Portugal Section — Catarina Silva

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 IEEE-PT started in April to promote the IEEE@Home Blockchain series webinars with the support of companies. The webinars are organized by the blockchain working groups and the invited speakers are from academia and industry. These webinars will continue once a month and continue inviting and welcoming the industry. Our partnership with Critical Manufacturing continues and the last contact was at Leadership Camp, where one HR expert from the company gave tips to students about interviews. R8 could help with vouchers to (for instance) Uber Eats so our invited speakers and organizers can appreciate a ”treat” for their work. R8 could help to define a method to facilitate the promotion and the exchange of industrial speakers between our region. Industrial partnerships with Sections should be also promoted in the R8 webpage and social media to show their collaboration in a broader audience. R8 could advertise and be advertised with some quotes of industrial experts working on the industries with local protocols with sections. R8 could promote remote regional hackathons with industrial mentors. This could also be an add value initiative for IEEE student and young professionals members. The goal of R8 should be to improve IEEE brand with industries. At least in Portugal, companies are not aware of IEEE value.

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?

SAC and YP activities had a significant impact due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we were lucky enough that in the last weekend of February we were still able to organize the first Local Board meeting (LBM) as an in person meeting. LBM is a weekend full of training and working sessions for SBs ExComs to tackle problems and provide tools for ExComs to develop themselves and their branches. This is a supplement to the monthly Skype meetings with the SAC team and SBs ExComs. Our annual event for SBs, the LeadershipCamp was held online on the weekend of 17 and 18 of October. As usual, most of the SBs could participate and exchange ideas and doubts. Several Portuguese-based teams participated in IEEEXtreme For the first time we have a IEEE PT MSc Thesis Award that has motivated participation of students. Results will be revealed later in November. What is needed from R8? A working SAC that communicates with the Section SAC teams, provides training, information and has a clear and public plan of what goals they want to achieve and how. The SAC has so much potential that we think it’s currently being wasted by not engaging its members either with communication, support or engagement. There are a lot of students that would like to contribute with ideas and/or their time. There are great examples in other international student organizations and the SAC team should strive to keep the same level presented by those student organizations.

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-PT has promoted and organized a wide range of technical and non-technical communication initiatives with members and non-members. The communication channels include a periodical Newsletter shared with all members. The main goal of the newsletter is to inform IEEE-PT members about the initiatives carried out by different groups of interest and individuals in Portugal, helping to retain the members due to its added value. IEEE-PT is also developing other initiatives more suited to promote the recruitment of new members. Until the end of this year we plan to launch the ”IEEE Portugal - Engenharia em Discussão” initiative, which relies on the realization of webinars directed to different audiences (e.g. high school students and teachers, college students, technicians, etc.) with broader contents capable of attracting more participants. This initiative is open to members and non-members. In November IEEE-PT will announce the MSc students awarded with the ”IEEE Outstanding MSc Thesis Award”. This initiative, planned and implemented by the IEEE-PT during the first semester of the current year, is mainly directed to the promotion of IEEE in the academic society and also aims at increasing the number of recruited members in the young professionals group.

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?

From the answers in the previous sections it is possible to have a glance on the numerous activities that we have organized since the last report, namely:

- Local Board Meeting (Feb 28th - Mar 1st)
- Extended Excom Meeting (Jul 18th)
- Leadership Camp (Oct 17th - Oct 18th)
- 4 Blockchain group webinars (June, July, September, October)
- Engineering Day 2020 (to be held online on Nov 27th)
- Outstanding MSc Awards 2020
- Trimestral newsletters from IEEE Portugal

Additionally, we have kept robust and cohesive teams:

- New TAC and PEAC officers that are organizing IEEE@Home ”IEEE Portugal - Engenharia em Discussão” mobilizing Chapters, SBs and AGs.
- Reinforcement of communications team now with new specific roles: social media, brading, newsletter, website, coordination

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

The main challenges we faced are related to the pandemic and were probably faced by all R8 sections. We in Portugal were confined at home for several months, and even now the situation is still not normalized. R8 has shown availability to support, but more than money at this moment people need energy and ideas. Maybe R8 could take the lead in organizing activities that could promote them and giving more examples of support.

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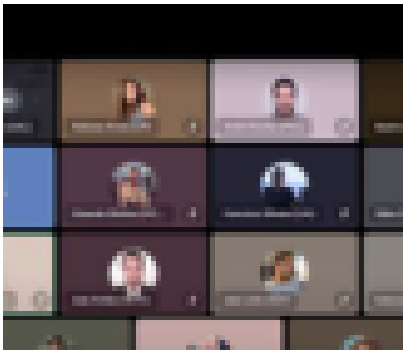
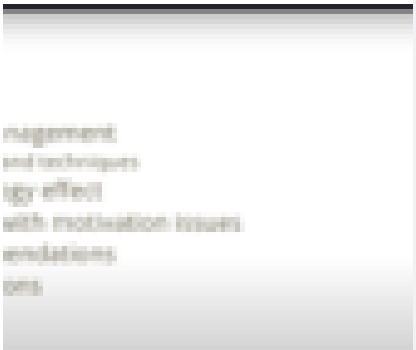
IEEE Portugal
Publicado por Paula Graça ·
19 de outubro às 13:10 ·

The IEEE Leadership Camp 2020 was the first fully virtual edition and it was a great success!

For the second day, the Student Branches got some tips on time management by Miguel Ferreira and public speaking, followed by working sessions on specific IEEE related topics.
After lunch, IEEE Portugal Section representative and ambassador of IEEEXtreme , Davide Morgado, spoke about the competition and invited three speakers to share their testimony on passed editions.... **Ver mais**





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