

Benelux Section

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List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help your Section in your industry-related activities?

There are a couple of things we do in the section to increase industry participation in the IEEE activities. For a start, we have industry partners in the Section board. We also motivate Chapters to do the same. Some Chapters in the Section are even run by volunteers from industry. We had the plan to organise a special event to bridge the gap between industry and academia ... "IEEE Benelux - Industry meets Academia". Unfortunately this was cancelled due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. We will reschedule it as soon as this is possible again.

List the activities addressed to Students and/or Young Professionals and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your students and YP-related activities?

In the Benelux we are addressing the future IEEE members in the Student Branches at the various Universities. This is working very well. In most universities the Student Branches are very vibrant. In case this is not the case (this was for instance the situation in one of the Dutch Universities) we actively approach active members and stimulate them to start up a meeting to engage students (MSc & PhD students) to setup a Student Branch.

The Section is supporting the Student Branches financially and content wise as well. In the Benelux the number of members is increasing. Students in the Benelux Section are very active in the IEEE paper contest.

List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained. List the initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your membership-related activities?

The IEEE Benelux Section is traditionally doing very well in retaining members as well recruit new members. The new members recruitment is mainly done via the student branches. Actively involve and engage students in IEEE activities is working well. We stimulate these activities via the Section.

List the activities intended to support chapters, affinity groups, and student branches and the results obtained. List the related initiatives planned during the next 6 months and their expected outcomes. How can the Region help in your support to chapters, affinity groups, and student branches?

The vitality in the Section, Chapters, Student Branches is one-on-one related to the number and quality of the activities (to our opinion). Stimulating to organize local activities like conferences, network opportunities, cross-chapter activities etc, is one of the actions of the Section. In our ExCOMs we invite the Chapters explicitly, let them present their activities and help them wherever we can. Of course, some Chapters are more vibrant than others, but in general we are very pleased with the local activities in the Benelux. The COVID-19 pandemic decreased the number of activities substantially. We have initiated a special fund for COVID-19 costs in organising activities to stimulate activities in these difficult times.

Challenges (with a focus on what support is required from Region 8)

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