

Finland Section

Rafal Sliz

Getting Closer to Industry

- Established cooperation with KAATO organization. KAATO is a unique business community initiative tailored towards companies who are interested in setting-up, or expanding, operations in Finland. KAATO is an innovative approach to leverage Finnish business and ICT executives to support your company in setting-up or expanding operations in Finland. This cooperation help to reach many industry representatives that are not interested in academia activities.
- Changes:
 - Industry members are searching for more direct benefits provided by IEEE.
 - The quality of conferences should be increased and emphasized among members.
 - Tools for industry oriented volunteers should be provided
 - Networking programs designated for particular groups, encourage society membership.

Students and Young Professionals

- Section is supporting students and young professionals in organizing their activities / events. Section encourages young members to organize different events and to engage more members. The 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 revitalization and support events organized by the Student Branches.
- Besides financial support section supports both groups by providing useful contact information and advertisement of their events.
- Section will provide funding for active students and young professionals to go to Nordic SYP congress organized in Stockholm.
- Recently the IEEE Young Professionals started to set up cooperation with young professionals of Finland - not engineering society of your professionals.
- Changes:
 - Increased visibility of the young professionals and students at large conferences / events. Encourage separate tracks for students and young professionals.
 - IEEE could provide more programs and tools for both members and volunteers. For instance MantorCenter, 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.

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 achieving and analyzing data regarding 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

Sadly, interest in volunteering is continuously decreasing resulting in very low amount of candidates for officers positions for incoming years.