

Finland Section

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What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

We believe that it is well established within IEEE that academic members gain more from their IEEE membership than those from the industry. Furthermore, we are now facing the challenge of making IEEE more relevant to its industrial members better by creating higher value for them especially. The most important action of the Finland Section to tackle this issue locally is to engage closely with the IEEE Action for Industry (AfI) initiative. We implement the AfI initiative through our Section Industry Ambassadors by reaching out to local industries in order to recruit companies to join the AfI initiative and provide internships for the IEEE student members and YPs. Over the past two years the number of industrial contacts has increased substantially. We will continue our engagement with the IEEE Action for Industry initiative also in the future.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

The academic institutions are actively seeking to engage with IEEE in organizing seminars and conferences that are open to our members. These events are good examples of essential value IEEE provides especially to academic members of IEEE. Finland Section actively engages and supports events that are of high quality and in the field relevant to our current and future members. We also encourage our technical chapters to level up their activities. Over the past two years, the latter activity has been particularly worthwhile.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

Finland Section is also seeking to engage in collaborative relations with other societies with similar focus in order to provide more benefits to the members of IEEE in the Section. One example of such activity is the collaboration with the local branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) with whom we organized our 1st joint seminar in September 2017 and the next one shall be in the spring of 2018. Finland Section is also supporting its Technical Chapters to collaborate with their counterparts in other Section in the Nordics. For example, chapters of the IEEE/Electronics Packaging Society (EPS) are a good example: they merged together to form a Nordics-wide joint chapter and now together organize a technical conference & exhibition that is traveling from one destination to another within the Nordic states. The first conference was organized in June, 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden and the next in 2018 will be organized in Oulu, Finland. In the past, Finland Section has had very active SYP groups but this activity is withering despite of our active efforts to find new people to carry on the tradition. This year we have set ourselves a goal to revitalize the young professional activities and expand this activity to include student members as well.

Our membership numbers are relative stable but in order to stay vital the Finland Section needs members that are more active. We seek to engage new members by inviting them to events and to participate in volunteering activities. We support our less active technical chapters to initiate new activities and encourage the more active ones to expand their activities and make them visible beyond the current members in the hopes to engage new people and new members. We have been quite successful in engaging new members but this activity should be made continuous.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

The existing activities among the different Sections in Region 8 are a good benchmark. Similar models/ideas that work in Europe and Middle-East may work in Africa as well.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

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Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

Special achievements: in 2017 the IEEE Finland Section was recognized for achieving outstanding member recruitment and retention performance.