

Romania Section**Mircea Eremia****Highlights from the past**

- Several international conferences and symposia were held by the IEEE Romania Section or its Chapters since October 2013.
- IEEE Romania Section held new elections for the period 2014-2015. Then new section committee can be found at <http://www.ieee.ro> - Section Committee. Young members have been promoted in key positions.
- The IEEE Romania Section Board of Officers holds administrative meetings on a regular basis
- A quite good collaboration exists between universities and industry for organizing successful meetings, creating links for students by internships, private scholarships, etc. to better help graduate students get hired quite immediately after graduation; a good market for jobs exists in Romania in the fields of computers, telecommunications, electronics and power systems.

Future activities

- The IEEE Romania Section together with Military Technical Academy and University Politehnica of Bucharest organize the 2014 10th International Conference on Communications (COMM); <http://www.comms.ro/>
- IEEE Power & Energy Society Romania Chapter and University Politehnica of Bucharest organize the 2014 16th International Conference on Harmonics and Quality of Power (ICHQP); <http://www.ichqp2014.org/>
- IPA S.A. - Cluj-Napoca Subsidiary and Technical University of Cluj Napoca organize the 2014 IEEE International Conference on Automation, Quality and Testing, Robotics (AQTR); <http://www.aqtr.ro/>
- IEEE IES, IEEE IAS, IEEE PELS and Transilvania University of Brasov organize the 2014 International Conference on Optimization of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (OPTIM); http://www.info-optim.ro/optim_2014.php

Best practices

- IEEE Romania Section started a program to provide financial support for the first year membership for students; We intend to get closer more students and see what are the IEEE benefits
- Collaboration between universities and industry to help students get hired very soon after graduation; however, in most of the master programs (e.g. in power systems, computer science, telecommunications) students get a job and are not able to attend the school
- The Romania Section supports the Chapters to organize conferences and other local meetings
- Student contests become tradition in Romania
- International conferences are often organized in Romania by the Romania Section members
- Career days are organized with the support of the section members

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- IEEE should provide one year of free membership for undergraduate students, with some "real" benefits
- The sections are asked not to provide lists of events, although much of the activity consists in organizing conferences, workshops, inviting distinguished lecturers. Thereby, the reports less tangible information

Miscellaneous

- Membership at the beginning of 2014 is a little lower than the average of 950 of the last two years;
- The Romania Section has reached a number of 19 Chapters and Joint Chapters to date; creation of new chapters is planned
- The scientific communities appreciate more and more the IEEEExplore database and the opportunities for publishing their work
- The IEEE PES Romania Chapter has agreed with the WEC Romania Committee to develop joint activities for young professionals
- The IEEE Student Branch at "Politehnica" University of Bucharest has been represented by team "Powerhouse", composed of IEEE Student Members: Alexandru Nechifor, Dan Spatarel and Victor Luncașu and proctored by prof. Mihaela Albu, IEEE Senior Member. We are extremely happy to announce that team "Powerhouse" got 6th place out of the 2500 teams participating at this year's 2013 IEEEExtreme challenge programming competition.