

## Austria Section

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### Section Vitality

The last election for the term 2021-2023 was held in November 2020. The elected/appointed officers are listed under the [Executive Committee](#) (ExCom) of the section's [website](#). According to the section's [bylaws](#), the next election is foreseen during the last quarter of 2023. Information about this election has already been provided to all section members together with a request for officer proposals.

Besides that, several section meetings and events have been held according to the meeting plan of the section in the last year. An overview of past activities and meetings is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page of the section's [website](#).

### Students

Overall, 6 different student branches (SB) belong to the section. The latest, i.e., the student branch UMIT Tirol, was officially approved by IEEE in July 2022. This new branch in the western part of Austria will now be step-by-step integrated into the section activities as well as also represented on the related section website.

The other SBs are somehow active but compared to the pre-pandemic time they organized fewer activities and events. An overview of all student-related activities is provided on the section's [website](#) under [Student Branches](#) (with sub-pages of the different student branches).

### Affinity Groups

The section currently has a young professional (YP) and women in engineering (WIE) affinity group. Usually, they organize several events and activities during a year but quite similar to the student branches fewer events have been organized during the COVID-19 pandemic. An overview of all affinity group activities can be found on the related [Young Professionals](#) and [Women in Engineering](#) pages of the section's [website](#).

### Chapters

Overall, the section has 11 different (joint) chapters. All of them reported a sufficient number of activities for the last year in time. An overview of their activities is provided on the section's [website](#) under [Chapters](#) (with sub-pages of the different chapters).

### Industry

Some talks and webinars (mostly online) with industry participants have been organized during the last year. An overview is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#).

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Currently, no specific DEI officer is appointed for the section; DEI-related issues are more or less handled by the section's ExCom. The WIE affinity group is the most active group in the section that works on the improvement of gender inequality in the section (which is not specific to the section).

### Activities since the last report

An overview of the main activities is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#) as well as in the section newsletters (see [Newsletter](#) page on the section's [website](#)).

### Planned activities

An overview of future activities is provided on the [Future Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#).

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

The provision of a description of the different roles (chairs, officers, etc.) could be helpful, especially for new persons taking over a specific role; such a role description could help them in their daily work.

### Any other issues of interest

An observation shows, that the benefit of IEEE membership for student members is generally decreasing; the main motivation for student membership is the reduced fee for conference participation but this was less relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic; at least for the Austria Section.

Anyhow, to have a tighter collaboration and information/knowledge exchange between the different groups/branches of the section, this year the section organized the first Spring Festival on May 5, 2023, in Vienna, Austria. The event was very successful since around 50 section members participated in this networking event. The visit to the IEEE Europe Office in Vienna was part of this event where the colleagues from the office showed us their premises.



*Impressions from the Spring Festival on May 5, 2023, in Vienna, Austria  
(incl. an opening speech from the section chair T.I. Strasser and the past chair M. Heiss)*



*Visit of the IEEE Europe Office in Vienna as part of the Spring Festival on May 5, 2023, in Vienna, Austria  
(special thanks to C. Neppel and her team for the short tour)*