

Republic of Macedonia Section

Ljupco Karadzinov

Getting Closer to Industry

Our Section still has the problem with low number of members from industry and more than 90 % of our members are from the academia. This is due to not having much industry research and development centers in our country. Membership from industry need different services and activities than those suitable for members from academia (IEEE conferences and journals).

We need more Section activities suitable for members from industry, like technical activities that cover appropriate practical topics, and social activities where members meet and share experience and information. The Section Facebook page is constantly updated with the forthcoming activities and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are members or not yet. The page now has 813 likes, meaning that the same number of colleagues are informed with every post about new Section activities.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

The Section received the 2016 Silver Banner Recruitment Recognition Award. The Section actively supports promotion to Senior Member grade as a good practice to improve members retention.

Student membership recruitment and retention is given special attention. The Section helps student members in paying membership dues in local currency. The Section promoted, financially supported and encouraged student members to take part in the following activities:

- 1) Three teams participated in IEEEExtreme 10.0, 22 October 2016 and were very successful with the overall rankings 72th, 95th and 281st place out of 1835 teams. This contributed significantly in attracting new student members.
- 2) Ms. Mirjana Sadikovik participated in the workshop "Students and Young Professionals from the Region", Belgrade, 9 November 2016, with a presentation of our Section activities.
- 3) Financially co-sponsorship of 4-th Student Conference on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development, held in Skopje, 24-26 November 2017.
- 4) Our student branch team received the first jury price at 8th International Students' Projects Conference EEESTEC, 24 November 2016, University of Nis, Serbia.
- 5) Two student members participated at IEEE Student and Young Professional Congress, Sarajevo, 1-4 Dec 2016.
- 6) Two student members participated at 2-nd Zagreb Energy Conference, 8-10 Dec 2016.

Section Vitality

The last year 2016 was not an officer election year in our Section. However, the student branch chair and vice-chair have left abroad for master studies. The same happened with the student branch SSC chapter chair. We have appointed interim chairs on the vacant officer positions until the elections in the late 2017.

The Section holds regular Executive Committee meetings where future activities are planned. In the reporting period there were also regular meetings of the IEEE EUROCON 2017 organizing committee where a large number of Section volunteers participate.

IEEE Day 4th Oct 2017 was celebrated with the lecture "IEEE in the Republic of Macedonia - a 20 Years Section History" by the first Section Chair Prof. Dr. Goce Arsov. It was followed by a photo slide show and barbecue party.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 16 February 2017 we continued the IEEE Member Loyalty Program for members having active membership from 5 to 30 years. Instead of using the loyalty pins, for the same expense we prepared gifts (business card holder, coffee mug, portable battery charger) with printed IEEE logo and years of active membership.

Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities.

IEEE in Africa

North Africa Sections like those in Egypt and Tunisia are well organized. Sub-Saharan region has only 4 Section and their experience is more competent. Africa is a vast region and travel expenses may be a problem. To foster IEEE in Africa more technical and social activities may be organized in major university and industrial centers where a larger number of electrical engineers are present. Our Section is small (financially and with number of technical lecturers) and can basically help with sharing good practices with the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe and Section Chairs from that region.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

The new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, if established, will have very few staff members. That is why it is not expected it may replace services provided by IEEE staff. Rather, we expect it could serve as a more accessible liaison to support us in communication with the right IEEE staff member and getting more timely support when needed. As an example the responses from IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) and eNotice are very slow. Also Senior Member plaque have not been received by many Section members 5 years after promotion to this higher grade.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The Section is organizing one of the Region 8 flagship conferences, the IEEE EUROCON 2017, to be held 6-9 July 2017 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. The conference will be used to celebrate the Section 20-years Anniversary. The conference will be opened by the 2017 IEEE President Karen Bartleson and IEEE R8 Director Margaretha Eriksson. All the Section Executive Committee members are actively involved in its organization.

Section representative Dr. Mare Srbinovska took part in panel discussion "The Contribution of Women in Engineering" held within the conference MEDPOWER2016, Belgrade, Serbia, 9 November 2016.

First Section Chair Prof. Dr. Goce Arsov participated in the celebration of the 45-years Anniversary of the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section in Belgrade 23 November 2016. This was a kind of a anniversary for us as well since before the formation

of our Section, we were jointly part of then IEEE Yugoslavia Section and share the first 26 years of IEEE organized presence in this region.

IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer Prof. Dr. Jovica Milanovic from the University of Manchester, UK, gave a lecture “Advanced demand profiling and management for efficient and secure operation of power networks” in Skopje on 20 December 2016.