

## Croatia 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?**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**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 which work well include:

- The annual Croatian Student and Young Professionals Congress (CroSYP), hosted in a different city every year. The 2018 event took place in Osijek, Croatia, from 9th to 11th November 2018. The congress was organized by the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek Student Branch with the support from both Croatia Section and Young Professionals AG. CroSYP events encourage networking among student members, and provide a great venue for the exchange of best practices and ideas. This event is also attended by industry representatives who, through their professional lectures and workshops, promote their companies and employment opportunities. It has also proven to be a great opportunity for team building, which enables smooth transition from SM to GSM (and YP) status for volunteers and motivates them for further work in their student branches.
- IEEE Day celebration and promotion, which was organized by the student branches of universities in Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka.
- Participation in IEEEExtreme 12.0 programming competition.
- In the next period we are planning to organize following events:
  - IEEE Promotional activities by student branches during March 2019 at the start of the summer semester. The goal of these promotional activities is to motivate existing student members to continue their membership and attract new members.
  - IEEE TOPWeek (Technical Opportunities Week), which will be co-organized by IAS chapter, PES chapter and YP AG in cooperation with local university, innovation center and alumni organization.
  - IEEE Step lecture will be organized by YP AG.

**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/coordinators as well as the vitality of our chapters, affinity groups and student branches. We ensure timely annual reporting of officers, meetings and finances to be eligible for the bonus. The activities / programs / initiatives that work well include:

- Organizing and technically cosponsoring meetings, workshops and conferences in the Section;
- Cooperation of students and young professionals, and among organizational units within the Section;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs;
- Section awards;
- Section annual meeting/dinner.

From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for 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 ? membership is increasing (762 at the end of 2018, compared to 721 at the end of 2017);
- Member retention and recruitment ? we have excellent track record in both retention (98.6 % goal achieved) and recruitment (147.6 % goal achieved);
- Recruitment and training of new volunteers;
- Inviting Distinguished Lecturers;
- Local IEEE Senior Member initiatives based on personal invitations to outstanding members to be nominated by the Section.

**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 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.
- 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:

- Josip Balen received the MGA Larry K. Wilson Transnational Award for pioneering, championing, and leading IEEEemadC, a global project with transnational impact.
- A team led by Tomislav Jagust, won the IEEE Region 8 Educational Activities Acceleration Program 2018 competition in Pre-University Education category.
- Danijel Topic received the IEEE PES Outstanding Volunteer Award.
- University of Zagreb PES SB Chapter has won the IEEE PES High Performing Student Branch Chapter Award.
- Our Section received the 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance Award.