

## Portugal Section

Ana Madureira

### Getting Closer to Industry

- 1) Unfortunately, our relation with Industry has been very limited in the past years. Nevertheless, we have identified this problem and have been working in the following initiatives:
  - Young Professionals Internship Program (<http://yp.ieee-pt.org/ypi>) is an undergoing project, led by IEEE Portugal Young Professionals Affinity Group, that aims to create bounds between universities and industry, fostering internships.
  - We have nominated an Industry Relations Coordinator that will try to fill the existent gap, promoting different protocols and activities with industry partners.
  - We have identified key local industries on which we plan to create strong technical relations.
- 2) We believe that the following changes would be helpful to improve Industry Relations:
  - IEEE's image and visibility is somehow limited inside Europe. We believe that new programs developed with the goal to improve IEEE's image would definitely help sections to approach the industry in the future.
  - IEEE must be more proactive in order to promote the Engineer Profession and its impact in real economy.
  - Create an IEEE membership for industry companies, and establish benefits for them to partner with IEEE. e.g: help with patent development, special access for articles, participation in RFC working groups, etc.
- 3) Maybe recent 2016 Changes to NSA Program could help

### Students and Young Professionals

- National events generate a lot of motivation among students and keep a constant flow of new volunteers within Portugal Section (PS). We try to finance the participation of as many students as possible. In addition, we developed the Leadership Camp, held once per year, to gather students from the national SBs, and provide them with training in IEEE knowledge, leadership / organization skills.
- "Borrow a Workshop" is a PS initiative to promote collaboration between SB and increase the number of technical activities in each SB. With this, Portuguese SB can propose several activities to be outsourced for SB.
- Young Professionals (YP) Internship Program is being developed by the YP AG with the support of the PS. Although this program is still in an early stage, we believe that it will improve YP's membership retention & engagement.
- Changes to better support Students and YP:
  - It should be possible to have YP AG inside SB (similar to WiE SB AG). We have observed an increase of WiE activities in SB that have a student AG, and thus we find it hard to accept why YP are not able to have the same structure.
  - Increase STEP Program's funding: previously there was no limitation on the amount of STEP events that sections could organize per year. Currently, sections are limited to one event per year, which constrains the YP activities.

### Section Vitality

- 1) Our section's financial sustainability is mainly supported by the organization of technical conferences. As such we believe that:
  - It is imperative that IEEE promotes the inclusion of the Portugal Section in all conferences held in Portugal, which is not happening at all. Currently we have conferences where some IEEE Societies refusing to share conferences' organization with our section.
  - There should have a clarification and standardization of the procedures related to the participation and role of local sections in technical conferences.
- 2) Societies should try to include more Distinguished Lecturers in their programs, as it is often very hard to find Lecturers available to come to our Section (because their agenda is already full). Some increase of funding for these programs would also be helpful.
- 3) We are promoting a global initiative of senior member elevation at the end of 2015. We have already approved 8 new senior members and another 30-40 will be promoted at the next call.
- 4) Contacting and motivating national members to participate and promote IEEE activities.

### Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Create more effective and tangible IEEE membership benefits. Promote IEEE's image in the general society by using a more dynamic and clever marketing.
- Create clear, effective and standard rules for IEEE conferences sponsorship to ensure the scientific quality of IEEE participation.
- 2016 is a special year for Portugal Section - celebrates its 35th anniversary.
- Portugal will have the pleasure to receive the R8 meeting.