

**Director****Margaretha Eriksson****Goals**

- **Getting closer to Industry**  
We focus on the needs of the present and future engineers and related professionals and to define IEEE products and services in support of them since more than 50% of Region 8 members work in Industry.
- **Our Future members - Students and Young Professionals**  
Students and Young professionals are key to grow and develop Region 8. We have established strong teams in our Students and Young Professionals Committees. We are planning Regional SYP Congresses to support students and YPs to exchange ideas, network and create friendship.
- **Section Vitality**  
Section vitality is the result of active members in Sections and Chapters. Active Sections, Chapters, Affinity groups and Student Branches provide this.
- **IEEE in Africa**  
Develop roadmap for Africa by Africa Area Chair and Africa Ad Hoc Committee Increase membership from 6000 members in 9 sections and 6 subsections Support various activities in African Sections for all sorts of members.
- **Specific Activities**  
Create new Geographic Units in the region where no Sections exist. Conduct Membership development workshops Inform about low membership dues in extremely low income countries.

**Status and Past Contributions**

All sections in R8 have reported their financials to IEEE, which is a significant sign of activity.

Major technical activities are the flagship conferences EUROCON 2017 in July in Ohrid, Macedonia, AFRICON 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. In total more than 300 IEEE co-sponsored conferences has taken place from January to mid July 2017.

We have regional SYP Conferences in R8, CEUSYP in Lviv, Ukraine; GCC SYP in Manama, Bahrain; and later on this year MESYP in Tunisia and a SYP in Nigeria.

A new subsection is formed in Kazakhstan.

The transition of treasurer's duties are ongoing, and administrative and technical handover has taken somewhat longer time than expected.

**Outlook**

The future looks good, and we have a great support team in region 8. We are emphasizing the development of new Membership Development Officers through MD Workshops, activities in African countries supported also by the IEEE Africa Ad Hoc Committee, and many activities for Students and Young Professionals. The total number of members is stable, however with a slight decrease, and we believe these actions will change the trend. The IEEE Technology Center in Vienna is opening in September under leadership of Dr Clara Neppel, and R8 leaders will collaborate with her to shape her role as well as the services to be provided.

**Points of Concern**

R8 need more and faster internal communication. The paper-based R8 Newsletter has fallen dormant and is mostly replaced by presence in social media as Facebook. We need to find better ways to communicate between OpCom and Section chairs, between Society chapters and Sections, and between Section chairs and members.