

Croatia Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry members were motivated to attend events with industry related content relevant for their everyday jobs or career development. These include development of practical skills (e.g. presentation, networking or project management skills) promoted in various lectures with industry experts, sharing experience and knowledge from the industry peers ("IEEE Elevate" initiative), or career development ("IEEE Step" initiative). Also, the Croatia Section has established annual five awards, two of which are oriented towards industry: 1) IEEE Croatia Section Outstanding Engineer Award (for individual innovative contribution), and 2) Friend of IEEE Croatia Section Award (awarded to a company or institution which fosters IEEE activities of its employees, as well as the Croatia Section in general).
- IEEE could encourage better collaboration between industry relations activities in the EU countries, promoting common EU market for projects and jobs, as well as collaboration with other professional groups in the area of electrical engineering. IEEE should additionally promote industry related activities within the IEEE sections (e.g. regular IRO meetings, sharing experience from other comparable countries or regions).
- There were no major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations.
- We are still working on ideas on how to foster Industry Relations in Croatia Section.

Students and Young Professionals

- One of the most prominent activities regarding Students and Young Professionals is the Croatia Section Student Branch Congress, an annual event that brings together all four Croatia Section student branches and representatives of YP AG. This event offers opportunities for collaboration between students' branches, as well as between the students and the members of YP AG.
- A major success since the last meeting was that the University of Zagreb Student Branch and the Croatia Section YP AG successfully organized the Central European Student and Young Professionals Congress (CEuSYP 2015) in Zagreb, Croatia, May 8-10, 2015. Continuing the tradition of Linz, Austria, in 2011 and Opole, Poland, in 2013, the Congress brought together 80 participants from 12 IEEE sections: students, Young Professionals, speakers, section and Region 8 representatives from Central Europe and beyond. Aside from the international aspect, the Congress has also intensified the collaboration of student branches within the Croatia Section, as well as with the YP AG, and strengthened the continuity in involving new generations of section and region-wide connected volunteers.
- The Section will continue its support for student branches and YP AG during the next planned activities, with immediate focus on the IEEE Day related events.

Section Vitality

- Our activities follow the Section Vitality Checklist. The success of the Section is the result of the continuous work of our active Section officers/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. The activities / programs / initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section include:
 - meetings and workshops,
 - helping students and young professionals,
 - awards, and
 - annual meeting/dinner.

To improve Section vitality and sustainability the volunteers should train themselves, taking advantage of the support material (notably, IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training (VOLT), IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE)). From the Region we expect concise guidelines to Section volunteers to help and encourage Section operation.

- There were no major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality.
- The ways to foster Section vitality in Croatia Section will follow the best current practices:
 - taking care of members,
 - member retention and recruitment,
 - recruitment of new volunteers,
 - celebrating the IEEE Day,
 - inviting Distinguished Lecturers,
 - organizing IEEE conferences,
 - sponsoring local conferences,
 - having Section Awards,
 - organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs,
 - publishing the Section Newsletter,
 - involving members from industry.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Special achievements include:

- Dinko Jakovljevic received the "IEEE Richard E. Merwin Computer Society Award";
- IEEE Power and Energy Society Croatia Chapter won the IEEE PES "Outstanding Chapter Award" for the Small Chapter Category;
- IEEE Power and Energy Society Croatia Chapter was also awarded through the "High Performing Chapter Program" for outstanding performance (awarded in 2015 based on 2014 performance).