

Women in Engineering

Maria-Alexandra Paun

Goals

- Ensure high visibility of the activities organized and of the initiatives planned by R8 WIE by putting special effort on ensuring a high social media presence and keeping our website updated.
- Have active and vibrant WIE AGs: increase the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups by getting closer to the active AGs, identify and revitalize dormant AGs.
- Increase the number of Section WIE AGs in R8: create AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs.
- Collaborate with WIE AGs and Section Chairs to achieve common goals: via direct e-mails, social media, meetings, etc.
- Establish WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events and international conferences: we intend to have very good representation, provide technical speakers, coordinate the active participation of R8 WIE in the defined events for 2022 (with a session, presentation, workshop, etc.).
- Have a close cooperation with the IEEE R8 Young Professionals and IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Subcommittees.
- Establish the necessary coordination and collaboration between R8 and MGA, keep the team updated on news from MGA and make use of the support of MGA when needed.
- Enhance awards imprint and impact: Increase the awareness about R8 WIE programs and awards, by engaging WIE members; define clear and transparent selection criteria of awards.
- Have an annual meeting (online) with all R8 Section WIE AGs and their leadership.

Progress against goals since the last report

- We successfully participated in the judging of the nominations for R8 WIE Awards including Clementina Saduwa award
- Participation in R8 SYP - August 3-6 (Tunisia), 2 representatives from the team (Wafa, Sally), 1 track (3 workshops, 1 panel discussion)
- **-Opening Ceremony Keynote:** Speaker: Wafa ben Hmida
Description: Overall view of the WIE program and information, WIE team and details of the WIE track at the SYP Tunisia.
Lecture: Speaker: Ilham Kallel
Session: **What does keystroke dynamics tell us about emotion and how AI can intuitively humanize computer interaction?**
Keynote 1: Speaker: Margaretha Eriksson
Session: **Managing a career along with a successful volunteer journey**
Keynote 2: Speaker: Samina Husain
Session: **Technology Challenges and Market Demand**
-Panel Discussion: Moderator: Sally Musonye
Session: **Women in Leadership**
Speakers: Sara Barros, Samina Husain, Olfa kanoun, Margaretha Eriksson
- Participation in Power Africa Conference - August 22-26 (Rwanda) and provision of bronze sponsorship (1000 USD), 1 representative (Sally)
- Organization of Women in Engineering Panel on 23rd of August by Sally on behalf of our team
-Great speakers invited: Jessica Bian, IEEE PES president, Sally Musonye, Tenele Habanagaan, Ornella Kabirigi, Marie Chantal, Rowland Pryce
- Participation in RTSI 2022 Conference, 24-26 August, Paris, France, 1 representative (Maria), 1 hour slot for presentation
-Maria delivered **talk regarding Promotion of Women in Engineering**, on August 22nd 2022, at Sorbonne University, Paris, France
-She presented the activities of R8 WIE Subcommittee
-She highlighted the low numbers in the statistics of women in engineering, with an emphasis of Switzerland, therefore the importance and legitimacy of our subcommittee becomes more important than ever
- IEEE R8 Women in Engineering as a Pilot of IEEE YESIST12
- Participation in IEEE Egypt SYP – Alexandria, Egypt on September 8 – 10, 1 representative (Dora)
- **Keynote speech:** IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering: What W(i)E can Achieve

Description: Discover a global network that connects over 30,000 members in over 100 countries and more than 1000 Affinity Groups to advance women in technology at all points in their lives and careers. Meet with IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering benefits, and awards, learn our mission and goals, and shed some light on the potential growth that hides in you.

Explore what W(i)E can achieve.

- **Workshop:** IEEE Activities: Internal and External Communication. The case of IEEE R8 WiE.

Description: Step 1, of defining the theme of your next activity has been set. Let's explore step 2, promoting your upcoming IEEE activity to reach a wider audience, but also let's set some easy-going tricks to help you maintain your online presence and an active engagement with your audience.

- Welcome speech in the Opening Ceremony

- Panel discussion: IEEE Organizational Units: Unlimited Opportunities

- Participaton in Returning Mothers 2022 Conference, hybrid <https://ieeereturningmothers.in/> (2nd year of collaboration, R8 WIE as a communication supporter. Exploring ways of financial sponsorship), Dora is direct contact
- Digital presence was very well represented on social media (Dora, Kasi, Seif):

Subcommittee Specific Issues

- Attract more IEEE members to have a WIE membership
- Support more IEEE female members to become Senior member
- Assure that our encouraging voice and support is heard in many environments

Points of Concern

- The number of IEEE WIE members is low even in high revenues countries, as the total number of female members is also low. Not all of them are IEE WIE members.
- There are still 20 sections that do not have a Section WIE AG. We hope that such WIE AG groups can be created in the future. E-mail will be sent out in October-November 2021 to Section Chairs that do not have a WIE AG.
- Difficult to participate in WIE ILC, due to high fees for travel and registration.

Proposals for improvements/Other Issues to report

- We will be happy to have soon online, in October or November our annual meeting with R8 WIE AG leadership