

## **Slovenia Section**

**Urban Burnik**

### **Getting Closer to Industry**

Slovenia Section is in permanent contact with members and professionals from companies, who recognise value of IEEE. Our people from the industry are regularly visiting our events and meetings. We offer community advice and a place to present own activities to local members and worldwide at conferences regularly organised in Slovenia.

Our major companies are happy for participation with 2 student branches in terms of internships by IEEE student members. Some companies offer sponsorships for SB activities and excursions.

We will continue to promote IEEE activities among non-members in terms of organising local technical events in local language.

### **Attracting and Supporting Future Members**

We regularly organise public events to attract new members. We are successful in particular among future members who see them self as future active volunteers.

The technical benefits for the members are hard to explain and often vary among societies. The most important technical benefit, access to Xplore library, is subject to additional charge. It is hard to present it as a benefit to members, especially since most researchers have unlimited access via University libraries.

### **Section Vitality**

We regularly organise promotional events in Section. Student members and young professionals are actively involved in organisation. The events demonstrate value of IEEE membership which reflects in a high retention rate among members.

We will continue to act in a positive and open way to our members who recognise that the benefits of membership cannot be valued in free bonuses but through the fact of being a member of a largest engineering community in the world.

We also recognise the long-awaited simplified procedure of group payments which is of a great benefit to members to whom membership fee runs as a bonus paid by the company.

### **IEEE in Africa**

More fundings should be offered to Africa events to support physical meetings among Africa sections. IEEE members from other Sections should be offered funding to present plenary talks at events in Africa.

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

Vienna office should offer direct support to Sections regarding travel refunds and section activities financing in order to release IEEE volunteers from administrative tasks.

Administrative support in EU policy making activities would also be helpful.

### **Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback**

39 events have been recorded as organised by IEEE Slovenia Section and its chapters in 2016, the presence of IEEE is getting broader recognition in public. IEEE members are being present and actively participate in organisation of technical meetings, symposia and conferences in Slovenia.

We've been active in organisation of 1 large multi-day event (ERK conference) with more than 100 participants each.

Especially, I would like to emphasise on a successful row of student events. SB Maribor member Lucija Brezočnik has won recent student paper competition. A series of events has been organised by SB Ljubljana in partnership with local companies.