from IEEE Swiss Solid State Chapter, Chair: Mathieu Coustans. We have been giving the floor to companies to speak on their last developments. Membership seems to appreciate with an average of 25 participants. Mathieu has written the first article in society magazine, given by a Distinguished Lecturer From AMS AG in Zurich. On 8 November 2018, IEEE Solid-State Circuits Society (SSCS) Distinguished Lecturer (DL) David Stoppa visited ETH Zurich. Stoppa, senior manager of the time-of-flight (TOF) development team at ams AG, Zurich, delivered the lecture, "CMOS Sensors and Readout Circuits for Three-Dimensional Imaging". A second event was held on the back to back lecture given by a start-up in Geneva and another from Zurich dealing with Neuromophic Machine learning Integrated solutions, particularly applied to vision recognition. These two lecture attracted some new members. The other aspects are really to be discussed in committee, as how they find a vice chair candidate, so they will proceed with electronic voting at society level.

2) Report from IEEE Swiss EMC/AP/MTT Chapter, Chair: Nicolas Mora. We can mention the HPE Workshop that EMC/AP/MTT Chapter held in February last year. Nicolas made a brief report for the AP chapter, a global report for the Section and an article that appeared in the EMC Magazine with pictures and a description of their event. The workshop was a one-day meeting for technical interchange on the topic of High Power Electromagnetics (HPE), with a focus in Nuclear Electromagnetic Pulse (NEMP), Intentional Electromagnetic Interference (IEMI), and Lightning Electromagnetics. The invited speakers gave lectures or short talks about their research or industrial activities. It constituted a very good opportunity to review the ongoing work about HPE in Switzerland and neighboring countries, and to foster networking and future activities in this domain that has lost some attention during the past years. There were 72 registered participants. Regarding the positions of the participants, 46% of them came from industry, 43% from academia, 8% from government agencies, and 3% did not include their position during registry.

3) Report from IEEE Swiss PELS Chapter, Chair: Drazen Dujic. After several years of inactivity, Swiss Power Electronics (PEL) chapter has been reactivated in May this year and is currently ramping up its networking activities. Prof. Drazen Dujic, head of the Power Electronics Laboratory at Ecole polytechnique fèdèrale de Lausanne (EPFL), currently serves as the chair of the chapter. Very first technical lectures, organized under auspices of the Swiss PEL chapter, have been organized at two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technologies, ETHZ and EPFL, respectively. In July at ETH, Zurich, Prof. Johann Kolar hosted Prof. Chunting Mi from San Diego University, USA, who gave a lecture titled "High efficiency wireless charging of electric vehicles". In September at EPF, Lausanne, Prof. Drazen Dujic hosted a lecture by Dr. Ki-Bum Park from ABB Corporate Research Centre in Switzerland, titled "Minimization of grid-tied power electronics converters". Both lectures were well attended and provided opportunities for exchange of technical ideas among participants. Material from these lectures is available at chapter web page www.ieee.ch/chapters/pel/. In incoming months, Swiss chapter will continue with organization of technical and educational seminars and workshops, providing a platform for networking and exchange among IEEE members.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

1) As Chair of IEEE Switzerland, while I attend different technical conferences or other events, whenever I have the opportunity, I will set up a booth with IEEE promotional material and I talk about the IEEE membership. Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs are also passionate to present the IEEE membership to other people.

2) We run events that people are interested in attending and willing to become IEEE members after they have attended them (e.g. the events organized by various Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches in our Section).

3) Also, some type of competitions like IEEEXtreme 24-h programming competition are very popular and attract many participants, especially Students and Young professionals.

4) Professional developments workshops attract many students and young professionals. The IEEE Student Branch at EPFL organized the Workshop on STARS methodology on October 6th 2018 which proved to be a success.

5) Also courses like the "IEEE Technical Writing Workshop by IBM Research" organized at EPFL Lausanne on September 27th 2018 including a face-to-face individual session with the instructor at the end proved very popular and the 20 places were quickly filled up, with people from outside Lausanne coming specifically to attend this workshop.

6) Also hot new topic as blockchain and drones are popular and people are very happy to join these events. We now have a Swiss Working group on "Blockchain and decentralized systems" that has just launched, also with the support of R8, on January 21st 2019 at EmTech 2019 in Davos. We also had the IEEE Day celebration at EPFL Lausanne (with more than 50 participants) on October 10th 2018 devoted to airborne electrical robots/drones, with the support and organization of the IEEE Student Branch at EPFL.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

1) The Section updates the section website regularly with information (events description, etc.) and sends invitations through eNotice to its members to invite them to different events that are being organized in Switzerland. Chapter and Affinity Groups also use eNotice to send invitations to events to their members.

2) We organize frequent physical meetings in the IEEE Switzerland Section ExCom (at least five per year including the Annual General Assembly) and establish constant dialogue through e-mails and phone calls when necessary.

3) We organize, at Section level, technical and professional development events, such as workshops, seminars and technical talks.

4) The Section checks the meeting reporting on vTools for all local units, Chapters and Affinity Groups. The Section via its Secretary, Mr. Ben Bowler, sends friendly reminders about the dates of reporting in order to get the rebate bonus.

5) We ensure to report in vTools all Section Officers, Affinity Group Chairs, Chapter Chairs, and Student Branch Chairs.

6) We check for the inactive chapters and send them messages about their status.

7) We also strive and encourage the formation of new chapters and invite the people who want to form a new Chapter to our ExCom meetings to present themselves and their vision for the new chapter.

8) We have a solid presence on social media (i.e. LinkedIn and IEEE Collabratec) where we also have a Switzerland section group and advertise our events.

9) At the events we organize, we ask if more people would like to volunteer with the Section, a Chapter, Affinity Group of Student Branch.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

1) IEEE Switzerland Section is happy to offer our full support to IEEE Activities in Africa.

2) IEEE Switzerland Section can provide all the necessary support for different activities and collaborations. We are reachable and open to cooperation.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

1) We have communication with the IEEE office in Vienna. We had close contact with them about the Blockchain initiative.

2) The IEEE office on EU policy is something of importance for industry people. Especially considering the last regulation taken on research in Solid State Circuit in Switzerland.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

1) The first iEEE Stammtisch@EPFL took place on Monday late afternoon Noember 26th in the MED building on Campus, with possibility of having drinks and snacks in the local Sushibar and if needed access to the Palaz Auditorium for visual presentations. In future these Stammtisch informal meetings, where members and their guests can attend without previous registration, will be scheduled on the last Monday of each month, same place and same time 5:30-7:30, the first for 2019 being scheduled on Monday February 25th, 2019.

Tunisia Section   Adel M. Alimi

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The following activities fostered our industry relations:

- Co-founder of the ?IoT Tunisia? group in cooperation with well-known ICT companies in Tunisia in order to improve the technical skills of our members
- Organizing industry tours for students to the main companies and manufactures
- Inviting industrial engineers to the IEEE conferences
- Signing MOU with main companies in Tunisia: Primatec, Cynapsys, and Logidas

Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations:

- 1 new MOU was signed on November 2017 with Logidas
- The number of IEEE professional members from industry increased
- The section?s newsletter was sent to the local companies in order to present the IEEE Tunisia section activities

The section will continue to foster Industrial Relations by the following actions:

- Organize a networking meeting between industry stakeholders and IEEE student who will be graduated on 2018
- Organize challenges in cooperation with industry partners
- Sign more agreements between IEEE Tunisia section and companies

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

To support our members, the section organized the following activities / programs / initiatives:

- IEEE Tunisian Students and YP congress
- IEEE Tunisian Engineering day for students to present their projects
- Helped students to participate in the IEEE competitions (IEEE Day, MTG, MadC, IEEEXtreme Programming, etc.)
- Helped members to develop projects and to search for IEEE foundation funds
- Helped students and YP to participate to the main IEEE events in Tunisia, including ME-SYP in Tunisia and IAS annual meeting
- Helped student branches, student chapters, and WIE student groups to organize their activities

To better support our members, the section need more financial support

Major successes since the last meeting: The section supported the following activities:

- TSYP 2017 attracts 700 IEEE members http://tsyp.ieee.tn
- World Robot Olympiad WRO Tunisian Qualifications http://wro.ieee.tn
- 3 International conferences
- 2 TISP workshops
- 5th ME Students and Young Professionals MESYP Congress
- Create 3 SB, 2 WIE student groups, 3 student chapters

The section will continue to foster Students and Young Professionals activities by supporting:

- Humanitarian SIGHT projects
- Entrepreneurship and soft skills activities
- Educational and Technical activities
- TSYP congress

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The section is:

- Ensuring prompt communications with our members by email, eNottice, IEEE Collabratec, and Facebook
- Following the MGA recommendations: the vice-chair will become the section chair on 2019-2020
- Nominating members with over 10 years of professional activities to apply for senior member grade
- Helping dormant chapters to organize an election and to find new active volunteers
- Attracting more members to become volunteers within IEEE
- Continually updating the section?s website http://www.ieee.tn

To improve Section vitality and sustainability, the section needs more incomes.

The major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality are the following:

- Reached the recruitment goal

- ○ Organized section?s awards ceremony to recognize IEEE members and subunits who have given valuable achievements. 7 awards were presented.
- ○ Loyalty pins and certificates presented to members with over 20 years of memberships

The section is trying to foster the Section Vitality by the following actions:

- ○ Help members to renew their memberships with local payment
- ○ Support the activities of the subunits
- ○ Encourage the initiatives of volunteers

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- ○ Further encouragements and support from IEEE to activities in African countries not represented by sections and subsections
- ○ Sign partnership between IEEE and main African organizations
- ○ Help subsections to organize IEEE activities in their countries. For example: inviting distinguished lecturers
- ○ The Tunisia section can help to organize IEEE activities in other countries in Africa
- ○ Establish IEEE Geographic Council in Africa

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- ○ Help the sections to participate in European funded projects (H2020, Erasmus+, etc.)
- ○ Help non-European IEEE members to receive visa in order to participate in IEEE activities in Europe
- ○ Help the sections to contact European companies to find patrons for our IEEE activities

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- ○ Plan to organize the 10th IEEE Tunisia section Anniversary on 28 June 2018
- ○ Plan to organize the IEEE WIE Leadership Summit (WIELS) in Tunisia on 10-12 August 2018
- ○ Tunisia section received the 2016 IEEE MGA Outstanding large section award
- ○ The 2017 IEEE president and the 2017-2018 IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect participated in the ME-SYP congress in Tunisia and met with our IEEE members
- ○ IEEE R8 EnergyCon 2020 will be organized in Tunisia http://www.ieee-energycon2020.org

Photos and figures

Turkey Section   Murat Uysal

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

In our Section, the Industry Relations Coordinator acts as a liaison between industry and the Section. The responsibilities of the Coordinator include leading fundraising activities for the Section, helping the Membership Development Coordinator increase the number of IEEE members from industry and supporting the Professional Development and Educational Activities Coordinator identify speakers/instructors from the industry. This coordinator position has been instrumental to foster industry relations. It has been particularly useful to secure some sponsorship from the industry for locally organized IEEE conferences. For example, we will organize COMSOC's prestigious PIMRC conference in September 2019 at Istanbul. Turkey's largest cellular operator Turkcell became the major financial supporter of this event.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

In our Section, the Student Activities Coordinator acts as an interface between the executive committee and student branches. This coordinator provides guidance to student branches, attends student branch meetings/congresses, and other related activities. In August 2018, we organized the second edition of Annual Senior Thesis Project competition open to IEEE Student Members. In collaboration with some industrial sponsors, we offered several prizes for the winners. Such activities aim to keep the student members engaged in our activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Our Section considers the Young Professionals Affinity Group as a key to continue the commitments of IEEE student volunteers after their graduation. In collaboration with YP, we recently launched Mentor - Mentee program where students are brought together with volunteer engineers for guidance and mentorshops on topics of mutual interest. IEEE Turkey Executive Committee encourages all Technical Chapter Chairs to increase their activity level by organizing short courses/seminars, workshops and conferences in their expertise areas. We further provide administrative and technical support in their activities if required.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

As Turkey Section, we will be happy to support IEEE Activities in Africa. For example, we could arrange speakers for their locally organized events.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Local presence of IEEE within Europe would be particularly useful in membership recruitment. For example, the delivery of promotional material from IEEE HQ takes several weeks. Such material can be directly shipped from Europe office. The office can also organize workshops on effective membership recruitment.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We have launched an award program aiming to recognize the achievements of our members.

Uganda Section   Vincent Olema

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations?

IEEE Uganda Section has been open to industry collaboration; both private and public sectors have been partners in organizing some of our section events. When we organize events like Webinars, Virtual Conferences, Distinguished lectures facilitated by distinguished lecturers most cases sponsored by R8, we invite both public and private sectors to join to attend them. Even our SIGHT workshops that we organize we invite all sectors to be part of the partners in achieving the goals and objects of the projects.

Activities that work well with IEEE Uganda Section include, but not limited to:

- SIGHT Projects, currently we have two SIGHT projects running: Name, Smart Farming in Uganda Refining the Design and Implementation of the Neopenda 4-in-1 Vital Signs Monitor to Save Lives at birth in Ugandan Communities.
- Distinguished Lecturer lectures, for the last 3 years we have conducted 5 distinguished lectures.
- IEEE Educational Activities Boards: Especially Teacher In - Service Programs (TISP); where we have conducted many TISP programs, including R8 TISP Week workshop.
- IEEE Virtual Conferences for example, 2018; we had 4 virtual conferences, namely:
  - IEEE Smart Grid Tutorial March, 13th, 2018
  - Green ICT 2016, dated: June, 16, 2018
  - The outbreak of Smart Grid Cyber-Security: The Modern Campfire Story, Dated: September 13, 2018
  - Smart Cities October, 20th, 2019
- Webinars are also activity that is good for our section, in 2018 for example the section was able to organize one webinar in collaboration with R8: Topic: Engineering a circular economy-waste to energy solutions -webinar, 25th October 2018.
- Promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Subjects in both primary and Secondary Schools so as to increase the number of Engineers and Scientists in Uganda.

What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations?

Changes IEEE to improve Industry Relations are:

- To incorporate a program called Linking with Academia; this program should be key to advance that IEEE relation with Industry. IEEE should act as linkage to link the Academia with Industry, by identifying the gaps that is much needed Industry and also work together with Academia so as to solve some of those gaps identified.
- IEEE should device methods and ways to facilitate IEEE sections so that IEEE Volunteers are facilitated to promote the IEEE agenda in industries.
- There should visits organized by IEEE Sections to visit industries so as to preach about IEEE and its importance in technological Development.

What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations?

We have collaborations and partnerships with local engineering bodies e.g. Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers (UIPE) where we signed MoU to carry-out joint events etc. This allows UIPE members to attend our section activities and also for our IEEE members to attend UIPE events. We have many other organization that we collaborate with, including MUNU Foundation that help our section to promote STEM subjects in primary and Secondary Schools with IEEE members as volunteers to promote their activities.

Lastly, IEEE Uganda section is in discussions with a couple of other organizations for collaboration and partnership.

How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- We use our IEEE members to reach to some industries where they are currently working.
- When we organize an event we make sure we involve line industry to send in their representatives to attend the event. That we way we build partnerships

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals?

The activities that has helped our section well to attract our IEEE members are mainly the following:

- They come and attend our IEEE Virtual Conferences
- Attend webinars; we have varieties of topics which interest them to attend in a common venue
- By Organising Workshops

- ○ Organizing meetings
- ○ Distinguished lectures
- ○ End of year dinner where we have a talk; either career development talk etc.
- ○ IEEE Membership Development drives where we invite IEEE members to come and volunteer
- ○ We have Social Medea platforms where all the IEEE members are in the groups of those platforms which has help our members to be informed on what is going on in the section.
- ○ We encourage our IEEE members to participate in all IEEE activities
- ○ We also encourage to write papers and publish in IEEE publications
- ○ We also encourage our members to write proposal to attract funding for EPICS, SIGHT etc.
- ○ We organized membership development workshops. All aimed at making members understand how IEEE operates, encouraging them to volunteer in different section related initiatives as well as sharing the available opportunities.
- ○ Organize talks on EPICS, SIGHT and many IEEE Activities

What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members?

- ○ IEEE should introduce reward system to reward the outstanding section volunteers.
- ○ More activities should be organized so as to keep IEEE members and also to make sure that IEEE members are supported all the time.

What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members?

- ○ We have built collaborations with universities where we continue to visit and talk about IEEE and recruit new members. This has helped to set -up; currently we have two IEEE Student Branches; namely: IEEE Student Branch Kyambogo University and IEEE Student Branch Makerere University. And currently, we are forming another Student Branch at Mbarara University, in coming days.
- ○ We have collaborated with some Industries which keeps our members and will continue to support our section.

How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

- ○ Collaboration with local industries and Universities is key; this will help to develop Students to get internships and Young professional can easily get jobs easily when this collaboration is maintained.
- ○ To have regular meetings with students and Professional so as to listen to their concerns and to find ground to solve any challenges they may face.
- ○ Local revenue should be generated to support Student branches and Young Professional Society team.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section?

- ○ Organize regular Career development sessions for Section members.
- ○ Organize regular career talks for professional development
- ○ Monthly meeting sessions
- ○ Encourage members to renew their IEEE membership, this can be done by regular e-mail alerts to members.
- ○ Involve IEEE members by volunteering in section events
- ○ By organizing regular IEEE events
- ○ Section encourages members to take part in the available capacity building/ training opportunities. E.g. 2018, two IEEE Uganda Section had two graduates of the MGA's Volunteer Leadership Training Program (VOLT) i.e. Janati Nakimera and Irene Magara both of whom have leadership positions at IEEE Uganda section

What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability?

- ○ IEEE identify unique courses facilitated by distinguished lecturers purposely targeting sections so that their members can attend the training.
- ○ Motivate volunteers refund of their transport refund whenever they carry-out tasks

What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality?

- ○ Organized how to write proposals for our section members
- ○ Organized end of year mentorship sessions

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chukwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa?

- Sharing the ongoing section initiatives with IEEE Africa (for experience sharing purposes as well as for future guidance/ for possible replication in other African Countries
- Section chair needs to meet for often so as to develop Sections better and IEEE Africa better
- IEEE membership is still high for African Countries, even though our IEEE membership is still lower than other Regions.
- Each Sections needs funding to rent offices in their respective Countries. As for Uganda section, we face challenges where some would be new members to subscribe due to fear that their fees will not reach IEEE head office or IEEE is line online companies that are take money from population.
- Air tickets be procured early for IEEE event participants; as oppose to refund. IEEE members face challenges to get money to pay their air ticket and refund later.
- IEEE Africa should engage with African Union so that African Countries can work with their respective sections and get support.

How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

- Sharing the ongoing section initiatives with IEEE Africa (for experience sharing purposes as well as for further guidance/ for possible replication in other African Countries
- Implement IEEE Activities in Africa activities

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria?

- Organize Virtual Conferences
- Rent offices for Sections as point of reference
- Organize Leadership training for Section leaders
- Training how to write IEEE standard papers
- Fund Section Activities
- Increase funding for R8 TISP Week Workshops, which is currently at $ 250 USD.
- Reduce IEEE membership which is high for IEEE members in African and indeed in other parts of the world.

How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

- It has brought IEEE services closer to IEEE members in R8
- We now have monthly newsletter that updates our members of activities in R8

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- Section leaders who perform well should recognized
- Constant trainings for IEEE members for their professional development
- Calls for funding should be continuous to support section activities
- We have challenges with IEEE promotional Materials; R8 should make sure that Sections are supplied with promotional Material continuous to promote IEEE.

Ukraine Section   Evgen Pichkalyov

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We are planning collaboration with the Association of Industrial Automation of Ukraine and IT Association of Ukraine. Section sent to IEEE a request for the signing of the National Society Agreement. Creation of a special technical section within the framework of the IEEE UKRCON conference and a special technical IEEE conference in the next 2 years are planned.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

We bought for our IEEE Section's members special FEDEVEL Academy PCB training courses. IEEE Ukraine Section continues to support students and establish new student branches and student branch chapters in Ukraine. We founded 2 new student branches in 2018.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Regular online ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events. We planning organized more than 12 IEEE Conferences in 2018. Support students to participate in IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress 2018. We planning organized vtools elections for all IEEE Ukraine Section Chapters in February, 2019. Well organized team of volunteers for 2018 - 2019, continuously expanding with new blood.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We can share with IEEE in Africa our experience related to past and current co operation with neighbor Sections, IEEE Societies and Region. We expect some recommendation from IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe about active IEEE volunteers and leaders from Africa. We would be pleased to invite these volunteers of the organizing committees of conferences and seminars. We would be glad to participate in IEEE events in Africa, for example, with a keynote speech at a scientific conference in corresponding field.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Assistance with communication between IEEE and Public Union "IEEE Ukraine Section".

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

We planing founded IEEE Ukraine Section Journal. We planing applied for IEEE Ukraine Section Fund.

United Arab Emirates Section   Dr. Fatma Taher

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

- ○ Engaging industry members to participate in the IEEE Student Day.
- ○ Engaging industry members in the Section meetings and annual meeting.
- ○ Increase our partnership with the industry through long term MoUs and partnership agreements.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

To attract future members, the IEEE UAE Section has been trying to:

- ○ Organize seminars and inviting distinguished speakers to talk about hot topics.
- ○ Gather students for networking through the IEEE Student day and the annual meeting.
- ○ Help new academic institutes to establish IEEE Student Branches.
- ○ Visit different Universities and invite their members to join IEEE.
- ○ In addition to that, we are currently trying to:
- ○ Hold more regular meetings and networking events.
- ○ Arrange more visits to different academic institutes and industry facilities.
- ○ Happiness Meter to measure member satisfaction.
- ○ Organize aretreat for all members to recognize them and to do some activities.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

To maintain section vitality, the following are considered:

- ○ Arranging regular section meetings.
- ○ Organizing the IEEE Student day and the annual meeting.
- ○ Establish partnership with local and regional entities.

We recommend:

- ○ Capitalizing on opportunities to promote the values and benefits of IEEE. One way of doing so is to request an IEEE booth in all conferences and exhibitions that the IEEE UAE sponsors.
- ○ Conducting professional activities to attract more members from the industry.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

To enhance the role of IEEE in Africa, we recommend:

- ○ Sign MoUs with other sister sections in other IEEE regions.
- ○ Provide online courses, webinars, and to live stream other events from all around the world.
- ○ Publishing best practices for managing IEEE activities.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

Better financial and logistical support to organize events and conferences. Collection of payments for various activities and routing them to the local section. Access to support staff such as legal, branding, marketing, etc.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE UAE Retail Discount Program: we, at the UAE Section, are establishing a retail discount program to attract more members. IEEE UAE Partnership Program: we are also maintaining a program to increase our partnership with the industrial and academic institutes.

Photos and figures

Zambia Section   Simon Muwowo

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The activities that work well in my Section to foster Industry Relations is through Student Industrial Attachments and careers talk. To improve the industry relations, our Section needs to continue on the membership recruitment exercise with the industry and academia in order to bring the benefits arising from IEEE.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

As a Section, we have formed a Student Branch at the University of Zambia and we intend to open another Student Branch at the Copperbelt University. We have also formed a PES Chapter and we are in the process of registering the Comsoc Chapter also. We have supported the Students and Young Professionals through various activities such as holding weekly meetings and the Congress held in Porto, Portugal from 25th to 29th July 2018. Further the students branch at University of Zambia participated in the Extreme Programming Competition that was held in 2018. The section has identified some secondary schools whose teachers will participate in the TISP activities of 2019.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Membership recruitment exercise should continue in the Zambia Section and improve on networking among the members. IEEE should guide the Section in opening up a local account to allow members pay their membership fees in local currency. This has been outstanding for a long time.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The Section supported the formation of the IEEE Africa Council and was in attendance during the meeting held in Tunisia on 29th June 2018. This development should set up an agenda for opening up of more Sections in Africa by involving potential members from other countries. IEEE Zambia Section is ready to support any sub-section in the region.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

So far we have not seen much activity. However, we hope that the office will enhance the support of IEEE services and collaboration in all areas as it is located in the same time zone or close by.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Growth in membership, formation of a Student Branch and PES Chapter. The formation of the students' COMSO Chapter is underway. The section will this year organise the TISP.

V.   Motions

Approval of the minutes of the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting

CONSENT

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee - March 2019
FROM: Ana Madureira, Region 8 Secretary
SUBJECT: Approval of the minutes of the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting in Belgrade, 20-21 October 2018, are attached for approval.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that the minutes of the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting shall be, and are hereby, approved.

Approval of changes to the R8 Operations Manual

ACTION

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee - March 2019
FROM: Region 8 Operating Committee (OpCom)
SUBJECT: Approval of changes to the R8 Operations Manual

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The OpCom is proposing the merging of the Educational Activities Subcommittee and the Professional Activities Subcommittee. This requires a change in the Operations Manual, as follows. In addition, a minor typo correction is included.

Additions
~~Deletions~~

R8-2 VIS~~S~~ION AND MISSION

(...)

~~R8-6.1.6 REGION 8 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE~~

~~R8-6.1.6.1 MISSION~~
~~Coordination of educational activities programs in Region 8 including pre-university education, university-level education, post-university (continuing) education and the promotion of public awareness of engineering, technology and other topics within IEEE's Field of Interest.~~

~~R8-6.1.6.2 COMPOSITION~~
~~The Region 8 Educational Activities Subcommittee is appointed by the Vice Chair - Technical Activities from recommendations by the Region 8 OpCom as well as recommendations by the Region 8 N A Subcommittee. The Chair is a non-voting member of the R8 Committee (unless concurrently holding a voting position in the R8 Committee), and serves as a voting member of IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Section Education Outreach Committee (SEOC).~~

~~R8-6.1.6.3 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY~~
~~1. Develop or encourage the formation of Educational Activities Subcommittees in Region 8 Sections.~~
~~2. Develop educational programs to encourage the technological literacy of pre-university students.~~
~~3. Promote educational activities at the member level and communicate to the Educational Activities Board (EAB) the educational concerns of the membership.~~
~~4. Serve as contact point for Educational Activities Subcommittee Chairs in Sections of Region 8.~~

(Subsequent sections are renumbered until R8-6.1.10)

R8-6.1.10 REGION 8 PROFESSIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
Professional Activities (PA) comprise non-technical skills that engineers need to achieve a successful technical career. Educational Activities (EA) implements programs specifically intended to serve the educational pursuits of IEEE members, the engineering and scientific communities and the general public.

R8-6.1.10.1 MISSION
To develop non-technical skills programs (such as "Leadership Skills Training" or "Project Management") in order to provide additional value to members, in particular to young engineers and students. To coordinate educational activities programs in Region 8 including pre-university education, university-level education, post-university (continuing) education and the promotion of public awareness of engineering, technology and other topics within IEEE's Field of Interest.
To recruit volunteers to implement professional and educational seminars and workshops in R8 and to train local Tutors (Trainers) for these activities.

R8-6.1.10.2 COMPOSITION
The R8 Professional and Educational Activities Committee is appointed by the Vice Chair - Technical Activities from recommendations by the Region 8 OpCom as well as recommendations by the Region 8 N A Subcommittee.
The Chair is a non-voting member of the R8 Committee (unless concurrently holding a voting position in the R8 Committee) and serves as a voting member of the IEEE Educational Activities Board (EAB) Section Education Outreach Committee.

R8-6.1.10.3 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY
1. Encourage, and advise about when necessary, the appointment of local PA officers and the establishment of PA activities in all R8 Sections

2. Provide PA products and services to individual IEEE members and groups, in particular to young engineers (YP) and students
3. Recruit expert presenters of PA topics in R8
4. Train and educate local trainers for PA topics in R8
5. Plan and implement PA seminars and workshops in R8
6. Collaborate with IEEE-USA on PA products and services to enhance members' career and employment prospects
7. Make Section Chairs aware of IEEE's PA products and their importance for members.
8. Develop or encourage the formation of Educational Activities Subcommittees in Region 8 Sections.
9. Develop educational programs to encourage the technological literacy of pre-university students.
10. Promote educational activities at the member level and communicate to the Educational Activities Board (EAB) the educational concerns of the membership.
11. Serve as contact point for Educational Activities and Professional Activities Subcommittee Chairs in Sections of Region 8.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that the proposed changes to the IEEE Region 8 Operations Manual shall be approved by the IEEE Region 8 Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Goal(s) Supported
○ The change will streamline the Region operations, fostering coordination between areas.

Financial Implications
○ Small reduction in cost of attendance to Region meetings.

Pros and/or Cons
○ PROS: Integration of subcommittees with related activity.
○ CONS: None.

Implementation
○ No implementation required. The volunteers already appointed will remain in their positions.

Background Information

The Educational and Professional Activities share many common aspects, such as: organization of seminars, courses, training workshops, etc. of a nature which not completely technical. In order to improve efficiency of these areas it seems natural to have them under the same subcommittee. The proposed changes were sent to the voting members of the Region 8 Committee 28 days in advance. These changes join the previous texts previously included in the sections devoted to Educational Activities and Professional Activities, with no new text added.

Approval of Mauritius Section

ACTION

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee - March 2019
FROM: IEEE Region 8 Director
SUBJECT: Approval of Mauritius Section

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members of the Mauritius Subsection have submitted a petition to MGA to elevate the Subsection to Section. The petition has the required number of signatures. As per R8 Operations Manual section R8-8 the Region 8 Committee needs to approve the formation of a new Section and is requested to do so.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that the Region 8 Committee approves the formation of the Mauritius Section with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of the country of the Republic of Mauritius.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Goal(s) Supported

○ The formation of the Section will help in the goal of creating dynamic communities that help individuals around the world to share, collaborate, network, and engage with one another.

Financial Implications

○ Increase in expenses of the Region by supporting the travel of Section representative to Region 8 meetings.

Pros and/or Cons

○ PROS: Better serving the members than in the current Mauritius Subsection. Increase of membership and activity.
○ CONS: Increased Region 8 expense.

Implementation

○ After approval by the Region the petition needs to be finally approved by the MGA Board.

Background Information

On 4 March 2019 the member count in Mauritius Subsection was

○ Life Senior: 2
○ Senior Member: 2
○ Life Member: 2
○ Member: 50
○ GSM: 4
○ Student Member: 0
○ Associate Member: 2

TOTAL: 62

The Mauritius Subsection formation was approved by MGA Board on 25 June 2011.
The Republic of Mauritius has an area of 2,040 km2 and a population according to the 2011 census of 1,233,000. It is currently on the IEEE list of countries qualifying for electronic membership.
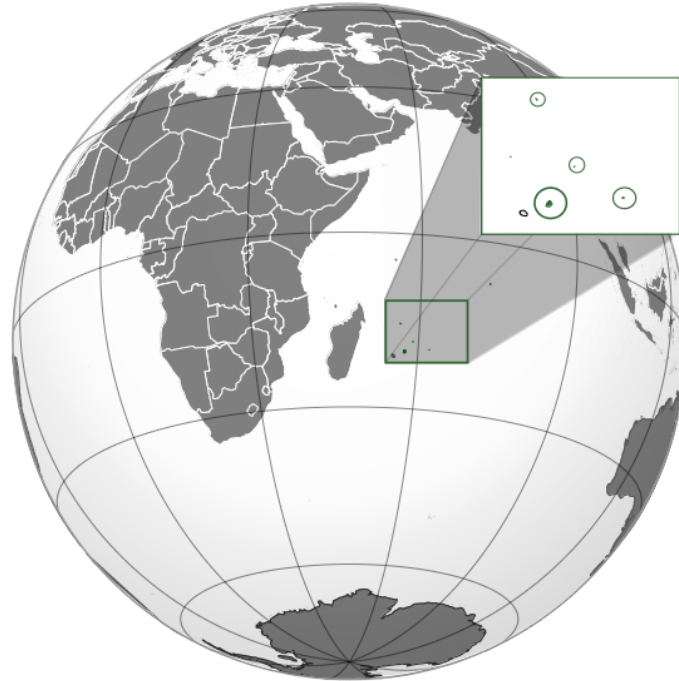
The petitioners have submitted the following description of activities and plans for the future:

The Mauritius Subsection has been actively organizing conferences since its formation in 2011. We are pleased to provide a list of past conferences:

○ AFRICON Year 2013 - co-organized by IEEE Mauritius Subsection in collaboration with R8; Held in Mauritius - 300 papers https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/mostRecentIssue.jsp?punumber=6746871
○ IST Africa Year 2014 - technical co-sponsorship https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/mostRecentIssue.jsp?punumber=6872773
○ ICCCS Year 2015 - technical co-sponsorship https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/mostRecentIssue.jsp?punumber=7366893
○ Emergitech Year 2016 - co-organized by IEEE Mauritius Subsection in collaboration with the University of Technology, Mauritius https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/mostRecentIssue.jsp?punumber=7728913
○ NextComp Year 2017 - technical co-sponsorship, conference was organized by University of Mauritius https://ieeexplore.ieee.o
○ icABCD Year 2018 - technical co-sponsorship, conference took place in Durban, South Africa on 6-7 August 2018 https://bigdata.ieee.org/conferences
○ Mauricon ICONIC 2018 #44423 - technical co-sponsorship, conference was held in Plaine Magnien, Mauritius on 6-7 December 2018 http://mauricon.org/
○ IEEE RADIO (Radio and Antenna Days of the Indian Ocean) - 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2018. Since 2013, co-sponsored by Region 8. http://www.radiosociety.org/radio2018/

We are pleased to inform R8 about following upcoming conferences:

○ NextComp 2019 #46423 - technical co-sponsorship being organized by the University of Mauritius - MOU approved - 19-Sept-2019

- ○ Emergitech 2020 - Year 2010 to be co-organized by IEEE Mauritius Subsection in collaboration with the University of Technology, Mauritius
- ○ We will also like to hold a second edition of IEEE's flagship conference: Africon in 2022

Agenda planned for year 2019:

- ○ March 2019 - Appoint additional executive members from two more universities namely Middlesex university and Open University of Mauritius (OUOM); This will create a network of ExCom members working directly in all universities giving us access to students and resources required in organizing regular events for members and students.
- ○ April 2019 - Create an 'Events Committee' consisting of volunteer members with responsibility of organizing monthly networking events such as seminars workshops.
- ○ April 2019 - AGM
- ○ May 2019 - WTISD event at University of Technology, Mauritius
- ○ June 2019 - Talk on AI Blockchain
- ○ July 2019 - Create an events committee with members volunteers
- ○ Aug 2019 - Talk on Smart city safe city
- ○ Sept/Oct 2019 - Students Challenge (innovators challenge or similar)
- ○ Overall goal for 2019: Form minimally two chapters or joint-chapters namely:
  - ■ Communication,
  - ■ Broadcasting,
  - ■ Energy,
  - ■ Computing

Our Growth Plan:

- ○ Revitalize existing student branches namely STB11141 at University of Mauritius (UOM) and STB18571 University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM). These two branches need to report to the IEEE Mauritius; which is not the case at present.
- ○ Increase students figure by at least 200% by end of 2019.
- ○ Increase members figure by at least 20-30 by end of 2019; this can be achieved if monthly events are held as described above. I believe the core to retaining and recruiting members is by being really active.
- ○ Request the Ministry of Education (Government of Mauritius) to provide an IEEE Student membership to all new students (science).
- ○ Add members figure by at another 20-30 by end of 2020

What can we achieve when elevated?

By being elevated to Section status, IEEE Mauritius can obtain more synergy and funding from IEEE in order:

- ○ To organize monthly events (local and joint);
- ○ and to be more present in the Governmental programs consultation;

It is to be noted that IET community in Mauritius has a rapid membership growth and organizes many events nearly every month. We don't want to be outpaced by remaining small.

Approval of Liberia Subsection

ACTION

TO:	IEEE Region 8 Committee - March 2019
FROM:	IEEE Region 8 Director
SUBJECT:	Approval of Liberia Subsection

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Members in the country of Liberia have submitted a petition to MGA to form a Subsection. The petition has the required number of signatures. As per R8 Operations Manual section R8-8.1 the Region 8 Committee needs to approve the formation of a new Subsection and is requested to do so.

PROPOSED ACTION

Resolved that the Region 8 Committee approves the formation of the Liberia Subsection with boundaries corresponding to the boundaries of the country of Liberia.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Goal(s) Supported
- The formation of the Subsection will help in the goal of creating dynamic communities that help individuals around the world to share, collaborate, network, and engage with one another.

Financial Implications
- The Region will be obliged to forward the rebate received for the Subsection, if it fulfills the meeting activity and complies with financial and officer reporting requirements (R8 Operations Manual, R8-8.1)

Pros and/or Cons
- PROS: Better serving the members in the country.
- CONS: None.

Implementation
- After approval by the Region the petition needs to be finally approved by the MGA Board.

Background Information

On 5 March 2019 the member count in Liberia was
- Senior Member: 1
- Life Member: 2
- Member: 26
- GSM: 12
- Student Member: 24

TOTAL: 64

Liberia has an area of 111,369 km2 and a population in 2015 of 4,503,000. It is currently on the IEEE list of countries qualifying for electronic membership and in the list of low income countries qualifying for discounted electronic membership.

The content of the petition follows:

IEEE Liberia Subsection Petition - Business Plan

1. What was the motivating factor that led to forming this geographic unit? What member needs will be fulfilled as a result of forming this unit?

The motivating factors for the formation of the IEEE Subsection Liberia are as follows: - We are interested to encourage educational growth and development for engineers, scientists, and technologists, developers, educators and media practitioners known and unknown in the country, and to guarantee them a pathfinder for maintaining their careers. - To embark on a nationwide capacity building endeavors, which seek to bring together technical expertise among cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary spheres in a bid to nurture an active, robust, and an open exchange among individuals. - To create a positive impact on affiliates, who are employees and volunteers so as to uphold a shared value, participate in training and development initiatives to foster capacity building, empowerment and membership drive in a more mutual, a cordial and respectful association. As a result of forming this Subsection the following member needs shall be met: The IEEE Liberia Subsection seeks the transformation of Liberian professionals to be more creative and inspirational toward a better Liberia by way of the following: - Computing - Information Communication Technology - Engineering - Futuristic Technologies - Journalism and Management

2. List the activities the unit will focus on for the first six months. What activities will engage the members of the unit with one another?

- Forward the filled petition to form the IEEE Liberia Subsection for the approval process. - Meeting with all the IEEE members for the election of the ExCom members. We shall put in place the management and administrative functions for an effective operation, and to link with IEEE International to understand and implement its policies and procedures. - The consolidation of IEEE Liberia Subsection goals and objectives within line of IEEE, and to create scheduling and assigning

of roles, tasks, and responsibilities to bolster operations. - Planning for the IEEE events and activities in the Country for the awareness of the IEEE among universities, colleges, and industries which will include workshops, seminars and guest lecturers on the latest technology topics.

3. What accomplishments will this unit strive to meet in its first year?
- Promote IEEE student and Professional memberships in the Liberian community. - Active participation in the various IEEE student and professional activities such as IEEE Day, IEEEmadC contest, IEEE Young Professionals, IEEEXtreme 24-Hour Programming Competition etc. - Hands-on workshops and Seminars on latest technologies in the field of Information Technology, Engineering and Management. - Developed programs in public service focused on knowledge and technology as related to public policy and humanitarian efforts. - International Conference in association with IEEE Liberia Subsection. - Meetings with IEEE members and submission of the yearly report.

4. What level of local support is engaged in support of the unit activities? - The IEEE Liberia Subsection will receive local support from corporate companies for IEEE activities and projects. We shall encourage volunteerism, working with Universities, colleges in areas of research, innovation, and technology. - Local awareness and community engagement to ensure the vitality and relevance of our core activities in standards, conferences, education, and publications, while providing increased value to our members. - Engage civil societies, NGOs, Universities, Colleges, and Public forums to add value in the IEEE activities. - Support from volunteers, student members, professional members, senior members in the IEEE Liberia Subsection.

In addition, the following answers were provided by the petitioners:

Do you plan to form IEEE organizational units such as a Student Branch, a YP affinity group and chapters in Liberia?
Yes, we are going to form a Student Branch, a YP affinity group and chapters in different universities and colleges. Few names are BlueCrest University College Liberia, University of Liberia and Starz College, many more.

What meetings, workshops and conference you intend to organize?
Firstly, we are going to plan a meeting with all IEEE Subsection members in Liberia. For Organizing the Workshop and conferences we will form different committees and will assign the roles and responsibilities for the event. We will organize workshops, seminars, Hackathon Competition, IEEE Day, and conferences in different areas of technologies with some experts. Such as:
   ○ Workshop - International Workshop on Cloud Computing and Internet of Things (IoT)
   ○ Conference - International Conference on Information Communication Technology and Management

What are the possibilities to increase IEEE membership in Liberia?
As Liberia Country is growing in terms of technology developments in various sectors. Therefore, there is good chances to increase the IEEE membership in Liberia Country from the Universities, Colleges, Government Organizations, and Private sectors.

How many members you expect to have in Liberia after a year or two?

   ○ After one year - 250
   ○ After two year - 400

Do you have intentions to be elevated to a Section after some time, based on increased membership and increased successful activities?
Yes

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