

Vice Chair, Student Activities

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Student Representative
AdHoc Student Awards and Contests
AdHoc Student Branch Leadership Support
AdHoc Student Experience Portfolio Initiatives

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Goals

The Vice Chair, Student Activities is chairing the Student Activities Committee with a mission to deliver a common, high-quality IEEE experience for lifelong, professional success through IEEE membership for students across Region 8 boundaries, and in specific to inspire, help, develop and promote Students and Student activities in Region 8 by supporting and advising R8 Student Branches and their officers, by encouraging the formation of new Student Branches, and by recognizing Student achievements. In particular, the goals include:

- I. Review and revise the decentralized operation of R8 SAC into smaller, manageable units and update the committee operations manual accordingly.
 - KPI: Establish at least 3 Ad-hoc committees to support R8 SAC structure.
- II. Support sections to be the most effective point of contact for their students, as well as the xSYP/SYP Congresses to ensure their success.
 - KPI: Provide at least 1 training to Section Student Activities Officers.
 - KPI: Support all xSYP/SYP Congresses regionally.
- III. Promote good communication between students, counselors, and sections, and encourage inter-branch and cross-sectional student collaborations.
 - KPI: Operate at least 3 student activities support programs for Sections or Student Branches.
- IV. Improve student membership experience in the region and enrich the regional portfolio of student opportunities.
 - KPI: Send at least 1 survey to identify student needs in different areas of the region.
- V. Increase collaboration with other relevant activities, i.e., YP/WIE/HTA/entrepreneurship/PEA, and enhance student engagement in technical activities, i.e., societies/AfI/conferences.
 - KPI: Collaborate in at least 2 activities with YP/WIE/HTA/entrepreneurship/PEA/societies/AfI/conferences.
- VI. Increase awareness of student programs, events, and competitions both regionally and globally, and promote membership growth.
 - KPI: Increase the number of content on website and social media.
- VII. Recognize excellence with awards, contests and other formats of recognition and nurture the next generation of IEEE volunteers and leaders.
 - KPI: Receive sufficient number of nominations on all award categories.
 - KPI: Receive sufficient number of submissions on all regional contests.

Composition and Focus Areas

You can find detailed information about the R8 Student Activities composition at the [R8 SAC website](#).

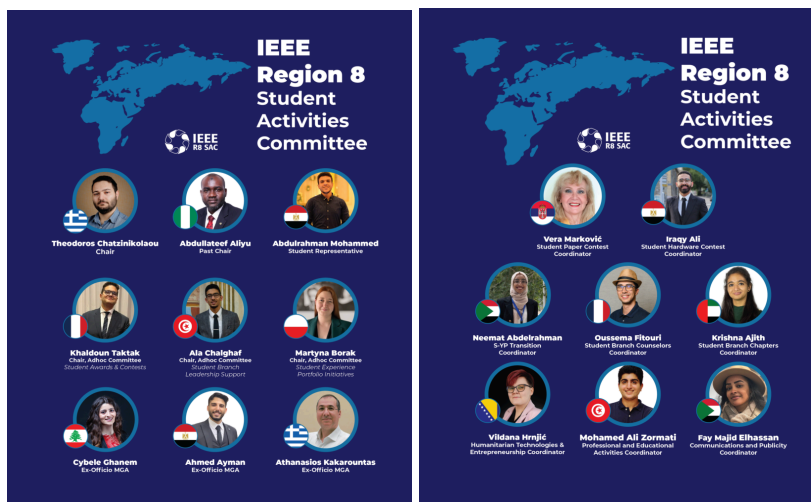


Figure 1. Composition of R8 Student Activities Committee

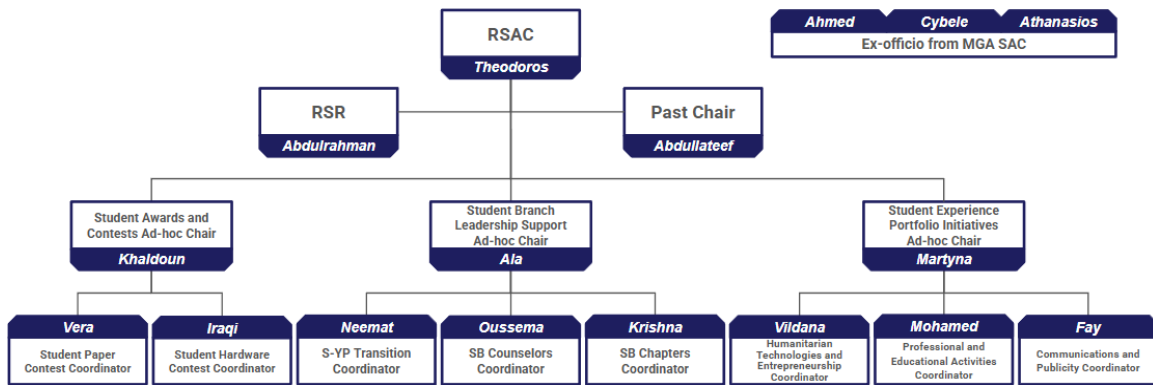


Figure 2. R8 Student Activities Committee Structure

The Region Student Representative (RSR) represents the students of Region 8 and has as primary goals to provide advice in the best interests of the students and to ensure that the Region understands and optimizes the support of student programs.

The AdHoc Student Awards and Contests charter is to organize, coordinate, support and promote student awards and contests procedures for Region 8 at both Region 8 and MGA levels. The focus areas include:

- MGA & R8 Student Awards Coordination
- R8 Student Paper Contest Organization
- R8 Student Hardware Contest Organization
- Student Competitions Outreach (i.e., IEEEExtreme)

The AdHoc Student Branch Leadership Support charter is to engage and support student branches and their sub-units in Region 8, and to provide them with the necessary resources and directions for their proper and successful operations and management. The focus areas include:

- SB & SB Chapters Coordination
- SB & SB Chapters Trainings and Resources
- Student Transition and Young Professionals
- Membership Development and Women in Engineering

The AdHoc Student Experience Portfolio Initiatives charter is to promote and enhance student opportunities based on activities outside of the student branch program, and to improve the student member benefits portfolio and overall IEEE student experience in Region 8. The focus areas include:

- Professional Development and Educational Activities
- Entrepreneurship and Humanitarian Technology Activities
- Electronic Communications and Digital Content Creation
- Website and Social Media Management



Figure 3. Composition of R8 Student Activities Ad-hocs

Statistical Report

→ Student Membership

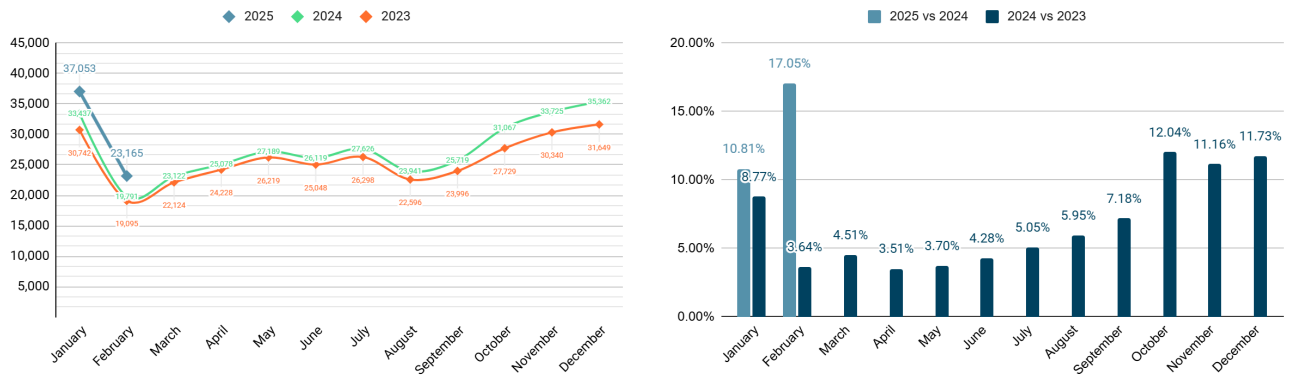


Figure 4. Student membership Year over Year analysis

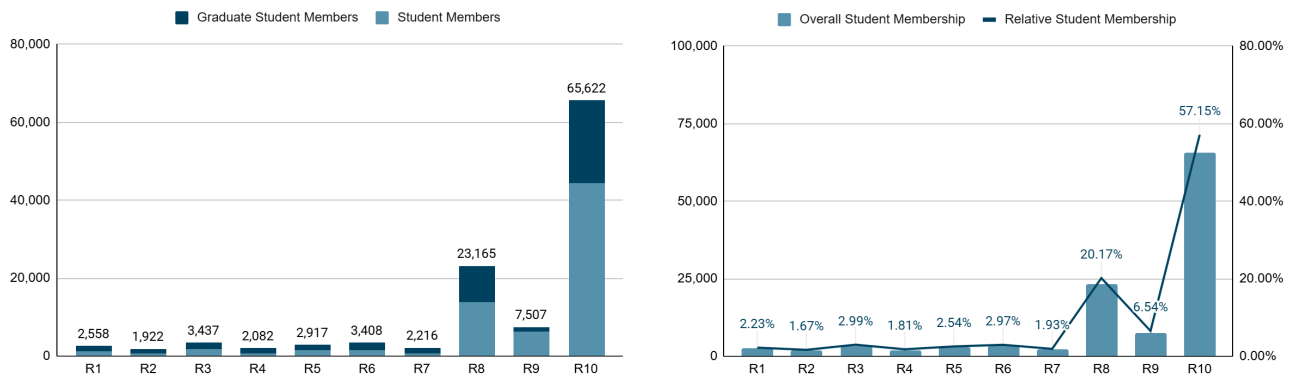


Figure 5. Student membership per Region

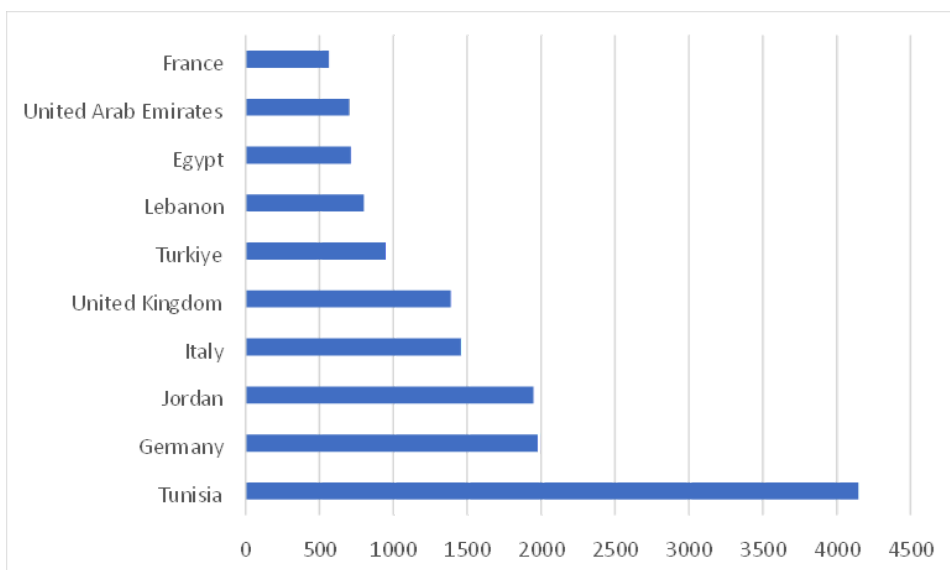


Figure 6. Top 10 Sections in student membership

→ Student Units Status

	Student Branches	Student Branch Affinity Groups	Student Branch Chapters
Current (Mar 2025)	812	220	777
Change from Oct 2024	+26	+10	+58

Table I. Student units as of March 2025

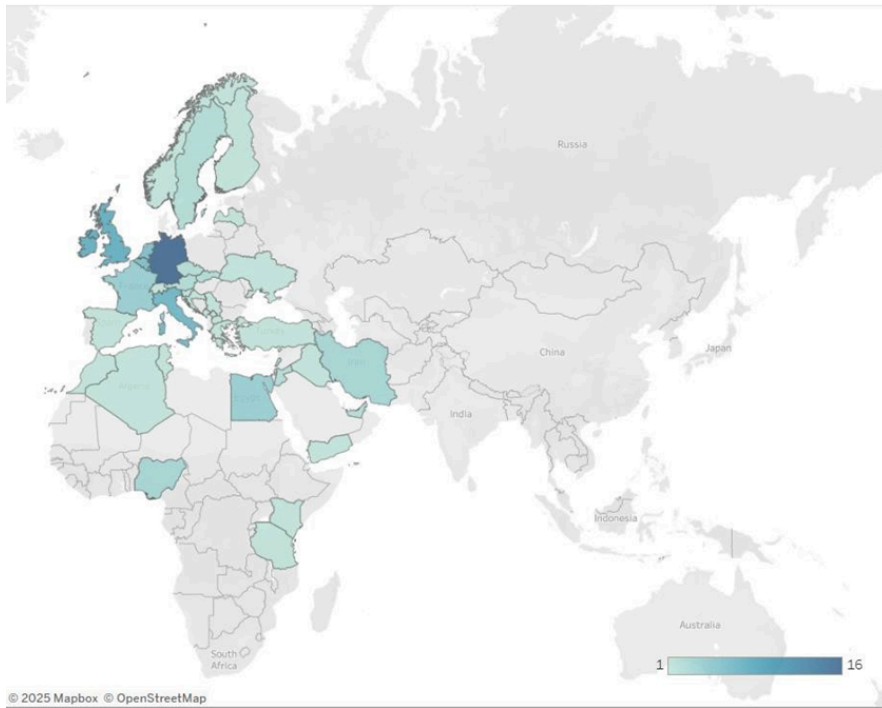


Figure 7. Potential formation of 150 new SBs and 270 new SBCs

Total Petitions	Approved Petitions	Not Approved Petitions	Approval Rate
69	41	28	~59.42%

Table II. Student unit petitions status (Jan - Mar 2025)

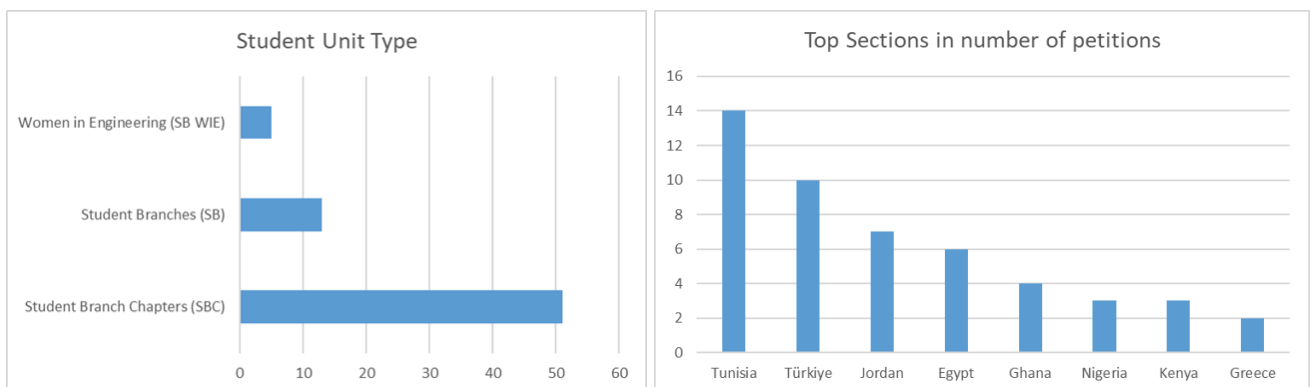


Figure 8. Student unit petitions statistics for petition type and Section

Section	OU ID	OU Name
Egypt Section	STB18631	October High Institute for Engineering & Technology
Egypt Section	SBC18631A	October Higher Inst for Engineering & Tech, IA34
Iraq Section	STB16291	University of Human Development
Portugal Section	STB61171	Polytechnic Institute of Braganca
Portugal Section	STB10183	Universidade do Algarve
Turkiye Section	SBC61441	Fatih University,C16

Table III. List of dissolved student units (as per November 2024 MGA Board meeting)

→ Student Branch Reporting

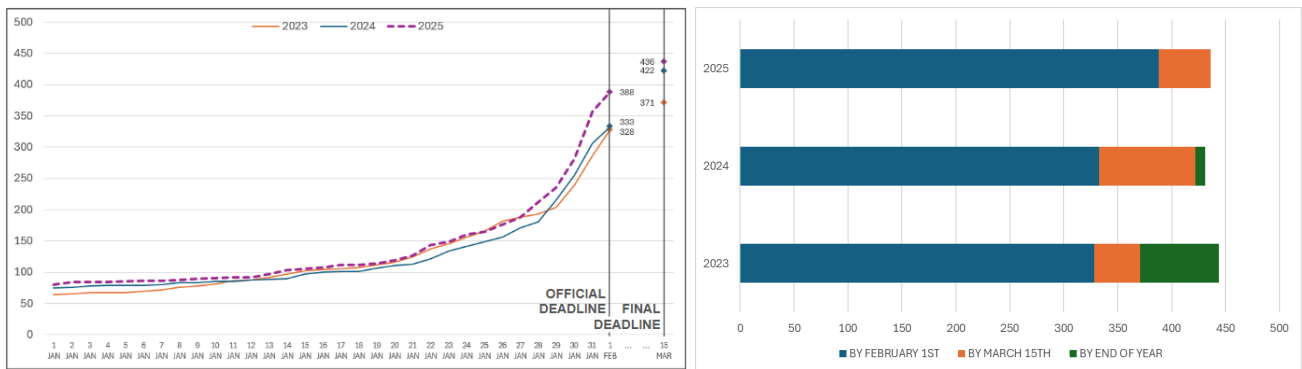


Figure 9. SB Annual Plan reporting progress in time

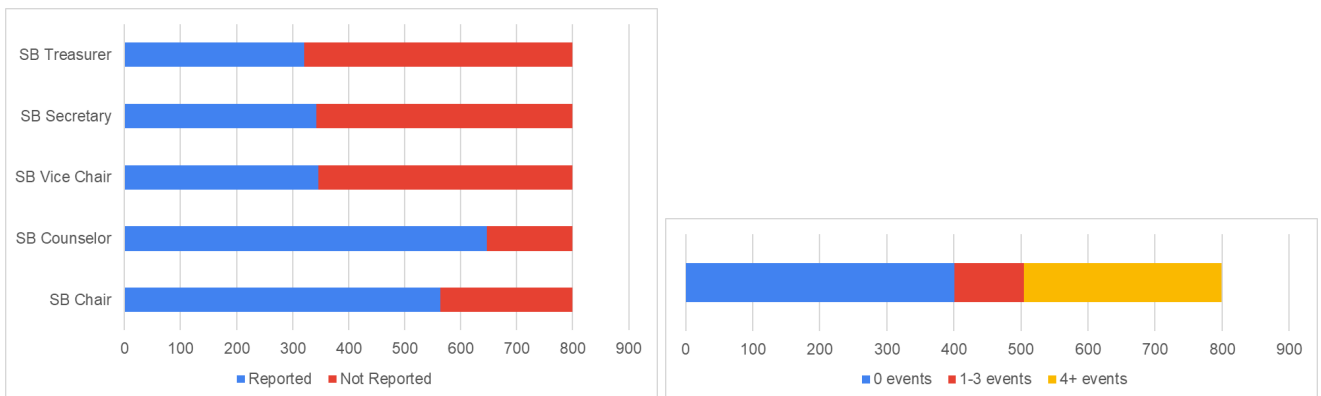


Figure 10. SB Officers and 2024 Events reporting status

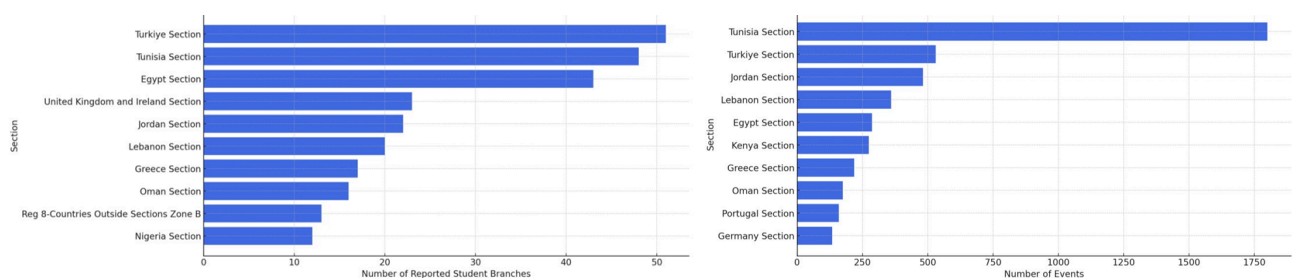


Figure 11. Top 10 Sections in SB Annual Plan and SB Events reporting

Activities Status and Outlook

- IEEE Region 8 Section Student Activities Officers Training
 - ◆ Description: The Region 8 Section Student Activities Officers Training focuses on providing guidance to section officers related to student activities, as well as the necessary training resources to deliver their duties as successfully as possible. The program covers key areas such as student programs, awards, membership development, tools, and reporting to enhance officer effectiveness.
 - ◆ Progress: Submitted MGA Surplus Funding proposal as part of the Region 8 Training Series.
- IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Counselors Training
 - ◆ Description: The IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Counselors Training is an in-person event designed to empower counselors by enhancing their role comprehension and equipping them with necessary tools. The training aims to foster counselor engagement and effectiveness, ultimately strengthening student branches and driving membership within the region.
 - ◆ Progress: Submitted MGA Surplus Funding proposal as part of the MGA SAC initiative for SB Counselors.
- IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congresses
 - ◆ Description: The IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congresses are the region's gathering for students and young professionals, fostering networking and skill development. It features diverse technical and professional workshops and social activities, promoting innovation and cultural exchange among participants.
 - ◆ Progress: This year, 5 cross-sectional congresses are organized as follows:

	CEuSYP	Africa SYP	MENASYP	WESYP	Nordic SYP
Entities Involved	Istanbul Technical University SB; Yeditepe University SB	UPSA SB; UG SB; Ghana YP	INSAT SB	Germany YP; TU Chemnitz SB; Hamburg University of Technology SB	Lithuania YP; Lithuania WIE; Vilnius Tech SB
Location and Section	Istanbul, Türkiye	Accra, Ghana	Tunis, Tunisia	Hamburg, Germany	Vilnius, Lithuania
Proposed Venue	Istanbul Technical University	University of Professional Studies, Accra	INSAT	Hamburg University of Technology	VILNIUS TECH
Potential Dates	TBD	August 22-25	August 27-30	September 11-13	September 18-20

- Coordination with Section Student Activities
 - ◆ Description: Engaging with the Sectional Student Leadership across Region 8 to support and enhance student engagement.
 - ◆ Progress: Activities under planning including communication channels and quarterly virtual meetings.
- Collaborations with Industry and Relevant Student Organizations
 - ◆ Description: A new perspective of linking the students with real-world experience through collaborations with industry partners by giving dedicated sessions and workshops to the students.
 - ◆ Progress: Under planning.
- New Student Units Spark Training
 - ◆ Description: The IEEE R8 SAC New Student Units Spark Training is a dedicated webinar series designed to support and nurture newly formed IEEE Student Branches within Region 8, helping them establish strong foundations, foster leadership, and drive impactful activities within their local communities. This initiative aims to equip new Student Branches with essential resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to ensure their sustainability and growth within the IEEE ecosystem.
 - ◆ Progress: Welcoming emails and session content have been prepared.
- IEEE MGA SAC Awards
 - ◆ Description: Recognize the efforts and motivate students to actively contribute to IEEE and leadership initiatives.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Start the necessary promotion through e-notice and social media.
 - Prepare the necessary forms to collect judges data.
 - Coordination with MGA SAC on the judging process and what can be improved.

- IEEE Region 8 Student Awards
 - ◆ Description: Recognize the individual and collective efforts of student OUs and leaders in the region.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Encourage further nomination from student OUs and individuals.
 - Continuously improve the judging pipeline.
 - Prepare the necessary promotional materials.
- IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest
 - ◆ Description: The R8 SPC is an excellent occasion for personal leadership and involvement of student members in a prospective IEEE scientific/technical activity.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Ongoing coordination with the EUROCON committee concerning the finals session and judges/finalists participation and accommodation.
 - Reaching out to the judges to start the judging process.
- IEEE Duino – IEEE Region 8 Student Hardware Contest
 - ◆ Description: IEEE Duino is a student-focused hardware contest to inspire IEEE student and graduate student members in Region 8 to design, build, test and demonstrate an innovative project on a microcontroller
 - ◆ Progress:
 - A new contest was defined with a larger scope
 - Start working on a name transition for the next edition
 - Getting all necessary assets (forms, designs, ready)
 - Defining a clear timeline for the event communication
- Student Branch Leadership Training Webinars
 - ◆ Description: To provide high-quality, structured, and engaging webinars that enhance students' and young professionals' knowledge, skills, and professional development while increasing IEEE R8 engagement through curated content focused on IEEE knowledge, expert-led discussions, and industry insights.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - First webinar on IEEE R8 SAC funding programs held on 18 March 2025
 - Initial webinar series plan for September.
- SBs & SBCs Guidelines
 - ◆ Description: To enhance and update the R8 SAC SBs & SBCs Guidelines, and to ensure that Student Branches and Student Branch Chapters have clear, accessible, and up-to-date information to strengthen their operations and engagement within IEEE
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Review of the existing guidelines
 - Prepared proposal for Office Hours program to be integrated into the guidelines.
- Section Student Branch Excellence Badge
 - ◆ Description: To recognize IEEE Sections for high rates of Student Branch report submissions, promoting compliance, engagement, and accountability across Region 8. This badge motivates Sections to support their Student Branches in reporting and fosters a culture of transparency, responsibility, and excellence.
 - ◆ Progress: Draft the detailed plan and implementation of the program.
- Student Branch Surveys & Coordination
 - ◆ Description: Gather structured feedback from Student Branches, Student Branch Chapters, and Counselors to ensure alignment with IEEE R8 initiatives and improve communication.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Surveys created and shared with target groups.
 - Introductory emails sent by SB, SBC, and Counselor coordinators.
 - Responses monitored and analyzed for actionable insights.
- Surveys to Identify Student Needs
 - ◆ Description: The goal of this initiative is to gain insights into the reasons for low student member retention and the limited number of students transitioning to higher grades. Additionally, it provides students with an opportunity to express their needs for new or improved initiatives that would better serve them.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Developed the questionnaire to gather insights on student retention and transition to higher grades.
 - Published the survey via social media and eNotice invitations sent to all IEEE R8 Student and Graduate Student Members. The first call for responses ends on March 31st.

- Student PodTalk
 - ◆ Description: *Student PodTalk* is the official podcast of IEEE R8 SAC, launched in 2024 with its first two episodes. It highlights outstanding IEEE members, engineers, and innovators across IEEE Region 8, sharing the journeys of award-winning professionals, pioneering leaders, and successful entrepreneurs. The podcast offers valuable insights into IEEE initiatives and career opportunities in a more casual conversation-based form.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Released two pilot episodes in 2024, marking the launch of *Student PodTalk*.
 - Evaluated and selected suitable platforms and tools for hosting the podcast.
 - Compiled a list of potential speakers for 2025, with the first guest confirmed as R8 SAC Chair Theodoros Chatzinikolaou.
- Entrepreneurship Journey
 - ◆ Description: *IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Journey* is a 3-month online course launched in 2024 to equip IEEE members with foundational entrepreneurial skills and a growth-oriented mindset. Co-organized by IEEE R8 SAC and IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Committee, it offers practical insights and networking opportunities by connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with experts and successful business owners.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - The 2024 pilot edition was a success, with over 200 applications, 100+ active participants, and 20+ speakers.
 - Currently finalizing the edition by evaluating practical tasks and tests to award top participants with certificates.
 - Began refining the program and logistics to enhance the next edition of the course.
- Soft Skills Training Sessions
 - ◆ Description: The initiative aims to expand the range of topics covered in online and in-person workshops organized by R8 SAC. It is designed to equip IEEE members with essential skills for success in early-career roles, research, and volunteering, by offering a series of workshops at key events such as Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses and IEEE R8 flagship/portfolio conferences.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Submitted an MGA Surplus Funding request to support the initiative.
 - Identified key events for organizing workshops and started coordinating with the respective organizing committees.
 - Began developing the initiative's branding to establish a coherent and recognizable image for the workshops.
- kIEEEp up
 - ◆ Description: *kIEEEp up* is a content-driven initiative launched in 2023, focusing on capturing in-person interviews with experienced IEEE volunteers at IEEE events. These interviews are edited into short vertical videos for reels and stories, introducing a more engaging content format. The initiative aims to enhance IEEE R8's social media presence with dynamic and impactful content.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Reviewed the previous year's video interviews and made plans for new recordings.
 - Developed a schedule for recording new interviews, including at the 124th IEEE R8 Committee Meeting in Budapest.
- Website and Social Media
 - ◆ Description: The committee is responsible for maintaining the official R8 SAC website and overseeing its all social media accounts to ensure active communication, engagement, and visibility for IEEE members across Region 8. The goal is to provide up-to-date information on initiatives, events, and resources, while also fostering community interaction and strengthening the online presence of R8 SAC.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - After the introduction of the new R8 SAC website in 2024 (<https://r8.ieee.org/sac/>), the committee continues to add content and make ongoing improvements.
 - Working on enhancing content creation and management strategies to ensure timely, relevant, and engaging updates across all platforms.
- R8 SAC Newsletter
 - ◆ Description: The *R8 SAC Newsletter* aims to provide IEEE students with regular updates, insights, and opportunities within IEEE Region 8. By delivering relevant content in a structured format, the newsletter will keep students informed about key initiatives, success stories, and upcoming events within IEEE.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Determined the optimal format, publishing frequency, and distribution channels.
 - Initiated the development of the first issue, serving as a proof-of-concept and sample for the successful launch of the initiative.

- Sectional Student Branch Leadership Meetings Program
 - ◆ Description: The Sectional Student Branch Leadership Camp Program focuses on training sessions for the Executive Committee members of the Student Branches within the section. These events are organized at a sectional level by the SSR and SSAC of each section and supported by R8 SAC. Leadership training that the Region supports is part of the exemplary Student Branch award, and this program provides exactly this opportunity to the student branches. These events take place in only one section at a time and are an excellent opportunity to prepare and grow IEEE student volunteers for leadership roles in their local units and beyond.
 - ◆ Progress: The first call for funding has opened and submissions are being received.
- Bridging Students with Industry Program
 - ◆ Description: Funding program to encourage and foster collaboration among students, Young Professionals, and industry partners through events that integrate professional networking, career development, and industry exposure. The program encourages student leadership, industry engagement, and a seamless transition from student to Young Professional membership, facilitating technical discussions, career guidance, and broader SYP networking opportunities.
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Program details, requirements and specifications launched via enotice, website and social media.
 - Received cycle 1 of applicants.
 - Promoted the program during the R8 SAC funding programs Webinar
- Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program
 - ◆ Description: The Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program aims to support and incentivize collaborations between SBs, SBCs, SB WIE Affinity Groups, and Sections to create innovative, impactful, and scalable student-led initiatives. The program encourages student leaders to develop creative projects, strengthen collaboration at the sectional, cross-sectional and regional levels, and provide value to IEEE students through professional, technical, and educational activities
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Program details, requirements and specifications launched via enotice, website and social media.
 - Received cycle 1 of applicants.
 - Promoted the program during the R8 SAC funding programs Webinar
- Local Student Paper Contest Events Program
 - ◆ Description: This program calls for section student activities and student branch leaders to submit their own version of a local student paper contest and get the chance to showcase their papers in the Regional Student Paper Contest and implement trainings for the LSPC
 - ◆ Progress:
 - Do the necessary promotion for the first call
 - Implement a new training event type within the program
 - Cover the program in the R8 SAC webinar on funding programs
- Student Branch Hardware Contests Program
 - ◆ Description: Encourage further hardware contests organization as these provide opportunities for technical improvement to their participants.
 - ◆ Progress: Form, necessary documentation and requirements are ready.

Points of Concern

- Student Branches at risk of dissolution due to fact of not submitting required reporting.
- Keeping reasonable budgets and registration fees for region-wide event due to financial uncertainty and inflation.
- Leadership transition within Student Branches.
- The number of Student Members & Graduate Student Members that haven't renewed their membership Year over Year increased.
- Limited financial resources - some initiatives are dependent on external funding and might be reduced in scope or cancelled.
- Challenging communication with students who are not already active.

Proposals for Improvement

- Increasing the support dedicated to the Student Activities.
- Involving more societies and technical activities committee in the hardware contest
- Based on the survey results and inquiries from members and volunteers, adjust the programs accordingly.

Suggested Action Items for Sections

- Raise awareness and support students and student branches in their reporting requirements.
- Engaging students in section-wide activities, ensuring the best volunteering, leadership and networking experience
- Promoting awards calls and encouraging contests participation.
- Trying to have a clear process for endorsing the awards nominations to avoid having all of them at the last minute.
- Publicize the Section Student Branch Excellence Badge once received (in Q4 2025).
- Promote the IEEE R8 SAC initiatives locally and utilize available resources to stay updated about opportunities and initiatives available for students.
- Support students in participating in events that offer opportunities for professional development, humanitarian involvement, and entrepreneurial activities.

MGA SAC Strategic Roadmap

Noteworthy Research Findings for Student Satisfaction and Engagement:

- Reasons for joining:
 - enhance career opportunities
 - network with others in the profession
- Barriers to engagement:
 - lack of time due to work/personal demands
 - geographical distance
 - lack of knowledge on how to get involved
- Student member needs:
 - helps me grow my professional network
 - keeps me informed of developments in my field
 - provides networking opportunities with peers

GenZ and Millennial Focus Group Research Findings:

- High volume of irrelevant email causes members to ignore important information, or delete before reading
 - *“Ten years ago, we needed information. Now we need the right information.”*
- Members Recount Face-to-Face Experiences as Pivotal Professional Moments
- IEEE’s Weaknesses:
 - Complex bureaucracy and lack of transparency
 - Lack of clear path to finding IEEE resources
- IEEE’s Strengths:
 - a global professional community
 - supporting students through competitions and grants

MGA SAC Initiatives:

- Improve access to resources and learning opportunities
- Enhance the quality and variety of student activities
- Improve and enhance student branch mentorship and revitalization
- Improve volunteer training
- Improve and diversify volunteer recognition
- Facilitate transition from student to higher grade volunteering
- Increase awareness and visibility of IEEE benefits
- Develop new engaging and inclusive programs
- Foster a strong sense of membership and belonging to a global community