

Serbia & Montenegro Section

Vera Markovic

Getting Closer to Industry

Although a number of IEEE members in Serbia and Montenegro come from companies and institutes and also two chapter chairs are from that sector, most of members are employed at higher education institutions. The main reason is, as in previous years, the low level of development of the industry in our countries. Traditionally, the places where researchers and engineers from industry, institutes and academia meet and exchange their ideas and experience are the IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops. The Section largely supports these activities in order to improve Industry Relations. Since the last R8 meeting, we organized a big international IEEE-cosponsored conference TELFOR 2015 in Belgrade, with a significant financial and operational support from more than 10 national and international companies, with 6 special sessions for companies, 3 technical presentations and an exhibition. During the conference, the Section promoted the IEEE actively, in order to increase the number of industry members. We are going to continue fostering Industry Relations and a recent nomination of a Section Industry Ambassador will certainly contribute to it. As an example of enhancing the relations with companies, CE chapter is planning to organize an industry oriented event aimed at innovations in consumer electronics.

Students and Young Professionals

Four IEEE SBs in Serbia and Montenegro organize various student events regularly. Traditional and very successful joint International Students Projects Conference IEEEESTEC is organized every year by IEEE SB Nis and student organization EESTEC, with the cooperation of IEEE S&M Section, IEEE ED/SSC Chapter and IEEE MTT Chapter. 8th IEEEESTEC was organized in November, 2015. Montenegrin Association for New Technologies (MANT) in cooperation with IEEE Montenegro SB organized International Conference MECO 2015 in Budva. Students and Young Professionals attended to the Conference and gave the contribution to the successful meeting. IEEE Region 8 Professional Seminar for students and young professionals was organized during the international TELFOR 2015 conference. During the last several months, IEEE SB Novi Sad focused mainly on promotion in order to motivate the younger students (at the beginning of their academic career) to join the student branch. The emphasis was set at presenting the opportunities for IEEE student competitions, scholarships, grants and fellowships. Second important focus in the previous period was improving the cooperation between the student organizations on a local level. Ideas, presented and discussed on several occasions, will be further developed in the future period, hopefully leading to the benefit of students and local community.

Section Vitality

- The S&M Section/chapters/affinity group/student branches regularly organize or take part in various activities and events (conferences, seminars, meetings, invited lectures, etc.). Permanent efforts are made in order to promote the values of IEEE and to attract new members. The section has a traditional cooperation with most of the national professional associations. The section structure, reports on activities, as well as latest news, are visible to the public through a very-well maintained web site.
- It seems that the Section is on the way to solve problems with spending the available rebate obtained for the Section/Chapters activities, by extending the use of the IEEE CB Card Program. Recently, some chapters elected new officers and it is expected that fresh people and ideas will increase level and quality of activities. In addition, attempts to re-activate the only chapter without reports in the previous year, were done.
- In the forthcoming period the activities will be carefully planned and monitored. Some new activities (for instance, publishing a historical overview of the Section) are foreseen. In order to improve Section vitality, membership recruitment will be a permanent task. Possibilities offered by the Distinguished Lecturers program will be promoted in order to be used to greater extent.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- In 2016, we are reaching a significant milestone for the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section as the successor of the former IEEE Yugoslav Section - we are celebrating its 45th anniversary, and some of section activities will be dedicated to that jubilee.
- Concerning the special achievements, 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.