

## Spain Section

**Antonio Luque**

### Getting Closer to Industry

Section is actively participating in the Action for Industry initiative of R8. The representative has been in contact with several industry executives, from which a number of positions offered to students have arisen. So far, seven positions at different companies have been published (with seven MoUs signed), making Spain the first Section in R8 in number of positions offered.

The plan is to organize an executive panel with industry leaders, to discuss technology standards in Spain. The meeting will probably take place in conjunction with IEEE Day celebration in 2017, and we are currently trying to secure funds to organize it.

### Attracting and Supporting Future Members

The Section organized the National Student Branches Congress annually. Starting in 2017, the Congress has been renamed SWYP (for Students, WIE and YP), including the two AGs in the organization and program. The goal is to create synergies between students and YPs, and between students and WIE, mainly with the objective that the students see IEEE membership as a natural path in their professional careers after getting the degree.

The incursion initiative for Students reported one year ago is well and running and several such activities have already taken place.

Other activities include a student training day for branches, held together with IEEE Day last October. R8 SYP in Regensburg was attended by 17 students from 10 Branches plus 2 AG representatives. The SSR attended Portugal Section Leadership Camp to learn and plan joint activities.

### Section Vitality

Elections for Chapters are coordinated by the Section, ensuring timely processes and reports.

In the Affinity Groups, WIE has been revitalized in the last year, showing an increasing activity. Plans are underway for revitalizing YP and LM groups as well.

The Section funds student and chapter activities in a competitive way, where branches and chapters have to apply for funds for specific activities, which are ranked by a Section committee. This way, we encourage them to be active in order to get funds.

### IEEE in Africa

#### Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

IEEE Office in Vienna could assist the Section in:

- Helping conferences held in R8 (within Spain Section in this case), especially with finances, international payments, and taxes
- Providing support for Section and Student Branches rebates
- Supporting cross-sectional events, such as SYP congresses

### Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Section will celebrate its 50th anniversary in April 2018.