Norway Section — Runar Søråsen

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?

The section has an ongoing activity to establish internships in the industry for students. Potential companies and mentors has been identified. Next step is to advertise towards students. This approach is aligned with the IEEE R8 Action for Industry Initiative. Unfortunately, the appointed Section Industry Ambassador had to step down due to other obligations. This has slowed down the process. The new board hope to appoint a new Section Industry Ambassador within the next couple of months.

To further foster industry relations active chapters with industry participation is a necessity. The section is doing its best to support the chapters, both by inviting them in the Section ExCom meetings and by assessing the chapter structure. During the last year we have succeeded in establishing a Joint Chapter of Control Systems + Robotics and Automation (Chair: Fabio Andrade). In addition, we are working on establishing a Joint Chapter of Power Electronics, Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics.

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 section has one Young Professionals Group. This group is quite active, and the new Chair works well in the role. The section also tries to attract members through the IEEEXtreme competition. Last year 2 teams competed from Norway.

To better support the student activities, we need incentives to motivate students to become IEEE student members, so that they can join in the competitions, talks/seminar, etc. We also think that the establishment of internships in the industry for students will make it more attractive to become student members.

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?

The re-instated Section ExCom (where the section board and the chairs of all chapters and affinity groups meet) has been partly a success. Still difficulties in assembling all the participants to the monthly/bi-monthly telcos.

The section is discussing the possibility of arranging a face-to-face ExCom workshop before summer. This will include discussions of strategic measures to increase vitality.

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?

Currently nothing planned, but open to suggestions of how to support IEEE in Africa.

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?

Development and support of further membership benefits adapted to the needs of members in R8.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The first IEEE Milestone in Norway was unveiled 27 September 2017 honoring the first object-oriented programming language, Simula. It is placed at Department of Informatics, University of Oslo. The Section Vice Chair Kaveh Niayesh held a speech at the sermony. Thank you to the working group for making this happen: Jenny Olsson Picalausa (IEEE Norway section representative), Knut Hegna (UiO), Bjarte M. stvold (Norsk Regnesenter) and Sverre Holm (UiO).

The two Norwegian teams participating in IEEEXtreme (LostInComputation and AngryAvocados) achieved very good results. In top 8% out of the 3300+ teams globally. Special thanks to the proctors and helpers.