

Bulgaria Section**Kiril Alexiev**

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?

This year we resign contracts for collaboration with Bulgarian federation of technical (understand engineering) unions. We are in very close collaboration with Union of electrical engineering, Union of Automatics and Informatics and Union of Metrology. We organize 13 Conferences, part of them were with exhibition and participation from Small, medium and big enterprises. We increase the number of industrial IEEE members and now we are wider open to the industry. We have a new member of ExCom to serve especially for relationship with industry.

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?

We had some troubles with communication and activities of Students and/or Young Professionals. We did election and newly elected leaders of Young Professionals just begin to work. I hope that the situation will be changed! Earlier we had one active Student Branch. Now we have two active groups in two Universities.

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?

We have well organized groups in our Academic institutions for IEEE member recruitment. All collaboratively organized scientific events are good places to advertise IEEE membership. The participants also receives significant tax reduction if they are IEEE members. The final results of membership renewal and recruitment company is not available yet, but intermediate results are good enough and I hope the number of IEEE members in Bulgaria to be increased in 2020.

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?

- This year we organized several ExCom meetings. At these meeting we discuss all problems to be solved in organization of scientific events, membership renewal.
- We finished organization of one new Joint Chapter in town of Varna.
- This year the list of planned events includes organization of 13 IEEE conferences, etc.

Challenges (with a focus on what support is required from Region 8)

The main challenge in front of Region 8 is to continue exist in the same format (Europe, Africa, Russia, and Part of Asia) or divide it. For the last 3 years of my activity in Region 8 I already have many good friends from other continents and somehow I don't want to lose them. I deliberately write this to acquaint IEEE officers with my opinion!