

Estonia Section

Peeter Ellervee

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?

Contacts with the national industry associations are rather good. In addition to good contacts with electronics industry, the contacts are improving also with information technology and systems engineering industries. Wider distribution of information about different events like DL visits have made members from industry more active. This helps them to feel they will too benefit from being IEEE member.

In addition to the traditional summer seminar in August we are planning to organize a section-wide seminar also in winter/spring. These seminars will bring together both industrial and academic members of the section. Presentations at the seminar are from both groups and of interest for all.

One of the industry oriented joint chapters created three years ago - IE/PEL (Industrial Electronics / Power Electronics) - has been rather active thus proving the need for such chapters.

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?

Last year, the section's traditional August seminar was organized together with an information technology doctoral school workshop with the aim to make IEEE more visible among young researchers. Considering the interest seen, the such a cooperation will be continued in coming years also with other doctoral schools.

One out of the two student branches has been rather active, the second one was not so active last year. This hopefully not a problem since their activity levels vary from year to year - caused by the continuous change of members in the branches. At Tallinn University of Technology, Industrial Electronics Society student chapter was established in 2019.

To attract student members, the Section is supporting their participation at various events. The students are also welcome to participate at Section's events. Representatives of Student Branches and Young Professionals affinity group are present at ExCom meetings. Representatives of the section participated at 3rd IEEE Nordic SYP Congress in end of October 2019. The student members participated actively also at IEEEExtreme 13.0.

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?

To address potential members, we see two ways. First, to make IEEE more visible among students who are often working already during their studies. This will also improve contacts with industry. Another way was used at our traditional summer seminar that was last year organized together with an information technology summer school where the majority of the participants were non-members. We plan to continue this practice in coming years. In addition a winter seminar/spring is planned to address potential industry members, All members are regularly informed about upcoming section events.

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?

Chapters and affinity groups organize now and then different events. It is important to spread the related information about these events to all members of the section. For this, it is important that section's ExCom is aware of these events and will help to spread the word. The traditional August seminar is a good example how members can meet and the planned winter/spring seminar will open more opportunities hopefully.

During last few years, three new chapters have been formed. Two of them, joint IE/PEL and IE student chapters have been very active thus showing for the need of such chapters. Unfortunately, the third one - IA/PE/RA (Industry Applications / Power & Energy / Robotics and Automation) - has been inactive and attempts to activate it have not been successful. However, there are plans to distribute activities of related societies among other (joint) chapters to get the members involved in section's activities.

The Young Professionals affinity group, launched two years ago, has been also very active organizing different events.

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

The main challenge is to reduce possibilities that one or another chapter/group will get inactive because its leaders have changed their interests (eg. leaving university). Considering the smallness of the section, it can be hard to avoid but ideas and suggestions are very welcome.