Germany Section   Ingo Hahn

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 IEEE Society chapters are organizing their regular chapter meetings together with industrial companies in Germany. Usually, the industrial host participates actively in the technical programs of these chapter meetings and often provides a factory or lab tour. Furthermore, in Germany we have the very comfortable situation that academia and industry are working very close on solving research challenges and participate actively in joint development projects. This leads to a vital exchange of ideas and further close connections between industry, academia and members of the IEEE Germany Section. The main work on industry relations between the IEEE Germany Section and Industry is performed within the chapters. However, in the case of some other planned events on the Section level, like IEEE Milestone presentations, the IEEE Germany Section is actively contacting industrial companies to request their support and active participation.

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?

Within the IEEE Germany Section we have very active IEEE student branches and IEEE society chapters. These are the main actors for attracting future members. Also the colleagues in academia are the sources for recruiting new IEEE members. Our IEEE Germany Section ExCom meets regularly twice a year. During these meetings all chairs of the chapters and student branches are invited to participate and to share their experience and knowledge. Especially, the students, young professionals and WIE volunteers present their ideas for future activities and are in most cases financially supported by the Section to realize their activities. In Germany we have the a very strong national association of electrical engineers (VDE), which is very active on a local level. At nearly every university, where technical sciences can be studied, VDE has active student groups. Getting closer to these VDE student groups is an opportunity to attract future members for IEEE. One of the most important arguments to attract young members is the networking opportunity not only on a local and national level, but on an international level with IEEE. Our IEEE Student Branch Hamburg is maintaining an IEEE Student Group in collaboration with the local VDE student organisation.

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?

Membership recruitment is mostly done by the IEEE Society Chapters and IEEE Student Branches. There are also personal recruitments by single members. However, the IEEE Society Chapters often invite non-IEEE members to their activities and events, so that these invited guests are the potential new IEEE members. That means that the organised Chapter or Student Branch events are the main driver for recruiting new IEEE members. Within the IEEE Germany Section no specific recruitment events are planned.

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?

To support the section vitality the most effective and sustainable tasks are the regular chapter meetings and the regular ExCom meetings of the IEEE Germany Section. During these meetings all participants get to know each other very well and, furthermore, can brainstorm about future activities. The ExCom also expects regular reports on each chapter's activities. The chapter chairs are invited to hold a presentation about their chapter's meetings and other activities. Reporting at the ExCom meetings is mandatory, if the chapters or student branches request for financial support of their future activities. To support and supervise these chapter activities we have an officer in the ExCom, who is responsible for the chapter coordination.

At the moment we try to register the IEEE Germany Section as a legal entity according to German law. We started this process round about four years ago. To be active, the student branches and chapter need bank accounts, but to open and to manage these accounts is quite difficult, especially, when the officers change after elections. We are working together with the IEEE Headquarters and our National Electrical Society VDE to solve this issue pragmatically, but all processes and decisions inside IEEE Headquarters take too much time, therefore, we couldn't resolve this issue since four years.

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

None.