

## IEEE Sweden Section

**Andrei Gurtov, Chair**

### Section Vitality

IEEE Sweden Section conducts election during November-December annually. For 2021, elections were held in November and a new board was reported before the end of year. However, since we follow local tax office regulations, the fiscal year formally ends at the end of March, when the AGM is conducted and the board hands over the responsibilities to the new board. As we didn't have a candidate for a Treasurer position, the past Treasurer jointly with the Vice-Chair/Secretary was taking care of the position until Prof. Christian Bohm was elected as a new treasurer by the Board Meeting in June 2021.

Traditionally, the Vice-Chair takes over the Chair role, but it also depends on the results from the voting. We do take into consideration new suggestions made by members in the section. For 2021, the Vice-Chair is taking over the role of Chair since the current Chair has served for several years now and wishes to step down. The Nomination and Appointment Committee started collecting feedback and volunteers for Board positions for 2022.

The section holds ExCom meetings monthly, which are all reported in the vTools system. As of Oct 2021, the section held 8 executive meeting, attended by most of the board members.

The IEEE Sweden Section is running a Senior Membership Campaign in the Autumn 2021. The board accepts applications via email until September 30. The board will meet and review the applications in October 2021 and the support letters will be sent out thereafter.

Due to the pandemic of Covid-19, the IEEE Sweden Section initially had a drop of its active members like the other sections during 2021. The number of active members has been slowly recovered over the year. In October 2021, we have 1,800 active members in the Sweden Section.

### Students

The section has six registered student branches. While three of them have been active (KTH, Chalmers and Blekinge), the other three have been dormant for some time now. However, in 2020, we were successful in reactivating another student branch at Linkoping. There is a new board and a new branch counsellor, and they have already conducted two events. Chalmers and KTH continue to hold their events together with Young Professionals and Women in Engineering Affinity Groups of the section.

Chalmers Student Branch, together with YP of section was going to conduct the 2020 edition of the IEEE R8 SYP but couldn't be due to the ongoing pandemic. The Section plans to attract more student members via selected award memberships.

### Affinity Groups

Both, the Young Professional and Women in Engineering Affinity Groups have had their elections and they have a new board in place. There were a number of activities conducted by both, some below:

The *Young Professional Affinity Group* conducted the following events in the past few months:

1. Worked with Region 8 CCT, SAC, & YP to deliver an alternative event to the R8SYP, a virtual event called the IEEE vSYP 2020.
2. Hosted the opening day of the IEEE vSYP 2020, with talks from our YP Chair, Vice-Chair, and Section Chair.
3. Held a vSYP talk on 6G and its applications in aviation, when the Sweden Section Vice -Chair filled in on short notice.

Meanwhile, the *Women in Engineering Affinity Group* conducted the following activities:

- 1) April 7- 2021

SWEDEN SECTION AFFINITY GROUP, WIE EVENT - WORKSHOP ON HOW TO USE LATEX TO DRAFT A JOURNAL PAPER

Speaker:

Dr. Marzieh Eini Keleshteri

Please check her Bio and the talk from the link below

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/266537>

2) March 8 2021

Sweden Section Affinity Group, WIE, International Women’s Day (IWD)

Speaker 1 : Ph.D. Candidate Amleset Kelati

Speaker 2 : Professor Lina Bertling Tjernberg

Please check our bio and the talk from the link below

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/263152>

3) April 9-11

Amleset Kelati participated on the IEEE Sections Congress Virtual Training 2021: <https://sections-congress.ieee.org/>

4) 5th of October 20-21 Title Feasibility of Deep learning techniques solving Real world problems (4PM-5PM)

Speaker: Dr. N:M :Nandhitha

Please check for bio and the talk from the link below <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/282509> We will have one more event too after this one sometime around end of October. In that case WIE is sponsoring a total of 5 events for the year 2021 Below are the elected new volunteers for IEEE WIE affinity group

Position Title ----- Current and Newly Elected Volunteers

Affinity Group Chair	Amleset Kelati
Affinity Group Secretary	Parnian Alikhani
Affinity Group Treasurer	Silvia Muceli
Affinity Group Vice Chair	SUDHA RAMASAMY

## 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.

The Section has fifteen registered chapters, five student branch chapters (KTH WIE, KTH PE, Blekinge WIE, Chalmers WIE and Chalmers EP) and two affinity groups (WIE and YP).

The Annual Chapter Chairs workshop (scheduled for October 29, 2021) is a forum for all chapter, affinity group, student branch chairs to discuss events that could be done in joint collaboration. The meeting has been tradition since 2016 and is a reason for successful operation of the chapters. During the meeting, chapters are also briefed about the budget process for the coming years, making sure the budget is submitted, approved at the right time and the section treasurer has all the input needed to submit to the IEEE HQ.

The section works in close collaboration with other Nordic sections- Norway, Finland, and Denmark. We have two joint chapters with the other three sections named above and it is working out well.

The annual rebate has arrived to the US account and during 2021 we have so far received the following Chapter rebates:

PES: 11 165,99SEK (Jan)

VTCOMIT: 8339,20SEK (Jan)

VTCOMIT: 12962,85SEK (Apr)

Photonics: 8265,50SEK (May)

Reliability: 4289,35 (Aug)

*The IEEE Sweden and Norway, Reliability Society Joint Section Chapter* has been formed from May 21, 2021. The Chapter Chair is Janet Lin (Associate Professor, Luleå University of Technology, Sweden) and the Vice Chapter Chair is Yiliu Liu (Associate Professor, NTNU, Norway).

Nowadays, from a global collaboration’s view, IEEE Reliability Society has 28 chapters in total. Among them, 13 are from North America, 9 are from Asia, and only 6 is from Europe. In Europe, those chapters are from Czechoslovakia, Croatia, France, Italy, Switzerland and UK (joint with Ireland). Although, the most well-known reliability distribution, Weibull, was born in Scandinavian countries (Sweden). However, in the recent decades, the voices of Reliability professions from Scandinavian seem weak. Therefore, the motivation that led to forming this Scandinavian Chapter is to promote recognition of the Reliability and reliability related professions and Develop and disseminate Best Practices for effective reliability professionals from Scandinavian.

The forming of this unit will develop and provide technical information to the members through publications, conferences, standards, technical library IEEE Xplore, technical committees, and chapter support. It will also provide the members a

professional platform to share experience, learn, and develop together. Moreover, it will raise the voices of reliability professionals from Scandinavian to the world; through which, the members recognition would be promote to the world.

The kick-off and first Webinar was on 14th Oct, 2021 from 12:00 AM to 13:00 PM by ZOOM (UTC+2).

### **Industry**

Swedish industry is experiencing transformations, both with transitioning from work at home to “flexible hours in the office” and with changing of job duties due to AI-enabled SW tools and systems. Many companies are experiencing dramatic order increase as the Pandemic is moving to its end. But also many companies are experiencing shortage of the competent workforce.

IEEE has been always associated with experience and knowledge, as the largest engineering organization. AFI in Sweden believes that IEEE can bring a great value to companies facing those competency issues, both regarding the knowledge base and finding good engineers and programmers. AFI in Sweden would like to follow successful examples in Region 8 and is ready to discuss and to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Swedish companies who want to establish a deeper relationship with IEEE, from local internships and IEEE knowledge databases to a global talent acquisition.

Please, contact Viacheslav Izosimov, Vice-Chair, at [izosimov@kth.se](mailto:izosimov@kth.se) for MoUs with industry entities.

### **Activities since the last report**

The Section board continues the challenging process of adapting operations with a change of Treasurer and Auditor. Prof Christian Bohm as the new Treasurer together with myself and the past Treasurer perform a bank access and budgeting update that was last done years ago.

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### **Planned activities**

To learn more about AI-enabled transformations and trustworthiness, on November 10, at 15:00-16:15, AFI Sweden is planning to have a webinar Towards Trustworthy AI - Integrating Reasoning and Learning with Fredrik Heintz, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Linköping University, Sweden. Fredrik leads the Reasoning and Learning group, the Director of the Graduate School for the Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP), coordinator of the TAILOR ICT-48 network developing the scientific foundations of Trustworthy AI, and the President of the Swedish AI Society. Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA).

SWEDEN SECTION AFFINITY GROUP, WIE EVENT - THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGE OF PROMOTING THE PROFESSIONAL VALUE OF PARENTHOOD, November 22

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

Perhaps some updates and training on NextGen banking system and international financial transactions would be helpful.

Some members expressed concerns of high membership fees and lack of value when there is no conference registration discounts due to Pandemia.

How to order IEEE Merchandise (e.g. pins, shirts) in EU.