

## R8 Vice Chair, Member Activities

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### 1. Goals and status

IEEE Region 8 Member Activities consists of 7 committees: Membership Development, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, Life Members, Entrepreneurship, Humanitarian Technology Activities and History Activities, and 6 Ad Hoc committees: Careers New Initiative, Fellow Members Search, Senior Member Search, EPICS, Milestone Awareness and Territories in Crisis. In total, over 100 volunteers conduct administration and maintain vitality of sub-units, obtain feedback from our volunteers and tailor new programs. Specific committee goals can be found in individual reports.



IEEE Region 8 Member Activities, at the 120<sup>th</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting, 25-26 March 2023, Bucharest, Romania

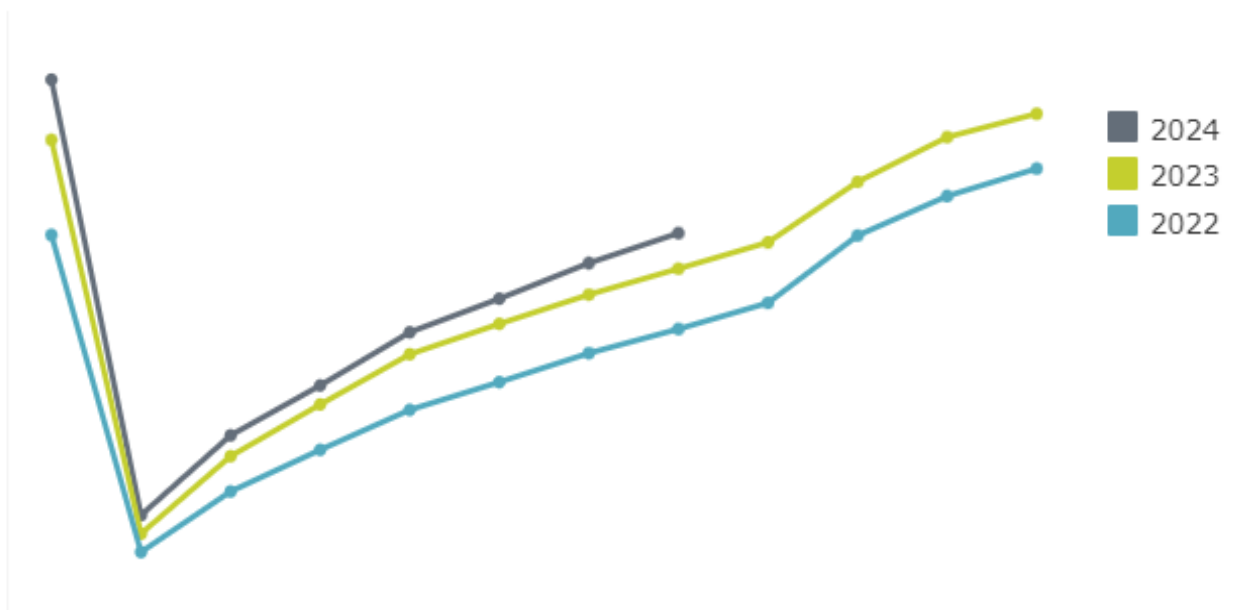
Year 2024 was focus on maintaining a scaled-up approach in management of R8 Member Activities, transferring new initiatives and programs to sections and local communities, and centralized approach in visibility of results. The focus is put on motivating and rewarding our volunteers and members, creating new opportunities through new programs, and maintaining the volunteering pipeline of scouting for possible R8 committee members for 2025. Whole IEEE and Region 8 have reached their historic peaks of, respectively, 480,000+ and ~88,000 members in Feb 2024, with a steady monthly increase of 3-8% in membership YoY in R8 ever since, which we strive to maintain.

### Geographic IEEE Membership Summary - August 2024

Higher-Grade					Graduate Students					Undergraduate Students					Total IEEE Members				
Region	2024	2023	YoY #	YoY %	Region	2024	2023	YoY #	YoY %	Region	2024	2023	YoY #	YoY %	Region	2024	2023	YoY #	YoY %
1	20,606	20,866	-260	-1.2%	1	1,621	1,493	128	8.6%	1	1,075	1,104	-29	-2.6%	1	23,302	23,463	-161	-0.7%
2	18,088	18,338	-250	-1.4%	2	1,316	1,316	0	0.0%	2	837	757	80	10.6%	2	20,241	20,411	-170	-0.8%
3	20,479	20,139	340	1.7%	3	1,909	1,837	72	3.9%	3	1,618	1,322	296	22.4%	3	24,006	23,298	708	3.0%
4	13,531	13,510	21	0.2%	4	1,446	1,495	-49	-3.3%	4	967	991	-24	-2.4%	4	15,944	15,996	-52	-0.3%
5	18,701	18,525	176	1.0%	5	1,469	1,388	81	5.8%	5	1,395	1,298	97	7.5%	5	21,565	21,211	354	1.7%
6	36,996	36,570	426	1.2%	6	2,060	2,032	28	1.4%	6	1,827	1,754	73	4.2%	6	40,883	40,356	527	1.3%
R 1-6	128,401	127,948	453	0.4%	R 1-6	9,821	9,561	260	2.7%	R 1-6	7,719	7,226	493	6.8%	R 1-6	145,941	144,735	1,206	0.8%
7	11,125	11,097	28	0.3%	7	1,453	1,561	-108	-6.9%	7	873	853	20	2.3%	7	13,451	13,511	-60	-0.4%
8	52,539	51,547	992	1.9%	8	10,129	10,000	129	1.3%	8	13,812	12,596	1,216	9.7%	8	76,480	74,143	2,337	3.2%
9	9,700	9,285	415	4.5%	9	1,109	1,049	60	5.7%	9	9,008	7,888	1,120	14.2%	9	19,817	18,222	1,595	8.8%
10	84,784	80,834	3,950	4.9%	10	24,075	23,339	736	3.2%	10	57,204	53,694	3,510	6.5%	10	166,063	157,867	8,196	5.2%
R 7-10	158,148	152,763	5,385	3.5%	R 7-10	36,766	35,949	817	2.3%	R 7-10	80,897	75,031	5,866	7.8%	R 7-10	275,811	263,743	12,068	4.6%
TOTAL	286,549	280,711	5,838	2.1%	TOTAL	46,587	45,510	1,077	2.4%	TOTAL	88,616	82,257	6,359	7.7%	TOTAL	421,752	408,478	13,274	3.2%

IEEE membership summary by last available IEEE MGA Membership Development Monthly Report

## Total IEEE Membership



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2024	86,579	57,933	63,182	66,465	69,965	72,172	74,514	76,481				
2023	82,622	56,717	61,811	65,214	68,514	70,517	72,441	74,145	75,879	79,857	82,796	84,340
2022	76,366	55,506	59,491	62,229	64,857	66,684	68,587	70,174	71,895	76,325	78,919	80,731

IEEE Region 8 membership trend

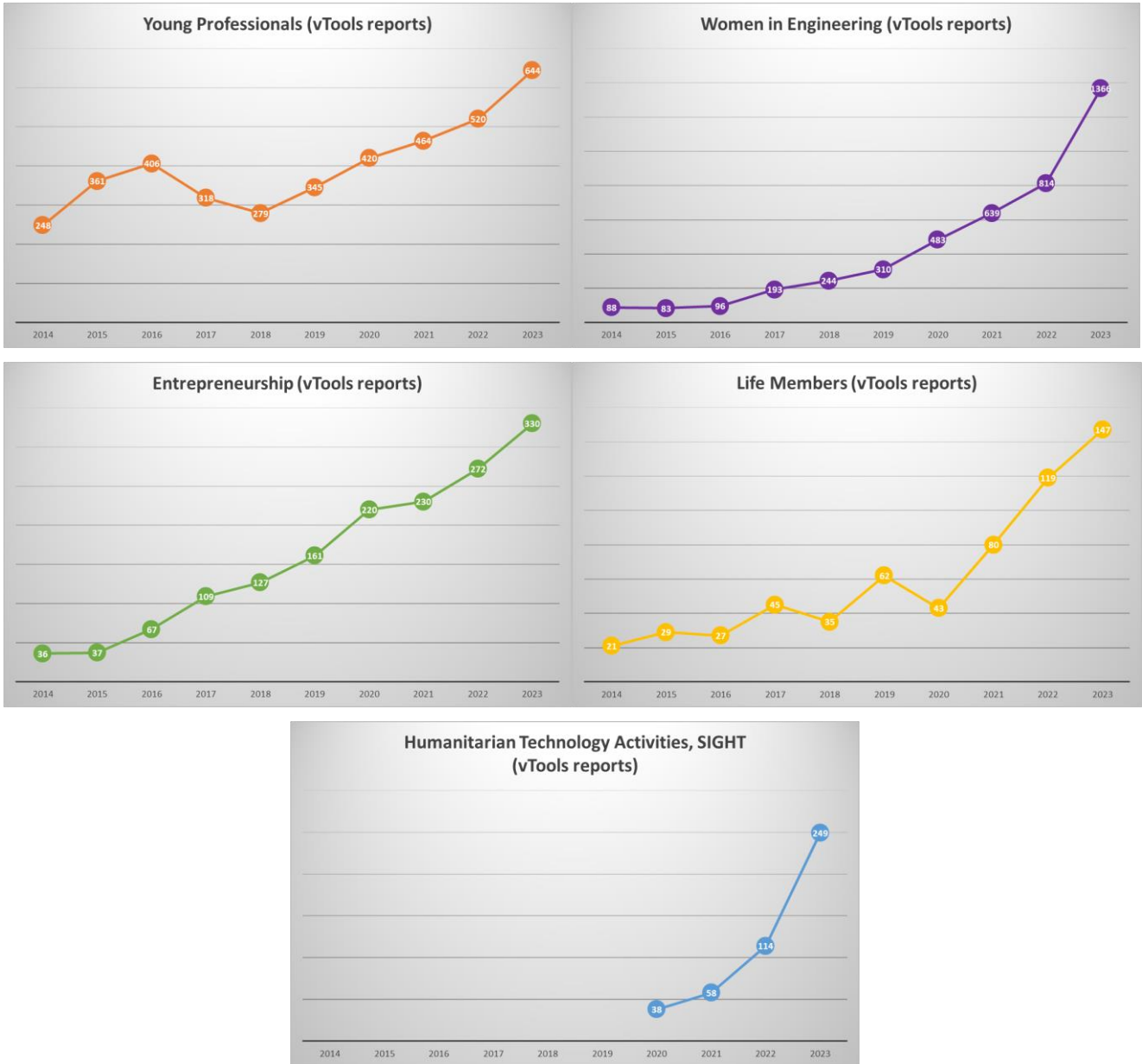
At the time of writing the report, 10-Oct-2024, there were 81,738 members in IEEE Region 8 with a consistent trend of membership increase over the years. From particular committee perspective, the following is recorded:

- +56% of SIGHT members (+52% in 2023)
- +25% of WIE members (+50% in 2023)
- +3.3% of YP members (+6.3% in 2023)
- +7.3% of LMs (+9.0% in 2023)

In addition, there are +19 new SIGHT groups (+61%) in 2024-25 and new Life Members AGs of Africa Council LMAG (10 Sections and 7 Subsections) and Joint Gulf Sections LMAG (3 Sections). Even more emphasized than increase in membership is an increase in activities reported in vTools by local OUs. The following table depicts the status of events reported in first half of the year with a remark that numbers increase at the reporting period cut-off date (next one 15 March 2025), especially for Young Professionals.

Search term in vTools	YP	WIE	LM	SIGHT	Entrepreneurship
June 2023	315	602	73	106	125
June 2024	248	603	84	200	197
Ydiff (%)	-21.27	0.17	15.07	88.68	57.60
<b>Ydiff total</b>	<b>+9.09%</b>				

The following figures illustrate number of reports in the last 10 years. Before 2020, information for SIGHT groups is unavailable (not monitored). This is also the case today for Entrepreneurship activities where the events are counted as combined search of keywords “entrepreneurship”, “startups” and “pitch” (related to local pitch competitions) and are illustrative in relative term.



Significant focus is put on motivating and rewarding our volunteers and members. Last year, the number of applications for R8 awards is doubled (from 71 to 151) and in 2024 this number is nearly maintained (144 nominations) as a result of coordinated action of our R8 and sections’ officers in reaching out to local OUs and encouraging them for application. The committees identify 10% of top performing OUs and individually reach out to them to encourage applications. In addition, a coordinated action was conducted to recognize our R8 committees and R8 committee chairs where five applications are submitted for IEEE MGA Individual Awards.

Many new initiatives on subsidies, seed funding or events sponsorships are awarding excellence in volunteering and reports are established by various committees of R8 MA.

Additionally, significant focus is put on creating new opportunities through new programs, implementing feedback of our volunteers obtained during various meetings, congresses and in-person events in general. Through those, additional significant sponsored budget is brought, extending R8 MA committees budget to ~500% of the R8-allocated budget. The programs and events are sponsored by IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board, IEEE Member & Geographic Activities, IEEE Foundation, GITEX Global business conference, IEEE Entrepreneurship, several industry sponsors for R8 SYP Congress, IEEE Young Professionals, IEEE Industry Applications Society, IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Microwave Theory and Technology Society. Emphasis on industry sponsors will be continued in the last quarter of 2024 using the basis of the new programs.

Section	Affinity Groups	Section	Affinity Groups
<b>Tunisia</b>	SIGHT group SIGHT SB group - ESPRIT SB SIGHT SIGHT SB group - Higher School of Sciences &Tech of H Sousse Women in Engineering AG Women in Engineering SB AG - FST Women in Engineering SB AG - INSAT Women in Engineering SB AG – ENIS	<b>Lebanon</b>	Young Professionals AG
<b>Jordan</b>	SIGHT SB group - Al-Balqa Applied University Women in Engineering AG Women in Engineering SB AG - Hashemite University Women in Engineering SB AG - Al-Balqa Applied University	<b>Uganda</b>	Women in Engineering SB AG - Kyambogo University
<b>Nigeria</b>	SIGHT group SIGHT SB group - Enugu State University of Science & Tech Young Professionals AG	<b>Switzerland</b>	Young Professionals AG Hugo Wyss - Life Members Individual Service
<b>Kenya</b>	SIGHT group Women in Engineering SB AG - University of Nairobi	<b>Germany</b>	SIGHT group
<b>Egypt</b>	SIGHT group Young Professionals AG	<b>Portugal</b>	Women in Engineering SB AG - Instituto Superior Tecnico
<b>Palestine</b>	Young Professionals AG	<b>UAE</b>	Young Professionals AG
<b>Turkey</b>	Women in Engineering AG	<b>Cyprus</b>	Young Professionals AG
<b>UK and Ireland</b>	Women in Engineering AG	<b>Estonia</b>	Young Professionals AG
<b>Italy</b>	Women in Engineering AG	<b>Lithuania</b>	Young Professionals AG
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Life Members AG	<b>Greece</b>	Women in Engineering SB AG - Democritus University of Thrace
		<b>Western Saudi Arabia</b>	Women in Engineering SB AG - King Abdulaziz University

10% best performing AGs in R8 for 2024

#### New program - New Initiative for Industry Tracks at R8 Flagship Conferences

The program aims to increase the benefits and number of our industry members, as well as further engaging existing ones, by introducing dedicated content at wider-focus and wider-impact conferences in Region 8 with the final goals of 50% increase of non-author participants, 50% of non-IEEE participants and more. This refers to R8 flagship/portfolio conferences in 2024: RTSI, MELECON and IHTC, and to provide foundations for EUROCON, AFRICON, and HISTELCON in 2025. Based on previous successful attempts and individual initiatives of industry forums, panels and exhibitions, Young Professionals meet ups, or student competitions, the project aims to utilize successful best practices and formalize a coordinated contribution from various R8 Committees and OUs to form dedicated industry tracks of high technical impact to conferences with emphasis on involvement of industry, in the exemplary topics of: intellectual property opportunities, research commercialization means, spin-offs practices and success stories, networking opportunities, funding opportunities for academia-industry collaborations, IEEE industry member status elevation to IEEE Senior Member and IEEE Fellow, PhD competitions of technical and design-thinking focus, hackathons on problems suggested from industries, job fairs, and many more.

The topics above will be the result of a coordinated approach of multiple committees in Region 8: Conference Coordination / Entrepreneurship / Humanitarian Technology Activities / Women in Engineering / Young Professionals / Membership Development / Professional and Educational Activities / Standard Committee/ Climate Change Committee/ Student Activities/ Chapter Coordination.

The program is supported by \$60,000 from IEEE Member & Geographic Activities (MGA surplus program).

#### New program IEEE Region 8 Climate Challenges

IEEE has almost 500k members from over 4000 universities and 10k companies worldwide. In EMEA region, we have 80k members at 787 universities and a few thousand companies. We are now bringing this capacity to help the world with climate change problems. We took a few years to brainstorm and pinpoint what we do and what people need, and transformed climate change into tangible things where we could help – those are food, water, energy, communications, and more, which all vary on specific geographic priorities. We now focus on technology that increases anticipation and resilience to climate impact.

The IEEE Region 8 Climate Challenges is a program of Region-wide competitions aiming at climate change mitigation by technological initiatives. As series of large-scale international competitions from different technical areas, challenges are focused to specific objectives, member focus groups and geographic areas to address the local perspectives. Organized by IEEE Region 8 (SA, TA and MA) and sponsored by IEEE Foundation and IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board, the three challenges are established:

The three challenges are selected:

1. AI in Enhanced Weather Forecasting – [IEEE DataPort site](#).
2. Disaster-resilient Communication – call [announcement](#).
3. Technical Innovations - with academic and startup initiatives – available at R8 Entrepreneurship [social media](#).



### 1. AI in Enhanced Weather Forecasting

The challenge gathers world's best ML&AI experts to bring this expertise to the meteorology - to combine huge data that is globally available and open source from our climate experts, together with it combine many models, and long-term to network every weather sensor available to create a global weather observation platform. We start with pinpointing best AI algorithms through this global 1-month hackathon. We then bring the best experts to present and share their knowledge, which we then combine and scale up.

### 2. Disaster-resilient Communication

The challenge aims for the best first respond devices and software support that would promptly establish communication after natural disasters, and to train our engineers worldwide and on site of such territories in crisis to be able to quickly replicate the technology and establish means for our emergency services to operate with full capacity.

### 3. Technical Innovations

The challenge aims for the new cutting-edge technologies on two fronts: 1) putting scientific research directly in front of investors, hopefully to make disruptive steps in bringing new products to solve climate crises, 2) bringing young startups to the same goal and from another angle, scaling up their idea internationally, regionally to EMEA, and worldwide.

IEEE acts as technical authority - our best experts sit down together, and with external professionals from industry and NGO, but most of all with business sector to select the promising technologies for the imminent future, to boost humanity answer to climate challenges

The program is supported by a total of \$40,000 from IEEE Foundation and IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board. GITEX global provided ~\$150,000 of in-kind sponsorship, supporting also the finals of Technical Innovation challenge (AI Research Hub).

## 2. Activities

**Committees:** Member Activities committees are fully appointed since January. Next to it, one existing and four new Ad-Hocs have been established.

**Meetings:** Committees are having one joint meeting per month (and as many specific-focus as required, usually 1-4). Ad-Hocs are having a meeting approximately every 1.5 months. Joint MA meetings are established on quarterly basis.

**Summary:** Q1 was devoted to teambuilding and own affairs: handoff meetings with past chairs for continuity, kick-off and committee meetings, reaching out to counterparts in sections. In Q2, the committees and Ad-Hocs focused on implementing their vision in R8 through programs and activities in joint collaboration with other R8 committees. In Q3, committees extended collaboration to other regions and IEEE committees. In Q4, the focus is now on execution of previous plans and improving the quality of results, including visibility and reach – together with handover plans for 2025 by establishing volunteering pipeline, updating manuals and creating new guidelines, as well as attracting industry funds.

## Highlights

Highlights of 2024 so far:

- In average, 9% more events reported in vTools so far compared to same period of 2023 (where end of 2023 YoY was +44.51% compared to 2022) with number expected to increase by 15 March 2025 as a cut-off date for reports and rebate
- Joint R8 and HTB SIGHT Tech4Good projects call “Community Support Program” attracted 30 initial and 19 full applications
- IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professionals Congress successfully conducted in Grenoble, France, 15-19 July 2024, website: <https://grenoble-2024.ieeer8syp.org>: attracted targeted 330 participants (despite visa difficulties), with 41% of finances ensured by sponsorships
- Joint R8 and HTB SIGHT “Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon” gathered 27 teams
- R8 Climate Challenge AI in Enhanced Weather Forecasting has 7000 views at IEEE DataPort (within top few competitions / datasets) after few days of opening
- Joint R8 and Entrepreneurship research commercialization papers call “AI Research Hub” has gathered 23 papers from 18 countries (new program since 2023)
- Joint R8 and Entrepreneurship teams held sessions at GITEX Global, conference / expo gathering 187,000 participants and exploited in-kind sponsorship of ~130,000 \$
- R8 Entrepreneurship Pitch competition 2024 gathered 33 startups for quarterfinals, finals at R8 SYP Congress, winner at GITEX Global IEEE track
- Joint collaboration with IEEE Entrepreneurship, IEEE TEMS and IEEE EMBS at VivaTech Paris 2024 and GITEX Africa 2024 in Morocco
- “IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Journey” as joint collaboration of R8 Entrepreneurship and R8 SAC held 13 educational sessions
- 2 WIE ILS held in 2024 in Dubai and Egypt
- Over 90% of life members community now covered with Life Members Affinity Group
- 3 new IEEE Milestones approved:
  - o Galway, Ireland, Anderson bridge, 1891
  - o Grenoble, France, and Agrate Brianza, Cornaredo, Catania, Italy, Integrated circuits for satellite digital radio, 1996–1997
  - o Berlin, Germany, Long distance transmission of electrical power using three-phase alternating current, 1889–1912
- R8 Volunteer Leadership Training (VLT) workshop held with section MD Officers, VLT 2025 call being finalized
- Coordinated awards initiatives
- Coordinated IEEE Day initiatives
- Maintaining visibility at 15 social media pages with consistent increase in followers and reach
- Support of R8 flagship conferences, and more

## 3. Outlook

Significant attention to IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference 2024 (IEEE IHTC):

- R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress at IEEE
- R8 Climate Challenges finals for AI in Weather Forecasting and Disaster-resilient Communication – established as a dedicated track
- Organization by R8 HTA, contribution by R8 EPICS, R8 WIE, R8 TIC

Significant attention to GITEX Global 2024

- hosting IEEE tracks of 30 speakers together with IEEE Entrepreneurship
- main stages sponsored by GITEX Global
- negotiated 300 free tickets, 1000 tickets half price, and more
- exhibition stand contributed also by R8MD R8WIE and R8YP
- R8 Climate Challenges finals for Technical Innovations

The imminent focus is on implementation of the new programs and coordination of various committees throughout the Member Activities, Student Activities and Technical Activities.

## 4. Points of Concern

Our members in different areas of Region 8 are experiencing specific difficulties. Some of those are: wars, COVID-19 echo with less time for volunteering, natural disasters, economic situations and concerns, inflation & increasing costs of travel and organization of events, long visa procedures. R8 has established a new ad-hoc R8 Territories in Crisis to assess the influence on members and adaptation / facilitation potential from the perspective of IEEE.