

## **Bulgaria Section LMAG – new and active**

The recently established IEEE Bulgaria Section LMAG carried out its first face-to-face meeting in Sofia on 1 of June 2023. In addition to this meeting, the members of LMAG took part in the round table on “Increasing the Interest of High School Students to Scientific and Engineering Professions”.

Bulgaria Section LMAG was a coorganizer of this round table as an event within frame of the conference “Electronics 2023” held in Sofia from 1 to 3 of June, 2023. Together with the conference participants, high school students and teachers, representatives of Chamber of Commerce, Professional Unions, and business participated in the discussions.

Bulgaria Section LMAG is planning to continue this activity and organize a series of round tables on the same topic within other national scientific conferences. Next round table is planned to be held during the CompSysTech 23 conference, which will take place in Rouse from 15 to 17 June, 2023.

In most East European countries for the past 30+ years we observed a change of the preferences of the young people - from scientific and engineering university programs to programs in the fields of law, finance, economics, political sciences, etc. It is mainly caused by the societal transition from economy of production to economy of services. Now we realize that this process went too far and we feel a lack in well qualified engineers and researchers. Similar process have been observed in the developed countries for years, as well. In most cases the “easy” solution has been the import of scientist and engineers from abroad, which gives rise to “brain drain” phenomenon. However, there are plenty of “soft” measures which can be undertaken in order to balance the situation. The science and engineering professions have unique advantages and could be made attractive for the young people. To help for this we should explain the specifics and show to the youth the challenges, the benefits and the full beauty of of these professions.

*Jordan Kolev, Bulgaria Section LMAG Chair*

## ***Pictures***





Increasing the interest of high school students to scientific and engineering professions