

## Croatia Section

Maja Matijasevic

**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?**

n co-operation with the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, the Section's Industry Ambassador organized and recorded four online "business skills workshops" and one online lecture for our members and students. The recordings are available at the Croatia Section's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ieeehr>.

In the upcoming months, we intend to continue this practice. We plan to invite notable industry players to present their business experiences, mostly but not exclusively in the technology sector, and to preferably make themselves available for our members and student members for future possible networking and co-operation.

**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:

- Promoting and encouraging participation of student members in IEEEExtreme and IEEEMadC software programming competitions;
- "Introduction to IEEE" presentations aimed at undergraduate students, organized by student branch members in Rijeka and Osijek;
- Organizing the "Breaking the Surface 2020", an annual international interdisciplinary field workshop of maritime robotics and applications on Sep 27 - Oct 4, 2020, as a hybrid event (more info: <http://ieeoesunizg.fer.hr/>).

Plans for the next 6 months include the following events and activities:

- IEEE Entrepreneurship Week Croatia during November 23-27, 2020, with a series of research commercialization talks and innovation competition;
- Continued support to annual IEEE student and YP events in Croatia Section, possibly in online format: CroSYP, Zagreb Energy Conference, Computer Society Congress, Smart Grid Congress;
- Improved virtual presence of our student branches and the YP affinity group;
- Promoting IEEE among students and facilitate transition to Young Professionals;
- Exploring the possibility to organize a petition for a new student branch at the Juraj Dobrila University of Pula.

Young professionals, as experienced members of IEEE, will observe the events mentioned above and help the student branches to achieve a better reach with their activities. The main focus is to create a positive environment for all young members and to attract new members.

The Region could help us with more consistent information about activities in our Region that our members could participate in 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 various events (co)organized by our technical chapters, affinity groups, and student members, even during this COVID-19 crisis. Since March, all events have been organized in online form, and announced as usual on the Section's web site, as well as promoted via social networks. A lot of effort has been invested in organizing events, and some events had to be cancelled. Although the total number of events was significantly lower than before the pandemic, we have still maintained a vibrant and active community. The number of members is steadily increasing (710 members as of mid-October, compared to 642 at the end of March 2020). As a result, Croatia Section received the "2020 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment Performance" award (Silver Plaque).

In the next six months, we plan to continue activities related to 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?**

The success of the section as a whole depends on 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.

Notable results in the past six months include seven (7) technical conferences technically cosponsored by and hosted in the Croatia Section, which have successfully moved to hybrid or fully virtual format. Also, our Instrumentation & Management (I&M) Chapter, organized and hosted the I&M flagship conference, the 2020 IEEE International Instrumentation and Measurement Technology Conference (I2MTC).

The activities planned in the next 6 months include:

- To recognize outstanding members and volunteers with section-level awards;
- To share the best practices regarding virtual events and thus increase the number of virtual events in the Section;
- To technically cosponsor meetings, workshops and conferences in the Section and assist them in moving the events to hybrid and virtual format;

- To organize chapter chairs' meeting and training for the newly elected chairs;
- To support student activities and encourage participation of student representatives in local and international (virtual) SYP events;
- To continue Pre-university education and STEM programs.

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

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

eing in the middle of global crisis, we do not see any particular challenges specific to the Region 8 at this point.