

## Finland Section

**Dmitry Petrov, Section chair**

### Section Vitality

Please provide information about the date of last Section elections, date of next elections, and do you have the practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings (list them and provide brief summary if appropriate). List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained.

Last Section elections took place in Dec. 2019. Next elections will take place at the end of this year. We do not have a mandatory practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair, we carry out elections and any candidate can be nominated. We had 5 section board meetings in 2020. In the last two meeting two meetings of 2020 that took place on 19.11.2020 and 27.11.2020 we were discussing our support to local conferences in Finland and arranging joint events at the time of the conferences. Additionally, we discussed the ongoing IEEE Finland Section Best Student Paper award, changes to the web site, cooperation with Automation society and plans for the coming year 2021.

Out of the activates that took place recently, we would like to highlight:

- IEEE Finland Section Best Student Paper Award 2020: <https://site.ieee.org/finland/activities/awards/best-student-paper-award/>
- Development of cooperation between IEEE Finland Section and Automation society. A joint paper was published <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6765913365614276608>

### Students

List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

Currently, we do not have any acting student branches in our Section. However, our Young Professionals group is very active. For example, first-ever IEEE R8 virtual Student and Young Professional September Congress was arranges in September 2020 <https://region8today.ieeer8.org/events/ieee-region-8-virtual-student-young-professionals-congress-2020/> Our section best paper award also attracted a lot of attention from the students and young professionals this year.

### Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups (YP, LM, WiE, SIGHT, etc.), list of SB AGs, newly formed or dissolved AGs/SB AGs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the activities intended to support affinity groups.

### Chapters

List of Chapters and SB Chapters in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved Chapters, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). Indicate how many have reported on time and received rebate. Highlight some of the activities.

We have 7 chapters acting in our Section <https://site.ieee.org/finland/organization/chapters/> A new IEEE Nordic Countries Nanotechnology Chapter was found in 2020 chaired by Rafal Stiz from the Finland section. A number of interesting online events were arranged in our chapters recently, including:

- 6G RESEARCH VISIONS WEBINAR SERIES: CHALLENGES FOR 6G ADDRESSING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE – WHAT IS MISSING TODAY? By Finland Section Jt. Chapter, COM19/IT12 <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/245013>
- 1st IEEE IPS&PES Finnish chapter Meeting at Siemens arranged in November 2020 is a very good examples of cooperation between chapters and industry. <https://new.siemens.com/fi/fi/yhtio/messut-ja-tapahtumat/ieeesiemens-2020.html>
- The IEEE Finland Section Jt. Chapter Signal Processing and Circuits and Systems Society has organized a panel discussion “Are we equal yet? Women mathematicians give their point of view” in January 2021.

### Industry

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.

Unfortunately, many of our industry-related activates were delayed in 2020. We focused mainly on building our relations with the Finnish Automation Society. Then, IEEE IPS&PES Finnish chapter Meeting at Siemens was one of good examples of possible events even at the time of pandemics.

### Activities since the last report

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Highlight some of the activities in your Section, with special attention to the things that work well, and things that don't, so that your acquired know-how can be used by other Sections.

We would like to advertise Section Best Student Paper Award that was a success this year. We got many nominations, that were split in two tracks: best conference paper and best student paper. To define the winners, we also arrange a Webinar where the young researchers – finalists could present their research.

On the negative side, it is of course, a lack of face to face communication and absence of possibilities to arrange industrial visits traditional for our section.

### **Planned activities**

Highlight some of the future activities and initiatives in your Section.

We have quite many activities planned in our section planned for 2021:

- IEEE and Automation days get together virtual happening
- A new round of Best Student Paper Award 2021
- IEEE Finland section and ISGT2021 joint event/round table, autumn 2021
- Reactivation of Industry-related and Standardization activities

### **How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities**

List any challenges you Section is facing and what support is required from the Region 8. Please, also, give us your suggestions for agenda items that you want to be discussed during the R8 Committee meeting.

### **Any other issues of interest**