

France Section

Richard Perdriau, Section Secretary

Section Vitality

Two official board meetings were held on September 5 (virtually) and December 8 (in Paris). Two General Assemblies were organized on March 9, 2023 (along with the Chapter and Student Branch meetings) and February 8, 2024 (both in Paris).

On December 7, 2023, the Section gathered 3884 members. Compared with December 31, 2022 (3563 members), this is a significant increase. More specifically, this increase is mainly due to Members (2079 vs. 1931), Associate Members (147 vs. 89) and Life Members (92 vs. 67 excluding Life Senior and Life Fellows). It is very likely that some new members do not fill in their profile properly and, therefore, are accounted for Associate Members instead of Members; the Section is planning to contact them.

The current number is 4103 members as of February 26, 2024, with mainly an increase in Members and Graduate Student Members (+~100 in each category).

New elections for the Section were held from October 30 to November 30, 2022. As France Section is concerned, both the Section Chair and Vice-Chair are elected (the Vice-Chair does not implicitly become the next Chair). Six positions (provided below) were renewed:

- Chair: René Garelo
- Vice-Chair: Maria Trocan
- Treasurer: Jaafar Gaber
- Secretary: Richard Perdriau (re-elected)
- Officer for Conferences and Workshops: François Rivet
- Officer for Member Technical Activities: Serge dos Santos

These results were announced on December 1, 2022, and formally validated by the General Assembly on December 20, 2022.

According to the Section's statutes, another position (Officer for WiE activities) must be included in the Section's ComEx. Following the reactivation of the Section's WiE Affinity Group, its acting Chair (Florence Sèdes) was officially elected to that position in November 2023.

Still according to the Section's statutes, the Section's ComEx must include a Student Representative. A call for volunteers was launched, leading to only one candidate (Johan Boukhenfouf). The candidate was appointed to the position by the General Assembly on February 8, 2024.

Moreover, according to the Section's standing orders, 3 Chapter Chairs are voting members of the Section's Board. The 3 candidates (Mohammed Chadli – CS23, Sihem Mesnager – IT12, Smaïl Tedjini – AP03) to these positions were consequently appointed by the General Assembly on February 8, 2024.

3 IEEE Awards were received by France Section members:

- 2024 IEEE Frank Rosenblatt Award, for Outstanding Contributions to Biologically and Linguistically Motivated Computational Paradigms and Systems: Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier
- 2024 Distinguished Service Award of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society (MTT-S), in Recognition of a Distinguished Record of Service to the MTT Society and the Microwave Profession over a Sustained Period of Time: Victor Fouad Hanna
- 2023 IEEE Communications Society Harold Sobol Award for Exemplary Service to Meetings & Conferences, for Outstanding Contributions to the Organization of IEEE ComSoc Events on Network Design and Management: Prosper Chemouil

7 new Fellows were appointed in the Section (vs. 6 in the beginning of 2022).

17 conference technical sponsorship requests were filed in 2023, and 12 were accepted (same as in 2022). 7 have already been filed for 2024 (6 accepted) and 4 for 2025 (all accepted).

Students

Active Student Branches:

- STB02881 University of Lille
- STB06661 Institut Sup Electronique de Paris
- STB08231 Telecom Paris
- STB09711 Grenoble Alpes University
- STB10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace
- STB11699 Jean Monnet University
- STB15361 University of Bordeaux

- STB17521 University of Limoges
- STB18341 Univ de Franche Comté
- STB64264 Ecole CentraleSupélec
- STB64630 Ecole Polytechnique (Paris)
- STB66001 Eurecom Institut
- STB99741 University of Toulouse (**reactivated in January 2023**)
- STB60108042 INSA Centre Val de Loire

Student Branches with no recent declared activity:

- STB05391 Sorbonne University
- STB08421 University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne
- STB62561 IMT-Atlantique
- STB64381 University of Picardie Jules Verne
- STB65921 Institut Mines-Telecom – TelecomSudParis
- STB99801 Ecole Sup D'Elec de l'Ouest

11 Student Branches received rebates in 2022 (same as in 2021). 55 events were organized in 2023 (excluding the 7 events specifically organized by SB Chapters). The total of .. events is greater than the 51 events registered in 2022.

A general meeting of Student Branches (STB Day) was organized on November 23-24 in Lille by the University of Lille and ISEP SBs.

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups:

- LM80005 Life Members
- WE80005 Women in Engineering
- YP80005 Young Professionals

List of SB Affinity Groups:

- SBA02881 University of Lille, WiE

LM: as usual, the Group is very active (10 events in 2023) and received rebates in 2022 (with activity bonus). 3 Milestone ceremonies (Ampère – The Birth of Electrodynamics, MPEG Multimedia Integrated Circuits, Langevin – Invention of Sonar) were organized in France by LMAG (see pictures below). Moreover, a meeting was organized with David Bondurant (IEEE Life Member Committee and LMAG Activities Coordinator).



WiE: Florence Sèdes was appointed acting WiE Chair by the General Assembly on February, 8. A formal election took place afterwards, leading to her formal election as Chair in November, along with the rest of the WiE ExCom. The Group has become active again since her appointment, organizing joint events with the YP Affinity Group and Student Branches (brainstorming in Lille, panel with Women in Power in Grenoble) for a total number of 5 events in 2023. A remote meeting of the AG was organized on February 8, 2024 (after the Section's General Assembly). The WiE ExCom forecasts transversal events with Chapters, particularly with those with female Chairs.

YP: after the AG reactivation in 2022, 6 events were declared in 2023, including participations to the Scientific Day in ISEP, the STB Day in Lille, WESYP 2023 in Switzerland and TSYP 2023 in Tunisia. New elections will take place in 2024 (to be launched soon).

Chapters

List of Chapters:

- Aerospace and Electronic Systems (AES10)

- Antennas and Propagation (AP03)
- Computer (C16)
- Circuits and Systems (CAS04)
- Computational Intelligence (CIS11)
- Communications (COM19)
- Control (CS23)
- Electron Devices (ED15)
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB18)
- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC27)
- Electronics Packaging Society (EP21)
- Geoscience and Remote Sensing (GRS29)
- Industry Applications – Industrial Electronics – Power Electronics (IA34/IE13/PEL35 Joint Chapter)
- Instrumentation and Measurement (IM09)
- Information Theory (IT12)
- Magnetics (MAG33)
- Microwave Theory and Technology (MTT17)
- Nuclear and Plasma Sciences (NPS05)
- Oceanic Engineering (OE22)
- Power and Energy (PE31)
- Photonics (PHO36)
- Reliability (RL07)
- Robotics and Automation (RA24)
- Sensor Council (SEN39)
- Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC28)
- Signal Processing (SP01)
- Solid-State Circuits (SSC37)
- Vehicular Technology (VT06)

List of SB Chapters:

- SBC02881 University of Lille, CAS04
- SBC02881A University of Lille, SSC37
- SBC09711A Grenoble Alpes University, MTT17 (**new in 2023**)
- SBC10034 Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, NPS05
- SBC10034A Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, AES10
- SBC10034B Inst Supérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace, IA34
- SBC11699 Jean Monnet University, NPS05
- SBC12551A Univ de Tech de Belfort-Montbéliard, IA34
- SBC15361A University of Bordeaux, MTT17
- SBC15361B University of Bordeaux, AP03
- SBC15361C University of Bordeaux, CAS04
- SBC15361D University of Bordeaux, IM09
- SBC15361E University of Bordeaux, SSC37
- SBC15361F University of Bordeaux, EMB18
- SBC15361G University of Bordeaux, SP01
- SBC18341A Univ De Franche Comté, UFFC20
- SBC18341B Univ De Franche Comté, RA24
- SBC64381A Univ of Picardie Jules Verne, IA34

- SBC99741A University of Toulouse, SP01 (**new in January 2023**)

A total of 89 events were organized by all Chapters in 2022 (95 in 2022), 7 by SB Chapters.

Following the sudden passing away of the C16 Chapter Chair in 2022, no other ExCom member could be reached out for his succession. A call for volunteers was initiated in 2023, and it took several months to gather candidates. A whole group of volunteers agreed in December, and elections were launched on February 26, 2024.

A meeting was organized with Chapters and Student Branches (plus the Section ExCom and volunteers) in Paris on March 9-10. 12 Chapters out of 27, plus the Joint Chapter, as well as 4 Student Branches, participated in the meeting. The event was split into two morning sessions (plus the Section's General Assembly on March 9 afternoon).

The first morning was dedicated to a general presentation of Section activities by the Section Chair, followed by individual presentations of Chapter and Student Branch activities. In the second morning, all participants were invited to work in groups, in order to exchange their best practices and collectively suggest improvements to the whole Section, Chapter and SB workflows.

Industry

France Section (through Philippe Courmontagne and Serge Dos Santos, Industrial Ambassadors) organized the fourth edition of 'Les Assises de l'Industrie 4.0' in INSA Centre Val de Loire, Blois. In this event, mentoring actions for IEEE student members were taken, including 'My thesis in 5 minutes' presentations, student visits and activities. Moreover, through the Action for Industry Internship Engagement, an access to the International Talent Pool was provided.

Contacts were made with companies in France and Europe through AFI meetings and special sessions. A few Distinguished Lecturers answered positively to the proposal for the organization of dedicated seminars.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Please note that all statistics based on race, religion and sexual orientation are strictly forbidden in France.

13.3 % of Section members are women (and another 15.3 % did not indicate any gender).

The current Section ExCom includes 2 women (out of 8). 4 Chapter Chairs (CAS04, IT12, SMC28 and SSC37), plus the LM Affinity Group Chair and the WiE Affinity Group Chair and Vice-Chair, are women. 1 SB Chair (University of Toulouse) and 2 SB Vice-Chairs (INSA Centre Val de Loire and Jean Monnet University) are women.

The reactivation of the WiE affinity group will lead to many actions being taken to improve diversity and equity.

Activities since last report

A communication plan for the Section has been carefully set up, with an overhaul of the website, new templates for internal documents, and a much higher involvement in social networking.

The cooperation among Chapters, Student Branches, WiE and YP Affinity Groups has been improved through joint meetings, which has led to the co-organization of SB events. SYP events are now working perfectly within the Section.

A discussion about strategic planning for 2024-2026 has been initiated. A brainstorming session was organized in the Section's General Assembly on February 8, 2024. It highlighted a few priorities, including (but not limited to):

- Taking great care of ethics and scientific integrity
- Looking for candidates to awards (Brillouin-Glavieux, worldwide awards) more actively
- Organizing career development events
- Giving more value to professional networking
- Cooperating with other national networks (GDR...)
- Thinking collectively about topical subjects (IT for Green, ethical AI...)

Planned activities

The 2024 R8 SYP Congress will be organized in Grenoble on July 14-19, with joint events among SB and YP. Industry 4.0 meetings will also take place within the Congress.

The 2024 R8 General Assembly will take place in Bordeaux in October 2024.

Joint events with French and R8 Student Branches are planned during the 2024 BEC Conference in Tallinn on October 2-4.

The French 2024 Student Branch Day will be organized in Paris (ISEP).

An application will be filed for 3 other Milestones (Micral N – the first commercial personal computer ; invention of turbo-codes by Claude Berrou and Alain Glavieux, and General Gustave Ferrié – wireless telegraph) in France.

The Section will continue its active support to conferences (already 10 accepted for 2024 and 2025).

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

As mentioned in the previous report, the Section found it particularly difficult to find candidates and volunteers for the past elections (only one candidate for the Secretary position, and much time spent for the Treasurer position). This may be due to the amount of time required to fulfill all duties in a timely manner by people who are already busy with their jobs.

R8 could help by targeting relevant information to the correct recipients (while the Section Chair still being in CC instead of the only recipient):

- Conference matters are still not directed to the Officer for Conferences, despite multiple requests at all levels
- The Section Secretary still does not receive any request for reports directly (including this one)

Moreover, more frequent and consistent interactions with R8 could help to improve the Section's strategic planning to be established in the current mandate.

Any other issues of interest

None.