

## 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. The 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.

The regular Section Ex-Com meeting was organized in-person on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, in Novi Sad. The Section continued to support the events organized by different section chapters, affinity groups and student branches (both technically and financially).

In the year 2023, the Section has met recruitment goal and received silver medal for outstanding recruitment performance. At the end of the year, section officers participated in the traditional group membership renewal process to retain most of the membership. Additionally, Section officer in academia done several promotions of the IEEE membership to university students.

### Students

The Section has four SBs (SB Novi Sad, SB Belgrade, SB Niš and SB Montenegro). Since the last report section SBs have retained their activities as usual. Three SBs are very active with 27 reported activities since the last report (SB Niš – 23 activities, SB Belgrade - 2 activities and SB Novi Sad - 2 activities). SB Montenegro mostly retained their membership, but there is need for help from the Section in activating the SB Montenegro.

SB Niš was especially active and successfully organized their annual event, the 16<sup>th</sup> student conference, "IEESTEC 16th Student projects conference", on November 23, 2023. The conference was organized by the student branch of IEEE SB Niš, EESTEC LC Niš and the Faculty of Electronic Engineering in Niš, in cooperation with IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section, IEEE Electron Devices/Solid-State Circuits Chapter, IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Chapter, IEEE WIE Affinity Group and IEEE Computational Intelligence Chapter, with the support of the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts (SASA) Branch in Niš, as well as the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation of the Republic of Serbia.

### 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. All affinity groups were active since the last report: WIE reported 7 events, YP reported one event and LM reported 7 events.

In the scope of preparations for the celebration of the 170th anniversary of the birth of the famous Serbian/American Scientist, Educator, and Inventor Prof. Mihajlo Idvorski Pupin, the IEEE LMAG members of the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section with an LMAG Fellow from Australia as a guest, and some other people, met in the Pupin's Memorial Centre in Idvor, Serbia. They visited Pupin's birthplace house, and the memorial exhibition, and attended a lecture from the museum curator Mrs. Jelena Kalin. It should be recalled that, in addition to his great scientific achievements and patriotic contributions, Pupin was the president of the IRE (1917) and IEEE (1925-26), among other duties. After the visit and the lecture, the LMAG members and guests visited the Museum of the Naive Arts in the nearby city of Kovacica, Serbia.

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 reports for 2023 on time: COM19, C16, CIS11, jt ED15/SSC37, jt IE13/IA34/PEL35, MTT17, PE31, jt SP01/CAS04, E25, EMC27, BT02, CT08 and ITSS38. All chapters were very active and reported more than 90 activities since the last report.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Power Electronics was organized by the Power Electronics Society of Serbia, Novi Sad, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, Institute "Nikola Tesla", Belgrade, and the Faculty of Technical Sciences of the University of Novi Sad, all in Serbia. The purpose of the symposium was to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of the state-of-art of Power electronics and related areas.

Event devoted to 75 YEARS SINCE PATENTING BIPOLAR JUNCTION TRANSISTOR: ON THE HORIZONT AND BEYOND was organized on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at the School of Electrical Engineering and supported by Serbia And Montenegro Section Chapter EMC27.

An IEEE EDS sponsored Mini-Colloquium on Nano- and Flexible-Electronics (MQ) was held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at the University of Niš, Niš, Serbia. This MQ was organized in conjunction with 33th International Conference on Microelectronics - MIEL 2023, giving great opportunity to foreign participants to be updated with novelties in modern scientific field. Detailed information on the EDS MQ can be found: (<https://eds.ieee.org/education/distinguished-lecturer-mini-colloquia-program>). The objective of the MQ was to present the topics on Nano- and Flexible-Electronics.

Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2023 was organized for the 31st time as an international regional annual meeting of those professionals working in the broad fields of Telecommunications and Information Technologies. The participants were mostly telecommunications engineers, but also the economists, jurists, managers, governmental officials, students, researchers, operators, service providers and others. TELFOR is the forum in which all relevant aspects of Telecommunications and IT are discussed: subjects of technical nature, development, regulatory and economics matters, education, equipment, services and systems operation.

### 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 31<sup>th</sup> Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2023, where a special track was devoted to presentations of 20 industrial partners. 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 Ex-Com meeting was organized in-person on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, in Novi Sad.

Section Vice Chair, Prof. Zlatica Marinković, attended the event devoted to IEEE Milestone recognition for a scientific achievement in Macedonia in 1988 - First Robotic Control from Human Brain Signals. Our section representative was invited by the IEEE North Macedonia Section.

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

- 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://humancityns.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))
- 30<sup>th</sup> Development Trends Conference on Education - TREND 2024, February 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia ([www.trend.uns.ac.rs](http://www.trend.uns.ac.rs))

### Planned activities

Next Section Ex-Com meeting is planned to be organized in April 2024, in Belgrade.

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.

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

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

- 28<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Information Technology IT 2024, February 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Žabljak, Montenegro ([www.it.ac.me](http://www.it.ac.me))
- 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/>)
- Zooming Innovation in Consumer Technologies Conference - ZINC 2024, May 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Novi Sad, Serbia ([www.gozinc.org](http://www.gozinc.org))
- 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering - IcETRAN 2024, June 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Niš, Serbia ([www.etrans.rs/2024/](http://www.etrans.rs/2024/))
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference on Embedded Computing - MECO 2024, 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cyber-Physical Systems and Internet-of-Things - CPSIoT 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> Summer School on Cyber Physical Systems and Internet of Things - SS-CPSIoT 2024, Budva, Montenegro, June 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Budva, Montenegro ([mecoconference.me](http://mecoconference.me))

- 59<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies - ICEST 2024, July 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Sozopol, Bulgaria, ([icestconf.org/](http://icestconf.org/))
- 19<sup>th</sup> Conference on Computer Science and Intelligence Systems FedCSIS 2024, September 8th-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Belgrade, Serbia ([www.fedcsis.org/](http://www.fedcsis.org/))

**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.