



Local Groups

Region 8 Meeting, Vienna, Austria

2 March 2024

Costas Stasopoulos, Local Groups Working Group Chair



Costas Stasopoulos

- Local Groups Committee Chair, 2026 Sections Congress Chair, IEEE Industry Engagement Committee Past Chair
- Past: Region 8 (Europe, Africa and Middle East) Director, IEEE BoD member, MGA Board member, Cyprus Section Chair, GUOS Committee Chair, IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society BoG member
- From Nicosia, Cyprus, European Union member State
- Transmission Manager at Electricity Authority of Cyprus
- Interests: Soccer, Renewable Energy, Smart Grids, Electric Vehicles, Battery Storage



MGA Local Groups Working Group

Local Groups working group :

Costas Stasopoulos - Chair
Francis Grosz
Ron Jensen
Maïke Luiken
Magdalena Salazar Palma
Kazuhiro Kosuge
Bill Wylie
Ramesh Ramadoss

Staff

Nichole Farmer
Aubrey Walter
Vera Sharoff
Christie Giambalvo

2020 and pre-2020 Local Group Activities

- Based on Recommendation #3 of Sections Congress 2017, the concept of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), later re-branded as Local Groups (LGs) was explored
- In 2020, the IEEE Joint MGA/TA Ad Hoc Committee on Geographic-Technical Activities
 - Developed a Governance Model for Local Groups (LGs)
- Motion for TA to appoint a GeoTech Coordinator for Local Groups failed to pass at the November 2020 TAB Meeting
- Motion for MGA to approve Local Groups passed at the November 2020 and the Operations manual changes passed at the February 2024 MGA Meeting
- MGA Board approved the proposed Local Groups governance, Section 9.12 Local Group Activities and Section 4.5 as presented

IEEE Local Groups

► Why do we need a Local Group?

- A new local interest
- A company-industry group or campus
- A local specialized need
- Multidisciplinary subject
- A new technical trend
- Not enough members to start a Technical Chapter
- Involve members and non members



Key Advantages of a Local Group

- A flexible and agile method to start, create, engage
- Only two (2) IEEE members needed to start it
- Easy to set up and easy to sunset when not needed
- Technical and Non-technical interests
- Non IEEE members can participate
- Easy to discover, explore and track new trends
- Opens a new channel for IEEE Involvement and membership
- Could have multiple similar groups within a Section in different locations
- Strengthen and recognize industry/academic/government collaboration
- Focus on Local Interests but also connect with worldwide similar groups



Examples of Local Groups

- Blockchain
- Climate Change
- Entrepreneurship
- STEM
- Industry Engagement
- Artificial Intelligence
- Impact of EVs
- Technology History
- Cyber Security



Benefits of a Local Group

- Meet and interact with people with the same interest
- Discover similar groups around the world
- Engage IEEE members who are not society members
- Be recognized –
 - Have leadership
 - Have membership – IEEE and non-IEEE members
 - Send e-Notices
 - Publicize and report meetings- events – workshops – lectures - seminars

Latest developments in Local Groups

- **62** Local Groups are approved, more are waiting in line to be approved
- Covering all Geographic Areas
- 23 Local Groups are on Blockchain
- 5 Local Groups on Climate Change
- 3 Industry Local Groups
- 3 Entrepreneurship Local Groups
- Local Groups can use
 - [vTools Events](#), [vTools Officer Reporting](#) and other tools

Current Local Groups

62 Approved Local Groups

12 from Region 8

IEEE Madras Power Electronics Society Group

IEEE Bangalore Cyber Security STC Group

IEEE Tunisia CyberSecurity Group

IEEE San Diego Open Source Digital Radio Group

IEEE Saudi Arabia Section Quantum Computing Group

IEEE Rock River Valley Climate Change Group

IEEE Houston Blockchain Group

IEEE Florida West Coast Blockchain Group

IEEE Austin Blockchain Group

IEEE Chennai Blockchain Group

IEEE Toronto Blockchain Group

IEEE Madras VICRAM (VIT Centre for Research on Advanced Microgrid) Group

IEEE Pune Blockchain Group

IEEE Thailand Blockchain Group

IEEE Cedar Rapids Climate Change Group

IEEE Thailand Section Quantum Information Technology

IEEE Boise vTools Labs

IEEE Oman Blockchain Group

IEEE Indonesia Broadcasting Industry and Technology Group

IEEE Indonesia Climate Change Group



Current Local Groups

62 Approved Local Groups

12 from Region 8

IEEE Region 9 Brand Experience Group
IEEE Chicago Industry Engagement Group
IEEE Colombia Blockchain Group
IEEE Colombian Caribbean Blockchain Group
IEEE Hong Kong Blockchain Group
IEEE Spain Blockchain Group
IEEE Silicon Valley Blockchain Group
IEEE Silicon Valley Technology History Group
Voluntarios y Amigos de IEEE USACH Group
IEEE UK and Ireland Quantum Group
IEEE UK and Ireland Future Networks Group
IEEE Romania Blockchain Group
IEEE Elkins Robotics and Electronics Club Group
IEEE Beirut Entrepreneurship Group
IEEE Finland Blockchain Group
IEEE Taipei Blockchain Group
IEEE Kitchener-Waterloo Blockchain Group
IEEE Delhi Blockchain Group
IEEE New Hampshire Section Admin Group
IEEE Madras Integrated RF and Photonics Technology Group
IEEE Madras Tech Track Group

Current Local Groups

62 Approved Local Groups

12 from Region 8

IEEE Madras Quantum Cybernetics Group
IEEE Algeria Section SIGHT Group
IEEE Tunisia Blockchain Group
IEEE Torino Icarus-RA Group
IEEE Indonesia Disaster Anticipation, Mitigation and Recovery Group
IEEE Shanghai Blockchain Group
IEEE Knoxville Quantum Computing/Quantum Information Group
IEEE Raipur Blockchain Group
IEEE Chicago Section Climate Change Group
IEEE Bombay Section Impact of EVs
IEEE Bombay Section AI for All Group
IEEE Bombay Section Entrepreneurship Group
IEEE Bombay Section STEM Group
IEEE Bombay Section Climate Change Group
IEEE Bombay Section Industry Engagement Group
IEEE Bombay Section Cyber Security Group
IEEE Bangalore Section Blockchain Group
IEEE Hangzhou Blockchain Group
IEEE Macau/Guangzhou Blockchain Local Group
IEEE BOMBAY BLOCKCHAIN GROUP

Local Groups in IEEE

- To remain relevant
 - To increase IEEE local engagement
 - To connect into local Industry /Academia /Government
 - To continually reinvent how and what we do
 - To serve the community
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- Web page: [Local Groups](#) , still under construction



Thank You

IEEE Local Group

A. Definition, What is a Local Group?

- A Local Group is intended to be an agile and efficient forum to serve the interests of members and potential members in a local area
- A Local Group is not a Geographic Unit and shall not duplicate or replace the efforts of any existing IEEE Geographic Unit (Section, Chapter, Affinity Group).
- A Local Group shall comprise a minimum of two (2) IEEE members one of which has to be a voting member, both of whom must be members of the geographic unit involved
- The Local Group shall be established by petition to the Section or the Region involved if there is no Section in the area
- Local groups shall exist as long as the topic they were created to address remains relevant and they meet the annual reporting requirements.

Governance of Local Groups – Key Points

- A Local Group is established after a petition to the Section or to the Region (when there is no Section in the geographic area) and it is focused on a specified local interest
- A Local Group shall comprise a minimum of two (2) IEEE members one of which has to be a voting member, both of whom must be members of the geographic unit involved
- Both IEEE members and non-members can/may be members of the Local Group
- The Local Group should not act against or in competition with any other IEEE group (Section, Chapter, Affinity Group)

Governance of Local Groups – Key points

- A Local Group is expected to meet the requirements for membership and meeting activity while adhering to the IEEE mission. The Local Group is reviewed for continuation on an annual basis by the respective Section or Region
- A Local Group shall be required to maintain a membership of not fewer than two (2) IEEE members and to hold not less than two (2) group -interest meetings per year or to maintain a level of activity acceptable to the Section/Region
- Responsibility for Local Group management shall rest with the Section/Region