

Portugal Section

Ana Madureira

Getting Closer to Industry

Unfortunately, our relation with Industry has been very limited in the past years. Nevertheless, we have identified this problem and have been working in the following initiatives:

- Young Professionals Internship Program (<http://yp.ieee-pt.org/ypi/>) is an undergoing project, led by IEEE Portugal Young Professionals Affinity Group, that aims to create bounds between universities and industry, fostering internships.
- We are trying to nominated an Industry Relations Coordinator that will try to fill the existent gap, promoting different protocols and activities with industry partners.
- We have identified key local industries on which we plan to create strong technical relations. We believe that the following changes would be helpful to improve Industry Relations:
- IEEE's image and visibility is somehow limited inside Europe. We believe that new programs developed with the goal to improve IEEE's image would definitely help sections to approach the industry in the future.
- IEEE must be more proactive in order to promote the Engineer Profession and its impact in real economy.
- Create an IEEE membership for industry companies, and establish benefits for them to partner with IEEE. e.g: help with patent development, special access for papers, participation in RFC working groups, etc.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

We believe that national and regional events generate a lot of motivation among our students and keep a constant flow of new volunteers within Portugal Section(PS). Due to these reasons,we support the participation of as many students as possible in the regional and R8 student congress. In addition,we developed the activity Leadership Camp,held once per year,usually in the beginning of the school year,where we gather students from all the national SB,and provide them with training in IEEE knowledge,leadership and organization skills.

National Engineering Day pretends to join senior, YP and SB and share ideas, projects and new developments in engineering.Non IEEE member are invited to assist and to participate in the event.

Borrow a Workshop is a PS initiative that has as main goals to promote collaboration between the SB and increase the number of technical activities in each Branch.With this as goal,SB can propose several technical/professional activities to be outsourced for other SB. Young Professionals(YP) Intership Program is a program that is being developed by the YP AG with the support of PS. Although this program is still in an early stage,we believe that it will improve YP's membership retention and engagement.

Changes to better support Students and YP:

- It should be possible to have YP Affinity Groups inside SB
- Increase STEP Program's funding: sections are limited to one STEP event per year

Section Vitality

- 1) Our section's financial sustainability is mainly supported by the organization of technical conferences. As such we believe that:
 - It is imperative that IEEE promotes the inclusion of the Portugal Section in all conferences held in Portugal, which is not happening at all. Currently we have conferences where some IEEE Societies refusing to share conference's organization with our section.
 - There should have a clarification and standardization of the procedures related to the participation and role of local sections in technical conferences.
- 2) Societies should try to include more Distinguished Lecturers in their programs, as it is often very hard to find Lecturers available to come to our Section (because their agenda is already full). Some increase of funding for these programs would also be helpful.
- 3) We are promoting a global initiative of senior member elevation since 2015. Contacting and motivating national members to participate and promote IEEE activities.

IEEE in Africa

Stimulate activities on Portuguese speaking countries. Identify Portuguese members that are working on Africa countries, namely Angola and Mozambique.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

Support for European and international research projects preparation. Support for consortium preparation.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

Create more effective and tangible IEEE membership benefits. Promote IEEE's image in the general society by using a more dynamic and clever marketing.

Create clear, effective and standard rules for IEEE conferences sponsorship to ensure the scientific quality of IEEE participation.