

Spain Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- The Section is an active partner of the R8 Action for Industry program. So far, we have publicized 8 internships within that program, making us one of the Sections with the largest numbers of available internships, and hope to add a few more before the end of the year.
- Also, the LinkedIn group of the Section is being revitalized to serve as a discussion forum with practitioners.
- Still, the ties with industry need to be improved and are practitioners are underserved within the Section, as it happens with most Sections in the Region. The appointment of an Industry Ambassador is one step in improving that area.

Students and Young Professionals

- The Section financially supports the yearly Student Branches Congress, which this year took place in the city of Elche in April, and was attended by more than 40 students and young professionals.
- Starting in 2017, the congress will be renamed Students, Women, and Young Professionals (SWYP Spain) to showcase the involvement of these groups.
- Apart from the support to Students Congress, the Section also financially supports other activities carried out in the branches through an open call for projects. Branches apply for funds for specific projects (ranging from hardware development to short courses or talks) and a committee grants the funds based on feasibility, cost, and previous experience of the branch.

Section Vitality

- All new members are welcome each month via a personalized email in Spanish. This makes them feel welcomed and engaged.
- The Section supports chapter activities by having two open calls per year in which Chapters can apply for funds to develop particular activities. This year we funded 8 such activities with Section funds.
- Membership shows some growth and retention rates are always among the best in the Region.
- There is very good communication between the different areas of the Section (chapters, students, conferences, YPs, etc.).

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Two Teacher in Service Program (TISP) workshops have been organized in 2016.
- IEEE Day 2016 will be celebrated by the Section in Barcelona on October 7th (location changes within the Section on a yearly basis). The event will have a plenary speaker coming from industry, a presentation of IEEE and the Section, recognition to members loyalty, and an awards ceremony. All IEEE members will be invited to attend, and the event is of course open to the general public. On the next day, the Section will hold its annual meeting, and in parallel a training session for student branches will be organized.
- The Section is working on establishing its first Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT). Enough members have expressed their interest in becoming part of the group, and we are now working on making it official.