

## Vice Chair Student Activities

### Goals

1. Decentralize the operation of the Student Activities Committee (SAC) into smaller manageable units with a plan to evolve into a standing committee in the future.
  - KPI:** Established min of 3 Ad-hoc with Clear responsibilities by Q2 -2023
2. Promote good communication between student members, counselors, and the Student Activities Committee.
  - KPI:** 100% dissemination of information as it relates to respective SB, SBC, SB AG leadership using appropriate tools and platforms.
3. Improve student membership experience in the region and promote membership growth, Membership Development initiatives.
  - KPI:** Conduct a survey twice a year targeted to student branch leadership and ensure min of 10 training Virtual/In-person to address concerns in 2023.
  - Reach out to non-active student branches while targeting to improve the active involvement of 20% of non-active student branches while working with student branches to appoint/nominate membership development officers in active student branches by end of the year.
4. Increase collaboration with other OUs YP/WIE/HuAc/ Afl
  - KPI:** Collaborate 100% with YP, WIE, HuaC, and Afl on student-related initiatives year-round.
5. Increase awareness of varieties of Student programs, events, Contests/competitions.
  - KPI:** Restructure the content of the SAC website for ease of understanding by end of Q2 while intensifying social media content.
  - Conduct and complete the student paper contest for 2023 and initiate the 2024 edition of the contest.
6. Supporting xSYP/SYP and making sure the success of the flagship congress.
  - KPI:** Work closely with Young Professional AG and provide 100% support to the respective host of the 2023 Cross-Sectional Congresses by providing templates that will aid the success of the congress.
7. Recognize Excellence with Awards
  - KPI:** Reach out 100% to qualified leadership of student branches to apply to MGA and Regional awards during the open call while providing content for each category that will aid their application.

### Status

**Members:** The following members form the Region 8 SAC Core team

Abdullateef Aliyu (Chair)  
 Ahmed Abouelnour (Student Representative)  
 Khaldoun Taktak (Ad-Hoc Chair)  
 Fay Majid (Ad-Hoc Chair)  
 Simay Akar (Ad-Hoc Chair)  
 Vera Markovic (Ad-Hoc Chair)  
 Vildana Hrnjić (Ad-Hoc Chair)  
 Maciej Borowka (Ex-officio)  
 Cybele Ghanem (Ex-officio)

The following are updates on the various activities carried out by the student activities committee and the set KPI.

**1. Established a of 3 Ad-Hoc with clear responsibilities by April 2023 - Accomplished**

Four Ad-hoc Committee were successfully created as follows:

1. Contests, Awards & Recognitions report – Vera Markovic
2. Training and Leadership Support – Khaldoun Taktak
3. New Initiatives – Vildana Hrnjic
4. Electronics Communication– Fay Majid

Detailed reports on team activities are shown in the Ad-hoc committee report.

**2. Promote good communication between student members, counselors, and the Student Activities Committee - Accomplished**

***I – Annual Plan Reporting***

The Student branch annual plan reporting was due on 15 March 2024. The Team proactively sent out multiple emails and used WhatsApp platforms to reach respective Chairs of SB, SBC, and Counselors on the need to submit the Annual plan. The result of this effort paid off with the performance of region 8 on rebate as shown in the table below:

**Table 1: 2024 Student Branches Rebate for all Region**

Region	Annual Plan		4+ Events Reported		2024 Qualified for Rebate		2023 Qualified for Rebate	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	13	14%	9	10%	8	9%	3	3%
2	11	13%	10	11%	5	6%	5	6%
3	41	43%	29	30%	24	25%	15	13%
4	26	39%	19	29%	14	21%	7	10%
5	28	29%	22	22%	18	18%	14	14%
6	32	36%	17	19%	14	16%	12	13%
7	30	48%	18	29%	17	27%	15	24%
8	418	55%	283	37%	260	34%	207	28%
9	212	41%	196	37%	177	34%	105	18%
10	620	34%	557	31%	448	25%	382	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>21%</b>

2024 Report \$48,568 for 260 Student Branch earned rebate this year, as compared to the 2023 report \$46,820 for 205 Student branches last year, making it 55 more Student branches earned rebates this year.

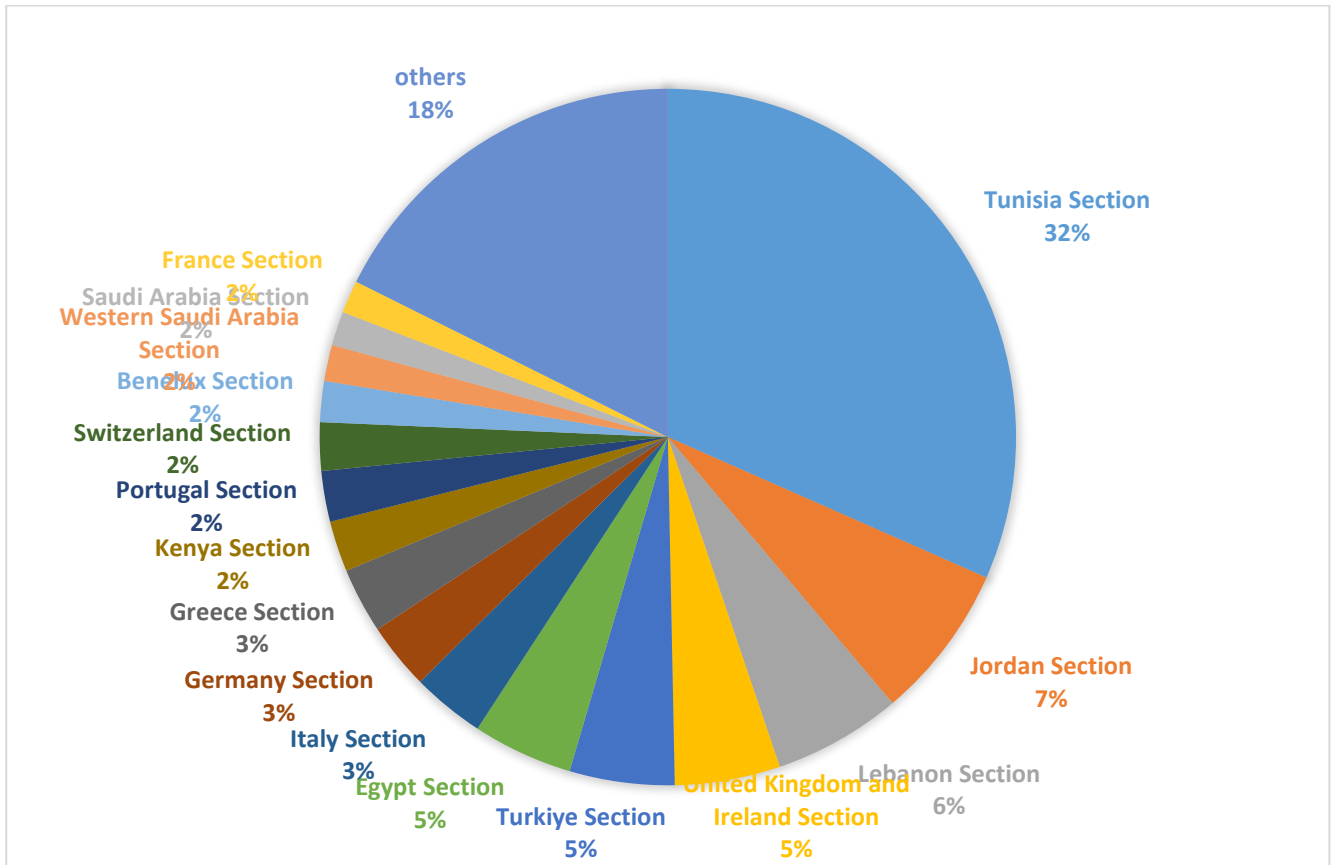


Figure 1: Rebate distribution to Sections

**II- Student Membership Statistic**

Student membership is at **25,719** as of September 2024 which indicates a **2,597** increase in the number of students membership since the last R8 committee meeting. This trend shows an average of 7% increase in student membership.

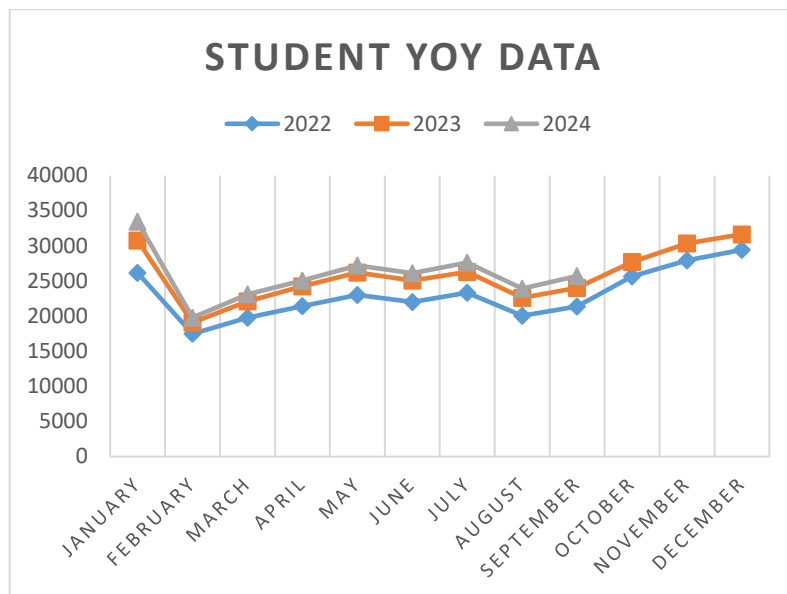


Figure 2: Student Year on Year Membership Data

**Table 2 :** Monthly Student Membership Statistic

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	26157	17479	19772	21410	23021	22002	23347	20049	21374	25666	27936	29439
2023	30742	19095	22124	24228	26219	25048	26298	22596	23996	27729	30340	31649
<b>2024</b>	<b>33437</b>	<b>19791</b>	<b>23122</b>	<b>25078</b>	<b>27189</b>	<b>26119</b>	<b>27626</b>	<b>23941</b>	<b>25719</b>			
22 Vs. 24 %Change	28%	13%	17%	17%	18%	19%	18%	19%	20%			

### 3. Student Organizational Units

**Table 3:** Student Organization Units by Numbers

	Student Branches	Technical SB Chapters	SB Affinity Groups
<b>CURRENT</b>	786	719	210
<b>CHANGE FROM MARCH 2024</b>	<b>+24</b>	<b>+76</b>	<b>+55</b>

**Table 4:** Student Organization Units Counts

Description	Count 2022	Count 2024	% Increase
Student Branches	750	786	4.8%
Student Affinity Groups	168	187	2.5%
Student Branch Chapters	573	719	25 %

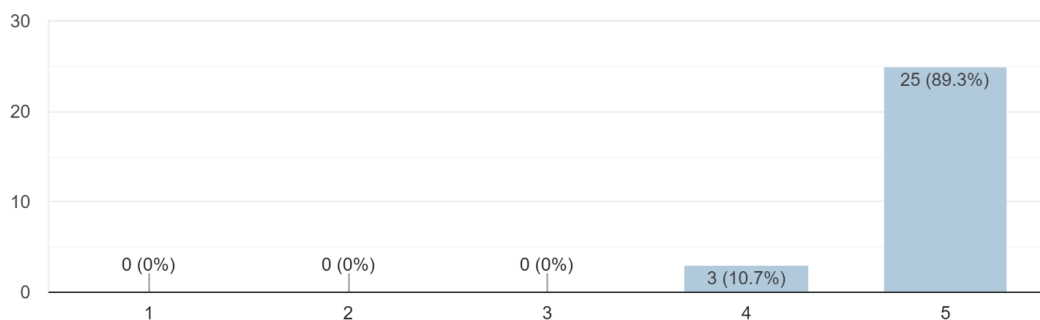
Student branches, student branch chapters and student Affinity groups are increasing in the region with 4.8%, 2.5% and 25% growth respectively.

### 3. Conduct a survey twice a year targeted to student branch leadership - Accomplished

Successfully conducted surveys for counselor's training, The training was attended by 8 facilitators, 32 counselors, and 3 guests. Below is the feedback on the leadership training carried out in Lecco, Italy.

Expertise of facilitators on topics

28 responses



**Figure 3:** Bar chart showing feedback on Expertise of the trainers

General overall rating

28 responses

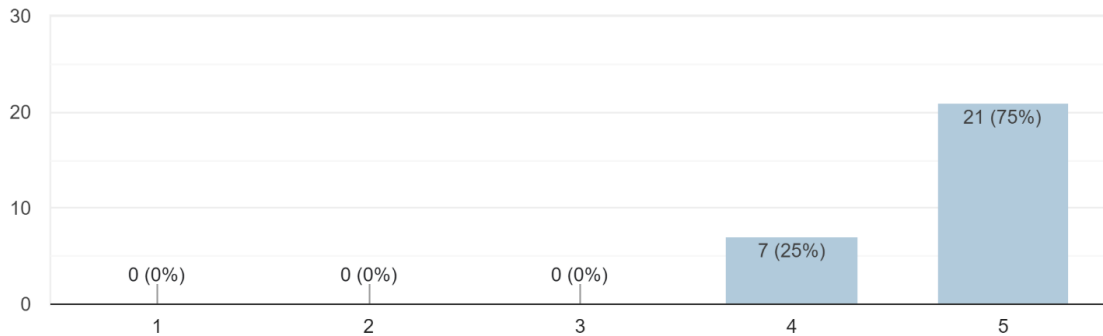


Figure 4: Bar chart showing feedback on General rating of the training

Describe the training in one word

28 responses

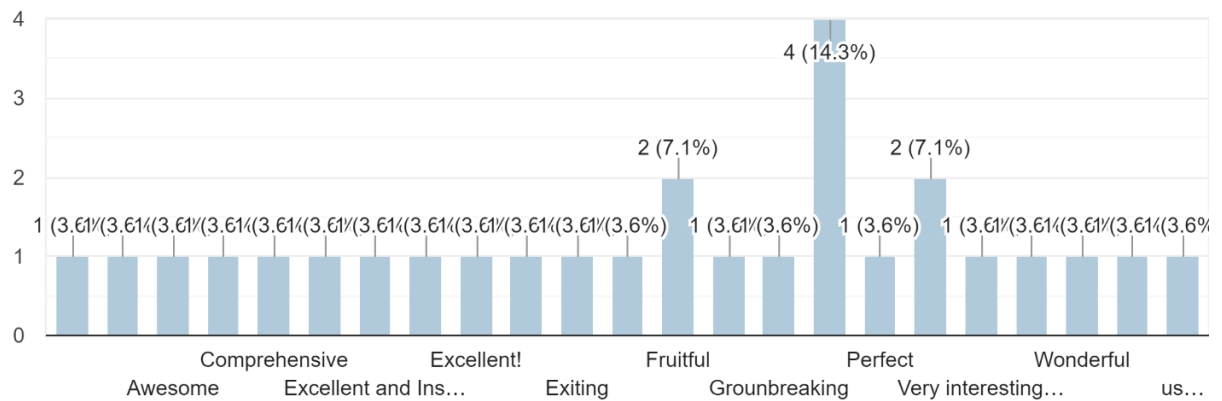


Figure 5: Bar chart showing feedback on Training in One word

#### 4. Increase collaboration with Other OUs YP/WIE/HuAC/ etc.

SAC and YP worked side by side towards the success of the 2024 SYP held in Grenoble France with over coordinated the 2024 Student and Young Professionals Congress in Grenoble working closely with the France Section to ensure a remarkable congress.



#### Over 50 Countries in attendance

320 participants registered and paid.

89 Funded by R8 (SAC)

21 Funded by R8 (YP)

Other collaborations include:

1. IEEE Climate Change Challenge involving MA and TA
2. Our New Initiative "IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Journey" co-organized with the IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Committee – 3-month Course for aspiring Entrepreneurs
3. IEEE YESIST12 2024
4. Introduction to Computational Neuroscience” - Summer School 2024 from Arabs in Neuroscience
5. IEEE R8 Robot Championships 2024
6. IEEE R8 Humanitarian Student Ambassadors Program



**5. Conduct and complete the student paper contest for 2023 and initiate the 2024 edition of the contest**

The finalist for the 2024 Oral final emerged as the student paper contest final is scheduled to be held in MELECON 2024 in Porto on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

University of Maribor	Jan Popič -Slovenia Using Neural Networks in the Search of Low Auto-correlation Binary Sequences
Ain Shams University	Loay Alfeay-Egypt BEVSORT: Bird Eye View LIDAR Multi Object Tracking
Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje	Matea Marinova - North Macedonia Accelerating Convergence in Split Learning for Time-Varying and Resource-Limited Environments
University of Ljubljana	Matic Pokorn-Slovenia Smart Homes, Smarter Savings: Energy Trading with Deep Reinforcement Learning
Université catholique de Louvain	Tim Bary -Belgium Designing Pre-training Datasets from Unlabeled Data for EEG Classification with Transformers

3 calls for the local student paper contest were completed and student branches and sections were provided with resources to conduct the competition. Details are found in the Ad-hoc committee on Contest awards and recognition.

**6. Supporting xSYP/SYP and ensuring the success of the flagship congress**

5 were held successfully in 2023-2024. The MESYP was held successfully in February 2024 in Jordan. The re-organization of the hosting for 2025 was carried out jointly with the YP team. The call for proposals to host was announced on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October as shown below.



**6. Recognize Excellence with Awards**

The R8 team successfully evaluated the 2023 season of awards, MGA certificates are electronically circulated by MGA SAC and were presented personally at R8 SYP 2024, in Grenoble France. Region 8 and MGA awards were announced, evaluated, and will be announced at the R8 meeting in Bordeaux France during the R8 meeting.

**AdHoc Committee on Contests, Awards & Recognitions report – Vera Markovic**

Vera Markovic (Chair)  
Lee Crudgington  
Millicent Kwangari  
Haris Capelj  
Matteo Bruno Lodi  
Mohammed Abdelrahman  
Rim Chihi  
Yahya Al Belushi  
Raja Boussada

**R8 Student Paper Contest 2024 and 2025**

- The 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the R8 student paper Content (SPC) successfully concluded at the IEEE R8 flagship conference, EUROCON 2024, Porto, Portugal on June 25-27. There were 32 valid SPC papers in 2024 SPC edition, and top 5 papers were selected by an international jury. All five finalists and four jury members were present at the Oral Finals. The finalists presented their outstanding work during a special conference session. Based on two phase results, the jury selected the winners. The SPC awards ceremony took place during the conference gala dinner on June 26.



- The report on SPC 2024 was published on the SAC website and SAC social media, including a video with a testimonial from the winner about his impressions of the contest. An article on the SPC 2024 was prepared for publishing on the SAC website and in some other publications.
- This year, having in mind a big number of submissions, we announced also which papers secured ranks 6 through 10 and sent the corresponding certificates to their authors. Additionally, we sent the certificates on the participation in the R8 SPC to all other authors.





- A Call for papers for the R8 SPC 2025 was announced on 31 May.



- Promotional activities were carried out regularly.
- A webinar on how to write a good technical paper is organized (speaker: Eszter Lukacs, 7 October 2024). Among others, it is aimed at training students - prospective SPC 2025 authors.



- R8 SPC Operations Manual 2024 completed and uploaded on SAC Drive.

### Local SPC Events Program 2024

- Three Calls within the Local SPC Events Program 2024 were announced and concluded. The program is aimed at encouraging and supporting R8 Sections and Student Branches to organize their own local Student Paper Contest events. The first Call was intended for R8 Sections and second and third Call were open for R8 Student Branches.



- Total number of valid applications was 16. Finally, 12 proposals are approved for financing, up to 500\$ for Sections and up to 300\$ for Student Branches.
- The distribution of grants concerning OU type is 6 Sections and 6 SBs. Regional distribution is as follows: 4 Europe, 6 Africa, 2 Middle East.

- The implementation phase is ongoing.

### MGA SAC and Region 8 SAC Awards

- Judging process for the R8 Student Awards has been completed. Almost all SAC members have contributed to judging. Final decisions were made by R8 Award & Recognition Committee.
- Judging of nominations for the MGA Student Awards has been completed for some awards or still ongoing for some others. MGA team coordinates this process, and most of SAC members are involved in judging the applications.
- A very nice Student Awards Ceremony was held at IEEE R8 SYP 2024, Grenoble, France



### IEEEDuino

- The phase of design proposal submission was closed. The ongoing phase is the judging part.
- The team for IEEEDuino has been expanded

### Planned activities toward the end of the year

- Defining the SPC 2025 Jury composition and new member training
- Promoting activities, E-notices
- Collecting the submissions, preparing the documentation for sending to the Jury members
- Coordinating the implementation of local events
- Collecting the LSPC event
- On the basis of the LSPC reports, making the final decisions on approving the grants
- Coordinating the LSPC payment phase
- MGA Awards - judging the nominations
- Selection of the Region 8 Student Branch of the Year on the basis of the MGA nominations for the Exemplary Student Branch award
- IEEEDuino - Selection of teams which will participate in the build phase and distributing the kits
- IEEEDuino building phase, final judging phase and selection of the winners

**Adhoc Committee on Training and Leadership Support - Khaldoun TAKTAK**

Khaldoun Taktak (Chair)

Krishna Ajith

Alkiviadis Michalitsis

Eldar Sabanovic

Andre Cakici

Jani Dugonik

Mohamed Ali Zormati

Gina Carrillo

A training session was carried out in the student and Young Professionals Congress in Grenoble as well as Malecon 2024 to train student branch leaders and volunteers about the operation process of student branches.



**Counselors Training – Lecco**

The counselor training was carried out for the first time in person at the RTSI conference in Italy, Lecco. Counselors were carefully selected after they completed the mandatory counselor training at the center for Leadership Excellence (CLE).



Below is the distribution of the approved applications based on the prerequisite.

No	Section	# Participant
1	Cyprus	1
2	Egypt	2
3	Ethiopia	1
4	Finland	1
5	France	1
6	Jordan	7
7	Kenya	2
8	Kuwait	1
9	Lebanon	3
10	Nigeria	2
11	Oman	3
12	Poland	1
13	Sweden	1
14	Tanzania	1
15	Tunisia	6

The training was held in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, and counselors had to opportunity to all join the RTSI conference to network.

### R8 SAC Programs – Section Meetings/Collaboration

Several student branches from 10 sections benefitted from the Programs lunched thus far. The table below shows the distribution.



No	Section	Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster	SYP Networking Activities	Sectional SB Officers Meeting	Total
1	Jordan		1		1
2	Kenya	4	2	1	7
3	kuwait	1	1	1	3
4	Nigeria	2			2
5	Tunisia	1	4	3	8
6	Lebanon			1	1
7	Croatia			1	1
8	Poland		2		2
9	Egypt			1	1
10	Turkey			1	1
					<b>27</b>

### Webinar Training Series

Several webinars were carried out to educate and address most of the concerns students.



This webinar attract average of 75 attendees.

## Ad Hoc on New Initiatives – Vildana Hrnjic

Vildana Hrnjić (Chair)  
Soula Vasiliki-Seie  
Abdulhameed Raji  
Martyna Borak  
Igor Matias  
Rastko Zeljkovic  
Yucef Islem Malk  
Rhoda Akello

New members were added to the committee, and they worked to start new initiatives.

### KIEEEp up

- Promotional reels/videos initiative that we started in 2023.
- Post on Reels have been posted

This is an ongoing Initiative. We plan to continue this initiative through other IEEE Meetings and gatherings.

IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Journey – 3-month Course for aspiring Entrepreneurs was completed.



Support provided by the committee includes:

1. IEEE YESIST12 2024
2. “Introduction to Computational Neuroscience” - Summer School 2024 from Arabs in Neuroscience
3. IEEE R8 Robot Championships 2024
4. IEEE R8 Humanitarian Student Ambassadors Program
5. Counselors training Lecco



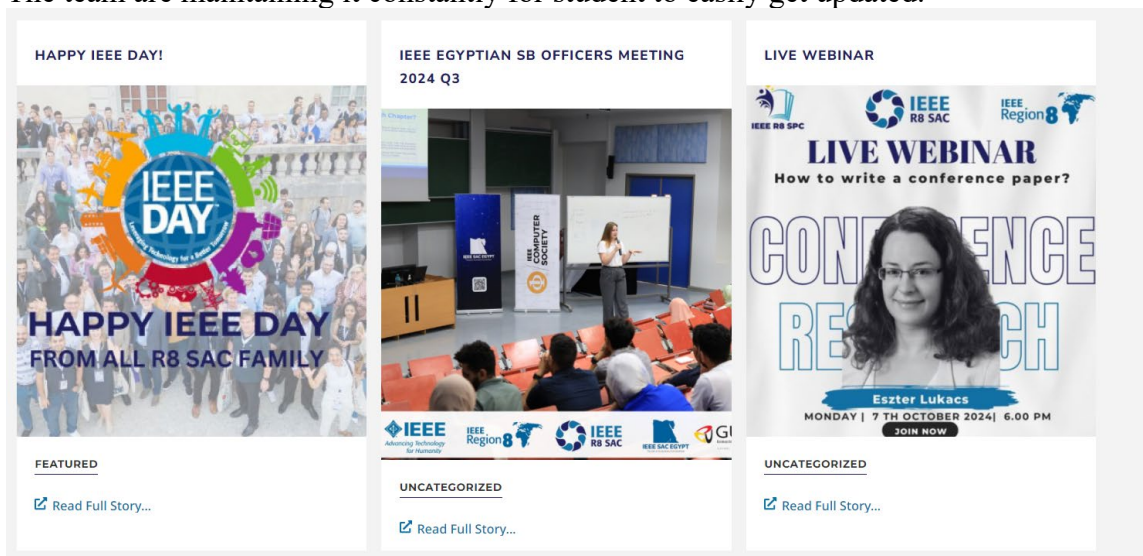
6. IEEE Duino
7. **Climate Change Challenge**

### Ad Hoc on Electronics Communication– Fay Majid

Fay Majid (Chair)  
Sahar Youssef  
Stefan Momyr  
Mohammed Hatem

### Website Development Updates:

The R8 website is now complete and live : <https://r8.ieee.org/sac/>  
The team are maintaining it constantly for student to easily get updated.



### Announcements

- The top 10 papers announce on all social media platform
- **Second Call and last call of the Local SPC** announcement on the website and social media handles.
- KEEP it up Initiative: updated
- SPC Logo lunched .
- Second and third call of the SAC Programs announced
- IEEE Robot Championship: Launched and supported the IEEE Robot Championship and hosted an introductory webinar on our accounts.
- IEEE Duino Call: Launched the IEEE Duino Call and are actively working on social media content for it.

### Podcast:

The first episode of the SAC podcast initiative lunched



Social Media Performance

- Facebook Performance

11k+ followers

Over 1877 post engagement and 40 new likes

**Page Overview**

[See more insights](#)

Followers: 11,407  
Last 28 days

🌐 Post reach ⓘ

**7,386**

👥 Post Engagement ⓘ




**1,877**

👍 New Page likes ⓘ

**40**

**Recent content**

Last 28 days

	Post reach	Engagement
 <p>🗣️ Introducing the First Episode of IEEE R8 SAC Students PodTalk! 🗣️ In celebration of IEEE Day, we're thrilled to kick off our very...</p> <p>Wed, Oct 9</p>	769	72
 <p>🎉 Celebrating IEEE Day with an Exciting Launch! 🎉 To mark this IEEE Day celebration, IEEE Region 8 SAC is unveiling...</p> <p>Tue, Oct 8</p>	90	6
 <p>📺 We're Live Now on YouTube and Zoom for the Webinar – How to Write a Conference Paper! Join Eszter Lukacs as she shares...</p> <p>Mon, Oct 7</p>	599	40

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## Outlook

1. Close the Call IEEE region Cross Sectional Congresses and announce the winners to host the events
2. Finalize the winner of IEEE Duino Competition
3. Conclude on the Climate Change Challenge Finals in Bari Italy
4. Host the first Student Chapters Coordinator Meetings in Tunisia
5. Organize the Student Leadership training for Section Student Representatives and Chairs accordingly
6. Finalize the SAC programs this year that include Local Student paper contest, Collaborative programs, and respective competitions.
7. Continue to train Section Student Representatives
8. Continue the effort to revive in active student branches.
9. Promotion of IEEEExtreme, IEEEDuino, and Hackathon

## Points of Concern

1. SB Annul Reporting and SBs at the probation list.
2. Student member recovery and retention
3. Leadership transition within student branches

## Other Issues to report

Appointment for student representative and student Activities Chairs in section.

Vacant counselor role for student branches

Activities reporting in Vtools

end.