

IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section**prof. dr Boris Dumnić****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.

Section continued to support the events organized by different section chapters, affinity groups and student branches (both technically and financially). One of the most recognizable annual event the 30th TELFOR conference will be held during 15th and 16th November 2022 Crowne Plaza, Belgrade, Serbia. Additionally, at the end of the year section officers will have participate in traditional group membership renewal process, where we expecting similar success to last year in retaining the membership count. Towards the end of the year 2021 and during 2022 we had the regular section ExCom meeting. IEEE Member Recruitment and Recovery Committee gives Certificate to IEEE Serbia and Montenegro officer prof. dr Boris Dumnić for outstanding achievement for the 2021 membership year. The last Section elections were finished in January of 2021, where the sections officers were selected for the period of 2021-2022.

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.

Serbia and Montenegro Section has a very active student and young professional's membership base with 3 active SBs, 1 YP AG and currently 1 inactive SB. Mostly, student activities continued regularly with special activities aimed at activating the SB Podgorica, through joint activities and coordination with the SB Novi Sad, SB Belgrade and SB Nis members. Additionally, SB and YP members had several strong, albeit virtual events on different topics such as smart cities, trainings, while colleagues from SB Nis held their annual IEEEESTEC conference.

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.

Within the section there are 2 active affinity groups WiE and YP that were active within different section activities. Currently there is no definitive plan of forming new affinity groups however there has been some interest in pursuing this further with SIGHT initiatives in the following period, while some preparation for the formation of LM AG has been arranged. WiE affinity group has actively participated in different activities and supported different conference, especially the IEEEESTEC conference where this affinity group provides one affirmative award targeted especially for WiE members. YP affinity group held several online activities online, with one lecture with the topic of smart cities that attracted a large number of attendees. The section is continuously supporting SB, YP and WiE activities both technically and financially, but special activities needs to be devised in order for YP membership to be retained and transferred over to the industry establishing the easier link for YPs between academia and the industry.

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.

There are 12 active chapters within the Section, 2 AGs and 3 active SBs (1 inactive). Most notable activities within the Section are related to the support of different conferences such as TELFOR, ETRAN, IEEEESTEC, TREND, INDEL, ZINC, SISY. Several of our chapters received the activity awards from their respective global chapter representatives, for different DL activities, support in conference organization. Currently, there are some activities directed at the formation of the IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society within the Serbia and Montenegro section, there is a key number of members within the Section and the process is currently pending the application (petition) process.

Industry

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

With several promotional activities aimed at presenting the benefits for the individuals from the industry in IEEE, we have tried to further improve this relationship. Some specific, targeted services that could be offered to the professionals in the industry may improve the industry relation and consequent activities. Nevertheless, most of the Section societies have good relationship with companies that often sponsor their events. Future activities, in the current situation, will aim at including more industry representatives to virtual and actual events. The IEEE PES ISGT Europe 2022 (ISGT Europe 2022) will be realized on October 10th-12th, 2022 in Novi Sad, Serbia and during this event strong connect with industry will be made during exhibition and industry sessions. Additionally, IEEE4Challenge students' competition was organized in cooperation with industry partners during EV Days exhibition and conference in period 08th and 09th September, Novi Sad, Serbia.

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.

One thing that worked well for the section every year, and even in these relatively problematic times caused by global Covid pandemic, has been the group membership renewal process, where academia centers have played a significant role in retaining the membership base. Equally as important, going further, will be the more active participation of section officers and ExCom in regard to activities reporting, where we noticed that vTools portal is not always used to its fullest potential. We plan to monitor more closely chapter reporting and often remind the chapters that they should submit activities reports in order to receive the rebate.

Planned activities

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

Section is planning to continue the support of all of the traditional Section events and conferences that are being organized. For the 2022, there have been several conferences already scheduled such as ETRAN, TREND, MIEL, EDS MQ, IEEEESTEC, SISY, EV Days, ISGT. The Section will sponsor these events technically, and for some of the events the Section has prepared financial support. Furthermore, one of the key activities will be the formation of the new IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society within the Section.

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

List any challenges your 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.

The main challenge going forward is to maintain the operation of the Section during the post-pandemic conditions. The most impactful change was in regard to travel, since the most notable activities within the section are related to different events hosting (local and international). In that regard, the most important challenge in the future could be to provide an adequate platform for knowledge and experience transfer, where people from academia and the industry could not only participate, but also establish a valuable network.

Any other issues of interest