

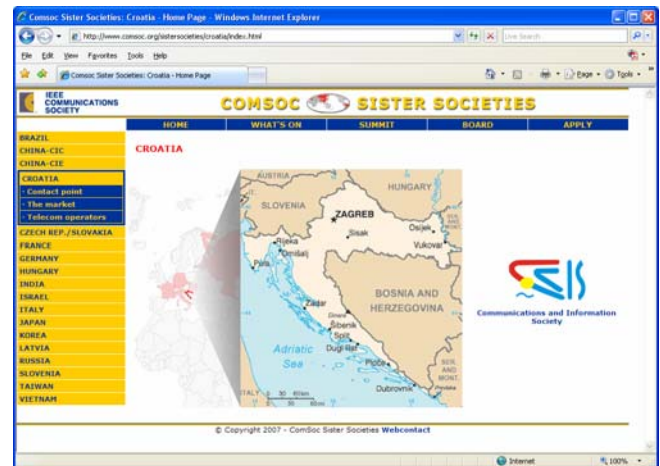
CCIS, the Croatian Society in ICT: Living in ComSoc's Sister Society Family

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Croatian Communications and Information Society (CCIS) became a member of the ComSoc's Sister Society family in 2002. The Agreement between CCIS and ComSoc was signed at Globecom 2002 in Taipeh by Celia Desmond, president of ComSoc and Nikola Rozic, president of CCIS. Great role and work in encouraging and preparing both sides for that first step was done by Algirdas Pakstas, director of the Sister Societies and Alex Gelman, VP Society Relationships at that time. The Agreement was renewed three years later in Seoul, at Globecom 2005. We are very thankful for encouragement firstly to the ComSoc president Curtis Siller as well as to Naohisa Ohta, director of Sister Societies and Nim Cheung, VP Society Relationships, at that time. Today, we are proud to say: we spent really fruitful seven-year period in ComSoc's Sister Society family and would be honored to continue our collaboration.

Maybe the most and the best, without many words, about past years collaboration between CCIS (and other SSs) and ComSoc tells us the new ComSoc's Sister Society web site (<http://www.comsoc.org/sistersocieties/>) initiated and promoted by Roberto Saracco, the current Director of Sister Societies in cooperation with members of the Sister Society Board. The web site has been named really inspirationally: „PIAZZA“. Thanks to Piazza initiative, the CCIS's web site (as well as websites of the other SSs) has been enriched by information including the contact point, status and evolution of the telecommunication infrastructure and market, and relation with local industry and telecom operators. The on-line Community Tool "PIAZZA" was launched in 2007. It was really a good step ahead particularly from the point of view of CCIS and its members. PIAZZA has become the place to present up to date information on Societies status and activities when there is the need to share this information and involve the broader constituency of ComSoc and of members of the other Societies.

As one of the key steps in Piazza initiative the ComSoc's Sister Societies Board has launched an action to establish the relationships with Chapter members as ComSoc have established with SS CCIS' members. After this initiative, CCIS as ComSoc's SS and Croatian Chapter have established a very successful cooperation in organizing main conferences in Croatia SoftCOM and ConTEL, as well as DLT programs. The CCIS president regularly attends and presents activities of the Croatian Society at SS Summits that are traditionally organized in conjunction with ICC and Globecom conferences. CCIS members are active in relations with ComSoc. Five CCIS members have attended the Globecom 2008 Conference in New Orleans. The secretary Carole Swain has performed an important role in organization of contacts and meetings for the CCIS representative.

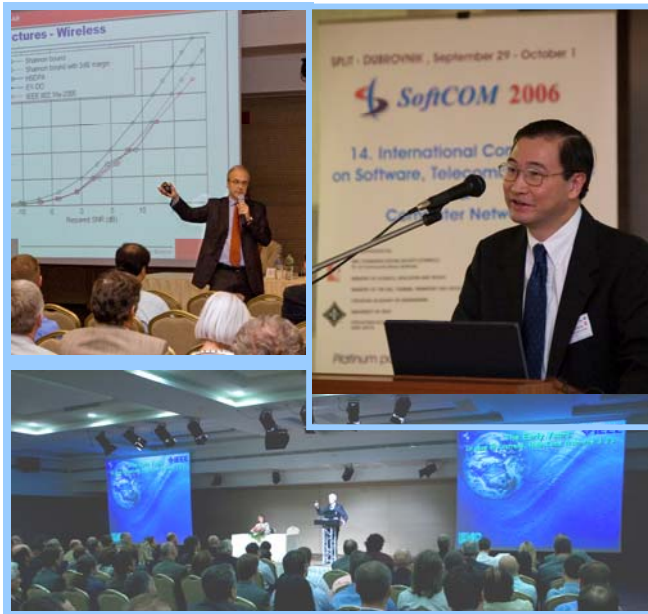


Screenshot of the CCIS's first page from the new Sister Society Web Site on Piazza (<http://www.comsoc.org/sistersocieties/croatia/>)

CCIS's main Conference SoftCOM has been technically co-sponsored by ComSoc since 1998. In addition, starting from 2002, the SoftCOM conference has been regularly advertised in the ComSoc's the most popular publication Communications Magazine. SoftCOM Conferences have regularly featured keynote and invited talks, often given by recognized ComSoc's speakers. Indeed, we were honored to have had opportunity to welcome and listen Sergio Benedetto at SoftCOM 2003 and Nim Cheung at SoftCOM 2006, the ComSoc's president at that time. In 2007 keynote speaker was Roberto Saracco, Director of the Sister Societies. Besides the ComSoc, last years SoftCOM conference was technically co-sponsored by the IEEE EMC Society, too. The keynote speaker at SoftCOM 2008 was Elya Joffe, the president of the IEEE EMC Society. Inspiring keynote talks and personal attitude of the mentioned outstanding persons as well as their openness and readiness to communicate with each conference participant have had significant impact on the interest for ComSoc as well as CCIS memberships. The joint CCIS – ComSoc info desk was regularly organized at SoftCOM conferences. The participants had been offered the samples of ComSoc's main publications, Conference Calendar, conference Call for Papers, and Forms for Memberships and subscriptions provided by ComSoc.

CCIS regularly solicits members, particularly PhD students to join not only CCIS but also ComSoc so they can easily and preferentially access to the most important publications, conference proceedings and other scientific and technical materials.

CCIS in cooperation with the University of Split has started publishing of the Journal on Communications Software and Systems



Nim Cheung, President of the ComSoc (right), Roberto Saracco, Director of the Sister Societies (left), and Elya Joffe, President of IEEE EMC Society (bottom), gave their keynote presentations at SoftCOM 2006, 2007 and 2008 respectively

(JCOMSS) in autumn 2005. The Journal is published quarterly and focuses on high-quality, internationally peer reviewed papers that advance the state-of-art and applications in communications software engineering and communications systems particularly including new technologies, methods and algorithms, as well as reports on experiments with analysis of performances, and prototypes. The journal has been endorsed by the ComSoc's Technical Committee of Communications Software (CommSoft) from its beginning. From the very first beginning of the JCOMSS publishing we have tried to keep step with IEEE standards. The JCOMSS editor team includes a number of recognized ComSoc members, and reviewers were mostly engaged among members of the IEEE family. Among authors of the published papers there were several very recognizable names such as Claude Berrou, S. Benedetto, Y. Nemoto, A. Jamalipour, N. Kato, G. Caire, S. Lin, G. Montorsi, F. Lattarulo and many others.

In August 2007 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ComSoc and CCIS which extended the previous Publications Side Agreement to include ComSoc's technical cosponsorship to JCOMSS for a five-year period. Currently, JCOMSS is under consideration for including published papers in Xplore as well as in Scopus.

Based on recommendations brought at the SSS in Glasgow, June 2007, info on JCOMSS and a link to the JCOMSS home web page have been included in the Piazza web site. The Sister Society Publications website is <http://www.comsoc.org/pubs/-sispubs.html>, and the JCOMSS home website <http://www.ccis.hr/jcomss>. The CCIS website is <http://www.ccis.hr/>.