

**Estonia Section****Kalle Tammemae****Highlights from the past**

- IEEE Estonia Section students did good job on IEEEExtreme 7.0. According to HackerRank the best positions of 10 participating teams were: TeddyBears - 76th, TTU004 - 81th, 1Billion1 - 89th place, all teams collected points and average was satisfactory too.
- Section members participated on yearly International Robotex ([www.robotex.ee](http://www.robotex.ee)) event 16-17 November 2013 in Tallinn, having there technical meeting. In addition there was announced IEEE Estonia Section award for best student teams in Mini Sumo and iRobot competition. Price covered IEEE one year student membership fee. One of prizes went to Lithuania, increasing the number of student members there.
- All chapter officers (four) + vice-chair of section were newly elected. Participation rate of elections was very high - up to 44%, smallest figure was 28%.
- We have completed transfer to new section web <http://www.ieee.ee> on base of IEEE supported Wordpress.

**Future activities**

- We will definitely participate again on very successful for us IEEEExtreme with many teams from two major universities (Tallinn University of Technology and University of Tartu) and Estonian IT College.
- There will be several Conferences in area in spring (ESIT, BALTIC, EWME) where IEEE is acting as Technical sponsor. Section plans to be present with booth and information about IEEE membership goals and benefits.
- We still look for some joint chapters with other Baltic Countries.
- Several DL program visitors are already planned in spring, more negotiations under way, expecting a year with many DL events.
- We have to lean actively use our new WordPress based web and related social media environments.

**Best practices**

- IEEEExtreme is sure attractor in getting of new students to be involved in IEEE. Quite many of those students remain members after the first year of membership.
- The visibility of IEEE in university premises is important; IEEE banner in some of common area is generally acceptable and can be noticed.
- Annual summer meeting is giving remarkably benefit for section, opening new and refreshing contacts between long-term members and new members in organization.

**Points of concern / Topics for future discussion**

- Student branch is still not taking wings; there are constant problems with finding a group of really active student members, also finding someone who is ready to take long-term leadership responsibilities. Student membership is rather short time status and several of collected over long period signatures for petition appeared outdated at application time. A new round of forming student branch had to be launched.
- We encountered also some drawback in forming a joint chapter over three Baltic States. The sweet moment (number of joint members in specific society met the criteria) passed and the number of members there dropped below threshold.