

## Serbia and Montenegro Section

Mladen Koprivica, Chair

### Section Vitality

Last Section elections were organized in January 2023 using vTools, and the sections officers were elected for the period of 2023-2024:

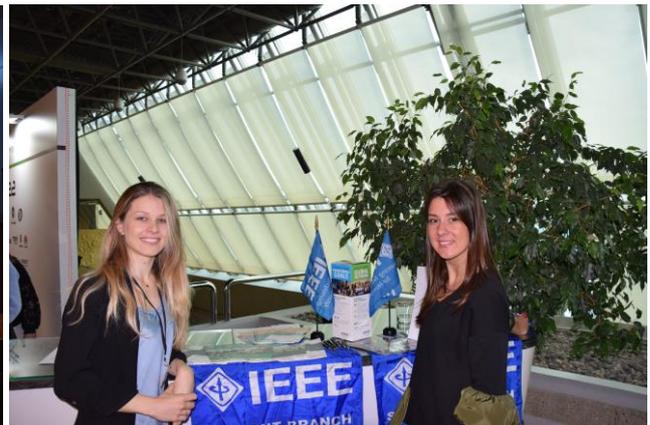
- Asst. Prof. Mladen Koprivica, Chair
- Prof. Zlatica Marinković, Vice Chair
- Asst. Prof. Bane Popadić, Secretary/Treasurer

Next elections for the new section’s officers will be organized by the end of 2024.

In the year 2022, Section has met recruitment goal and received silver medal for outstanding recruitment performance. Additionally, at the end of the year section officers have participated in traditional group membership renewal process to retain most of the membership.

The 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 events that was successfully organized was the Jubilee 30<sup>th</sup> Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2022 with more than 120 accepted papers and more than 600 in person participants. At the Opening Ceremony, Nobel Laureate Dan Shechtman, had invited presentation on “Education for Entrepreneurship”.

The regular Section Ex-Com meeting was organized in-person on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at TELFOR conference in Belgrade. Main direction discussed on the Ex-Com meeting was to recover and empower in-person Section activities after COVID-19 pandemic.



### Students

Since the last report section SBs have retained their activities as usual. The membership base of 3 active SBs (SB Novi Sad, SB Belgrade and SB Niš) has been mostly retained, while some progress has been made in activating the SB in Podgorica. SB Niš was especially active and successfully organized their annual event, 15<sup>th</sup> IEEEESTEC International Students Projects conference on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Niš, with 77 papers and more 150 authors. SB Niš organized more than 50 workshops for secondary school students, and they are awarded with IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award.

The promotional activities aimed at increasing the membership base are mostly in progress, while several technical events are expected in the following period. The SB members have been involved in almost all local events.



### Affinity Groups

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Life Member Affinity Group has been formed in Serbia and Montenegro Section. New Interim Chair is Prof. Vladimir Katić. So, within the section there are now 3 active affinity groups WIE, YP and LM that participated in different section activities. The members AGs participated with different events within the section. The WIE affinity group took special place at IEEEESTEC 2022 conference with goal “to getting WIE mission close” to all conference participants. YP affinity group organized event "Inspiring young people – Chat with Dan Shechtman, Nobel Laureate” on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at TELFOR conference in Belgrade. The section is continuously supporting SB, YP and WIE activities both technically and financially, but special activities need 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

On November 3<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Intelligent Transportation Systems Society Chapter has been formed in Serbia and Montenegro Section. New Interim Chair is Prof. Valentina Mirović. New chapter started with activities and will organize “9<sup>th</sup> International Conference - Towards a Humane City”, Novi Sad, October 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. So, there are now 13 active chapters within the Section, and all of the chapters submitted all reports for 2022 on time. The issue of reporting the activities in advance on the vTools portal was discussed during the ExCom meetings and we have taken some steps in order to make sure that activities within chapters are reported regularly in order to foster the Section activity and recognition. Most notable activities within the Section are related to the support of different conferences such as POWER ELECTRONICS, ETRAN, IEEEESTEC, TREND, INFOTEH, ZINC, TELFOR, MECO, ICEST, TELSIS.

## Industry

The section is continuously being recognized as a reliable partner to the industry with several of the events strongly supported by the industry. Some events foster industry related session, in order to bring the academia closer to the industry. One such event was the Jubilee 30<sup>th</sup> Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2022, where a special track was devoted to presentations of 19 industrial partners. Future activities will aim at including more industry representatives to events supported by the Section.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Section realized the need for taking into account these issues and will start the activities in the following period.

## Activities since the last report

Section elections were organized in January 2023 and the sections officers were elected for the period of 2023-2024. New officer started their activities immediately after elections. For next elections is planned to organize elections earlier to provide more time for new officers to prepare. Also, MTT Serbia and Montenegro Section Chapter elections were organized, and the new officers were elected:

- Prof. Biljana Stošić, Chair
- Prof. Milka Potrebić Ivaniš, Vice Chair
- Prof. Jelena Radić, Secretary/Treasurer

The last Section Ex-Com meeting was organized on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Belgrade and we made decision to support following events: ACIT 2024, TELFOR 2023, ETRAN 2023, MECO 2023, TELSIS 2023, ICEST 2023 and FedCSIS 2024.

In the last reporting period following conferences supported by Section were organized successfully:

- Jubilee 30<sup>th</sup> Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2022, November 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Belgrade
- 15<sup>th</sup> IEEEESTEC International Students Projects conference, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Niš
- XXIX Development Trends Conference on Education - TREND 2023, February 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Vrnjačka Banja
- 22nd International Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA 2023, March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Jahorina, RS, B&H

## Planned activities

Next Section Ex-Com meeting is planned to be organized in April 2023, in Niš.

In the next period we plan to run initiative for elevating potential members to senior member status. This can lead to increase of member satisfaction and can bring Section more active IEEE members able to attract new members.

Also, we plan to run initiative for establishing a National Society Agreement with two societies from Serbia with IEEE.

In the next period following conferences supported by Section are planned to be organized:

- Zooming Innovation in Consumer Electronics International Conference - ZINC 2023, May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Novi Sad, Serbia (<https://www.gozinc.org/>)
- 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering - IcETAN 2023, June 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, East Sarajevo, RS, Bosnia and Herzegovina (<https://www.etrans.rs/2023/en/home-english/>)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Embedded Computings - MECO 2023, June 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Budva, Montenegro (<https://mecoconference.me/meco2023/>)

- 58<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies - ICEST 2023, June 29<sup>th</sup>-July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Niš, Serbia (<https://icestconf.org/>)
- 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference Towards a Humane City 2023, October 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Novi Sad, Serbia (<https://humanecityns.org/>)
- 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advanced Technologies, Systems and Services in Telecommunications – TELSIKS 2023, October 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Niš, Serbia (<https://www.telsiks.org.rs/>)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium POWER ELECTRONICS Ee2023, October 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Novi Sad, Serbia (<http://www.dee.uns.ac.rs/>)
- 31<sup>st</sup> Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2023, November 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Belgrade, Serbia ([www.telfor.rs](http://www.telfor.rs))

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

Region 8 can help in attracting new student members and young professionals by supporting programs and projects that will be delivered locally. Through these programs young people can be more engaged in IEEE technical activities, but also other professional IEEE activities, and hopefully attracted to become active IEEE members and IEEE volunteers.

#### **Any other issues of interest**