

Germany Section

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Section Vitality

Last Section elections: Autumn 2022

Vice-Chair usually becomes the next chair, but this is not mandatory

Section Excom (33 officers + chapter chairs + student branch chairs) meets 4-6 times per year.

Many new members in the Section Excom. New chair started in 2021 and was reelected for 2023/24, and many officer positions were changed or newly created. Contacting all members end of 2020 to ask for interested members to volunteer brought unexpected positive response. Thus some new positions were created to let all volunteers have something to do and contribute. Goal is to wake up Germany section which was a bit sleepy in the last years. Many activities in the different domains.

Students

Student Branch meeting is being prepared to be held in May. The idea is to exchange best practices and ideas how to activate more students. New student branch chapter founded beginning of 2023.

Aachen, Bielefeld, Chemnitz, Darmstadt, Duisburg-Essen, Hamburg, Hannover, Ilmenau, Karlsruhe, Magdeburg, München, Passau, Regensburg.

Affinity Groups

YP, WiE, SIGHT, Milestone Program, LM affinity group.

LM affinity group was dissolved in 2020 due to inactivity. Now the new LM affinity group counts 35 members which meet every 8 weeks to talk, network, have an invited scientific presentation and discuss activities. It received the “Regional Life Member Affinity Group Achievement Award 2022”.

SIGHT is currently coordinating the (industrial) construction of several devices given away for free to homeless people in Germany as well as planning to do similar things for Ukraine refugees.

Chapters

Chapters of 27 societies exist in Germany. Two student chapters, one of them was just founded beginning of 2023.

Some chapter chairs held their positions for many years now. The new Germany Section chapter coordinator whacked the bush and brought many of those rather inactive chapters to have elections and elect new chairs. However, there are still unresponsive long-time chapter chairs.

Since 2021 all chapter activities are being reported to the Section (this was not the case before) in order to provide a central information point for members and/or possible new members.

Industry

Industry relations were a bit dormant until 2020. Now the position is filled by 4 volunteers covering different regions inside Germany and different industrial sectors. First activities together with German key industry are already being planned. However, due to Covid many planned excursions etc. could take place in the real world, but only online, which is a drawback for now. Since Covid crisis is over, new excursions are planned.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Germany is very open to DEI topics, but there are no events to report yet.

Activities since the last report

LMAG received the “Regional Life Member Affinity Group Achievement Award 2022”.

Hosted a conference on education (GECON 2022) in Berlin, fully sponsored by the section. Due to the tremendous success 2nd GECON 2023 will take place in August 2023 in Berlin, and extended from two-day to three-day-scheme.

New Germany section web site design and content.

Created next milestone plaque proposal.

Triggered several chapter election processes.

Since Covid situation is over, many more meetings take place in-person, such as excom meeting (>30 participants) in Hamburg.

Planned activities

The main idea is to bring more visibility to the Section from outside and to IEEE from the inside (i.e., the inactive members). It started with replacing inactive or inefficient Section officers and continues with many new activities in the different subgroups (industry relations, university relations, student activities, history program, educational activities on different levels, newly founded newsletter, currently reworking web page design and content, etc.)

Currently planning an annual gathering with festivities for the 60-year-celebration of the section. Will take place in Autumn 2023 in Berlin. At the annual gathering all section members will be invited in person. If successful, we might regularly host this every year. In this regard awards and prizes will be given in person and with press notability.

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

Help for SIGHT efforts regarding help for Ukraine would be appreciated. Positive feedback was given about this on several occasions, but when it comes to actually spending budget (even budget that is unspent at the end of a year and will just expire) there is no further response. Same with IEEE HAC, so the German SIGHT members are a bit unhappy about the situation.

Any other issues of interest

None come to mind. We try to focus on Germany Section for now and will bring forward any questions or requests in due time.