

## Malta Section

**Conrad Attard**

### Getting Closer to Industry

We reach out in several ways to industry. Currently we are preparing a study that will allow us know more of what we can offer to industry. We have setup a committee made of experience people from industry who will become later part of the project we are preparing to ensure better collaboration with local industry. These are the underlying objectives we are addressing.

As part of a concerted effort for IEEE to continue updating itself with industry processes and remain relevant to a rapidly evolving 21st century market, our organisation shall be conducting an external evaluation study exercise in order to take stock of our strengths and weaknesses and discover what is needed to face the challenges ahead of us and better work to fulfill the needs of our members and industry professionals.

For this purpose, we are seeking the assistance of industry professionals to serve as external consultants. The role of such consultants would be to peer review the process of the study and give their expert opinion on the pilot testing the research instruments being used, the data gathering and analysis of such data.

The external evaluation study shall consist of a focus group and a series of online questionnaires with industry professionals, employers, educators and career advisors; the target groups for this study. In more detail, the aims and objectives of the study are:

- To obtain a snap-shot of the patterns and processes shaping the industry and private sector in order to be further updated on the socio-economic, political, technological and legal factors shaping the future trajectories of sectors which are of particular interest to IEEE;
- To determine the needs of industry professionals and thus enable IEEE to fine-tune its approach and future positions on Continuous Professional Development and lifelong learning required by the industry. The study shall aim to investigate whether current education and training mechanisms are providing the skills sets which are required by employers and industry professionals and the validity of IEEE projects to transfer research and knowledge, thereby establishing recommendations for the way forward;
- To investigate the state-of-play within schools with regards the further development of science, engineering and ICT curricula, teaching methods, implementation curricula and career advisory pertaining to science and technology. In this regard, the study aims to establish further policy recommendation on how to improve career advisory at secondary level, postgraduate level and the lifelong course;

### Attracting and Supporting Future Members

The External Evaluation Study for IEEE reaching out to industry will increase our presence and make more people aware of what we offer. Young professionals and organizing a number of activities throughout the year.

### Section Vitality

We have organised the following events.

- A STEM Fair in a school where 1000 guests have attended and participated in several of our activities. (with more than 30 teachers and 25 from our volunteers supporting the various activities organised )
- A debate on women in engineering.
- Awards to best Final year projects in ICT, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
- The chair was invited to give a speech to graduates with the aim to show case what IEEE Malta are doing. We had the opportunity to reach out to more volunteers and invite student members to remain with IEEE after they graduate.
- We are setting up an Science Club in collaboration with a local school. This will be a pilot project and we plan to reach out to other schools.
- The IEEE YP Section organised an Industrial visit to Ascent Software for University Students, in conjunction with the student branch. While this visit only lasted for around 1 hour, the students learned a lot about how the company operates, and learned about career opportunities with Ascent.
- We redesigned our website (work in progress) show casing new sub committees and new members in our section.
- The IEEE YP Section was involved in the STEM event organised by the IEEE Malta Section. In particular, our role was to think of an educational and fun activity for young students. The chosen activity was the construction of a small Ferris wheel using off-the-shelf and recycled materials such as toilet paper rolls and pasta. We are pleased to say that the students enjoyed this activity and they learned a lot about working in a team alongside other pupils.
- We are supporting digital literacy organised by the ministry of education. Our role will be as judges on a national competition and organise workshops as part of TISP week to teachers particularly focusing on how ICT and digital world can be taught in a more interesting and fun way. This will give exposure to a variety of schools and higher level educational institutes.

### IEEE in Africa

We should reach out by extending our projects to respective sections in Africa. Each section will support a section in Africa by sharing resources and ideas and learn from one another.

### Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

If possible they can support us by organizing a one to one or group sessions on Skype to learn more of how IEEE region works and the opportunities available for our region.

### Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Keep up the good work. Looking forward to meeting you all in Australia.