

Bulgaria Section

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Highlights from the past

- Visiting lecturers from neighboring countries.
- Student branch in Varna reorganization.
- Project "Electronics day: Future innovations depend on you" issued by student branch and IEEE chapter members in Varna, approved and funded by CASS. It is related to the students from primary technical schools in the town that are target group for future engineers.
- Student paper award support.
- Student paper application at R8 contest support.
- Renewed contract for cooperation with National Society of engineers in Electronics, power engineering, automation, communication and computer science.
- Signed MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU") for Technical Co-Sponsoring of 18th International Symposium on Electrical Apparatus and Technologies (SIELA), 29-May-2014 to 31-May-2014, Bourgas, Bulgaria.
- Support for conference "Electronics 2014", May, 2014, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Future activities

- Support for conference InfoTech 2014 (Information Technologies), Albena, Bulgaria, Sept., 2014.
- Support for the conference Electronic Technologies 2014, Sozopol, Bulgaria, Sept., 2014.
- Support for conference Telecom 2014, Sofia, Oct., 2014.
- The support of the student paper award and student branch activities is also non-interruptive task of the section.
- Attention to the new group of PhD students from Sofia University that joined IEEE this year.

Best practices

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- Section is in good cooperation with neighboring sections, national societies of engineers, national chamber of engineers.
- Section Bulgaria supports its members during the membership applications and especially those without credit cards.
- The contacts with members are based on person-to-person communications, email, and phone. The section is regionally distributed and local officers support the process.
- Contacts with industry are also person-to-person based. The industry officer has difficulties to cover broad subject areas and to attract high level management in big companies.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Difficult recruitment of new volunteers among both regular members and student members.
- Student members are not interested in subscription to papers. They do prefer overview documents on the subject of their study.
- Business people are not interested in high-level scientific papers. They do prefer more marketing and innovation application oriented data.
- The NetSuite tool for financial reporting is completely uncustomized. The treasurer spends more than two work months for reporting a small section like Bulgaria.

Miscellaneous

- The promotion of the IEEE to local community is done usually on seminars, workshops and conferences.
- Most of the work on engagement Members, Chapters, Student Branches, and Affinity Groups in the life of the section is open to the interested groups. We use conferences and professional seminars for meetings.
- Most of the partnerships with other associations, geographic units and industry are based on the personal face-to-face meeting.
- There is an interest to the new technology opportunities in small to medium business because they like to create unique products.
- People in the section like to view and download papers from the digital library. Packet subscription on 100 papers or 30 papers or 500 papers in time slots could help to increase the interest to the IEEE.
- Free paper download during 2014 is interesting. Why not to allow the customer to select what to download?
- Free access promotions to the digital library and other overview documents attracts the possible members.
- Financial planning within the section is transparent to the chapters. Our section supports financially more than five conferences annually.