

Croatia Section

Ana Katalinić Mucalo

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 February 2024 to September 2024 (increase of around 9.6%), getting to the steady saturated number of around 700 members. The Section is now focused on membership renewal and recruitment of new members, tied with IEEE Day and IEEEExtreme initiatives. Coordinated action of membership elevation resulted in 25 new successful elevations to Senior Member and Life Senior members as a noticeable peak in usual membership vitality. A coordinated actions was organized by Section to attract new student members to participate in Student Paper Contest.

Students

The Section has 3 active student branches (SBs), in the cities of Zagreb (SBZG), Osijek (SBOS) and Rijeka (SBRI). Representatives from SBZG and SBRI, together with YP AG, participated in IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress, Grenoble.

Student activities since last report:

- SBOS: participation in organization of series of IT workshops “KulenDayz IT Innovation Conference”, technical lectures followed by evening social events “Beer Pong”, preparations for IEEEExtreme 18.0, details at: <https://www.instagram.com/ieee.osijek>
- SBZG: especially active student chapter of IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society that is participating in organization of Breaking the Surface Conference (<https://bts.fer.hr/>), an international interdisciplinary field workshop of maritime robotics and applications, together with many supporting events for students organized before as preparation for the workshop.
- SBRI: conducting plans on revitalization of the student branch

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Received a R8 SAC grant for section student officers meeting, plans in motion.
- 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:

- Transfer of learnings from IEEE R8 SYP Congress 2024
- Latex writing skills workshop
- Support local student branches in organizing activities

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Coordination of IEEE Croatia Section SYP Congress based with sectional SB officers meeting
- Help SBs to recruit new members for IEEEExtreme competition, giving significant effect in Osijek
- Continue to support workshops related to the industry for students and young engineers

Women in Engineering

Held technical lecture on health in office jobs and working with computers Participated in the program “Engineering woman of the year” with significant industry sponsorship. Plans for continuation of the podcast series “ŽensCast” focusing on success stories of women scientists and professionals

Life Members

Since March 2024, our Life Members AG organized two technical lectures 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 is maintaining their activities on historical accomplishments of our members and distinguished Croatian technical experts.

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 86 events are reported so far for the whole Section, majority of which accounts to the chapters. In 2024, the trend is being followed and around 90 events are expected by the end of the year.

Industry

Since the last report, our chapters brought many lectures from notable industry players to present industrial perspectives on research and technical products. During this period, the emphasis was set on topics of health and energy, organized correspondingly by Engineering Medicine & Biology Society Chapter and Power and Energy Systems Society Chapter.

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 9 conferences: ELMAR 2024, ICCNS 2024, IDSTA 2024, ICMAE 2024, SISY 2024, SST 2024, SpliTech 2024, SoftCOM 2024 and MIPRO 2024. In addition, our PES Chapter leadership is organizing also the ISGT Europe 2024. Full list is available at <https://www.ieee.hr/ieeesection/konferencije>.

Annual Gala dinner with Section awards, which has been for years the most successful networking event in Croatia, is scheduled to be held on 13 November 2024.

More details on the held activities are reported under individual categories above.

Elections for the new section leadership roles (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) are being conducted according to rules and timeline of MGA Operations Manual.

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