

Croatia Section

Maja Matijasevic

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help your Section in your industry-related activities?

- As reported previously, our section has a relatively low number/percentage of IEEE members from industry. We will continue working towards better 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.
- Our SIA, Dubravko Sabolic, participated in the international panel discussion organized within the scope of the 5th International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry (RTSI) in Florence, Italy, in September 2019. RTSI was technically cosponsored by several IEEE R8 sections, including Croatia Section.
- Our SIA team plans to initiate a series of events that starting in October 2019, in which notable business people, mainly from Croatian companies, will give lectures or lead short workshops for IEEE members and engineering students. We are discussing the options to introduce short workshops/bootcamps or similar events, not oriented exclusively towards academia members or scientists, where participants could obtain useful professional skills and, if applicable, relevant certificates. In such programs there would be a discounted fee for IEEE members.
- 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.

List the activities addressed to Students and/or Young Professionals and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your students and YP-related activities?

- The Student Branch at the University of Zagreb, with the support from the Section, organized an event addressed to Students and YPs, called Zagreb Energy Congress (ZEC), on April 10-13, 2019, in Zagreb, Croatia. ZEC program offered talks by industry experts and academic speakers, a visit to the "Rimac Automobili" factory, as well as rich social program and networking opportunity.
- In March 2019, IEEE membership promotion activities, using the beginning of the half-price membership period as an incentive, was organized throughout Croatia by the student branches at the Universities of Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka. New members were recruited.
- In the next six months, we are planning to organize following events:
 - IEEE Promotional activities as the new academic year starts. This includes IEEE Day events and promotions organized by all three student branches and YP AG. We expect this to increase the number of members.
 - The annual Croatian Student and Young Professionals Congress (CroSYP), hosted in a different city every year. The 2019 event, organized by the student branch of the University of Rijeka, will take place in Rijeka, Croatia, from 27th to 29th September 2019. This event will provide volunteer training and networking.
 - Young Professionals are planning to organize a YP Meet-up event, co-located with the 27th International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (SoftCOM 2019), which takes place on September 19-21, 2019, in Split, Croatia. This event will promote IEEE and potentially attract new members.
- The Region could help by improving the flow of information from the regional committees to the local level. Currently, it is difficult for us to find the relevant information on events/actions/promotions/funding that are active within IEEE. It would be better to present this information on the regional committee website, instead of relying mainly on social media.

List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your membership-related activities?

The activities carried out to retain and recruit members were linked to having a steady flow of various events (co)organized by our technical chapters, affinity groups and student branches. All events are announced on the Section's web site and promoted locally, mainly in cooperation with universities. Students and young professionals also organize events of interest (lectures, meetings, social events) and recruitment activities. As a result, the number of members is steadily increasing (660 at the end of August, compared to 613 at the end of February 2019). In the year 2018, we had excellent track record in both retention (98.6 % goal achieved) and recruitment (147.6 % goal achieved).

In the next six months, we plan to run the recruitment and training of new volunteers, and consider running a local IEEE Senior Member initiative, based on personal invitations to outstanding members to be nominated by the Section.

List the activities intended to support chapters, affinity groups, and student branches and the results obtained. List the related initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your support to chapters, affinity groups, and student branches?

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 planned in the next six months include:

- organizing and technically cosponsoring meetings, workshops and conferences in the Section;
- elections in chapters and incoming chapter chairs meeting and training;
- supporting student activities and participation of student representatives in international and local SYP events;
- Pre-University education and STEM programs, including Teacher-in-Service-Program (TISP);
- Section awards (nomination are currently open);

- Section annual meeting/dinner in November 2019.

From the Region we expect help/guidelines and workshops for volunteers to improve Section operation and vitality.