

## 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 August 2023 to February 2024 (increase of around 20.7%), getting to the steady saturated number of 700-800 members. The high increase is a compensation of previous drop compared to 2022 as the main result of trends influenced by EU funding to higher education institutions and the local change in legislation, which is now being recovered. In February and March, all members will be individually reminded and encouraged to renew their membership status.

### Students

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

Student activities since last report:

- SBOS: elections held; organization of annual “I3E iOS Academy”; successful implementation of IEEEExtreme competition with 30 teams (90 students); various social events; half-year member recruitment action; details at: <https://www.instagram.com/ieee.osijek>
- SBZG: elections held; especially active student chapter of IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society that conducted 5 technical lectures
- SBRI: elections held; set plans for the upcoming period

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Organize promotional activities and recruitment initiatives in student branches to 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:

- New elections held
- Transfer of learnings from IEEE Section Congress 2023
- AI in aerial manipulation
- Participated in meetings and activities of the Croatia Section, promoted Region 8 Young Professionals activities to members
- Support local student branches in organizing activities

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Help SB University of Zagreb to increase the number of volunteers
- Help SBs to recruit new members, giving significant effect in Osijek
- Continue to attend and contribute to Croatia Section meetings and activities
- Continue to support workshops related to the industry for students and young engineers

### Women in Engineering

WIE held 5 events since August 2023 on topic of equal opportunities in engineering profession, including continuation of the podcast series “ŽensCast” focusing on success stories of women scientists and professionals, with the most recent ones focusing on young professors and postdoctoral researchers in power and energy domain. Croatian WIE became the main contributor of such content at University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing.

### Life Members

Since August 2023, our Life Members AG organized five technical lectures (11 total in 2023) with foreign renowned professors and industry experts on the topic of marine robotics and oceanic technologies, in collaboration with local Robotics and Automation Chapter and Ocean Engineering Student Chapter of Student Branch Zagreb. The affinity group initiated a new program of listing distinguished Croatian professors and their contributions, together with supporting material (biographies, interviews, descriptions of inventions or contributions, media articles, etc.).

### **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 2023-2024 and the remaining ones, and AGs, held elections for 2024-2025. In 2023, a total of 79 events are reported so far for the whole Section, majority of which accounts to the chapters.

### **Industry**

In cooperation with the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and student association Financial Club, tied to Faculty of Economics, 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 two such events have been organized. The program has proved to play a 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 ExCom carried out its regular meetings and succeeded in preserving a steady number of members and a vibrant community. In 2023, Section was a technical co-sponsor of 11 conferences: CoNTESA 2023, SMAGRIMET 2023, ConTEL 2023, ELMAR 2023, ICECOM 2023, SISY 2023, SoftCOM 2023, SpliTech 2023, MeditCom 2023, CSF 2023 and MIPRO 2023 (compared to six in 2022). For 2024, 7 conferences are already provided with Section technical co-sponsorship: ELMAR 2024, ICCNS 2024, IDSTA 2024, ICMAE 2024, SISY 2024, SST 2024, SpliTech 2024. Full list is available at <https://www.ieee.hr/ieeesection/konferencije>.

Coordinated IEEE Senior Member elevation action is performed, resulting in overall 23 applications by the time of the report, and 14 members already elevated.

Annual Gala dinner with Section awards, which has been for years the most successful networking event in Croatia, was held on 15 November 2023.

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 again put to students and revitalization on number of student members, and student branches in general. We continue our plan to stimulate larger number of professional and informal networking events among members (including student 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**