

Croatia Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

- Industry members were interested in IEEE activities that provided opportunities to share achievements, learn about other business' success stories, and to learn about top students and their projects.
- Developing industry relations and increasing the number of IEEE industry members is complex, and it requires dedicated resources and support from all IEEE organization levels. Industry Relations' activities require a "customized" approach for each Section, since the activities depend on significant local industry branches, existing links between IEEE Section and the industry, and the opportunities that Section can provide to local industry peers.
- Section should encourage establishing a team of IEEE volunteers dedicated to the goal of identifying and implementing projects that benefit IEEE and the local industry. IEEE and the Region should support these efforts by dedicating budgets for Industry Relations projects and providing a platform for sharing ideas and success stories between coordinators.
- There were no significant changes in membership share of industry professionals and their involvement in IEEE activities.
- We will continue improving IEEE visibility through collaboration with local industry associations and develop connections with local start-up ecosystem to attract young companies that can benefit from access to international IEEE network and knowledge.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

There are several activities related to attracting and supporting Future Members that work well in our Section:

- Student branches organize lectures that present "success stories" from local companies. Such lectures give students an opportunity to informally network with industry representatives and to learn about future employment opportunities. - IEEE Elevate program is a unique program, introduced by the IEEE Croatia Section Young Professionals (YP) affinity group back in 2013. Elevate consists of informative events, featuring guest speakers who share their views, experiences and success stories in various IEEE-related areas of interest, aiming to inspire and motivate students and young engineers to advance their careers. Elevate events are organized in an informal environment (such as local cafes), and present a great opportunity for networking.
- The annual Students and Young Professionals (SYP) congresses are great tool for team building, which enables smooth transition from Student to YP status for volunteers. The Croatian Student and Young Professionals congress (CroSYP) is organized in a different city each year, with the support of the Croatia Section, the local student branch, and the local university. CroSYP events encourage networking among student members, and provide a great venue for exchange of best practices and ideas.

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 of students and young professionals;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- section awards;
- section annual meeting/dinner.

To improve Section vitality and sustainability volunteers train themselves using the IEEE supporting material and programs.

From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for 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 and training of new volunteers;
- cooperation of Section units
- organizing meetings and workshops
- inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
- celebrating the IEEE Day;
- organizing IEEE conferences;
- sponsoring local conferences;
- section awards;
- organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- publishing the Section Newsletter;
- involving members from industry.

IEEE in Africa

We currently have no specific recommendations for fostering IEEE in Africa.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

- The Croatia Section currently has no need for staff support from the new IEEE office in Vienna.
- We expect administrative and financial support to be provided for the Region 8.
- We propose that the new office serve as a EU-based distribution point for IEEE membership development and promotional material (such as MD Meeting and Event Kit), as well as IEEE products (such as stationery, banners, plaques, pins and certificates), which are currently shipped all the way from the USA. Shipping these products to Europe by sea (and customizing them locally, if/when needed) would significantly reduce the delivery time for Sections based in Europe (and, possibly, other geographically near countries). Further on, for the EU-countries, distribution from Vienna would also obviate the additional delay (and, sometimes, hassle) related to standard customs clearance procedures required for international shipments from non-EU countries.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Special achievements include:

- University of Zagreb IEEE Student Branch received the “IEEE Region 8 Exemplary Student Branch Award” for outstanding results in the academic year 2015/16
- The IEEE Power and Energy Society Croatia Chapter received the “High Performing Chapter Program Award” in 2016, based on 2015 performance
- The joint IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society and IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Croatia Chapter (AES/GRSS) received a plaque from the GRSS Chair, Dr. Kamal Sarabandi
- IEEE Croatian Section Newsletter, No. 3, was issued in November 2016

Anniversaries:

- University of Rijeka IEEE Student Branch celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016