

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 – activities regarding elections organization already started. 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 June 17th, 2024, at the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, in Belgrade. The Section continued to support the events organized by different section chapters, affinity groups and student branches (both technically and financially). The Section Ex-Com notified that the rules regarding elections organization has been changed and activities for adoption of new rules started.

In the year 2024, the Section has met retention and recruitment goal and received gold medal for outstanding retention and recruitment performance. At the beginning of the membership 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, but there is need for help from the Section in activating the SB Montenegro. SB Niš was especially active and successfully organized 32 activities from the last reporting period.

Section had representatives from SB Novi Sad, SB Belgrade, SB Niš and Young Professionals AG participating in the IEEE Region 8 Students & Young Professionals (R8 SYP) Congress - Grenoble 2024.

Affinity Groups

On May 10th, 2024, IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section Blockchain Group has been formed in Serbia and Montenegro Section. New Interim Co-Chairs are Prof. Darko Čapko and Prof. Srđan Vukmirović.

Within the Section there are 3 active affinity groups WIE, YP and LM that participated in different section activities. All affinity groups were active since the last report. 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 September 9th, 2024, Antennas and Propagation Society Chapter has been formed in Serbia and Montenegro Section. New Interim Chair is Prof. Milan Ilić. New chapter started with activities and will organize "IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturers Workshop & Meeting Series, at the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia, on October 17-19, 2024.

So, there are now 14 active chapters within the Section. The 13 active chapters within the Section 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 a lot of activities since the last report. Most notable activities within the Section are related to the support of different events and conferences such as POWER ELECTRONICS, IcETRAN, 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 is 32nd Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2024, where a special track devoted to presentations industrial partners are planned. Future activities will aim at including more industry representatives to events supported by the Section.

Activities since the last report

Section Ex-Com meeting was organized was organized in-person on June 17th, 2024, at the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, in Belgrade.

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

- 28th International Conference on Information Technology IT 2024, February 21st-24th, 2024, Žabljak, Montenegro (www.it.ac.me)
- 23rd International Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA 2024, March 20th-22nd, 2024, Jahorina, RS, Bosnia and Herzegovina (<https://infoteh.etf.ues.rs.ba/>)
- Zooming Innovation in Consumer Technologies Conference - ZINC 2024, May 22nd-23rd, 2024, Novi Sad, Serbia (www.gozinc.org)
- 11th International Conference on Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering - IcETRAN 2024, June 3rd-6th, 2024, Niš, Serbia (www.etrans.rs/2024/)
- 13th Mediterranean Conference on Embedded Computing - MECO 2024, 12th International Conference on Cyber-Physical Systems and Internet-of-Things - CPSIoT 2024, 5th Summer School on Cyber Physical Systems and Internet of Things - SS-CPSIoT 2024, Budva, Montenegro, June 11th-14th, 2024, Budva, Montenegro (mecoconference.me)
- 59th International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies - ICEST 2024, July 1st-3rd, 2024, Sozopol, Bulgaria, (icestconf.org/)
- 19th Conference on Computer Science and Intelligence Systems FedCSIS 2024, September 8th-11th, 2024, Belgrade, Serbia (www.fedcsis.org/)

Planned activities

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

We also plan to start initiative to establish Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society Chapter in Serbia and Montenegro Section.

In the next period we plan to work on 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.

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

- 32nd Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2024, November 26th-27th, 2024, Belgrade, Serbia (www.telfor.rs)
- 29th International and professional Conference Information Technology IT 2025, February 19th-22nd, 2025, Žabljak, Montenegro (www.it.ac.me)
- 24th International Symposium INFOTEH-JAHORINA 2025, March 19th-21st, 2025, Jahorina, RS, Bosnia and Herzegovina (<https://infoteh.etf.ues.rs.ba/>)
- IEEE Zooming Innovation in Consumer Technologies Conference - ZINC 2025, May 28th-29th, 2025, Novi Sad, Serbia (<https://www.gozinc.org/>)
- 17th International Conference on Advanced Technologies, Systems and Services in Telecommunications – TELSIS 2025, October 22nd-24th, 2025, Niš, Serbia (<https://www.telsiks.org.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.