

Croatia Section

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Section Vitality

The Section holds 8 ExCom general assembly meetings per year (and many more topic-focused). The number of IEEE members of the IEEE Croatia Section was increasing steadily from October 2021 to August 2022 (increase of around 9%), followed by a decrease in February which was expected due to annual membership expiration (down by 15%). All members have been individually reminded and encouraged to renew their membership status, so we expect a steady increase in membership over the upcoming 6 months. The numbers are in general up compared to 2021 (e.g. 715 in August 2022 compared to 662 in August 2021) and are the highest since 2014. The Section is in the process of election of new leadership for 2023-2024.

Students

The Section has 3 active student branches (SBs), in the cities of Zagreb, Osijek and Rijeka.

Student activities since last report:

- Participated in the R8 SYP in Tunis
- SBOS organized lectures and study groups for engineering students
- SBZG participated in the ICUAS 2022 YP meetup
- SBRI programming seminar for freshmen, Ri-Hack hackathon
- IEEE RAS webinar: How to build a humanoid robot – by SBRI member Karlo Dzafic
- Other lectures and workshops

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Organize promotional activities in student branches to further increase student membership.
- Continue to support all annual national IEEE Students and Young Professionals events, workshops, and online activities; continue to enhance the virtual presence of our student branches and YP affinity group.
- Organize lectures, workshops and programming competitions that are part of IEEE, as well as support and/or participate in non-IEEE competitions; Continue with IEEE promotional activities to promote IEEE among students and faculty members.

Affinity Groups

The Section has 3 affinity groups and a SIGHT group. Their status is listed separately.

Young Professionals

Activities since the previous report:

- Organized online meetings with students and Young Professionals members on topics such as the organization of student branches, their activities and the vitality of the branches based on their experiences
- Organized IEEE Young Professionals Croatia Meet Up at the International Conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems in June 2022
- Represented Young Professionals and IEEE in general at the MIPRO conference in May 2022
- Participated in meetings and activities of the Croatia Section, promoted Region 8 Young Professionals activities to members
- Support local student branches in organizing activities
- Participated in the Region 8 SYP in August 2022

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Organize a follow-up meeting to share impressions of SYP 2022
- Help SB University of Zagreb to increase the number of volunteers
- Co-organize CroSYP Congress
- Continue to attend and contribute to Croatia Section meetings and activities

- Support and organize events within the IEEE Entrepreneurship program, attract core members in each student and young professionals community
- Continue to support workshops related to the industry for students and young engineers

Women in Engineering

WiE participated in the event „Spring BIND“ at Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing of University of Zagreb (FER), held in April 2022. We volunteered at programming workshops for elementary school students using Scratch, Lego robots and Croduino. In June 2022, we published monography “Women in Innovation” about first women scientists in the field of electrical engineering at FER. Until the end of the year 2022, we plan to launch new episode of ŽensCast with intention to speak about gender equality.

Life Members

Our Life Members AG participated in organization of "7th International Workshop on Advanced Cooperative Systems", together with “ACROSS - Centre of Excellence for Autonomous and Cooperative Robotic Systems”, during 19-21 September 2022 with contribution of lecturers from industry and academia.

Chapters

The Section has 20 chapters, 2 joint chapters, 10 student branch chapters, and 3 affinity groups. Last year 18 chapters and joint chapters as well as all affinity groups elected chapter officers for the term 2022-2023. All elections have been conducted on time and within the adequate timeframe to allow smooth transition between the past and upcoming chairs. This year the officer elections will be held in the remaining four chapters. All chapters and affinity groups are in good standing. In this year a total of 26 events was organized and 17 chapters and AGs have organized at least one event so far. Therefore, it is expected that all chapters and AGs will organize at least the minimum of 2 events per year as required. Attention is paid to timely reporting of newly elected officers and event reporting.

Industry

In cooperation with the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, the Section’s Industry Ambassador continued the series of “business skills workshops” as the events of notable technical experts and entrepreneurs who hold highest leadership positions in Croatian companies. Since the last reporting period, additional five such events are organized. The program has proved to play major role in attracting industry and will continue in the upcoming period. Again, we plan to invite notable industry players to present their business experiences, primarily but not exclusively in the technology sector, and make themselves available for our members and student members for future possible networking and cooperation.

Activities since the last report

The events are once again organized in-person and significant focus is put to revitalization of student activities. The Ex-Com carried out its regular meetings and tried to preserve steady number of members and a vibrant community. Our annual Gala dinner, which has been for years the most successful networking event in Croatia but skipped for last two year, is now yet again scheduled to be held in November with plan of gathering 150 participants. Call for Section awards for 2022 is scheduled with the plan of handing the awards during annual Gala dinner.

More details on the held activities are reported under individual categories above.

Planned activities

More details on the planned activities are reported under individual categories above. Significant focus is put to students and transferring experiences and lessons learned from SYP Congress to new leadership. We continue our plan to stimulate larger number of professional and informal networking events among members.

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

Keeping the role of facilitating information and opportunities from various OUs directly to local leadership in sections in timely manner, mainly the opportunities for students and young professionals.

Any other issues of interest