

Croatia Section

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Section Vitality

In the reporting period, the attention of Section's leadership was largely put in preparations of The 125th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 18-19 October 2025. Regular monthly meetings were held and increased communication on the organizational effort.

The number of IEEE members of the IEEE Croatia Section was increasing steadily from April 2025 to October 2025 (increase of around 6%), getting to the current number of 673 members as a decrease of 2% compared to the same period last year. The Section is now focused on membership renewal and recruitment of new members, tied with IEEE Day and IEEEExtreme initiatives. Aligned together with it, the Section is conducting revitalization of the dormant student branches with coordinated effort to be carried out during 2025 Croatian Student and Young Professional Congress.

Chapters coordination meeting was carried out in May, resulting up to date increase of 10% YoY of reported events in vTools. Coordinated action of membership elevation is being conducted for new elevations to Senior Member status and preparation of initiatives for IEEE Fellow. Annual Gala dinner with Section awards, which has been for years the most successful networking event in Croatia, is set to be held on 26 November 2025.

Students

The Section has 2 active student branches (SBs), in the cities of Zagreb (SBZG) and Osijek (SBOS). Both are working together tightly to organize "2025 Croatian Student and Young Professional Congress", 17-19 October 2025 in Dubrovnik, aligned to Section and R8 meetings.

Student activities since the last report:

- SBOS: participation in organization of many events, such as "WIEM - Women who paved the way" in collaboration with WIE, 9 workshops on presentation and communication skills in collaboration with IAESTE, series of IT workshops "KulenDayz IT Innovation Conference", social events such as "CATAN tournir", participation in faculty open doors initiatives, preparations for IEEEExtreme 19.0, help in R8 meeting, and more, with details at: <https://www.instagram.com/ieee.osijek>
- SBZG: working in close collaboration with SBOS to replicate approaches and activities, applied for EPICS and Tech4Good programs and developed an optimization tool for school timetable in close collaboration with a high school in Zagreb, held recruitment actions for new members and new volunteers. Especially active is student chapter of IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society that is traditionally 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. Additionally, the chapter participated in establishing "Croatian Robotics Conference" <https://dof-crc.hr>.

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Revitalize membership and strengthen student activities
- Organize local SYP congress (CroSYP) in Dubrovnik
- Host IEEE Day and IEEEExtreme events
- Strengthen collaboration between SBZG and SBOS
- 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:

- Participated in establishing and organization of a student-focused event "2025 Croatian Robotics Conference" 15-16 May 2025, in the city of Čakovec <https://dof-crc.hr>, that brought together young scientists (PhD students) in the field

of robotics through discussions on the latest research, perspectives for future research, innovative applications and organized social events (granted Local Activity Funding).

- Held a YP Meet Up during “67th International Symposium ELMAR-2025, 15-17 September 2025” https://www.elmar-zadar.org/2025/special_session.html (granted Meet Up funding).
- Held technical lectures on LLM theory and application topics.
- Helping in R8 Committee Meeting and R8 CroSYP Congress.

Plan for the upcoming period:

- Coordination of IEEE Croatia Section SYP Congress based with sectional SB officers and counselors meeting
- Continue to support workshops related to the industry for students and young engineers
- Collaborate with industry relations team in organization of professional activities

Women in Engineering

Continuously helping electrical engineering and computing faculties in new strategies and various workshops on encouraging women engineers and researchers. Plans for continuation of the podcast series “ŽensCast” focusing on success stories of women scientists and professionals.

Life Members

Our Life Members AG maintained their activities on recording and reporting historical accomplishments of our members and distinguished Croatian technical experts.

SIGHT

Supported students to develop a proposal and participate in EPICS and Tech4Good calls with proposal “e-Schedule (e-Rasposed) - Dynamic AI-generated Interactive Schedule for High Schools”.

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 for the whole Section, majority of which accounts to the chapters. In 2024, the trend was followed, and 82 events are reported while for 2025 there is a 10% YoY increase of activities at the time of the report. The most active ones were Instrumentation and Measurement Chapter and Engineering in Medicine and Biology Chapter. There was a notable engagement of Robotics and Automation Chapter in supporting the students in establishment of Croatian Robotics Conference.

Industry

For years, the main focus of activities has been organizing public lectures called Business Skills Workshops in cooperation with the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (FER), and the student association Financial Club. The guest lecturers are notable business professionals from Croatia. The primary aim of these events is to expose students to business-related content in an interactive manner, giving them the opportunity to listen to and engage with experienced managers from the technology and financial sectors. Additionally, these events help introduce IEEE not only to students but also to guest lecturers. The lectures are open to the general public, and invitations are published on the websites of the IEEE Croatia Section, FER, and Financial Club, as well as occasionally on LinkedIn.

In 2025, 5 such workshops are held so far of generally very high attendance. The Industry Relations team has been expanded with four new members, and proposals for new forms of engagement will be discussed in the coming months.

Entrepreneurship

Section has participated in IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Week and held an intensive fundraising bootcamp in collaboration with American experts, designed to help nine Nuqleus startup alumni improve key skills in the areas of fundraising, go-to-market strategies, marketing and sales.

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 2025, Section was a technical co-sponsor of 10 conferences: ACIT 2025, SMAGRIMET 2025, BCCA 2025, iMETA 2025, DTIP 2025, EDPE 2025, ELMAR 2025, SoftCOM 2025, SpliTech 2025, MIPRO 2025. Full list is available at <https://www.ieee.hr/ieeesection/konferencije>.

Additionally, the Section was chosen to host IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference (IEEE IHTC 2027), November 17-20, 2027.

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. This is starting to give results in revitalization of SBZG and new leadership is very active and being mentored by success stories of SBOS.

The focus of the reporting period was on the organization of “The 125th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia, 18-19 October 2025” including coordination with national authorities for smooth visa process, examination and selection of venues, dinner, entertainment, additional services for guests, and more. The event has received support of Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia, Dubrovnik Tourist Board, Croatian National Tourist Board, University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and an industry sponsor DTX Technology.

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

The main obstacles to increasing non-academic membership in the IEEE Croatia Section are the high membership fees and the active presence of other similar organizations (such as CIGRÉ, CIRED, etc.). These organizations have a long-standing presence in Croatia, cater primarily to large industry players, and offer much lower membership fees.