

Finland Section

Mahdi Pourakbari Kasmaei, chair

Section Vitality

- The last Section election took place in Dec. 2023, and the new officers started their roles on January 15, 2024. We do not have a mandatory practice of the Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair, we carry out elections, and any candidate can be nominated. We had 2 section board meetings in 2024 so far, and there will be one more before the end of the year. In our meetings, we discussed about:
 - The RTSI 2026, which will be held in Finland, and how to organize it, mainly how to actively involve the industry not only as a sponsor but also as a contributor to the program.
 - The concentration account and under which circumstance a chapter under our section may request it. The requirement that two board members other than the treasurer need to have access to the bank account has also been discussed.
 - The IEEE bylaws that need to be followed by all volunteers; we will also discuss this in the R8 meeting.
- In September 2024, we appointed a webmaster to actively update and reshape the webpage and manage a LinkedIn page where we communicate with our followers.
- We aim to organize the Best Paper Award for papers published in 2024 (no financial prize, just recognition). The submission will be open in November.
- Together with the Finland Joint Chapter (CH08486 - Finland Sect Chap, IE13/PE31/IA34/PEL35), we organized a meeting with the IEEE Estonian Section to connect our members (students mainly) with each other.
- We had an industry meeting, and there, we shortly promoted our activities and the idea of IEEE@X (X being a company). The goal is to ask the companies to host a meeting in which our members can expand their network.

Students

- No student branches.
- Together with the Estonia Section (Jt. Chapter, PE31/IA34/PEL35/IE13) and Finland Section Latvia Section Joint Chapter, PEL35/IE13/IA34, and Finland Sect Chap, IE13/PE31/IA34/PEL35, we had the IEEE IES Student Branch Chapters Forum among the Baltic Sea Region Countries.
- YP80035 - Finland Section Affinity Group organized a meeting to motivate the students to collaborate better with IEEE.

Affinity Groups

We have a very active young professionals affinity group in Finland and a young professionals representative in the Finland Section Board.

We exchanged some nice ideas on how to form the Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) in the Finland Section. We found a potential volunteer, but the recruitment was not successful, and now we are looking for another volunteer to finally establish the LMAG in the IEEE Finland Section.

Chapters

- Finland Section Jt. Chapter of Signal Processing/Circuits and Systems (CH08056 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, SP01/CAS04)
 - IEEE Finland SP/CAS Best PhD and Master Theses Award Ceremony 2024
 - 6 board meetings
- IEEE Nordic Countries Nanotechnology Council Chapter (CH08067 - Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway Jt Sec. Chap, NANO42)
 - WORKSHOP: Business Model Co-creation / Ideation for Digital Circular Economy in GlassFiber Large Scale Manufacturing
 - Webinar on Nano Materials & Digital Technologies
- CH08037 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, AP03/ED15/MTT17
 - AP-S Distinguished Lecturer's talk: Dr. Giovanni Toso, European Space Agency
 - Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML) talk in IEEE AP/MTT/ED Finland Chapter: Prof. Joseph Bardin, MTT-S DML

- IEEE Finland Joint IES&PES Chapter (CH08486 - Finland Sect Chap, IE13/PE31/IA34/PEL35)
 - A 5-day 4-credit Summer Course at Aalto University on Condition Monitoring and Diagnostics of Power Assets by Dr. Murtaza Hashmi
 - IEEE IES Student Branch Chapters Forum
 - Rebate: Yes
- IEEE Finland Section Communications and Information Theory Joint Societies Chapter (CH08196 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, COM19/IT12)
 - Distributed Antenna Systems for Reliable and Secure Communications by IEEE Communications Society Distinguished lecturer Professor Rui Dinis from Nova School of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
 - Frequency-Domain Cross-Layer Diversity Techniques - Efficient Ways of Coping with Lost Packets in Broadband Wireless Systems by IEEE Communications Society Distinguished lecturer Professor Rui Dinis from Nova School of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
- CH08267 - Norway/Denmark/Finland/Sweden Jt. Chapter, E25
 - NA
- CH08746 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, CS23/RA24/SMC28
 - NA

Industry

- We help the conferences, if required, to find keynote speakers or panelists for their conferences.
- Financially and technically supporting the FRUCT conference, which aims mainly for uniting people from industry and academia.
- Co-sponsoring the 2024 International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Energy Transformation (AIE): there was a rich collaboration with industry partners

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- We are trying to systematically approach different conferences and take a role in promoting the importance of WIE and the WiP.

Activities since the last report

- Frequency-Domain Cross-Layer Diversity Techniques - Efficient Ways of Coping with Lost Packets in Broadband Wireless Systems by IEEE Communications Society Distinguished lecturer Professor Rui Dinis from Nova School of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
- Distributed Antenna Systems for Reliable and Secure Communications by IEEE Communications Society Distinguished lecturer Professor Rui Dinis from Nova School of Technology, Lisbon, Portugal
- A 5-day 4-credit Summer Course at Aalto University on Condition Monitoring and Diagnostics of Power Assets by Dr. Murtaza Hashmi
- Keynote presentation at the 8th ICACDS 2024 in Paris, France, on May 10, 2024, from the Blockchain Group
- Co-sponsorship of different conferences, including acting as financial supporters of some conferences and workshops such as FRUCT 2024, AIE 2024, and two Blockchain workshops.

Planned activities

- Organizing the RTSI 2026 with the most focus on industry involvement.
- Joint activities with the Finnish Society of Automation (FSA) for the RTSI 2026.
- Call for a new round of the Best IEEE Finland Section Student Paper Award for papers published during 2024.
- Organizing keynote speeches via the DL program (DLP).

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

- That would be nice to help us to involve our members into the Region 8 humanitarian, diversity, etc., activities

Any other issues of interest