

## **Bulgaria 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?**

The vitality in the Section, Chapters, Student Branches is one-on-one related to the number and quality of the activities (to our opinion). Stimulating to organize local activities like conferences, network opportunities, cross-chapter activities etc, is one of the actions of the Section. In our ExCOMs we invite the Chapters explicitly, let them present their activities and help them wherever we can. Of course, some Chapters are more vibrant than others, but in general we are very pleased with the local activities in the Benelux. The COVID-19 pandemic decreased the number of activities substantially. We have initiated a special fund for COVID-19 costs in organising activities to stimulate activities in these difficult times.

**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?**

Due to reduced activity of Students and/or Young Professionals we did an election of chair and now we are waiting for increasing activities. We will support all their events.

**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 are going through a difficult period with COVID-19. The subscription company for 2020 went almost normally and we kept the number of members, despite the slight overall decrease in the number of IEEE members. This year we are facing a very difficult subscription company. Some enterprises do not work or are in semi-sleep mode. Academic institutions have remote access and provide virtual learning. We are looking for all kinds of ways to access potential future members mainly during the organized virtual events with professional associations and unions. I hope to keep the number of members for next year as well.

**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 our efforts are mostly directed to organization of more virtual IEEE conferences and workshops. Also we are organizing election on Section and Chapter levels.

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

The main challenge is to organize our activities in COVID-19 situation, when the direct contacts with peoples have to be avoided.