

Hungary 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?

By the pandemic situation, the industrial activities have been dramatically reduced, almost cancelled. The previous years' technological seminars have been cancelled due to the working schedule change and own problems of every partner, and due to the fact that industrial partners looked for face-to-face discussions with young audience as well. Moreover, by moving our international conferences in the virtual space, sponsorship was cancelled, while we lost plenary speaker opportunities as well. From the new academic year, as Hungary's education system moved from the spring's fully online situation to hybrid education, we have restarted the discussions with industrial partners, but it will be a hard and time consuming work to involve them again them in the system. The positive news is that we could keep the IEEE Hungary Section (HS) industry award established in 2019 and maintaining the industrial interest for it.

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?

Fortunately, COVID-19 does not affected too much the membership situation. IEEE Hungary Section already reached the yearly plans by the appearance of the pandemic situation, while for the new 2021 membership year we consider that we are less influenced by the COVID due to the previous years' systematic and progressive work. However, young or new members are now harder to be involved, but we have some alternative plans to involve them in the IEEE family: collaboration with doctoral schools, chapter seminars (again in face-to-face version), competitions. The Best Student Paper award turned to be a great success in 2017 (81 applications), 2018 (58 applications) and 2019 (39 applications) for three categories: BSc, MSc and PhD and we will continue this established tradition. The competition is not influenced by the COVID-19. The success of this award demonstrated a direct influence on the young members' membership goals. We reduced even more the registration fees for students and YP at our (now online) IEEE HS conferences. We still awarded talented students at the national computer engineering student competition (biannual Hungarian National Student Conference) in 2019 April by giving them free registration at our IEEE HS conferences, but we have supported the National Student Conference organization as well. We already made preparations to maintain this initiative for 2021 as well. Our own IEEE HS conferences still organized PhD sections during the COVID as well, involving PhD students from different universities. We have organized for students and pre-university (highschool) students STEM oriented presentations.

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?

IEEE HS has continuously increased in members in the last 8 years. Local operation procedures are updated. Most of the HS chapters have been revitalized in 2018, the Hungarian & Romanian EPS chapter was extended to Nanotechnology in 2020, becoming joint EPS & NTC chapter involving members from IEEE Hungary Section and Romanian Section. The IEEE HS WiE Affinity Group was re-formed at the IEEE day celebration in 2019. We continued to award the Rudolf Kalman professor title created in 2017 and we propose to announce in 2020 autumn the student competition as well. The MD officer sent out renewing e-mails for the IEEE HS members. Non-renewing members are asked to give feedback why not renewed their membership. We plan to initiate a collaboration agreement between IEEE Region 8 and Obuda University (the headquarter of IEEE Hungary Section) to intensify student involvement and increment. Although the COVID-19 creates a big uncertainty in organizing IEEE events, we consider that the pandemic situation less will less influence the IEEE HS membership development goals due to the success of the previous years' systematic and progressive work.

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?

We continued to award the Rudolf Kalman professor title created in 2017 and we propose to announce in 2020 autumn the student competition as well. The latter is important for all HS chapters as the students should select at least one chapter were to join (based on their expertise and project work at the university / diploma thesis). However we consider a big uncertainty how the COVID-19 will influence the next year possibilities and activities, including our international conferences, debates, seminars and young researchers' or industrial partners' involvement. Chapters are co-sponsors of our IEEE HS based conferences, where the IEEE SMC, CS and RAS have a great activity.

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

Action plans to answer the challenges and problems caused by the COVID-19.