

Switzerland 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?

- 1) Our Section has organized many events in Switzerland with industry participation (ABB, LEM, Siemens, are all companies that have participated in our events). For example, the Workshop on "Trends in Microgrid Applications" held on 27.03.2018 in Zurich was organized by Industrial Electronics Society Swiss Chapter, IE-13, via its Chair Mr. Luca Dalessandro, with participation from Schaffner Group, LEM, Siemens, ABB and Leclanch.
- 2) The Section also supports visits, especially of students, to different important companies in Switzerland (e.g. SkyGuide Geneva in June 2018).
- 3) IEEE Switzerland Section provided technical co-sponsorship to conferences held in Switzerland with industry participation (i.e. 2018 Crypto Valley Blockchain Conference in Zug and ISPCD 2018 Conference in Geneva) as well as RTSI 2018 Conference in Italy. Its Chair, Dr. Maria-Alexandra Paun had informative stands and delivered plenary talks 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, while 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 Crypto Valley conference on blockchain technology, the first ever IEEE certified conference on blockchain, to which our section provided technical co-sponsorship. The audience exceeded 800 people and a large percentage were not IEEE members.
- 2) The Section organizes different technical and professional development events where non- IEEE members are invited (for example we had a part at our General Assembly 2018 held at Campus Biotech, Geneva open to the larger public).
- 3) To support the members, the Section organizes various technical events as well as competitions for Students and Young Professionals. For example, we organize again in 2018 at EPFL the IEEEExtreme 24h programming competition, after EPFL teams being the winners in 2016-2017. On this occasion, many non-IEEE members would potentially become members to participate in this event, which is a very well-known and appreciated worldwide contest.
- 4) The EPFL Student Branch with support from IEEE Switzerland Section will organize IEEE Celebration Day at EPFL on 08.10.2018, with the theme "Leveraging Technology for a Better Tomorrow" in the framework of "Airborne Electrical Robots".
- 5) Further is a sample of the activities of Aerospace and Electronic Systems Swiss Chapter, AES-10, provided by its Chair, Mr. Heinz Wipf. "The Swiss Aerospace and Electronic Systems AES-10 chapter organized several joint in-depth lectures on radar making use of the societies DL lecturer program and drawing from our industry backgrounds. The Swiss section and other professional organizations like ION and the Swiss Association of Aeronautical Science support these events financially. In addition the Chapter Chair is focusing on young professionals and students. Here the chapter is engaged in presenting the often unknown structure and the facilities of the IEEE in meetings organized by student members or young professionals sponsoring coffee breaks or aperitifs. Since aerospace is truly global the chapter is much interested in more personal exchange be it in R8 or worldwide. In this respect the chair while attending the IEEE PLANS conference in Monterey flew down to San Diego to meet up with the local AES chapter holding a lecture on GNSS interference field trials conducted in Switzerland. At that occasion Dr. K. Kramer an AESS-BoG member invited him for a tutorial at the University of San Diego Campus. The chapter is also looking towards to a firmer engagement of the AESS in the European arena rising the low profile towards the European Commission and establish the IEEE as a prime peer organization."
- 6) Further is a sample of activities of Power Electronics Swiss Chapter, PEL-35, provided by its Chair, Mr. Drazen Dujic. "After several years of inactivity, Swiss Power Electronics (PEL) chapter has been reactivated in May this year and is currently ramping up its networking activities. Prof. Drazen Dujic, head of the Power Electronics Laboratory at Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), currently serves as the chair of the chapter. Very first technical lectures, organized under auspices of the Swiss PEL chapter, have been organized at two Swiss Federal Institutes of Technologies, ETHZ and EPFL, respectively. In July at ETH, Zurich, Prof. Johann Kolar hosted Prof. Chunting Mi from San Diego University, USA, who gave a lecture titled "High efficiency wireless charging of electric vehicles". In September at EPF, Lausanne, Prof. Drazen Dujic hosted a lecture by Dr. Ki-Bum Park from ABB Corporate Research Centre in Switzerland, titled "Minimization of grid-tied power electronics converters". Both lectures were well attended and provided opportunities for exchange of technical ideas among participants. Material from these lectures is available at chapter web page www.ieee.ch/chapters/pel/. In incoming months, Swiss chapter will continue with organization of technical and educational seminars and workshops, providing a platform for networking and exchange among IEEE members."

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 the section website regularly with information (events description, etc.) and sends invitations through eNotice 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 (at least five per year) and establish constant dialogue through e-mails and phone calls when necessary.
- 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 via its Secretary, Mr. Ben Bowler, 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 communication with the IEEE office in Vienna.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- 1) A "Stammtisch" round table will take place after the celebration of IEEE Day at EPFL on 08.10.2018."