

SAC Contests, Awards and Recognitions (Ad Hoc Committee)

Vera Markovic

Members in 2023:

- Vera Markovic (Serbia) (Chair)
- Haris Capelj (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- Rim Chihi (Tunisia)
- Lee Crudgington (UK&Ireland)
- Millicent Kwangari (South Africa)
- Matteo Bruno Lodi (Italy)
- Abdulrahman Mohammed (Egypt)

Goals	KPIs
Provide IEEE student members with opportunities to participate in R8 and global student contests, organize promotion and advertising, hold competitions and recognize the achievements of the winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted the written part of the R8 Student Paper Contest 2023 and 5 finalists selected • SPC 2023 oral finals held and follow-up activities completed • R8 SPC 2024 edition initiated • Increased number of submitted papers for SPC 2024 • IEEEduino held • IEEEExtreme promoted and supported
To encourage initiative and provide support for student members to organize their own local competitions at the level of SBs or Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase number of proposals for Local Student Paper Contests • All local contests completed by November 2023 • LSPC reports evaluated and follow-up activities completed
Focus on managing the promotion and judging of the IEEE Student Awards Programme. Maximize the number of submitted awards for each category. Ensure that criteria are clear for SB leaders. Number of queries received relating to awards criteria. Ensure Continuity of R8 SAC Judging Teams Maintain regular communication with MGA SAC Awards Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of complete student award applications. • Number of complete student award applications. • Number of queries received relating to awards criteria. • Size of R8 SAC awards evaluation team. • Frequency of communication with team members.
To promote, advertise, and publicize student contests and awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Notices • Announcements in social media • Webinars • Trainings • Video promoting material • Article in R8 News

Progress against goals since the last report

R8 STUDENT PAPER CONTEST

R8 SPC 2023 first phase completed within the first two months 2023:

- student paper evaluated by the international jury composed of 4 members
- ranking list made and 5 finalists selected and notified
- The announcements about the finalists published on SAC social media
- Preparation and checkup of finalists' camera-ready papers
- Cooperation with EUROCON 2023 organizers about the SPC 2023 oral finals (submitting the finalists' papers, organizing a special SPC session, invitation letters for the visa purpose, finalists' accommodation in Turin, etc.)

The SPC 2023 second phase has concluded at EUROCON 2023, Turin, Italy on July 6-7, 2023:

- Five finalists presented their work during a special conference session - SPC Oral Finals
- The international jury selected the winners
- The SPC awards ceremony took place during the conference gala dinner



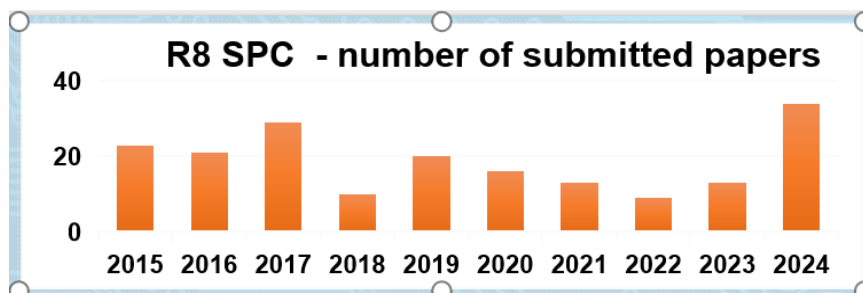
Subsequent activities:

- Finalists' papers published in the IEEE Xplore
- The payments of all cash awards to the winners and SB successfully processed
- The announcement about the SPC 2023 winners published on the R8 SAC website and in SAC social media
- article about the SPC 2023 published in the September issue of R8 News



SPC 2024 activities:

- Call for submissions for the R8 SPC 2024 published in June
- Advertisement done repeatedly through the SAC website, SAC social media and e-notices; webinar: “How to write a technical paper”, speaker Eszter Lukács, held on 21 November
- The deadline initially 1 December, then extended to 15 December as usually
- Significant increase of submitted papers – we received 34 submissions (out of which 32 are valid), which is almost 3 times more compared to the previous year



LOCAL STUDENT PAPER CONTEST EVENTS PROGRAM 2023

- There were 3 Calls for LSPC Event Program proposals:
 - 1st Call on 18 April – 9 applications, 7 approved
 - 2nd Call on 11 June – 11 applications, 10 approved
 - 3rd Call on 15 September – 2 applications, 1 approved
- A new follow-up procedure designed to keep Local SPC organizers on the right track throughout every phase of implementation
- A WhatsApp Chat group is formed for faster communications with Local SPC organizers
- Permanent communication and support to applicants for a successful organization of events
- Collecting and evaluation the reports
- Final decisions on grants
- Preparing the request for payments

In total:

- 22 applications submitted
- 18 applications approved
- 15 LSPC events held and approved for financing (out of which 4 sections and 11 SBs)



- Significant increase comparing to the previous year when the program started



- Regional representation: Africa 8, Europe 6, Middle east 1

IEEEDuino

- Registration for 1st Phase to open by the end of February 2024.
- Co-operation from Section Chairs is requested.
- Delays from original timetable due to elongated R8 awards judging cycle in 2024.

Next: the design and ideas phase:

- Participants asked to prepare a four-page proposal of their idea.
- Submissions will be selected to participate in the build phase by judging panel
- Selected participants will receive an Arduino Nano and development kit.

AWARDS

MGA awards

The 2023 IEEE MGA Student Awards portal opened on 1 February.

Activities:

- e-Notice prepared and sent two times to all R8 Student Branch Chairs and Counsellors; the announcement posted on SAC Facebook and other social media
- Promotion of awards through video contents
- Judging carried out
- Number of complete student award applications:
 - Exemplary Student Branch Award – **52 Entries Received**
 - Larry K. Wilson Student Activity Award – **20 Entries Received**
 - IEEE Student Branch Website Contest – **31 Entries Received**
- Number of queries relating to awards criteria: Consistently **below 5 annually**.
- Size of R8 SAC awards evaluation team: 2024 team: **19 persons**.
- Frequency of communication with team members: **Weekly**.

R8 awards

Cooperation between SAC and R8 Awards & Recognitions Committee – decisions on SAC representatives in R8 judging teams

Call for nominations: 1 April; deadline: 1 June

- a) R8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award
- b) R8 WIE Student Affinity Group Award
- c) R8 Outstanding WIE Student Volunteer award
- d) R8 SB SIGHT Group of the Year award
- e) R8 Student Branch of the Year Award
- f) R8 Outstanding Student Branch Website Award

WINNERS a)-d) ANNOUNCED in August at the Section Congress 2023 in Ottawa.

Judging the nominations for the R8 Student Branch of the Year Award and Outstanding Student Branch Website Award completed by SAC and the winners will be announced at Vienna Committee Meeting

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Committee of R8 Specific Issues

- Commitment of R8 SAC awards evaluation team to complete judging tasks to deadlines.
- Judging two awards, the Exemplary Student Branch Award and the Region 8 Student Branch of the Year Award was carried out simultaneously, on the basis of the same submission data and using both the online OpenWater judging platform and an Excel-based rubric.

Points of Concern

- Delays from original IEEEDuino timetable due to elongated awards judging cycle and overloading due to increased number of nominations (for example, over-run of ExSB judging tasks preventing commencement of IEEEDuino in 2023 and at the beginning of 2024)

Proposals for improvements/Other Issues to report

Proposal for improvements:

To increase number of committee members engaged in tasks related to awards and IEEE Duino to avoid overload.

Plan for 2024:

- R8 SPC 2024 – paper evaluation – starting 15 January, completing 4 March
- IEEE Duino: Registration for 1st Phase to open by the end of February 2024; co-operation with Section Chairs
- Nomination period for MGA awards, advertising activities - starting 1 February, deadline 31 March
- IEEE Duino application form opening – about mid-February
- Participation in SAC Training in Alexandria 23-27 February
- Participation in R8 Committee meeting in Vienna 1– 3 March
- Final results for both 2023 ExSB from MGA and SBotY announced 1-3 March
- R8 Awards & Recognitions Committee meeting – 1 March
- R8 SPC 2024 - jury decision – about 15 March
- R8 SPC 2024 - announcement of finalists – 18 March
- Preparing the SPC Oral Finals (camera-ready papers; cooperation with the conference organizers; travel, accommodation, visa) – from 18 March to 25 June
- (SPC 2025)
- Updating the rules of the Local SPC Events Program - until 30 April
- Call for applications for the Local SPC Events Program 2024 and Call for papers for the SPC 2025 – 15 May
- Call for R8 Student awards and establishing judging teams/representatives for different kinds of awards – dates TBD
- Collecting nominations for R8 student awards – dates TBD
- Processing and judging of IEEE MGA and R8 Student Awards – dates TBD
- SPC 2024 Finals (special session at MELECON 2024; decision on winners; preparation of the certificates; organization of the Award Ceremony) 25-27 June
- SPC 2024 follow-up activities: payments, publicity, reporting – starting from 1 July
- Participation in SYP Congress 2024, Grenoble, 15-19 July
- Processing and approvals of applications for the 2024 Local SLC Events Program 15 May – 15 October
- Implementation of the Local SPC events 15 June – 15 November
- Evaluation of reports on the implementation of Local SPC events 15 November – 1 December
- Establishment of the new SPC jury – until 30 September
- Deadline SPC 2025 – 1 December
- Collecting the SPC 2025 papers, preparing the material for the SPC jury 1 – 31 December.
- IEEE Duino activities – dates TBD
- Promotional activities - dates TBD
- Webinar “How to write a technical paper” and other webinars – dates TBD
- IEEE Duino design and ideas phase: Participants asked to prepare a four-page proposal of their idea; submissions will be selected to participate in the build phase by judging panel; selected participants will receive an Arduino Nano and development kit – dates TBD

