

## Republic of Macedonia Section

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### Getting Closer to Industry

- Vast majority of our members are from the academia who regularly use IEEE Transactions and IEEE Xplore Digital Library in their work. Our industry does not have much research and development centers, and members from industry do not see enough benefits from IEEE membership for its cost
- Engineers from industry appreciate more the IEEE Magazines and professional and career events
- Improvements in magazines content and more professional and career lectures/workshops (some with regional experts) will improve membership from industry, and consequently industry relations.

### Students and Young Professionals

- Our Section has organized several competitions and rewards for IEEE student members:
  - Student competition RoboMak2014 (with participation of 30 student members from the near region), Skopje, 0408 Mar 2014
  - Three best student paper awards at the 11-th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies, Bitola, 1113 Apr 2014
  - ComSoc Macedonia Student Achievement Award for 2014.
- The Section financially supported two delegates at the IEEE REGION 8 Student and Young Professional Congress, 69 Aug 2014, Krakow, Poland
- we also motivated students to take part in IEEE Xtreme 2014 (unfortunately only one team)
- We participate in the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest 2015
- Two new student branch chapters were approved in 2014
  - Solid State Circuits and
  - Computer
- Mr. Branislav Gerazov was appointed as Young Professional officer and started collecting signatures for new affinity group formation
- Student competitions and reward are most appreciated by students and make IEEE more respected and visible among students and in the society. The Region 8 can financially support regional student competitions where winning teams from local competitions can take part.
- Gradual increase in membership fees for Young Professionals during next three years after graduation can significantly increase student membership retention.

### Section Vitality

- Section vitality is closely connected with motivated volunteer and involvement of members in Section and chapters activities. Our Section has held 9 regular Executive Committee meetings in 2014. There is always discussion about past and future activities and chairs from less active chapter can copy best practices from others.
- We organized two social events where all members were invited: Barbecue party for IEEE Day (7 Oct 2014) and Luncheon after the Annual General Meeting (19 Feb 2015). Members highly appreciate social events since there they have opportunity to meet and network with others from academia or industry.
- At the Annual General Meeting we introduced the IEEE Member Loyalty Program, this year for 26 members having active membership from 5 to 30 years. Instead of using the loyalty pins, for the same expense we prepared gifts (business card holder, coffee mug, portable battery charger) with printed IEEE logo and years of active membership.
- Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities.
- Section Newsletter is delivered by e-mail to all members.
- Region 8 officers' visits to Sections are very useful and motivational, as was the case with the visit of Director Martin Bastiaans to our Section in May 2014.

### Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The 18-years anniversary of Section formation (14 Feb 1997) was celebrated at the Annual General Meeting (so called Annual Assembly and required by local law for NGOs) held on 19 Feb 2015 with social event and group photo. At this occasion a Recognition Plaque was given to the Past Chair Goce Arsov for his continuous contribution and leadership of the Section since its formation.
- Three Chapters got financial support from their Societies for activities. The Communication Chapter received the EMEA Region 2014 Chapter Achievement Award. item Three Distinguished Lectures were organized in 2014.
- The Section Chair and Vice-Chair have met with the IEEE legal department staff during SC2014 and agreed about the necessary text changes considering local situation and legislation, and signed the Cooperation Agreement with the IEEE Worldwide Limited on 15 Oct 2014.