

Portugal 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?

Our section is currently invested on supporting the organisation of joint events between Industry and Academia. On these events we try to join companies, university departments and research centers together, so that they can exchange experiences, project results and have the opportunity to network.

In Portugal, but we believe this can generalise this to other countries, at least in Europe, we lack IEEE membership benefits that can justify the fee for industry members. Industry members don't see discounts in conference as a benefit, and Spectrum is not enough to justify the fee value. Networking and IEEEExplorer are the most valued benefits, but there also other institutions offering these kinds of benefits with a very cheaper fee.

We are working on establishing agreements with local companies to increase the catalogue of membership benefits.

We believe that our Region should work on increasing IEEE brand awareness. At least in Portugal the first challenge we face is to explain what is IEEE and what we do for the community.

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?

We face a small decline in membership numbers, comparing to last year. Students are still, by far, our most active OU's and thus our biggest way of attracting new members to IEEE. Unfortunately, as we all know, the transition between GSM to Member is still one of our challenges, largely caused by the steep increase in membership fees, leading to very low conversion rates.

Yes, we are committed to our Students and Young Professionals. This year we are organising SYP, so we are expecting to increase our efforts in the field.

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?

Given the size of our country I believe Portugal Section presents a good number of activities. In any case, our goal is to increase the number of Chapter activities through out this year.

To ensure that, we are preparing a Chapters Leadership Retreat, were we are planning a set of activities to increase chapters ability to organise and develop activities that increase section 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?

Portugal has long traditions with African Countries. We are part of CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries) that is largely composed by African Countries.

With our connections and relations with Universities in this countries, we are available to help in any way Gloria and the Region see fit.

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?

We didn't had any contact with the new IEEE Office still.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

New initiative: ♪ ShareToy: An initiative from one of our Student Branches, were students and faculty members gathered broken (electronic) toys and promoted free classes to fix toys. At the end they distributed the refurbished toys to social institutions with kids. We hope to promote more of these initiatives this year.

Our recurring event for students (Leadership Camp) was yet again a great success.

Engineering Day, organised by the Section with the partnership of all Chapters, and companies like Vodafone and Microsoft. The event gathered this year around 100 attendees under the subject "Smart Cities".

