Slovenia Section   Andrej Trost

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 Section maintains relation with industry by inviting the engineers from the industry to the section meetings. Most of the Slovenia section IEEE members are from the universities which maintain good relation to the industry and jointly organize promotional events. Several researchers from the industry attended our annual section Electrotechnical and computer science conference.

The local chapters will continue to organize events where the people from the industy are invited to join or to prepare some technical presentations. The YP are discussing with Nvidea ambassador in Slovenia to prepare a wokshop on deep learning. We are still looking for a volunteer for the Industry relations coordinator.

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 Students and Young Professionals are invited to actively participate at all of the Section events, specifically the annual Section meeting in spring and conference in automn, where they help in organizing events and gather experience. This year we managed to hold both these local events live. The students were invited to prepare papers for the local student competition held at the conference and the best student from both local student brances were selected for the Region SPC. The Region events for the Students and Young Professionals are a good motivation for attracting our members.

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?

Our experience with recruiting the membership is that it is very difficult to attract new members, but later the members of Slovenia section tend to renew the membership. The Section is working on promotion of the benefits of the IEEE membership, specifically to the students and young members. We plan to promote more online activities and forward the interesting open meetings and invited talks provided by the IEEE chapters to the members.

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?

Slovenia section supports its eight chapters, three affinity groups and two student branches by providing financial and technical support for their events and organizing two annual meetings. At the spring meeting we confirmed the leaders and volunteers elected in december 2019 for the next two years. We discussed our achievements in the last year and plans for the current year. The new volunteers were able to discuss the management of activities and gather good practice. The section leadership team is in contact with the chapters, affinity groups and student branches helping them with their activities and transferring recommendations from the Region.

We have close contacts with neighbour sections, we plan organizing foreign visits of the SB, YP and technical chapters. An expected outcome of the young members activities is a recognition of the IEEE among young engineers and closer relations to the industry.

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

The biggest challenge is to attract people to the IEEE in the Covid-19 situation, where many of the engineering and professional activities are narrowed to the most important work. The Region should promote the professional solutions and good practices for the online work in the research, engineering and education domain.