

Croatia Section**Mislav Grgic****Highlights from the past**

- The eighth traditional Annual IEEE Croatia Section Award Banquet held, with international guests from geographically close IEEE sections (Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Chair, Hungary Section Vice-Chair, Slovenia Section Chair);
- A record number of 12 conferences and workshops were technically co-sponsored and hosted by the Croatia Section in the year 2013 (<http://www.ieee.hr/ieeesection/konferencije/2013>);
- The Croatia Sections' local IEEE Senior Member initiative resulted in 25 members elevated to SM level in 2013;
- The IEEE Croatia Section received special recognition on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of ELMAR Society;
- The IEEE SB of the J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek awarded The IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award at the Section Congress in Sarajevo, and the IEEE Student Enterprise Award (incl. a grant of \$1,500);
- IEEE Young Professionals Program: Tomislav Pokrajcic received the Region 8 GOLD Exceptional Volunteer Award;
- The first Croatia Section e-Newsletter was distributed per e-mail (17 October 2013).

Future activities

- Host RFID 2014 - The 1st RFID Conference, on May 6-7, 2014 in Zagreb, Croatia;
- Host IWSSIP 2014 - The 21st International Conference on Systems, Signals and Image Processing, May 12-15, 2014, in Dubrovnik, Croatia;
- Host the IEEE R8 ENERGYCON 2014, 4th IEEE-International Energy Conference and Exhibition, May 13-16, 2014, in Dubrovnik, Croatia;
- Host MIPRO 2014 - The 37th International Convention on Information and Communication Technology, Electronics and Microelectronics, May 26-30, 2014, in Opatija, Croatia;
- Host ELMAR 2014 - The 56th International Symposium ELMAR-2014, September 10-12, 2014, in Zadar, Croatia;
- Host SoftCOM 2014 - The 22nd International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks, September 17-19, 2014, in Split, Croatia;
- Publish the next issue of the Croatia Section e-Newsletter.

Best practices

- Section-level professional meetings/lecture series for all members and guests;
- A variety of activities in chapters and affinity groups (all chapters maintained the required activity level in 2013);
- Regular monthly ExCom meetings;
- Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (STEP) workshops;
- Annual IEEE Croatia Section Award Banquets;
- Active and up-to-date web-site;
- The Croatia Section e-Newsletter;
- Personalized by-invitation local Senior Member elevation initiative.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Benefits of IEEE membership for members from industry;
- Legal status of Croatia Section changing; benefits not clear, plus upcoming changes in legislation may affect the (already slow) process.

Miscellaneous

- As of March 2014, Croatia Section has 20 individual society chapters and 2 joint society chapters, 3 affinity groups (LM, WIE, Young Professionals), and 4 student branches (Universities of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, and Osijek);
- A new IEEE SB chapter was established at the J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek: IEEE Power & Energy Society SB Chapter;
- Two new IEEE SB chapters were established at the University of Rijeka: IEEE Computer Society SB Chapter and IEEE Power & Energy Society SB Chapter;
- Students representatives of the IAS SB University of Zagreb participated in the 1st R8 Mediterranean SB IAS Chapter Chair Workshop, December 13-16, 2013, in Rome, Italy;
- In 2013, eight lectures were presented within the IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Program: Jan Craninckx (IMEC), Atam P. Dhawan (NJIT), Franz Dielacher (Infineon), Daniel Kirchen (University of Washington), Stefano Maci (University of Siena), Pierre Moulin (University of Illinois, Beckman Institute), Yorgos Palaskas (Intel), Saifur Rahman (Virginia Tech).