

Serbia Montenegro Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

Although the industry in Serbia and Montenegro is not at a satisfying level, IEEE S&M Section carries out some activities in order to make better connections between academia and industry. For instance, we support a number of IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops as a place where researchers and engineers from industry, institutes and academia meet and exchange their ideas and experience. As an example, IEEE S&M Section (and particularly COM chapter), School of electrical Engineering Belgrade and Telecommunication Society Serbia, with significant financial and operational support from national industry, organize a big annual international conference TELFOR in Belgrade, for more than 20 years. Usually the conference is supported by more than 20 companies. Last year, two (out of 3) general managers of the main national telecom operators addressed the audience at the opening ceremony of the conference, and Ericsson and Orange companies provided invited plenary lectures. Over 15 companies organized their technical and commercial presentations, as well as exhibition. During the conference, IEEE S&M Section organizes a booth promoting IEEE, contributing to the increase in the number of the industry members. In the following years, we will try to promote IEEE more actively in other electrical engineering fields.

Students and Young Professionals

There are a lot talented young professionals in Serbia and Montenegro and the society expects of them to grow into leaders of the field. Four IEEE SBs in Serbia and Montenegro organize various student events regularly. Traditional joint International Students Projects Conference IEEEESTEC is organized every year by IEEE SB Niš and student organization EESTEC, with the cooperation of IEEE S&M Section, IEEE ED/SSC Chapter and IEEE MTT Chapter. The conference is aimed at presenting projects done by students. At the 7th IEEEESTEC was organized in November, 2014, 48 papers were presented. The event enabled students to make contacts among each other, as well as with visiting companies. International IEEE Workshop on Consumer Electronics, held on March 11 in Novi Sad, had a special focus on talented young professionals. It was a good opportunity for young professionals in the region to get the feel of global CE trends and ideas. Belgrade SB proposed the best paper from TELFOR Conference Students Section, for IEEE Student Paper Contest 2015 (IEEE SPC 2015). Invited by students from BEST organization, young professionals from SB Niš gave lectures at BEST week and T.E.S.L.A Summer Course for students from 25 countries of Europe.

Section Vitality

- The S&M Section, Chapters, Affinity group and Student branches activities are visible on our local and regional events, conferences, meetings that involve our members, etc.
- A lot of invited lectures have been organized by the S&M Section and Chapters.
- The section and its chapters regularly take part in organization of conferences and other events.
- The section has a fruitful cooperation with national organizations (ETRAN, CIGRE, CIRED, YURIT, Telecommunication Society Serbia, MTT Society Serbia, EESTEC, etc).
- At present, there is a problem with finding best mechanisms for using the available rebate obtained for the Section activities. Section registering is considered as a way for solving some organizational problems, but possible shortcomings should also be taken into account
- Recently, some chapters elected new officers and it is expected that fresh people and ideas will increase level and quality of activities. Attempts to re-activate a chapter that haven't reported activities were done.
- Section website was significantly updated over the last period.
- The S&M Section and Chapters' activities will be carefully planned and monitored, and regularly reported.
- In order to improve Section vitality, membership recruitment will be a permanent task.
- Possibilities offered by the Distinguished Lecturers program should be used to greater extent.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- There is an initiative of the IEEE S&M Executive Committee to find ways for providing IEEEExplore service for teachers and researchers, which would bring significant benefits to engineering community and contribute to IEEE membership.
- Recently, the IEEE Signal Processing Society's Serbia and Montenegro Chapter has been awarded a Certification, valid for four years, from 1 January 2016 through 31 December 2019.
- In the forthcoming period, the preparation of Section Jubilee celebration will start. Namely, the IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section celebrates next year the 45th anniversary of its founding (1971).