

Technical Activities**Marios Antoniou****Goals and progress against goals since the last report****1. Bidirectional communication with Sections and involvement of Section representatives in Technical Activities.**

Online meeting with Section Industry Ambassadors, July 2023. Hybrid Training of Section Conference Coordinators, July 2023. Entrepreneurship workshops during EUROCON 2023 conference, Turin Italy, July 2023. Section representatives: 31 Conference Coordinators. 31 Educational Activities Chairs, 26 Professional Activities Chairs, 28 Industry Ambassadors, 21 Climate Change Liaisons.

2. Maintain a healthy conferences outlook, explore new flagship conferences, include industry focused events in conferences.

Six TCS conference approvals. Eight meetings of R8 steering committees of the R8 portfolio/flagship conferences have been held. Conversion of EDUCON conference to a Region 8 portfolio conference. Conversion of HISTELCON conference to a multi-regional conference. Industry workshop during EUROCON 2023 July 2023. Industry workshop during AFRICON 2023, September 2023.

3. Expand Action for Industry programs, and create Industry awards

Twenty-six internships and six new MoUs. Face to face MENA region Section Industry Ambassador workshop at Cairo Egypt, August 2023, in parallel with NASYP 2023.

4. Improve educational activities programs with an emphasis on Continuous Education.

Accelerator program activities and Local languages activities. Joint PEA workshop at ASYP 2023 in cooperation with ContinuED project.

5. Increase cooperation between Technical Activities committees with Membership and Student Activities committees.

Section industry ambassadors during NASYP 2023. PEA workshop during ASYP 2023. Climate Change workshop and Climate Change Hackathon.

6. Expand our international outlook through the collaboration with other Regions.

Collaboration with Region 7, Region 9 and Region 10 to convert Region 8 HISTELCON conference into a multi-regional conference.

Status

Region 8 Technical Activities committees have been collaborating with Sections. Region 8 Technical Activities committees have been providing support for conferences, chapters, educational and professional activities and industry engagement. Region 8 committees have organized online and hybrid meetings as well as trainings for Conference Organizers and Industry Ambassadors.

Technical Activities AdHoc committees have prepared action plans for 2023 and have been communicating and working with Sections. **Climate Change** AdHoc has communicated with Sections in Region 8 and 19 Sections have appointed 21 Climate Change Liaisons. **Standards** AdHoc committee has given talks about standards during conferences. **Cross Sectional** AdHoc Committee has worked in strengthening collaboration between neighborhood sections. Collaboration in Nordic and Baltic Region is in progress and could bring value for all partners involved. For academic partners the scale up of local conferences to the regional events can bring new network

building opportunities. **Educational Infrastructure** AdHoc has identified existing educational content produced by Region 8 Organizing Units.

The highlights of Technical Activities for the second and third quarter of 2023 are: EDUCON 2023 conference, selection of venues for EUROCON conference 2025 and HISTELCON conference 2025, online meeting with Section Industry Ambassadors, hybrid training of Section Conference Coordinators, EUROCON 2023 conference, Best Chapter and Best Student Branch award selection. MENA Section Industry Ambassador face to face workshop.

EUROCON 2023 conference, a flagship Region 8 conference, had 300 participants and contributions from authors from 48 countries. **EUROCON 2023 content can serve as a blueprint for other Region 8 flagship conferences.** The main technical sessions of EUROCON 2023 were organized with the support of over 30 Chapters and Affinity Groups of Italy Section. During EUROCON 2023 eight workshops, were organized with the participation of Region 8 Technical Activities, Member Activities and Student Activities committees. These workshops covered many aspects of key areas of interest for Region 8, such as **industry, entrepreneurship, membership development, humanitarian, and soft skills.** They enhanced the networking opportunities and involvement of different stakeholders, from startups to large industries. Large industries that contributed to special events organized during the conference were able to strengthen their relationships with IEEE.

Outlook

Region 8 Technical Activities will continue collaborating with Region 8 Member and Student Activities and organizing joint events and activities during conferences and regional SYP events in Region 8. There are opportunities to collaborate in several key areas such as Climate Change, Entrepreneurship and humanitarian activities. Region 8 Technical Activities will also continue its collaboration with other Regions for lessons learned in Technical Activities and will build on the existing communication with other Regions for the conversion of HISTELCON conference to a multi-regional event. Moreover, Technical Activities committee and AdHoc TA Committees will implement their programs for 2023. An overview is given below:

1. R8 Afi committee is organizing: a Section Industry Ambassador workshop and meetings with local industries during AFRICON 2023, a face-to-face workshop for Section Industry Ambassadors in Europe, regular online calls with Section Industry Ambassadors in Region 8. These activities will increase collaboration with industry and R8 visibility through conferences and Industry focused events.
2. R8 PEA committee has sent to Sections calls for ambassadors for the Local Language Program, for the participation in the Accelerator Program and the Speakers program and for the organization of STEM activities.
3. R8 Conference Coordination committee will continue working for the conversion of the R8 FCS conference IEEE EDUCON into a new R8 portfolio conference and for the conversion of R8 flagship conference HISTELCON to a multi-regional conference. The committee will also evaluate R8 TCS conferences which could be upgraded to R8 FCS conferences.
4. R8 Chapters committee is planning a Chapter Panorama Event to promote best practices relevant to opening, revitalizing and running successful Chapters. The committee will continue monitoring the current state of R8 Chapters and will provide reports for chapter vitality and for potential chapters.
5. R8 Standards AdHoc's plan is to support Sections and members for grants from IEEE Standards Education (SEC) Committee, to support Sections and conferences with industry professionals and standards development experts and to organize a Mars Game to educate members for standards.
6. R8 Climate Change AdHoc will collect information for Climate Change in Region 8 and will develop a Climate Change Landscape Analysis in Region 8.

7. R8 Cross Section Technical Cooperation AdHoc plans regional cross section cooperation and project consortia building events collocated with IEEE conferences.

8. R8 Cooperation with IEEE S/TCs and National Associations Adhoc will communicate with Sections for existing agreements with National Association that need renewals.

9. R8 Educational Infrastructures AdHoc will prepare a framework for efficiently distributing educational content and materials. It will prepare guidelines for conducting events to produce high-quality, usable content in various formats. In cooperation with R8 Professional and Educational Activities committee this Adhoc will complete the joint research on educational opportunities and infrastructures in Region 8.

Points of Concern

Some Sections have not appointed yet representatives for all Technical Activities (conference coordinators, industry ambassadors, professional and educational activities coordinators). Bi-directional communication between Region 8 Technical Activities committees and Sections representatives is essential for the continuous improvement of Technical Activities in Region 8.

Other issues to report

None.