Action For Industry (AfI) — Marios Antoniou

Goals

- Expand to new companies.
- Secure new internships.
- Expand AfI in new Sections.
- Organize and participate in industry and entrepreneurship events.

Progress against goals since the last report

- Mentoring program has 19 Mentors who advised 44 Mentees from July to September 2020. Some Mentors were linked to 5 Mentees. Mentors are volunteers from Industry. Mentors have communicated with Mentees by email, phone and Skype. The observation from the Mentoring copied to the AfI Mentoring Coordinator was that some of the mentoring has been superb. The Mentees will act on the guidance they have been given. Mentors can offer Mentoring to more Mentees in November and December 2020. All AfI Mentors have received Certificates of Appreciation signed by Region 8 Director;
- MoU signed between IEEE Jordan Section and Jordan Renewable Energy as well as Energy Efficiency Fund (JREEEF) to start the internships program for IEEE members in Jordan;
- MoU signed between IEEE Egypt with IBM to collaborate with IBM skills Academy;
- Partnership between IEEE Tunisia Section and OWASP Tunisia Chapter. This partnership will enable IEEE members to join the national Cyber security strategy and OWASP community in Tunisia.

Number of Industry Relation Officers or Industry Representatives appointed in Sections

34.

Industry events organized/conducted since the last report

- Online Webinar by Dr. Vincenzo Piuri. A talk on "Artificial Intelligence in Industry and environment" July 2020;
- IEEE Tunisia section partnership to the event "Startup Career Jam 3.0" that will be organized online by Flat 6 Labs and FabSkill, July 2020;
- Valeo Egypt in partnership with IEEE Egypt is launching the "Valeo XPERTS MEETUP" for fostering the knowledge sharing in different technology aspects, targeting both the undergraduates and fresh graduates from engineering Universities in Egypt. Weekly webinars hosted by IEEE Egypt and delivered by Valeo industry experts;
- IEEE Tunisia Section, co organization of online hackathon: 2020 Tunisian Smart Cities Online Hackathon, August 2020.
- IEEE France Section, organization of a 2 day workshop called "les journèes de l'industrie" with French industries in Blois on the 29 and 30 of September 2020.
- IEEE Spain organization and participation in: Webinar about Open Banking, June 2020, Call for new IEEE Spain Blockchain awards, July 2020. It also collaborated with Startup Ole, September 2020.
- Participation in R8 virtual SYP 2020. Judge from R8 AfI on the startup competition of the event.
- Kenya and Uganda Section. Organization of Webinar on industry resiliency during Covid19, October 6 2020.

Number of internships offered (location, quantity and partner companies) since the last report

- Italy, 2, ST Microelectronics;
- Cyprus, 3, Cyta.

Proposals for improvements

- Communicate with companies in industry to offer internships that will take place online. Online internships will be accessible to more IEEE members in Region 8;
- Increase the number of mentors from Industry. Advertise AfI mentoring program using different channels (eNotice, IEEE News);
- Section Industry Ambassador Teams to include YPs who work in industry;
- Increase the number of webinars with topics from industry and emerging technologies.

Points of Concern

In industry, companies feel reluctance to be engaged in non core activities. Many companies are working in limited mode since the outbreak of Covid 19, however expected to deliver almost the same results as in normal mode. Industry activity has slowed down and as a result most companies were not willing to get into new partnerships, while companies already participating in the AfI internship program have not offered internship positions. International internships are mostly put on hold. Hence, AfI internship program has been affected the most by Covid 19 among all AfI programs.

Other Issues to report