

Bulgaria Section

Kiril Alexiev

Getting Closer to Industry

Nevertheless we have attracted several person from the industry (former scientists) to serve on key positions in Chapters and Section ExCom, the participation of industrial partners remain very limited. Usually the former academic people after their transition in industry support the IEEE initiatives with decreasing intensity in time. Up to now we could not find a successful approach to improve our relations with the Industry. We will continuously try to build relations with standalone industrial partners and Chamber of Commerce .

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

We have one active Student Branch at one only University. We will try to share good practice in other technical Universities. The Young Professionals Activity Group is well established with many organized events annually. Many of the events were jointly organized with students.

Section Vitality

- This year we organized a joint meeting of ExCom with Chapter Chairs. At this meeting we discuss all problems to be solved in organization of scientific events, membership renewal. Many interesting opinions were how to choose the most suitable form of the process of membership renewal. ExCom will continue efforts to in preparation of the membership renewal documentation and in the collection and transferring of the membership fees of more than half of our members, because this mode of action is more flexible and preferable for our members. Our efforts produced good results last year and it was recognized with a Silver Retention Banner Award for meeting our retention goal for the 2016 membership year. We hope we shall have the same results this year.
- We are trying now to organize one new Chapter. This year we are preparing voting procedures for all Chapters except one. We would like to meet 2018 year with newly elected officers in the Chapters.
- This year the list of planned events includes organization of 3 IEEE conferences, 2 other conferences, 7 seminars, 2 invited lectures, several administrative meetings, etc.

IEEE in Africa

We have not established permanent links with African Sections. The contemporary political situation in the most North African countries, which are closer to our country is very complicated and doesn't stimulate organization of joint events. We could invite our colleagues from Africa to participate in the organized conferences.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

Perhaps the question about IEEE Vienna's office is relevant because I know nothing about his activities so far. When one institution is newly open, it is appropriate somebody to announce the results of this investment.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

- In 2017 we will continue good tradition to organize IEEE Approved conferences in our country and the Section was doing its best to help the publicizing and the organization of these events.
- Our Section together with Chapters will co-sponsor or endorse several other conferences, we are stimulating organizers to apply for IEEE Registration and we help them in the preparation of the applications and the Memorandums of Understanding.
- We are trying to reverse the trend and more our members to apply for an IEEE Senior membership.