

Cluj-Napoca is a large university city at the very heart of the best-known part of Romania: Transylvania. The Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (TUC-N), with over 20.000 students and more than 1.500 staff members, is the second-largest of the ten higher-education institutions located in the city. It comprises twelve faculties, of which the largest three are Automation & Computer Science, Electronics & Information Technology and Electrical Engineering [The Technical University Today - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca \(utcluj.ro\)](#).



**Cluj-Napoca - the city centre seen from the “Citadel” hill.**

The number of Technical University of Cluj-Napoca students joining IEEE has been increasing steadily in the last few years, as well as their involvement in educational and scientific activities organized here. Their enthusiastic contribution to the success of the IEEE 25th International Symposium for Design and Technology in Electronic Packaging (SIITME), organized by the TUC-N in October 2019, was widely acknowledged. This encouraged participant students to form an initiative group for creating an IEEE Student Branch. The initiative won the support of the TUC-N administration and helped boost the number of IEEE student members in TUC-N. In February 2020 the petition for TUC-N IEEE Student Branch formation was formally submitted. It was approved in May 2020 (<https://edu.ieee.org/ro-utcluj/>).



**The initiative group for creating an IEEE Student Branch at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca – January 2020**

Initial concerns regarding the challenge of starting the SB branch activity during the lockdown imposed by the Covid pandemic proved to be unfounded: in fact, membership to this organisation helped members to better cope with the unusual circumstances and maintain their enthusiasm for common activities, even if most of them migrated on-line. Thus, in July 2020, the EPS Student Chapter of TUC-N was officially established (EPS SBC); in August our SB was actively involved in the “Summer School on Advanced Analog IC Design” organized by the TUC-N research group “Digitally-Enhanced RF, Analog and Mixed-Signal Integrated Circuits”. [Home | Digitally Enhanced RF and Analog IC \(utcluj.ro\)](#)

On the IEEE day - October 6<sup>th</sup> – we presented our Student Branch at a webinar organized by the Romanian Chapter of the IEEE Education Society.

Later in October a new edition of the SIITME conference took place, where a session on "Networking: IEEE, IMAPS Student Branch Chapters Kick-off Meeting" was organized by the two EPS SBC in Romania, the one we established in July and an older one organized by our colleague at the University “Politehnica” Bucharest. The meeting was supported by Professor Paul Svasta, General Chair of SIITME 2020 and attended by high-level IEEE members such as: Christopher Bailey - President of the IEEE Electronics Packaging Society, Attila BONYÁR, - IEEE Hu & Ro EPS & NTC Chapter Chair, Andrew Tay - EPS Program Director - Student Programs, Denise Manning – IEEE EPS Executive Director, Nihal Sinnadurai- IMAPS Europe International Ambassador, Dan Pitica -Vice - Rector TUC-N, Lucian Toma -IEEE Romania Section Vice-Chair, Ovidiu Pop - Vice Dean of ETTI TUC-N, Rodica Constantinescu - Vice Dean of ETTI UPB, Cosmin Moisa -SIITME / TIE Industry Co-Chair. [SIITME - IEEE International Symposium for Design and Technology in Electronic Packaging](#)

The purpose of this session was to bring together teachers, students and industry representatives, to exchange opinions and to promote synergies connections between academia and industry. The presenters highlighted the benefits of establishing IEEE Student Branches and Student Chapters and offered their support to participants from two other major technical universities in Romania, the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi and the “Politehnica” University of Timisoara.

We strongly believe that active involvement in activities organized by IEEE Student Branches and Student Branch Chapters are even more important now than in past “normal” times: they enable students to meet like-minded colleagues, to support and get support from their peers for acquiring knowledge and skills essential to their career development, to draw enthusiasm and energy for their work from the common well they also help refilling.

Elena STETCO, Chair of IEEE EPS SBC

Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology