Romania Section   Lucian Toma

Section Vitality

Please provide information about the date of last Section elections, date of next elections, and do you have the practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings (list them and provide brief summary if appropriate). List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained.

Romania Section holds elections every two years. The last elections took place in January 2021. The next elections will take place in January 2023.

We have the practice of promoting the officers step by step. The newly elected Chair has been volunteer within the Section for more than 10 year, holding all the ExCom positions, which is Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-Chair, and now Chair. The achievements within the Romania Section are very important in promoting a person to lead the Section.

ExCom meetings are organised in a periodic manner. The Section Past Chairs were involved each time. The topics discussed were the organization of the elections, rules and procedures within the newly created association IEEE Romania Members, preparing the half-year report.

There was no meeting on how to recruit and retain members. Our strategy is the people help people, where leaders support and encourage the young engineers to enroll. The beginning of the year 2021 show better results than last year – with an important benefit for recruiting student members stemming from the current IEEE Future50 Student Discount. Currently, Romania Section has 941 members. We are on track to overpass 1000 members until the end of the year.

The IEEE Romania Section has been recognized in October 2021 by the MGA Membership Recruitment and Recovery (MRR) Committee as having Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance.

Students

List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

The current Student Branches (SB) in the Romania Section are in the main cities / academic centers in the country (Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timisoara, Iasi – 2 SB):

- STB63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest
- STB10228 - Technical Univ Of Cluj Napoca
- STB10127 - Politehnica University of Timisoara
- STB99065 - Gh Asachi Iasi Tech Univ
- STB64721 - Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza

The 3rd Summer School of Antennas, Propagation, and RFID Applications was organized by the Romanian IEEE AP-S/RFID Jt Chapter.
The Summer School was held at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca on September 21 - 23, 2021.

Welcome messages were given by Prof. Florin-Ioan Oniga, Vice-Rector for research and digital infrastructure at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Prof. Tudor Palade, Head of the research center for radio communications, Assoc. prof. Grigore Stamatescu, Secretary of the IEEE Romania Section, and Prof. Razvan Tamas, Chair of the IEEE Romania Section - Antennas and Propagation Society / CRFID Joint Chapter. A presentation of the Section including benefits of IEEE membership for students and young professionals was held.

Several student branch and student branch chapter events have been held:

- Introduction to Autodesk Inventor, March 2021, SBC63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest,EP21
- Introduction to Altium Designer, March 2021, SBC63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest,EP21
- Lecture Automotive PCB Design Tips, April 2021, SBC63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest,EP21
- IEEE RAS UPB Student Branch Chapter - Kick-Off Meeting, May 2021, SBC63061B – Politehnica Univ of Bucharest, RA24
- Meeting with curent and future IEEE student members, July 2021, STB63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest
- UPB IEEE Student Branch Data Science Workshop, September 2021, STB63061 - Politehnica Univ Of Bucharest

- IEEE Day 2021 – Celebration of Research, October 2021, STB10228 - Technical Univ Of Cluj Napoca
- Preparing for the Future: Technical Challenges of Robots and Communication Systems, October 2021, SBC63061B – Politehnica Univ of Bucharest, RA24

Multiple student scientific competitions across Romanian technical universities are being supported through IEEE e.g. DrETC'21 Conference Awarding for students with scientific papers - SBC10127 - Politehnica University of Timisoara,EP21.

The activities of the student branches has increased. Several chapters are stimulating the creation of new student branch chapters around existing SBs (EP, RA).

There were no new SB/SB-C formed or dissolved since the last reporting period.

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups (YP, LM, WiE, SIGHT, etc.), list of SB AGs, newly formed or dissolved AGs/SB AGs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the activities intended to support affinity groups.

Current affinity groups in the Romania Section are the following:
- WE80061 - Romania Section Affinity Group, WIE
- YP80061 - Romania Section Affinity Group, YP
- LM80061 - Romania Section Affinity Group,LM (most recently formed at the end of 2020)

Especially Young Professionals affinity groups are supported with priority by the Section in order to support the membership transition from student to professional membership and activities.

Chapters

List of Chapters and SB Chapters in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved Chapters, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). Indicate how many have reported on time and received rebate. Highlight some of the activities.

The Section includes 24 technical chapters of IEEE Societies. Several chapters are very active with consistent events and timely reporting (EP, PES, IMS, MAG, E, RA, C). We will continue to offer support to chapters that require it for increasing their activities and membership development. Monitoring of chapter timely reporting and election planning for up-to-date officer reporting is also an important task.

No chapter was formed after March 2021. Planning activities are underway to support the establishment of the Romania Industrial Electronics Society in conjunction also with the 2023 Emerging Technologies for Factory Automation to be held in Sinaia, Romania. IES mebers are currently is currently the largest cohort of local members (61 members) not represented by a technical chapter.

Industry

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.

There is active communication and collaboration with industry in multiple local IEEE conferences organised every year across various technical subjects. Industry participates as sponsor, with invited talks and through young engineers that present their work.

Other specific events fostering relations with industry include career events for students and young professionals, for example:
- Perspectives and careers in Electrical and Power Engineering, April 2021, CH08414 - Romania Section Chapter,E25
- Career in the Energy Industry, May 2021, YP80061 - Romania Section Affinity Group, YP

Activities since the last report

Highlight some of the activities in your Section, with special attention to the things that work well, and things that don't, so that your acquired know-how can be used by other Sections.

Since the last reporting the Section carried out the typical activities to support conferences, chapters and membership development while promoting IEEE values. The pandemic period put increased strain and limited the time available of IEEE volunteers to develop and engage in new projects.

Online meeting fatigue is observed while many members look forward to hybrid or in-person events.

Planned activities

Highlight some of the future activities and initiatives in your Section.

Besides carrying out the daily activities of the Section, some plans are listed below:

- Prioritize industry activities and support new humanitarian initiatives e.g. by formation of a SIGHT affinity group;
- Encourage and support by hosting a first Senior Membership Elevation Event to help elligible members to write their application and identify suitable and willing supporters for the recommendation letters;
- Constantly disseminate student membership benefits both in the main technical universities and in underrepresented academic communities across Romania; one example is a potential Student Branch at the Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiesti;
- Identify and apply for the hosting of a representative Region 8 event.

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

List any challenges you Section is facing and what support is required from the Region 8. Please, also, give us your suggestions for agenda items that you want to be discussed during the R8 Committee meeting.

We appreciate the consistent and timely Region 8 support in our activities.

Any other issues of interest