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*The 111<sup>th</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting*

20-21 October 2018  
Belgrade

**Agenda Book**

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*This document contains the Agenda Book for the The 111<sup>th</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. Due to the technical constraints when compiling this document from over 111 individual reports, the layout of some reports may have been slightly modified. You will find an electronic version of this document, together with the original version of each report on <http://www.ieee.org/r8>. Feel free to contact George Michael ([xeirwn@ieee.org](mailto:xeirwn@ieee.org)) with related questions.*

The following is from the IEEE Policies, Section 7 - Professional Activities (Part A - IEEE Policies).

### **7.8 IEEE Code of Ethics**

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

- 1) to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;
- 2) to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
- 3) to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
- 4) to reject bribery in all its forms;
- 5) to improve the understanding of technology; its appropriate application, and potential consequences;
- 6) to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
- 7) to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
- 8) to treat fairly all persons and to not engage in acts of discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression;
- 9) to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;
- 10) to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

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## I. General Information

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## Agenda

Time	Duration	Nr.	Type	Item	Present
Friday					
16:00	02:00			Registration open	
18:00	00:30			Director's Address	Eriksson
18:30	00:30			Serbia Section presentation	Markovic
19:00	00:45			Technical Presentation: Tesla and Pupin Heritage	Kočović
19:45	00:15			Welcome Reception	
20:00	02:00			Welcome Dinner and Awards Ceremony	
22:00	00:00			Dinner Ends	

Saturday					
06:30	01:30	0	Breakfast	Breakfast	
08:00	00:05	100	Procedural	Call to Order	Eriksson
08:05	00:15	101	Procedural	Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers	Verveckken
08:20	00:05	102	Procedural	Welcome by Serbia Section	Markovic
08:25	00:05	103	Procedural	Introductory Remarks	Eriksson
08:30	00:05	104	Action	Approval of the Agenda	Eriksson
08:35	00:05	105	Action	Approval of the Consent Agenda	Eriksson
08:40	00:40	106	Address	IEEE Region 8 Director's Address	Eriksson
09:20	00:00	107	Address		
09:20	00:20	108	Discussion	Africa Council: A lasting step to an invigorating future, next steps	Chukwudebe
09:40	00:15	109	Discussion	Section's financial health and reporting, rebates	Jazstrebski
09:55	00:05	110	Procedural	Discussion Themes	Verveckken
10:00	00:20		Coffee Break		
10:20	00:40	111	Workshop	Workshop 1: Section's Dashboard	Szabo, Luque
11:00	00:20	112	Discussion	Member Activities Results	Luque
11:20	00:20	113	Discussion	Young Professionals and MGA plans	Barros
11:40	01:00		Lunch	Lunch	
12:40	00:20	201	Discussion	Technical Activities Results	James
13:00	00:40	202	Discussion	Technical Sponsorship - Financial Sponsorship of Conferences	Salazar Palma, Nagy
13:40	00:20		Coffee Break		
14:00	00:50	203	Workshop	Workshop 2: Section Business Model Canvas	El Dala
14:50	00:05	204	Social	Group photo	Verveckken
14:55	00:40	205	Discussion	Presentation of Election candidates	Stasopoulos
15:35	00:30	206	Discussion	Executive session: Discussion on Election candidates	Stasopoulos
16:05	00:20	207	Discussion	Executive session: Voting	Stasopoulos
16:25	00:05	208	Discussion	Presentation of election results	Stasopoulos
16:30	00:00	209	Discussion		
16:30	00:00			Recess	Eriksson
17:50	00:10		Social	Meeting Point for Bus: Outside Hotel	
18:00	01:15		Social	Bus Drive through Belgrade	
19:15	02:45		Social	Cruise and Dinner on Boat, Club Kej	
22:00	00:10		Social	Bus Drive to Hotel	

Sunday					
06:30	01:30	0	Breakfast	Breakfast, at your own leisure, in the hotel breakfast area	
08:00	00:05	300	Procedural	Call to Order and Roll Call	Eriksson
08:05	00:20	301	Discussion	Student Activities Committee report	Arvaniti
08:25	00:40	302	Discussion	Communication Strategy, Region 8 Today	Luque, Dragoumanos
09:05	00:30	303	Discussion	Treasurer's Report	Kennel
09:35	00:20	304	Discussion	External Auditors report	Taylor
09:55	00:35	305	Discussion	R8 Budget, priorities, decisions,	Open discussion
10:30	00:20		Social	Coffee Break	
10:50	00:15	307	Discussion	Upcoming Flagship Conferences	Nagy
11:05	00:20	308	Discussion	IEEE and Industry	Milojicic
11:25	00:25	309	Discussion	IEEE Vienna Office	Neppel
11:50	00:40	310	Discussion	Motions, presentation, discussion, voting	Stasopoulos
12:30	00:30	311	Discussion	New Business	All
13:00	00:05	312	Discussion	Next R8 Meeting	Attard
13:05	00:20	313	Discussion	Welcome from the incoming Region Director	Salazar Palma
13:25	00:05	314	Discussion	Closing Remarks leaving past Region Director	Stasopoulos
13:30	00:10	315	Discussion	Closing Remarks leaving Region Director	Eriksson
13:40	00:05	316	Info	Adjournment	Eriksson
13:45	01:00		Social	Lunch	

## Consent Agenda

Time	Duration	Nr.	Type	Item	Present
Consent Agenda					
		501	Action	Approval of the minutes of the 110th Region 8 Committee meeting	
		502	Report	Approval of the Reports to the 111th Region 8 Committee meeting	

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## **Unapproved Minutes from of the 110th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 10-11 March 2018 Athens, Greece**

### **100: Call to Order**

Director Margaretha Erikson (ME) calls the committee to order and opens the 110th Region 8 Committee meeting.

### **101: Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers**

Secretary Jan Verweckken invites the full committee to present themselves in name and function. The full present committee present themselves.

### **102: Welcome by Greece Section**

Greece Section Vice chair welcomes the committee to the sections. He comments on the honor to receive the R8 Committee meeting as guests, and thanks his many volunteers that helped this event.

### **103: Introductory Remarks**

Secretary Jan Verweckken thanks the Greece sections and volunteers, and mentions the procedural changes in the order of the agenda.

### **104: Approval of the Agenda**

Director ME manages the vote of the Agenda. The motion to accept the agenda stands.

### **105: Approval of the Consent Agenda**

The motion to accept the consent agenda stands.

### **106: IEEE Region 8 Director's Address**

Director ME recalls the Sydney meeting, where the concerns of the Section chairs were voiced. Similarly, Director ME invites every section representative to voice their major concern, and invites all who have a solution for the voiced concerns, to contact them with the proposed solutions.

The voiced concerns:

UK&IR: The changes in technical conferences and the fees for it.

UAE: Website of IEEE is very difficult to register, many clicks to become a member.

Ukraine: Difficult to recognize the benefits for members, and to file reports to netsuite.

Turkey: Finding volunteers for the projects.

Tunisia: Developing new benefits, our percentage of renewal is not high enough.

Switzerland: No particular concerns.

Sweden: Recent changes in fee structure on conferences. Attract more members.

Spain: want to increase the number of members, want to promote chapters more.

Slovenia: Fees for conferences, how to attract members with benefits.

Saudia Arabia East: Publication times of conference papers takes too long. Enotice emails not received by all members.

South Africa: Ease of finding benefits for members. One of the meetings should come to Africa.

Russia Siberia: The section is very large in surface, difficult to coordinate all chapters. Very rarely do officers from R8 come to Siberia

Russia North West: We want our volunteers to be more involved in an international level.

Russia Moscow: The number of conferences that we supported increased, but not easy. The large size of the country does not help. Our young member want to be more involved.

Iran: Large potential for growth. However our membership is largely blocked, we need more support from R8 and IEEE Headquarters. We hope to get a reasonable level of support from Vienna Office:

Hungary: No problems currently.

Greece: Worried on how to offer more benefits to members, and how to motivate them to become volunteers

Ghana: Visibility of IEEE in Ghana is not big, not very recognized.

Germany: No concerns in the moment, enough members. Concerned about the planned changes of the term of the treasurer.

France: Price of IEEEExplore is too high. Being compliant with Financial rules of IEEE.

Finland: no particular concerns. We wish there were more active people.

Estonia: How to attract people to join IEEE outside of the capital.

Egypt: Renewal of members is hard, especially with the Dollar going up. Organizing conferences becomes a financial problem. We helped 11 conferences last year, now we are expected to pay 1000 \$ per conferences, not possible for us to support them.

Denmark: Six years of having funds blocked by the bank. This we need to get sorted.

Serbia&Montenegro: New conference fee for conferences is our hardest issue.

Sweden: How to attract more students members.

Czechoslovakia: Technical cosponsorship of conferences. Right now hard for section to support.  
 Cyprus: We need higher retention.  
 Croatia: Technical cosponsorship.  
 Bulgaria: How to attract more young people to engineering. Technical cosponsorship.  
 Bosnia&Herzegovina: Students activity.  
 Benelux: Convincing that IEEE has a useful purpose in a local level. Hard to explain why we need to do that too.  
 Dubai: Updating volunteers takes a long time.  
 Austria: Status quo in our section. Membership is constant. We need better information flow from IEEE to our section.  
 Algeria: Technical cosponsorship.  
 Israel: Convincing members to join IEEE from Industry.  
 Italy: How to convince students to maintain membership, especially if fee is so different. Women in Engineering Affinity group needs to be paid for, is weird. Industry members, a corporate fee would be interesting?  
 Jordan: we had good membership growth, 50% in 2 years. How to keep up this growth, how to retain students?  
 Kenya: Transition of students to full members. Conference costs are very high. Membership picks up in August, what happens?  
 Kuwait: Similar concerns as in other sections. Benefits of the European offices, what are the costs, are they justified?  
 Kenya: Conference fees are high? Women in Engineering, how to start and grow?  
 Lebanon: 11% growth in membership, but how to solve retention. There are prohibited authors lists. Are there a prohibited conferences list? Lithuania: Half of members are in the capital. How can we establish other chapters outside of the capital.  
 Malta: no concerns  
 Morocco: Young professionals, how to communicate with them? IEEE should be more devoted to them.  
 Nigeria: Diversity sometimes influences the interest of possible IEEE members. We want to organize more workshops and events.  
 Oman: Vitality dashboard is currently not very userfriendly. Retention rate is difficult.  
 Poland: Technical cosponsorship is very difficult for conferences. How to attract industry people?  
 Portugal: Conference fees. Women in Engineering, membership fee is too high for it.  
 Qatar: Many members, but not registered in the Qatar section, as they are in their home country... Registration in Qatar is more expensive than in their home section.  
 Republic of Macedonia: Dropping membership. Engagement of industry members is difficult.  
 Romania: SamIEEE is too slow. No clear rule about IEEE Conference fee. Resources for students are not competitive enough with what is free on internet. Romanian members used to be members through their companies. Not available.

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos suggests to keep these questions and post answers on the website.  
 Director Margaretha Erikson comments on the variety of problems, as well as the returning questions. Large potential awaits in African Sections as well as the not yet section countries.  
 Director ME invites the committee to focus on the networking opportunities and efforts.  
 Director ME focusses on volunteering, and how it is presented.  
 Comment from the audience: "We need to get out of the box. Our president plays an important role in that."  
 Director ME focusses on the Industry part of our membership, as 90% of our students, after graduation, take the non-academical road.  
 Director ME focusses on Standards, and the role of them in the opportunities of our members work to bridge international gaps.

### **107: IEEE President's Answers to the most burning questions**

President Jim Jefferies, after a short general introduction on IEEE, answers the most pressing questions.  
 Syria members: as long as the US is the physical home of IEEE corporation, we have to follow their rules. The sanctions in place forbid us to do any business in Syria. We stand as an organization behind technology, we do not take political stances, but stand behind our values always.  
 From the audience: Benefit of humanity is the goal. Not taking a political stance, is taking a political stance.  
 African Strategy long-term: More focus on 5 particular sections, to later expand to other countries. Build the base of capability in those countries. Work on Educational opportunities in those countries. Working with the countries, technology policy in those countries.  
 Egypt repeats the concern of the technical conferences sponsorship fee.  
 How to help African countries with concrete actions?: We have worked on the general strategy, but are also having more actions, focusing on visibility.  
 Sister sections program would be a good idea. But the structure is  
 Tunisia: the help for countries that do not have a section? I propose to create something like that, so that IEEE members without sections to have access to the same benefits as other members.  
 What is the future of Region 8? Very bright future, you have many strengths. Structure of IEEE should probably change, to assure balanced representation in the world.

### **108: IEEE President's Elect Introduction**

President Elect Jose Moura presents himself. His past is technological, he is the co-founder of the Portugal Section. He was President of a society.

Membership: Our average age is increasing, we are missing the YP. As a goal, let's have 1M members. What is the value proposition in that case? Maybe our membership model is no longer up to date. How do we attract YPs? What technology should we use for it?

Transparency: We need to have a clear picture of how we run our business. We have operations deficits. WE have great products, IEEEExplore, but these products have real challenges. We need to be very efficient of how we run our organizations. Currently we can not answer such questions. How much does it really cost to produce a journal paper?

What are your plans concerning R8? I have a lot of affinity with the Region. Maybe it is necessary or useful to sub-organize the Region.

How can IEEE give more value to industry members? Industry Engagement Committee, for example. Also bringing CTO of several companies to advice IEEE on this issue.

Board representation is unbalanced: We need to be careful with reorganization. Reorganization is easy, making it good is not so easy. Several options and ideas to balance are floating around, but we need to very careful, so that the ideas are not misunderstood.

## 109: IEEE AHC Action Africa: Africa Council

Vincent Kaabunga: I invite you all to play a role in bringing the Africa region forward, towards a council.

Three Actions: Education, Sustainable community of members and volunteers, and supporting Government policy.

Support Engineering Education and Workforce Development:

- Expanded Access to IEEE Xplore
- IEEE Virtual Events Program in Africa
- African Conference Subsidy Program
- Equipment and Laboratory Expansion Program
- African Distinguished Visitor Program
- Short Courses for New Engineering Graduates
- Developing Entrepreneurship Capabilities in Africa
- Expanding Access to IEEE Pre-University offerings

Building a Sustainable Community of IEEE Members and Volunteers.

- Strengthening Local IEEE Entities and Building Collaborations
- Engagement with National and Regional Professional Societies
- Volunteer Leadership Development Program
- African Student and Young Professionals Congress
- Supporting African Innovation, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship
- Support for Standards Development in Africa

Government Policy Support and Increasing the Visibility of IEEE as a Resource for Engineering Capacity Development.

- Partnership with African Union/ NEPAD Agency
- African Organization for Standardization
- Revitalization of IEEE Partnership with UNESCO on Education in Africa
- Outreach to the Smart Africa Alliance
- East African Communications Organization
- WEF ? World Economic Forum
- African Telecommunications Union
- Kenya Bureau of Standards, Uganda Bureau of Standards

On the horizon

- Building on a ground swell stakeholder-led movement
- Imperative that the entity is robust to handle anticipated engagements
- Very important that there is no effect on R8 structures and operations
- Need a transitional overlap period for hand-off from AHCA
- ?Beat the clock?

## 110: Introduction to Poster Session

Secretary Jan Verwecken presents the poster sessions.

## 111: Committees Poster session+RSYP poster+coffee break

Poster can be found online.

## 112: Questions to Student Activities Vice Chair

Student Activities Vice Chair Efthymia Arvaniti introduces herself and her team.

What is the election system applied for student branch officer elections? Vtools is not yet possible for us, but this should be solved this year. We try to have online election software or traditional pen&paper.

How do you personally support the activities of the different student branches in R8?

I do not do it alone, I have a team.

- Advertising
- Providing guidance and ideas
- Fundraising advice
- Representing SAC and R8 in Events&Congresses

What is your best advice to Student Leaders of IEEE?

- Stay in touch with your Section and your Region
- Participate in the predesigned events
- Bring new ideas
- Explore the countless possibilities for your future development within IEEE
- Networking
- Build a trusted team
- Be inclusive
- Motivate your peers
- Believe in yourself and in your team members
- You are a role model!
- Ask Ask Ask
- Transfer knowledge
- Do not forget to HAVE FUN!

Mats Edvinsson: Try to start thinking as students already about their life afterwards. Bring your structural thinking to section and industry.

Internship database is being built. "afi.ieeer8.org"

Saudi Arabia East: do you think that there is a particular practices that we can organize? Cross sectional SYP events, to be attended by not only the chair, but someone that will take over next year, smooth transfer. Student Branch Counselors are also vital in the continuity.

Tony Davies: Make sure you have a good student branch counselor, if the current one is not good, get a new one.

Could we have a general forum in the Region to transfer knowledge? Good idea.

Even years, large SYP congress, odd years, cross sectional congresses.

## 113: Questions to Member Activities Vice Chair

Member Activities Vice Chair Antonio Luque: IEEE Smart Tech Workshop Series is an excellent program that gives value to members and helps in membership development and retention. Why did you cancel it? We didn't cancel it, it was not a Region program. It was created in R1-6, later some workshops were organized in R8 too. The program was expensive, and cancelled. What are the minimum activities required from each section member? Reporting at least 5 activities.

Please describe the real benefit of your activities to the usual IEEE member who works in industry? We, IEEE, are failing to transmit the good image of the existing benefits. He invites the different sub-committee chairs to present their main benefits to the committee.

R8 loses HG members constantly for last 4 years. Do you have any strategy of rising the new interest of this valuable part of IEEE? Andrejs Romanovs explains that this year for the first year, we have a slight increase in membership. We have to look at the section level. It is not easy to renew interest, but organizing activities, encouraging students, providing help to local initiatives.

More questions can be answered on the posters.

## 114: Questions to Technical Activities Vice Chair

Technical Activities Vice Chair Christopher James What kind of technical activities can members participate in? Several different activities are suggested.

Why do we have such technical activities besides the IEEE technical society's activities? There is a place for such activities, as we can make bespoke events, focusing on things that no one society alone can focus on.

How are the Distinguished Lecturer programs being unified and presented collectively? We should definitely keep their selection by the societies. These systems depend on them. Chapter can invite distinguished lecturers.

## **201:IEEE MGA New Issues(GDPR)+ questions**

MGA Vice President Francis Grosz presents the MGA priorities for 2019.

Vera Sharoff presents the GDPR and IEEE's actions for it. The content of this presentation has legal qualities. To not create any misunderstandings, the presentation can be found on our website.

Q. What benefits do the majority of IEEE members gain from MGA activities?

A. MGA's policies, procedures, and programs support all IEEE members. For example, the YP, WIE, and LM programs all come under MGA. In addition, there are various committees working on ways to improve MGA support of local Organizational Units and increase member value. Sections Congress seeks to provide direct feedback from Sections (and Chapters and Groups) and the members to the Institute. In addition, MGA is constantly focused on increasing support for local Geo Units.<sup>26</sup> Q. How does MGA see its development in the future, in comparison to TA?

A. Both MGA and TA are major Organizational Units of IEEE, but they are also quite different. MGA serves all IEEE members, but only about half of IEEE members belong to one or more Societies. MGA's income comes primarily from member dues, while TA's income includes income from the sale of IP (IEL, Xplore). Chapters are sub-units of both MGA (through their Sections) and TA (through the sponsoring Societies). TA is focused on technology, while MGA supports members through a variety of different programs. Providing quality programs and local Geo Unit support in an era of declining dues revenue will continue to be a challenge.

Q. What is the success story of Collabratec for the last two years, in comparison with other major professional social networks?

A. Collabratec is somewhat different from the usual social network, professional or otherwise, in that it is envisioned as more than just social networking tool. As its name implies, it is envisioned as a platform where people can collaborate and work together on projects. For example, researchers in different locations can work together to write papers and share results. Also, it includes a reference capability and additional tools are planned to further enhance its capacity for people to work together. The number of Collabrated users has continued to grow, as has the time spent by users on the platform. Nonetheless, there is concern at the Board level about the cost of the program and the benefit obtained for that investment. Therefore, the Board has requested additional information on the usage of the platform, plans for future development, and a business plan for the system, and will continue to monitor the future development of Collabratec.

## **202:Presentation of IEEE Region 8 Director Elect Candidates**

Antonio Luque and Rafal Sliz have both been approved by the Nominations&Awards committee. After a short introduction, they present themselves. Further questions can be asked directly at the posters session.

## **203:Poster Session 1/3 Sections + IEEE R8 Director Elect Candidates poster+ coffee break**

Poster can be found online.

## **204: Humanitarian Activities**

Paul M Cunningham, Humanitarian Activities Committee chair presents all current opportunities and activities.

The IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee supports the IEEE Board-endorsed vision of IEEE volunteers around the world carrying out and/or supporting impactful "feet-on-the-ground" activities at local level.

HAC supports Sustainable Development related IEEE volunteer activities by

- Providing financial support to relevant projects and events
- Providing educational, mentoring and networking support
- Promoting and supporting collaboration by IEEE & non-IEEE volunteers through IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) Program
- Building strategic partnerships with other relevant stakeholders
- Providing volunteers who support local teams undertaking "feet-on-the ground" community based activities

Precise actions that can or can not be funded are specified in the presentation, that can be found online.

## **205: Poster Session 2/3 Sections + Humanitarian Activities Workshop(Room:Erato A)**

Posters can be found online.

## **206: Group Photo**

## **207: IEEE Vienna Office Answer to the most burning questions**

Dr Clara Neppel introduces the different employees of the Vienna Offices and their roles Dr. Clara Neppel, Senior Director for European Business Operations

- Responsible for IEEE's operations and presence in Europe
- From the European Patent Office

Dr. Hermann Brand, European Standards Affairs Director

- Lead the regional efforts of the IEEE-SA in Europe
- From the European Telecommunications Standards Institute

MStats. Tania Sanchez Juarez Zugazagoitia, Executive Administrator

- General administration of IEEE's Technology Centre
- From industry (Dell EMC, Kofax) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Why Vienna?

The easternmost city of Western Europe and the westernmost city of Eastern Europe

Seat of numerous international organizations: UN, OSCE, IAEA

Smart City: ranks highest for quality of living 8th year in a row

Home to multiple science and technology parks, research facilities, and robust university technology transfer programs

Currently the Vienna Office focuses on Standardization and Public Policy.

The European Public Policy Office is supported there, with two working groups.

Expanding collaborations and partnerships

High level meeting between EC DG CNECT and IEEE delegation

- Future collaboration possibilities identified in several technical areas and in education
- Discussed possible involvement in EU framework programs

European Public Policy WG Meetings with officials from DG Justice, CNECT and Energy

- Topics: Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Internal Electricity Market

Debates in the European Parliament, eg ?Blockchain Applications in Everyday Life ?

Region 8, Standards, Industry, EU officials, Associations

Meeting with the Austrian Ministry of Innovation

- Introduction of IEEE initiatives, follow up planned for Tech Ethics and Autonomous Driving.

More details can be found in the presentation online.

Questions from the audience:

What is the capacity of the Vienna Office and how is it funded?:

Dr Clara Neppel :We are currently only three, recruiting a fourth, our funding is from IEEE HQ. Dirk van Hertem, Marko

Delimar: EPPC is covered by a 5 dollar difference in membership fee of European members.

To what extent can we provide support outside of Europe ?

Dr Clara Neppel: with standards, we support everybody. With more support from MGA, we will be able to support more than Europe.

## **208: Poster Session 3/3 Sections+ IEEE President Elect Candidates poster**

### **209: Voting system of Posters to be presented on stage + reflection question**

Secretary Jan Verwecken explains the voting system of the posters, as well as the changes to the meeting structure. The voting will close at 9PM and the winners will present their poster the next day.

### **210: Closing of day one**

Director Margaretha Eriksson closes the first day of meeting, and wishes everybody a delightful dinner.

### **300: Call to Order and Roll Call**

Director Margaretha Eriksson welcomes everybody back for the second part of the meeting.

### **301: Presentation of Section poster voted best Industry Activity+discussion**

Egypt: Two different Events, in Cairo and Assouan. roughly 15000 visitors, 5000 students, rest are industry visitors. Egyptian Engineering Day, 3000 active volunteers. The Assouan event focuses on South Egypt universities. The event promotes IEEE as well as students

Students got 30% of their membership funded by industry. 150 Engineers from industry gave workshops.

### **302: Presentation of Section poster voted best Membership Activity+discussion**

Tunisia: Our sections lives for 10 years, celebration in June. We started with 200 members, and now over 2000. Most are students in student branches. We try to push our students forward. English is not spoken in our country, so our students do real efforts to improve their skills and getting more connected with IEEE.

In the organized congress, many students join only to be able to attend it. We try to attract both universities and industry, while cooperating with government. SYP was a great event last year.

We were able to arrange free calls between IEEE members, by an agreement with the largest communications provider.

### **303: Presentation of Section poster voted best Young Prof. Activity+discussion**

Lebanon: the YP group started in 2014, is currently one of the most active YP groups in R8. We try to benefit our students as well as our YP. We started by talking to students, what their issues were, what they needed to start their careers. The two big issues were internships and job opportunities. We were able to solve many internships with Memorandums of Understanding with Industry. The first MOU was with Alpha, Ericsson and Telecom.

We organized a national IEEE day, always on a Saturday, so everybody can come.

The YP Affinity group is organizing many things and growing well.

### **304: Presentation of Section poster voted best Action for Africa+discussion**

Egypt: The issue with Africa is the size of the continent. We are proposing that each country will help the nearby countries to start subsections.

Kenia: We believe in having an end to end solution. We start at colleges already, to not lose any students. We work on local events to reduce travel. We worked on standards, in cooperation with the government. We are working on using blockchain and big data. We are receiving a lot of support from the government. We organized contests at high schools, colleges, universities with the largest telecom provider in our country. Distinguished lecturers were invited. We supported Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania. As results we have more students interested from all these countries. We will end the year with IEEEExtreme, IEEE Day and other events. A WiE Affinity group was started.

South Africa: Our section is 41 years old, and roughly 1000 members in a very large section. We held Africon, with 300 attendees. We held several IEEE sessions at it. The Director Elect Magdalena Salazar Palma presented IEEE, Jan Haase presented how to organize conferences. We will organize a widely advertised workshop event soon. The standardization organization presented.

### **305: Closing remarks IEEE R6 Director**

Kathleen Kramer: Only Region that has all other regions as neighbors. Many activities shared with R7. Region 6 is divided in several areas and some councils. Some councils dissolved, some new councils started.

Director ME thanks Director KK for the viewpoints.

### **305b: Awards Addendum**

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos (CS) announces the Award for Outstanding medium section, assigned to Poland.

### **306: Closing remarks IEEE RX Director**

Director ME thanks the Region 8 for the fantastic ideas. Director Kukjin Chun reports the current status of the RX. The diversity of RX is similar in size, countries, cultures, languages as R8. Visa issues also occur in RX. RX has many sections, subsections, students and student branches.

Several sections are large enough to hold their own SYPs, with over 20000 students in China, over 50000 students in India.

### **307: Closing remarks IEEE R4 Director**

Director Bernard T. Sander mentions the strong cultural experiences he has experienced in R8, and the profound impact they have had on his life.

Director ME thanks all Directors for their kind words, and wishes them safe travels.

### **308: Motions, presentation, discussion, voting**

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos (CS) presents the different motions.

#### **Russia far east subsection of Siberia Section**

Aleksandar Szabo presents the motion, and explains the sheer size of the Siberia section, the largest section in the world. The Siberia section agrees with the subsection formation.

Siberia Section chair explains the activities of the proposed subsection. Membership in whole Siberia is roughly 850. The motion: Region 8 supports the formation of the Russia Far East subsection. full details of the motion can be found online. The motion stands.

### Bylaws and Operations manual proposed changes.

Past Director CS explains the separate parts of the motions.

It is clarified that Bylaws cannot be changed, only changes can be proposed to MGA, but need to be approved by it.

Discussion:

GOLD will become YP.

Industry Activity will become Action for Industry.

WiE adhoc committee to become standing committee. Discussion about the funding, what will get less financial support. It is clarified that both have already a budget. It is clarified that the continuity of the operations is the main goal. It is discussed that the subcommittee should be reconsidered, as the committee is only growing, no reconsideration, no

HuAc adhoc committee to become standing committee.

Reducing Fellow grade requirement on the Awards subcommittee to Senior grade. Some discussion about the perception of quality. Some discussion whether this committee decides to promote members to fellow grade. It is clarified that this committee does not partake in such discussion.

Office term of Secretary to be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. It is clarified that this change only would affect the Region secretary, not section secretaries.

Office term of Treasurer to be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. Discussion: this period is considered short. No other Region has a such a 2 year term, only 1 year terms are there. Past Treasurer Brian Harrington comments that the danger exist, seeing the complexity, that this becomes an appointment instead of an election.

Including Africa Area.

Motions that stand:

- GOLD to YP. unanimous
- Industry Relations to Afl. unanimous
- WiE from adhoc to Standing committee. one abstention, no against. Rest in favour.
- HuAc from adhoc to standing committee. 4 abstention, no against. Rest in favour.
- Awards chair grade from Fellow to member Grade. 5 against.
- change to the existence of Africa Area.

Motions that do not stand:

- Term of Secretary from 2 years to 1.
- Term of Treasurer from 2 years to 1.

### Formation of Africa Council

AdHoc Committee for Action in Africa chair Vincent Kaabunga presents the motion to form an Africa Council.

Discussion: Egypt does not approve this council. The name of the proposed Africa Council is in question. It is clarified that any section has the right to opt in or out. The size of Africa as a continent, as well as the support for an Area coming from MGA, instead of the funding for a council that needs to come from sections is mentioned. The inclusiveness of all meetings is discussed. It is clarified that all meetings were open to all, several took place at R8 meetings.

Director ME mentions the importance of IEEE as cooperation and interfacing partner for several large African organizations.

The motion to vote for the motion stands. 2 against, 6 abstentions.

The motion stands. 1 against, 5 abstentions.

### 309: IEEE Region 8 SYP

José Pinto, chair of the 2018 IEEE Region 8 SYP present the organization of the event. Registration Fee: 300 +/- 50

Included in Registration fee:

- Accommodation chosen by the SYP organization, for 4 nights;
- Transportation during the Congress;
- All meals during the Congress;

NOT Included in Registration fee: Flights and transportation to the Congress.

The program, focusing on technical, industrial and soft skill talks and workshops is presented.

At time of this presentation, 10 Sponsors are confirmed, several more are in the pipeline.

Full details can be found in the presentation online.

VC Efthymia Arvaniti mentions the tradition that sections support the travel of R8 funded attendees. She commends the good work of the SYP team. She stresses the more stringent rules to be selected for funding, also, the reimbursement is participation dependent.

Questions:

Sponsorship is organized by packages? Yes, several packages, ranging from 1000-10000 Euros, flexible content.

Reimbursement after the event can be very expensive for students, can sections prefund it?

Travel can be the first time internationally for several students, how are they supported ? Information to travel from all major airports will be given.

Selection criteria are not linked with the section, that have more information? Would support letters from the section be taken into account? Section endorsement letters are a criteria, as well as many other activity related criteria.

Will there be any travel grants awarded, because the registration fee is just a small part of the actual costs? R8 can not fund

more.

Visa requirements? We make exceptions to the reimbursement, if it can be proven that the visa application was started on time.

### **310: Presentation of President-Elect Candidates**

Question to the President-Elect Candidates: How do you see IEEE developing with ever larger humanitarian projects, without compromising the technical foundations of IEEE.

President-Elect candidates Jacek Zurada, Vincent Piuri, Toshio Fukuda present their answers, in line with their programs, which can be found online on their respective election websites.

### **311: New Business**

Director-Elect Magdalena Salazar addresses the mentioned concerns about the fee to technically co-sponsor technical conferences. It is a large financial burden to pay 1000 \$ to IEEE. It is possible to mitigate the risk by partaking financially in the conferences, and use the proceeds of it.

Societies earn part of the money of papers, why are sections not receiving it? DE MS will bring this paper to the board.

Technical co-sponsorship is also a strong partaking in the conferences, sitting on all technical committees. There are good arguments to partake financially, because sections will also be more selective with participating in conferences.

Strong comments are made concerning that this was sent on the last day of the year 2017, in effect 1st January of 2018. This is a disrespectful way of communicating, sections were unable to respond or prepare well for this decision and change. DE MS comments that this change was not coming from MGA but from the IEEE Conference Committee.

The legal ramifications seem not checked. In many jurisdictions it is not legal to do things retroactively.

Is there any difference made between seminars, conferences? If a conference application was filed, it applies.

### **313: Next Region 8 Meeting**

Section Chair Vera Markovic presents the next Region 8 meeting, which will be held in Belgrade.

### **308: Treasurer's Report**

Past Treasurer Brian Harrington apologizes for the absence of the treasurer Ralph Kennel. He presents the treasurer's report. The Region's finances are healthy. However, the cashflow is not. If you split the net worth down, we have roughly 1 MEUR reserves, but we do not have enough cashflow.

The expenses are mainly the meetings. We budget between 680kEuro and 720kEuro.

We need to prepare for SYP, as this event is very sensitive to sponsorship.

A new accounting system is being set up which will allow for better reviewing options of the budget.

Questions:

73% of our budget is spent on meetings, is that appropriate? Not a questions for the Treasurer.

Do we any analysis to review the activities that create membership, and which not? Director ME will review this.

### **314: Closing Remarks IEEE Vienna Office**

Dr. Clara Neppel: Wish to learn more about the initiatives in the region and learn from them. Invites all sections to contact the office about partnerships that require assistance. Events relating to standards and policy makers are very interesting currently.

### **315: Closing Remarks President-Elect**

President elect Jose Moura: IS amazed with the fantastic efforts of students and young professionals. He commends the questions about funding the right committees and actions.

### **316: Closing Remarks President**

President Jim Jefferies: Let's replicate the things that work really well: poster sessions, innovation. Thanks everybody for the great work done in Region 8

### **317: Closing Remarks R8 Director**

Director ME thanks the committee and the guests for their contributions to the region. She welcomes any ideas and suggestions to improve the meeting and cooperation within the region, from a new meeting setting to budget reconsiderations. She thanks the Greece volunteers and the section that helped make this meeting a success.

### **318: Adjournment**

Director ME adjourns the meeting.

**Section/Subsection officers d.d. 04 10 2018**

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Zambia	Working Group			

## Membership d.d. 04 10 2018

Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	17
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Member	60
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	22
Algeria	IEEE Grades	Student Member	18
Algeria	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Algeria	Total	Total	125
Austria	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	45
Austria	IEEE Grades	Fellow	13
Austria	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	177
Austria	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Austria	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	6
Austria	IEEE Grades	Life Member	16
Austria	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	10
Austria	IEEE Grades	Member	806
Austria	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	100
Austria	IEEE Grades	Student Member	84
Austria	Other Grades	Affiliate	69
Austria	Total	Total	1,327
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	1
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	9
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Member	75
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	18
Bahrain	IEEE Grades	Student Member	68
Bahrain	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Bahrain	Total	Total	175
Belarus	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	2
Belarus	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	4
Belarus	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Belarus	IEEE Grades	Member	15
Belarus	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	3
Belarus	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Belarus	Total	Total	26
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	50
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Fellow	91
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	580
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	32
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Life Member	110
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	42
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Member	2,06
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	334
Benelux	IEEE Grades	Student Member	97
Benelux	Other Grades	Affiliate	133
Benelux	Other Grades	SA Member	3
Benelux	Total	Total	3,533
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	58
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Member	160
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	11
Bosnia And Herzegovina	IEEE Grades	Student Member	80
Bosnia And Herzegovina	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Bosnia And Herzegovina	Total	Total	315
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	27
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Member	171
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	15
Bulgaria	IEEE Grades	Student Member	11
Bulgaria	Other Grades	Affiliate	4
Bulgaria	Total	Total	237
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	10
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	102
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	16
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	10
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Member	421
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	81
Croatia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	68
Croatia	Other Grades	Affiliate	10
Croatia	Total	Total	718
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	3
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Fellow	2
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	39
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	4
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Member	171
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	32
Cyprus	IEEE Grades	Student Member	96
Cyprus	Other Grades	Affiliate	6
Cyprus	Total	Total	354
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	8
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	100
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	5
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Member	409
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	100
Czechoslovakia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	26
Czechoslovakia	Other Grades	Affiliate	13
Czechoslovakia	Other Grades	SA Member	2
Czechoslovakia	Total	Total	668
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	20
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Fellow	8
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	135
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	2
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Life Member	32
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	14
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Member	568
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	103
Denmark	IEEE Grades	Student Member	27
Denmark	Other Grades	Affiliate	34
Denmark	Total	Total	943
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	10
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Fellow	2
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	146
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	2
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Life Member	13
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	36
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Member	458
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	131
Egypt	IEEE Grades	Student Member	231
Egypt	Other Grades	Affiliate	5
Egypt	Total	Total	1,034
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	8
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	31
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	4

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	2
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Member	81
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	16
Estonia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	18
Estonia	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Estonia	Total	Total	161
Finland	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	15
Finland	IEEE Grades	Fellow	10
Finland	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	145
Finland	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Finland	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	10
Finland	IEEE Grades	Life Member	23
Finland	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	7
Finland	IEEE Grades	Member	593
Finland	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	115
Finland	IEEE Grades	Student Member	33
Finland	Other Grades	Affiliate	30
Finland	Other Grades	SA Member	3
Finland	Total	Total	985
France	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	170
France	IEEE Grades	Fellow	75
France	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	361
France	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
France	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	27
France	IEEE Grades	Life Member	68
France	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	31
France	IEEE Grades	Member	2,348
France	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	502
France	IEEE Grades	Student Member	240
France	Other Grades	Affiliate	170
France	Other Grades	SA Member	15
France	Total	Total	4,008
Germany	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	203
Germany	IEEE Grades	Fellow	92
Germany	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	1,407
Germany	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	67
Germany	IEEE Grades	Life Member	140
Germany	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	54
Germany	IEEE Grades	Member	4,855
Germany	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	701
Germany	IEEE Grades	Student Member	305
Germany	Other Grades	Affiliate	362
Germany	Other Grades	SA Member	17
Germany	Total	Total	8,203
Ghana	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	2
Ghana	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	17
Ghana	IEEE Grades	Member	124
Ghana	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	7
Ghana	IEEE Grades	Student Member	16
Ghana	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Ghana	Total	Total	169
Greece	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	26
Greece	IEEE Grades	Fellow	16
Greece	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	153
Greece	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	4
Greece	IEEE Grades	Life Member	19
Greece	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	13
Greece	IEEE Grades	Member	752
Greece	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	181
Greece	IEEE Grades	Student Member	413
Greece	Other Grades	Affiliate	32

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Greece	Total	Total	1,609
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	7
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Fellow	6
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	45
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	5
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Life Member	9
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	11
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Member	258
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	26
Hungary	IEEE Grades	Student Member	33
Hungary	Other Grades	Affiliate	6
Hungary	Other Grades	SA Member	1
Hungary	Total	Total	407
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	1
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Member	51
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	9
Iceland	IEEE Grades	Student Member	10
Iceland	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Iceland	Other Grades	SA Member	1
Iceland	Total	Total	84
Iran	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	42
Iran	IEEE Grades	Fellow	2
Iran	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	260
Iran	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
Iran	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	4
Iran	IEEE Grades	Member	557
Iran	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	142
Iran	IEEE Grades	Student Member	364
Iran	Other Grades	Affiliate	4
Iran	Total	Total	1,377
Iraq	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	3
Iraq	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	63
Iraq	IEEE Grades	Member	122
Iraq	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	33
Iraq	IEEE Grades	Student Member	17
Iraq	Total	Total	238
Israel	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	26
Israel	IEEE Grades	Fellow	27
Israel	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	96
Israel	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	35
Israel	IEEE Grades	Life Member	54
Israel	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	61
Israel	IEEE Grades	Member	562
Israel	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	165
Israel	IEEE Grades	Student Member	50
Israel	Other Grades	Affiliate	42
Israel	Other Grades	SA Member	7
Israel	Total	Total	1,125
Italy	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	144
Italy	IEEE Grades	Fellow	134
Italy	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	660
Italy	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Italy	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	45
Italy	IEEE Grades	Life Member	103
Italy	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	30
Italy	IEEE Grades	Member	2,834
Italy	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	789

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Italy	IEEE Grades	Student Member	289
Italy	Other Grades	Affiliate	156
Italy	Other Grades	SA Member	6
Italy	Total	Total	5,191
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	18
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	27
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Member	271
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	41
Jordan	IEEE Grades	Student Member	802
Jordan	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Jordan	Total	Total	1,164
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	33
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Member	211
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	8
Kenya	IEEE Grades	Student Member	101
Kenya	Other Grades	Affiliate	4
Kenya	Total	Total	363
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	9
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Member	128
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	25
Kuwait	IEEE Grades	Student Member	60
Kuwait	Other Grades	Affiliate	5
Kuwait	Total	Total	235
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	2
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	19
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	2
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Member	77
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	9
Latvia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	8
Latvia	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Latvia	Total	Total	120
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	26
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	84
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	6
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Member	405
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	65
Lebanon	IEEE Grades	Student Member	712
Lebanon	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Lebanon	Total	Total	1,303
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	2
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	16
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Member	49
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	16
Lithuania	IEEE Grades	Student Member	9
Lithuania	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Lithuania	Total	Total	97
Malta	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Malta	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	16

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Malta	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Malta	IEEE Grades	Member	94
Malta	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	11
Malta	IEEE Grades	Student Member	9
Malta	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Malta	Total	Total	136
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	6
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	46
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Member	148
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	12
Morocco	IEEE Grades	Student Member	70
Morocco	Other Grades	Affiliate	7
Morocco	Total	Total	291
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	7
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	104
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	1
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Member	524
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	48
Nigeria	IEEE Grades	Student Member	92
Nigeria	Other Grades	Affiliate	8
Nigeria	Total	Total	784
Norway	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	19
Norway	IEEE Grades	Fellow	4
Norway	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	98
Norway	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	3
Norway	IEEE Grades	Life Member	33
Norway	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	18
Norway	IEEE Grades	Member	639
Norway	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	111
Norway	IEEE Grades	Student Member	27
Norway	Other Grades	Affiliate	30
Norway	Total	Total	982
Oman	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	12
Oman	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	12
Oman	IEEE Grades	Member	137
Oman	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	39
Oman	IEEE Grades	Student Member	164
Oman	Other Grades	Affiliate	4
Oman	Total	Total	368
Poland	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	19
Poland	IEEE Grades	Fellow	12
Poland	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	79
Poland	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	7
Poland	IEEE Grades	Life Member	10
Poland	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	16
Poland	IEEE Grades	Member	622
Poland	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	208
Poland	IEEE Grades	Student Member	118
Poland	Other Grades	Affiliate	21
Poland	Other Grades	SA Member	7
Poland	Total	Total	1,119
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	8
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Fellow	14
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	156
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Life Member	15
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	13
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Member	554
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	204

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Portugal	IEEE Grades	Student Member	180
Portugal	Other Grades	Affiliate	37
Portugal	Total	Total	1,182
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	5
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Fellow	3
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	21
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Member	136
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	48
Qatar	IEEE Grades	Student Member	31
Qatar	Other Grades	Affiliate	1
Qatar	Total	Total	245
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	36
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	75
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Member	763
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	53
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	IEEE Grades	Student Member	381
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	Other Grades	Affiliate	5
Reg 8-Countries Outside Sections	Total	Total	1,319
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	2
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	IEEE Grades	Member	50
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	6
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	IEEE Grades	Student Member	6
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Region 8 - Apo/Fpo	Total	Total	71
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	12
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Member	65
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	32
Republic Of Macedonia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	21
Republic Of Macedonia	Other Grades	Affiliate	2
Republic Of Macedonia	Total	Total	138
Romania	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Romania	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Romania	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	85
Romania	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Romania	IEEE Grades	Life Member	9
Romania	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	11
Romania	IEEE Grades	Member	667
Romania	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	102
Romania	IEEE Grades	Student Member	22
Romania	Other Grades	Affiliate	18
Romania	Other Grades	SA Member	1
Romania	Total	Total	921
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	32
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	84
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	7
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Member	311
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	25
Russia (Northwest)	IEEE Grades	Student Member	64
Russia (Northwest)	Other Grades	Affiliate	4
Russia (Northwest)	Total	Total	529
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	10
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	26
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Life Member	3
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Member	211
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	19
Russia (Siberia)	IEEE Grades	Student Member	23
Russia (Siberia)	Other Grades	Affiliate	6
Russia (Siberia)	Total	Total	302
Russia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	41
Russia	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Russia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	123
Russia	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Russia	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Russia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	12
Russia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	4
Russia	IEEE Grades	Member	712
Russia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	37
Russia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	62
Russia	Other Grades	Affiliate	39
Russia	Other Grades	SA Member	2
Russia	Total	Total	1,035
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	18
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	50
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	10
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Member	542
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	82
Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	182
Saudi Arabia	Other Grades	Affiliate	18
Saudi Arabia	Total	Total	904
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	5
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Fellow	2
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	76
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	2
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Life Member	6
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	9
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Member	536
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	43
Serbia And Montenegro	IEEE Grades	Student Member	48
Serbia And Montenegro	Other Grades	Affiliate	2
Serbia And Montenegro	Total	Total	729
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	7
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	25
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	12
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	8
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Member	200
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	21
Slovenia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	7
Slovenia	Other Grades	Affiliate	5
Slovenia	Total	Total	286
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	8
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	112
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	3
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Life Member	10
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	7
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Member	703
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	116
South Africa	IEEE Grades	Student Member	39

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
South Africa	Other Grades	Affiliate	16
South Africa	Total	Total	1,016
Spain	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	56
Spain	IEEE Grades	Fellow	38
Spain	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	307
Spain	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	8
Spain	IEEE Grades	Life Member	50
Spain	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	23
Spain	IEEE Grades	Member	1,887
Spain	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	618
Spain	IEEE Grades	Student Member	346
Spain	Other Grades	Affiliate	109
Spain	Total	Total	3,442
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	27
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Fellow	35
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	344
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	17
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Life Member	53
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	40
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Member	1,1
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	299
Sweden	IEEE Grades	Student Member	20
Sweden	Other Grades	Affiliate	46
Sweden	Other Grades	SA Member	3
Sweden	Total	Total	1,985
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	77
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Fellow	69
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	299
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	26
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Life Member	174
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	27
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Member	1,767
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	244
Switzerland	IEEE Grades	Student Member	88
Switzerland	Other Grades	Affiliate	116
Switzerland	Other Grades	SA Member	1
Switzerland	Total	Total	2,889
Total	Total	Total	4,72
Total	Total	Total	68,982
Total	Total	Total	73,702
Total	Total	Total	73,702
Tunisia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	55
Tunisia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	132
Tunisia	IEEE Grades	Member	314
Tunisia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	77
Tunisia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	1,219
Tunisia	Total	Total	1,797
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	49
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Fellow	13
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	279
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	4
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Life Member	5
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	9
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Member	872
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	137
Turkey	IEEE Grades	Student Member	897
Turkey	Other Grades	Affiliate	12
Turkey	Total	Total	2,277

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Section	Grade Category	Grade	Member Count
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	4
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Fellow	3
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	50
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	1
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	6
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Member	198
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	55
Ukraine	IEEE Grades	Student Member	10
Ukraine	Other Grades	Affiliate	7
Ukraine	Total	Total	336
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	33
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Fellow	1
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	69
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	2
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Life Member	2
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	2
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Member	675
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	128
United Arab Emirates	IEEE Grades	Student Member	394
United Arab Emirates	Other Grades	Affiliate	13
United Arab Emirates	Other Grades	SA Member	1
United Arab Emirates	Total	Total	1,32
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	155
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Fellow	157
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	1,353
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Honorary Member	1
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Life Fellow	60
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Life Member	236
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	89
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Member	6,27
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	1,195
United Kingdom and Ireland	IEEE Grades	Student Member	378
United Kingdom and Ireland	Other Grades	Affiliate	250
United Kingdom and Ireland	Other Grades	SA Member	10
United Kingdom and Ireland	Total	Total	10,154
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	14
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Fellow	2
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	58
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Life Senior	3
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Member	246
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	48
Western Saudi Arabia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	297
Western Saudi Arabia	Other Grades	Affiliate	7
Western Saudi Arabia	Total	Total	676
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Associate Member	7
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Graduate Student Member	2
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Life Member	1
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Member	143
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Senior Member	3
Zambia	IEEE Grades	Student Member	16
Zambia	Other Grades	Affiliate	3
Zambia	Total	Total	175

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## **Director**

**Margaretha Eriksson**

### **Goals**

To lead the Region as per our strategic goals

### **Status**

Good

### **Outlook**

Very positive, we have an IEEE office in Vienna since September 2017 under the leadership of Clara Neppel, we have established an IEEE Africa Council (formalities planned to be finished during 2019) and appointed a pro tem leadership team. We have formed new sections and subsections on the African continent and they are proposed by the members. Every week I have the pleasure to approve the formation of new student branches, as well as technical chapters in the region. The transformation of our Treasury function and moving the book into a cloud-based system is well underway, and we will hear details from the Treasurer and auditor during the meeting.

### **Points of Concern**

We need to finalize the transformation of the Treasury into the cloud-based solution and make sure the Treasury team, the accounting system and IEEE Finance department work well together. The Africa council (in forming), IEEE Africa Ad-hoc Committee and R8 leadership need to coordinate their efforts and activities for optimal effect. It is minimum a 3-5 year commitment.

### **Other Issues to report**

I would like to thank all hard-working Section Chairs in our region, all the Vice-Chairs and their teams for leading and supporting activities, and all OpCom members, everybody who has been involved in IEEE during 201-2018 for the efforts you have made in the name of IEEE. The amount of enthusiasm and positive energy we all put into "advancing technology for humanity" is outstanding! Thank you!

## Director Elect

**Magdalena Salazar Palma**

### Role of Region 8 Director-Elect

- 1) The Director-Elect is responsible of Region 8 (R8) Strategic Planning and Region 8 Vitality.
  - The Director-Elect chairs the R8 Strategic Planning Sub Committee (SPSC). The SPSC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
  - In order to ensure the Region and Sections vitality, the Director-Elect is helped by the Sections Vitality Coordinator (SVC). The SVC report details its Goals, Status, Outlook and Points of Concern.
- 2) The Director-Elect participates in IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board (MGAB) meetings and Board of Directors (BoD) meetings, during the February, June, and November IEEE Meeting Series.
- 3) The Director-Elect participates in R8 OpCom meetings, R8 N&A meetings and represents R8 in meetings at the request of R8 Director or as needed. The following report refers to these last two roles of the Director-Elect.

### Goals

To participate in MGAB and BoD meetings in preparation for the incoming role as Director, networking with all MGAB and BoD members.

To participate in R8 OpCom and R8 N&A meetings and to represent R8 in meetings of different types in order to support, encourage and serve members.

### Status

During year 2017 I was voting member of MGAB as Technical Activities Board (TAB) representative, which helped me to better learn at the MGAB level and better interact with MGAB members. I was also Chair of one of the MGA Committees, namely the MGA Awards and Recognitions Committee (ARC), and as such, member of other MGA Committees and Boards, namely, the MGA Member Engagement and Life Cycle Committee, the Awards Board and the Awards Board Policy and Portfolio Review Committee. By being member of these committees I have acquired an MGAB and IEEE broader view and I have contributed to bring R8 points of view, experience and achievements into the discussion. In 2018 I have served as member of MGA ARC, as past chair. With respect to the BoD, besides the learning experience of participating in the February, June and November 2017 and February and June 2018 meetings, I have been the chair of one of the committees that reports to BoD, namely, the IEEE Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC), during 2017 and 2018. I was member also of the BoD Ad Hoc Committee on IEEE Ethics Programs in 2017. During 2018 I have been invited to attend a meeting of the PSPB Publishing Conduct Committee. During 2018 I have been also member of the European Public Policy Committee and of several IEEE Awards Committees. I have participated in the monthly online R8 OpCom meetings and the face-to-face OpCom meeting held in June 2018 in Limassol, Cyprus. I also participated in the R8 N&A meeting held in July 2018 in Porto Portugal. In May 2018 I represented Region 8 in the 19th IEEE MELECON held in the beautiful city of Marrakech, Morocco. The Conference was a success from both the technical and social point of view, and provided an excellent opportunity for face-to-face networking. In June 2018 I also attended the 5th IEEE ENERGYCON, in Limassol, Cyprus. In both conferences plenary speakers gave interesting presentations. By attending these two conferences I was able to directly assess the excellent service that R8 Technical Activities offers R8 members in different areas of our Region. In July 2018 I represented Region 8 in Young Professionals in Space, in Barcelona, Spain. This vibrant event was co-sponsored by Region 8. The IEEE R8 Students and Young Professionals Congress (SYP) 2018 took place in Porto, Portugal, where I had the possibility to learn from R8 Students and YP so many things in so many ways! This year I have had the privilege of being the General Chair of the 21st European Microwave Week, held in Madrid, Spain, during the last week of September. This is a three-conference and major exhibition event, co-sponsored by IEEE and various IEEE Technical Societies. During the week, IEEE Region 8 YP sponsored two Young Professional sessions and YP Meet-up.

### Outlook

During the last three months of 2018 the activities of the Director-Elect will continue in a similar way, with the scope of improving the interactions with MGAB and BoD, acquiring a better understanding of R8 needs to better serve its members as Director during the next two years. In November the second face-to-face meeting will take place in Munich, Germany.

### Points of Concern

Being the second largest region in terms of members, the first in geographical extension and diversity, and the region where many of IEEE technical activities take place, R8 should have a main role in shaping the future of IEEE. This is a concern that I am striving and very much willing to transform in small successes during the next two years with the help of R8 OpCom, R8 Committee, R8 volunteers and R8 membership.

## **Past Director**

**Costas Stasopoulos**

### **Goals**

To support the Region with the knowledge and experience accumulated over the past years

### **Status**

Actively working towards the above goal

### **Outlook**

To continue offering my help when it is needed

### **Points of Concern**

Transfer of knowledge should be instituted

### **Other Issues to report**

## V/C Member Activities

**Antonio Luque**

### Goals

The VC Member Activities coordinates the following activities:

- Membership Development
- Professional Activities
- Region 8 News
- Electronic Communications
- Affinity Group Activities (Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering)
- Humanitarian Activities

Being diverse in nature, a good coordination among them is essential, and this is the main goal of VCMA. In addition, effort has been put in coordinating the communication channels for the Region, in accordance with the policy set up by OpCom.

### Status

Coordination among subcommittees is achieved through different means, one of which is periodic conference calls with all SC chairs. This helps fostering the common MA goal of engaging members with non-technical activities.

Below, some highlights from the different subcommittees under MA are summarized. Please refer to the specific reports for full status descriptions.

- Membership Development. YoY member increase is 1.2%, in line with global increase of 1.1%
- Young Professionals. Participation in several events, mainly SYP in Porto and EuMW in Madrid.
- History activities. Several Milestone proposals underway in the Region. Approval of HISTELCON 2019
- Life members. Strong campaign to increase the number of LMAGs and the support from Sections.
- Women in Engineering. Increase in the number of WIE AGs in the Region.
- Professional activities. New speakers in the program.
- Humanitarian activities. Recognition of best performing SIGHT groups in the Region. Recruiting of new volunteers to improve outreach.
- R8News. Plans underway to launch the r8news app

### Outlook

In the coming months, most of the effort will be focused in the coordination of the communication initiatives in the Region, and in the transition to the new VCMA (elected in Belgrade) and the new subcommittee chairs (appointed before the end of the year).

### Points of Concern

The membership increase looks good but we need to make sure that the trend stays. Membership in Africa continues to be a concern.

### Other Issues to report

**V/C Student Activities** **Efthymia Arvaniti (Chair), Ines Inacio (Student Representative), Sarra ben Rabii (Student Branch Coordinator), Jose Miguel Sepulcre (Electronic Communications Coordinator), Yara Melki (Awards and Contests Coordinator), Paul Micallef (Student Paper Contest Coordinator), George Papadimitriou (Projects and Initiatives Coordinator), Mona Ghassemian (Past Chair)**

**Goals**

The Student Activities Committee has set some common goals for the end of year 2018 that are aiming to achieve better knowledge transfer between the committees. The goals for 2018 for the Student Activities Committee that were stated in the previous report were distributed across the functions of the team, and were achieved as follows:

- 1) Awards&Contests: Successful campaign for the 2018 submissions and high submission of awards. Engagement of more applicants for the Outstanding Branch Counselor Award. Planned Awards Campaign to start in November for 2019.
- 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 (in progress).
- 3) SPC: Successfully motivated many students to participate and submit more than 10 eligible papers for the Student Paper Contest 2018. Release the calls for SPC 2019 (ongoing).
- 4) R8 SYP Congress: Supported the efforts of the organizing committee and joined forces with YPs, in order to adjust the eligibility and selection criteria of the funded participants. The pilot year for reimbursements will determine the future versions.
- 5) 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.
- 6) The Cross-Sectional Congresses for 2019 to be better organized and successful.
- 7) To suggest 1-2 outstanding volunteers for the committee in 2019 and guarantee smooth transfer of knowledge and responsibilities.

**Status**

- 1) As expected, the highlight of 2018 was the IEEE R8 SYP Congress that was held from the 25th to the 29th of July 2018 in Porto, Portugal-to avoid repetition, a dedicated report has been submitted. The R8 SYP Congress was successfully organized and attracted over 250 participants. The R8 SAC Members represented the committee and the student activities and participated as speakers and instructors in plenary sessions and workshops. The value of the presence of the committee in this event was significantly high.
- 2) The Oral Presentations for the five finalists of the SPC 2018 were held on May 2nd at Melecon 2018 at Marrakesh, Morocco.  
The marks of the oral presentation, (max 30) were added to the marks from the assessment of the written paper (max 70) to give the final result. The first three prizes have also a financial reward of US\$800, US\$500 and US\$200 respectively awarded from the IEEE Life Member Fund First Prize: Ahmed Abdelraouf Mohamed, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport Cairo SB, Egypt, with the paper , "A Multi-Objective Distributed Generation Allocation and Sizing using Swarm Intelligence Based Algorithms"  
Second Prize: Benjamin Chiêm, Universit Catholique de Louvain SB, Belgium, with the paper, "Supervised classification of structural brain networks reveals gender differences"  
Third Prize: Marko Mihajlovic and Nikola Popovic, University of Niš SB, Serbia, with the paper, "Fooling a neural network with common adversarial noise".  
The participation and call for SPC2019 has already started. The students having the best five papers will give a presentation at EUROCON 2019 in Novi Sad in July 2019.  
All information on SPC Rules is contained on the website at <http://www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities/>
- 3) MGA SAC and R8 SAC worked on clearing up the number of active Student Branches, and put the inactive SBs in probation.  
The final number of them will be provided by MGA SAC.
- 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 2018 Awards was successful and the R8 was a leader Region in the Student Awards. The awards campaign for 2019 will kick off soon and the submission deadline closes on the 15th of February. Higher numbers than last years' are also expected. A better coordination from MGA SAC is also requested.
- 6) 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. Preparation for 2018-2019 is also scheduled.
- 7) 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.
- 8) The Call for Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses for the year 2019 will be released soon. All SBs/YPAGs interested should apply with a proposal.

### **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 how to better handle the financials of the congresses (especially the R8 SYP Congress) in order to avoid delays and problems during the organization. This topic is discussed with the treasurers to find appropriate solution before the next edition of the Congress.
- 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 AFI 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.
- 4) MGA SAC should shift the responsibility of the Student Awards from student volunteers to IEEE staff to ensure that the process is flowing as expected and the awards are handled on time.

### **Other Issues to report**

No other issues to report.

## **V/C Technical Activities**

**Christopher James**

### **Goals**

- Ensure smooth transition to new VC in 2019
- Regularise the conference organisation/sponsorship procedures
- Plan launch of R8 magazine for 2019
- continue Industry Engagement activities + planning of Entrepreneurship activities
- educational activities continue to be one of R8's strongest points

### **Status**

Goals are being worked towards, conference sponsorship system is well in place and talks are underway to plan the launch of a R8 Magazine. Industry engagement goes from strength to strength with further plans for expansion in the pipeline.

### **Outlook**

There is a positive outlook for Technical Activities - all sectors are quite strong with a strong base of existing activities and a healthy set of new initiatives to keep R8 going.

### **Points of Concern**

The chapter coordination activity seems to be lacking and may require more coordination.

### **Other Issues to report**

**Treasurer**

**Ralph Kennel**

The treasurer report will be presented at the 111th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting, and will be added to the online version of this Agenda Book.

**Secretary****Jan Verveckken****Goals**

Automation of Secretary duties to replace the missing VTools functionality Aiding Directors in developing and running smooth meetings. Streamlining the meeting organization.

**Status**

Automation efforts have been quite successful, with the automation of the invitation letters for Visa purposes, a smoother workflow and smaller waiting times have been established, without any workload increase to the Secretary team.

Helping directors having smooth meetings has been achieved. The Secretary team has helped revitalize the meetings, with increased flexibility to the meeting format. Automation to allow for Poster printing has helped substantially in that meeting. Meeting organization streamlining efforts are well underway, but have not concluded yet.

**Outlook**

As Visa issues are a recurring problem for our meetings, as well as the financial cost of having 2 yearly meetings, we strongly propose to have large parts of the meeting to be aided by webpresence (Webex or similar), so that all section chairs can at least partake in the meetings. We are running the pilot meeting already at this very 111th meeting, and will report on the possibility to replace a full meeting by pure web presence.

**Points of Concern**

Meeting organization streamlining efforts are hindered by the lack of clear budget, as well as OpCom decision making process. To speed up the process of finding suitable locations, the close cooperation of Director, Treasurer and Secretary is necessary. At the same time, this close cooperation should not be impede to separate efforts in space-time. Communication should be the backbone of the cooperation, not shared presence. To speed up the start of organizing a meeting, the secretary team needs a confirmation of the Director roughly 1 year in advance on which section should be hosting the meeting at that time. This is the only way to have a reasonable choice of hotels. At the same time, the secretary team needs to have the support from the treasurer, that agreeable contracts can be backed with an upfront payment, so long in advance. This would increase the load on a certain fiscal year, but will reduce the load in the coming year by reducing the actual cost of the meeting significantly. We are overpaying our meetings, partly because we are confirming them too late, and are without negotiation room.

**Other Issues to report**

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## Africa Area Coordinator

**Gloria Chukwudebe**

### Goals

- To provide a centralized coordinating unit for IEEE activities in Africa.
- To support and provide guidance to the members on how to use IEEE's tools, products and network to enhance the engineer in Africa.
- To grow IEEE's presence in Africa to benefit all volunteers.
- To address the specific opportunities and challenges in Africa.

### Status

- IEEE Africa Area Chair is appointed by the IEEE Region 8 Director and supported by a small committee 1) Gloria Chukwudebe ? Nigeria; 2) Shaun Kaplan ?South Africa; 3) Habib M. Kammoun - Tunisa; 4) Kabwe Bellington- Zambia
- The establishment of Africa Area has led to more activities and networking amongst IEEE members in Africa.
- The Africa Area committee filed the petition for IEEE Africa Council after many engagements with Africa Section/Subsection Chairs.
- Most of the Committee meetings are virtual.
- Presently, the Committee is working to finalize the bylaw reviews for the Africa Council.

### Outlook

- Nurture IEEE Africa Council
- Working with other African countries to recruit new IEEE members
- to grow to become Sections/Subsections.
- Introduce Regional Section Competitions and Paper Contest for students.
- Help Sections to do Training Workshops, TISP, etc.
- Encourage Regional cooperation (West Africa, East Africa, South Africa) for YP Congresses, Conferences.

### Points of Concern

- No finances to support Africa Area Committee activities. ? There are few active volunteers who are willing to work at Section level. Some others who are willing to work have not been able to renew due to issues with foreign currency.
- Last year Africa Area Committee meetings were funded by Africa Ad hoc Committee.

### Other Issues to report

Access to Internet and Power are still issues for sub-Saharan Africa, it affects activities of volunteers.

## Action For Industry (AfI)

**Marios Antoniou**

### Goals

Leverage IEEE R8 meetings as an opportunity to get local sections involved in Industry engagement.

Secure internship positions from companies.

Increase the number of industry and entrepreneurship events organized in Region 8.

Mentoring to Young Professionals and entrepreneurs.

### Status

During the Region 8 meeting in Athens an AfI workshop took place. In the AfI workshop Section Industry Ambassadors shared experiences and best practices and finalized the 2018 AfI Action plan for their respective Section.

R8 AfI committee and YP committee agreed during the R8 meeting in Athens to collaborate in promoting entrepreneurship and industry engagement activities as well as YPs to participate in Section Industry Ambassador Teams.

The highlight for 2018 was that students and young professionals were placed in summer internships secured in several sections in R8.

Industry speaker participated in Industry forum at ICPS 2018 organized by IEEE TEMS. AfI committee participated in the R8 SYP Congress with presentation, workshop and contributor in a panel discussion. Italy Section organized RTSI 2018 forum with four more Sections participating in the event. Meetings with industry and entrepreneurs took place during the event.

### Outlook

Our next steps are:

- 1) Consolidate and continue the Internships.
- 2) Mentoring of members who work in industry, entrepreneurs and YPs.
- 3) Bring willing companies into R8 initiatives.
- 4) Expand AfI initiative in new countries through the appointment of new Section Industry Ambassadors and with the collaboration with YPs, Senior and Life members.
- 5) Collaborate with YPs, encourage and support Local IEEE Section in their efforts to organize Research to industry, entrepreneurship and industry events. IEEE Sections can sponsor these events or have their members participate as mentors and speakers.
- 6) Participate in Industry forums and workshops that will take place during IEEE conferences.

### Points of Concern

Sections in R8 should set a priority to get closer with industry and organize events with industry. Section Chairs should appoint at least an Industry Ambassador and set a budget for events during which industry people and companies can discuss their plans and their thoughts for the future. A Section Industry Ambassador Team should have at least one Young Professional.

The biggest challenge so far for AfI initiative is to create a critical mass of members who are involved in this initiative. In order to do so at least 2 people should be involved and contribute in small Sections and at least 3 people in big Sections.

IEEE should recognize members as well as Sections that are participating and contributing in the Action for Industry initiative.

### Other Issues to report

## **Awards & Recognition Subcommittee (A&RSC)**

**Costas Stasopoulos**

### **Goals**

To find within Region 8 the people and entities that have contributed to its success in an exceptional way and acknowledge their contribution

### **Status**

Continually looking out for the right candidates

### **Outlook**

To increase the nominations in all fields and awards

### **Points of Concern**

Interest could be increased

### **Other Issues to report**

**Chapter Coordination Subcommittee (ChCSC)**

**Amara Amara**

No report filed on time of printing.

## Conference Coordination Subcommittee (CoCSC)

Pèter Nagy

### Goals

- 1) Well documented processes, TCS requirements, GDPR preparation
- 2) Recruiting good candidates for Flagship conferences, supporting the awarded conferences
- 3) Good relation with MGA, MCE, other regional conference coordinators.

### Status

#### Status

- 1) Committee website
  - 2) eNotice service
  - 3) Co-Sponsored conferences
  - 4) New TCS fee
  - 5) GDPR
  - 6) Recent flagship conferences (Energycon, Melecon)
  - 7) Upcoming flagship conferences (Eurocon, Africon)
  - 8) Site selection Melecon 2020
  - 9) Recruiting candidates for Eurocon 2021 and Africon 2021
  - 10) IEEE Convene 2018, Education Day, July Berlin, Germany
  - 11) Conference resources, templates, webinars
- 1) Committee website The website is kept current with the list of upcoming R8 flagship conferences, new TCS fee, GDPR preparation, upcoming webinars (and listings of older ones) and other information relevant to our members and conference organisers. <http://www.ieeer8.org/technical-activities/conference-coordination/conference-coordination-subcommittee-cocsc/>
  - 2) e-Notice service e-Notice requests approved are approved by IEEE R8 CoCSC member (Tomislav Capuder) after checking whether the conference requesting e-Notice service is technically co-sponsored conference of the R8. IEEE R8 Director and Vice-Chair is kept in the loop of all communication and have a final word in case of any issues. <https://enotice.vtools.ieee.org/>
  - 3) Co-Sponsored conferences Region 8 is still leading the IEEE other regions in the number of IEEE conferences organized in its different sections: Technical co-sponsorships by IEEE Region 8 for conferences starting after 1 January 2018: 21 approved, 2 submitted/pending (with the exception of 3 in Tunisia, 3 in Croatia, evenly distributed in Region 8). Increased number of TCS IEEE Region 8 due to eNotice for ALL Region 8 members being available only to IEEE R8 TCS Conferences. Financial Co-Sponsored conferences statistics: 9 in total being held in 2018., to submit their financial reports.
  - 4) New TCS fee For all conference applications received 1 January 2018 or later, in which an MGA Geographic Unit is a technical co-sponsor and there is no IEEE financial sponsorship, the MGA TCS Fee policy shall apply. This fee is \$1000 per TCS conference, and \$15 per paper sent to IEEE Xplore. If multiple IEEE Organizational Units (OUs) technically co-sponsor the same conference, the fee will be divided equally between all IEEE sponsors (i.e.: Society, Council, MGA Geographic Units). MGA Geographic Units will have the option to bill the TCS fees directly to the Conference. An exception to this general policy! MGA will continue to pay these fees if the external (non-IEEE) financial sponsor has a National Society Agreement with IEEE or has a Sister Society Agreement with one or more of the IEEE Societies. Last webinar presentation: <http://ieeer8.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Understanding-MGA-TCS-Cost-Allocation-2282018.pdf> <https://ieee-elearning.org/CLE/course/view.php?id=293> (requires log-in)
  - 5) GDPR The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), originating in the European Union, is expected to have far-reaching implications on how organizations, like IEEE, conduct business worldwide, including conferences. This regulation places new obligations on organizations that market, track, or handle personal data. This legislation went into effect on 25 May 2018. Frequently Asked Questions: <http://sites.ieee.org/gdpr/faqs/> More information is available here: <http://sites.ieee.org/gdpr/>
  - 6) Recent Flagship conferences EnergyCon 2018 was organized 3-7 June, in Limassol, Cyprus <http://www.energycon2018.org> Melecon 2018 was organized 2-7 May, in Marrakech, Morocco <http://www.ieee.ma/site/event/melecon2018/>
  - 7) Upcoming Flagship conferences Eurocon 2019, 1-4 July 2019, Novi Sad, Serbia <http://eurocon2019.org> Call for proposal: <http://eurocon2019.org/Eurocon2019-1call.pdf> Africon 2019, Accra Ghana
  - 8) Site-selection Melecon 2020 We are in the process of selecting the site for IEEE Melecon 2020. The result will be announced soon.
  - 9) Recruiting candidates for Eurocon 2021 and Africon 2021 We are seeking good candidate cities to host Eurocon and Africon in 2021. [http://ieeeregion8.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/IEEE\\_Region\\_8\\_CoCSC\\_Proposals\\_v4.doc](http://ieeeregion8.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/IEEE_Region_8_CoCSC_Proposals_v4.doc) Eurocon was hosted recently in Macedonia, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Russia, Poland, Serbia. Africon was hosted in South Africa, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Zambia, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana.
  - 10) IEEE Convene 2018, Education Day, July Berlin, Germany It was organized July 19 - 21 2018 in Berlin, Germany. Report can be download from here: <http://files.constantcontact.com/03123a6f401/4807d35f-029a-47da-a176-8beb5fbaf08c.pdf> Next event: 1-3 August, 2019, Washington DC, USA <https://ieeeconvene.org>
  - 11) Conference resources, templates, webinars There are many resources, templates, tutorials at IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) website. The new redesigned CLE offers a "one stop" training solution designed to serve the multiple and diverse range of IEEE user communities. From volunteers, non-volunteers to students, members and conference organizers, the site offers a simpler and effective learning experience. <https://ieee-elearning.org/CLE/> The IEEE Conference Organizers' Newsletter is intended to communicate important information about conference organizing

practices, new services and tools available, IEEE policy changes, and industry information or issues relevant to conference organizing. <https://www.ieee.org/conferences/organizers/organizers-newsletter.html>

See you at the Region 8 meeting in Belgrade, Serbia! Peter Nagy, Adel Alimi, Tomislav Capuder, Shaun Kaplan

#### **Outlook**

MGA, MCE relations From 1st January Peter Nagy became the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) representative to IEEE Conferences Committee and in this role he has more insights to IEEE Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE) procedures and can benchmark Regional Conference Coordinators' activities.

Handbook update We plan to update the conference organizer's handbook. If you advise to extend with any topics, please contact us. <http://ieeregion8.wpengin.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/IEEEER8CoCSCRulesandguidelines.pdf>

#### **Points of Concern**

Conference coordinators in Sections It would be beneficial if Sections provide us a Conference coordinator's contact details, to provide relevant information regarding conferences, procedures, webinars. Please, send the contacts to Peter Nagy ([nagy.peter@ieee.org](mailto:nagy.peter@ieee.org))

#### **Other Issues to report**

## Educational Activities Subcommittee (EASC)

**Sohaib Qamar Sheikh**

### Goals

The Sub-Committee's mission is to coordinate educational activities programs in the Region and create public awareness of engineering, technology and other relevant topics within IEEE's fields of interest, and we aim to achieve this mission by organizing targeted events and programs which are:

- 1) Aligned with Region 8 strategic goals;
- 2) Focused on improving the experience and knowledge of our members; and
- 3) Introduce IEEE educational offerings to industry professionals, educators, students and the general public.

The Sub-Committee agreed on the following goals for 2018:

- 1) Support Educational activities officers in Sections by organizing at least one online meeting with them to increase awareness of programs and understanding their challenges;
- 2) Organize a Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) Week program of Section-level TISP workshops for educators in the Region;
- 3) Organize an Educational activities track at the Region 8 Student and Young Professional (SYP) Congress;
- 4) Promote Educational Activities Board programs and resources in the Region;
- 5) Organize a competition, known as EASC Acceleration Program, to promote Section level educational activities;

In addition to the items listed above, we will also be working on the following non-SMART activities:

- 1) Support general Section level educational programs;
- 2) Liaise with relevant units within EAB to align our activities and programs;
- 3) Liaise with Region 8 Action for Industry team to explore further opportunities for continuing education programs.

### Status

Planning is in initial stages for the following programs and events:

- 1) Educational Activities Officer Meeting ? Conducted in March 2018;
- 2) Educational track at R8 SYP congress - Conducted in July 2018;
- 3) TISP Week and 'Acceleration Program' Competition ? Marketing in progress with the events scheduled to take place in October and November, 2018;
- 4) Promoting EAB programs - Ongoing promotion through e-notices (where required) and social media;
- 5) Alignment with EAB unit and R8 Action for Industry - Ongoing.

### Outlook

Our focus this year is to continue making all areas of educational activities - Pre-University Education, University Education, Accreditation, and Continuing Education ? active and optimized towards offering maximum value to our members. This involves a combination of promotional efforts, organizing face-to-face and online events, exploring partnership opportunities inside and outside of IEEE, and supporting Section level efforts.

The focus of next year's committee should be to capitalize on the momentum built in the last few years and creating stronger partnerships with the Sections by working collaboratively with them and understanding their needs further. Key yearly events should also be continued. These include:

- 1) TISP Week;
- 2) Education Track at R8 Student and Young Professional Congress (at sub-regional congresses in alternate years);
- 3) EASC 'Acceleration Program' competition;

### Points of Concern

The Region is vast with varying educational needs. One of the critical elements is to work closely with external entities, especially for accreditation and continuing education, which demands a longer timeframe than one or two years. This is a major challenge as both of these areas have been inactive for a number of years and we started developing our strategy to create strong offerings in these areas last year. The Sections and Region are requested to share ideas, contacts, resources and local examples of programs and partnerships in these areas.

### Other Issues to report

## **Electronic Communications Coordinator (ECC)**

**George Michael**

### **Goals**

The Region 8 Electronic Communication Coordinator's job is to facilitate communication, both between members of the Region 8 Committee, and between this committee and present or future IEEE members.

### **Status**

Performing updates to our new web server. Updates include new security features and logging in an attempt to identify potential risks. Redirects: To make it easier for our volunteers to promote the content they post on the website, we created redirects for their pages to shorten the URLs and make them more user friendly. For example our news feed can be accessed from this URL <http://news.ieeer8.org>, Student activities from <http://student.ieeer8.org> and <http://students.ieeer8.org>. The same functionality is being applied to sections, for example <http://cyprus.ieeer8.org> translates to <http://ieee.org.cy> Sections and groups that want to use this functionality, please contact us. Presentation Tools:

- The on screen clock / counter we use at the Region 8 meetings is available for download here <http://link.ieeer8.org/timer2>
- The Android and Windows applications that allow users to control PowerPoint presentations via their smartphones and tablets are available for download here <http://link.ieeer8.org/clicker>.

### **Outlook**

We seek to improve the mobile applications that are used during the meetings and to provide tutorials for the various tools we support (including but not limited to our website, mailing lists, presentation tools etc).

### **Points of Concern**

Lately there is an increase in failed logins on our site, many of them have usernames that could have been administrator usernames. This and some other data are indications of some malicious attempt. Please note that our site does not contain any information that is not public already so the purpose of these attempts is not to get any 'hidden' data.

### **Other Issues to report**

## **History Activities Coordinator**

**Anthony C Davies**

### **Goals**

No change: recognition of historical technology achievements and inventions by History Milestone proposals, encouraging retention of Section and Chapter historical records in accessible form, and lectures and meetings about Technology History are all encouraged

### **Status**

Some Sections are successfully getting History Milestone approvals and some have good records of their Section and Chapter history, but MANY could do much more. An important project is HISTELCON 2019 to be in Glasgow, September 2019.

### **Outlook**

Attempts for persuade Sections to prepare Milestone proposals and ensure availability of their IEEE records will continue

### **Points of Concern**

Some Sections need to increase their efforts and should perhaps appoint a Section Historian' to oversee and enhance the situation. GDPR is making it more difficult to access people and information, and there is a risk that personal data (e.g. lists of past Section Officers, etc.) may be erased because of GDPR.

### **Other Issues to report**

In most Sections which show an interest in history topics. this is linked to activities of life-members Encouraging Life Member Affinity Groups and retired members to become involved is therefore seen as a productive aim. HISTELCON 2019 planning is underway, but much needs to be done and the most urgent is appointment of a suitable Technical Programme Chair.

## **Humanitarian Activities Coordinator**

**John Funso Abedayo**

### **Goals**

- Recruit active and creative volunteers to promote to HuAC, by starting HuAC ambassadors program;
- Get speakers, with good knowledge and experience in field of technology and engineering management for HuAC webinars to guarantee the quality of the webinars;
- Get writers, with good knowledge and experience in field of technology and engineering management for HuAC articles to guarantee the quality of the publication;
- Start Global or Regional Competition to award the best HuAC group to guarantee the sustainability of the groups (by studying the existing GHTC as a model);
- Keep in contact with existing groups to follow up their work by live chats or emails.

### **Status**

50% completed

### **Outlook**

- 1) Post on Facebook and Twitter on weekly bases(ongoing);
- 2) Send quarterly mail about HuAC activities to IEEE members(pending);
- 3) Write articles about HuAC in regions magazines and share them on social media(pending);
- 4) Record video about HuAC activities and post it on IEEE TV(pending);
- 5) Start partnership with IEEE and non-IEEE Organizations interested in Technology and Engineering management(ongoing);
- 6) Participate in IEEE and non-IEEE events to promote HuAC (done but still ongoing);
- 7) Formulate strategy to get good speakers, writers and ambassadors for our programs(pending).

### **Points of Concern**

- 1) Take booth in regional or global IEEE events (ongoing);
- 2) Initiate partnership with well-known organizations like Engineers without borders and Engineers for change (ongoing)

### **Other Issues to report**

## Life Member Coordinator

**Victor Fouad Hanna**

### Goals

Enhance and encourage interest in electrical and electronic engineering at secondary and tertiary (college) levels.

- Utilize the vast experience of LMs to impact the general public's knowledge of electrical and electronic engineering and increase understanding of the role of engineers.
- Foster collaborations in pre-university education and encourage students to consider taking up engineering as a career.
- Promulgate the history of electrical engineering together with information and related technologies.

### Status

Administrative Status :

- No R8 LMAG is recently dissolved
- Our Region has the highest number of active LMAG : 13
- 23% of total R8 Sections have LMAG : more effort has to be done for increasing this percentage. Efforts are started with Sweden Section (LM counts 100)
- # total of meetings for R8 LMAGs : 32,( highest : 10 from France LMAG),
- Only the Greece LMAG had not reported 2 meeting for 2017,

Proposals to R8 OpCom : Following proposals that I presented to the R8 Directors (present, past and elect) during R8 Athene Committee meeting and presented also by our our Region 8 Vice Chair, Member Activities, Antoine Luque during 2018 Summer OpCom meeting, OpCom had very well received my initiatives and proposals. There was a proposal to create an LM full committee. OpCom estimates that LMs are an important segment in the Region, so the suggestion is to create a team of volunteers now, show activity and if this activity is sustained and the need is shown, the committee could be created in the near future. The OpCom approved Victor proposal for organising a meeting for LMAG responsables in R8 together with the R8 meeting, If this can be arranged, Region 8 can provide funds.

Milestones Activities in R8 :

- Many LMAGs in Sections in R8 participate with the History Committee to propose IEEE

Milestones : Examples

- - A milestone plaque was unveiled at Dundee University in Scotland on Thursday 5 April, 2018 at the university laboratories where Spear and LeComber carried out their experiments which led directly to the world of flat screens and smartphones we live in today
- A dedication ceremony was held on September 6, 2018 to honor an Engineering Milestone: The French Transatlantic Telegraph Cable, 1898. IEEE President James Jefferies unveiled two plaques (English and French versions) honoring the Cable at the French Cable Station Museum (FCSM) in Orleans, MA.
- The LMAG of France Section is working now to propose the Storage Battery (Plante, 1859) and Transformer (Gaulard/Gibb, 1881) as IEEE Milestones.

The message that was sent to R8 Section Chairs on August 13, 2018 :

In this message, it was recommended :

- that each Section should have a LM Coordinator to serve on the Section EXCOM to represent the interest of all older members.
- the inclusion on the Section website of the name and contact details of the Coordinator, and
- the provision of a space on the website for news of interest to Life members.

For the moment, I received only a reply from the Italy Section Chair and a message from the Egypt Section Chair promising me that he will sent the completed petition for forming an LMAG soon. I was not expecting having many replies on our messages beforemid Septembert due to summer vacation. I will send a message to each Section Chair especially for those Sections that have LMAGs for the same purpose hoping to receive answers before the R8 Belgrade meeting.

Formation of new LMAGs

- Only 13 of the 57 Sections in Region 8 have an LMAG.
- Potentially, another 20 or so have sufficient LMs to justify the formation of a new LMAG.
- The inclusion of the ?older members? referred to above would ensure the viability of an LMAG in those Sections with less than 20 LMS.
- A campaign has been launched to create new LMAGs this year

### Outlook

It is agreed that the inclusion of older members approaching LM status, together with retired members, would transform the viability of the smaller LMAGs. Increased collaboration between LMAGs and other IEEE Operation Units in their Sections is very important as the Section can make use of the knowledge and experience of Life Members and also from the more time that they can devote for IEEE Section activities. More resources from MGA, Region 8, and Sections, would be needed if LMAGs wished to expand their activities. Sponsorship from industry and Government organisations is available for certain types of projects.

### Points of Concern

Recommendations to R8 Sections Chairs : It is important that each Section nominate in its bureau a Correspondant (it is not necessary that the correspondant be himself an IEEE Life Member) to the R8 Life Members Coordinator, even if there is no LMAG formed yet in the Section. We suggest that a formal invitation to older members approaching LM status to join their Section's LMAG which would help to remove the confusion over who is eligible to participate in LMAG activities (i.e. not just LMs).

Make use of Life Members knowledge and experience : (Mentoring Opportunities/Engaging the Young)

- 1) Assist your Student Branches
  - Resource for soft skills for job interviews and early career know how
  - Student paper contest judging
  - Host book sharing day
- 2) Involvement with local school districts (pre-university)
  - Hosting Career Day
  - Science Fair Judging

Assisting the Section in:

- 1) New Unit Formations
  - LMs provide assistance in getting new student branches and Young Professional Affinity Groups.
  - LMs can be a reference point for new officers
- 2) Form Section Senate/Advisory Panel
  - Mix of past chairs and life members
- 3) Senior Member Elevations
  - Produce reference letters for local members

### Other Issues to report

## Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)

Andrejs Romanovs

### Goals

R8 Membership Development Subcommittee working aligned with IEEE Member Activities goals in general, which are increasing R8 membership (through recruiting new members as well as retaining current members and recovering members in arrears), to promote grade elevations, and to increase awareness of IEEE membership's values.

### Status

We ended the year showing strong growth of 1.2% (same time last year: -1.1%) with the HG increase 0.9% and Students increase 1.9% (same time last year: -2.2%, +2.6%) and are poised to have a larger base of members to renew for 2019. Big increase in shown in Sections performance against their MD goals:

- 28 Sections met their retention goals (158 IEEE worldwide) Same time last year: 21
- 32 Sections met their recruitment goals (188 IEEE worldwide) Same time last year: 25
- 22 Sections met both recruitment and retention goals (106 IEEE worldwide) Same time last year: 10

### Outlook

Informing and training are two keywords describing MDSC activities in 2018. Different channels are in use, both face2face and digital, to provide direct and frequent communication with not only Sections MD Officers, but also Section Chairs, IEEE Members and volunteers, e.g. Skype and WebEx meetings, teleconferences, email communication, Collabratec & Facebook. Focusing on training is the next essential part of MDSC activities, apart of individual and group digital trainings, the organization of two successful MD workshops in Cape Town (March 23-24, 2018, annual MD Workshop, focused on Africa IEEE units and activities) and Porto (July 27, 2018, at R8 SYP2018 Congress, focused on young volunteers and members) were the milestones of MD in 2018. Close cooperation with the MRRC ensures that Sections are aware of their respective recruitment and retention goals, and can plan accordingly all necessary MD activities. The good results are achieved by combining MDSC activities with other IEEE units activities, such as Society Chapters, Professional Activities and SYP, together promoting IEEE membership during common events.

### Points of Concern

Evaluation and control are the next important keywords for MDSC activities in the eve of 2019. Primary indicators of R8 MD success can be determined by the level of membership, retention and retaining rate by Sections and in R8. The previous practices shows, that in a line with MD informing and training activities (Workshops, Webcasts, teleconferences, WebEx & Skype meetings, discussions in Collabratec and Facebook), always the most successful event in informing and training MDOs is an annual face2face workshop, as people like to be a part of something bigger and feel the energy. The analysis of MD trends for Sections, where representatives are active in MD activities, especially in MDW participation, is a tool to evaluate and develop MD politics for next year. Other tool is a Comparative analysis performed on separate MD programs too, e.g. strategizing with sections to plan more SM elevations. Feedback from the IEEE Sections officers and volunteers is a very helpful tool to improve MDSC activities and politics, Sections best practices are the main source of increasing the level of membership and development of the additional knowledge-sharing platform could increase the interest in MD activities; e.g. running a series of MD best-practice articles in IEEE Region 8 News.

### Other Issues to report

**Nominations and Appointment Subcommittee (N&ASC)**

**Costas Stasopoulos**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)**

**Jan Haase**

No report filed at time of printing.

## Region 8 News

Alistair Dabbs

### Goals

IEEE Region 8 News is the member newsletter for those in Region 8, reporting on member activities around the Region, such as meetings, conferences and events, plus important milestones and key initiatives by Committees and Affinity Groups. The newsletter is produced by volunteers from contributions by members. It is distributed to IEEE members in Region 8 with IEEE Spectrum and The Institute. PDFs of current and back-issues are available on the Region 8 website. We aim to rebuild recognition and status among members by continuing the re-established quarterly publishing cycle of the print-and-PDF edition. It remains our intention to launch an app-based edition that is more readily discoverable and easier to read on small screens. A soft launch before the end of 2018 should be followed in the first quarter of next year by a more widely promoted launch.

### Status

Since January 2018, the newsletter has been edited by Alistair Dabbs and Bojan Nikolic. With the forthcoming December 2018 newsletter, we will have met our initial goal to complete the year having adhered to our advertised quarterly publication dates and with every issue appearing on time. Our pre-page editorial workflow is now conducted entirely within Google Apps and shared Google Drive folders associated with the team's IEEE accounts. Page production uses the Adobe Creative Cloud suite but with the content shared on Google Drive again for reasons of flexibility, backup and disaster recovery. Our plan to trial a digital edition app for IEEE Region 8 News over the summer was postponed to avoid clashing with the launch of IEEE Region 8 Today, an independent Region 8 initiative to create a web-based newsfeed for members. Now that this newsfeed is up and running with its own editorial team in charge, our newsletter app project has been revived and is currently being re-costed to ensure it can be achieved within the existing budget. Data from Piscataway indicates that roughly half of the Region 8 membership receives the print edition of IEEE Region 8 News by post each quarter. Additionally, bulk copies are delivered regularly to specific Section excoms, Affinity Group chairs and other Region 8 representatives who have made a request. Members who don't receive a printed copy include those whose discounted membership entitles them to digital downloads only, and those who have explicitly switched to a digital-only Spectrum subscription. The PDF editions continue to be published online free of charge and without any membership restriction at the Region 8 website, each issue being made available 1-2 weeks in advance of the print edition mailing.

### Outlook

The print edition of IEEE Region 8 News is likely to continue being published and mailed out for the foreseeable future. While it is logical to push news media with frequent or real-time publishing cycles onto digital-only platforms, a newsletter that is published just four times a year achieves enhanced visibility, status and longevity by appearing in print. Physical copies have proven to be a useful marketing tool for IEEE membership development at events where Region 8 units participate. To strengthen its role as a publication of record, however, the newsletter needs to be more readily accessible, legible and searchable from everyday mobile devices. As part of our smartphone app project, we are developing ways for members to search for keywords across current and back issues. To this end, we have been trying to locate back-issues prior to 2002 (which exist only in printed form) for scanning and OCR processing to add to the database. Please contact the editors at [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org) if you have any of these old issues you are prepared to lend us.

### Points of Concern

A few Sections, Chapters and Affinity Groups remain coy about letting us know about their successful activities and forthcoming plans. We understand the time pressure on volunteers and how tiresome it can be to be asked to write articles and send us photos, especially when there are already official event reports, admin and other IEEE-related chores to deal with first. Please accept our apologies if our attempts at reaching out to you in advance of each issue deadline are unwelcome. However, having a relevant article about your Section, Chapter or Affinity Group appear in IEEE Region 8 News is worth the effort. It will enhance your standing within the Region and IEEE at large, boost awareness and contribute to membership development. If you want help with preparing articles, get in touch with the editor at [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org). We also believe that official Region-level subcommittees should treat it as an obligation to keep the wider membership updated about their projects and achievements via Region 8's official quarterly newsletter in addition to other platforms. Not everyone is on Facebook.

### Other Issues to report

## **Region 8 Today**

**Stamatis Dragoumanos**

### **Goals**

To have the portal up and running and have 1 post published per day in average.

### **Status**

Portal is live, we have a post published per day in average and 10 contributors.

### **Outlook**

Contributors from all organizational units in Region 8 are registered. The portal is the official news portal of Region 8.

### **Points of Concern**

There is still no link to our portal from the official website of Region 8. There is still no subcommittee formed or announced in the official Region 8 portal. There is no budget for 2019 allocated.

### **Other Issues to report**

## Region-Section Vitality

**Aleksandar Szabo, Adam Jastrzebski**

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### Goals

The basic goal is to have vital Sections serving better their members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (officers, meetings, financials) to receive the rebate, retaining and recruiting members, training new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service following the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual. An important goal is to increase the activity of Subsections having Region 8 as their parent. Regarding financial reporting, the goal is to maintain 100% submission rate before the reporting deadline and to further improve the number of GEO units qualifying for 10% rebate bonus (currently 94%). Another goal is promoting adoption of open-source financial accounting software such as GnuCash to easier manage financial health of the Sections and to provide reports to the Section Executive Committees. GnuCash can be tailored to local financial requirements and can operate in different languages and with multiple currencies. Further simplification of section financial reporting can be achieved by linking GnuCash with the IEEE corporate NetSuite finance system. If we meet these goals, we can say that we were successful.

### Status

Since 2015 the section vitality has been significantly improved. Especially the situation with elections and reporting has been much better from year to year. The Sections officers' sense of duty has been significantly increased. Great progress has been made in the Region 8 financial reporting in the last two years. It was achieved by systematic collaborative work with section treasurers and IEEE Finance team. While in 2015 only 77% of the Region's GEO units submitted their financial reports on time, it was 100% in 2017 and 2018. In the same period, the number of sections qualifying for the 10% rebate bonus has doubled to 94%. Region 8 is now amongst top performing regions in IEEE in that respect. Since Region Officers start their terms on 1 January we are asking Sections and its organizational units for having start terms of their Officers on 1 January as well. Officers in most sections already start on 1 January. For the Region it is important to have an updated list of Section Officers before the beginning of the calendar year. Elections should be organized in many of our Sections during 2018 for officers starting their term on 1 January 2018. The election process should finish well before the end of the calendar year to enable a long enough transition period and to report the new officers before 1 January. After increasing membership and activity, we are now in the process of upgrading the Uganda Subsection to Section.

### Outlook

What should be done to improve vitality?

- Section self assessment ? Use the Section Vitality Checklist. Complete the MGA Geographic Units Organization Support Committee Section Vitality Self-Assessment Report
- Be familiar with the use of the IEEE OU Analytics and v-Tools
- Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9)
- Be familiar with the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E)
- Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current officers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. Officers start date should be 1 January.
- A Section may define in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term (Operations Manual, 9.4.F). vAny vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by a majority vote of the Section ExCom.
- All section officers should do their job with pleasure and on time. Be informed and efficient..
- Increase membership and member engagement. Recruit and train volunteers and look for successors. Contact members and obtain member feedback. Fulfill membership needs
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives.
- Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, affinity groups, student branches.
- Have a chapter and affinity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and affinity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and affinity groups and organize a yearly meeting/workshop with chapter and affinity group officers.
- Form new chapters, affinity groups and student branches.
- Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches). Conduct events with students.
- Get closer to industry (involve practicing engineers). Involve Young Professionals.
- Organize Educational (preuniversity, lifelong) and Professional (leadership, management)

### Activities

- Have an active Student Activities Officer and a Student Representative in your Section. During the year they should keep a vigilant eye on the activity of student branches together with their chancellors and take care about activity/vitality of all SBs in the Section, involve students into section and chapter activities, help students.
- Have a Section Life Member Coordinator taking care about activity of Life Members and elder members. Encourage cooperation of young and older members.
- Awards (member/volunteer recognition, member grade elevation, Section yearly awards).
- Organize a Section annual social event.

- Maintain Section website including all organizational units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches) always up to date
- Take care about, encourage and increase activity/vitality of Subsections having R8 as their parent to achieve conditions for upgrading them to Sections.
- We have managed to change the culture and the attitudes of Sections regarding reporting and we hope that these will be passed on to new officers. We therefore believe that our excellent current results can be improved or at least maintained.
- The financial software initiative will depend on finding volunteers with right competences to develop and adapt the software to section requirements. We have already made some progress in that direction.

**Points of Concern**

All Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches should take care about doing their basic job following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual. Officers should train themselves, possibly before running for a position. All our Regional Coordinators/Subcommittees should continue to help and encourage activities in Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches. Additional efforts should be taken to increase activity of organizational units outside Sections in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual (9.0.E.8). Region 8, as their parent, should take more care about progress in activities in these units. We have huge diversity and a lot of dynamics in our Region. Therefore, it is difficult to guarantee that there will be no problems in the future in some sections. Organizing Section Operation/Vitality workshops (possibly together with MD workshops) on the Regional level should be taken into consideration.

**Other Issues to report**

## Standards Coordinator

David Law

### Goals

Use IEEE-SA outreach, as well as leverage IEEE-SA meetings, in IEEE R8 as an opportunity to bring together the IEEE-SA, local sections, industry and government. In addition use the presence of subject matter experts as an opportunity to provide standards education.

Increase the number of IEEE R8 visitors to the IEEE Standards University website.

Increase the number of IEEE R8 students and faculty mentors applying for IEEE Standards Education Grants.

Arrange a speaker on standards and/or whole standards tracks at a major IEEE R8 conference, potentially collaborating with IEEE Standards Education Committee (SEC).

### Status

In May, the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) held its Board of Governors meeting in Vienna. Surrounding that, it organiser meetings and events to engage with the local technology community focusing on the digital transformation taking place in the automotive, health, and manufacturing sectors. One key event was the workshop 'Autonomous Cars for Automated Driving,' focusing on IEEE's and local industry stakeholders' priorities in the field. A team also went to Budapest for a university event with the local Section.

IEEE-SA was also part of the Transform Africa delegation, led by past-President Karen Bartleson and the Ad Hoc on Africa Activities team.

In June, the IEEE-SA held its Standards Board meetings in The Hague, and held several events and meetings in the Netherlands. One highlight was the 'Incorporating Ethical Considerations in Autonomous & Intelligent Systems (A/IS) ? Policy & Industry Requirements in the Algorithmic Age' workshop, jointly organiser with TU Delft's Delft Design for Values (DDFV) Institute. Speakers came from the European Commission, industry, academia, and other institutions, and fuelled strong multistakeholder dialogue at the event.

Additionally, IEEE-SA partnered with the IEEE Turkey Section on two standards events: The IEEE Standards Summit in Istanbul, and the Electronic Communications Standards Summit in Ankara. The IEEE Standards Summit in Istanbul took place at Medipol University and provided an introduction to standardisation and related innovation platforms, and focused on two technical domains -IEEE 802 and eHealth standards. The Electronic Communications Standards Summit in Ankara was hosted by BTK (Bilgi İletişim ve Teknolojileri Kurumu), the Telecommunications Authority. The event covered wireless communications and smart manufacturing. With 100 attendees, as well as a few smaller meetings, visibility of IEEE standards has been raised among key Turkish institutions.

In July, the IEEE simulation 'Mars Space Colony: A Game of Standardisation' took place at the IEEE Yong Professionals in Space conference, which was held in Barcelona and in August the IEEE-SA took part in the IEEE R8 Students and Young Professionals Congress held in Porto.

### Outlook

19th to 21st March 2019: The IEEE-SA Standards Board meeting series will take place in Munich, Germany.

17th and 18th May 2019: The IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BOG) meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia.

A number of outreach and engagement activities will take place in conjunction with both of these meetings.

### Points of Concern

IEEE Standards University: Looking for support in promotion of IEEE Standards University <http://www.standardsuniversity.org/>.

IEEE Standards Education Grants: Looking for support in promotion of IEEE Standards Education Grants.

Looking for potential opportunities for potential individual speakers and/or whole standards tracks.

### Other Issues to report

## 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.

## Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator

Andreas Koltes

### Goals

The Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF) provides support for technical activities of members with low income (below \$10,000 per year). The main focus of the fund is to support travel and subsistence costs of researchers presenting their research at conferences in Region 8, which they would not be able to do otherwise due to the lack of finance. The main sources of the fund are additional voluntary contributions declared by IEEE members during the annual renewal of their membership.

In order to fulfil the mission of the fund, the key goals for 2018 have been:

- Stabilize the income stream of the fund to at least \$10,000 per year by raising awareness for the fund amongst the membership.
- Continue to increase awareness of the fund amongst potential applicants in order to issue at least 15 grants per year making full use of the target budget of \$10,000.
- Continue to increase VCF publicity and promotion compared to previous years.

### Status

Over the course of the previous 12 months, the income situation of the VCF has been stabilized with the income from donations in that time frame totaling \$14,043. This is an increase of roughly 20% over previous years. This means, that the fund is in the fortunate situation to be able to continue operating at the target budget level of \$10,000 while stabilizing its reserves. This in turn will permit compensating future fluctuations of the income stream.

At the time of this writing, all pending activities stemming from 2017 have been completed and roughly 70% of the target budget for 2018 has been allocated to grant holders. During the previous 12 months, a total of 19 payments have been made to grant holders totaling \$9,121. That means that the fund continues to meet its budget target over a 12 month period with relatively minor fluctuation.

The VCF continues to see more diverse applications from a larger number for different countries, particularly from the African continent. In the previous 12 months, grant applications from 5 different countries in Africa have been approved, which is the highest number achieved over the course of the past 10 years. This was achieved by continuing to raise awareness of the fund with Section Chairs and conference organizers in Region 8.

The goals of the VCF set for 2018 have been achieved so far and this is likely to continue until the end of the year. The fund is in a healthy state of operation.

### Outlook

On the income side, the donation situation is expected to continue to be reasonably stable at a slightly increased level compared to previous years. Assuming reasonable management of the income stream in the future, the donation income will permit the VCF to continue operating at its target budget of \$10,000 and might permit a slight increase of the target budget in the future. Based on already approved grants and pending enquiries, the target volume of grants issued will likely be achieved again in 2018. The measures implemented to increase diversity across application source countries already show effect and are expected to continue supporting increased application diversity in the future.

### Points of Concern

The positive operating situation of the VCF will require continued active management in the future in order to sustain it. Care must be taken to sustain both the income stream and the level of applications for the fund to continue meeting its performance targets.

### Other Issues to report

## Women in Engineering Subcommittee

**Younna El-Bitar**

### Goals

R8 WIE Committee's goals for 2018 include but are not limited to:

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups, by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs
- Increasing awareness about R8 WIE programs and engaging WIE members
- Establishing WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events
- Reaching out to R8 WIE members, via a survey and / or webinar, to establish communication channels and find out about their expectations
- Ultimately increasing the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growth trend achieved in 2017

### Status

- R8 WIE became a standing subcommittee, which will help it in achieving its goals to the benefit of R8 members. We would like to thank the R8 Committee for its support during the Athens meeting
- Currently, R8 WIE members are distributed among 155 Affinity Groups: 41 Sections and 114 Student Branches, which numbers are continuously increasing
- Three new Section Affinity Groups were formed (Qatar, Norway, Slovenia), with Hungary under consideration
- In line with the aforementioned goals, R8 WIE has successfully achieved stronger communication channels, was represented in various SYPs and other IEEE events across Region 8, and increased awareness about its programs and activities
- A pilot for new awards recognizing R8 WIE volunteers was successfully carried, and the award ceremony was held as part of the WIE ILS in Tunisia

### Outlook

After becoming a standing subcommittee, plans are being drawn for the future, based on success stories as well as on lessons learnt

- Focusing on communicating with R8 WIE members in Region 8 is one of the most important goals, ways of reaching out and staying in touch are being considered
- Recognizing our members and their achievements is important, through awards and by sharing their events and success stories on our channels
- Stronger collaboration with MGA WIE as well as a with societies is necessary

### Points of Concern

- Due to the large number of WIE Section and Student AGs, effective ways of establishing connection and most importantly keeping the exchange going regularly is a challenge for the limited number of WIE Subcommittee members
- WIE AGs do not have sources for funding within Region 8. The only funding is an amount of 300 USD that should be requested from MGA 3 months prior to the event
  - Sections should be encouraged to financially support their WIE AG events
  - It is preferable to have regional support in case the Section is not able to
- There is no support for WIE AG representatives to attend events such as the SYP or other conferences
  - As a start, active Section WIE AGs could send a funded representative (who is also a Student member or a Young Professional) to the SYP, which will provide significant motivation
- Means of involving WIE officers in various trainings, especially with the lack of funding

### Other Issues to report

## Young Professionals Subcommittee

Sara Barros

### Goals

The main goals of the Region 8 Young Professionals team for 2018 are to:

- 1) Improve the status of Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, consisting of:
  - no inactive or dormant Young Professionals Affinity Groups in the Region;
  - Young Professionals Affinity Groups reporting their activities on vTools through L31 reports in a timely manner, and they all having the minimum required 2 activity reports before the end of the year;
  - create at least 1 new Young Professionals Affinity Group in the Region;
- 2) Create and share additional support material and manuals relevant for Young Professionals, focusing on strategies for getting funding and sponsorship for events and how to increase the publicity and visibility of their activities;
- 3) Bridge the gap between the 3 main segments of Young Professionals by:
  - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organise more STEP events and work closer with students in their Section;
  - Supporting Young Professionals Affinity Groups to organise more Meet-up events and work closer with industry in their Section;
  - Supporting and encourage Young Professionals Affinity Groups to allocate resources to entrepreneurship activities;
- 4) Cooperate with SAC for the continuous success of Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses and the Region 8 SYP Congress;
- 5) Cooperate with the other MA subcommittees and take advantage of each others' strengths to achieve our goals, particularly with SIGHT, PA and LM;
- 6) Focus not only on supporting active Young Professionals volunteers, but also on the development of programs that directly aim to increase Young Professionals members satisfaction based on segmentation studies;
- 7) Increase visibility of the Young Professionals program in Region 8.

### Status

This year, we continued pursuing the 2-year term goals defined in the beginning of 2017. For a complete overview of our strategy, please refer to the reports submitted during the previous year.

- 1) Currently, there are more than 50 Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8, a steadily increasing number in the last couple of years. From these groups, all are active and with their reporting up to date, for the exception of a minority with whom we are closely working to ensure revitalisation. In order to maintain our close relationship with the local volunteers, we kept the Affinity Groups equally divided by the R8YP team members, method that has been proven successful in the past.
- 2) A series of webinars on Publicity & Visibility for YP Chairs' training has been delivered. The "Cross-Sectional SYP Congress Survival Guide" has been finalised, as well as the "Petition (using vTools) Process Tutorial", which has already been shared with and appreciated by volunteers wishing to start a new Affinity Group. The "Best Practices" manual for the next Region 8 YP team is being drafted.
- 3) Region 8 Affinity Groups maintain the success and visibility of the Region 8, delivering a high number of activities with exemplary quality. This is reflected on the usage of funding provided by MGA YP and on the continues presence of Region 8 volunteers receiving recognition awards.
- 4) Last year, 8 successful Cross-Sectional Congresses were organised in Region 8. The organisation of the two new SYP Congresses in Africa was a significant milestone for its members and our Region. The Region 8 SYP Congress tool place in Porto, Portugal. Tighter reimbursement measures and attendance criteria were implemented with good results. For further details on this matter, please refer to the SAC report.
- 5) Collaboration with the fellow subcommittees under Member Activities as so far been successful with:
  - PA - joint efforts on the delivery of content and presence at IEEE Flagship conferences;
  - SIGHT - by foresting the delivery of soft-skills training by local Young Professionals to newly formed SIGHT groups and by carrying the word of the humanitarian cause as part of the Young Professionals message and mission;
  - LM - by encourage the subcommittee to be involved in the SYP Congress through the delivery of talks and experience sharing.
- 6) Based on the results from the segmentation study, two main programs and one visibility strategy were designed, focusing on reaching out directly to the Young Professional members:
  - Company Branch Program, now re-branded to "IEEE, Connecting Experts"; after the positive outcome of the survey, showing that the YP members in Region 8 consider such an initiative added value, a couple of companies and societies have been contacted, in order to establish a pilot program. So far, the response is positive and supportive, opening way to the next steps.
  - the YPitch competition has also been re-branded in to a broader program now called "Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative". The new scope includes not only the competition, but also a mentorship platform, which could be supported by the Action for Industry Subcommittee's network. Up to this point, the focus has been on creating a strong standing of the entrepreneurship pillar within Region 8, increase the visibility of the initiative, fostering relations with suitable submits and constructing the database of mentors (which can double as judges for the competition). Official launch occurred during the Region 8 SYP Congress.
  - Several meet-up events have been organised across Region. The R8 YP team has focused their efforts in 2: the Young Professionals in Space, which took place in July, in Barcelona, and the European Microwave Week, which took place in September, in Madrid. Both events aimed at exposing IEEE Young Professionals and its mission

inside and outside the IEEE community, while at the same time providing the participants with opportunities of professional growth and networking environments. The efforts have shown to deliver positive results and been highly appreciated by the participants involved.

- 7) Increase of the visibility of Young Professionals in Region 8 has been achieved by participation and delivery of workshops in the Region 8 SYP Congress, support of Meet-up events at technical conferences, redaction and publishing of the YP Newsletter, launch of the Region 8 Entrepreneurship initiative and other online media campaigns. During the past year, we recorded a 20% increase in the number of likes of our facebook page, maintaining the growth trend of the Young Professionals community and its engagement with the Region 8 team.

### **Outlook**

Based on the experience gained in the past few years, the Business Plan from MGA YP and the priorities of Region 8, the YP team advises the next team to design its strategy around the 2 pillars that have shown to be fundamental: a strong academia/industry collaboration and measures focusing on the non-volunteer member experience and satisfaction. The new initiatives, "IEEE, connecting experts" and "Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative", should continue being developed until they are fully sustainable. Increasing collaboration with TAB (which in return can provide a stronger relationship to both academia and industry) is strongly advised.

### **Points of Concern**

Young Professionals have always represented a major fraction of the IEEE members, over 25%, but only recently it has become undeniable their impact and contribution to the future of the institution. With retention and satisfaction rates steadily decreasing among young people, IEEE is finally realising that it is essential to adapt to this new changing world in order to remain a relevant engineering organisation. as a result, the Young Professionals program is exponentially growing and becoming inherent to IEEE's strategy. We hope that Region 8 continue showing its constant support and enables the growth of this program to its full potential, in the same fashion IEEE as an institution is.

### **Other Issues to report**

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## Algeria Section

**Fatma Zohra Chelali**

**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?**

The Algerian section is preparing in October 2018 a meeting in partnership with the Algerian Association of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to promote relationship with industrial researchers. A conference with the national company of Electricity and gaz (Sonelgaz) will be organized on February 2019. Some industrials are promoting financial sponsor for our conferences organized with IEEE. We aim to involve some industrials in promoting research at universities but it still an issue at the moment.

**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?**

Our section encourage some PHD student to have a free membership during conferences, they are selected according to the best presented papers. The IEEE Algerian section has also approved the creation of the Electronic and Robotic club. By this occasion, the section encourages the young researchers to create a student branch in this area. Young professional is also encouraged to be involved in our meeting. Besides that, our section has announced the IEEE day that will be organized during the activities of CISTEM'18 conference in October 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?**

We hope that IEEE review the price of membership in order to improve section vitality since it still a big problem for our students to pay; The big success is the participation of PHD students and young researchers in IEEE conferences technically sponsored by IEEE and our section. We continue to support our section by encouraging other researchers, academics or industrials to be involved in our section activities.

**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?**

The Algerian IEEE Section has participated to form the IEEE Africa Council as approved by IEEE Region 8 and the Member and Geographic Activities Board (Tunis, June 2018). This was preceded by the elaboration of the IEEE Africa Council Bylaws. Our section has proposed some activities like creating web site or sponsoring meeting in Algeria to promote IEEE in Africa. Our recommendation consists of linking the different sections involved in this activity to share ideas related to IEEE.

**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?**

Since we are facing some financial problems, we wish that IEEE will review the price of membership in order to enhance section vitality and also the conference fees that organizers should pay (1500 USD) which cause a big issue.

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

our section has announced the IEEE day that will be organized during the activities of CISTEM'18 conference in October 2018.

**Austria Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Peter Palensky**

## Bahrain Section

**Adel Ahmed Hamed Abdulla**

**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) Section registration completion with government as a local Bahrain branch of the international IEEE Worldwide Limited, started collaboration with Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs (EWA)
- 2) A new Special Interest Humanitarian Technology Group SIGHT was formed, made its election and started its activities with Ministry of Labor and Social Development
- 3) An Industrial Applications Society Chapter CH08843-IA34 was formed
- 4) New AESS Society Members were enrolled to form an AESS Bahrain Chapter to cooperate with Bahrain National Space Science Agency (NSSA)
- 5) A new Communication Society Chapter CH08827- COM19 was formed, made its election and started its activities
- 6) A new Computer Society Chapter CH09480-COM16 was formed, made its election and started its 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) Three MD Presentations: two at University of Bahrain (both Campuses) and one at AMA International University, April 2018. The fourth will be held on 27 September 2018 at Applied Science University ASU
- 2) New Officers appointed/ elected:
  - a) Section Honorary Chair
  - b) Award & Recognition Committee Chair
  - c) STB Counselor for AMA University
  - d) STB Counselor for Bahrain Polytechnic University
  - e) STB Counselor for a newly formed STB at Applied Science University (ASU)
  - f) An Organizer to form a new STB at Sakhir Campus, University of Bahrain
  - g) Technical Activity Coordinator
  - h) MDO and Assistant MDO
  - i) Industry Relations Coordinator
  - j) Student Activities Chair (SAC)
  - k) Two SAMIEEE/ vTools Coordinators

**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) Bahrain Section Celebrated IEEE Day, with the theme of: "Leveraging Technology for a Better Tomorrow" It was held at Bahrain Polytechnic University on October 2017, the next celebration will be on October 2018 at Applied Science University ASU
- 2) Technical Sponsorships of the following conferences:
  - a) 45410, International Conference on Innovation and Intelligence for Informatics, Computing, and Technologies (3ICT), 18-20 Nov 2018, Bahrain Website URL: [iiict.uob.edu.bh/](http://iiict.uob.edu.bh/)
  - b) 44789, 8th International Conference on Modeling Simulation and Applied Optimization (ICMSAO), 15-17 April 2019, Bahrain Website URL: [icmsao.uob.edu.bh/](http://icmsao.uob.edu.bh/)
  - c) 45648, International Conference on Fourth Industrial Revolution, 5-7 Feb 2019, Bahrain Website URL: [industry4conference.org/](http://industry4conference.org/)
  - d) 10th. IEEE-GCC Conference & Exhibition, 19-23 April 2019, Kuwait Website URL: <http://ieeegcc.com/index.html>

**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?**

I have contacted Gloria and agreed to start intercontinental collaboration. I prepare to launch new subsection at Somalia under IEEE Bahrain section

**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 have contacted Prof. Clara and agreed to sit during the 111th R8 meeting as IEEE Bahrain section is planning to have IEEE Joint events and that office can be the agent to Europe by sharing all mutual events with it to arrange, so they can help in providing a technical supports effectively

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

- Participation in R8 SYP Congress, July 2018, Porto
- Participating in IEEE Convene arranged by Meetings, Conferences & Events (MCE), scheduled for 19-21 July 2018 at Berlin

- Re-activation of the pre-university education program by holding 2nd meeting with Talented Students Center officials March 2018
- Participation in IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training Program (VoLT)

**Belarus Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Valentin Baranov**

## Benelux Section

Dirk Van Hertem

**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?**

IEEE as a whole has for us in Europe a rather academic set of services. I believe our offering to researchers in industry is solid, and we do reach them in our section. Industry (engineers) as a whole are harder to reach. We are currently searching for a new industry relations officer.

**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?**

We have an extensive program to support students, with significant financial support, active support from the SSR and SAC. We invite one student branch to our excom to get them involved, and we have awards for student members. Also young professionals are supported organisational and financially. The SSR, SAC and young professionals are represented in our Excom.

**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?**

regular monitoring. Nothing special has been done after last meeting.

**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?**

No specific recommendations...

**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?**

In the future: conference support (with local knowledge), local input, networking. No real changes have been noticed.

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

Next year, our section will be 60 years old.

## Bosnia & Herzegovina Section

Dusanka Boskovic

**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?**

Continue working on involving BH Power Utility Company in sponsoring IEEE ISGT Europe 2018 to be hosted in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tutorials and invited speakers are planned according the needs of BH industry. Support and participation in InTSIKT 2018 symposium and contributing to panel discussions regarding importance of digital divide for industry in developing countries and also in shaping professional profile of future telecommunication engineers.

**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?**

help in elevating them to full membership after graduation through organizing several workshops with topics interesting for Young Professionals and also important for their career. The sequence of 2-day workshops are organized monthly as IEEE BiH YP Full Stack Engineer 2018 project, and until now included EPLAN software, AutoCAD. Supporting diverse student activities and helping form new student branches (SB Sveuciliste Mostar and SB Sarajevo School of Science and Technology - SSST). SB SSST will host BH SYPC 2018. IEEE Bosnia & Herzegovina Section technically co-sponsored organization of the InfoTech 2018 at Jahorina, East Sarajevo and launched student paper session as a pilot for all future conferences organized in co-operation with the BH Section .

**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?**

A continual success of our section: 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance. Thanks to ALL IEEE members across Bosnia and Herzegovina!

**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 would be happy to get involved activities fostering IEEE in Africa.

**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?**

We did not have many opportunities to co-operate with the IEEE office in Vienna and hope to have their support in promotion of our events as ISGT Europe 2018 and similar.

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

IEEE Bosnia & Herzegovina Section supported the conference UBMK2018 which was held in Sarajevo, hosted by the International University Sarajevo. Our section moderated the panel session that was dedicated to the Turkish and Bosnia and Herzegovina universities cooperation.

## Bulgaria Section

Kiril Alexiev

**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.

## Croatia Section

Mislav Grgic

**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?**

- Our Section arranged the 2nd Technical Opportunities Week (TOPweek) event in Zagreb on June 4-7, 2018. Following the first edition in 2017, this event has been jointly organized by Industry Applications Society and Power and Energy Society chapters, and very actively supported by Young Professionals Affinity Group and the University of Zagreb student branch. This year's TOPweek program featured 21 speakers from local companies who presented their engineering achievements, such as products, projects, and technology innovations and solutions. The four (half-)day program featured 18 presentations, and a networking social event. It attracted a total of 80 participants, which is a significant increase from the year before and is expected to further facilitate the industry involvement in the Section.
- Croatia Section has appointed a Section Industry Ambassador (SIA) to act as a link towards Action for Industry in 2018 - IEEE Europe South Area. A Section's Industry Ambassador team was established, which also includes young professionals.
- As reported previously, the main contributing factors to the relatively low number/percentage of IEEE members from industry in our Section include high cost of membership relative to the benefits, as well as competition from local and long-established professional organizations which are deeply rooted in the industry communities.
- We will continue improving IEEE visibility through collaboration with local industry associations and develop connections with local start-up ecosystem to attract young companies in technological sector that can benefit from access to international IEEE network and knowledge. We believe that the new industry players, who are more globally oriented business-wise, can be attracted to IEEE with more success than the "traditional" industry players who already have established long-time relations with other professional organizations.
- IEEE and the Region 8 should support efforts of local SIA teams by dedicating budget for Industry Relations projects and providing a platform for sharing ideas and success stories between SIA team coordinators.
- Industry involvement in our Section is further planned to increase by potential hosting of industry representatives at the Section's Annual Gala Dinner.

**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?**

- Student branches organize lectures that present "success stories" from local companies. Such lectures give both students and young professionals the opportunity to informally network with industry representatives and learn about future employment opportunities. Similar activities are organized on a regular basis by the Croatia Section Young Professionals affinity group through the IEEE Elevate program, which was designed and launched back in 2013 and is active ever since. IEEE Elevate consists of informative events, featuring guest speakers who share their views, experiences and success stories in various IEEE-related areas of interest, with focus on novel and upcoming technologies, aiming to inspire and motivate students and young engineers to advance their careers. Elevate events are organized in an informal environment (such as local cafes), often in cooperation with a local student branch, and they present a great opportunity for the networking.
- The annual Students and Young Professionals (SYP) congresses are known to successfully motivate student volunteers and enable smooth transition from Student to YP status through networking and team work. On the local level, the Croatian Student and Young Professionals Congress (CroSYP) is organized annually, by a different students branch in a different city, with the support of the Croatia Section and the local university. CroSYP events encourage networking among student members, and provide a great venue for the exchange of best practices and ideas, as well as meeting industry representatives.
- Membership promotion events, with half-price membership as an incentive, are organized in March by the student branches throughout Croatia. In the Universities of Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka, the student branches promoted IEEE and their local activities to their fellow students.
- The University of Rijeka Student Branch organized the Computer Society Congress (CSC) in Rijeka on July 14-15, 2018, with the support from both the IEEE Croatia Section Computer Society Chapter and the Young Professionals AG. The Congress included sections on work experience in start-up companies, session on ethical issues related to artificial intelligence, and a microbit workshop. It also provided opportunity for networking between students, Young Professionals and industry representatives in the field of computer science.
- Young Professionals Affinity Group organized several events: IEEE Elevate event featuring Blockchain Technology in May 2018; IEEE TopWeek, mentioned above (with support from the YP Seed program); IEEE STEP event, as a part of the previously mentioned CSC in Rijeka (with support from the YP STEP program); and YP Croatia Meet-Up event (with the support of YP Meet-Up program), as a part of the 26th Mediterranean Conference on Control and Automation (MED 2018), which took place in Zadar, Croatia, on June 19-22, 2018. The Meet-Up was arranged as a social networking event in the evening of the second day of the conference, and it attracted participants from 13 countries.
- Regarding the potential changes by IEEE and the Region 8 to better Attract and Support Future Members, there is a lack of knowledge for current members on how IEEE operates on regional and higher levels. Communication between regional committees and section committee could be better. Information that comes from various committees is not displayed in an appropriate way. It is hard to find the relevant information on committee website, which is why additional effort is required

to obtain information about events/actions/promotions/funding that are active within IEEE. It seems that committees too often rely on social media and other platforms rather than their website, which is, in our opinion, not suitable for such purposes. The only events that can connect students and Young Professionals with Region are regional, and sometimes Cross-sectional, SYPs.

- In the next period we are planning to organize following events:
  - IEEE membership promotion activities, as the new academic year starts. This includes IEEE Day events and promotions organized by all three student branches and YP AG;
  - The Croatia Student and Young Professional (CroSYP) Congress will be organized in October by the student branch of the University of J. J. Strossmayer in the city of Osijek.

**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?**

Our success is the result of the continuous work of our Section officers and coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. We take special care of timely annual reporting of officers, meetings and finances to be eligible for the bonus. The activities / programs / initiatives that work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in our Section include:

- meetings, workshops and conferences;
- cooperation of students and young professionals;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- Section awards;
- Section annual meeting/dinner.

To improve Section vitality and sustainability volunteers train themselves using the IEEE supporting material and programs. From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for Section volunteers to improve Section operation and vitality. To foster Section vitality in our Section we will follow our current best practices:

- taking care of members ? the number of members has increased (700 in August 2018, compared to 647 in August 2017);
- member retention and recruitment ? Croatia Section has achieved very good results in both retention (98.6% goal achieved) and recruitment (147.6% goal achieved), for which we received 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance Award);
- recruitment and training of new volunteers;
- cooperation of Section units;
- organizing meetings and workshops;
- inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
- celebrating the IEEE Day;
- organizing IEEE conferences;
- sponsoring local conferences;
- Section awards;
- organizing Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- involving members from industry;
- organizing lectures/talks with renowned people from industry;
- launching local IEEE Senior Member initiatives - personal invitations to outstanding members to be nominated by Section.

**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?**

- With the start of a new academic year in October, we will consider involvement of ERASMUS exchange students from Africa in our student branch activities and volunteering, and encourage our IEEE members to mentor the students in technical and organizational manners to bring back the experience and implement the knowledge in their local community. The process of student branch activities idea and knowledge transfer seems to have already begun at the SYP congress in Porto.
- We see the most significant contribution of IEEE in Africa by means of technical education of the students and young professionals, and encouraging the local volunteers to transfer the knowledge within their communities.

**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?**

- The Croatia Section currently has no need for staff support from the new IEEE office in Vienna. We expect administrative and financial support to be provided for the Region 8.
- The existence of this office has not influenced our Section since its inauguration.

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

Special achievements include:

- Croatia Section received the 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance Award,
- Power and Energy Society Croatia Chapter received the 2017 IEEE Region 8 Chapter of the Year Award,
- Ana Katalinic Mucalo received the 2018 IEEE Region 8 Clementina Saduwa Award (Women in Engineering),
- Predrag Pale received the 2018 IEEE Education Society Outstanding Chapter Leadership Award,

- The IEEE Mobile Applications Development Contest (IEEEmadC), a proposal to further develop an annual global contest for students to develop mobile applications, has been awarded funding by IEEE Board of Directors per recommendation of the New Initiatives Committee (NIC).

Anniversaries:

- In 2017, the Croatia Section celebrated 46 years of existence and 25th anniversary of operation under its present name.

## Cyprus Section

Elias Kyriakides

**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?**

The IEEE Cyprus Section supports the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative IEEE Region 8 in order to rejuvenate IEEE's involvement with the industry and develop strong working partnerships between IEEE and industry. The IEEE Cyprus Section in 2017 has implemented the MOU agreements for internship programs with 10 big companies from the telecom, energy and computer sectors and has secured 50 internship positions for our student and YP members. In 2018 49 IEEE student members have participated in this internship program. The IEEE Cyprus Section participated in the following industry events:

- Co-organizer of the "Smart City Opportunities and Prospects" workshop (Feb. 2018) that saw the participation of major industrial partners and local authorities
- Participation in the CYTA Smart City CrowdHackathon (Feb. 2018).
- Co-organizer of the "Innovation in the era of digital economy" workshop (Oct. 2018).

**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?**

The IEEE Cyprus Section will continue sponsoring events, activities, competitions and seminars, related to new technologies and other issues that are for the interest of the students, organized by the student branches in cooperation with their universities. The implementation of internship and mentoring programs through the Action for Industry Initiative will provide value to students and young professionals. Through the internships they will be able to acquire working experience and opportunities for future employment. We have appointed the outgoing Chair of our very successful University of Cyprus Student Branch as the Student Branches coordinator to stimulate all Student Branches to further upgrade their activities.

**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?**

Since vitality is one of the three focus areas of Region 8, it is also of high priority for the IEEE Cyprus Section. For the next period we are planning the following activities:

- Finalize the Legal Registration of the IEEE Cyprus Section
- Update our website <http://ieee.org.cy/>
- Keep metrics related to membership development. Contact deactivated members and ask them to renew.
- Motivate members to apply for Senior Membership.
- Further enhance the collaboration between SBs
- Organize seminars and workshops for our members.
- Teacher In-Service Program (TISP) ? organize workshops in high schools
- Continue supporting the Action for Industry (AFI) initiative.
- Encourage the chapters that are not so active to organize more activities ? a Chapters Coordinator has been appointed.

Note that the IEEE Cyprus Section has been recognized in July 2018 that it has met its recruitment and retention goals for 2018.

**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?**

There are several conferences on electrical and electronic engineering and information technology organized in Europe. The IEEE R8 could sponsor the participation of students and young professionals from Africa to these events. The IEEE R8 could also provide support and training to volunteers from Africa in order to coordinate activities and organize events in Africa. Furthermore, professors and industry experts from other areas can be encouraged and sponsored to participate in IEEE events that will be organized in Africa. Due to its proximity, the IEEE Cyprus Section is willing to help the activities of African sections.

**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?**

The staff of IEEE Office in Vienna could implement regional activities and strategic initiatives and objectives of the R8. For example, it will be very useful for the whole IEEE R8 if the IEEE Office in Vienna could provide professional support for the organization of conferences and other events in the region.

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

**Outstanding new initiatives** The IEEE Cyprus Section has organized the IEEE R8 flagship International Energy Conference ENERGYCON 2018 in Cyprus, 3-7 June 2018. The conference was very successful, with a rich technical and social program. About 150 participants attended the conference. We had three tutorials, three keynote speakers, several invited sessions, and high quality presentations in the technical sessions of the conference. **Anniversaries** The IEEE Cyprus Section is celebrating its 25-year anniversary. We are currently planning a special event on Oct. 5 (in conjunction with IEEE Day events), with invited speakers, technical demonstrations, and a social program for all IEEE Cyprus Section members.

## Czechoslovakia Section

Matej Pacha

**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?**

Based on the increasing number of Industry members, it is assumed that overall picture of IEEE is becoming more attractive to Industry. From the local activities and initiatives point of view, our section is actively approaching Industry for joint events, competitions, student support and the Action for Industry as well. These activities will continue in the next year.

**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?**

Since the section membership grows, we are confident that activities of the local teams brings the positive results. The section itself is encouraging members to organize conferences, competitions or workshops. Thanks to that, pre-university activities, student competitions and more have been organized in order to serve the needs of our members, which in return attracts more people to join. We hope that recent government support for Slovak universities with global access to the IEEE Xplore will not affect the membership.

**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?**

As mentioned above, the strategy is to provide activities and services to local members since global benefits are not attractive to our members. Actually we can see more students joining IEEE, which in return will require more student oriented activities. In order to keep the youth active, we are seeking for funding these activities. The major success to the Section vitality is the Silver and Gold medal for retention and recruitment. Nevertheless, we are still struggling with low number of volunteers to drive the section activities.

**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?**

Czechoslovakia section is ready to help on demand with advices and frameworks working in our area. However, requests or demands should be driven by the IEEE Africa.

**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?**

We believe that the Vienna office is serving the IEEE in Europe well, mainly to the IEEE European Public Policy initiative and IEEE Standards. Nevertheless, it would be great if the Vienna office could hold a reasonable stock of IEEE MD kits for the Region 8 purposes, making the delivery more efficient.

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

Silver and Gold medal for retention and recruitment. New IEEE Fellow Vladimir Marik has been approved, also more members are being elevated to the Life member grade, creating an opportunity to establish the Life members AG.

## Denmark Section

Erik Stilling

**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?**

Joint Seminars and technical meetings with the Danish national engineers association (IDA), whose bulk of members are from industry.

**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?**

SB and YP activities, the latter formed recently.

**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?**

Active ExCom visibility towards chapters and members through ExCom initiated seminars and meetings. In particular our revitalised webpage is an important tool.

**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?**

IEEE to promoting cheap SB/YP and corporate paid memberships for young graduates

**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?**

We have primarily been focusing on resolving the 6 year long stalemate with our bank in getting access to you account, finally succeeding a few months ago.

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

R8 should focus committee meeting on important issues, not wasting time on SB Poster Competitions

## Egypt Section

Samir I. Shaheen

**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?**

Egypt Section held a series of Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries including Machine Learning, Embedded Systems, Micro-Electronics, Image Processing, Automotive Systems, Self-Driving cars, Smart Grid, etc. Moreover, Egypt Section linked industry to Students and Educational institutes through its annual competitions on Graduation Projects (EED) and Made in Egypt (MIE) which involves linking industry to students in their graduation year to present their projects through an annual meeting in 15-16 September 2018. In 2018, more than 200 projects and 1500 student presented their projects in EED. In MIE more 65 projects competed in the event. More than 9000 visitors from industry and students attended the events held during 2 days in September 2018. Moreover, agreement with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate for cooperation on developing innovation workshops for students has been initialized and will be signed in January 2019. More than 65 workshops and seminars and 180 training hours for young professionals has been held during EED2018 and MIE bringing technology and engineering experts to exchange their knowledge with students and young professionals. Other Several workshops for YP and Student Branches training were arranged in several cities on Professional development and IEEE Xplore with EKB (Egyptian Knowledge Bank. More than 180 professionals from industry attended EED2018 either to judge graduation projects or to search for positional engineers and employees or to sponsor their projects and incubate it. A similar competition is performed in Aswan under the name "Upper Egypt in Action" for the south of Egypt Students in April 2018 and is planned in 2019 in March. This involves several Educational and Professional activities for Engineers and Students. It attract 2500 attendees. Eleven Conferences were sponsored by Egypt Section in different geographic areas in Egypt and in cooperation with the industry and universities.

EED Web Site: <http://eed.eng.cu.edu.eg/eed.eg/index.html>

Closing Ceremony Video for EED: <http://eed.eg/images/videos/EED17-final.mp4> ?

**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?**

Egypt Section is making many Seminars and Technology workshops for different industries to attract new members. Several meeting with Engineers and Professional training has been conducted to involve volunteers to be members of IEEE. Moreover, Students are encouraged to work in student branches and as volunteers in the events EED and MIE to encourage them to join the student branches.

Ten Conferences were technically sponsored by Egypt Section and posted in Xplore. In all conferences, industry was present and an average deduction of 40 US\$ in registration fee were applied. For members and student members. These conference span most Egyptian universities and Geographic locations in Egypt:

- 1) 14th International Computer Engineering Conference (ICENCO).
- 2) 28th International Conference on Computer Theory and Applications (ICCTA).
- 3) 9th International Conference on Intelligent Computing and Information Systems (ICICIS)...
- 4) ICASIS, 2017.
- 5) 2018 Intl Conf on Advanced Control Circuits Systems (ACCS) Systems
- 6) 2018 Intl Conference on New Paradigms in Electronics & Information Technology (PEIT).
- 7) 2018 Japan-Africa Conference on Electronics, Communications and Computers (JAC-ECC)
- 8) 2018 12th International Conference on Computer Engineering and Systems (ICCES)
- 9) 36th National Radio Science Conference (NRSC).
- 10) 2st International Conference on Innovative Trends in Computer Engineering (ITCE) Aswan University.

**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?**

Since the Egyptian Pound devaluation against the US\$ on November 2016, we have a very hard time keeping our members and attracting new ones. Moreover, after the Egyptian Knowledge Bank allowed IEEE Digital Library for all Egyptian Universities Staff, students and researchers. This made the drive to maintain IEEE membership less attractive. The current member Fees for One Year (without any societies) is around 85 US\$. This represent half a month's salary for a young Engineer. In 2017 the values of US dollar increased from 6.5 Egyptian Pounds to 18 Egyptian Pounds. This put a pressure on our membership. Student's membership also has been affected. We reached a solution by asking technology companies to subsidize some young members and students by contributing 30% of the cost which allowed Egypt Section to maintain its membership vitality. More than 150 YP and Students members used this sponsorship from industry to renew or to join 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?**

Egypt Section can help nearby Countries that does not have IEEE activity (e.g. Sudan / Eritria, etc.) in starting their activities. The current proposal for bylaws for Africa need studies to be able to really apply it. The current proposal to get operating fund from African sections to operate Africa Area is not reasonable and will not be accepted. That is, we are just able to meet the needs of members and activities in Egypt. Distance and Cost of travel between Egypt and faraway African Countries is very high.

**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?**

No we did not feel its existence. We need to know what services Vienna office can perform. We need to know how it will help sections and student branches.

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

Egypt Section has one MOU's with the Academy of Science and Technology in 2017. There is a plan to sign two other MOUs. The MOU signed in 2017 with the Egyptian Academy of Science and Technology (Ministry of Higher Education and Research) facilitates the continuous support to Egypt Section innovation workshops and student's projects and events. Currently, the Academy sponsors some of the section events, Moreover, the successful projects in EED and MIE get incubated in the Academy and the industry. In 2019, there is a plan to sign an MOU with the Egyptian Engineering Syndicate. This will mark a new cooperation with the largest Engineering Organization in Egypt. IEEE section will help in Education and professional activities for young Engineers. Moreover, the Engineering Syndicate is planning to sponsors some of our events. The signing of MOU in 2018 with Nokia-Egypt, attracted more members to be among our professional network and join IEEE Egypt Section volunteer community.

## Estonia Section

Peter Ellervee

**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?**

Contacts with the national industry associations are rather good and are improving. The goal is to let the industry people also to feel that they'll benefit from being IEEE member. One of the ways to do this is to exchange information about various events like DL visits.

The traditional August seminar, this year in the northern part of Estonia, attracted members both from industry and academia. Presentations at the seminar are from both groups and of interest for all.

One of the industry oriented new joint chapters, created one and half years ago - IE/PEL (Industrial Electronics / Power Electronics) - has been rather active thus proving the need for such chapters. The second one - IA/PE/RA (Industry Applications / Power & Energy / Robotics and Automation) - is still not very active but improving.

**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?**

The activity of students has not been so high during the last few months because of the examination period and graduations. However, new activities have been planned for autumn. This includes also getting IEEE student members more active in counseling new students, especially those of foreign background. In addition, YP group and WIE of Student branch of TUT have been very active.

To attract more student members, the Section is supporting their participation at various events. The students are also welcome to participate at Section's events. Representatives of Student Branches are present at ExCom meetings.

**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?**

No significant changes here during the last few months and the same features can be outlined, essentially. Namely, IEEEExtreme is still the largest one-event source of new members but not all of them will continue their membership. The interest for senior membership status exists but is one that should be improved.

During the traditional August seminar, membership issues were also addressed. The section will continue to make IEEE more visible among students who are often working already during their studies. The next year seminar is planned to be in the southwest region to cover wider areas with the goal to attract more potential members.

**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?**

Student Branches at universities where many students from African countries are studying, are probably the best way to distribute information about IEEE and its activities.

**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?**

N/A

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

IEEE Instrumentation & Measurement Society awarded "Impedance Spectroscopy" course at Tallinn University of Technology with the Faculty Course Development Award in 2018.

## Finland Section

**Toni Mattila**

**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 think that members of IEEE working in an academic environment gain a lot from their IEEE membership but IEEE, as a whole, should be able to serve its industrial members better by creating higher value for them especially. The Finland Section is closely engaged with the IEEE Action for Industry initiative and through our Section Industry Ambassadors, we reach out to local industries in order to recruit companies to join the AFI initiative and provide internships for the IEEE student members and YPs. Over the past two years the number of industrial contacts has increased substantially. We will continue our engagement with the IEEE Action for Industry initiative also in the future.

**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?**

The academic institutions are actively seeking to engage with IEEE in organizing seminars and conferences that are open to our members. These events are good examples of essential value IEEE provides especially to academic members of IEEE. Finland Section actively engages and supports events that are of high quality and in the field relevant to our current and future members. We also encourage our technical chapters to level up their activities. Over the past two years, the latter activity has been particularly worthwhile.

**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?**

Finland Section is also seeking to engage in collaborative relations with other societies with similar focus in order to provide more benefits to the members of IEEE in the Section. One example of such activity is the collaboration with the local branch of the Institute of Physics (IOP) with whom we are organizing our first joint seminar in September 2017. Finland Section is also supporting its Technical Chapters to collaborate with their counterparts in other Section in the Nordics. Chapters of the IEEE/CPMT society are a good example: they merged together to form a Nordics-wide joint chapter and now together organize a technical conference & exhibition that is traveling from one destination to another within the Nordic states. In the past, Finland Section has had very active SYP groups but this activity is withering despite of our active efforts to find new people to carry on the tradition. Our membership numbers are relative stable but in order to stay vital the Finland Section needs members that are more active. We seek to engage new members by inviting them to events and to participate in volunteering activities. We support our less active technical chapters to initiate new activities and encourage the more active ones to expand their activities and make them visible beyond the current members in the hopes to engage new people and new members. We have been quite successful in engaging new members but this activity should be made continuous.

**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?**

The existing activities among the different Sections in Region 8 are a good benchmark. Similar models/ideas that work in Europe and Middle-East may work in Africa as well.

**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?**

Finland Section has so far not been engaged with the Vienna office. We would need to understand better how Vienna office can support our local activities.

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

## France Section

Frédérique Vallée

**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 organize workshops oriented towards industry in order to give a better visibility of IEEE activities. One has been organized in March 2018 dedicated to "5G is coming: Insights into the next generation for mobile access" with more than 130 participants. 3 other workshops are scheduled before the end of the year: one in October dedicated to "Blockchain and energy", one in November dedicated to "Towards a decentralized and decarbonated electricity industry" and another one dedicated to "Digitizing transportation" (co-organized with the IEEE Vienna Office). We have already nominated 3 new SIAs (Section Industry Ambassador) in telecom and energy and will continue to nominate new ones in other areas. We continue to multiply our workshop initiatives and to foster Industry Relations.

**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?**

We strongly encourage activities oriented towards students and young professionals. For example, on September 13th 2018, we have sponsored the "ISAE-SUPAERO IEEE Student Branch" association, for organizing a conference on: "Space Environments and Effects" held by Dr. Janet Barth, Emeritus Scientist from NASA. The audience was more than 400 people and the conference continued with a meeting focusing on the women's role in engineering. We also encourage the creation of new student branches.

**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?**

We continue to:

- Engage with Regional Leadership and activities, e.g. attend annual regional meeting (IEEE R8 MD Workshop)
- Conduct a Membership Development activity, e.g. membership recruitment or elevation
- Encourage members to renew
- Use of the Member-Get-a-Member (MGM) program
- Promote IEEE activity in my area
- Encourage Senior Members to hold executive IEEE volunteer positions
- Participate in IEEE MD Webcast monthly 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?**

Nothing particular to declare.

**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?**

We still think that this new office can help us to foster industry relations. We have decided to co-organize with the Vienna Office a workshop dedicated to "Digitizing transportation" during this last semester of 2018.

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

Nothing particular to declare.

## Germany Section

Ingo Hahn

**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?**

Our Section has an Industry Relations Officer, but the contact between the IEEE Germany Section and the industry is mainly performed by the different IEEE Society Chapters. Furthermore, Germany's industrial landscape is so diverse and rich that many German IEEE members are employed in industry, so that we have already that close contact to industry. At the moment there is no need to develop further the industry relations.

**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?**

To attract new members our student branches and the society chapters are the most important and active part. They organize student branch and chapter meetings at industry and academia sites while inviting not only IEEE members. They regularly invite also some guests, who could participate in their activities. Especially the work of the student branches and WIE group is financially supported by the Section.

**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?**

The Section vitality is mostly driven by the activities of the different student branches and society chapters. On the Section level, we regularly organize twice a year Section meetings where all chapter chairs, student branch chairs and affinity group chairs are invited to report on their actual activities and to discuss their plans for future activities and the financing of that events. On the other hand, it is sometimes difficult to get in touch with some of the chapter chairs, because of the huge amount of their business activities, which prevents some of them from spending their leisure time as IEEE volunteers. Individual time is here a very crucial factor.

We started an initiative to clear up the legal status of the IEEE Germany Section according to German law. This initiative is really time consuming combined with much personal effort, because IEEE headquarters are not really of great help in solving the issue at hand. IEEE headquarters agreed since the last IEEE R8 meeting in Athens to finance the consultancy with a local lawyer in Germany. We are now in the decision process to found a separate association according to German law to facilitate our activities in the IEEE Germany Section.

**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?**

As it is reported last time, I can only recommend that the African Sections should try to get in touch with other Sections in IEEE Region 8, which could give them some hints on their best practices working in their countries. If those best practices from European or Middle East Sections would work successfully also in the African Sections is really hard to estimate. At the moment we have no direct project which supports IEEE activities in Africa, but since the end of 2017 we have an IEEE SIGHT group which could engage in such activities.

**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?**

We expected more direct engagement of the Vienna office for support and help with clearing up the legal status of the IEEE Germany Section according to German law, but the support consisted only in getting the right names at the headquarters. The work load has to be performed by the volunteers of the IEEE Germany Section and not by the IEEE Vienna office, which contradicts our expectations. The existence of that office hasn't influenced our section yet.

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

IEEE Milestone for Jan Czochralski and its invention of the crystal growth method in collaboration with and based on the initiative of the IEEE Poland Section is approved by the IEEE History Center.

Other IEEE milestones, like the invention of the radar in 1904 by Christian Hülsmeyer, are in preparation.

## Ghana Section

**Eric Kuada**

**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 have appointed a committee for Action for industry but have not been very successful with industry relation activities yet. We have introduced the mentorship program but it is yet to yield the expected results. We are hoping to get this team to work on getting internships for our students members

**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?**

We organized a Student and Young Professional meet-up event as part of the IEEE ICAST 2018 conference held August 22-23rd. It served as an excellent platform for networking and encouraging students and young professionals to join the IEEE and also serve as volunteers

**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?**

Organizing conferences are very effective in creating a lot of publicity for IEEE in the country. Hosting the virtual conferences and webinars at several locations is also very effective. these attracts a lot of graduates students.

**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 are playing key roles hosting IEEE Africa initiatives and events.

**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?**

Not so much influence yet.

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

We celebrated our 10th Anniversary but it was done on the quiet with the IEEE ICAST 2018 conference this past August

**Greece Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Athanasios Kakarountas**

## Hungary Section

Levente Kovacs

**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?**

The established industry oriented technological seminars inside universities have a great success, combining the IEEE aims with the tech-oriented lectures. At our local IEEE HS sponsored conferences we started to invite industry partners as plenary speakers. In the meantime, we would like to attract partners to sponsor given sessions of our conferences. IEEE Hungary Section (HS) industry award establishment is in progress as well.

**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?**

Fortunately IEEE Hungary Section members do not need much membership advertisement as they are aware with the benefits of IEEE. However, young or new members need several activities. The Best Student Paper award established last year turned to be a success involving talented young students in the IEEE community. The number of IEEE student members increased, increasing the overall number of IEEE HS. This was one of the reasons why we got the gold award for IEEE Outstanding Section Membership Retention Performance. Based on last years experiences invited seminars proved to work attracting students and Young Professionals (YP) to IEEE (it was presented at the YP congress in Porto). Hence, we intensified these activities. We are still maintaining the reduced registration fees for students and YP at our IEEE HS conferences. Next year we will be present with IEEE prices at the most prestigious national engineering student competition the biannual National Student Conference. IEEE CS&C Joint Chapter, RAS Chapter and SMC Chapter organizes seminars and/or technical meetings, furthermore the members are encouraged to attend technical booths organized by mainly multinational companies. Our own IEEE HS conferences organized PhD sections involving PhD students from different universities.

**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?**

IEEE HS continuously increases in members in the last 6 years. Local operation procedures are updated or under update. Most of the HS chapters have been revitalized in the last year, chapter leaderships renewed. At the IEEE day celebration this year we plan to establish the IEEE HS WiE Affinity Group. We continue to award the last year created Rudolf Kalman professor title and we announced this year student competition as well, where we hope to have the same success as last year. The MD officer sends out renewing e-mails for the IEEE HS members. Non-renewing members are asked to give feedback why not renewed their membership.

**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?**

By the Stipendium Hungaricum program, big number of students arrive from Africa and other parts of the world in Hungary to learn (BSc, MSc or PhD levels). We advertise them the IEEE benefits, give possibilities to publish at our IEEE HS sponsored conferences.

**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?**

MD materials

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

Mobile conference application, Best Student paper award, IEEE HS WiE establishment, IEEE HS industry award. IEEE Control Systems Hungary Chapter formation in 2018, Rudolf Kalman professor title (involving the Hungarian Academy of Sciences).

## Iceland Section

**Thomas Philip Runarsson**

**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 will continue fostering our Industry relation by working with the Icelandic Association of Chartered Engineers (VFI). Continue to hold workshops with the industry, this year we sponsored the Canada-France-Iceland Workshop (<https://uoguelph-mlrg.github.io/CFIW/>) which included workshops for the Industry.

**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?**

Student competitions and supporting student projects. Short courses held by the student branch. We hope to attract future members through these joint meetings and having a continuing program in the form of training / workshops.

**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?**

Close ties with academia, providing opportunities for high level technical presentations and joint events with engineering students. Good relations and cooperation with the national society. Balanced and close cooperation between members in academia and industry. This year we have sponsored the 2018 28th EAEEIE Annual Conference (EAEEIE) held in Reykjavik, Iceland.

**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?**

IEEE sponsored conferences in Africa and section meetings.

**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?**

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

none.

## Iran Section

Ahmad R. Sharafat

**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?**

The followings worked well for us:

- 1) Requiring each sponsored conference to organize a panel session to promote academia-industry relations.
- 2) Evaluating requests for sponsorship also on their programs for the industry.
- 3) Requesting the student branches to initiate industry relations.
- 4) Organizing various workshops to cater for the industry needs.
- 5) Creating a Job Site in our website.

The following changes are considered:

- 1) Enhancing the activities of the industrial committee with a view to generating more interest from the industry.
- 2) Encouraging the industry to consider offering incentives to IEEE members and give priority to hiring IEEE members.
- 3) Initiating internship programs.
- 4) Proposing improvements in the curricula to include industry related subjects.

Success since the last meeting:

- 1) We initiated serious discussions with the industry to consider the above mentioned changes, and are very hopeful that the industry will become more active.
- 2) The office bearers for both the Industry Relations Committee and the Standards Committee are now appointed from the industry.

We plan to implement the followings:

- 1) Organize workshops on topics of interest for the industry.
- 2) Encourage the industry to actively participate in organizing conferences.
- 3) Organize panels and webinars by the industry for students and Young Professionals.

**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?**

The followings work well for us:

- 1) Providing incentives such as giving discounts for purchasing books and registration fees of sponsored conferences.
- 2) Organizing annual National Student Counselors assemblies.
- 3) Organizing annual general Congresses during which annual awards are announced.
- 4) Facilitating renewal of IEEE membership.
- 5) Selecting highly qualified individuals based on their achievements for our annual awards.
- 6) Organizing and sponsoring students contests.

The following changes are required:

- 1) We have not been receiving any support from Region 8 because of the past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions.
- 2) We need the new IEEE office in Vienna to provide support (at least the airline tickets) for a minimum of 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually no support from Region 8. In the absence of the required changes as outlined above, it would be very difficult to attract and support future members.

Future plans:

- 1) We will rejuvenate the Young Professionals committee, and accord it the priority it deserves.
- 2) We will continue to apply what worked well for us, as outlined above.

**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?**

The followings worked well:

- 1) Sponsoring conferences.
- 2) Holding monthly meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 3) Organizing workshops and lectures on topics of interest.
- 4) Encouraging members to promote their membership grades.
- 5) Holding IEEE Day in student branches.
- 6) Providing incentives to our members, such as discounts for purchasing books and hotel reservations.
- 7) Honoring highly qualified individuals for their achievements with annual awards.

Below changes are required:

- 1) We have not been receiving any support from Region 8 because of past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions.

- 2) We need the new IEEE office in Vienna to provide support (at least the airline tickets) for a minimum of 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually no support from Region 8.

Future plans:

- 1) We will continue to apply what worked well for us, as outlined above.
- 2) We will initiate the local version of IEEE Iran Section Distinguished Lecturer program.
- 3) We will propose improvements in the curricula of electrical and computer engineering programs of study in Iran.
- 4) We will introduce different real-world problems to our members.

**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 propose the following action items to be considered by IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe:

- 1) Organize online course, webinars and workshops.
- 2) Organize student contests for both undergraduate as well as graduate students.

We stand ready to help IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe in the implementation of the above proposals, or in any other way that our help is asked for.

**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 not been receiving any support from IEEE Headquarters and Region 8 because of past sanctions. This needs to be properly addressed with appropriate solutions. We are disadvantaged as compared to other Sections.
- 2) We need Region 8 and/or the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria to provide support (Airline tickets at the minimum) for at least 50 internationally renowned scholars to travel to Iran and give lectures on the topics of interest to our members in Iran.

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

We need to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to sanctions and get the much needed support from the IEEE Headquarters and Region 8.

We also need to reactivate access to the IEEE Digital Library for Iranian universities as another action item of top priority.

Future Plans:

- 1) Invite distinguished national/international scholars to present technical and scientific lectures and present webinars.
- 2) Promote international collaboration between IEEE Iran Section committees with their counterparts in Region 8 and other regions.
- 3) Support Chapters to enhance their professional activities.
- 4) Establish new Chapters in 2017.
- 5) Expand existing student chapters and establish new ones.
- 6) Enhance and foster involvement of the industry in the IEEE Iran Section activities.
- 7) Provide wider national benefits for IEEE members.
- 8) Provide online courses and webinars to complement their university education and prepare them for work in the industry.
- 9) Organize national student paper competitions (SPC). 10. Organize new student contests.

We have maintained a vibrant and active IEEE Iran Section in spite of virtually NO support from IEEE Headquarters or Region 8.

**Iraq Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Ahmed Burhan**

## Israel Section

Yuval Beck

**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?**

The section is collaborating with the industry in the ICSEE 2018 conference and tries to arrange joint sessions of academia and industry

**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?**

We are planning to support the registration fees of student members since other professional organizations in Israel give a free admission for students. Moreover, we support the young professionals and the student members in meetings and conferences that they organize.

**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?**

We are maintaining the section website with attractive activities. The Region in our opinion should provide more information and assistance in what can be done on the subject.

**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?**

N/A

**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?**

We are not aware of the services that the office gives. We would be happy to know what services we can get and how can we contribute.

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

The Israeli section is organizing its 30th biennial convention called ICSEE 2018. ”

## Italy Section

**Tiziana Tambosso**

**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?**

The initiatives that work well in Italy Section to foster Industry Relations are the following:

- the Italy Section Action for Industry Committee working to increase the number of industries participating in the R8 Programs (Mentor and Internship) and Italy Sections Programs (forum, panels, workshops, job fairs, awards, Student Branch initiatives, special meetings).
- we had, in Palermo, the fourth edition of IEEE RTSI (Research and Technology for Society and Industry) (9-13 September 2018) <http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it>.

This is the annual flag event of the Italy Section with some important initiatives devoted to industries such as:

- The meeting with industries (<http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/meetingindustries.html>), this year with the special contribution of R8 Action for Industry coordinator presenting R8 initiatives and the France Section Chair presenting AfI in France.
- three panels with industries and academia in the main fields of interest of the forum: 1st panel: Smart grids and energy systems for smart city districts ([http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel\\_1.pdf](http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_1.pdf)) (participants ? 2 big industries ENEL and ENI) 2nd panel: Smart Technologies & Best Practices for Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation ([http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel\\_2.pdf](http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_2.pdf)) (participants ? 5 local SME industries) 3rd panel: ICT at the service of the citizen: best practices and business cases ([http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel\\_3.pdf](http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_3.pdf)) (participants ? Municipality of Trento and two local start ups)
- a research exhibition with start up co-organized together with a local incubator ARCA (we had 8 start up presenting their products and prototypes) (exhibition catalogue: <http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Startup20%Exhibition.pdf>)
- a special meeting on innovative startups and entrepreneurs (this second edition ? after the success of the first one was enlarged and held plenary) we had one keynote speech Piero Formica: Exploring the culture of Open Innovation. Towards an altruistic model of economy, and three panels with incubators, associations and foundations promoting start-ups and innovative enterprises; 4 big industries (ENEL SpA; Terna SpA; Prysmian Electronics, ST Microelectronics) presenting their models of Open Innovation and 6 start ups presenting their personal experience of success. (see: [http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/innovative\\_enterprises.html](http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/innovative_enterprises.html))
- The 2018 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2018/02/DistIndustryAward-SECTION-2018-1.pdf>) has been given to Enrico Ragaini (ABB). He will be invited by three Chapters/Student Branches in 2019 sponsored by Italy Section to give a lecture on: "" Not only smart grid: the many links between electronics, software and power systems ""

R8 can promote the introduction of the Corporate membership of industry companies. Some big companies in Italy already asked that options, an incentive to increase the number of internal memberships.

**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?**

The active student branches have increased their membership. The Exemplary Student Branch Award 2018 (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards>) was given to Politecnico di Milano Student Branch; the Most innovative SB award was given to Univ. of Pavia SB and the most improved SB award was given to Politecnico di Torino SB. The Ceremony was held in Palermo (2018, Sept. 12) in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2018 annual Forum of the Section. The third IEEE Italy Section meeting of Student Branches organized during IEEE RTSI 2018 in Palermo (<http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/studentsmeeting.html>) was a very successful event with special contribution of:

- UK and Ireland Section Past chair and SAC Coordinator;
- Mona Ghassemian who presented the Humanitarians programs of R8 and held a very interesting workshop on ?wearable devices?.
- the SB chair of Politecnico di Milano and a YP representative who gave their witnesses on their participation in the SYP Congress in Porto.
- Marco Santambrogio (the Italy Section Student Activity Coordinator) who held a very professional short course on effective pitch presentation. The SB chairs received the financial support from the Section to participate in the meeting. Students from University of Palermo (co-organizer of RTSI2018) received from Italy Section 30 free subscription to the Forum. IEEE was advertised during the conference (at the reception desk and in a special corner dedicated to IEEE, gadgets and other support material of IEEE was distributed).

In order to increase the number of students that maintain the IEEE membership after last graduation (usually Master or PhD) I suggest a special discounts for YP membership in order to smooth the passage from Student member fee to full member fee. Many graduated students spend almost one year looking for a work in an industry without a regular salary.

**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 interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?**

The History activity committee is working on two new milestones, one for Galileo Ferraris together with Politecnico of Torino and the other to Giovanni Giorgi with University of Roma La Sapienza. The Milestone "Pacinotti's ring armature of direct current dynamos" has been approved, the Dedication Ceremony will be held on December 4th 2018, in Pisa.

A series of interviews (coordinated by a volunteer LM "Prof Roberto Napoli) with answers to questions on the history of technology, has been started. The first interview is available on the Italy Section web page (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/storia-della-tecnologia-interviste/>) and is on the History of Microelectronics in Italy, through the witnesses of Bruno Murari (past-ST Microelectronics Director).

The Section has a very reach Section Award Program (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>): six new awards, financially supported by ABB, were established and assigned in 2018 (<http://abbaward2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it>). The 2018 Honorary Award was given to Federico Faggin for his outstanding contributions to the self aligned MOS silicon gate theory & technology and to the development of the first microprocessor. A plaque will be given to the winner of the award on Sept. 26 in Pisa during a special event organized at University of Pisa. The official announcement with a video prepared by the awardee was projected in Palermo at RTSI, during the Italy Section award Ceremony. The 2018 Distinguished service award was given to Ermanno Cardelli for exceptional contributions and service for the benefit and advancement of the Section. Three awards are assigned, each year to the three best chapters and three awards for the three Best Student Branches.

The 2017 Best PhD Thesis Award of Computer chapter and of Computational Intelligence chapter were assigned during RTSI2018 in Palermo.

Italy Section continues to strengthen its relationship with Italian Technical Associations. In particular Italy Section has signed MoU in May 2018 with: AEIT ([www.aeit.it](http://www.aeit.it)) According to the new IEEE procedure to partnering with national technical organization, Italy Section is organizing three joint events with AEIT in 2018, one of them has been held at RTSI2018 in cooperation with IEEE Italy Section WIE AG and AICA (another Italian Association with which Italy Section signed a MoU. ([http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/RTSI\\_WIE\\_Italy\\_event2018.pdf](http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/RTSI_WIE_Italy_event2018.pdf)))

The Newsletter of the Section has been digitalized in order to be more up to date. The newsletter informs the section members about the recent news of the Section, the Chapters, Section Committees, Student Branches, Young Professional, other activities, announcements. See Section website for the June 2018 edition of the newsletter (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/category/news/>).

**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?**

No news on this activity

**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?**

IEEE Office in Vienna could give help in having reimbursement from IEEE Legal Office of the managerial expenditures of the Section (expert in commercial Italian law, annual account auditing, GDPR consultant, treasurer assistant), these expenditures are requested by the Italian law in order to prepare the annual budget, pay VAT, ... and according to the IEEE Bylaws the rebate has to be used to financially support the technical activity of the Section/Chapters/SB/AG and cannot be used to pay these consultants and experts.

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

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- this year the Section became, after a long process, an officially registered Italian association (with juridical personality)
- one new chapter IES chapter (we have now 40 chapter)
- the chapter activity is well organized and they find financial support from the Section for their technical activities, whose number is increasing every year. For this task the Chapter Activity coordinator is crucial as well the treasurer efficiency.
- more active student branches whose activity is promoted and encouraged also with financial support of the Section
- the RTSI forum is becoming more and more important (this year we had more than 250 participants from academia, industry, students, many section chapters) with the contribution of other R8 Sections and the R8 technical sponsorship.
- The award program of the Section has been increased with new awards sponsored by Industry and more awards for active SB and chapters.
- the member of Italy Section WIE AG increased and its activity is growing fast with cooperation with other Italian association with the same objective.

## Jordan Section

Gheith Abandah

**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 are trying to get closer to industry through the following techniques:

- 1) Having more members in the section committee from industry; seven members of this committee are now from industry
- 2) Our young professionals hold several professional and technical activities that involve young professionals from industry.
- 3) We organize special workshops targeting engineers from industry such as Amman Metro Area Workshop. The second workshop of this series was held in September 2017. The fourth workshop will be in December 2018.
- 4) We have expanded our annual student branches congress to include young professionals last year. JSYPC 2018 was held in September.
- 5) Our biannual conference on applied electrical engineering and computing technologies targets participants from industry and focuses on academia/industry relationships and joint research. AEECT 2017 was held in last October. AEECT 2019 has merged with other two conferences JIEEEEC 2019 and ICIT 2019. The JIEEEEC is organized by Jordan Engineers Association. This will enable us to reach more industry members. The name of the merged conference is JEEIT 2019 and will be held in April 9-11, 2019.

**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?**

We attract and support future members through the following techniques:

- 1) Our section, chapters, affinity groups, and student branches hold many activities every year that give value to members and generate great visibility to IEEE in Jordan. Such activities continuously attract new members.
- 2) We encourage and support creating new student branches and student chapters; several new branches and chapters were created last year. Such new organizational units attract new members and hold additional activities.

**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?**

We continue to foster section vitality and sustainability through the following techniques:

- 1) Holding periodic elections for all organizational units including the section, the chapters, student branches and chapters, and affinity groups.
- 2) Encouraging all units to hold periodic activities and meetings and to report these activities.
- 3) Continue attracting new members and improve the retention rates.
- 4) Hold general meetings and congresses such as JSYPC 2018 and the annual Section General Meeting. This year's Section General Meeting was in May. In this meeting, we had our annual recognition ceremonies and a keynote.
- 5) The section financially supports activities organized by affinity groups and students and supports their participation in regional and international professional meetings. We supported four participants in R8 SYP 2018.

**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?**

Jordan Section is open to collaboration with IEEE activities in Africa.

**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?**

To facilitate the mobility of the Region 8 members between the different countries, e.g., help in securing visas. To help in legalizing the existence of IEEE offices in the various countries of Region 8.

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

Jordan Section continues to achieve good results:

- 1) Jordan Section has received the IEEE Gold Medal for 2017 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance.
- 2) Our YP AG received Region 8 Outstanding Young Professionals Affinity Group Award.

## Kenya Section

Charles Onyango

**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?**

Visiting potential key industry players. Having routine local trainings and meetings Spreading across the country by having regional sessions outside of the capital city

**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) Increasing activities in colleges and universities.
- 2) Having registration desks whenever freshers are reporting.
- 3) Students and Young Professionals need opportunities to link with industry
- 4) Meet up sessions for young professionals need enhancement

**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) Having a strong student membership. This ensures a pool of volunteers and future leadership of the section.
- 2) Ensured events are carried out in each student branch
- 3) Several local technical paper writing sessions done
- 4) Several trainings held to improve technical awareness and skills

**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) Strengthening of IEEE Africa Council
- 2) Supporting regional meetings and collaborative activities

**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?**

Improve on the ease of supporting student's during conferences

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

Having localised technical paper writing skills trainings

**Kuwait Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Abdul Rahman Al-Ghunaim**

## Latvia Section

Nadezda Kunicina

**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?**

The deployment of new technologies for industrial partners via participation in tutorials, conference open sessions, open lectures and bilateral meetings.

**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?**

The individual contacts, and regular advertisement activities have been done. The with special attention to the young researchers, the mobile advertisement are placed in Doctoral department of Riga Technical University the biggest technical university in Latvia, with target audience of Future and Existing 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?**

The IEEE Latvia has supporter of organisation of main scientific conferences in Latvia. 2018 59th International Scientific Conference on Information Technology and Management Science of Riga Technical University (ITMS) RTUCON2018 RTUWO 2018 The annual PhD was organised under active IEEE members leadership INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF ENERGY CONVERSION AND SAVING TECHNOLOGIES OF RIGA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY The active participation of IEEE members, especially young researchers from Baltic region is expected on 2018 IEEE 6th Workshop on Advances in Information, Electronic and Electrical Engineering (AIEEE) , the workshop is organised by Lithuanian IEEE section this year, with active IEEE Latvia involvement. The regular industry - young researchers collaboration are organised. The industrial visits will be organised for students and pupils. The industry driven research topics have been mentored by IEEE members with the cooperation of Latvian schools.

**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?**

The members of IEEE Latvia section are open to offer visiting lecturer for African region, as well to support IEEE members by mentoring in common research, education ( Especially Erasmus KA 2 proposals) as well as to share experience in IEEE sustainability and regular activities.

**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?**

The support was not requested.

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

The regional initiative group from former industrial, but now region with depressive economics Liepaja , is very active now and interested to apply for IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Funding Opportunities

## Lebanon Section

Hadi Sawaya

**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?**

An Action for Industry Subcommittee chaired by the Lebanon Section Action for Industry Ambassador was created. The subcommittee includes Industry representatives from Society Chapters and Affinity Groups of the Lebanon Section. A University Advisor has the role to advise and keep track of the subcommittee work and to maintain high benefits for IEEE Student members. The objectives of this subcommittee is to fortify all MoU's with Industry already existing and to follow up on all tasks and events happening between the Industry in Lebanon and IEEE Lebanon (internships, seminars and etc...). The subcommittee will study all sponsorship requests (Financial, Technical and Non-Technical) and verify their eligibility before being sent to any industry as now the MoU's have been updated to include new terms and conditions, upon approval of the Section ExCom for each request. In addition this subcommittee, will work on adding more diverse MoU's that reflect the diversity of the Lebanese industry in order to benefit all IEEE members and membership types.

Achievements:

- Raise more than 20000 USD dollars of sponsorship for the support of MENACOMM'18 conference.

**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?**

The section is focusing on targeting young members and students with the support of the YP Affinity Group. Two new student branches were created, and we are now in the process of establishing another two or three student branches.

The section was present at two of the largest gatherings organized in Beirut:

- The ArabaNet forum which is one of the largest digital gatherings in the MENA region, ArabNet brings international speakers to discuss the latest topics in the field, and connects entrepreneurs and startups with funding and incubation.
- The Change maker festival that host students and youth from around the region. The festival features workshops, pitch competitions, drawing competition, photography competition, music, a food truck line-up, and some of the most inspiring speakers across industries.

IEEE must provide more membership benefits like free or reduced fee for accessing IEEE Xplore.

**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?**

The section will continue targeting Young professionals and student members in order to maintain a sustainable growth in membership. Our financial position remains strong with the support of IEEE and the Industry.

**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?**

Not engaged in such activities

**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?**

The office supports sections in Europe

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

None

## Lithuania Section

Vytautas Urbanavicius

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well: IEEE Lithuania Section (LS) is constantly intermediaries between local electronic, communication and IT industry and Universities, assisting in the establishment of contacts, such as searching for employees, monitoring of study programs, counseling, organization of internship, etc. Changes would be required:

- The ExCom. of LS must develop an action plan for industry related activities and allocate a budget for its implementation.

Major successes:

- More than fifty students were sent to internship at the electronics industry through the mediation of the Exec. Committee.
- Consultations with representatives of the IEEE BlockChain Initiative were held; we hope that the establishment of the Affinity Group of BlockChain Lithuania will promote the growth of the IEEE members from IT enterprises.

We are going to continue to foster Industry Relations:

- LS intends to invite representatives of the industry, coupled with the electronics, electrical engineering communication and IT, to participate in social activities, which are organized by our Section.
- LS intends to promote the participation of the industry in the exhibitions organized within the conference, supported by our Section.

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well:

- Organization of the annual contest "Best Master Thesis".
- Co-sponsorship of annual Conference for Lithuania Junior Researchers "Electronics and Electrical Engineering".
- Series of technical meetings presenting frontiers of research in recently defended Doctoral Dissertations.

Changes would be required:

- It is necessary to draw up a detailed list of the benefits of being a student member of IEEE.

Major successes:

- Consultations with representatives of the IEEE BlockChain Initiative were held; we hope that the establishment of the Affinity Group of BlockChain Lithuania will promote the growth of the IEEE members from IT enterprises.
- MOU on financial Co-sponsorship of the 6th joint Student Workshop "IEEE 2018" of IEEE Latvia and Lithuania Section, which will be organized in November 2018 in Vilnius, was signed; only members of the IEEE can make reports at this Workshop; this should help increase the number of IEEE student-members.

Continue to support Students and YP:

- IEEE LS continues to support the YP representatives who work actively in the competition commission "Best Doctoral Dissertation in Lithuania" and advertise IEEE.
- IEEE LS supports YP representatives, leading educational work on behalf of IEEE among students and pupils.
- Prepare leaders to form IEEE Student Branch of Vilnius University and to support IEEE Student Branch of Kaunas University of Technology.
- Searching sponsors for financial support of the IEEE Student membership.

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives that work well:

- The best volunteer of the year reward program.
- Regular face-to-face ExCom meetings preparing for and organizing all major events.
- Awarding or co-sponsoring visits of the best volunteers to workshops/congresses.
- Promotion of IEEE in carrying out such activities as "IEEE Day", workshops/congresses and conferences.

Required changes:

- It will be necessary to have more industry people in the board.

Major successes:

- The IEEE Lithuanian Section supported the participation of three delegates in SYP Congress in Porto.

Lithuania Section must always take care of:

- Organizing elections using v-tools to engage more members in nomination and voting process.
- Constantly updating the Facebook page of the Section (<https://www.facebook.com/IEEE-Lithuania-Section-462539263947774>) and the website: <http://ieee.lt>.

We must not forget also:

- Member retention and recruitment,
- Recruiting of new volunteers,
- Inviting distinguished lecturers,
- Co-sponsoring of local and international conferences,
- Involving members from industry.

**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 encourage more active involvement of the competent representatives of Africa countries in the working Committees of the IEEE R8.
- We expect to invite and appoint a reduced registration fee for participation in conferences and workshops, supported by IEEE Lithuania Section, IEEE members from Africa.

**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?**

- Lithuania Section is hoping that the answers to questions that take into account the specifics of the IEEE R8, we will get much faster and more comprehensively of this new Office than from IEEE MGA Administration.
- In fact, the office in Vienna has been working for a relatively short time and our Section did not need to contact the office to solve any problems or seek support during this time. It can be noted, however, that all Sections of R8 are very promptly informed about the initiatives of the IEEE European Public Policy Committee.

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

- The ExCom decided to support the organization of the International Conference MIKON 2020 in Vilnius and gained support from the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania.
- Lithuania Section has supported the initiative of the YP and Student Branch of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University to establish a photo exhibition at the Faculty of Electronics.

## Malta Section

Conrad Attard

**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?**

Organizing events with industry helps us get to know what they require. This requires time and volunteers. To achieve our goal we try to choose events where we know we can have most impact. Our goal, now, is to setup an industry committee that represents the main industries in Malta. This is a challenge but we will be working on this in the coming year. Having key influences involved in IEEE, we know we will be more relevant when planning our activities and sharing IEEE information with industry.

**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?**

As a section, organising various events have helped retain members. Most members search for activities to network. We need more active volunteers to sustain and help organize various activities. Every year we dedicate time and resources to help students and young professionals improve the activities and manage better their initiatives. To do so we also organise sessions and discuss at the beginning of the year a calendar plan of initiatives and what resources maybe required. We use past experience to help us decide. Its also an opportunity to involve new members who have just started being activate in their respective committees.

**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 interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?**

During the year we reach out to various public events including both science communication and industry related. We have been invited to a number of events and participated in workshops, focus groups and various government initiatives including Malta eskills ICT Strategy 2019 2022 among others. As result we notice that more people are becoming aware of IEEE and becoming interest in becoming members or volunteering. Recently we decided to create a form to keep in touch with non IEEE members who have showed interest. We are conducting a study, which is being done of over a period of time. This study is allowing us to get to know more potential members while sharing with them IEEE resources.

**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?**

IEEE Malta does not have ties with IEEE Africa sections. Our suggestion is to get in touch with Africa Area Chair during R8 meeting to see how we can collaborate and work together on some initiatives.

**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?**

So far we did not have direct contact with this office. As a section we are continuing to address industry involvement in IEEE. Our first goal was to help industry know more about IEEE and what it can do for them. We now need support to help move to the next phase of the study that is helping us better understand industry and education needs by addressing a number of local challenges.

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

This year we organised an awards night to award various members for different competitions. We also had the opportunity to give an appreciation gift to all those who contributed to IEEE Malta since the first days.

## Morocco Section

Nasser Massem

**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 have been trying to involve industry more, trying to land internships, and organizing IEEE MS in industry workshop, connect Academia-2-SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises), and other technical meetings and conferences to exchange the latest developments on specific topics. On the side of the MELECON'18 in Marrakech, on May 2018, for instance, a special panel session was held around the topic of digital transformation of local government. Several leaders and e-gov enthusiasts have actively participated in the panel. We have been planning some training in the context of continuing education for staff members, and some award program and competitions. Research and development projects were planned to be run by a mixed team from IEEE and SMEs.

**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?**

We sought to empower our existing members and enhance their visibility with a series of events and training sessions. We diversified some of our activities: technical, professional, social, humanitarian, networking, team building. Existing members are themselves attracting new members. We have also appointed more members, for Technical Activities, Section Newsletter... We have offered some training for our students and young professionals in IT and business areas, and technical English. We planned IEEE junior activities for pre-university students (gaming for learning, programming, mechatronics, and robotics), and encouraged more university students? branches. We have been encouraging actions for Women in Engineering: Tech & Tea, networking, soft and technical talks? We are organizing the WIE Leadership Summit in Marrakech in October 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?**

In addition to technically sponsoring many local events, meetings and conferences, we organized the Melecon'18 on May 2018 in Marrakech, and the 3rd SEIT'18 - 5G: New Opportunities for Africa, 26 April 2018, INPT, Rabat, Morocco (Scientific Event on IT, 3rd ed). We are also organizing the 5th IEEE CiSt'18, Congress on Information Sciences and Technology, 22-24 October 2018, Marrakech (a flagship conference for our section). We have initiated some humanitarian actions, and organized meetings with some local national organizations to initiate common humanitarian projects. We are organizing the Humanitarian Success Stories in Africa summit in Marrakech in October 2018 (on the side of CiSt'18).

**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?**

In Africa, we have different and unique challenges. We need to drive more the vitality of our sections, and sustain membership. We need to improve our sections? relations with industry, encourage the creation of more technical societies? chapters, and support our affinity groups (WIE, YP?). We should seek to develop partnerships with national and international organizations, and engage in public policy. We need to develop English communication skills especially in non-English speaking countries. We also need to mutualize our African actions, exchange our experiences, improve our communication and awareness about opportunities, and increase African flagship conferences, workshops and meetings. An IEEE caravan in Africa involving members of the IEEE Africa Council may play an important role to understand better the nature of the above and other issues. More volunteers of the council need to be engaged to work as a team to address those issues. As mentioned above, and as part of engaging a dialogue with our friends in different African sections, we are organizing the Humanitarian Success Stories in Africa Summit in Marrakech in October 2018.

**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?**

We need to figure out how we can draw value from the IEEE Office in Vienna, probably through the IEEE Africa Council.

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

We are trying to add value from our previous initiatives, such as the new YP and WIE affinity groups, and the Morocco council of electronic design and automation, and build momentum on the outstanding achievement in member recruitment recognition that we received last year.

## Nigeria Section

Raphael Onoshakpor

**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?**

The main driver for Industry collaboration which have proven to enhance industry participation in the Nigeria Section is the Action for Industry initiative. There have also been some workshops and seminars that have aided industry collaboration.

In order to improve industry relations, the possibility of collaboration agreements may be considered. Since the last meeting, there have been some initiatives regarding industry collaboration such as;

- 1) The Nigeria Section Industry Internship campaign. The initiative has seen almost 20 student placements in a number of organizations in Nigeria.
- 2) Industry partnership in seminars and workshops. The Nigeria section had industry presenters at the past 2 section meetings in 2018.
- 3) Appointment of an industry ambassador in the Nigeria Section (Adullateef Aliyu).

In order to continue to foster the industry collaboration, the Nigeria Section plans to expand the Industry internship program, invite more industry guest speakers for section programs and encourage and task the Section's industry ambassador to work towards achieving more synergy with new Industry partners.

**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?**

Following the success of the Africa Students and Young Professional's Congress held in Abuja, Nigeria in 2017, the Nigeria section has continued to inspire young professionals and students through many programs at the section.

In 2018, IEEE Nigeria Section had carried out numerous membership drives including those at Major events including the Digital Africa conference held in June 2018 and the Nigeria Energy Forum held in April 2018. There have been numerous membership development initiatives which including membership drives at Universities where a number of new student branched have been formed. The Nigeria Section Internship program has attracted many potential young professionals to join IEEE.

The Nigeria Section intends to increase membership drives by continuing to support the membership development initiatives that are already in place and also to discover and introduce IEEE to other potential members within our operational areas.

**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?**

For the Nigeria Section, the vitality continues to be based on Section programs and collaboration driven by the section EXCO and partner institutions within the country. These include the Section Meetings and a number of events which have proven to become converging points for members in the Section.

IEEE(R8) can support the Nigeria Section with more resources to reach out to potential members. Also, due to the low income for many professionals in the country, the need for rebates on membership continue to be emphasized by members and potential members.

In 2018 the IEEE Nigeria Section has successfully hosted 3 Section Meetings in Abuja (Nile University, March 2018), Port Harcourt (Rivers State University, May 2018) and Lagos (Victoria Island, September 2018). There have also been numerous activities in the Section which include Webinars, TISP Workshop, Virtual Conferences and more.

**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?**

It is recommended that Gloria be given the necessary support by Region 8 to be able to visit African Countries where there are IEEE Sections and Also those with potential Sections, in order to emphasize the presence of IEEE, develop potential new memberships and to see firsthand what the challenges may be as these would be peculiar for every locality.

**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?**

The IEEE office in Vienna is expected to be an address and a resource center for the Region. The existence of the office has not yet sunk in yet. However a possible visit to the office and some direct contact over time may change the perception in the near future.

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

In 2018, IEEE Nigeria Section will be 40 year old. This is a great milestone for the Section.

The IEEE Nigeria Section has also made a number of achievements in 2018 including those with the affinity groups like the PES, Computer Society, Communication Society and WIE.

**Norway Section****Runar Søråsen**

**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?**

Our activity to establish internships in the industry for students was put on hold since our appointed Section Industry Ambassador had to step down due to other obligations. We have now been able to appoint a new Section Industry Ambassador (Per Kristian Lien). To further foster industry relations active chapters with industry participation is a necessity. The section is doing its best to support the chapters, both by inviting them in the Section ExCom meetings and by assessing the chapter structure. Since the last reporting we have succeeded in establishing a Joint Chapter of Power Electronics, Industry Applications and Industrial Electronics and a Chapter of Computational Intelligence.

**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?**

The section has one Young Professionals Group. This group is quite active, and the new Chair works well in the role. To better attract and support future members we are motivating the Chapters to arrange seminar/workshops where also non-members are invited, but possible charge them a participant fee. To better support the student activities, we need incentives to motivate students to become IEEE student members, so that they can join in the competitions, talks/seminar, etc. We also think that the establishment of internships in the industry for students will make it more attractive to become student 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?**

The re-instated Section ExCom (where the section board and the chairs of all chapters and affinity groups meet) has been partly a success. Still difficulties in assembling all the participants to the monthly/bi-monthly telcos. The Section arranged a face-to-face ExCom workshop in June. In this workshop strategic measures to increase vitality was discussed. This includes actions to increase number of Senior Members, which are more likely to continue their memberships and contribute.

**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 nothing planned, but open to suggestions of how to support IEEE in Africa.

**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?**

Expect increased visibility of IEEE in Europe.  
Development and support of further membership benefits adapted to the needs of members in R8.  
The office in Vienna has currently not influenced our section.

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

None

## Oman Section

Amer Al-Maashri

**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?**

The Section has prepared a long term plan (in coordination with its Afl) that proposes a number of activities, some of which aim to strengthen the relationship with the Industry. The Section would like to receive more support from Region 8 Action for Industry in terms of programs that would help in this direction.

**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?**

The Section has approved a long term plan that involves: organizing an annual general meeting to all members, conduct and support campaigns for promoting IEEE membership, keep organizing workshops and seminars to the whole community in order to promote IEEE.

**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?**

The Section, with coordination with its Chapters, has increased the pace of seminars, workshops, and technical sponsorship to conferences. Such activities should have members recognize the value of IEEE membership.

**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?**

Programs (e.g. training, workshops, etc.) that target schools is expected to have a great impact.

**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?**

The office can help in programs that help in membership retention. However, the office has not yet influenced the Section until now.

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

The SYP Affinity Group was established to strengthen the efforts made towards this important direction.

## Poland Section

Mariusz Malinowski

**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?**

Poland Section make big efforts to provide service for industry in Poland. Numerous actions and events was realized. Most important were following events:

- IEEE Poland Section was honorary co-sponsor of conference "BIG DATA for BIG IMPACT" (around 200 participants) organized by Association of Polish Electrical Engineers (SEP) in Polish Parliament under umbrella of Marshal of the Parliament. It was prestigious event recognized in whole engineering society and media;
- IEEE Poland Section was honorary sponsor of huge IT Future Expo organized in National Stadium in Warsaw;
- IEEE Poland Section was honorary sponsor of European Rover Challenge;
- IEEE Thesis Contests with INTEL cooperation for students on AGH (Krakow), PWSZ (Elblag), PW (Warsaw).
- IEEE Poland Section organize with Industrial sponsors Students&YP Meet-Up in Elblag

Next planned IEEE Poland Section activity with industry will include:

- Joint conferences;
- New cooperation platform (Academia-Industry) for PhD and MSc thesis;
- Joint workshops; laboratories and lectures for students;

**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?**

There is only one way to attract and support future members, which is high quality technical&scientific meetings. There is also important networking of students and YP. Therefore, IEEE Poland Section has many activities, which includes:

- co-organization annually around 30 high quality scientific conferences;
- high quality scientific workshop and lectures organized by chapters;
- well supported DL Program by chapters;
- creation of new Student Branches;
- organization of YP Meet-Up;

**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?**

Recent successes are a proof of section vitality:

- 2017 Region 8 Outstanding Medium Section Award;
- 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance;
- 2018 IEEE Young Professionals Hall of Fame Award for YPs in IEEE Poland Section
- Region 8 Exemplary Student Branch Award
- 2017 Outstanding Chapter Award for C-016 Computers (Poland Section)
- 2017 Outstanding Industrial Electronics Chapter Award (Poland Section)
- High number of members elevated to Senior Member

IEEE Poland Section going to continue section vitality by high quality technical and scientific activity as well as networking of young members.

**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?**

Authorities of Region 8 should give first inspiration to start collaboration Europe/Africa by special programs e.g.:

- Sister sections program (two or more sections from Europe and Africa will create sister sections to support each other),
- DL program under umbrella of R8, where DL speakers from Europe can visit African Section and opposite,
- Short visit (scholarship) of MSc/PhD students from Africa in European Scientific Institution (visit paid by R8)

**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?**

The existence of office did not influence Poland Section up to now. However, it can helps in some issues:

- legal assistance in case of multi-country IEEE activity,
- financial issues of R8 should be in Vienna office (e.g. account, treasurer assistance etc.),

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

Final preparation stage of IEEE Milestone for Czochralski as a common initiative of Poland and Germany IEEE Sections

## Portugal Section

José Pedro Silva

**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?**

Since the last meeting we've signed the first Industry MoU in Portugal, with Bosch Portugal. This agreement provides Bosch with the opportunity to be present in all IEEE Portugal events (both Student and Chapter events). This provides an incredible technical and recruitment cooperation for both entities. We hope to create more of these partnerships in the future.

**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?**

Since the last meeting I've signed an agreement with CP - Comboios de Portugal (public Portuguese trains company) that provides a 15% discount to all IEEE members. We believe this kind of discounts help us recruit new 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?**

We are also organizing the first Portuguese Chapter's Summit, a all-day event with all Chapter Chairs, to talk about common topics many times asked by these members: How to organized a conference with IEEE, What is the mandatory reporting, What funding opportunities are there, ...

Besides this, we continue with our regular activities, with Engineering Day (<https://engineeringday.ieee-pt.org>) and Leadership Camp happening in the following two weeks.

Finding available volunteers is becoming our main problem at this time. Keeping our current level of activities demands a high number of available volunteers.

**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?**

As stated in the last report we believe Portugal could play a major role for IEEE in Africa, due to our colonial past in the continent. I've manage to sum-up some ideas in the last report, if you can we can follow-up on them.

**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?**

No noticeable changes so far.

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

Chapter's Summit 2018 Engineering Day 2018 (<https://engineeringday.ieee-pt.org>) SYP 2018 (<http://syp.ieee-pt.org>) Leadership Camp 2018 - Leiria

## **Qatar Section**

**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) Activities/Programs/Initiative to Foster Industry Relations: ? Need to have more International Industry Exposure ? Communication between the Industry Relation officers of various section can help in sharing experiences. 2) Changes required by IEEE to Improve Industry Relations: ? More IEEE funding to encourage meetings with Industry People at initial stages 3) Major Successes in terms of Industry Relations: ? So far only assigning Industry Relation Officer for the section 4) Steps to foster further Industry Relations: ? Arranging Technical Workshops, Seminars for the Members from Industry (based on their feedback)

**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) Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to support Students and Young Professionals ? Technical Seminars and Field trips focusing the Student Members, exposing them to the Work environment and opportunities to work there in the future ? Encourage and funding them for next SYP Congress 2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better support Students and Young Professionals ? Subsidies for conferences and broadcasting it so that students members are aware of it 3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young professionals ? Increase in the numbers of student members ? Winner of the ?Best Student Branch? in the GCC Student Congress ? Tasks to support the Students and Young Professionals ? Conducting regular meetings with them ? Informing them regarding the technical seminars and Field Trips ? Student Branches aiming for more awards in the region 4) Things to do to continue Supporting Students and Young Professionals ? More workshops on the benefits of joining IEEE ? More Examples of success stories of Student and Young Professionals ? Allocate fund for the SYP Congress

**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) Activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section
  - International Conferences in the region
- 2) Changes required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability
  - Provide Support and opportunity for hosting international conferences
- 3) Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality
  - Student Branches are winners in various Student Congresses
  - Received Recognition Award from Membership Development office for meeting goals regarding retention
  - Formation of the IEEE Legal Entity in Qatar
  - Student Branches are involved in meetings
  - Initiatives to have more Affinity Groups
- 4) Tasks to Foster the Section Vitality
  - Communicate with all the Officers in the Qatar Section
  - Hold Elections or nominate officers for vacant positions
  - Conducting Seminars/Technical Talks
  - Organizing International conferences in Qatar

**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) Recommendations:
  - Student Congress in Africa
  - Motivate more students from Student Branches to apply for the IEEE SYP congress
  - Noting down all the recommendations and discussing during the IEEE Region 8 Meeting
- 2) Support from Qatar Section
  - Send some students in the Student Congress in Africa to share their experiences with them.

**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?**

Invite students from Qatar Section to visit the office and get motivated to be more active in IEEE Excom from all the sections in Region 8 to have annual meeting in the IEEE office and share experiences among each other.

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

None

**Republic of Macedonia Section****Pero Latkoski**

**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?**

Since the end of 2017, our section has a problem with a lower number of members in general and especially with members coming from industry. The industry membership is around 10% of the total members, leaving the other 90% with academia background. In order to foster the industry relations, we are still looking for a suitable industry relation ambassador who has an industry involvement at the moment and who will hopefully find a practical means to get the Section closer to our humble industry. We have already asked and received a membership development kit from the IEEE central. The very first effort will be to determine the actual needs of the colleagues from the industry, and to identify their benefits in joining and actively participating the IEEE society. Then our plan is to organize meetings with the industry managers and higher level industrial executives to present the IEEE benefits and to recruit more members and volunteers among them.

**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?**

We have appointed a new MD officer who will give a special attention to the student membership recruitment and retention by informing targeted students about the IEEE and by providing instructions and practical help for the students so they can easily pay the membership fee in our local currency. Related to this, recently an initiative has started to form new SSCS student brunch. The Young Professionals are very active in our Section, organizing several activities per year. The Section supports all these events. Our Facebook page is continuously updated with the forthcoming events and all interested colleagues are invited to join regardless they are member or not yet. Almost 1000 people follow our posts about Section activities. Finally, we have also appointed a Life Member Coordinator and an Education Activities officer who will help in our goals to attract and support our future 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?**

At the end of 2017, we have successfully organized elections in all our units (by using vTools), so our Section met 2018 with all level officers newly elected or reelected. At the beginning of 2018 there was a joint meeting between the past and new officers, so proper transfer of obligations was achieved. We have updated all necessary information at the Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia. We are continuing with regular ExCom meetings where all the activities are planned. Section Facebook page is regularly updated with information about our efforts and activities. In order to achieve an increase in the visibility of our Section among the general public and in particular to foster the importance of our IEEE members' achievements, we have proposed an IEEE milestone named as 'First control of a robot using brain signals', an event that has happened in 1988 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Skopje.

**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?**

Maybe the IEEE R8 could organize and sponsor selected members and volunteers from Africa to visit and participate some of the IEEE events organized in Europe (e.g. flagship R8 conferences). Also bringing some R8 events to Africa could foster IEEE in Africa, as more members from there can participate the events without significant travel expenses.

**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?**

So far we didn't have any contact with the Vienna office. We expect that they can serve as a more accessible liaison to support us in the communication with the appropriate IEEE staff members and in getting more timely support when needed. For example, many of our valuable volunteers upgraded to Senior member level, are waiting for their plaques for years.

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

Our COMSOC chapter has been selected winner of this year's Communications Society Chapter Achievement Awards. Winning COMSOC chapters are selected by Regional Directors and the Membership Services Director and will receive a plaque and honorarium (\$1,000). On the other hand, our Section has once again supported the biggest student event in the area of robotics called RoboMac which will occur in early 2019 and will be organized by the student branch. We have successfully applied for a US Embassy sponsorship (\$3,000) for this international competition for robotics and artificial intelligence. The vision of this event is to popularize robotics among students and young people in the region.

## Romania Section

Mircea Eremia

**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?**

Invited presentations of distinguished lecturers are hosted by various companies. Also, companies are invited to attend such lectures hosted by universities. Companies are involved in organizing conferences together with universities. The IEEE PES Romania Chapter proposes, on yearly basis, engineers from industry to be awarded the Outstanding Engineer Award. The Section helps engineers from industry to elevate to Senior Member. Engineers from industry are invited to universities to share their professional experience. The most active chapters are CS, EMB, PES, and MAG. Extensive participation of IEEE members into IEEE Standards Association and other standardization bodies (IEC, CEN-CENELEC, ASRO), which is usually attained through a strong collaboration with industrial representatives in these bodies. Most active: IEEE-PES and IEEE IMS. Intensive courses for local national and international companies have started to be organized and are well attended.

**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 to encourage the future engineers to become IEEE members, the IEEE Romania Section pays the membership fee for the first-year membership for students proposed by chapters.
- Various student competitions and summer schools are organized by Chapters
- We believe that access for free to IEEE Xplore for students will help IEEE to reach its goals. Most of the students cannot afford to pay for having access to IEEE publications, but their access will help the science. IEEE will have no financial loss from this.
- Representatives of the Section participate to various conferences held in Romania to present the benefits of being an IEEE member.
- The Section supports financially (awards) all IEEE student competitions organized by the Romanian chapters (SSC, ED, EMB, CS)

However, in Romania getting a job in electrical engineering is not a strong reason to become an IEEE member. This is because there is a good jobs market, while there are many non-profit organizations (where membership is not based on a membership fee) that are very active in creating a link between students and industry. The industry is awarding lots of scholarships to undergraduate students.

**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?**

- The number of members of the IEEE Romania section was steady in the last years. However, the number of young professional members has increased thus replacing the retired members.
- The IEEE Romania Section contains 24 Chapters and 2 Affinity Groups. Many of our chapters (CS, PES, IAS, ES, and MAGS) are very active and organize various activities in the spirit of IEEE. Examples of activities are conferences, one-day workshops, invited speakers, student competitions, promotional activities, and others.
- A Women in Engineering Affinity Group was created in 2016. Unfortunately, the number of WIE is very small, despite the high number of women in the IEEE Romania section.
- The Young Professional affinity group was created in 2017.
- The Section encourages members to apply for Senior Member and Fellow.
- Conferences and technical events are good practices to keep the members active within the IEEE. The Section promotes IEEE and the Section's activities during the opening ceremonies organized in Romania. On the other hand, rules have been introduced to increase the quality of the conferences.

**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?**

No answer at this time.

**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?**

Still not very clear how this office can support our Section. However, we expect a support in dealing with local rules when organizing conferences financially co-sponsored by IEEE Romania.

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

Two Chapters were created in Romania in 2018, i.e. Robotics and Automation Society and Antennas and Propagation Society and Council on RFID Joint Chapter.

## Russia Section

Sergey Bankov

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in Russia Section to foster Industry Relations: close cooperation with national professional societies: Popov's radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch; regular meetings with representatives of national industry; Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations: collective IEEE membership for small teams, system of regular meetings, seminars and conferences with participation of Russian companies etc. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations: Regular all Russia conference supported by AP, LEOS and MTT chapters (Moscow, November 2018). We are going to continue to foster Industry Relations increasing relations with 'new' electrical, electronic and IT industry of Russia.

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members: regular information distributed via Internet about advantages of IEEE membership. Required changes: more active promotion of IEEE in student and young professional community. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Students and Young Professionals: no remarkable events. Future plans: We are planning to arrange together with IEEE Russia North-West Section conference for students and young professionals. We are going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals: establishing of new IEEE student branches in universities.

**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?**

Activities/programs/initiatives work: close cooperation with national professional societies: Popova's radio engineering and communication society, National academy of electrical science, National academy of cosmonautics, Russia URSI branch; regular meetings with representatives of national industry; Changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability: collective IEEE membership for small teams, regular publishing in IEEE Russia section web site information about events and activity in Russia section. Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality: see above. Future plans: elections of Section treasurer, regular meetings with national professional societies, administrative meetings, meetings with student chapters.

**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?**

Recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa: arrange regular African conferences sponsored by IEEE; arrange regular African administrative meetings for IEEE officers; apply mass media (TV, newspapers, Internet, social networks etc.) for IEEE promotion.

**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?**

This subject requires more time to get experience in interaction with new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria.

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

Russia section was awarded by a special honorary badge for an outstanding achievement in the 2018 membership year.

**Russia (North West) Section**

No report filed at time of printing.

**Mikhail Shestopalov**

## Russia (Siberia) Section

Alexander Markhasin

**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) Organizing exhibitions and special sections at conferences that are supported by our Section.
- 2) Inviting practicing engineers to our meetings for better understanding industrial needs.
- 3) What we need is recruiting new members in industrial enterprises.

**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?**

We work well in recruiting new members in scientific institutes and universities. Members of IEEE have discounts at our conferences. Now we try initiate some projects for young professionals and students, mainly in IT and robotics. As a result, our section once again have received "Gold Award Recognition of achievements recruitment and retention goals for 2018" (letter from Elyn Perez, dated 25.09.2018) .

**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?**

As usual, we continue regular seminars and organize conferences. This year we have organized new student group in Ekaterinburg and are trying organize joint seminars for students from different cities of Siberia, but have difficulties with finding sponsors. Gathering members of our Section in one place require some significant amount of money, so we mainly contact by Skype.

**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 have similar problems in Africa and Siberia: a large area, poor infrastructure in sparsely populated regions, problems with telecommunications. Thus, we can exchange our experiences to mutual benefit.

**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?**

To be honest, we are too far from Vienna and do not feel any influence from the existence of this office ...

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

Nothing new outstanding, just routine work.

## Saudi Arabia (East) Section

Muhammad Almuhamaini

**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) Inviting industry representatives to IEEE meetings.
- 2) Visiting industrial organizations and promoting IEEE.
- 3) Collaborating with industry in organizing technical seminars.
- 4) Contacting industrial organizations to sponsor technical dinner meetings.

**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) Officers visiting the Universities and introducing IEEE benefits.
- 2) Financial Support to hold competitions and technical forums within Universities.
- 3) Several events were sponsored at different student branches around the kingdom.
- 4) A Student Coordinator was appointed to coordinate activities of various student branches within the Kingdom.

**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) Email contacts with the members
- 2) Sending survey to request feedback from members and suggest future events.
- 3) Organizing technical meetings with free attendance for Members.
- 4) Holding more contact meetings with members.
- 5) Activating the social media accounts such as Twitter and Linkdin

**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 are willing to collaborate with other sections in Africa to organize events and competitions.

**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?**

Legal support

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

Several new events and initiatives were introduced in the section. Social events are organized for both WIE and YPs. The social media accounts are active for all members.

## Saudi Arabia (West) Section

**Hafidh AlSamarrai**

**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?**

The section's efforts towards industry relations has been rather limited due to the main constraints in our section which is the legal status of the section, i.e. the section is not officially registered in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are working with the HQ to register the section, but this process is taking very long time.

**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?**

Conducting activities in the form of meetings, seminars, workshops, competitions, etc. are the main a tractors. We have done some and it is not easy to do more because of the same reason stated before.

**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?**

Officially registering the section in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**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 would be very happy to cooperate with Gloria and all the sections in Africa in conducting joint activities.

**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?**

We are very much interested and willing to work the the IEEE office in Vienna to officially register our section the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our guess is that the best route to take is to register IEEE as a foreign investor. I had already provided a work plan on how to go about activities if we achieve a foreign investor registration for the section.

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

We have been working closely with SIGHT to provide support to refugees in the region. We are also working to organize a TISP program."

**Serbia & Montenegro Section****Vera Markovic**

**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 to 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.

## Slovenia Section

Andrej Trost

**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?**

Slovenia section maintains relations with local industry by inviting the representatives from industry to IEEE conferences and meeting with distinguished lecturers. The research oriented companies were invited to present their work in our annual conference ERK where they can meet with many researchers from our universities. The local student branch participated together with Croatia and Serbia student branches in the PLC+ challenge event supported by Siemens.

**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?**

We will continue to support future members with specific activities and challenges for students and young professionals. Each year we get excellent student papers on IEEE student competition at our local conference and we send best papers from both student branches to R8 SPC which is a good motivation for a students to begin with IEEE membership. Our section has a mature membersheep among long time 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?**

Slovenia section has excellent retention rate and in 2018 received recognition from IEEE for meeting the retention goal. We sent representatives to SYP congress in Porto which provides excellent international experience to our young members. We will continue to support young members through specific local events offering the networking and lectures from recognized researchers in the field of electrical engineering and computer science.

**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 recommend the IEEE to further support scientific events and conferences in Africa and provide grants for visiting distinguished lecturers. We are a small section with limited financial ability to join and support distant events. The IEEE could establish research contact and cooperation using advanced communication resources.

**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?**

The Vienna office should be used to promote IEEE activities in EU and provide local sections with contacts and legal support for their activities.

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

We established new WIE affinity group.

## South Africa Section

Albert Lysko

**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 executed nine Senior Membership Development Workshops in May 2018 and continue to nominate industry leaders to SMIEEE, as a way of attracting their attention to IEEE, and promoting support to payment of IEEE membership fees and IEEE activities at all levels.
- What seems to work well is visiting industry with something useful for them, e.g. a DL whom is a specialist in the field of the company being visited.
- Conferences and IEEE lectures by DLP/DVP, when addressing topics of interest to the industry, seem to foster Industry relations - the industry comes and this opens a dialogue with them.
- Some of the student branches were able to organise Lunch and Learn sessions with some people from industry (the Lunch and Learn sessions are essentially lectures that we have over lunch that are more interactive)
- The activities that work well to foster industry relations have been the talks that we have organised between people of industry and students. This creates a better engagement especially for the students as a lot of the questions they may have get answered. The students also get to interact with people from industry and get to learn from this experiences. A suggestion to help improve industry relation would be to offer attachments positions to IEEE students members. Finding such positions may be difficult, but it could be possible to attempt a limited number of vac work positions that are awarded based on some kind of competition or merit process. Also if the vac work positions is a problem the IEEE can perhaps create a "job shadow week" where students can shadow people in industry.
- We signed MoU with a local society, the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers (SAIEE), which is strongly linked with local industry (especially the power industry), and promote IEEE programs with them and perform activities together. Now we are considering exploring signing MoUs with other volunteer associations in South Africa, in fields related to IEEE, as a way to promote IEEE and its activities and resources, and gain a greater momentum with the industry.
- A more active relationship could be established between Industry and the IEEE student members by by organising more talks and lectures so that students can actively and constantly interact with industry people. Also, trips to different industries could also spark interest among student members and Improve industry relations. Also a "Job shadow week" can be very helpful.
- We hope to organise a trip to one of the top industries so as to get the student members excited about whats being done in industry. We also plan on have some Lunch and Learn sessions with people from industry .

**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?**

- Regular communications and visibility provided by the IEEE events are always helpful.
- We promoted IEEE Xterme and this generated visibility and one of the universities decided to start a Student Branch
- We organized a number of IEEE Day activities (first time in South Africa) and this attracted a lot of visibility to the IEEE
- We are promoting IEEE R8 Student Paper Competition and this also helps to generate visibility and promote IEEE. This also generated initiative to set up a local paper contest.
- We held a R8 Membership Development event in Cape Town in March 2018, with participation of 30 Region 8 representatives. The attendees complimented better understanding of opportunities they have with IEEE and its resources.
- Ensuring that the local conferences have a sufficient discount for IEEE members and requesting the conferences to show text like "Join IEEE at [iee.org/join](http://iee.org/join) at USD27 for students and USD90.50 for professionals" proved to be useful to helping new members consider joining IEEE.
- Institutional membership and institutional discounts could attract many members (likely 3-5 times as many as IEEE has currently)
- With a student chapter the main aim is to get excitement around the prospect of being a student member. The events may include a welcome Braai (which can also act as a recruitment drive), Lunch and Learn sessions to help keep the club relevant. Organizing at least one trip to one of the major players in the industry is also a big benefit. UCT Student Branch regularly organizes a Hackathon competition among our members.
- When it comes to the changes required by the IEEE, the heads of the Student Chapter require more support in terms of getting contacts and people from industry to the universities. We also require a more active presence from the IEEE.
- Perhaps, introducing a direct or indirect (e.g. through announcing a winning institution) competition between universities, can help the university's staff to consider more active participation
- Last year the Student chapter at Wits university was revived. Now that the club is alive they are trying to push for recruitment to get the numbers up. However to do this the students need to see any kind of benefit of joining the club. That why the earlier suggestion was provided: if students members could get attached to various industries during the vac work or participating in a Job shadow week. Also, having friendly competitions based on engineering projects could be helpful. This would definitely create more excitement among the student members and the club as a whole.
- We are planning to start 2 new Student Branches, one at University of Western Cape (UWC) in 2018 and another one at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2019, and anticipate that these new entities will generate more activities and result in extra 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?**

- We grew by 5.2%, with respect to the comparable period in the last year. This was despite not having the R8 flagship conference Africon held in South Africa (as compared to 2017), and despite having 2 less conferences.
- We have supported 10+ conferences held in South Africa in 2017 and have strengthened support to the conferences and see the consistent increase in membership.
- The young professionals feel a sense of belonging to an IEEE Society if their achievements are celebrated and acknowledged. Society's sustainability is based on its members. We are encouraging the above.
- In March 2018, we ran a R8 Membership Development (MD) workshop in Cape Town. The workshop was well attended (30 attendees) and resulted in improved understanding of what resources are available and how to use them.
- In May 2018, we ran nine Senior Membership Development workshop. As a part of the process, we have identified around 40 References, around 40 applicants etc. The workshops helped to highlight the value of IEEE, its membership and promote membership loyalty and sustainability among the leaders of academia and industry.
- We have nominated active volunteers to various MGA positions.
- We are working on setting up the "IEEE - SAIEEE South African Distinguished Lecturer" initiative to support good local speakers and to improve developing a pipeline of South African Distinguished Lecturers.
- For Student Branches, the Lunch and Learn sessions are important, the possibility of getting attachments to various industries for vac work or having a job shadow week with people industry, The friendly competitions based on engineering projects would also keep people interested in the Student branch.
- More active IEEE presence helps the students see the importance of being members.
- We have identified a challenge experienced by many members in paying their membership dues. Most student members do not have credit cards and have to rely on student branches to collect money. The staff at universities often experiences problems with being able to pay their membership fees from their research funds due to bureaucratic processes, which sometimes lead to the members not being able to fully recover the money paid for the membership. This was brought to the attention of IEEE but no response was received as yet.
- It would be great to be able to receive the lists of new successful Senior membership applications, as a way to promote them in the local community.
- In terms of administrating a Section, it would be great to be able to automate sending emails to specific groups of people and on specific events (e.g. to all Student Branches, reminders to submit/file a report for an event, email inviting people to participate in an event like IEEE Day, reminders to do things, as per the calendar for a Section). It would be great if IEEE could offer several templates for each activity.
- We are planning to start 2 new Student Branches, one at University of Western Cape (UWC) in 2018 and another one at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in 2019, and anticipate that these new entities will generate more activities and result in extra members
- We have started a new Chapter (VTS)
- We plan to start another new Chapter, based on the IEEE NPSS (which already has enough members)

**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 have actively supported establishing IEEE Africa Council incl. actively participated in drafting the bylaws.
- For the IEEE African Council, we are proposing to establish an IEEE African Council Distinguished Lecturer (DL) and Distinguished Speaker programmes, which would simplify bringing good researchers and lecturers between and within African countries, and thus helping to improve the quality of education whilst preparing these lecturers for DL roles in IEEE Societies.
- We organized and hosted the IEEE R8 Membership Development workshop (MDW) at the Hotel Verde in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2018, as a part of supporting one of IEEE's priorities, i.e. developing IEEE in Africa. The MDW was well attended (30 attendees) and well received, with attendees complimenting the learning they received about the opportunities and resources offered by IEEE.
- In supporting continuous development of IEEE in Africa, we have also applied to host IEEE Sections Congress and IEEE Convene and have approached R8 and relevant parties. These events will help to highlight the IEEE activities to local volunteers and to train local African members/volunteers.
- We will continue to working hard to bring some of IEEE R8 meetings to Africa, as this will help to show IEEE and R8 what the problems in Africa really look like and will also assist with promoting IEEE and training local volunteers.
- We have promoted cooperation between South African and Botswana Sections in the inaugural event for IEEE Botswana Section in Gaborone, Botswana.
- We have identified a challenge experienced by many members in paying their membership dues. The student members do not have credit cards and have to rely on student branches collecting money. The staff at universities often experiences problems with being able to pay their membership fees from their research funds due to bureaucratic processes, which sometimes lead to the members not being able to fully recover the money paid for the membership. This was brought to the attention of IEEE but no response was received as yet.
- If the hand of the IEEE can be seen in the student's projects, this would generate more interest

**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?**

- We would like a strong consideration to bringing IEEE R8 meeting to Africa, at least once every 8-10 years.
- Assistance with promoting African partners for EU projects would be much appreciated.

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- We executed nine Senior Membership Development Workshops in May 2018 and continue to nominate industry leaders to SMIEEE, as a way of attracting their attention to IEEE, and promoting support to payment of IEEE membership fees and IEEE activities at all levels.
- We organized and hosted the IEEE R8 Membership Development workshop (MDW) at the Hotel Verde in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2018, as a part of supporting one of IEEE's priorities, i.e. developing IEEE in Africa. The MDW was well attended (30 attendees) and well received, with attendees complimenting the learning they received about the opportunities and resources offered by IEEE.
- We are in process of setting up a new initiative "IEEE - SAIEE South African Distinguished Lecturer" to allow good local lecturers to share their knowledge with colleagues and students away from their normal employment, within South Africa.
- For the IEEE African Council, we are proposing to establish an IEEE African Council Distinguished Lecturer (DL) and Distinguished Speaker programmes, which would simplify bringing good researchers and lecturers between and within African countries, and thus helping to improve the quality of education whilst preparing these lecturers for DL roles in IEEE Societies.

## Spain Section

**Jesus Fraile-Ardanuy**

**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?**

q1) Be in touch with young professionals (YP) and IEEE Spain members who work in Industry. q2) Having some staff (not only volunteers) to be able to manage ordinary work to maintain relations with industry members. q3) We have signed several additional MoUs with different companies and we have helped them to find talent from our IEEE members. q4) We are participating in some entrepreneur programs in different Spanish universities and we are acting as mentors of new companies, fostering relations with them, and publishing the opportunity to obtain collaboration from IEEE members and IEEE Spain section.

**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?**

q1) Promoting activities from SB and YP, allowing them to connect with their peers and feel part of the organization. q2) More funding to promote their activities. q3) YP have been organizing several Meet up meetings in different parts of Spain, attracting new members. q4) Providing more funding and promoting their activities through our social networks (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and website)

**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?**

q1) One of the best initiatives that we are doing during the last years is the pin recognition program. During IEEE Day, our Section recognizes our members who have been with us 10, 20, 30 or 50 years, providing them according pins. Most of these members come to our meeting to collect their pins and this is an excellent opportunity to do networking and get back in touch. q2) Provide additional benefits. US members have some benefits such as discounts, insurance, etc. Most of the IEEE Spanish members were recruited in order to get access to publications, but now these publications are available for the academia members and they don't feel any additional benefit to be part of IEEE. q3) The first thing that we have done was to listen to our members. We sent a survey to all of them, asking about what activities/initiatives we could do during 2018, in order to attract them to our Section. One of the first programs that we have started was an elevation program to promote our members to Senior Members position, with good initial response. q4) Organizing professional talks in different cities of Spain, with several Chapters.

**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?**

q1) We don't have any particular recommendations q2) We promote several IEEE Activities in Africa from our Section using our social networks.

**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?**

q1) I don't have a clear idea about the activities from IEEE Office in Vienna, therefore I don't know what services they can provide. q2) The existence of this office hasn't had any influence in our Section

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We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary! We are in the final steps of a new Milestone in Spain

## Sweden Section

Samarth Deo

**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?**

Collaboration with industry works pretty well in Sweden because of the several Young Professionals working in different firms. In the recent past, we have conducted activities with Google, ABB, Vinnova and in the coming months we already have planned events with other major industries within Sweden (name can't be disclosed at this moment). We also do events which involve industry, academia and research- all three. This has been perceived very well across all domains and is a win-win for all. This can be recommended to other sections. We intend to continue this way in Sweden.

The only suggestion that I have to the region and IEEE to improve relations with industry is to offer some discounts or free IEEE spectrums to a few industry professionals, for e.g. two or five free memberships in a particular firm can help spread the word within and motivate them to involve more in 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?**

Doing activities which involve SB, WIE, YP's and other grades of member has been perceived very well in Sweden. We have done similar activities and we continue to do so. Further, we have included Young Professionals, WIE, SB chairpersons in the section board. This gives them an opportunity to voice their opinion and motivates them in bringing fresh energy into the section activities. The current chair of the section is also a Young Professional. We have also realised recognition is very important for young talent to grow further. We have nominated and won several young professional's in the section.

**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?**

We have a quarterly newsletter sent to all the IEEE members in the section. This has helped us retain many members who rather think IEEE is only about attending conferences. The section website is also updated now and is continuously appended with more information; e.g.- upcoming events, past events, awards etc. As a result, we have maintained a constant increase of membership in the section.

**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?**

I would highly recommend to keep a close collaboration with industry.

**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?**

The OU analytics tool is not user friendly at all. What every section officer might need is simple things- how many members in a student branch, how many young professionals, how many in a certain area. And this is too cumbersome to find out at the moment and needs manual refinement in excel to get the final result. It would be great if IEEE office in Vienna can help us get these results much easier.

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

Nothing new to report since Athens meeting, reason- Sweden is usually inactive during summer. A lot to happen in the coming months though.

## Switzerland Section

**Maria-Alexandra Paun**

**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/](http://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.

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

## Tunisia Section

**Habib Kammoun**

**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?**

- The following activities fostered our industry relations:
  - Co-founder of the ?IoT Tunisia? group in cooperation with well-known ICT companies in Tunisia in order to improve the technical skills of our members
  - Organizing industry tours for students to the main companies and manufactures
  - Inviting industrial engineers to the IEEE conferences
  - Signing MOU with main companies in Tunisia
- Major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations:
  - Participation to main Industry forums in Tunisia and Meetings with companies stakeholders and signing MOUs with Satoripop and Goodwill
  - The number of IEEE professional members from industry increased
  - The section?s newsletter was sent to the local companies in order to present the IEEE Tunisia section activities
- The section will continue to foster Industrial Relations by the following actions:
  - Invite companies stakeholders to the students and young professionals congress
  - Organize challenges in cooperation with industry partners
  - Sign new agreements with main companies

**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?**

- To support our members, the section organized the following activities / programs / initiatives:
  - IEEE Tunisian Students and YP congress
  - IEEE Tunisian Engineering day for students to present their projects
  - Helped students to participate in the IEEE competitions (IEEE Day, MTG, MadC, IEEEExtreme Programming, etc.)
  - Helped members to develop humanitarian projects and events
  - Helped students and YP to participate to the main IEEE events, including R8SYP, PES Student congress, and IAS annual meeting
  - Helped student branches, student chapters, and WIE student groups to organize their activities
- To better support our members, the section need more financial support
- Major successes since the last meeting: The section supported the following activities:
  - 3D Design Challenge <http://3D.cinnovent.com>
  - World Robot Olympiad WRO Tunisian Qualifications <http://wro.ieee.tn>
  - 4 International conferences (SSD, ATSIP, ASET, and MECBME)
  - IOT workshop and IOT Annual Forum and DDL Summer School and DevFest Smart Cities Hackathon and I-Protect Cyber Security workshop and open Energy Day
  - 2018 IEEE WIE International Leadership Summit (WIEILS) <http://wiels.ieee.tn>
  - Invitation of Distinguished Lecturers
  - Create 1 SB, 1 WIE student groups, 4 student chapters
- The section will continue to foster Students and Young Professionals activities by supporting:
  - Humanitarian SIGHT projects
  - Entrepreneurship and soft skills activities
  - Educational and Technical activities
  - 6th TSYP congress on 16-18 December 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 interms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?**

- The section is:
  - Ensuring prompt communications with our members by email, eNotice, IEEE Collabratec, and Facebook
  - Organizing the election of the Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chapters officers for the term of 2019-2020
  - Nominating members with over 10 years of professional activities to apply for senior member grade
  - Searching for new volunteers to activate some dormant chapters and helping them to organize activities
  - Attracting more members to become volunteers within IEEE
  - Continually updating the section?s website <http://www.ieee.tn>
- To improve Section vitality and sustainability, the section needs more incomes.
- The major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality are the following:
  - Signing MOU with Ministry of Education, Order of Tunisian Engineers, Association of Scientific Research and Innovation in Computer Science (ARSII), IBM Tunisian, and ICT Federation of UTICA

- Organized section's awards ceremony to recognize IEEE volunteers who have given valuable achievements
- Loyalty pins and certificates presented to members with over 20 years of memberships
- The section is trying to foster the Section Vitality by the following actions:
  - Help members to renew their memberships with local payment
  - Support the activities of the subunits
  - Encourage the initiatives of volunteers

**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?**

- Further encouragements and support from IEEE to activities in African countries not represented by sections and subsections
- Sign partnership between IEEE and main African organizations
- Help African countries to organize IEEE activities in their countries by inviting distinguished lecturers
- Tunisia section can help to organize IEEE activities in other countries in Africa
- Tunisia section organized the 1st IEEE Africa council meeting in Tunis on 28-29 June 2018

**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?**

- Help the sections to participate in European funded projects (H2020, Erasmus+, etc.)
- Help non-European IEEE members to receive visa in order to participate in IEEE activities in Europe
- Help the sections to contact European companies to find patrons for our IEEE activities

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- Organized the 10th IEEE Tunisia section Anniversary on 28 June 2018, with participation of the IEEE President, the R8 Director, the Communications Society, and several other speakers
- Organized the IEEE WIE Leadership Summit (WIELS) in Tunisia on 10-12 August 2018
- Co-Organizing the Innovations salon with the Sfax International Fair, on 26-30 October 2018
- IEEE R8 EnergyCon 2020 will be organized in Tunisia <http://www.ieee-energycon2020.org>

## Turkey Section

Murat Uysal

**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?**

In the Turkey Section, the Industry Relations Coordinator acts as a liaison between industry and the Section. The responsibilities of the Coordinator include leading fundraising activities for the Section, helping the Membership Development Coordinator increase the number of IEEE members from industry and supporting the Professional Development and Educational Activities Coordinator identify speakers/instructors from the industry. This coordinator position has been instrumental to foster industry relations. It was particularly useful to secure some sponsorship from the industry for locally organized IEEE conferences. For example, we will organize COMSOC's prestigious PIMRC conference in September 2019 at Istanbul. Turkey's largest cellular operator Turkcell became the major financial supporter of this event.

**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 the Turkey Section, the Student Activities Coordinator acts as an interface between the executive committee and student branches. This coordinator provides guidance to student branches, attends student branch meetings/congresses, and other related activities. In August 2018, we organized the second edition of Annual Senior Thesis Project competition open to IEEE Student Members. In collaboration with some industrial sponsors, we offered several prizes for the winners. Such activities aim to keep the student members engaged in our activities.

Our Section considers the Young Professionals (YP) Affinity Group as a key to continue the commitments of IEEE student volunteers after their graduation. In collaboration with YP, we recently launched Mentor ? Mentee program where students are brought together with volunteer engineers for guidance and mentorships on topics of mutual interest.

**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?**

IEEE Turkey executive committee encourages all Technical Chapter Chairs to increase their activity level by organizing short courses/seminars, workshops and conferences in their expertise areas. We further provide administrative and technical support in their activities if required. Within 2018, we became a technical sponsor for 11 international workshops and conferences organized in Turkey.

**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?**

As Turkey Section, we will be happy to support IEEE Activities in Africa. For example, we could arrange speakers for their locally organized events.

**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?**

Local presence of IEEE within Europe would be particularly useful in membership recruitment. For example, the delivery of promotional material from IEEE HQ takes several weeks. Such material can be directly shipped from Europe office. The office can also organize workshops on effective membership recruitment.

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N/A

**Ukraine Section****Ievgen Pichkalov**

**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 are planning collaboration with the Association of Industrial Automation of Ukraine. Section sent to IEEE a request for the signing of the National Society Agreement. Creation of a special technical section within the framework of the IEEE UKRCON conference and a special technical IEEE conference in the next 2 years are planned.

**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?**

We bought for our IEEE Section's members special FEDEVEL Academy PCB training courses. IEEE Ukraine Section continues to support students and establish new student branches and student branch chapters in Ukraine. We expect founded 2-3 new student branches in 2018. The first IEEE Ukraine Students, Young Professionals and Women in Engineering Congress was founded and will be organized in Kyiv, Ukraine in 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?**

Regular online ExCom meetings, planning Sections activities and special events. We planning organized more than 12 IEEE Conferences in 2018. Support students to participate in IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress 2018. We planning organized electronic elections for all IEEE Ukraine Section Chapters in 2018. Well organized team of volunteers for 2018 - 2019, continuously expanding with new blood.

**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 can share with IEEE in Africa our experience related to past and current co-operation with neighbour Sections, IEEE Societies and Region. We expect some recommendation from IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe about active IEEE volunteers and leaders from Africa. We would be pleased to invite these volunteers of the organizing committees of conferences and seminars. We would be glad to participate in IEEE events in Africa, for example, with a keynote speech at a scientific conference in corresponding field.

**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?**

Assistance with communication between IEEE and Public Union "IEEE Ukraine Section".

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We planing founded IEEE Ukraine Section Journal. We planing applied for IEEE Ukraine Section Fund.

## United Arab Emirates Section

Essa Basaeed

**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?**

Signing MoUs with industries and government organization  
Working on joint events  
Support in terms of technical expertise

**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?**

We support them to participate in global IEEE competitions  
We are also hosting YP in Space with a government entity

**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?**

Engagement of members as volunteers is essential

**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?**

It is suggested to host joint activities with IEEE Sections in Africa

**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?**

We had no clear contribution of the office in Vienna

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

IEEE UAE Partnership Program  
IEEE UAE Speaker Program

## United Kingdom and Ireland Section

Cyril Onwubiko

**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?**

Our Section has an Industry Relations Officer, and since the last meeting we have organised a number of industry related partnerships with some of the notable brands, such as ARM Holding, Rose Royce etc. in which we invited the past IEEE President Karen Bartleson. We are continuing to forge more alliances with industry and seek ways in which we can be of assistance to them.

**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?**

We have Education Affairs Committee and Chair, and through the EAC, we organise free quality webinars for our members, and this has proven a huge success. The webinars run in series against most of the topical disciplines in thematic areas, for example Cyber security, Innovation and Project and Time management have been scheduled and organised. We also have the ongoing Young Entrepreneurship programme which are organised and led for student members and Young Professional (YP) by their respective Student Activities and YP Chairs.

**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?**

We continue to provide a number of member value propositions ranging from professional registration to charter status, which may allow us to award Charter-level recognitions to our members, like those offered by the IET and IMechE.

**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?**

Our Section Vice Chair has recently kick starting SIGHT and Humanitarian activities including HAC funding opportunity which will allow the Section to assist and foster IEEE in Africa.

**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?**

We think that this new office can help us to foster industry relations, and to provide assistance around our professional registration. Although we are yet to approach Vienna, however, we are hoping to invite them to one of our online ExCom meetings this year.

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

The unveiling of the IEEE History Milestone Plaque 'Evolution of Television from Baird to the Digital Age' on 26 January 2017 by the past IEEE President Karen Bartleson. Also, held another Milestone event on the 5th April 2018 for the Unveiling of an IEEE Milestone Plaque to celebrate historic achievements in electro-technology and to recognise the research of Walter Spear and Peter LeComber at the Dundee, Scotland, UK. We have 4 outstanding IEEE Milestone Events in the coming year or so.

The Section will host the IEEE Flagship conference, HISTELCON 2019 at the Strathclyde University, Glasgow, Scotland, UK on September 18-19, 2019.

## Zambia Section

Simon Muwowo

**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?**

The activities that work well in my Section to foster Industry Relations is through Student Industrial Attachments and careers talk. To improve the industry relations, our Section needs to continue on the membership recruitment exercise with the industry and academia in order to bring the benefits arising from IEEE

**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?**

As a Section, we have formed a Student Branch at the University of Zambia and we intend to open another Student Branch at the Copperbelt University. We have also formed a PES Chapter and we are in the process of registering the Comsoc Chapter also. We have supported the Students and Young Professionals through various activities such as holding weekly meetings and the Congress held in Porto, Portugal from 25th to 29th July 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?**

Membership recruitment exercise should continue in my Section and improve on networking among the members. IEEE should guide the Section in opening up a local account to allow members pay their membership fees in local currency

**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?**

The Section supported the formation of the IEEE Africa Council and was in attendance during the meeting held in Tunisia on 29th June 2018. This development should set up an agenda for opening up of more Sections in Africa by involving potential members from other countries. IEEE Zambia Section is ready to support a sub-section in the region

**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?**

Continued support of IEEE services and collaboration in all areas

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

Growth in membership, formation of a Student Branch and PES Chapter

## V. Motions

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## Approval of Agenda

## Approval of the Elevation of the IEEE Uganda Subsection to the Uganda Section

To: IEEE Region 8 Committee

From: Margaretha Eriksson, Region 8 Director

Subject: IEEE Uganda Section formation

Executive Summary

MGA received a petition to form the IEEE Uganda Section initiated by Herbert Lwanga. The petition has the required amount of qualified signatures.

The boundaries of the Section correspond to the boundaries of the country of Uganda (see map).

The Uganda Subsection formation, with Region 8 as its parent, took place at the MGA Board in November 2015. At the end of 2015 there were 55 members in the Uganda Subsection.

Till the end of August 2018 Uganda Subsection membership increased to 145 members (3 Senior Members, 1 Life Member, 78 Members, 2 Associated Members, 8 GSMs and 53 Student Members).

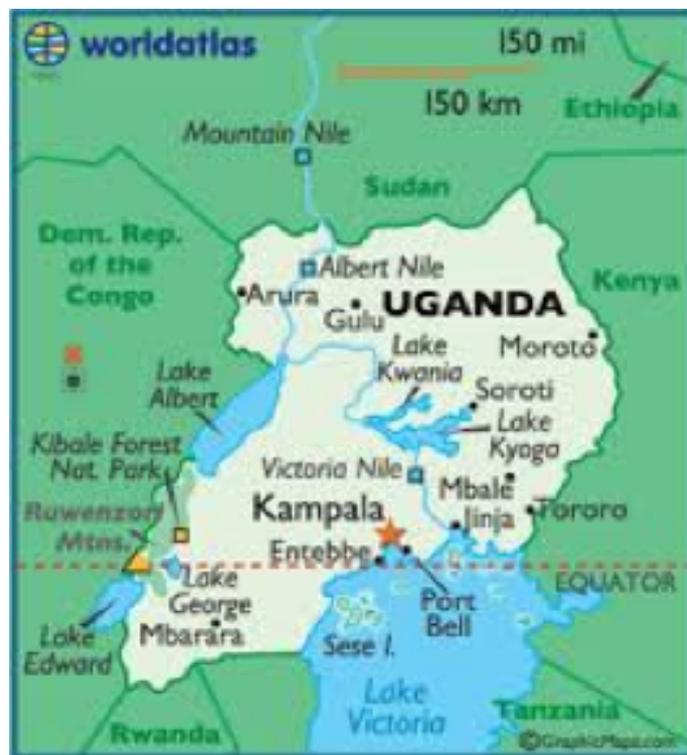
IEEE members in Uganda have been active in increasing IEEE membership in their country and are already active in organizing meetings in cooperation with local industry and universities. Seven meetings have been reported in 2017.

They started the formation of the Young Professionals Affinity Group.

Owing to the significant increase of student membership there are good chances for student branches formation.

Region 8 Committee is asked to approve/endorse the formation of the Uganda Section.

Implementation: The IEEE Uganda Section will be formed upon MGA Board action in November 2018.



## Corrections to the Region 8 Operations Manual

To: IEEE Region 8 Committee  
From: Costas Stasopoulos, Region 8 Past-Director  
Subject: IEEE Region 8 Operation Manual adaptation  
Executive Summary

Following the changes that we have approved for the IEEE Region 8 Bylaws and Operation Manual at our meeting in Athens last March, there two additional changes in the operations manual to be done in order to have everything UpToDate and fully functional.

I am sending you attached the IEEE Region 8 bylaws as they were approved in Athens for your reference and the IEEE Region Operations Manual with two changes as indicated in red color.

These changes will be examined during our Region 8 meeting in Belgrade and voted by the Region 8 Committee. The approval of the Region 8 committee with a simple majority is needed for any changes in the Operations Manual.

In summary here are the two changes in the Operation Manual:

The existing (wrong!) formulation in our Operations Manual (paragraph R8-8.1 Subsections) is "Forming a Subsection under Region control does place an obligation on the Region to provide some financial support to the Subsection, because a Subsection does not receive a financial rebate from IEEE."

Since a Subsection receives a financial rebate from IEEE via Region (as its parent), we suggest the following formulation:  
"Forming a Subsection under Region control, does place the obligation on the Region to forward the rebate received for the Subsection if it fulfills the meeting activity and compliance with financial and officer reporting requirements."

As you remember during the Athens meeting we have approved to remove the Fellow grade requirement for the chair of the Awards and Recognition Subcommittee. It was nevertheless recommend to us by the Region 8 committee to proceed and make a change and add that the Chair of this subcommittee should hold the grade of a Senior Member. "The Region 8 Awards & Recognition Subcommittee is appointed by the Past Director from recommendations by the Region 8 OpCom as well as recommendations by the Region 8 N&A Subcommittee ,with the provision that the Chair has to be at least of Senior grade. Normally the Past Director is recommended to take the position of Chair of this subcommittee"

Region 8 Committee is asked to approve the changes to the operations manual as stated below:

- 1) The existing (wrong!) formulation in our Operations Manual (paragraph R8-8.1 Subsections) is "Forming a Subsection under Region control does place an obligation on the Region to provide some financial support to the Subsection, because a Subsection does not receive a financial rebate from IEEE."
- 2)
  - "Forming a Subsection under Region control, does place the obligation on the Region to forward the rebate received for the Subsection if it fulfills the meeting activity and compliance with financial and officer reporting requirements."
  - "The Region 8 Awards & Recognition Subcommittee is appointed by the Past Director from recommendations by the Region 8 OpCom as well as recommendations by the Region 8 N&A Subcommittee, with the provision that the Chair has to be at least of Senior grade. Normally the Past Director is recommended to take the position of Chair of this subcommittee."

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