

**Rep Of Macedonia Section****Ljupco Karadzinov****Highlights from the past**

- During the period October 2013 - March 2014, our Section organized 22 activities: 18 technical, 3 administrative and 1 social meeting (not all of them are reported on vTools yet).
- The Section has traditionally supported the student competition RoboMac 2014 (04-08 March 2014). RoboMac is organised by the IEEE Student Branch (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University) in cooperation with EESTEC-Macedonia and the Student Parliament of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and IT in Skopje, Macedonia. About 80 students (30 international and the rest from the Republic of Macedonia) participate in this event. The event consists of competition in 5 categories of robots and attending technical lectures delivered by professors or professionals.
- The Section has its elections for new ExCom (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and new Chapter Chairs for the period 2014-2015. The election were carried out by vTools and 40% of the members voted which is best percentage in recent elections. The new officers were inaugurated on the Section Annual Meeting held on 13 Feb 2014.
- The senior member initiative was continued. New 2 senior members have been approved in Feb 2014.

**Future activities**

- The newly elected Section Chair and ExCom plan to increase the visibility of IEEE in the society, particularly among engineers in industry and students of electrical engineering, IT and computer science in the Republic of Macedonia. This will increase the interest for joining IEEE. Every technical and professional activity will be preceded by a short presentation "IEEE at a Glance". The Section and chapters web pages will be regularly updated. Section Newsletter will be published and electronically distributed several times a year. One of the most attractive activities for increasing our Section local visibility and importance should be a yearly event when awards and recognitions will be given to persons that had significant contribution in his field or to the electrical engineering profession as a whole. Such event is planed after looking at the IEEE Croatia Section best practices. Also, award will be given to best student papers at local conferences.
- In April 2014 we plan to co-organize student paper conference "Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development" to be held in Skopje, Macedonia from 24 to 26 April 2014.
- The Section will consider possibilities for hosting one of the R8 meetings or Eurocon conference in our country.

**Best practices**

- Section ExCom is collecting student membership fees in local currency and the amount is paid directly to IEEE from Section custody account. This way the students do not pay bank charges (many of them do not have credit cards) and the Section receives funds in local currency and avoid the necessity of transferring small amounts from custody account in USA with bank provisions.
- The student competition RoboMac become a traditional event, this year for the 5-th time. It is the most attractive student activity that increases the number of students interested in joining the IEEE. The final competition is held in front of the public audience and it also attracts pupils to decide to continue theirs education in the fields of electrical and IT engineering.

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

- Retention of student members after graduation.
- Low membership from industry.
- Recruiting volunteers remains a problem.

**Miscellaneous**

- In this reporting period we were informed that the IEEE Student Branch of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Macedonia received the 2013 Silver Darrel Chong Student Activity Award for the activity RoboMac 2012.
- Our ComSoc Chapter was very happy to welcome Prof. Norman Beaulieu, University of Alberta, Canada from the IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Programme. The lecture "Generalized Models for Fading with Diffuse Scatter plus Line-of-Sight Components" was held at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and IT in Skopje on 3 March 2014.
- New Chapter initiative is undergoing.