

## Germany Section

Jan Haase

### Section Vitality

Last Section elections: Autumn 2022, next election process in ongoing (current term of officers will end by Dec 31, 2024). Vice-Chair usually becomes the next chair, but this is not mandatory.

Section Excom (33 officers + chapter chairs + student branch chairs) meets 4-6 times per year; some meetings are in person, others online.

Many new members in the Section Excom. New chair started in 2021 and was reelected for 2023/24, and many officer positions were changed or newly created. Contacting all members end of 2020 to ask for interested members to volunteer brought unexpected positive response. Thus some new positions were created to let all volunteers have something to do and contribute. Goal was to wake up Germany section which was a bit sleepy in the years before. Many activities in the different domains.

### Students

German Student Branch meeting was held in May. The idea was to exchange best practices and ideas how to activate more students. New student branch chapter founded beginning of 2023.

Student Branches: Aachen, Bielefeld, Chemnitz, Darmstadt, Duisburg-Essen, Hamburg, Hannover, Ilmenau, Karlsruhe, Magdeburg, München, Passau, Regensburg.

### Affinity Groups

YP, WiE, SIGHT, Milestone Program, LM affinity group.

LM affinity group was dissolved in 2020 due to inactivity. Now the new LM affinity group counts 35 members which meet every 8 weeks to talk, network, have an invited scientific presentation and discuss activities. It received the “Regional Life Member Affinity Group Achievement Award 2022”.

SIGHT is currently coordinating the (industrial) construction of several devices given away for free to homeless people in Germany as well as similar things for Ukraine refugees.

### Chapters

Chapters of 27 societies exist in Germany. Two student chapters.

Some chapter chairs held their positions for many years now. The new Germany Section chapter coordinator whacked the bush and brought many of those rather inactive chapters to have elections and elect new chairs. However, there are still unresponsive long-time chapter chairs; after having contacted all members of the respective chapters to step forward as new chair candidates, which worked with most chapters and led to new elections. Most chapters are now back in the green zone. Two chapters however will be dissolved due to lack of interest by the chapter members.

Since 2021 all chapter activities are being reported to the Section (this was not the case before) in order to provide a central information point for members and/or possible new members.

### Industry

Industry relations were a bit dormant until 2020. Now the position is filled by four volunteers covering different regions inside Germany and different industrial sectors. Activities together with German key industry are ongoing.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Germany is very open to DEI topics, but there are no events to report yet.

### Activities since the last report

LMAG received the “Regional Life Member Affinity Group Achievement Award 2022”.

Hosted a conference on education (German Education Conference, GECon) in August 2024 in Munich, fully sponsored by the section. Due to the tremendous ongoing success the 4<sup>th</sup> GECon will take place in July 2025 in Hamburg, and extended from two-day to three-day-scheme.

New Germany section web site design and content.

Created next milestone plaque proposal together with Poland section, which was approved by IEEE History Center.

Triggered several chapter election processes.

### Planned activities

The main idea is to bring more visibility to the Section from outside and to IEEE from the inside (i.e., the inactive members). It started with replacing inactive or inefficient Section officers and continues with many new activities in the different subgroups (industry relations, university relations, student activities, history program, educational activities on different levels, newly founded newsletter, currently reworking web page design and content, etc.)

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

Help for SIGHT efforts regarding help for Ukraine would be appreciated. Positive feedback was given about this on several occasions, but when it comes to actually spending budget (even budget that is unspent at the end of a year and will just expire) there is no further response. Same with IEEE HAC, so the German SIGHT members are a bit unhappy about the situation.

**Any other issues of interest**

None come to mind. We try to focus on Germany Section for now and will bring forward any questions or requests in due time.