

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Magdalena Salazar Palma

The Strategic Planning Subcommittee was formed in January 2017. The Chairperson is Magdalena Salazar Palma.
Composition (Alphabetic order)

Dusanka Boskovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Member
Gloria Chukwudebe (Nigeria), Member
Margaretha Eriksson (Sweden), R8 Delegate/Director, Ex-officio member
Dovile Kurpyte (Lithuania), Member
Khaled Mokhtar (Egypt), Member
Daniel Pasquet (France), Member
Magdalena Salazar Palma (Spain), R8 Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect, Chair
Costas Stasopoulos (Cyprus), R8 Past Delegate/Director, Ex-officio Member

Goals

The SPSC is responsible for developing R8 strategic and long-range plan, with goals and objectives. Strategic Planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that people working in the organization and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. It is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organization is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also how it will know if it is successful. The Strategic Plan is a document used to communicate with the organization the organizations goals, the actions needed to achieve those goals and all of the other critical elements developed during the planning exercise. The goal for the 2018 SPSC is to develop by the end of the year a complete Region 8 Strategic Plan (Goals) together with its corresponding Operating Plan (Actions) and the Metrics to assess its success. The completion of the plan will be the primary indicator of the subcommittee success.

Status

During 2015-2016 R8 Mission and Vision were analyzed. An effort to align with the IEEE and MGA plans, in particular with the Africa initiative, was also done. During 2017, the SPSC held two meetings: the first one through Webex, while the second one was a face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the R8 Committee meeting in March 2017. Also some members of the SPSC attended other OU's Strategic Planning meetings, which will be beneficial for the work of the subcommittee. Some years back a R8 strategic plan was developed. The SPSC started analyzing the output of this effort and worked from it considering also IEEE and MGA goals. This year Sections Congress recommendations will be also taken into account. During 2018, the Committee held a face-to-face meeting in Athens, on Friday, 9 March, just before the 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. Two topics were addressed. The first one was the future of R8 Africa Area and its possible transition to R8 Africa Council. The second one was the realignment of IEEE Regions as highlighted by MGA Strategic Planning Committee. Possible options were discussed.

Outlook

During the next years, once the Strategic Plan together with the Operating Plan and Metrics are approved, its implementation would be the primary effort. Then the Metrics will be used to assess its progress. Modifications should be adopted if needed in order to update Region 8 Strategic Plan.

Points of Concern

The diversity of the composition of the new SPSC in terms of geographical areas, professional background, gender and experience, is a good asset. After the work done during the face-to-face meeting in Athens, no other meetings were possible until today. Thus, in order to achieve the proposed goal, i.e., the completion of the Strategic Plan by the end of the year, work must be done from October 10, 2018, to December 31, 2018. The work will be conducted through e-mail, and eventually, through WebEx. Thus, the major point of concern is the need to work online and how effective this will be.