Switzerland Section   Maria-Alexandra Paun

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?

1) In our section we have had many events organized in Switzerland, by the Chapters and Affinity Groups, with industry participation. For example ABB, LEM Geneva are all companies that have participated in our events.
2) Our Section has provided financial sponsorship to events organized by the Chapters with industry participation, i.e. IEEE PES Workshop: "The need for standardization in Smart Grids"(04.10.2017), with ABB participation.
3) Other event with industry participation that we have financially sponsored is the celebration of 50 years of microelectronics in the watch-making industry. This event was held on 05.09.2017 at Neuchatel and had participation of watch industry main players, such as Swatch and other industrials, i.e. Logitech. IEEE Switzerland was present and I have delivered a speech as the Chair of the Section.
4) The Section supports visits, especially of students, to different important companies in Switzerland (e.g. Google, IBM, etc.).
5) IEEE Switzerland is technical co-sponsor of conferences being held in Switzerland with industry participation (i.e. 2018 Crypto Valley Blockchain Conference in Zug and ISPDC 2018 Conference in Geneva). Its Chair, Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun will set up a booth and also deliver plenary talk about IEEE Switzerland activities.

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?

1) As Chair of IEEE Switzerland, when I attend different technical conferences or other events, whenever I have the opportunity I will set up a booth with IEEE promotional material and I talk about the IEEE membership. For example, I have done this recently at the FISITA 2017 Automotive World Summit in September 2017 in Geneva.
2) The Section organizes different technical and professional development events where non-IEEE members are invited.
3) To support the members, the Section organizes various technical events as well as competitions for Students and Young Professionals.
4) For the second year in a row, a team from EPFL with Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun as their proctor has won the IEEEXtreme 24h programming competition. On this occasion, many non-IEEE members have become members to participate in this event, which is a very well-known and appreciated worldwide event.
5) IEEE Switzerland Section has organized IEEE Celebration Day at EPFL on 02.10.2017, where we have talked about IEEE in general and IEEE Switzerland in particular. We have had the plenary talk given by the president of EPFL, IEEE Fellow and participation of both IEEE and non-IEEE members. Many young students came at our booth and I have talked to them about IEEE. Some of them did not know yet what IEEE was.

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?

1) The Section updates section website regularly with information (events description, etc.) and sends invitation through vTools to its members to invite them to different events that are being organized in Switzerland.
2) We organize frequent physical meetings in the ExCom of IEEE Switzerland Section and establish constant dialogue through e-mails.
3) We organize, at Section level, technical and professional development events, such as workshops, seminars and technical talks.
4) The Section checks the meeting reporting on vTools for all local units, Chapters and Affinity Groups. The Section sends friendly reminders about the dates of reporting in order to get the rebate bonus.
5) We report in vTools all Section Officers, Affinity Group Chairs, Chapter Chairs, and Student Branch Chairs.
6) We check for the inactive chapters and send them messages about their status.
7) We have a solid presence on social media (i.e. LinkedIn and IEEE Collabratec) where we also have a Switzerland section group and advertise our events.

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?

1) IEEE Switzerland Section is happy to offer our full support to IEEE Activities in Africa.
2) IEEE Switzerland Section can provide all the necessary support for different activities and collaborations. We are reachable and open to cooperation.

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?

1) We have not yet contacted the IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, with a specific question.
2) We would like to establish some dialogue about the program strategies and Europe-specific policies, procedures, opportunities, and challenges.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

1) Our Section celebrated IEEE Day on 02.10.2017 at EPFL with a full day dedicated to Women in Engineering. This event was a success attracting more than 30 people and had the presence of EPFL President. An article in EPFL Flash Magazine has been written to present this event.

2) For the second year in a row, a team from EPFL with Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun as their proctor has won the IEEEXtreme 24h programming competition. An article in EPFL Flash Magazine has been written by Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun to present this victory.