

Serbia & Montenegro 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?

Set as one of the most important goals in IEEE on a global level, attracting more interest from the Industry towards the activities of IEEE (including membership development) has also been one of the priorities of the Section in the recent years. However, in order to encourage the partners from the Industry to assume more prominent role in the IEEE, their benefits need to be reconsidered and novel services need to be established. In the process, the IEEE (in general and Section) will have to utilize the concept of knowledge-based production, offering the accumulated knowledge in the contemporary technologies (cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing, cognitive computing) to the industry partners and leading them through the necessary transformations. Section supported and will continue to support projects with the topic of Industry (particularly Industry 4.0) and digitalization, trying to bridge the gap between the technical knowledge and applicable solutions. In that regard, the Section has supported numerous activities organized at the national and international conferences that have included a significant number of representatives from the leading companies within the region. The events, that included special sessions, workshops and keynote lectures, offered the opportunity for the companies to voice their needs and requirements. This simultaneously offered the Section to consider and acknowledge the potential services that could be offered to the industry in order to encourage membership development within the Industry partners. It should be important to note the success of student and young professional activities in attracting the interest of Industrial leaders in the region, with several events being attended or co-sponsored by prominent companies (such as Continental AG, ELSYS, HTEC Group, etc.). The Section (and IEEE in general) should recognize and make use of the potential in student and young professional members, helping them transition into future Industry leaders, while simultaneously facilitating their interest for IEEE 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?

In order attract future members in the IEEE, the organizational units (chapters and affinity groups) of the sections are constantly organizing different activities and events aimed at delivering additional value to our existing members and promote the IEEE membership benefits for the perspective members within the section. In addition, the Section is always organizing joint membership renewal process, constantly keeping track of the statistics and encouraging the individual institutions to improve membership development activities. Similar to the process of attracting the interest of the Industry, in order to properly influence membership development, new services should be established offering an additional value to the current and future IEEE members. Currently, the most attractive service of the IEEE is the IEEEExplore, which is usually unavailable to the student and young professional members. Following the new trends more interactive content should be made available on all IEEE related websites. Additionally, some of the major draws for the student and young professionals should be different competitions within the organization. However, better presentation of the former, increased availability and clarity of the information is necessary within the Section. The Section will continue to support different student branch and young professional activities, including individual events, as well as established conferences (such as IEEEESTEC 2018, student section at TELFOR 2018).

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?

While the establishment of Young Professionals AG still resonates within the Section as one of the major recent successes, the successful initial activities are starting to positively influence the position of Young Professionals within the region. The activities of the YP AG were oriented at membership development, industry engagement and demonstration of the IEEE benefits to the potential members. Additionally, the section has very active base of 'regular' members, vigorously operating through a number of different chapters in order to organize different technical meetings, events and distinguished lectures with the aim to provide the additional value to the members. Furthermore, in addition to the other promotional activities, these activities serve as catalyst for membership development. Section officers maintain good relationship with organizing committees for different national and international conferences, organizing IEEE section presentations and various events at the respective conference venues. The information regarding every event sponsored or supported by IEEE S&M Section is available online at the Section website. The Section website is updated regularly and contains all the necessary information (including contact) required by the perspective members. The Section has recognized that the retainment of the membership is the most important condition for the section vitality, especially considering the current economic circumstances. In that regard, the Section officers maintain extraordinary efforts in attracting new members and offering interesting new activities for all interested parties.

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?

Currently, Serbia and Montenegro Section has no direct activities aimed at supporting IEEE in Africa. However, Section officers are more than willing to take part in any activities created by the Region 8 and aimed at fostering the IEEE in Africa. Additionally, the Section can offer the experience in membership development within the low income economies, as well as a good practice example how the Serbia and Montenegro Section maintained unanimous operation after two countries have officially split.

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?

It is expected that IEEE Office in Vienna is beneficial to all Region 8 members, however, the Section does not have enough information about the services offered by the Office since the establishment. Additionally, the information and the dissemination of the Office activities so far are not easily found online.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

IEEE S&M Section has been Awarded with Gold Medal for 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance. Additionally, students from S&M Section have been awarded the third prize at the IEEE R8 SPC 2018.