

Serbia and Montenegro Section

Mladen Koprivica, Chair

Section Vitality

Last Section elections were organized in December 2024 using vTools, and the Section officers were elected for the period of 2025-2026:

- Asst. Prof. Mladen Koprivica, Chair
- Prof. Zlatica Marinković, Vice Chair
- Asst. Prof. Bane Popadić, Secretary
- Dr Biljana Stošić, Treasurer

Next elections for the new Section officers will be organized by the end of 2026. 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 November 27th, 2024, at TELFOR conference in Belgrade. The Section continued to support the events organized by different section chapters, affinity groups and student branches (both technically and financially).

In the year 2024, the Section 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 officers 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 23 activities from the last reporting period, among them very important IEEEESTEC - 17th INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROJECTS CONFERENCE (<https://ieee.elfak.ni.ac.rs/#>).

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

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 (WIE reported 6 events, YP reported 2 events and LM reported 4 events). 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.

In 2024, IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section Blockchain Group has been formed in Serbia and Montenegro Section.

Chapters

There are 13 active chapters within the Section, and all of the chapters submitted reports for 2024 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 110 activities since the last report.

Section started activities regarding the initiative to establish Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society Chapter in Serbia and Montenegro Section.

On November 19th, 2024, Dr Biljana Stošić, Chapter Chair of Serbia and Montenegro MTT-S Chapter, attended the CCM held as part of the 2024 Asia-Pacific Microwave Conference in Bali, Indonesia and received the 2024 MTT-S Outstanding Chapter Award from Prof. Maurizio Bozzi (MTT-S President), Prof. Ke Wu and Prof. M. Jaleel Akhtar.

Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2024 was organized for the 32nd 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 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 32nd Telecommunications Forum TELFOR 2024, where a special track was devoted to presentations of 16 industrial partners. Future activities will aim at including more industry representatives to events supported by the Section.

Activities since the last report

Section elections were organized in December 2024 and the sections officers were elected for their second term in 2025-2026. New treasurer was elected, and Dr Biljana Stošić started her activities with two months transition period.

Section Ex-Com meeting was organized was organized in-person on November 27th, 2024, at TELFOR conference in Belgrade.

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

- 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/>)

At the end of 2024, the traditional group membership renewal process was organized to retain most of the membership. Section officers at the universities organized several promotions of IEEE membership to students.

Planned activities

Next Section Ex-Com meeting is planned to be organized in April 2025, in Belgrade.

We started activities regarding the initiative to establish Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society Chapter in Serbia and Montenegro Section.

In the next period we plan to work on the initiative of elevating potential members to senior member status. This can lead to an increase in member satisfaction and can bring Section more active IEEE members able to attract new members.

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

- IEEE Zooming Innovation in Consumer Technologies Conference - ZINC 2025, May 28th-29th, 2025, Novi Sad, Serbia (<https://www.gozinc.org/>)
- 12th International Conference on Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering - IcETRAN 2025, June 9th-12th, 2025, Čačak, Serbia (<https://www.etrans.rs/2025/en/home-english/>)
- 60th International Scientific Conference on Information, Communication and Energy Systems and Technologies - ICEST 2025, June 26th-28th, 2025, Ohrid, North Macedonia, (icestconf.org/)
- 23rd International Symposium on Intelligent Systems and Informatics - SISY 2025, September 25th-27th, 2025, Subotica, Serbia (<https://conf.uni-obuda.hu/sisy2025/>)
- 23rd International Symposium Power Electrics – Ee 2025, October 8th-10th, 2025, Novi Sad, Serbia (<http://www.dee.uns.ac.rs/>)
- 17th International Conference on Advanced Technologies, Systems and Services in Telecommunications – TELSISKS 2025, October 22nd-24th, 2025, Niš, Serbia (<https://www.telsiks.org.rs/>)
- 33rd Telecommunications Forum - TELFOR 2025, November 25th-26th, 2025, Belgrade, Serbia (www.telfor.rs)
- 30th International and professional Conference Information Technology - IT 2026, February 24th-28th, 2026, Žabljak, Montenegro (www.it.ac.me)

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.

Any other issues of interest