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

We believe that national/regional events generate a lot of motivation among students and keep a constant flow of new volunteers within our Section.Due to these reasons,we give support the participation of as many students as possible in the regional student congress.In addition,we developed an activity called Leadership Camp, that is held once per year,where we gather students from all the national SB, and provide them with training in IEEE knowledge, leadership and organization skills.

Borrow a Workshop is IEEE Portugal Section initiative that has as main goals to promote collaboration between the SB and increase the number of technical activities in each SB.

Young Professionals(YP) Internship Program is a program that is being developed by the YP AG with the support of the Portugal Section. Although this program is still in an early stage, we believe that it will improve YP's membership retention and engagement.

Changes to better support Students and YP:

- It should be possible to have YP Affinity Groups inside SB (similiar to WiE SB AG).
- Increase STEP Program's funding.

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, celebrating its 35th anniversary.