

**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?**

Nowadays, manufacturing companies are facing huge challenges since the digitalization changes existing business models. This increases pressure on the industry ? but opens up new business opportunities at the same time. The IEEE/Region/Section should encourage industry's transition towards more knowledge-based production. The Industry 4.0, the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies, which includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing, opens prospective for Section to help and lead industry through the change. In the previous period, Serbia & Montenegro Section supported some projects regarding Industry 4.0 and digitalization, for instance in the field of Computational Intelligence. In addition, several keynotes, meetings, panels, and workshops were organized in order to help Academia to understand the needs of industry, and vice versa. The big international conferences gathered companies and there were, as usually, a lot of meetings between IEEE representatives and industry people. Section will continue disseminating new and emerging technologies that have real-world applications. Section should empower groups with resources to produce ""fast-track"" content and deliverables such as white papers, guides, conferences, workshops and other events and projects in wide variety of industry related technical areas and issues.

**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?**

In our section, the vast majority of new members are Students and Young Professionals. A successful way to attract them are the student IEEE events, conferences and events with organized membership renewal and joining. Organized joining is of particular importance because it is the best way to explain to new members what IEEE membership is and what it consists of, what the benefits are and how new members can connect to local student branches and technical societies. Short presentations of IEEE (few mins) in classes by professors or student colleagues on special event, that direct student to organized joining event, show very good results. The best way to attract new members is to address their basic expectations. It would be great to enable them the access to all IEEEExplore papers through some promotional actions. Our major successes in last time in terms of attracting future members were organization of 10th international student conference IEEEESTEC 2017, student section at the conference TELFOR 2017 and several events with organized membership renewal and joining in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Ni. Our section continues to support student branches and student activities, and recently established YP Affinity Group with logistic and financial support.

**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?**

Establishing the Young Professionals Affinity Group within the Section needs to be highlighted as most recent major success since the last R8 meeting. With the goal of changing the position of young professionals within the industry, the primary focus of YP AG going forward will be to create opportunities for industry engagement and to define new activity concepts for students and young professionals. It is also important to emphasize that Section and its chapters and affinity groups had a lot of technical meetings, events, promotional actions and other activities during the previous year. The Section supported a significant number of conferences, workshops, seminars, invited lectures, talks within the scope of DLP, etc. Some of these events have been organized jointly with the National Society ETRAN, after signing a new MoU between two associations. Section web site is well maintained and regularly updated. Of course, one of most important condition for the section vitality is to retain the membership and to recruit new ones, what is not easy in the current economic circumstances.

**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?**

Africa is so diverse in terms of level of development, culture, etc., that it is difficult to give universal recommendations. In any case, our section will support all initiatives and activities aimed at strengthening the role and presence of 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?**

In principle, the IEEE office in Vienna, Austria, could be beneficial for some EU-related issues. However, we do not have enough information about the services, activities and outcomes of the office since its establishing. In order to have better insight into the office work, it would be useful to disseminate the information about current or possible services they offer to the Region 8 and specifically to the sections of non-EU countries, and about main achievements of the office during the last year.

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

The initiative for founding a new affinity group in Serbia and Montenegro Section finished successfully and on August 19, 2017, Young Professionals Affinity Group was established.

