

V/C Student Activities

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Goals

The Student Activities Committee has set some common goals for the year 2018 that are already aligned with the previous year's. These goals will serve as a motive for all SAC members, and through our pre-set KPIs, the progress and the deliverable of the team will be easily measured and monitored. The goals for 2018 for the Student Activities Committee are distributed across the functions of the team, with major points the following:

- 1) Awards&Contests: Successful campaign for the 2018 submissions and higher number of submissions in comparison to 2017 and the other regions. Engagement of more applicants for the Outstanding Branch Counselor Award.
- 2) Electronic Communications: SAC Website Restructuring and social media regular updates. Support the Awards&Contests Campaign, the Student Paper Contest Campaign, as well as other initiatives. Engage with students through Facebook Page and reach 10.000 likes in 2018.
- 3) SPC: Motivate students to participate and submit more than 10 eligible papers for the Student Paper Contest 2018. Host a Webinar for preparation of the interested students.
- 4) R8 SYP Congress: Support the efforts of the organizing committee and join forces with YPs, in order to adjust the eligibility and selection criteria of the funded participants.
- 5) Restructure and enrich the R8 SAC Website.
- 6) Keep the database and all the contacts of Section SACs and Section Representatives, as well as the events up-to-date file with all the Student Branches' emails, on the interactive R8 Map.
- 7) The Cross-Sectional Congresses for 2019 to be better organized and successful.

Status

- 1) 2017 was a year full of Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses, with MESYP, HSYP, CEuSYP, WESYP, GCCSYP, NSYP, ASYP and EASYP.
- 2) This year there were 21 papers submitted by the closing date of December 1 2017. The papers were seen by four jury members- Prof Anastas Mishev from FYROM, Prof Christos Schizas from Cyprus, Prof Mustapha Benjallali from Morocco, and Prof Paul Micallef from Malta who is also the SPC Coordinator The jury members are rotated over a period of time depending on where Melecon and Eurocon are held. The participants where from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Jordan, Malta, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Turkey. The five finalists who will be presenting their paper at Melecon 2018 in Marrakech are:
 - a) Ahmed Abdelraouf Mohamed, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport Cairo, Egypt, with the paper ""A Multi-Objective Distributed Generation Allocation and Sizing using Swarm Intelligence Based Algorithms""
 - b) Benjamin Chim, Universit Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, with the paper ""Supervised classification of structural brain networks reveals gender differences""
 - c) Marko Mihajlovic and co-author Nikola Popovic, University of Niš, Serbia, with the paper ""Fooing a neural network with common adversarial noise""
 - d) Nima Taghipour Bazargani, K.N. Toosi University of Technology, Tehran, Iran, with the paper ""A Novel Approach for Probabilistic Hurricane Resiliency Assessment of a Grid Connected Microgrid Using Point Estimate Method""
 - e) Yazan Qiblawey with co-authors Ruslan Abu Sneineh, Majd Ahmed Abduljabbar and Yousef Jamal Orabi, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar, with the paper ""Design and Implementation of Autonomous Surface Vehicle""
- 3) MGA SAC and R8 SAC are working on clearing up the number of active Student Branches, and put the inactive SBs in probation.
- 4) Social media are playing a vital role in the communication with the Students, and the campaigns are engaging more and more participants.
- 5) Awards Campaign for the 2017 Awards is ongoing, and the submission deadline closes on the 15th of February. Higher numbers than last years' are also expected.
- 6) The biggest R8 Student and YP event, the R8 SYP Congress will be hosted in Porto, Portugal, from the 25th to the 29th of July 2018. The SAC and YP Teams are supporting the efforts of the organizers with monthly meetings and regular communications, through collaboration platforms. The team is working towards locking Sponsors and Speakers, and to deliver a great quality Congress.
- 7) The reporting campaign for the activities and officer reporting of the regional branches is successfully continued with 204 reported SBs for the Academic Period of 2015-2016 and 202 for the Academic Period 2016-2017. The reporting process for 2017-2018 is still ongoing.
- 8) R8 SAC Cookbook: A review of the current recipes on how to help students with easy-step guides is getting enriched with more guides and a FAQ section where students can check for answers, suggestions, ideas and help.

Outlook

The 2018 SAC plan, includes the fulfillment of the aforementioned goals and the development of strategic plan for the knowledge transfer to the 2019 SAC Team. Additionally, it is planned to organize the documentation in a simple yet understanding and complete level.

Points of Concern

- 1) One of the points of concern is the ever-growing number of students that apply for funding for the Regional Congress and the high registration numbers and low final participation, but the SAC and YP teams are working on changing this

status and suggest alternative ways of keeping the attendees active.

- 2) Each year, it becomes more and more difficult to secure sponsors for the R8 SYP Congress, and a possible source of support can be the AFl Subcommittee and the Technical Societies and Chapters.
- 3) There should be a formal and legal committee/person within Region 8, responsible for assisting and covering the sponsorship and legal signatures (suggestion: IEEE Office in Vienna) for the Student Events and the Section Activities where IEEE is not recognized as a legal entity.

Other Issues to report