

Section Name Bulgaria

Reporting Officer Name Valentina Markova

Section Vitality

The most recent election concluded on July 17, 2023, resulting in the formation of the elected ExCom for the term 2023-2025. The composition is as follows: Professor Valentina Markova as the Chair (continuing from the previous mandate 2021-2023), Professor Todor Ganchev as the Vice Chair (formerly the Treasurer), Associate Professor Georgi Balabanov as the Treasurer, and Krasimir Tonchev as the Secretary.

We successfully conducted a series of both online and in-person meetings aimed at encouraging individuals from universities and industries to either become new IEEE members or maintain their existing memberships.

The IEEE Bulgaria FutureTech Forum was successfully held on March 29, 2024, gathering industry leaders, academic professionals, and students to discuss the latest advancements in technology and the importance of collaboration between academia and industry.

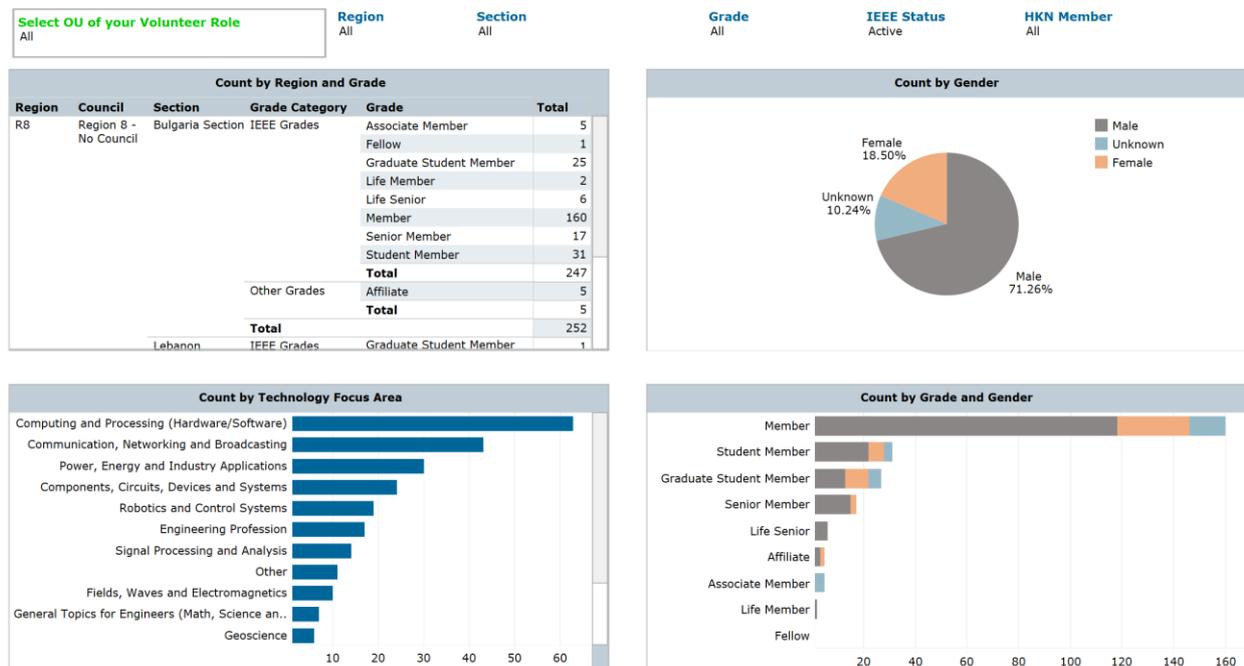
This year, the IEEE Bulgaria Section is proud to support 16 conferences dedicated to shaping innovative and cutting-edge content across various technical fields of interest within the IEEE community.

Here is the current and comprehensive information on active members within the Bulgarian section of the IEEE. This data includes distribution details based on gender, membership grade, and technological area, all extracted from OU Analytics.

IEEE OU Analytics

Members and Affiliates - Dashboard

This dashboard provides interactive views for members, society affiliates, and participants by region, geographic council, section and subsection.
 • Refine data through filters or click within a visualization to view results and details.
 • Hover over a visualization to display a tooltip with statistical facts.
 • **Important: Choose an OU from "Select OU of your Volunteer Role" filter to view customized results for your OU position.**



Note: Data displayed is based upon volunteer access privileges.
 Data made available through this platform is IEEE Confidential Information. Please review the IEEE Guide to Classification of Documents policy for more information.

Students

List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting.
 List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

There are three Student Branches:

STB36211 - University of Ruse,

STB36221 - Technical University of Sofia

STB60691 - Natl Military Academy Vasil Levski.

The number of groups remains unchanged.

The EE&AE 2024 conference was part of the Innovative Week of Technology, which extended it with two student events: Electroniad 2024 and the 1st Balkan Summit of the IEEE Student Branches & EPS Student Branch Chapters. In these accompanying events, Bulgarian and foreign students listened to lectures by leading researchers and specialists, participated in competitive events, and built new friendships.

During the Electroniad 2024 competition students from Bulgaria and Romania were competing each other in the design and implementation of an electronic device. The best teams were granted with certificates and gifts, provided by Microchip Technology, Romania.

The lecturers in the 1st Balkan Summit of the IEEE Student Branches & EPS Student Branch Chapters are listed in Table 2.

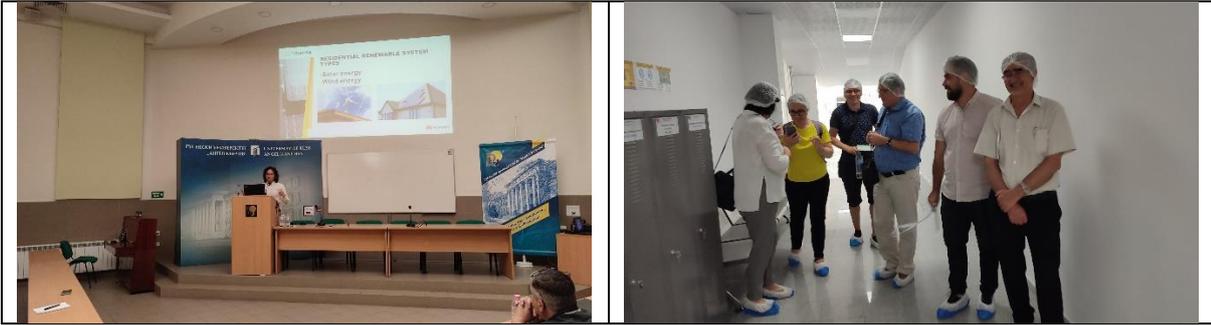
Table 2. Lecturers during the 1st Balkan Summit of the IEEE Student Branches & EPS Student Branch Chapters.

No	Info
1	Lecturer: Valentin-Croif CONSTANTIN Affiliation: Microchip Technology, Romania Position: Director of Romania Design Center Title of the presentation: Microchip's Academic Synergy: Cultivating Innovation through Education and Partnerships
2	Lecturer: Dimitar STOYANOV Affiliation: Endava, Bulgaria Position: AI Community Lead, AI Architect Title of the presentation: GenAI in 2024. From classical machine learning to autonomous agents
3	Lecturer: Eng. Ivan Valentinov VALCHEV Affiliation: Photomate Bulgaria, Plovdiv, Bulgaria Position: Technical Solution Manager Title of the presentation: From Sunlight to Savings: Exploring the Benefits of Renewable Photovoltaic Energy and Huawei Solutions

The students also had the possibility to visit the PCB company Steiner Elektronik Ltd, Ruse.

Photos from the 1st Balkan Summit of the IEEE Student Branches & EPS Student Branch Chapters:





Photos from the Electroniad 2024 event:



Affinity Groups

The IEEE WIE Affinity Group in the IEEE Bulgaria Section was created in October 2022.

On October 4, 2024, the event titled "Gentle Power: Women in business talk" brought together three remarkable women who have overcome challenges and achieved their goals in the business world. The gathering aimed to inspire attendees through their personal stories and experiences. Attendees participated actively, asking questions and sharing their own experiences, fostering a sense of camaraderie and support among the participants.

The IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group aims to attract new members and sustain active involvement in various IEEE events.

Chapters

List of Chapters and SB Chapters in Bulgaria Section:

CH08200 - Bulgaria Section Jt. Chapter, AP03/ED15/MTT17/EP21

CH08254 - Bulgaria/Rep of Macedonia Jt. Sect. Chapter, SP01

CH08266 - Bulgaria Section, CAS04/SSC37

CH08271 - Bulgaria Section Chapter, C16

CH08292 - Bulgaria Section Joint Chapter, IM09/CS23/SMC28

CH08298 - Bulgaria Section Chapter, COM19

CH08363 - Bulgaria Section Joint Chapter, ED15/SSC37 Varna

CH08438 - Bulgaria Section Chapter, RA24

CH08451 - Bulgaria Section Chapter, CIS11 Industry

All groups hold regular meetings and organize technical, professional, and promotional events. **Industry**

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.

Activities since the last report

The IEEE Bulgaria Section continues to support the scientists and science organizations in Bulgaria, which organize international conferences.

The IEEE Bulgaria FutureTech Forum was successfully held on March 29, 2024, gathering industry leaders, academic professionals, and students to discuss the latest advancements in technology and the importance of collaboration between academia and industry.

The forum featured a presentation from the IEEE Bulgaria Section, focusing on the following key areas:

- Introduction to IEEE Bulgaria Section
- Overview of the section's mission and vision.
- Recent achievements and initiatives aimed at promoting technological innovation and professional development.

Membership Growth

Connection with Industries

Presentation of current membership statistics, highlighting a significant increase in both individual and institutional members. Emphasis on the benefits of IEEE membership, including access to resources, networking opportunities, and professional development programs.

Discussion on the importance of fostering partnerships between universities and industries.

The IEEE Bulgaria FutureTech Forum was a resounding success, highlighting the essential role of the IEEE Bulgaria Section in connecting academia with industry. The event fostered meaningful discussions and set the stage for future collaborations that will benefit the technological landscape in Bulgaria.



