

Republic of Macedonia Section

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Getting Closer to Industry

The situation is the same, our Section still has the problem with low number of members from industry and more than 90% of our members are from the academia. This is due to not having much industry research and development centers in our country. Membership from industry need different services and activities than those suitable for members from academia (IEEE conferences and journals).

We need more Section activities suitable for members from industry, like technical activities that cover appropriate practical topics, and social activities where members meet and share experience and information. The Section Facebook page is constantly updated with the forthcoming activities and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are members or not yet. The page now has 848 likes, meaning that the same number of colleagues are informed with every post about new Section activities.

Attracting and Supporting Future Members

The Section actively supports promotion to Senior Member grade as a good practice to improve membership retention. Student membership recruitment and retention is given special attention. The Section helps student members in paying membership dues in local currency.

Section Vitality

The Section holds regular Executive Committee meetings where future activities are planned. Also, in the reporting period there were also regular meetings of the IEEE EUROCON 2017 organizing committee where a large number of Section volunteers participate. The IEEE EUROCON 2017 conference was used to celebrate the Section 20-years Anniversary where large number of our members was present, including all the Section Executive Committee members. President Karen Bartleson and IEEE R8 Director Margaretha Eriksson awarded the recipients of Section Contribution Certificates to 5 Past Section Chairs, as well as 3 distinguished volunteers. Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about future activities.

IEEE in Africa

North Africa Sections like those in Egypt and Tunisia are well organized. Sub-Saharan region has only 4 Section and their experience is more competent. Africa is a vast region and travel expenses may be a problem. To foster IEEE in Africa more technical and social activities may be organized in major university and industrial centers where a larger number of electrical engineers are present. Our Section is small (financially and with number of technical lecturers) and can basically help with sharing good practices with the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe and Section Chairs from that region.

Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

The new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, if established, will have very few staff members. That is why it is not expected it may replace services provided by IEEE staff. Rather, we expect it could serve as a more accessible liaison to support us in communication with the right IEEE staff member and getting more timely support when needed. As an example the responses from IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) and eNotice are very slow. Also Senior Member plaque have not been received by many Section members 5 years after promotion to this higher grade.

Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback

The Section organized the Region 8 flagship conference IEEE EUROCON 2017, 6-9 July 2017 in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia. The conference was opened by the 2017 IEEE President Karen Bartleson and IEEE R8 Director Margaretha Eriksson. The conference received 233 research papers submissions and after the rigorous peer review, only 172 papers have been accepted for presentation at the conference sessions. The technical program included 48 technical sessions: plenary sessions with 7 invited keynote lectures, 15 regular technical track sessions, 4 special sessions (SS) on highly specialized topics reporting technical trends and breakthroughs within the scope of the conference, 7 special thematic areas (STA) with several special sessions, poster session, 4 panel discussions (PD), 2 workshops and a tutorial. The conference also included a student competition with the EUROCON 2017 Best Student Paper Award - a tablet computer. IEEE Young Professionals (YP) affinity group organized a presentation, YP informal meet up in Hemingway bar in Ohrid and IEEE YP Workshop: "Improvisational skills" by Jan Verveckken.