

Benelux Section

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What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

There are a couple of things we do in the section to increase industry participation in the IEEE activities. For a start, we try to find industry partners in the Section board. We also motivate Chapters to do the same. Some Chapters in the Section are even run by volunteers from industry. In the upcoming year we will organize a special event to bridge the gap between industry and academia ... "IEEE Benelux - Industry meets Academia 2019". Provisional data is in June 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?

In the Benelux we are addressing the future IEEE members in the Student Branches at the various Universities. This is working very well. In most universities the Student Branches are very vibrant. In case this is not the case (this was for instance the situation in one of the Dutch Universities) we actively approach active members and stimulate them to start up a meeting to engage students (MSc PhD students) to setup a Student Branch. In this particular situation this was successful. The Section is supporting the Student Branches financially and content wise as well. In the Benelux the number of members is increasing.

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 vitality in the Section, Chapters, Student Branches is one-on-one related to the number and quality of the activities (to our opinion). Stimulating to organize local activities like conferences, network opportunities, cross-chapter activities etc, is one of the actions of the Section. In our ExCOMs we invite the Chapters explicitly, let them present their activities and help them wherever we can. Of course, some Chapters are more vibrant than others, but in general we are very pleased with the local activities in the Benelux.

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities in Africa?

We can (and will) support it. However, no opportunities have come on the radar at this moment. Something to put on the ExCOM agenda.

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?

As a new chair of the Section, I will put this on the ExCOM agenda. We can think about support actions, but no action have been taken yet.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

This year, the Benelux session exists 60 years. Of course we will have a celebration event. This is scheduled for this summer.