

Republic of Macedonia Section**Ljupco Karadinov****Getting Closer to Industry**

- Unlike the case with other Sections, vast majority of our members are from the academia. Our industry does not have much research and development centers, and membership from industry is constantly low.
- Our Section is cosponsoring the two major national conferences where a considerable presence of engineers from industry are present with a special booth with IEEE membership and benefits information:
 - 12th International Conference ETAI 2015 (Electronics, Telecommunications, Automation and Informatics), 2426 Sep 2015, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia;
 - 7th ICT Innovations Conference 2015, 14 Oct 2015, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia.

Students and Young Professionals

- Our Section has organized several competitions and rewards for IEEE student members:
 - Student competition RoboMak2015 (participation of 80 student members in 6 categories), Skopje, 9-14 June 2015;
 - Three best student paper awards at the 12th International Conference on Informatics and Information Technologies CIIT 2015, Bitola, 24-26 Apr 2015.
- The Section has the student member Mr. Marko Paloski as an IEEEExtreme 2015 ambassador who will promote and advertise the event in order to motivate more students to take part than was the case in 2014.
- Petition for formation of Young Professional Affinity Group has been sent and awaiting approval by IEEE.
- 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.

Section Vitality

- The Section started the new officers election (ExCom and chapter chairs) on time according to the MGA election calendar tool and guidelines. As with the previous elections, this year again we will be using vTools.Voting election tool.
- Regular ExCom meetings are held. The IEEE Day (6 Oct 2014) will be marked by the Section with social event (barbecue party) and an appropriate lecture where all members are invited and will have opportunity to meet and network with others from academia or industry.
- Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities. This not only promotes Section activities, but helps in recruiting new members. Young Professional Affinity Group is being formed.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- The Section submitted a bid to host the EUROCON 2017, one of the R8 flagship conferences.
- IEEE Information Theory Society Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Giuseppe Caire, IEEE Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt professor, gave a lecture on "Massive MIMO with structured channels" at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and IT in Skopje, 8 June 2015.