

Croatia Section

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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?

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 (RTSI) in Florence, Italy, in September 2019. RTSI was technically cosponsored by several IEEE R8 sections, including Croatia Section.

Our SIA team has launched a series of events with an aim to host notable people from industry to give presentations, workshops and discussion for IEEE members and students. The first event organized in December 2019 attracted around 120 attendees, both from the academia and the industry. We plan to continue with similar events on monthly basis, starting from March 2020. The main goal is to expose the attendees to practical (non-academic) knowledge and skills from the people who reached a notable level of success in the industry.

Additionally, we are considering the options and capacity for organizing short boot camp-styled events offering a paying audience short and concentrated courses for acquiring certain practical skills in various technology-related areas, project management, business management, leadership, etc.

The Region 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 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 activities and results since the previous report include:

- YP meet-up in Split during International Conference on Software, Telecommunications and Computer Networks (Soft-COM 2019) in September promoted IEEE and YP activities;
- Annual Croatian students and young professionals (CroSYP) congress in September provided training and networking opportunities to Croatia Section student and YP volunteers;
- Annual Computer Society Congress (CSC) in December offered interesting industrial and academic talks, and provided opportunity for networking and promoting IEEE;
- IEEEExtreme and IEEEMadC promotion organized by student branches;
- IEEE membership promotion in all three student branches (Osijek, Zagreb, Rijeka) - new members were recruited.

In the next 6 months we are planning to organize following events:

- Represent YP and IEEE at MIPRO conference (May 2020);
- Support annual Zagreb Energy Conference ZEC (planned for mid-April 2020);
- Organize lectures, workshops and programming competitions;
- Networking events (meet-ups, game nights);
- Promotional activities.

YP will monitor events and help student branches gain a better reach. Main focus is to create positive environment for all YPs and attract new ones.

Region could help by sharing more information on activities in the region that could be attended, with or without financial support from IEEE.

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 have been linked to having a steady flow of various events (co)organized by our technical chapters, affinity groups and student members. All events have been 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 (748 at the end of December of 2019, compared to 660 at the end of August 2019).

In the next six months we plan to continue the recruitment and training of new volunteers. We also plan running a local 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. We also keep track that all the elections are conducted on time and within the adequate timeframe to allow the smooth transition between the past and upcoming chairs.

The prominent events that took place in the last 6 months:

- Teacher-In-Service (TISP) workshop, in November 2019;
- Section annual meeting and gala dinner, in November 2019;
- Section awards awarded in 5 categories, in November 2019.

The activities planned in the next 6 months include:

- To organize and technically cosponsor meetings, workshops and conferences in the Section;
- To organize chapter chairs' meeting and training for the newly elected chairs;
- To support student activities and participation of student representatives in local and international SYP events;
- To continue pre-university education and STEM programs, including Teacher-In-Service Program (TISP).

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

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

No particular challenges, other than suggestions noted above.