

IEEE Benelux Section

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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/future in 2025). There recently elevated IEEE Fellows have presented/will present their research. Presentations are well received and spark interesting questions and follow-up from the audience.
- Student representation at the R8 SYP Congress.
- Support for the IEEE Student Paper Contest.

Below an overview can be found of the Benelux membership evolution, the data and explanation were presented at the previous ExCom meeting on May 15 2024. In general, there is a good trend of increasing numbers, especially in the categories of (graduate) student members. Also, we have as a section more senior members and fellows than the average IEEE. Two new fellows have been announced for the section, Jochen Maes and Manuel Martin-Neira.

Current Membership

	nov, 2022	mei, 2023	nov, 2023	mei, 2024	Y-over-Y
Associate Member	41	30	48	35	5
Affiliate	101	84	99	70	-14
Fellow	86	91	86	88	-3
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1	0
Life Fellow	44	43	47	44	1
Life Member	143	139	153	148	9
Life Senior	55	54	57	56	2
Senior Member	424	431	448	450	19
Member	1920	1585	1987	1634	49
Student	79	85	108	120	35
Graduate Student Member	821	852	928	899	47
Total:	3715	3395	3962	3545	150 (+4,42 %)

Students

At the moment, the Benelux Section has 9 Student Branches active, of which some are extremely active such as the branch in TU Eindhoven and KU Leuven (Brugge), which are sometimes subdivided per professional/technical area of interest. The vitality of the student branches is also demonstrated by the growth of student membership as shown in the table above.

STUDENT BRANCHES

Organizational Unit	Stu Mem	Gr Stu Mem	Total
STB00511 Delft University of Technology	14	201	215
STB03531 Eindhoven University of Technology	12	161	173
STB03611 Ghent University	7	66	73
STB03621 University of Liege-Sart Tilman	2	3	5
STB03631 Catholic University of Louvain	0	9	9
STB08041 University of Twente	3	93	96
STB09181 Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	6	135	141
STB39667 KU Leuven campus Brugge	5	17	22
STB45894960 University of Luxembourg	5	34	39

Affinity Groups

In the Benelux Section, 3 Affinity Groups are currently active: YP, LM and WiE. The WIE affinity group has been recently reactivated with the addition of newer members to its board. We expect an increase in activities in the coming years.

AFFINITY GROUPS

Organizational Unit	Mem	T	NT	P	A	Total	Base Amount	Timeliness Bonus	Activity Bonus	Total
LM00001 Benelux Section Affinity Group, LM	5	0	0	2	7		\$200.00	\$20.00	\$75.00	\$295.00
WE00001 Benelux Section Affinity Group, WIE	0	0	1	0	1		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
YP00001 Benelux Section Affinity Group, YP	2	0	0	1	3		\$200.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$220.00

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 have put in place some increased effort to make them complete the reporting; this is done via individual emails and via assigning specific tasks to ExCom members to support chapters in their 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, and in Summer 2024 the IEEE Transportation Electrification Council has been formed in our Section.

CHAPTERS

Organizational Unit	Mem	T	NT	P	A	Total
CH08051 Benelux Section Chapter, IT12	2	0	0	1	3	
CH08075 Benelux Section Chapter, SP01	2	0	0	0	2	
CH08117 Benelux Section Chapter, IE13	4	0	1	0	5	
CH08192 Benelux Section Chapter, ED15	1	0	0	0	1	
CH08212 Benelux Section Chapter, PH036	1	0	1	0	2	
CH08290 Benelux Section Chapter, SSC37	2	0	0	0	2	
CH08354 Benelux Section Chapter, EMC27	5	0	3	6	14	
CH08461 Benelux Section Chapter, EMB18	0	0	0	0	0	
CH08504 Benelux Section Chapter, NPS05	4	0	0	0	4	
CH08524 Benelux Section Chapter, ITSS38	0	0	0	0	0	
CH08780 Benelux Section Chapter, TEM14	3	0	0	0	3	
CH08812 Benelux Section Chapter, EP21	1	0	1	0	2	
CH08921 Benelux Section Chapter, C16	1	0	0	0	1	

JOINT CHAPTERS

Organizational Unit	Mem	T	NT	P	A
CH08001 Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, AP03/MTT17	2	0	0	12	
CH08099 Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, VT06/COM19	1	0	0	1	
CH08299 Benelux Section Jt. Chapter, PE31/IA34/PEL35	8	0	0	0	
CH08737 Benelux Section Chapter, AES10/GRS29	2	0	0	0	

Industry

An industrial relation officer (Stoyan Nihtianov, TU Delft) is a 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. Several discussions have been held and Stoyan has attended IEEE meetings at higher levels than Section's, but unfortunately challenges remain to attract members from industry; the (unstructured) feedback is that they do not see any benefit in the membership.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

An objective of the current Section ExCom team was to revive the WiE Affinity Group of the Section. In this regard, a group of professionals is quite active at TU Delft to promote electrical engineering to and for women, and they are now part of the WIE affinity group. Some student branches such as KU Leuven also have an active WiE affinity group.

Activities since the last report

Here are a few activities, non-exhaustive that happened since the last reporting.

- LM affinity group visits to different organizations and companies (Cochlear, Septentrio, ESA ESTEC, Siemens/LMS)
- Special Session on Towards new connected mobility at EUCNC & 6G Summit from VT/COM joint chapter
- IEEE Distinguished Lecture "Leveraging Learning and Sparsity for Joint Radar-Communications" - Dr Kumar Vijay Mishra organized by AES and VT/COM chapters
- Webinar "Automotive Radar, how these work, develop and what future will bring?" organized by the KIVI Engineering society in collaboration with the IEEE section
- Ecoteam Cleanup Walk around ESAT organized by the SBs in Leuven

Planned activities

- Work on three Milestone applications. These are: ADSL (almost completed, so the event is hopefully happening within this year), AES Advanced Encryption System, cochlear implants
- The WiE affinity group plan on developing its activities in the future
- Modification of by-laws to comply with the new election rules that IEEE is imposing on all Sections; this is expected to be not simple as it will require very careful consideration on how to make sure that compliance with national laws is maintained and the working load on volunteers and ExCom is not excessive.

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

It would be very helpful if significant changes like the ones to the election procedures for all Sections that the IEEE wants to set in place would be first discussed with the people interested. There are many Sections in our (extremely diverse!) region, and many have different needs and national laws to comply with.

Any other issues of interest N/A