

## Bulgaria 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?**

We continue our efforts to improve our relations with the Industry besides trying hard to recruit new IEEE members from companies. Most of our volunteers are from the academia and there are only few from small start-ups. In fact there are not so many benefits of IEEE products to members from the industry besides the access to IEEE publications. Unfortunately, our members from the industry are very reluctant to participate in our activities, especially as volunteers. Only several of them are looking for more intensive connections with other IEEE members. We have one Chapter Chair (Signal Society) from the Industry, who will be replaced this year because his term ends.

**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?**

This year we have almost the same number of regular members increased number of IEEE Student members (by 20%).

- To have a successful Student branch, it is necessary to have motivated Student Branch Counselor and several motivated and enthusiastic student members. We have one really active Student Branch thanks to its Counselor Prof. Bedzev. He is again Student Activities Officer and we expect him to reactivate the other branches. We are expecting a considerable help from the YP AG in our efforts to increase the student membership and to re-activate some dormant Student Branches. The group is very motivated to organize different activities for students support and for social networking.
- Our Young Professionals Activity Group is not so active this year and we are thinking how to motivate them and organize more very successful and attractive events.

**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?**

This year our efforts are mostly directed to organization of more IEEE conferences and workshops. These events are the natural places to gather active IEEE members, to share their ideas, to discuss, to have formal and informal talks, to meet IEEE members from abroad, to feel their self as a part of a powerful engineering organization as IEEE.

**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?**

We think that Region 8 is making enough to help our African colleagues in their efforts to establish new sections and strengthen them. Unfortunately there are so many countries with a very low number of IEEE members and the only way to organize some IEEE units seems to be to start with joint sections or sub-sections, including members from several neighboring countries.

**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?**

I already have a discussion with officer from IEEE office in Vienna, Austria and we are looking for possibilities for collaboration and joint organization of events.

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

Our Section is co-sponsoring or endorsing 7 more conferences, we are stimulating organizers to apply for IEEE Registration and we help them in the preparation of the applications and the Memorandums of Understanding. Bulgaria IEEE Section has a long tradition in maintaining good relations with the local National Science & Technology Societies. We have signed three agreements between IEEE and the National Union of the Electronics, Electrical and Communication Engineers, National Union of Automation and Informatics and the Federation of the Science & Technology Unions in Bulgaria. This year the 3-year term of agreements ends and we are thinking how to continue this very beneficial for both parties collaboration.