

## Rep of Macedonia Section

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### Highlights from the past

In this reporting period the Section co-sponsored three local conferences: (1) 11-th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies CIIT2014, Hotel Molika, Bitola, April 11-13, 2014; (2) Second Student Conference "Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development", Faculty of Electrical Engineering and I.T., Skopje, April 24-26, 2014; and (3) 6-th International Conference on Computational Intelligence, Communication Systems and Networks CICSYN2014, Tetovo, May 27-29, 2014. IEEE Region 8 Director Prof. Dr. Martin Bastiaans attended the CICSYN2014 as a plenary speaker with the invited lecture "Time-Frequency Signal Representation". He also gave an overview of IEEE tutorial with R8 specifics which was very interesting for non-members and helped our efforts to increase the visibility of IEEE in the society, particularly among engineers in industry and students of electrical engineering, increasing their interest for joining IEEE. Director Bastiaans also had a meeting with our Section Executive Committee, volunteers and members in Skopje. The Section created a new web page (<http://ieeefit.ukim.edu.mk/>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/IEEE-Republic-of-Macedonia-Section/672394746168057?ref=hl>). The Section ExCom started regular monthly meetings every second Wednesday. Not all activities have been reported on vTools yet.

### Future activities

- Co-sponsoring the 6-th ICT Innovations Conference 2014, Ohrid, Rep. of Macedonia, September 9-12, 2014.
- Awards and Recognition Ceremony to be organized by the Section at the end of the year, similar to the Croatia Section best practices and also to use the IEEE Member Loyalty Program to recognize members for their years of service. That is the reason for the Section for the first time to appoint an Awards & Recognition officer, prof. Vlatko Stoilkov.
- In the past there were very few social activities. An open air barbeque party is planned in September where members can meet active Section volunteers and become volunteers themselves, get to know each other and make new connections.
- The Section is considering hosting one of the future R8 Committee Meetings or Eurocon2017 conference in our country.

### Best practices

- The first issue of the Section Newspaper (8 pages) was electronically distributed to all members on March 31, 2014. It received very good acceptance since it informs members about activities of other Chapters and the Section Executive Committee. In the past members were receiving only e-mail invitations from Chairs about Chapter activities and were not aware what else was happening in the Section.
- The Facebook page received very good acceptance. With prompt postings, it is a very good way of fast information about next activities to everybody who has liked the page, not only members. Again, this is a good way to increase IEEE visibility in the Society and interest to join it.
- Regular monthly ExCom meetings showed to be very useful. Even though sometimes there seems to be not enough points on the agenda, a very interesting exchange of ideas are always communicated about the next activities and the other regular Section business. The Chairs of less active Chapters also get motivated to do more and follow others examples.

### Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- The visit of IEEE Region 8 Director Prof. Dr. Martin Bastiaans was a very positive experience. Section volunteers are very enthusiastic about meeting in person with an important person from the R8, and getting more information about the higher organizational units of IEEE. This increases their motivation to continue the voluntary work and even applying for other positions at higher level. The Region Director, Director-Elect and Secretary, even IEEE Presidents and staff, although having very busy agendas, should be visiting Sections more often at the occasions of their more important activities. The privilege to meet IEEE leadership and staff is usually only given to Section Chairs at regular R8 meetings.
- Benefits of IEEE membership for members from industry is still a concern reflected in the dominant academia membership.
- Retention of student members after graduation at an unsatisfactory level.
- Benefits not clear from the proposed Intercompany Agreement with IEEE Europe GmbH (the Swiss subsidiary) proposed by IEEE Legal and Compliance Department, nor it is clear how it will affect the current legal status of our Section as an NGO.

### Miscellaneous

- The Section sponsored three best student papers awards at CIIT2014, Hotel Molika, Bitola, April 11-13, 2014.
- IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer Prof. George Gross (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), "Renewable Energy Integration: The Grand Challenges and Opportunities Towards A Sustainable Energy Future", held at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and I.T., Skopje, April 1, 2014.
- IEEE ComSoc Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Vijay Bhargava (University of British Columbia, Canada), "Green Cellular Networks: Research Issues and Challenges" (on-line), held at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and I.T., Skopje, April 9, 2014.
- Student Branch (SB) at the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia sent a petition for formation of a SB Computer Society Chapter.
- The SSC Chapter has joined the Solid-State Circuits Society "200 in 100 days" new student campaign with 5 new student memberships (1 female) and 6 students petitioning for SB SSC Chapter.
- ComSoc Chapter received \$725 support from IEEE Communications Society for the planned activities in 2014.