

Serbia & Montenegro Section

Boris Dumnic

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?

Attracting more interest from the Industry towards the activities of IEEE has been in the focus of the Section in the recent years. In order to encourage the partners from the Industry to assume more prominent role in the IEEE, their benefits need to be reconsidered and novel services need to be established and offered to Industry partner. The global IEEE community (including Regions and Sections) needs to utilize and promote concept of knowledge-based production offering accumulated knowledge and experiences to the Industry partners. Section supported and will continue to support projects with the topic of Industry (particularly Industry 4.0) and digitalization, trying to bridge the gap between the technical knowledge and applicable solutions. In that regard, the Section has supported numerous activities organized at the national and international conferences that have included a significant number of representatives from the leading companies within the region.

In 2020 some of the key events for Section would be: Micro-grid summer school, June, Novi Sad, Summer School on Cyber Physical Systems and Internet of Things Budva, Montenegro, June, 2020, International Conference on Cyber-Physical Systems and Internet-of-Things Budva, Montenegro, June, 2020, Mediterranean Conference on Embedded Computings - MECO'2020, June, 2020, Budva, Montenegro. These events are organized with close industry cooperation and will offer the opportunity for the Companies to voice their needs and requirements, among the other benefits (recognition, new products and services presentation, attracting new employees...).

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 most important event for students and Young Professionals in the previous period was the traditional IEEEESTEC conference. The event attracted significant attention from students and young professionals within the region, and served as a good promotion for SB and YP activities. YP AG and SB Novi Sad organized an event that was oriented at the industry where the representatives of ZF company (ZF electromobility day) had the possibility to introduce the students and young professionals to the necessary skills and requirements for the career development in this area. Additionally, all SBs and YP AG held promotional activities that were aimed at attracting the new memberships.

In the following period, Section will continue to actively support student and YP activities, while trying to increase the interest of possible members. One of the more important events where it is expected for students and young professionals to take active participation (as organizational support as well as participation) is the Micro-grid summer school, June, Novi Sad.

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 Section has recognized that the recruitment of the membership is one of the most important condition for the section vitality. In that regard, the Section officers maintain extraordinary efforts in attracting new members and offering interesting new activities for all interested parties. The process of group membership renewal was performed in December 2019, while the promotional activities were organized in the months of October and November. Additionally, IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section presentation is performed during all events in Section, where the Section and the benefits of the IEEE membership are promoting.

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?

In order to drive the vitality and sustainability of the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section special attention is given to definition and adoption of the plan and budget for the yearly Section activities. The Section has a formal process for these activities. Section officers maintain good relationship with organizing committees for different national and international conferences, organizing IEEE section presentations and various events at the respective conference venues. IEEE S&M Section web page (<http://www.ieee.uns.ac.rs/?r>) is updating regularly and contains all the necessary information required by the perspective members or other visitors. The information regarding every event sponsored or supported by IEEE S&M Section is available online at the Section website.

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

Retaining and developing membership base in Serbia and Montenegro is a constant challenge that can be recognized as an important factor for section development, especially the development of membership base within the industry. The section is keen on including the industry partners in most of the events organized by sections organizational units, however this issue will require a more systematic approach with special benefits that could be developed and offered for industry members. Furthermore (in addition to industry collaboration), fostering students and young professional activities will be the focus of the section in the next period. The most important challenge in activating the students and YPs is to offer them targeted activities and to coordinate these activities with other student obligations within the university. This is particularly important, when considering the students and YPs that are looking to participate in an international event. Better communication and promotion of the events within the region targeted at students and YPs, would improve the interest. Additional problem is the financing of the events (either for organization or for the attendance), and even if there are several opportunities within the IEEE and the R8, they may not be very well known by our current membership (when considering that the membership in these particular groups is constantly changing).