

Serbia & Montenegro Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

The Section Executive Committee and Chapter Committees were actively trying to increase the role of industry in activities organized or supported by IEEE in Serbia and Montenegro. In our case, the best opportunity for that are the IEEE co-sponsored conferences and workshops, where engineers from industry, institutes and academia have possibility to meet and exchange their knowledge, experience and ideas. For instance, the IEEE PES Chapter organized a successful workshop “Public outreach to Power Engineering Community in Serbia and Western Balkan Region focusing on the female members and young professionals” in Belgrade, gathering people from local companies in addition to the university members. The conference ZINC 2017 held in Novi Sad, supported by S&M Section and particularly by CE Chapter, was strongly industry-oriented. There were also other events involving IEEE members both from academia and outside academia, with financial and/or operational support from national industry.

We hope, the industry relations will be further fostered after founding the IEEE Young Professionals Affinity Group in Serbia & Montenegro, which is in progress. Also, the re-establishing the agreement with the National Association of Electrical, Computing and Nuclear Engineers (ETRAN) will certainly have a positive impact on industry relations.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

As in previous period, the majority of new members in the student and young professionals category were attracted through the IEEE student events, competitions and conferences. Special events were organized for membership renewal and joining, which is a good opportunity to give information what the benefits of IEEE membership are and how new members can connect to local student branches and technical societies.

There are a lot of promotional activities. Desks with flyers, IEEE posters and other IEEE promotional material were set up at major conferences. In most cases, the participants of conferences and workshops (in areas covered by IEEE) have been welcomed by Section Chair or Vice-Chair at the Opening Ceremony. Having in mind that there is a significantly smaller number of IEEE members in Montenegro than in Serbia, special efforts have been done to better attract future IEEE members. For instance, the Section Chair was one of the keynote speakers at the MECO 2017 conference in Montenegro, with a talk about IEEE history and current state, its mission and vision, etc. We were discussed at the Section ExCom meeting how to attract new members, especially students. It was concluded that it is most important for future members to recognize clearly the membership benefits.

Section Vitality

- It is very important that all chapters, WIE affinity group and student branches had activities during the previous year. All chapters had technical meetings (although, by mistake, a few chapters didn't report their meetings as technical but as administrative). CIS chapter was reactivated in 2016 by the election of new chapter officers. There were also elections at the Section level as well as in the EMC chapter.
- The Section supported a significant number of conferences, workshops, seminars, invited lectures, etc. Concerning the invited lecturers, it seems that it is not easy to use IEEE Distinguished Lecturers Program from several reasons. First, because of lecturer's availability, and second, because of the strict financing rules (the requirement to combine several lectures within a region). Some changes in the DLP procedure could maybe have a positive impact on the use of the program.
- Section has performed some activities jointly with the National Society ETRAN, after signing a new MoU between two associations.
- The Section has made big efforts in order to promote IEEE, to retain members and to recruit new ones. It should be pointed out that our Section got a Certificate of Recognition for outstanding achievement in member retention for the previous membership year. Some proactive supporting measures will be applied over the next period focused on students as our target group.

IEEE in Africa

- Maybe a Region 8 meeting could be organized in Africa?
- Our Section could share a 46 years long IEEE experience with Africa sections

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

The European IEEE office could support researchers, IEEE members, to make closer connections and find project opportunities more easily.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- Last year (2016), the IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section celebrated the 45th anniversary, gathering the officers from the neighboring IEEE sections.
- S&M Section chair participated in the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Rep. of Macedonia Section in July 2017 during the EUROCON conference.
- Recently, a petition was submitted for establishing an IEEE Young Professionals Affinity Group in Serbia & Montenegro