

France Section

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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: December 31, 2019

Next Section elections: before December 31, 2022

As France Section is concerned, both the Section Chair and Vice-Chair are elected (the Vice-Chair does not implicitly become the next Chair).

ExCom meetings in 2021:

- July 6th (extended – "Conseil d'Administration") – General topics
- December 15th (extended – expected date) – General topics

8 requests for technical sponsorship of conferences were received in 2021, all were accepted.

The Section received the 2021 Membership Development Gold Recognition.

On October 1st, the Section gathered 3449 members (vs. 3232 on January 1st, + 6.7 %). More specifically, there was a very significant increase of Student members (196 vs. 57, x 3.44) and Graduate Student members (374 vs. 106, x 3.53).

Obviously, the Section ExCom is very satisfied with those results.

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.

Active Student Branches:

- STB02881 University of Lille
- STB15361 University of Bordeaux
- STB08231 Telecom Paris
- STB64264 Ecole CentraleSupélec
- STB10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace
- STB64630 Ecole Polytechnique (Paris)
- STB17521 University of Limoges
- STB06661 Institut Sup Electronique de Paris
- STB11699 Saint Etienne University

Student Branches currently under reactivation:

- STB99801 Ecole Sup D'Elec de l'Ouest
- STB09711 Natl Polytechnic De Grenoble Ensieg

Student Branches to be reactivated:

- STB18341 Univ De Franche Comté
- STB66001 Eurecom Institut
- STB05391 Universite Pierre et Marie Curie
- STB12551 Univ de Tech de Belfort-Montbéliard
- STB62561 Telecom Bretagne
- STB08421 Univ De Reims Champagne
- STB64381 Univ of Picardie Jules Verne
- STB99741 Ecole Nat Sup D'Electronique De Toulouse
- STB65921 Institut Natl Des Telecommunications

Some 2021 facts about Student Branches:

- STB15361 organized the 'BEE Week' on October 18-20 (11 scientific talks over 3 days)
- STB64264 organized a project contest for engineering students with peer reviewing and a 1000 € prize
- STB64264 is trying to gather all academic structures in Paris-Saclay in a single branch

- STB02881 now gathers 3 academic structures (University of Lille, IEMN, Junia)
- Two SB Chapters (CAS and SSCS) have been created in STB02881

9 Student Branches received rebates in 2020.

6 Student Branches attended the Chapter/SB meeting on October 14-15 (see 'Activities since the last report' below). Attending SB Presidents and/or Counselors shared their experience among them and with Chapter Officers, Section ExCom and volunteers. Lille Student Branch is willing to help inactive SBs for their reactivation.

The Section ExCom is considering the integration of a Section Student Representative (a position which does not exist in our Section at the time being). One candidate has already applied for the position.

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.

- LM80005 Life Members
- WE80005 WiE
- YP80005 Young Professionals

LMAG is always very active (4 administrative meetings and 2 technical meetings in 2021, all virtual). Technical meetings dealt with:

- 'Developmental Machine Learning, Curiosity and Deep Reinforcement Learning', presented by Dr. Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Research Director (DR1) at INRIA. 47 participants.
- 'Progress in AC electrical machines: from Galileo Ferraris principle to the actual technology', by Prof. Gérard-André Capolino, IEEE Fellow.
- A third technical event ('Scenarios for Wind/Solar/Hydro -Based VPPs Production for Power System Applications' by Prof. Dr. George Kariniotakis) was cancelled at the last minute due to the speaker's health condition.

WiE: no event in 2021. The Chair decided to resign. Another call for volunteers will be launched soon. Two candidates have already applied for the upcoming election.

YP: no activity in 2020 and 2021. The Chair has not been responding to messages for several months. A call for candidates (in October) made it possible to identify a potential volunteer, who finally resigned in January 2021. Another call is being launched.

LMAG received rebates in 2020 (with activity bonus).

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.

List of Chapters:

- Aerospace and Electronic Systems (AES10)
- Antennas and Propagation (AP03)
- Computer (C16)
- Circuits and Systems (CAS04)
- Computational Intelligence (CIS11)
- Communications (COM19)
- Control (CS23)
- Electron Devices (ED15)
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB18)
- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC27)
- Electronics Packaging Society (EP, ex-CPMT21)
- Geoscience and Remote Sensing (GRS29)
- Power Electronics – Industry Applications – Industrial Electronics (IA34/IE13/PEL35 Joint Chapter)
- Instrumentation and Measurement (IM09)
- Information Theory (IT12)
- Magnetics (MAG33)
- Microwave Theory and Techniques (MTT17)

- Nuclear and Plasma Sciences (NPS05)
- Oceanic Engineering (OE22)
- Power and Energy (PE31)
- Photonics (PHO36)
- Reliability (R07-RL07)
- Robotics and Automation (RA24)
- Sensor Council (SEN)
- Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC28)
- Signal Processing (SP01)
- Solid-State Circuits (SSC37)
- Vehicular Technology (VT06)

List of SB Chapters:

- SBC02881 University of Lille, CAS04
- SBC10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, NPS05
- SBC10034A Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, AES10
- SBC10034B Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, IA34
- SBC11699 Saint Etienne University, NPS05
- SBC12551A Univ de Tech de Belfort-Montbéliard, IA34
- SBC15361A University of Bordeaux, MTT17
- SBC15361B University of Bordeaux, AP03
- SBC15361C University of Bordeaux, CAS04
- SBC15361D University of Bordeaux, IM09
- SBC15361E University of Bordeaux, SSC37
- SBC15361F University of Bordeaux, EMB18
- SBC15361G University of Bordeaux, SP01
- SBC18341A Univ De Franche Comté, UFFC20
- SBC18341B Univ De Franche Comté, RA24
- SBC64381A Univ of Picardie Jules Verne, IA34

A significant number of chapters (21 out of 27) reported on time and received rebates in 2020. Moreover, activity bonuses were awarded to ED15 and RA24.

The EMC27 Chapter Chair resigned in 2020. A call for volunteers was published, leading to 4 candidates applying together for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary positions. The election is currently under way until October 31. We hope that the new team will be elected as a whole and revitalize the chapter.

15 Chapters (plus the Joint Chapter) attended the Chapter/SB meeting on October 14-15 (see 'Activities since the last report' below).

An initiative towards the creation of a local AP03 Chapter in Rennes (France) was taken a few months ago. The Section encouraged talks between the Chapter ExCom and the local volunteers, with the aim to avoid any competence fragmentation. A sensible solution seems to be emerging in the form of a Student Branch in Rennes with a local AP03 Student Chapter.

A total of 96 events were organized by all Chapters in 2020, 18 by SB Chapters. Those numbers are significantly lower than in 2019 due to CoVid lockdown in France.

Industry

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

For the second year, the 'Assises de l'Industrie 4.0' event was organized with industry representatives and students by Serge Dos Santos (INSA School of Engineering) in Blois, France, on September 28-29 (60 participants).

France Section widely contributed to the IEEE RTSI 2021 virtual conference, organized by Italy Section:

- Claire Lajoie-Mazenc, Section Chair, was a member of the Steering Committee. She was also a speaker in the panel session of the 5th Annual WiE Italy Affinity Group meeting
- Serge Dos Santos was the Technical Program Committee Co-Chair

- Frédérique Vallée, Immediate Past Section Chair, was a member of the 'Meeting with Industry' Committee
- Pascal Lorenz, Section Treasurer, co-chaired the 'Smart Community' track
- Gérard-André Capolino, former Section Chair, co-chaired the 'Smart Energy' track

The Section is actively preparing the organization of RTSI 2022, which is expected to take place physically in France in August or September. Further details will be provided in the next report in March 2022.

Activities since the last report

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.

A meeting was organized with Chapters and Student Branches (plus the Section ExCom and volunteers) on October 14-15 in Paris. 15 Chapters out of 26, plus the Joint Chapter (IA34/IE13/PE35), as well as 6 Student Branches participated (most of them physically). The first evening was dedicated to a friendly dinner and the Section Awards ceremony (Student Branch of the Year, Volunteer of the Year). The second day started with a general presentation of Section activities by the Section Chair, followed by individual presentations of Chapter and Student Branch activities. All participants were then invited to work in groups, in order to exchange their best practices and collectively suggest improvements to the whole Section, Chapter and SB workflows. The event was a success (see picture) and received very good feedback from the participants.

Planned activities

The renewal of the Section Web site is under way. The new version has been specified, and a request for proposals has been sent, with a deadline on October 30. A provider will be then selected by the ExCom.

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

List any challenges your 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.

Communication is still a major challenge for the Section. There is still much room for image improvement, particularly among students who may not figure out how the IEEE can be profitable to them. 'Classic' IEEE communication media (such as eNotices) may look outdated and can be mistaken for spam. Web sites are often difficult to update in a timely manner. Why not use social networking?

Another idea emerged: 'chapter information cards' describing the activities of each chapter, as well as officer contacts for additional information about careers in professional fields addressed by each chapter.

Any other issues of interest

