

Bulgaria 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?

For many years, we have reported a not very successful collaboration with the industry. We had specially appointed section officers to encourage our relationship with the industry, we attracted several small business engineers to serve in the Chapters' committees. We invited companies to participate in our best organised events. But all this did not help us spread IEEE membership among non-academic engineering staff. This year, for the first time, we had a request from an innovative company - MatriQx Antenna Systems - for several of its employees to become members of the IEEE. We are still not aware of how this breakthrough occurs, but we will study it well and try to expand it..

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?

Over the past year, we have been trying to attract new members of the IEEE by increasing the number of organised conferences under the IEEE logo. We succeeded to organise several conferences successfully and their popularity significantly arises. We are in the process of developing of rules for the organisation of such conferences, in which we have imposed mandatory quota for the participation of IEEE members in the Program and Organising committees, significant fee reduction for the members of the IEEE. This year we look forward to summarise the results of this approach.

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, the terms of all the officers in the chapters and in the section ExCom with the exception of two chapters expired. We tried to organise new elections, but we managed to do it only partially. We already have newly elected Section ExCom and leaders of one of the Chapters. There are several Chapters with illegitimate Chairs, which will make it harder to work with them. We would like to finish elections in the Chapters before our annual meeting in April. We continue our efforts for the membership renewal and membership fees collection for more than half of our members. This is an good activity to drive the vitality and sustainability in the Section.

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

Africa is the fastest growing and developing continent, and I believe that the role of IEEE will grow there faster than in other countries in Region 8. However, serious barriers are the existing political instability. Despite these harsh conditions, I believe that the colleagues from African countries are doing fine. If they need from some support I'm ready to help 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?

I exchanged some thoughts with an officer from the Vienna IEEE office for joint activities, but we did not succeed to organise such joint events.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

- In the past year, our focus was on organising conferences under the IEEE logo. This year we will try to apply rules in this activity in order to increase the membership. We will continue to stimulate organisers to apply for IEEE Registration and we help them in the preparation of the applications and the Memorandums of Understanding.
- Bulgaria Section has along tradition in maintaining good relations with the local National Science & Technology Societies. The 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 have been regularly signed. This year the term of Agreements expires. We are preparing new ones and will initiate procedure to sign them.