

Finland Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Cooperation with Finnish Research Institute (VTT), which stands in between industry and academia in terms of research and commercialization. This cooperation helps reach many industry representatives that are not interested in academia activities.
- Close collaboration with Finnish engineering societies within FINEL association.
- Within FINEL, IEEE Finnish Section's aim is to promote and develop electrical, electronics and automation sectors contributing to national and international authorities and decision-makers. Also FINEL serves as a forum for the exchange of experience, as well as working in technical development. FINEL supports and coordinates the activities of member associations and the objectives of the organization of joint conferences and events. FINEL represents its member organizations by joint statements and participating in various expert groups.
- Changes:
 - More direct benefits for the IEEE industry members.
 - Increased support for high quality conferences instead of small events.
 - Networking programs designated for particular groups, encourage society membership.

Students and Young Professionals

- Young Professionals AG in Finland established a good practice of organizing a variety of events, both technical and social. This equilibrium allows to keep quality technical events and increase networking among young engineers.
- Section helps in revitalisation and supports events organized by the Student Branches.
- Besides financial support, section supports both groups by providing useful contact information and advertisement of their events.
- Changes:
 - IEEE could provide more programs and tools for both members and volunteers. For instance MentorCenter, ResumeLab, JobSite are a good start, however they are not enough to make members satisfied, especially when the membership fee increases from student to a full fee.
 - Increased visibility of the young professionals and students at large conferences/events.
 - Encourage separate tracks for students and young professionals.

Section Vitality

- The member retention is mostly driven by the conference discounts - a very clear benefit that members happily use.
- The section vitality dashboard helps a lot in accessing and analyzing data regarding the situation in the section.
- Changes:
 - Vtools system would need more efforts to be more user-friendly and work more flawlessly. Additional features like database of previous events would be beneficial.
 - More efforts from chapters and societies to encourage students and young professionals.
 - More programs for students and young professionals. If young people during their studies or right after graduation will not get familiar with IEEE, the chances to attract them afterwards are very low due to lack of direct member benefits.
 - Advertisement materials that can be distributed at conferences and events.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- 40 years anniversary of Student Branch Oulu
- Significant increase of the amount of technical events organized by Chapters
- Section successfully implemented a senior member grade elevation program
- Initialized process and application preparation for the first IEEE Milestone in the Finnish Section