Section Name: UK and Ireland Reporting Officer Name: Eduardo Audiche - Secretary

Section Vitality

Election
From November 03 to December 05 2021, the IEEE UK and Ireland Section held its Vice-Chair Election for period 2022 - 2023 who will become the Section Chair during period 2024 – 2025. Prof. Paul M Cunningham won the election against Dr Richard Pitwon and Sohaib Sheikh. Next election will take place in November 2023 to elect the new Vice Chair for the period 2024 – 2025 who will be the Section Chair for period 2026 – 2027.

The section has carried out with its three priorities in line with membership development: 1) Getting closer to industry, 2) Engage in IEEE Future direction, and 3) Contribution to Humanitarian activities. While these priorities continue to be supported, additional priorities have been established:

• Activate Inactive Chapters & Student Branches with Cross Disciplinary events and activities in mind.
• Events at the Section, Region & International levels.
• Proactively promote Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (IEEE DEI).
• Increase High-Profile conference organisation, hosting, actively winning external sponsorship, and not just asking for Section support.
• Professional Registration Activities to be brought to fruition & conclusion.

Areas for improvement (2022 -2023):

• Conference Sponsorship and MOUs.
  o Should first get the Section’s view and consent before submission to IEEE central with cross chapter collaboration / sponsorship for all conferences.
• Terms of Office in the Section and Multiple Roles.
  o Ensure this is done according to the IEEE rules and succession plans are in place from all officers.
• Procedures for Financial Support Requests and Approvals.
  o This to be done through a short case with costings and justifications.
• Chapter Leadership.
  o Succession planning and terms of office by all chapters to be adhered to.
• L31 submissions.
  o Ease and automate the process of L31 submissions.
• Re-initiate more face-to-face activities.
  o Keeping in mind the new norms we are now set to operate in.

Taking that there are a lot of members that do not know enough other members to then apply for senior membership and that getting people to senior membership helps with retention, one of the main focuses has been on supporting members to elevate to senior membership, which is done through a due diligence process. This has been successful for several hundreds of our members but is very labour intensive. It is supported by a pool of volunteers that either help with the due diligence process and/or the writing of references. This process is currently being improved so we are currently working on expanding our website with a few more interactive features, which require the building of a database facility, pages to engage with, with different functionality/access rights and so on. The expansion will link to our senior membership elevation and the related due diligence process that we have in place. A detailed report on how this process is been carried out is available upon request.

Membership development has mainly been focusing on ensuring members are happy with their membership and so at various points, questionnaires have been sent to our members, to better understand them and give them an opportunity to inform us (ExCom) on what they would like to see more of through their membership. Due to the large geographical spread, over the recent years, our section has been starting to do more webcasting of talks that make them accessible to the section as such, rather than those that live “close enough”, something we want to do more of, but which has technical requirements. We also ensure that we take up any opportunity to recruit new members, through IEEE booths at conferences, universities (mainly for student members), and then also talking to employers who are looking to promote professional membership to their employees.
Students

The UK and Ireland Section currently has 42 registered SB in the UK and Ireland Section. 34 of these are active and have submitted reports in the previous year, with the others in ongoing discussions.

The Section has seen rapid growth of enthusiastic student branches across over 30 universities, holding high quality and diverse events. Our successful revitalisation programme saw an increase of student branch reports from 8 in 2019 to 34 in 2020, with a further five appointments made to previously dormant branches and branch chapters throughout 2021. This previously resulted in a student branch rebate of £3,770 being received invested in further student activities in 2021.

The UK and Ireland Section has seen a number of student branches participating in the IEEE Student Awards, including the Larry K. Wilson Award, Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award, Darrel Chong Student Activity Award and the Global IEEE Student Branch Website Contest. Many branches plan to participate virtually in the upcoming IEEEExtre 24-hour programming competition, the IEEEmadC mobile application development contest and the IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest. In addition, the UK and Ireland Section student branches participated in the IEEE Day Virtual Celebrations.

The plan for 2022 has been to further increase the appointment of enthusiastic officers to the remaining dormant student branches, with the objective to achieve a 100% reporting rate. Support is continuously provided to student branches to hold a diverse and interesting range of virtual events, and collaboration between student branches will be encouraged.

The following are the key activities carried out in 2022 (among others):

- Student Branch Engagement Programme: Continue to build relationships with the network of student branches in the UK and Ireland Section, ensuring that chairpersons are active, aware of their obligations and supported in hosting events and activities. Ensuring that annual reporting is completed by the posted deadline, and handover to new branch leaders is handled smoothly.
- Activity Promotion: Provide advice and guidance for new branches or committees to host their events (virtually or in-person), advertise events broadly to all student branches in UK & Ireland and Region 8.
- Participation in Regional and Global awards: Guidance to branches on how to meet criteria for awards and assist applications.
- Return to in-person events:
  - Support student branches and new student leaders to develop knowledge of procedures in hosting in-person events and activities at their universities
  - Encourage collaboration between local student branches, resulting in shared activities and pooling of resources.
  - Planning of section-wide IEEE student branch congresses for networking, sharing of ideas and providing essential information and demonstrations to new branch leaders.
- Finally, a focus on developing student chapters within the section, with the aim of supporting high-quality technical events and webinars from distinguished lecturers will be undertaken, with funding made available to support this initiative.

In regards to Young Professionals, a new committee has been appointed in August 2022.

bellow the list of activities.

- Build on current success and volunteer base from existing events to further reach out to members across the section with the following high-level plan:
  - 3rd YP PG STEM Symposium successfully hosted virtually on 10s Nov 2021 – Event included paper & poster sessions, workshop and panel discussions. Received 30 attendees with 9 papers presented across 2x tracks. Prizes awarded for best paper and poster presentation. More info can be found here: https://ieeeu-kivp.org/3rd_stem/schedule/
  - Due to the impact of Covid-19 on the everyday life our members, volunteers, we have had to make adjustments to our calendar of scheduled events and plans. A call for volunteers has been initiated for the position of YP AG Chair and Vice-Chair under the Sections Leadership with the hope to have this completed by end May. We hope to reach out to our volunteer base for sourcing a suitable replacement and implementation of a smooth handover/ transition plan.
  - YP Track at Cyber Science 2022, Cardiff (June 2022) * – Hybrid event with a series of papers/poster presentations and/or workshops on a chosen theme.
  - Industry Talk Sep 2022) * –Online event to be held with 1 or 2 30-45min talks on topical issues to be held later this year. Details to be confirmed in due course.
  - YP Track at ICECS 2022, Glasgow (October 2022) * – Hybrid event with a series of papers/poster presentations and/or workshops on a chosen theme.
The 119th IEEE Region 8
Committee Meeting
Cairo, Egypt, 15–16 October 2022

- YP Subsea Symposium, Aberdeen (planned for Oct/Nov 2022) – Hybrid one day event to be held with 1 or 2 30-45min talks relating to the theme from invited speakers followed by poster and paper presentations from students in collaboration with Aberdeen Subsea Centre.
- Digital Health Conference, Dublin 2020 (Nov 2022) – Full day conference with multiple 1-hour talks, and/or 1-hour seminars on real world digital health initiatives by academic, industrial and bureaucratic leaders. Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic but is intended to be held late this year. Further details can be found here https://ieeeukiyp.org/upcomingevents/2020/08/28/Digital-Health-Conference.html
- Annual STEM Symposium (Dec 2022).
  - Continue to collaborate with industry, chapters and other similar organizations with shared interests.

Affinity Groups

The UK and Ireland Section has a well-established Life Members, Women in Engineering and Young Professional Affinity groups. More recently the Section has also supported forming technical Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGHT, Blockchain, Future Network, Cybersecurity and Quantum.

Life Members

IEEE has awarded one of its prestigious Milestone plaques to the United Kingdom and Ireland Section to honour Sir Godfrey’s achievements. The UK & Ireland Life Member Committee has organised a celebration comprising two events on successive days. The plaque will be unveiled on Wednesday October 26th at Jupiter House, formerly the EMI Head Office, Clayton Road, Hayes. The ceremony will take place from 2-4pm. A symposium of talks about the history of the invention and its subsequent application in clinical practice will be held on Thursday October 27th at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, London. A limited number of places will be available and separate registration is required.

Women in Engineering

WIE committee members often receive requests to speak at events or to organise hands on sessions across the Section. They have planned to develop a WIE Ireland network of volunteers to promote WIE at events (in collaboration with WIE R8). Also develop a database of female keynote speakers for recommendations to conference committees. WIE will apply for SIGHT funding to develop training support materials for neuro-diverse women in engineering and technical careers to cope with scenarios specific to these careers (e.g. Scrum sprint meetings) among other initiatives. The key WIE initiatives are:

- WIE Ambassadors scheme developed to mentor and involve early career women and students who wish to get involved in organising events that promote the WIE mission but are not (due to reasons of finance) IEEE members.
- WIE Awards designed to celebrate people who work towards supporting women engineers with a focus on inclusivity.

Young Professionals

With a team of 15 volunteers from industry and academia, the group is focused on hosting exciting events that generate interest and motivate members to develop their technical, interpersonal and leadership skills. Over the past 4 years, the Affinity Group has transformed itself from a fairly low base to a young vibrant group within the section, successfully hosting a number of events be it a half-day networking seminar, entrepreneurial bootcamp, or a three-day cross-regional conference attracting some high-profile speakers nationwide along with local as well as overseas attendees.

Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology

The first SIGHT project funded was successfully completed in August 2021. The project is supporting the sensory activity of autistic children consisting in an integrated platform which promote collaborative learning (multi-user application) with customisable content. Our SIGHT committee also hosted the IHTC 2021 (International Humanitarian Technologies Conference) on December 2nd to 4th 2021 (Virtual Conference) https://www.ihtc21.org.uk/. Currently, SIGHT group is working on a Humanitarian Information Portal initiative to help refugees around the world.

Blockchain

They plan to continue series of webinars (6 annually), expand format of online events (panel discussions, workshops, etc) and organise a virtual group meeting this year. The vision of the IEEE UK & Ireland Blockchain Group is for an active and dynamic forum focused on member value. The aim is to serve as a forum for professional networking, learning, and growth for our IEEE UK and Ireland members in the rapidly emerging Blockchain field and to organise events covering the start-of-the-art Blockchain technology and applications.
Future Networks
The motivation and goal of the group is to foster and promote Future Networks activities in UK & Ireland, enhance visibility of IEEE and Future Network Initiative, increase IEEE membership, and promote public awareness of 5G and B5G wireless technologies among others. They also plan to organise at least one event per quarter.

Cybersecurity
They provide a multidisciplinary environment for sharing the latest trends and knowledge across industry, government, and academia. Provides a multidisciplinary environment for sharing the latest trends and knowledge across industry, government and academia. Members are a diverse set of experts, bringing together insights into the technological, psychological and economic challenges faced in information security. So far they have delivered eight webinars and it is expected at least 6 per year.

Quantum
This is the most recently formed group. IEEE Quantum is an IEEE Future Directions initiative that serves as IEEE’s leading community for all projects and activities on quantum technologies. IEEE Quantum is supported by leadership and representation across IEEE Societies and OUs.

The initiative has developed a project plan to address the current landscape of quantum technologies, identify challenges and opportunities, leverage and collaborate with existing initiatives, engage the quantum community at large, and sustain the Quantum Initiative in the long-term.

The group promotes and co-operates in the educational and technical activities which contribute to the useful expansion of the field of quantum technologies and applications.

Chapters
Our Section currently has 35 of the possible 39 technical societies represented in the UK and Ireland. Those societies which we do not yet have a UK and Ireland chapter are and look to form are:

- IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (NPS05)
- IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control Society (UFFC20)
- IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society (ITSS38)
- IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society (PSE43)

In fourth quarter last year, the Nanotechnology Council Chapter was launched. The UK and Ireland Nanotechnology Chapter is a sub-chapter of the IEEE Nanotechnology Council (NTC), which is a multi-disciplinary group whose purpose is to advance and coordinate work in the field of Nanotechnology carried out throughout the IEEE in scientific, literary and educational areas. The Council supports the theory, design, and development of nanotechnology and its scientific, engineering, and industrial applications.

The Section has identified and agreed common strategies for all chapters. Below a summary table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Contributing to bids / projects</th>
<th>Deliver related technical webinars</th>
<th>Publications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Development</td>
<td>Setting up awards</td>
<td>Support student chapter formation (subsidising student society members)</td>
<td>Employability (start-ups / accelerators)</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>Ethics standards/policies. Covid-19 certificates/ roadmap</td>
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During the Section Spring Meeting & AGM (hybrid format) on 26th of April, the Chapter Chairs had the opportunity to present its plan of activities for 2022 along with key achievements and member services in 2021. Every chapter also showed their focus areas including goals, KPIs and list of challenges which are used by the Section to develop the strategies and relevant actions to support Chapters requests.
It has been agreed with all Chapter Chairs that events should have cross collaboration among related Societies including also cross Sections collaboration within Region 8 and Worldwide if applicable. It was also agreed that in order to receive Section’s approval for conferences, such event must contain at least three chapters as co-sponsors. This must be clearly identified in the MoU before been submitted to the Section.

Below you will see the list of the Section’s Chapter and AGs with their L31 reports submitted for 2021. Also, it can be seen from the charts the total activities, the technical events alone and professional activities separate. Finally, it can be seen the total L31 events reported during the last 5 years.

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### 2021 L31 Reporting - Total

![Bar chart showing L31 reporting totals](chart.png)
Industry

The United Kingdom and Ireland section has an Industry Engagement Officer, also a Professional Registration Officer, these two key officers ensure we have continuing collaboration with the industry. UK and Ireland Section is currently working on three main scopes:

- Our Industry Forum, through which we have researched and responded to UK industry needs which fell in three areas: re-skilling long standing employees with digital skills; Input to IEEE Standards for new technologies; and ongoing professional development and the demonstration of competence.
- Industry-led activities: technical and non-technical activities planned or organised by our section’s officers.
- Thematic area professional development: helping individuals develop skills that help them to perform as a rounded professional. Key development areas include personal, management, and business skills.

Whilst some of these activities have had to be delayed or put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic we continue to develop our offering. A key enabler to increasing industry engineer membership levels in the UK is believed to be the ability to offer Professional Registration as a Chartered Engineer or equivalent through the IEEE. A steering group has been established chaired by Brian Harrington (former Region 8 treasurer), and we have agreed to a path to Associate Membership of the Engineering Council, a key first step in establishing this capability in the next 6 months. Find below the plan of activities:

- Understand relationship between Engineers Ireland and the Engineering Council in respect to IEEE.
- Achieve full understanding of Engineering Council’s “Registration Code of Practice”.
- Complete exploration with chosen Licensed Institutes.
- Work towards an MOU with each of the Licensed Institutes where agreements have been reached.

Professional Activities

This Committee was revitalised in late April 2021 with a new appointed Section’s officer. Below the current plan of activities:

- Developed clear definition and scope of Professional Activities and presented it to Section Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Completed background review of PA in the Section and other IEEE OUs.
- Completed IEEE Centre for Leadership Excellence course for PA Chairs.
- Developed a vision and strategy for PA in the Section.
- Liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team for a survey of professional development needs in the Section.
To articulate a clear vision and strategy, a working group is being created to develop programmes based on actionable insights from the surveys that are being liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team (survey of professional development needs in the Section).

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group (DEI) was formally approved by ExCom during Autumn Section Meeting on 26th October 2021.

**Long Term Plan:**
- To collaborate with the Section leadership and collect and track diversity metrics and best practices across the IEEE UK and Ireland.
- Create opportunities to encourage inclusive participation with the committee.
- Capture and harness lived experiences of beneficiaries to inform policies and practices.
- Co-create recommendations with beneficiaries and disseminate across chapters to bridge the gap between statistical data and actual practice on DEI.

**Short Plan:**
- Define activities and directions.
- Data collection and DEI reporting (recruitment, awards, activities).
- Committee recruitment and membership:
  - Consult and co-create with committee members.
  - Capture and utilise lived experiences.
  - Partnership and data led recommendations.

**Activities since the last report**

These are some of the webinars that have been organised:
- End-to-End Security for the IoT
- Cyber Security in Space by Nigel Mackie
- Blockchain Designing for the Scalable and Secure IoT
- Building Resilient Space Exploration Missions
Milestone Awards Events

- Celebrating Two Major Landmarks in Computer History

IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professionals Congress 2022

This event was held in Tunis 3rd to 7th August 2022. The event welcomed over 250 students and young professional members from IEEE Region 8, spanning from Portugal to Siberia and everywhere in between. This 2022 event was organised by National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (INSAT), one of the largest and most active institutions in Tunisia.

The UK and Ireland Section was very well represented, with five universities sending their committee members to the event, partially funded by our Section. Originally, UK and Ireland Section offered financial support to 9 of our SB Chairs and SB Chapter Chairs to attend this congress. Finally, only 5 were able to attend it.

The UK and Ireland Young Professionals were also represented, with the attendees learning a wealth of new information on the IEEE and the opportunities available to its members.


IEEE WIE UK&I Career Development Day at QMUL London

This event held in London on 30th September 2022 was aimed at students in electronic and communication engineering who want to:

1. Meet and hear about the latest technologies and research by leaders in the field,
2. Get advice about career paths and opportunities by representatives of major communication companies,
3. Have the opportunity to present and discuss their work with leaders in the field by participating in a poster competition.

The event started with a welcome note from our Section Chair Professor Izzet Kale followed by five talks on career and education path. A poster competition had place in the afternoon.

The event was sponsored by: Cisco, IEEE ComSoc, QMUL and Samsung. It was supported by: IEEE Region 8, IEEE Student Group, IEEE WICE, IEEE WIE UK&I and IEEE Young Professionals.

Planned activities

The UK and Ireland Section priorities are:

   - Professional Registration.
   - Industry internship programmes.
   - Follow IEEE industry engagement.

2- Engage in IEEE Future Initiatives. New Technology Focus Areas
   - Blockchain, Future Networks, Cybersecurity and Quantum.

3- Contributions to Humanitarian activities. Advancing Technology for Humanity.
   - Conferences, events, Section SIGHT project.

Section Autumn Meeting will be held in Dublin on 27th October (hybrid event).

Our traditional Christmas Lecture will take place on 13th December at the iconic Regent Street Cinema at the University of Westminster.

Regarding Section Awards and Recognition, the Section has three key aspects planned:

- IEEE awards (global) which require to follow a nomination process. Our Awards and Recognitions Officer, Prof. Jan Sykulski, will work through getting these applications submitted when our members meet the requirements.
- Promote members elevations to Fellow grade through our Awards and Recognitions Officer.
- Section’s recognition process creation. Nomination forms are being created to encourage CCs, Officers and members to nominate outstanding volunteers in any of the diverse categories available. The second award ceremony to be held during the section spring AGM on April 2023.

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

- Closer to Industry: Region 8 may be able to assist by providing legal support on the MoU we are preparing to be signed with IET, IEL, etc.
- Attract and Support Students and Young Professionals: Region 8 may be able to assist by supporting programmes that can promote employability of recent graduates.
- Membership: As a section, we would like to get support from region 8 to automate the parts of this due diligence process that are currently being executed manually by our volunteers and take up hours of our time. Everyone has been diligent in performing these actions but automating this would free up volunteering time to support more members in this process as well as time to deal with other elements of membership development.
- The Section wish to open a motion where Technical and Professional activities can be considered indistinctly as part of the minimal requirement for Chapters to be compliant. We have checked the type of professional activities carried out and they also fall as ‘Technical’. We have cases such as SMC28 which organised 5 high-quality events and were classified as “Professional” instead of Technical and despite all the planning and hard work it will be considered as no compliant due to having zero “Technical” events.
- Volunteers are finding that they are facing increased workload in their full-time jobs due to remote working while having to manage family life. This coupled with an increase in screen time, potentially results in less available time to volunteer. We are continuing to review volunteer workload and offer support as much as possible.
- A lot of effort is required by volunteers to host medium scale events. This varies across the section as volunteer commitment is dependent on their workload and availability. Seems to be an ongoing challenge that we are trying to manage best.

Any other issues of interest

The Section has a Chapter Coordinator who looks after Chapters Chairs to ensure at least minimum requirements are met. When a chapter / AG fails to report two technical activities before the deadline, a meeting with the Chapter Chair is set with the Chapter Coordinator, Section Secretary and Section Chair. After discussing the reasons why the Chapter failed to deliver, actions are agreed upon including in some cases a change of leadership.

The Section held two meetings with Chapter Chairs / AG Chairs / Future Direction Groups Chairs per year. The first one in Spring (along the AGM) and the second one in Autumn. These meeting give Chapter Chairs the opportunity to present their plan of activities and key achievements. Every chapter also showed their focus areas including goals, KPIs and list of challenges which are used by the Section to develop the strategies and relevant actions to support Chapters requests. Reports must be sent in advanced to the Section Secretary. If there are missing reports, then those Chapters are contacted by Chapter Coordinator and addressed.

The Section also appointed a new Professional Activities Officer. Below the current plan of activities:
- Developed clear definition and scope of Professional Activities and presented it to Section Chair and Vice-Chair
- Completed background review of PA in the Section and other IEEE OUs.
- Completed IEEE Centre for Leadership Excellence course for PA Chairs.
- Developed a vision and strategy for PA in the Section.
- Liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team for a survey of professional development needs in the Section.

To articulate a clear vision and strategy, a working group is being created to develop programmes based on actionable insights form the surveys that are being liaised with the IEEE Strategic Research team (survey of professional development needs in the Section).

Our Section website is a strong channel to communicate section activities to members. It has vital information for members and continue to be a source for dissemination of member related and IEEE activities. Our Section ‘News’ offers current activities (https://www.ieee-ukandireland.org/section-news/). Our Twitter Account (ieee_uk_ireland) with 1000 followers is another way to keep our members and the general public informed. The Section also has an eNotice Coordinator to help Chapter Chairs disseminate news and events through this powerful tool. The website is updated weekly, and tweets are sent with the new info. eNotices are submitted following IEEE guidance of no more than one per week.