

## R8 Young Professionals Committee

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### Committee Goals

The committee mission is to engage and motivate the young professionals in Region 8. Our goals are to encourage the young professionals to be leaders in their Sections; to be the bridge, transferring the region's high-level vision across our members and listening to our members' needs and requests; and to try new initiatives/projects.

Our activities' plan for the year include:

1. Continuous engagement of our YP Affinity Groups
2. 2023 Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses: support in the organization of (so far 4) events, spread throughout our region
3. 2024 SYP Congress: advertisement, setting up the call for proposals and selection of the host
4. Support the organization of meet-up events
5. Ideation, creation and implementation of a new YP initiative.

### Progress against goals since the last report

1. Updates on a successful 2022 Student and Young Professionals Congress



The IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress is the largest IEEE event for students and young professionals in Region 8 (Europe, Middle East, and Africa). It takes place every 2 years to gather more than 200 participants from all over the region for five days to improve their knowledge, expand their network, develop their skills, and meet others from diverse cultural backgrounds.

This special edition of IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress was hosted by IEEE INSAT Student Branch in Tunis, Tunisia from August 3 to August 7, 2022. It was a long-awaited in-person edition after a long period of virtual activities.

During the congress, 145 registered participants and 68 guests gathered in the El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel for five days. They got to attend many technical activities such as workshops, keynotes, and plenary sessions as well as some social activities like the multicultural evening, the Tunisian Dinner, and the Carthage tour.

The total number of participants was 213, including volunteers that helped out during the event, in total there were 38 sections represented from our region.

2. In September 2022, together with the Italy YP Affinity Group, we organized a series of technical lectures at the European Microwave Week. Many thanks to the Italy YP Affinity Group team!
3. Updates on the 2023 Cross-Sectional Student and Young Professionals Congress  
Just before the end of 2022, we together with the Congress Coordination Team (CCT) and SAC set up the call for proposals and were responsible for the selection of the first round of hosts.
  - a) Confirmed Hosts:
    - North Africa SYP (NASYP) – Egypt, August - Organizer: Section & YP
    - Africa SYP (ASYP) – Nigeria, July - Organizer: SB & YP
    - Central European SYP (CEuSYP) – Poland, May-Oct - Organizer: CUTSB
    - Western European SYP (WESYP) – Switzerland, Sept - Organizer: EPFL SB
  - b) There is currently an open call for applications for the remaining Cross Sectionals: Hellenic SYP, Middle Eastern SYP and Nordic SYP. The deadline is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
The plan is to announce the complete list of hosts at the 120<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee Meeting.
4. Continuous engagement of our Affinity Groups  
We have two brand new Affinity Groups: Welcome Mauritius, welcome Libya!

Unfortunately, due to the current instability of the country, it is with immense sadness that we report that the Iraq Young Professional Affinity Group is going to be dissolved this year. Despite the many efforts by their amazing volunteers, it is very difficult to organize activities and keep the affinity group active.

Current Affinity Group status, in Region 8:

Out of the 84k R8 members, roughly 26.8k have an active YP membership. In Region 8, YP is, by far, the membership with more members!

Out of the 12 Sub-Sections and 59 Sections, we have currently 56 “active” affinity groups.

Looking at Figure 1, there are depicted 3 distribution plots of the number of R8YP members by membership status (in the top center), gender (top right) and membership years (bar plot, bottom).

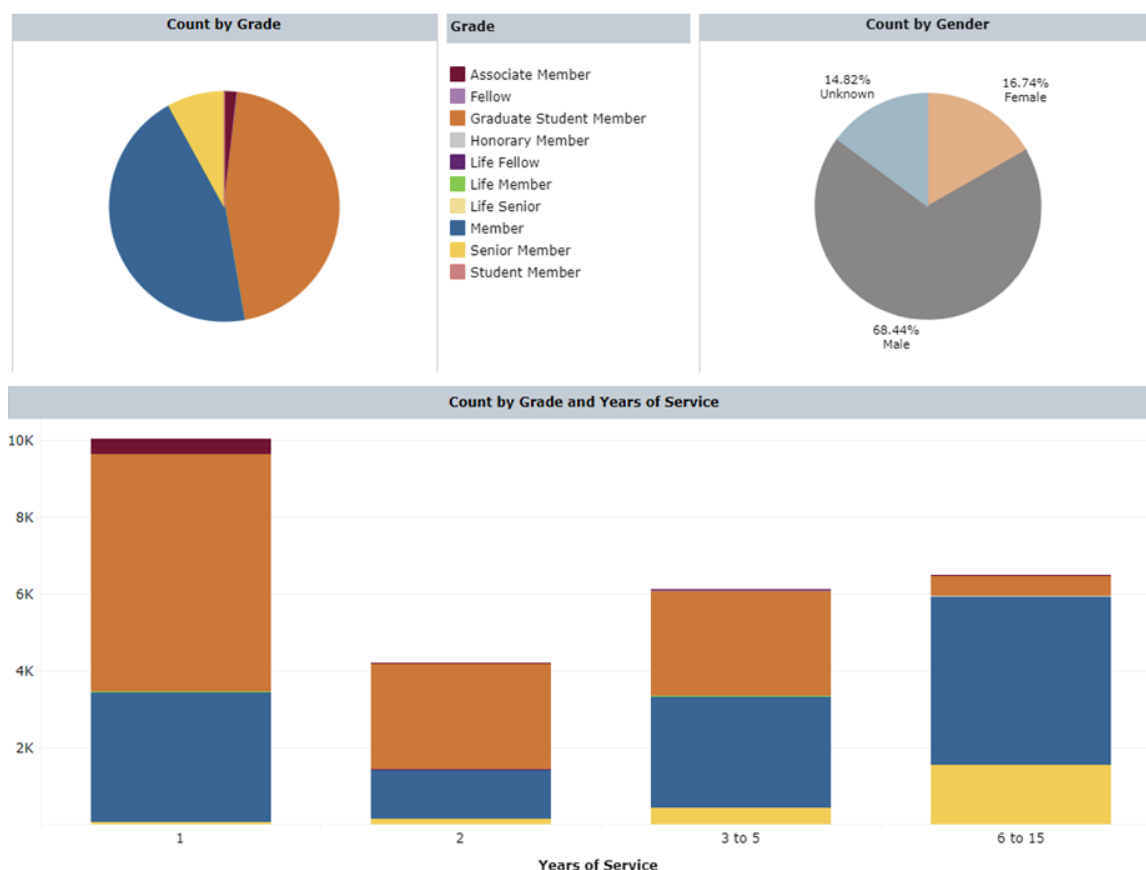


Figure 1: Data collected from OUAnalytics about the Young Professional membership, in Region 8. Data from Feb 2023.

From the bar plot, on the bottom, it is evident that the biggest part of our members has a student status. Also, the majority is signing with the IEEE for the first time.

Figure 2 shows the variation of the YP membership, per month, for the last 2 years. We can see that the “over the year” trend is very similar for both years - it has a great reduction of members from January to February due to the un-renewed memberships being processed.

Until the end of the year, there is a crescent trend.

From the figure below, we can see that in 2022, there was a roughly 8% increase per month, when compared to the same month, one year prior. This is very good news!

Another observation is that the number of YP members with 1 year IEEE membership is roughly 10k, which is also the amount by which the members are reduced around February. We cannot say for sure that this is related though, we believe that improving on retention of these members would lead to an increase in overall YP memberships.

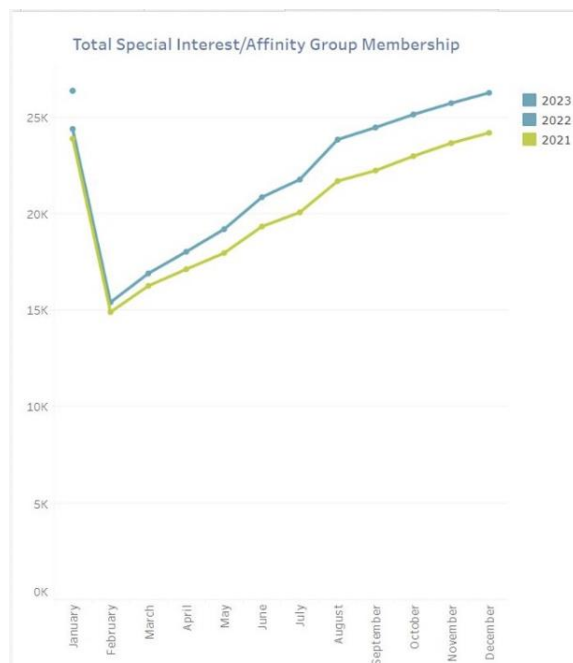


Figure 2: Year-over-year statistics of Region 8 YP membership totals, per month. Data from Feb 2023.

### Plans and timeline for this year

Below is a list of the planned activities for the year, grouped by quartile. There is a high chance that this list will be edited/updated during the year.

Q1: Getting familiar with the region and teambuilding, reach out to the affinity groups

Q2: Support in the organization of the 2023 Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses; ideation and selection of new initiatives to strengthening the connection with the Affinity Groups

Q3: Support the organization of meet-up events, set-up and open the call for hosts for the 2024 SYP Congress, participation in the 2023 Cross Sectional Congresses, put in practice at least one new YP initiative

Q4: Kick-off the preparation of the 2024 SYP together with SAC, report highlights of the year 2023 including a small summary on the new initiative achievements.

### R8 Young Professionals points of concern

1. Being able to convey the IEEE Membership added value

This concern is directed to first year non-students, to whom the annual membership increases by more than 300%, from 27\$ to >100\$. Even though the Young Professional membership has no additional cost, in Region 8 it is by far the biggest membership thus we believe we should. Also, being able to provide benefits for our members to justify the membership annual value such that they renew it for another year (Referring back to the bar plot above). Then, how do we keep ourselves relevant?

2. Decreased engagement by Affinity Groups and members retention

In line with the first point of concern, it is paramount to keep our relevance towards the affinity groups because they are our voice in their Section.

Thus, how can we better serve our Affinity Groups?