

IEEE Sweden Section

Andrei Gurtov, Chair

Section Vitality

IEEE Sweden Section is in the process of the elections in March. For 2022, the NomCom made nominations for all except the secretary position. The Section voters have a choice to support NomCom nomination, to abstain or write in own candidate. 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 Secretary position, the new candidates are actively being searched for to be installed by the AGM.

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 2022, the Chair is probably continuing since the past Chair served for several years now and wished to step down. The Nomination and Appointment Committee collected feedback and volunteers for Board positions for 2022.

The section holds ExCom meetings monthly, which are all reported in the vTools system. In 2021, the section held 10 executive meeting, attended by most of the board members. Three Section Newsletters were published for 2021.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for March 24th, 2022 in a hybrid format (Linköping+Zoom). A newly installed IEEE Fellow will give a technical presentation.

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 March 2022, we have about 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 Linköping), the other three have been dormant for some time now.

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* received the following award in the past few months:



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

The WISE-IEEE seminar was held on the 14-December-2021 @ 12:00- 13:30 with two speakers. The first Speaker, Professor S. Farokh Atashzar spoke on the topic titled “A cross continental career trajectory in time and space through the pandemic toward being a professor of bio-engineering”. The second speaker, Associate professor Alessandra Pedrocchi, lectured on the topic “The cultural and social challenge of promoting the professional value of parenthood”

The seminar was held by Sweden Section Affinity Group, WIE in the Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. You can see more info on the website: <https://r8.ieee.org/sweden/women-in-engineering-wie-affinity/>

Chapters

The Section has fifteen registered chapters, six 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 (held 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.

Following chapters and affinity groups reported:

- [Information from the Section Chair](#)
- [Information from the Treasurer](#)
- [WiE progress report](#)
- [EMC](#)
- [Computer](#)
- [SSC/CAS](#)
- [AFI – Industry Relation](#)
- [Electron Devices](#)
- [RS Joint Chapter](#)
- [SSIT](#)
- [AP/MTT](#)
- [VT/COM/IT](#)
- [Photonics](#)
- [SPS](#)
- [IEEE Chalmers Student Branch](#)
- [IEEE Linköping University Student Branch](#)

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 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).

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 a Scandinavian country (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 promoted to the world.

Industry

Swedish industry is coming back from the pandemic, with people celebrating “Fettisdagen”, “fika Semlor” with colleagues in the office. The overall health of the industry continues improving, looking forward to the corona-free future. Many companies continue experiencing shortage of the competent workforce, announcing the expansion in near time. These are also new challenging times for Sweden and Europe to urgently strengthen the defence capacity in addressing the threats from the East, in light with the recent open military conflict in Ukraine. We expect the growing extra demand of talented and well-educated engineers in the defence sector in both short and long-term. In meantime, many companies have organized donations from employees and business to help and support people in Ukraine.

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.

The AFI Sweden proposal in 2022 is to organize 3-4 geographically distributed industrial events in several locations in Sweden, afiWeAllProgrammers in Linköping, afiWeAllElectical in Västerås/Eskilstuna, afiWeAllConnected in Göteborg and afiWeAllEntrepreneurs in Stockholm.

Please, contact Viacheslav Izosimov, Vice-Chair, at izosimov@kth.se for MoUs with industry entities and regarding organization of the AFI industrial events.

Activities since the last report

The Section board finally completed transition to the new Treasurer and Auditor and obtained bank access. The next year's budget is prepared.

The Chapter Chair workshop was held October 29 in a hybrid mode (in Linköping University and Zoom). The materials are available on Section Web site. <https://r8.ieee.org/sweden/archive/>

R8 area meeting occurred as a physical gathering in Frankfurt, Germany in November 2021. The Chair represented the Section and was glad to meet other chairs from neighbouring Sections. <https://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2021-november-frankfurt-am-main/>

In March 2022, an online meeting with R8 president-elect and neighboring R8 sections was held to report the achievements and present issues.

The Section published 3 newsletters in 2021 available at <https://r8.ieee.org/sweden/archive/>

Planned activities

OPS-2022: The Optics and Photonics in Sweden conference is organized by IEEE Photonic-Sweden and Umeå University. The venue is Umeå University with the general chair, Prof. Ove Axner, Department of Physics, Umeå University on 5-October to the 6- 2022. IEEE Photonics Society Sweden Chapter will sponsor the Best Paper and Best Poster Awards.

AGM-2022: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for March 24th, 2022 in a hybrid format (Linköping+Zoom). Please register here: <https://forms.gle/tax4uGvZdY2aQ6yq9>

The event will be accompanied with a talk by our new IEEE Fellow Prof. Valeriy Vyatkin from LTU, "Is there any room for cyber-physical systems in industrial automation?" See personal page: <https://www.ltu.se/staff/v/valvya-1.96049?l=en>

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

Some members expressed concerns of high membership fees and lack of value when there is no conference registration discounts due to Pandemia. But now Overleaf deal seems to be really useful!

How to order IEEE Merchandise (e.g. pins, shirts) in EU? It is difficult to order from official shop in USA due to customs and high delivery cost. If we want, e.g. “IEEE Sweden” shirts, what is the official EU supplier?

”Become a Fellow” howto information workshop was suggested.