

## Latvia 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?**

Open lecturers, organised by IEEE section and chapters:

- Working with industry through industrial associations, like Latvian Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (for 2015-2017 we have re-signed LIKTA-IEEE National Society Agreement (NSA)); The Association of Latvian Electrical Engineering and Electronics Enterprises, etc.
- Organizing of Industry Tracks on Section supported conferences and events
- technical and financial sponsorship of local IEEE events with invited industry speakers
- Organizing of industrial visits for pre- and university students

**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?**

- regular students visits to industrial and research institutions (e.g., contest for robots builders "Robotica", visits to Latvian Television, Incukalns natural gas storage)
- organization or support of student competition programs, which provides IEEE student membership to awardees
- collaboration trainings for secondary schools in electrical engineering and computer applications, promoting IEEE membership
- organization of the scientific events (open for non-members) with publications, included in IEEEExplore and indexed in WoS and Scopus (higher level students are interested in) and regional practical and scientific events with neighboring countries with social programs; Nordic cooperation would be beneficial

**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?**

- well organized team of volunteers, continuously expanding with new blood
- regular face-to-face ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events, inviting non-IEEE important persons and students
- direct mailing special events
- organizing / sponsoring at least 3 international conferences and 5 local events yearly gives a good recognition level both locally and internationally

**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?**

Collecting the best working practices from different regions of Africa and development of the working tools for African Sections is a key to success -the ideas, that works in EU of northern Africa may not work in central or south Sections. Traveling grants for students and young professionals from African academia or industry to R8 organized conferences can increase interest in IEEE membership, the same with the invitation of speakers from Africa to our local events (free of charge or funded by R8).

**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?**

Vienna Office can organize promoting IEEE in EU and provide legal support for R8 Sections, e.g. visas to EU for non-EU volunteers, visiting R8 organized events; helping in foundation of IEEE legal entities in EU countries. Still, the main goal and the necessity of Vienna Office is unclear.

**Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.**

Points of concern: Difficult recruitment of new volunteers from academia (both regular and student members) with IEEEExplore freely available for Riga TU personal