

Croatia Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry members were interested in attending events that provide opportunity to share their experience and achievements (lectures and workshops) or gain new technical knowledge from industry or academy peers.
- Areas that provide opportunity for IEEE to introduce new or improve existing industry related activities are: acquiring new employees (not only fresh graduates but also young professionals, seniors and managers), building professional and business credibility (through visibility within IEEE network, certificates and awards), and finding new business partners (customers, suppliers, collaborators). Quantity and topics of local IEEE activities should be more closely aligned with existing and emerging industry sectors in Section's area.
- There were no major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations.
- We will continue to organize our popular "IEEE Elevate" and "IEEE Step" events that generally attract significant number of visitors from industry (both IEEE members and non-members). We also plan to organize a networking event exclusively for IEEE industry members where we can discuss their expectations and impressions of our Section's industry related efforts. Collaborating with local industry associations is another way we plan to explore for getting closer to industry members.

Students and Young Professionals

- There were several activities organized by student branches that work well:
 - The student branch of the University of Rijeka initiated a series of lectures to present success stories from the local companies. The lectures also provide opportunities for students to network with industry representatives, and to learn more about the potential opportunities for employment after graduation.
 - IEEEmadC competition for mobile application development was traditionally organized by the Student Branch of the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek and it resulted in a successful new edition of the IEEEmadC.
 - Student branch of the University of Zagreb organized lectures about application development for Android devices, and several social activities correlated with the recruitment of the new student members.
- Young Professionals affinity group organized STEP workshop "Starting your own business". Invited speakers were three entrepreneurs who founded their own companies and shared their experiences regarding the process of starting a company and running one's business. Our ongoing activities are focusing on the preparations for the SYP congress in Regensburg and the organization of Croatian Students and Young Professionals (CroSYP) congress that will be held in Rijeka, Croatia in September. Croatia Section supports the participation of attendees in both events.

Section Vitality

- Our success is the result of the continuous work of our Section officers/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. We take special care of timely annual reporting of officers, meetings and finances to be eligible for the bonus.
- The activities / programs / initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in our Section include:
 - Meetings, workshops and conferences;
 - Cooperation with students and young professionals;
 - Pre-University education and STEM programs;
 - Section awards;
 - Section annual meeting / dinner.
- To improve Section vitality and sustainability the volunteers train themselves, using the IEEE supporting material and programs.
- From the Region we expect help / guidelines to Section volunteers to improve Section operation and vitality.
- To foster Section vitality in our Section we will follow our current best practices:
 - taking care of members;
 - member retention and recruitment;
 - recruitment of new volunteers;
 - cooperation of Section units;
 - organizing meetings and workshops;
 - celebrating the IEEE Day;
 - inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
 - organizing IEEE conferences;
 - sponsoring local conferences;
 - section awards;
 - organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs;
 - publishing the Section Newsletter;
 - involving members from industry.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Outstanding new initiatives include:
Establishment of the Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT) within the IEEE Croatia Section in May 2016.

- Special achievements include:
 - The IEEEemadC program competition, organized by the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek received US\$ 4,000 and a gadget for prize drawings from the IEEE Computer Society to partially sponsor the competition.
 - IEEE Student Branch of the University of Zagreb won the first place in the "Mind the Gap!" Contest for R8 Students. The winning project, submitted by Zlatko Ofak and Meri Tukac, is entitled "Escape the GAP".
 - Dinko Jakovljevic, a student representative in the Executive Committee of the IEEE Croatia Section and the Subcommittee Member - Awards & Contests Coordinator within IEEE Region 8 Student Activities, received a special recognition for his significant engagement in IEEE from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek, on the occasion of its 38th anniversary.