

## 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: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Next elections for the new section's officers will be organized by the end of 2024. Section has not established formal rule that the Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair, but in practice that was always case for last 20 years.

In the year 2023, Section has met recruitment goal and received silver medal for outstanding recruitment performance. Additionally, at the end of the year section officers 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).

The regular Section Ex-Com meeting was organized in-person on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Faculty of Electronic Engineering, University of Niš, in Niš. At the meeting, Ex-Com elected new officers for most of existing, but also for newly established positions in the Section:

- Membership Development: Bane Popadić, Ph.D.
- Professional Activities: Prof. Budimir Lutovac, Ph.D.
- Chapter Coordinator: Prof. Boris Dumnić, Ph.D.
- Awards and Recognitions: Prof. Vera Marković, Ph.D.
- Educational Activities: Prof. Zoran Veljović, Ph.D.
- Student Activities: Miloš Marjanović, M.Sc.
- Student Representative: Barbara Vujkov, M.Sc.
- History Activities: Prof. Branimir Reljin, Ph.D.
- Humanitarian Activities: Prof. Zorica Bogdanović, Ph.D.
- DEI Activities: Prof. Nataša Nešković, Ph.D.
- STEM Activities: Prof. Danijel Danković, Ph.D.
- Communications: Tamara Naumović, M.Sc.

### 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. 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

Within the Section there are 3 active affinity groups WIE, YP and LM (formed on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023) 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. Newly formed LM AG started with their activities. 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

There are 13 active chapters within the Section, and all of the chapters submitted all reports for 2022 on time and received rebate. 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 sessions, in order to bring the academia closer to the industry. Future activities will aim at including more industry representatives to events supported by the Section.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The section realized the need for diversity in the technical profession and established new officer position for DEI Activities in the Section. New elected officer is Prof. Nataša Nešković.

### 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.

The last Section Ex-Com meeting was organized on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Niš and we elected new officers for most of existing, but also for newly established positions in the Ex-Com of Section:

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

- 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 - IcETRAN 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/>)
- E-business technologies Conference 2023, June 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Belgrade, Serbia (<https://www.ebt.rs/etn/ebt-conference-2023/>)
- 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/>)

### Planned activities

Next Section Ex-Com meeting is planned to be organized in November 2023, in Belgrade or in Novi Sad.

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:

- 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))
- 23<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA 2024, March 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Jahorina, RS, Bosnia and Herzegovina (<https://infoteh.etf.ues.rs.ba/>)

### 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