

IEEE Benelux Section

Prof. DSc. Olexander Yarovyι

Section Vitality

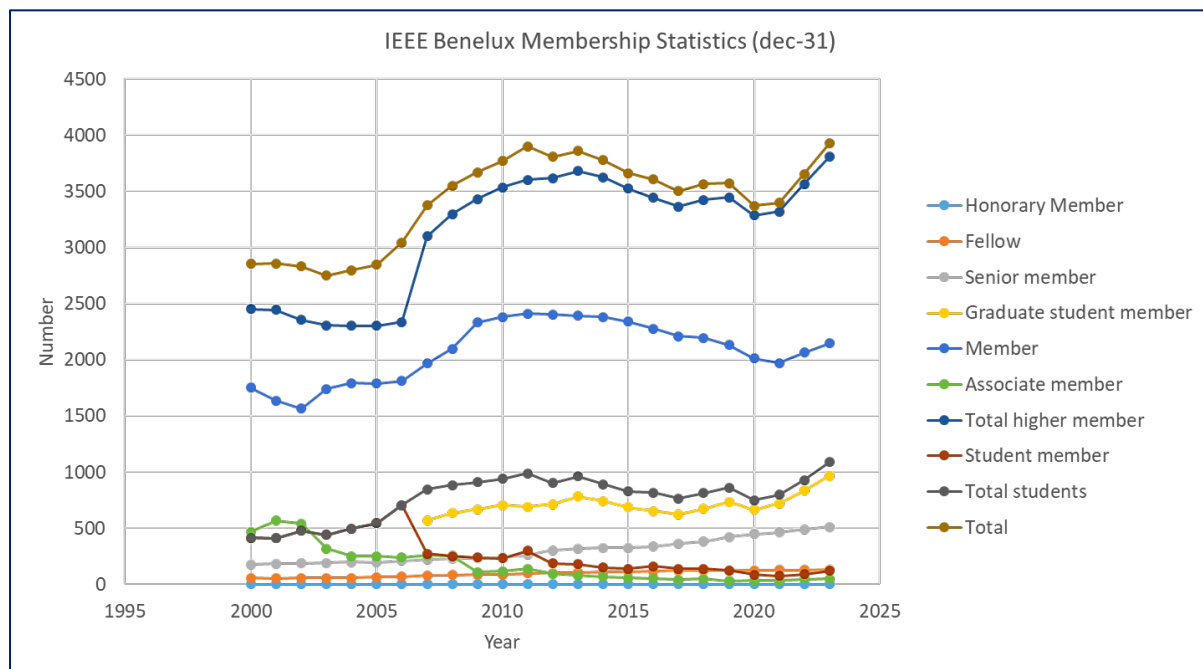
The last elections for the Benelux ExCom were organized in January 2023, and the next elections will be held in January 2025. The newly elected vice-chair will be involved in all section meetings. Previously he was also active as the secretary of the Benelux ExCom. Periodic section ExCom meetings are organized 3 times per year (February, May, November), in a hybrid way. We request chapter chairs to be present physically at least once in 2 years.

To recruit new members, the section (co-)organizes and supports several activities on a section, chapter, and student branch level. Some examples (of larger activities) include amongst others:

- Benelux Section Meet the Fellows Event, coinciding with the General Assembly (January 2023). There three recently elevated IEEE Fellows (Marian Verhelst, Riccardo de Gaudenzi, and Piet Van Mieghem) have presented their research. All presentations were well received and sparked interesting questions and follow-up from the audience.
- Student representation at the R8 SYP Congress.
- Support for the IEEE Student Paper Contest.
- Visit of IEEE President Dr. Tom Coughlin to TU Delft and meeting with IEEE student members of TU Delft (February 2024).

Apart from this, yearly happy (re-)new year emails are sent to all Benelux IEEE members to stimulate membership.

Below an overview can be found of the Benelux membership evolution, dated to the end of the solar year 2023.









Students

At the moment, the Benelux Section has several Student Branches, of which some are extremely active such as the branch in TU Eindhoven and KU Leuven, which also has multiple student chapters divided per professional/technical area of interest. The vitality of the student branches is also demonstrated by the growth of student membership as per graph above – notable is the number of Graduate Student Members, i.e., those who have already received a first degree. The Gent and Brugge Student Branches have decided to merge.





















Affinity Groups














In the Benelux Section, 3 Affinity Groups are currently active. The WIE affinity group has been recently reactivated with the addition of newer members to its board.

Benelux Section Affinity Group, LM	 	0	5	0	2	0	0	7
Benelux Section Affinity Group, WIE	 	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Benelux Section Affinity Group, YP	 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Chapters

The Benelux Section has several active chapters, however, in 2023 not all of them did the necessary reporting (see tables below). Since this year, as Section ExCom we do put in place some increased effort to make them complete the reporting. The IEEE Computer chapter has been formed after its formal termination in early 2023. In December 2023 the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Society Chapter has been formed.

Benelux Section Chapter, AES10/GRS29	 	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Benelux Section Chapter, ED15	 	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benelux Section Chapter, EMB18	 	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Benelux Section Chapter, IT12	 	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Benelux Section Chapter, NPS05	 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benelux Section Chapter, PHO36	 	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Benelux Section Chapter, SSC37	 	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Benelux Section Chapter, TEM14	 	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Benelux Section Chapter, C16	 	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benelux Section Chapter, EMC27	 	3	5	0	6	0	0	14

Benelux Section Chapter, EP21	 	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Benelux Section Chapter, IE13	 	1	5	0	0	0	0	6
Benelux Section Chapter, ITSS38	 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benelux Section Chapter, SP01	 	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, AP03/MTT17	 	0	2	0	12	0	0	14
Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, PE31/IA34/PEL35	 	0	9	0	0	0	0	9
Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, VT06/COM19	 	0	1	0	1	0	0	2

Industry

An industrial relation officer (Stoyan Nihtianov, TU Delft) is member of the Section ExCom and one of the current objectives of the newly elected ExCom team is to discuss initiatives to foster collaborations with industries. In the framework of developing industrial relations, IEEE President Dr. Tom Coughlin has visited AMSL on February 8, 2024.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

An objective of the current Section ExCom team is to revive the WiE Affinity Group of the Section. In this regard, a group of professionals has been recently quite active at TU Delft to promote electrical engineering to and for women, and they are now part of the WIE affinity group.

Activities since the last report

- Organization of IEEE President Dr. Tom Coughlin visit to AMSL and Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) on February 8, 2024. In Delft Dr. Tom Coughlin gave a presentation on the value of being IEEE member to the students and young professionals and answered on numerous questions from students.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between IEEE Benelux section and Royal Organization of Engineers KIVI has been signed in March 2023.
- Forming the Intelligent Transportation Systems Society Chapter in December 2023 and re-activating after the petition Computer Chapter.
- New chairs have been elected in the chapters Computers, Electronic Devices, Antennas and Propagation & Microwave Theory and Techniques, and the WIE affinity group.
- Five industry visits organized by the Life Members affinity group over 2023.

Planned activities

The Life member affinity group targets to initiate several new IEEE Milestones. These activities are attractive to a broad audience, and are therefore strongly supported by the section.

To attract more (student) members, the section recently started a program to support chapter and student branch activities targeting >100 participants. For this activities, additional financial support from the section can be requested. Also a new program “the best thesis” is under development, where each chapter selects on the annual basis the best PhD thesis (in future, also MSc thesis) and from these thesis three best ones in terms of societal impact will be selected as the best thesis of the Benelux section.

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

Any other issues of interest N/a