

IEEE Benelux Section

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Section Vitality

The last elections for the Benelux ExCom were organized in February 2025, and the next elections will be held in January 2027. 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, or at least to provide slides highlighting their activities.

To recruit new members, the section (co-)organizes and supports several activities on a section, chapter, young professional and student branch level. Some examples (of larger activities) include amongst others:

- Benelux Section Meet the Fellows Event, coinciding with the General Assembly (February 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 and organization of one at the Benelux level.
- 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 February 26, 2025 (before the General Assembly). In general, there is a good trend of increasing numbers, especially in the categories of (graduate) student members. We are happy to have now more than 4000 members! Also, we have as a Section more senior members and fellows than the average IEEE. Three new fellows have been announced for the section: Denis Dochain, Raphael M. Jungers and Dirk Van Hertem.

	mei, 2023	nov, 2023	mei, 2024	nov, 2024	Y-over-Y
Associate Member	30	48	35	66	18
Affiliate	84	99	70	84	-15
Fellow	91	86	88	84	-2
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1	0
Life Fellow	43	47	44	48	1
Life Member	139	153	148	161	8
Life Senior	54	57	56	62	5
Senior Member	431	448	450	475	27
Member	1585	1987	1634	2088	101
Student	85	108	120	123	15
Graduate Student Member	852	928	899	995	67
Total:	3395	3962	3545	4187	225 (+5,68 %)

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. With the election of the new board, specific emphasis will be given to reactivate/stimulate less active SBs. In particular, a motivated team with a new YP chair, new SAC and student representative will work closely on these aspects.

Affinity Groups

In the Benelux Section, 3 Affinity Groups are currently active: YP, LM and WiE. The WIE affinity group has been reactivated a couple of years ago with the addition of newer members to its board. We expect an increase in activities in the coming years. Similarly, a new YP chair came in office and has put an action plan to revive and attract new members by joining efforts with the student branches. One of the actions will be the organization of a SYP at the Benelux level.

Chapters

A list of the active chapters in our section is provided here. Chapters have different level of activities, some more than others, but in general all chapters listed here are active and responsive to the discussion with ExCom. Notably, the ITSS and TEC chapters have been founded recently in our Section.

- Aerospace and Electronic Systems / Geoscience and Remote Sensing (AES/GRS)
- Antennas and Propagation/Microwave Theory and Techniques (AP/MTT)
- Communications & Vehicular Technology (COM/VT)
- Computer (C)

- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC)
- Electron Devices (ED)
- Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB)
- Industry Applications/Power electronics/Power Engineering (PE/IA/PEL)
- Industrial Electronics (IE)
- Information Theory (IT)
- Intelligent Transportation System (ITSS)
- Nuclear and Plasma Sciences (NPS)
- Photonics (PHO)
- Signal Processing (SP)
- Solid-state Circuits (SSC)
- Transportation Electrification Council (TEC)
- Technology Management (TEM)

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. In line with the activities of the YP AG, we are working on an action plan to keep student members once they become (young) professionals.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

An objective of the previous 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:

- General assembly and “Meet the Fellows” at Nokia Antwerpen”
- Some student branches in Belgium have been very active
- The LM affinity group has been very active with many activities and invaluable work for milestones
- Much effort put in supporting chapters and SB financially, despite the challenge to work across 3 countries
- Activation of 2 chapters, TEC and ITSS
- Renewal and recruitment of more officers for ExCom (YP, SAC, student representative, help for webmaster, chapter coordination...)

Planned activities

- Milestone celebrations after acceptance of the two following ones
 - o IEEE Milestone Award “Rijndael and the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), 1995 - 1998”
 - o IEEE Milestone Award “[ADSL:Expediting Broadband Internet Access for society, 1993-1997](#)”
- Reactivation and update of the section website and its social media presence
- Continue with chapter support an monitoring
- Conference among chapters

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

Help to update our bylaws regarding new election procedures given the constraints of our specific section.

Any other issues of interest N/A