R8 Vice Chair-Student Activities   **Abdullateef Aliyu**

Goals

1. Decentralize the operation of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) into smaller manageable units with a plan to evolve into a standing committee in the future.

    KPI: Established min of 3 Ad-hoc with Clear responsibilities by April 2023

2. Promote good communication between student members, counselors, and the Student Activities Committee.

    KPI: 100% dissemination of information as it relates to respective Chairs SB, SBC, and Counselors using appropriate tools and platforms.

3. Improve student membership experience in the region and promote membership growth, Membership Development initiatives.

    KPI: Conduct a survey twice a year targeted to student branch leadership and ensure min of 10 training Virtual/In-person to address concerns in 2023.

    Reach out to non-active student branches while targeting to improve the active involvement of 20% of non-active student branches while working with student branches to appoint/nominate membership development officers in active student branches by end of the year.

4. Increase collaboration with other OUs YP/WIE/HuAc/ AfI

    KPI: Collaborate 100% with YP, WIE, HuaC, and AfI on student-related initiatives year-round.

5. Increase awareness of varieties of Student programs, events, Contests/competitions.

    KPI: Restructure the content of the SAC website for ease of understanding by end of Q2 while intensifying social media content.

    Conduct and complete the student paper contest for 2023 and initiate the 2024 edition of the contest

6. Supporting xSYP/SYP and making sure the success of the flagship congress.

    KPI: Work closely with Young Professional AG and provide 100% support to the respective host of the 2023 Cross-Sectional Congresses by providing templates that will aid the success of the congress.

7. Recognize Excellence with Awards

    KPI: Reach out 100% to qualified leadership of student branches to apply to MGA and Regional awards during the open call while providing content for each category that will aid their application.

Status

1. Student Activities Committee Update

3 ad-hoc Committee Constituted as follows:

   Ad-hoc Committee on Contests, Awards, and Recognitions - Vera Markovic (Chair)

   This committee is responsible for the Student Paper contests, IEEE Xtreme Competition, IEEE Duino Competition, R8 Students Awards, MGA Awards, and Other Student competitions in Region 8.

   Ad-hoc Committee on Training and Leadership Support - Khaldoun Taktak (Chair)

   This committee trains, coordinates, and generates feedback from the student branch Chair, Student branch Counselor, and Student Branch Chapters. Provide orientation to newly formed student branches, Student branch chapters, and affinity groups. Basically, working closely with the respective student branches, and student branch chapters in the Region. Affinity Groups to understand their needs and provide services that meet the needs.

   Ad-hoc Committee on New Initiatives - Vildana Hrnjić (Chair)

   Responsible to work closely with other OU and committees on student-related initiatives collaboration from Ideation to implementation within IEEE or outside of IEEE on new Initiatives.
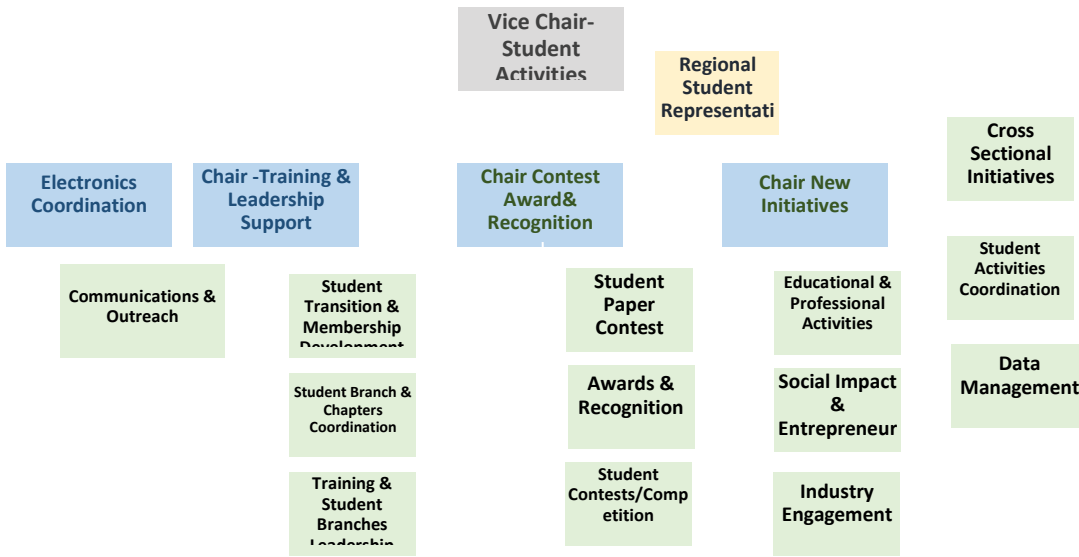
Figure 1: Student Activities Structure

2. Student Membership Statistic

Student membership is at **26,302** as of July 2023 which indicates a **2955** increase in the number of students membership compared to July 2022. This trend shows a 12.66% increase in student membership compared to July 2022
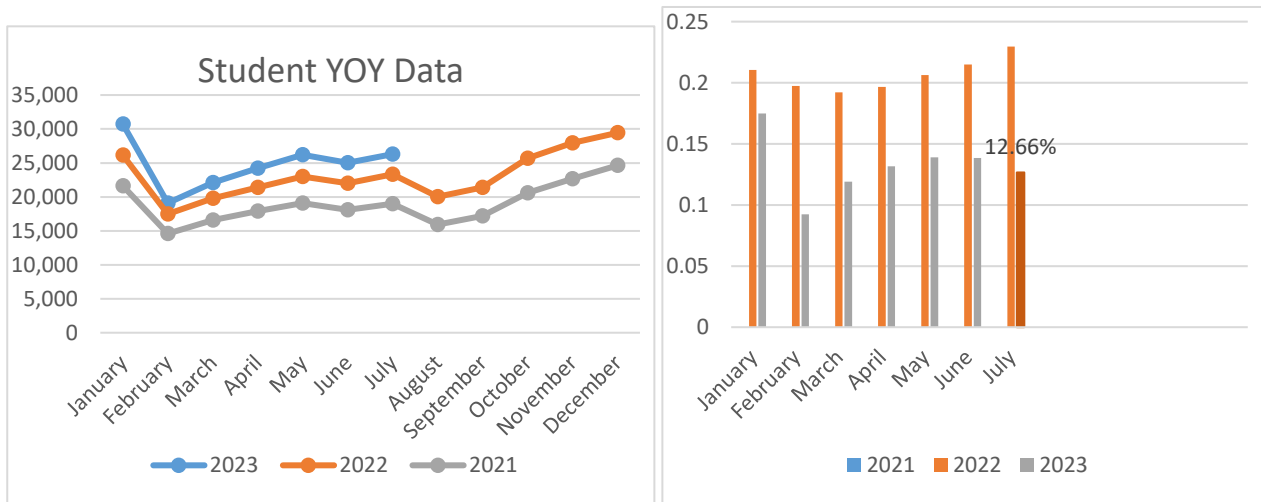

Figure 2: Student Membership Statistics

Table 1 : Monthly Student Membership Statistic

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2023	**30,730**	**19,092**	**22,124**	**24,228**	**26,219**	**25,048**	**26,302**					
2022	26,157	17,477	19,770	21,408	23,019	22,002	23,347	20,049	21,374	25,664	27,935	29,438
2021	21,611	14,595	16,585	17,890	19,082	18,110	18,987	15,948	17,194	20,595	22,671	24,632

3. Student Organizational Units

Table 2 : Student Organization Units by Numbers

	Student Branches	Technical SB Chapters	WIE SB Affinity Groups	HKN SB Chapters	Student SIGHT Groups
CURRENT	760	614	154	10	10
CHANGE FROM MARCH 2023	+10	+38	1	-	-

4. Student OU Petition Status

Table 3 : Student Organization Units Petition Statistic

	Received Petition	Processing	Approved	Rejected
Student Branch	16	1	4	1
Student Branch Chapter	60	7	11	3
Student Branch AG	10		5	5
Total	86	8	20	9

5. Student Branch Annual Plan Reporting

444 reports submitted by Student branches. This records **122** increase in the number of reports submitted from March 2023 as a result of the extended deadline to 15th April 2023. **58%** Student Branch Annual Plan Reporting **444** submitted plans* **35%** of the Student Branches have not been active
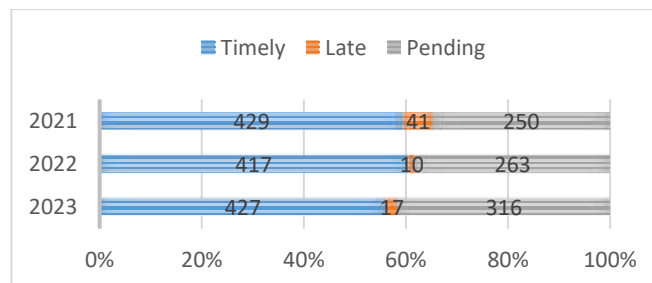

Figure 3: Annual Plan Reporting

6. Rebate
The rebate distribution has been concluded and shared among the respective beneficiaries. In Region 8, the total potential rebate, including member rebate and allotment, was **$108,418**. However, the allocated rebate amount was **$46,768**, leaving approximately **$61,650** unclaimed due to inactivity by some student branches.

The highest rebate received by a student branch was **$1,698**, awarded to **ESPRINT Tunisia**. On the other hand, the lowest rebate amount was **$52**, allocated to Rafik Hariri University Lebanon. A total of **205** student branches benefited from the rebate program. Tunisia received the highest sum among all the countries, with a rebate of **$13,402**, accounting for approximately **28.6%** of the total rebate distribution.

7. Cross-Sectional Congresses

5 out of 7 Cross-Sectional Congress to be held this year! The Africa Student and Young Professionals Congress in Abuja was held on 27th through 29th, of July with 105 participants. The next cross-sectional Congress is the North Africa Student and Young Professionals Congress in Cairo, Egypt. The Ad-hoc on training and leadership support provide bi-weekly meetings to check on the progress and health of the planning committees.

XSYP	Country	OU	Month	Date	Venue	Location	Status
ASYP	Nigeria	SB & YP	Jul	27th-29th	Baze University	Abuja	Closed
NASYP	Egypt	YP	Aug	24th-27th	Egypt University of Informatics (EUI)	Cairo	On track
WESYP	Switzerland	EPFL SB	Sep	15ᵗʰ - 17th	EPFL Campus	Lausanne	On track
MESYP	Jordan	CUTSB	Nov	22nd– 24ᵗʰ	the King Hussein Bin-Talal Convention Center at the Dead Sea,	Aqaba	On track
CEuSYP	Poland	CUTSB	Nov-Dec	30ᵗʰ – 3ʳᵈ	Cracow University of Technology	Krakow	On Track

8. Student and Young Professionals Congress 2024

11 proposals were received from the first stage of calls for proposals, only 6-second stage proposals were received to finalize the evaluation process. The Young Professionals and Student Activities Committee evaluated the proposals from Ghana, Jordan, France, Bahrain, North Macedonia, and Egypt. The result of the winner will be announced at the Congress.

sN	Country	Organization Unit (OU)	Location	1st Stage	2nd Stage
1	Ghana	Young Professionals Affinity Group, Ghana Section	Accra	X	X
2	Zambia	Student Branch		X	
3	Jordan	Jordan University of Science and Technology student branch	Amman	X	X
4	Spain	STB64591 - Universidad de Oviedo		X	
5	France	GAU IEEE Student branch / STB09711	Grenoble	X	X
6	Hungary	Student Branch, and Young Professional		X	
7	UK and Ireland	Glasgow Caledonian University SB		X	
8	Bahrain	SSIT chapter	Bahrain	X	X
9	UK and Ireland	University of Bolton SB		X	
10	North Macedonia	R80077, STB28361	Skopje	X	X
11	Egypt Section	STB61721 - Arab Academy for Science Tech & Maritime Transport	Alexandra	X	X

9. Student Paper Contest

The 55ᵗʰ edition of this prestigious and long-standing R8 student contest final was successfully completed on July 6-7, 2023. The exciting city of Torino in Italy served as the perfect venue, and organizers of the IEEE R8 flagship conference, EUROCON 2023, graciously hosted the final part of this year's Student Paper Contest (SPC).

IEEE R8 Director Vincenzo Piuri presented the FIRST PRIZE in the SPC 2023, which went to **Jonathan Parion** from UCLouvain University, Belgium, for his paper entitled: "Low-temperature admittance spectroscopy for defect characterization in Cu(In,Ga)(S,Se)2 thin-film solar cells". For the SPC first prize winner, there is a cash award of **$800**, and additionally, his student branch (SB) UCLouvain University SB, gets a special award of **$250**.

The winner of the SECOND PRIZE, worth $500, is Jakub Lála from Imperial College London, UK, for his paper entitled: "Coarse-Graining of Molecular Dynamics Using Neural Ordinary Differential Equations", while the third prize and a cash award of **$200** were granted to **Qihan Yang,** who presented the paper, and his co-authors **Wenqiang Lai), Ye Mao, Endong Sung,** and **Jiangnan Ye**, all from Imperial College London, UK. The title of their paper is "Knowledge Distilled Ensemble Model for sEMG-based Silent Speech Interface".

The 2023 call for Proposal for the local student paper contest is ongoing and about 20 proposals from Section and Student branches are already approved worth **6000 USD**.

Finally, the student paper contest rules were also updated and approved by OpCom.

10. MGA Awards

The call for nomination for the MGA and R8 awards was announced, to encourage students from our Region to participate, Promotional videos were created to help with the publicity.

Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award – **37 Submissions**
Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award – **20 Submissions**
The Darrel Chong Student Activity Award – **14 Submissions**
Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Award – **13 Submissions**

The response was impressive as we are second to Region 10 with the highest number of submissions. Evaluations of the awards entries are ongoing.

The following R8 awards were also evaluated, and an announcement of the winners will be made at the Section Congress:

- R8 Student Branch of the Year Award
- R8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award
- R8 Outstanding Student Branch Website Award
- R8 WIE Student Affinity Group Award
- R8 Outstanding WIE Student Volunteer award
- R8 SB SIGHT Group of the Year award

11. Website and Content

The IEEE R8 SAC website is being renovated with updated menus and content. It includes important information for Student Branches, such as important deadlines, MGA and regional awards gathered in one place, and R8 SAC webinars.
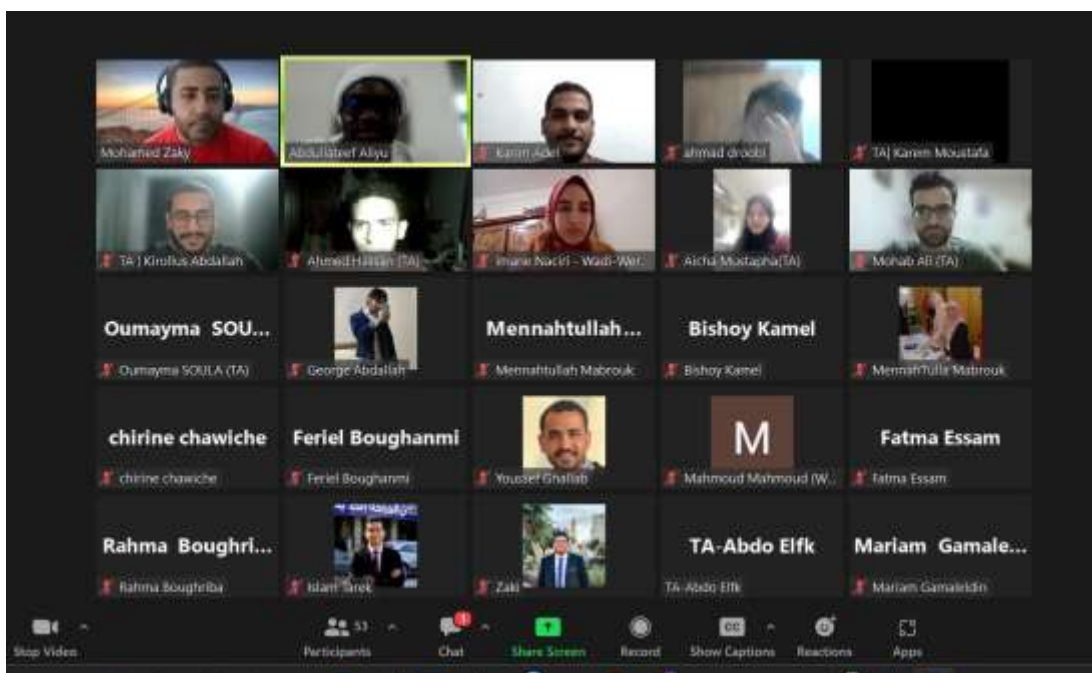

12. Collaboration with Arab in Neurosciences

We kick off collaboration with Arab in Neuroscience where they plan to deliver training to over 200 student members in the local language.

Outlooks

1. Announcement of Host of the 2024 Student and Young Professionals Congress
2. Lunch the new SAC web page
3. Continue mentoring and supporting the xSYPs and participation
4. Lunch the IEEEDuino 2023-2024 Edition
5. Lunch the SB Vitality Reels
6. Announce SAC Support Program beneficiaries.

7. Prepare transition documentation for SB/SBC to tackle problems caused during the handover.
8. Schedule the MGA Webinar
9. Commence planning of the next SSR & SSAC leadership training program
10. IEEE YESIST12 2023

Points of Concern

✔ SB Reporting and SBs on the probation list

✔ Student member recovery and retention

✔ Huge amount of funds unclaimed due to inactive student branches

Other Issues to Report

We need to identify more Section Student Representatives and Student Activities Committee Chairs.

Update the respective Student leadership on Vtools