

Adhoc Committee on Alternate Membership Payments

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Goals

The main goal of the Adhoc Committee on Alternate Membership Payments is to explore and identify various feasible methods for paying the IEEE membership dues and registration fees for events. This exploration aims to propose alternative payment solutions to IEEE, thereby expanding the range of payment options available to members. The committee's goals include:

- **Assessment of Payment Options:** Identify and evaluate the available options commonly used for payments in different countries and determine their compatibility with IEEE's existing payment infrastructure.
- **Analysis of Payment Challenges:** Identify and analyze the difficulties and challenges associated with these payment methods including, but not limited to, transaction fees and any restrictions on transaction amounts.
- **Presentation of Findings:** Present the findings, detailing the supported payment methods in each country within IEEE Region 8, hence, facilitating the decision-making process regarding the adoption of new payment methods.

Progress against goals since the last report

- **Feedback Collection:**
 - The committee's primary objective is to engage with IEEE R8 Section/Subsection chairs and individual members who are not affiliated with any Section, to solicit their feedback regarding the existing payment methods and any challenges they encounter.
 - **Survey 1:** The committee initiated contact with IEEE R8 Section/Subsection chairs and requested their feedback through a specifically designed Google Form questionnaire. This form was prepared with a careful selection of key questions to ensure the collection of comprehensive insights.
 - **Survey 2:** To engage with the broader IEEE community and gather feedback from IEEE members, an article was published in the Region 8 news and shared across social media platforms, which included a concise version of the questionnaire.
 - **Survey 3:** The committee conducted a survey during the 122nd IEEE R8 meeting, which was held in Vienna, Austria. The form included existing payment methods, as well as other methods suggested based on Survey 1.
 - The payment methods were surveyed, and their availability was checked in each country within Region 8.
 - A meeting was held with Ms. Zoubida Alaoui Mdaghri, the Vice Chair of the IEEE Morocco Section to get her insights on the survey and investigate alternate methods of payments.
 - A meeting was held with Mr. Sameh Betamony, the chair of the R8SYP Congress 2024, which was held in Grenoble, to collect data on the participating countries, the payment methods adopted, and the challenges faced.
- **Feedback on the Questionnaires:**
 - To ensure the relevance and clarity of the first questionnaire, it was circulated among the chairs of the Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco Sections for preliminary feedback. Their valuable inputs led to subsequent refinements of the form.
 - The IEEE R8 Section/Subsection chairs were further contacted at the 122nd IEEE R8 meeting in Vienna to get additional feedback on the survey and discuss the challenges they are facing and possible alternate ways of payment.
- **Communication Infrastructure:**
 - To facilitate seamless communication, a dedicated email account (alt.pay@ieeer8.org) was established, operating under the alias alternate.membership.payments@ieeer8.org, through which all correspondences have been conducted.
 - Survey 1 and Survey 2 were conducted online using Google Forms.
 - Survey 3 was conducted during the 122nd IEEE Region 8 meeting in Vienna, Austria.

- Feedback Compilation:
 - Survey 1 and 2: Responses were received from chairs of 13 IEEE Sections/Subsections and 15 members from different countries, including Portugal, Austria, Italy, Tanzania, Yemen, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Russia (Siberia), Iraq, Spain, Lebanon, and Morocco.
 - Survey 3: Responses were received from the chairs of IEEE Sections and Subsections who participated in the 122nd IEEE Region 8 meeting in Vienna.
 - Main challenges were identified in several countries, and potential solutions were investigated.