



# IEEE Region 8

Vinko Lesic

Candidate, R8 Vice Chair for Member Activities  
Election of 2023-24 OpCom and N&A members

# Croatia



# About me



- Academic career
- Patented PhD
- Commercialized with United Technologies Research Center (today Raytheon Technologies)

# Laboratory for Renewable Energy Systems



LARES

# Laboratory for Renewable Energy Systems

- **We do AI in sustainability.**
  - We do optimization, design of control systems for real-time optimal and predictive autonomous decisions of linear and quadratic program format, and by meta-heuristic approaches, capturing system models by physical representation and differential equations supported by estimation techniques, forecasting disturbances and uncertainties stochastically, and by neural networks and machine learning algorithms.
  - We apply it to renewable energy systems, smart grids, smart buildings, city infrastructure, and agriculture.

# Today



- Associate Professor at University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing
- PI of 8 scientific and 4 technology transfer projects
- Research group leader of 25 people
- 50 publications
- Member of Scientific-Professional Council at Innovation Centre Nikola Tesla, faculty spin-off for research commercialization
- Co-Founder of Urban Oasis startup



- R8 News, Editor-in-Chief
- R8 Life Members, Corresponding Member
- R8 Young Professionals, Past Chair, Chair, Member
- MGA Young Professionals Committee, Member
- Croatia Section, Vice-Chair
  - Secretary, Conference Coordinator, Student Representative, YP Chair, SB volunteer
  - Croatia IAS Chapter Chair, Vice-Chair

# Meet Ups at IEEE Conferences



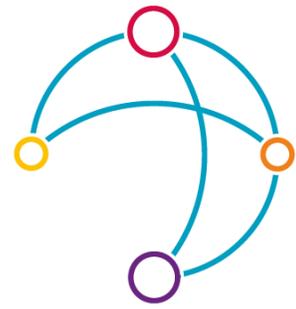
- CDC 2019, EUROCON 2017 & 2019, Young Professionals in Space 2018 & 2019, European Microwave Week 2017, 2018 & 2019, support of YP tracks at ICECS 2020, PowerAfrica 2018 & 2020, AFRICON 2017 & 2019

# Boosting SYP Congresses

- XS SYPs 2019 attendance increase compared to 2017
  - CEuSYP Novi Sad **100+** participants (3x more)
  - WESYP Glasgow **60+** participants (2x more)
  - NSYP Stockholm + Helsinki **50+** participants (almost 2x more)
  - HSYP Xanthi **120+** participants (about 50% increase)
  - ASYPs → premises for **3** congresses (2 more)



# 2020 and 2021 Years of webinars and Social Media



# IEEE Connecting Experts

**TALKSPRENEUR 01**

**AHMED EL-SHARKASY**  
CEO & CO-FOUNDER AT KNOWLEDGE OFFICER

"25 LEARNINGS IN 25 MINS"

FRIDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 05:00 PM (GMT) | FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO | IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship

**TALKSPRENEUR 03**

**URENNA ONYEWUCHI**  
FOUNDER & PROFESSIONAL AFRICA

"THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING FOR SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP"

WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 05:00 PM (GMT) | FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO | IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship

**TALKSPRENEUR 02**

**CHRISTOPHE ZOGHBI**  
CEO & CO-FOUNDER AT ZAKA

"NOT YOUR TYPICAL STARTUP: AN UNPLANNED JOURNEY"

SATURDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 01:00 PM (GMT) | FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO | IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship

**TALKSPRENEUR 04**

**ANDREW MAXIMOV**  
CEO & CO-FOUNDER AT PRECIOUS PAYLOAD

"LAUNCH YOUR SPACE STARTUP AND CAREER"

THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 02:00 PM (GMT) | FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO | IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship

**Technology, Innovation, and Career IN THE POST COVID WORLD**

Join Us Facebook Live

7 June Sunday 8:00 AM PDT 3:00 PM GMT 8:30 PM ET

Moderator: Dr. Souham Sharma, IEEE young professionals

Panelists: Dr. Goutam Chattopadhyay, IEEE young professionals

Register at: <https://lnkd.in/g/4Mh9z>

**SYPLC'20 THE DIGITAL EDITION**

June 5th

- Pollyanna attitude 5 pm - 6:15 pm
- Future of jobs after COVID-19 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

June 7th

- Communicate with impact in a Virtual World 5 pm - 6:15 pm
- ROUND TABLE Digital Transformation 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

June 6th

- Pre-Sales in HyperAutomation 5 pm - 6:15 pm
- Advocacy and outreach 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm

#OPLYIEEE @YPL\_LBANON #StayHome #SYPLC2020

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"IEEE Standards: Powering Innovation"

**IEEE SA** STANDARD ASSOCIATION

**Moirra Patterson**  
Director of CE at IEEE Standards Association

**David Law**  
Distinguished Technologist at Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Thursday, July 16 15:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Professional

"Charting Your Career"

**Samira Nuhanovic, PhD**  
COO at, Softhouse Balkans

Wednesday, May 6 16:00 GMT | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Complexity and Data Science"

**Nino Antulov-Fantulin, PhD**  
Senior researcher & lecturer at ETH Zürich, Co-Founder of Asiot

Wednesday, May 20 14:00 GMT | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Advance Control for HVDC Transmission"

**Samarth Deo**  
R&D Manager at ABB Power Grids Sweden

Thursday, May 21 11:00 GMT | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Impact of Pandemics on European Power Grid"

**Ana Cigarán Romero**  
Senior Policy Advisor at 50Hertz Transmission

Thursday, May 28 13:00 GMT | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Computer-Aided Diagnosis in The Era of Deep Learning"

**Prof. Amlan Chakrabarti, PhD**  
University of Calcutta

Saturday, June 13 15:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"COVID-19: Update on the Threat Landscape"

**Jan Kaastrup**  
CTO & Partner at CSIS Security Group

Thursday, June 18 13:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Data Privacy and Privacy-Preserving Techniques"

**Ferhat Ozgur Catak**  
AI & Cybersecurity Researcher at NTNU Norway

Monday, July 20 18:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Microgrids: The Pathway to Smart and Cleaner Energy Future"

**Dr. Sertac Bayhan**  
Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute

Sunday, June 28 17:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Analysis and Modeling of Medical Electronic Devices"

**Maria-Alexandra Paun, PhD**  
Swiss Federal Office of Communications

Wednesday, June 24 18:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

**IEEE Connecting Experts** Technical

"Digital Medicine with Wearables: from Resting Heart Rate and Sleep Analysis to Outbreak Prediction"

**IEEE Distinguished Lecturer**

**Giorgio Quer, PhD**  
Director of AI at Scripps Research Translational Institute

Wednesday, July 29 15:00 UTC | RBY Facebook Live Video

Dealing with Covid Isolation: BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!

**Perspective of An Astronaut**

Join Us Facebook Live 15 Friday May 14:00 GMT 10 AM EST

Moderator: Dr. Souham Sharma, IEEE young professionals

Panelist: Robert Thirsk, Engineer, Physican, former Astronaut

67 webinars, 25 IEEE OUs  
Recordings on YouTube channel  
25.000+ views

# IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship



## ■ 2020-2021:

- IEEE Foundation Grant of 28k\$ (R8YP, R8PEA, R8Afl, R8SAC)
- 30 countries, 63 local events
- ~6,000 participants in local events, ~200,000 digital participants in Regional events
- 100 ambassadors volunteered and engaged
- ~500 technological innovations competing in local competitions
- 95 start-ups competing internationally
- Gender equality ~50:50%, 75% ladies in winning teams

## ■ Today:

- Ad-Hoc Committee under Member Activities
- External sponsors and collaborations
- Scaling up: ambassadors, events, engagement



# IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship



A screenshot from a Zoom meeting. In the top right corner, there is a small video thumbnail of a woman wearing a headscarf, with the name "Hajer Khmour" below it. The main content of the slide is a list of investment sources and amounts, preceded by a blue square icon. The text is as follows:

- Investment Recived**
- Hult Prize Foundation: \$100K USD**
- Zain Mubadarh: \$14.1K USD**
- Youth Ministry: \$1.4K USD**
- IEEE *Current*: 500 USD**

At the bottom right of the slide, the Zoom logo is visible. At the bottom left, there are several small navigation icons (back, forward, search, etc.).

Pitching finals 2021, Amtea startup

# IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship



TECHNE  
SUMMIT



# IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship



TECH  
SUMMIT



## Tech entrepreneurship



# IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship



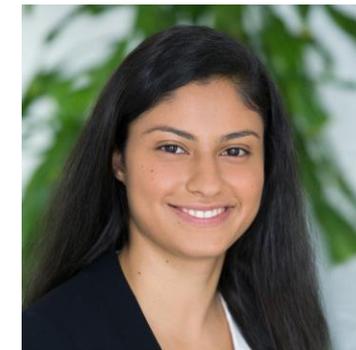
TECHNE  
SUMMIT



Action for  
Industry



## Tech entrepreneurship

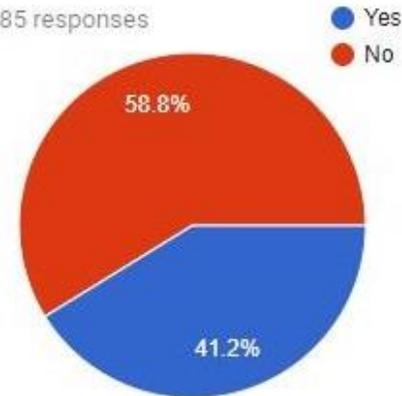


# Looking forward

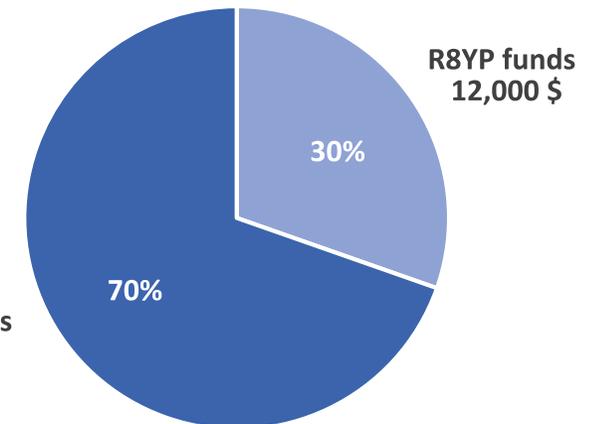
- Bringing success stories from sections to Region 8 programs, and beyond
- Building a post-covid volunteering momentum
- Supporting membership
  - elevation, recognition
- Reaching out of IEEE
  - industry
  - associations
- Doing things together, with synergy of diversity

Are you an IEEE member?

85 responses



Collaboration funds  
27,500 \$





# Thank you!



**IEEE**

IEEE  
Region 8

