

Germany 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?

Our IEEE Society chapters are organizing their regular chapter meetings together with industrial companies in Germany. Usually, the industrial host participates actively in the technical programs of these chapter meetings and often provides a factory or lab tour. Furthermore, in Germany we have the very comfortable situation that academia and industry are working very close on solving research challenges and participate actively in joint development projects. This leads to a vital exchange of ideas and further close connections between industry, academia and members of the IEEE Germany Section.

The main work on industry relations between the IEEE Germany Section and Industry is performed within the chapters.

However, in the case of some other planned events on the Section level, like IEEE Milestone presentations, the IEEE Germany Section is actively contacting industrial companies to request their support and active participation.

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?

Within the IEEE Germany Section we have very active IEEE student branches and IEEE society chapters. These are the main actors for attracting future members. Also the colleagues in academia are the main sources for recruiting new IEEE members.

Our IEEE Germany Section ExCom meets regularly twice a year. During these meetings all chairs of the chapters and student branches are invited to participate and to share their experience and knowledge. Especially, the students, young professionals and WIE volunteers present their ideas for future activities and are in most cases financially supported to realize their activities.

In Germany we have the a very strong national association of electrical engineers (VDE) which is very active on a local level. At nearly every university, where technical sciences can be studied, VDE has active student groups. Getting closer to these VDE student groups could be an opportunity to attract future members for IEEE. One of the most important arguments to attract young members is the networking opportunity not only on a local and national level, but on an international level with 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?

To support the section vitality the most effective and sustainable tasks are the regular chapter meetings and the regular ExCom meetings of the IEEE Germany Section. During these meetings all participants get to know each other very well and, furthermore, can brainstorm about future activities. The ExCom also expects regular reports on each chapter's activities. The chapter chairs are invited to hold a presentation about their chapter's meetings and other activities. Reporting at the ExCom meetings is mandatory, if the chapters or student branches request for financial support of their future activities.

To support and supervise these chapter activities we have an officer in the ExCom, who is responsible for the chapter coordination.

At the moment we try to register the IEEE Germany Section as a legal entity according to German law. We started this process round about one year ago. To be active, the student branches and chapter need bank accounts, but to open and to manage these accounts is quite difficult, especially, when the officers change after elections. We are working together with the IEEE Headquarters to solve this issue pragmatically.

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?

Each IEEE Section in Africa should try to find a sister Section in other parts of IEEE R8. The sister Section could provide some insights in the best practices of successfully running a chapter. But, in any case, it is necessary to check for applicability of these best practices, because it is not for sure that practices which work very well in one section, automatically will work in another section. It depends strongly on the local circumstances and culture.

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?

Honestly speaking, the IEEE office in Vienna is in some kind unnecessary. If there is a problem which the Section faces, this office provides only some contacts inside the IEEE Headquarters. The IEEE Vienna office hasn't influenced in any way our daily Section leadership business.

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. At the moment we are planning the milestone ceremony at three different locations within Poland and Germany for September 2019.

Another IEEE Milestones for the invention of the radar in 1904 by Christian Hlsmeyer is in preparation. This proposal is still awaiting the IEEE History Committee action.