

Czechoslovakia Section

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Section Vitality

In recent years, our Section is lacking enough volunteers, which yields to ineffective operation of ExCom. In 2020, the situation was impacted by general Covid-19 lock-down and the ExCom was unable to assemble in regular way. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, Annual meeting was postponed and held in January 2021, concluding the annual election (organized in Dec 2020). The practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair was kept, however, the Vice-Chair was the past Chair, which was accepted to bridge the lack of candidates.

In 2020, there were only two ExCom meetings, while the other executive tasks were governed by online voting tools. The main agenda was mainly focused on conferences and chapter and student branch minimal operations. Most of the OUs within our sections were significantly overloaded by new “online” way of work outside of IEEE duties.

Our section supported several traditional events during the year, such as conferences and workshops/lectures (most of them held online). Student competitions were cancelled due to Covid-19 regulations. All activities are reported and available in vTools.

Regarding recruitment and retention, we prefer to show activities and local benefits through engagement rather than R&R dedicated events. The number of members is stable over the years, which is an opportunity for growth, however, it is a good message that the number of new members compensates the drop in membership.

Students

There are 4 SBs in our Section, while 2 of them (VUT Brno and UNIZA Zilina) are currently in recovery mode, since the SB's officers have graduated without strong continuity in leadership. SB activities are also very limited in options due to Covid-19 situation (universities are in remote mode). However, there is a potential in cooperation with YP group on lectures, being organized in cooperation with Industry partners and Afl. The plan is to continue with this activity to engage more students in IEEE activities. All the events are reported and available in vTools.

Affinity Groups

The only affinity group in our Section is the YP, which has organized series of lectures in cooperation with universities and Industry partners. These events have been appreciated by many attendees so far and the plan is to continue with this activity, covered by “IEEE Czechoslovakia Section: Industry Talks”. All the events are reported and available in vTools.

Chapters

There are no changes in Chapters' activities in 2020. All the chapters have been continuing with their activities, except for student competitions, which have been cancelled over the Covid-19 situation. Due to changes in leadership of MTT/AP/ED/EMC Joint Chapter, there is a need for help on getting the chapter back on track. We started to seek for new leaders.

Industry

We continue to cooperate with NXP Semiconductors Czechia (signed MoU) on various joint activities with YP AG and student branches. Series of lectures on various topics in the field of NXP have been held online (all the events reported and available in vTools).

We are still in open discussion with other companies; however, the intensity of contact has dropped mainly due to the Covid-19 situation.

Some smaller companies would appreciate different format of collaboration (different types of MoU, targeting different activities). Better guidance on how to engage with those companies from Region 8 would be highly appreciated.

Activities since the last report

2020 was a challenging year, however, we managed to engage with our Industry partner and partnering universities. The outcome was a series of IEEE Czechoslovakia Section: Industry Talks lectures as mentioned above – one to two hour lectures for students and YPs from industry on various technical topics.

Planned activities

We plan to organize OU vitality workshops to help our OUs with effective operation and reporting. We also plan to engage with more Industry partners, focusing on cross-OU cooperation (involving YPs and SBs). Regular activities such as competitions and conferences are planned as online events.

How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities

Our biggest challenge is lack of volunteers. The IEEE Volunteers portal is somehow helpful, but most of the applicants are from India, which is not feasible. Further evaluation of the platform and adding more “filters” to the applicants would be helpful (email agenda would be significantly lower)

Any other issues of interest