

**124th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting**  
6 April 2025 • Budapest, Hungary

# IEEE Region 8 Student Activities



**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC**

*Theodoros Chatzinikolaou*  
*Vice-Chair, Student Activities*

# Meet Our Team



## IEEE Region 8 Student Activities Committee



**Theodoros Chatzinikolaou**  
Chair



**Abdullateef Aliyu**  
Past Chair



**Abdulrahman Mohammed**  
Student Representative



**Vera Marković**  
Student Paper Contest  
Coordinator



**Iraqy Ali**  
Student Hardware Contest  
Coordinator



**Khaldoun Taktak**  
Chair, Adhoc Committee  
Student Awards & Contests



**Ala Chalghaf**  
Chair, Adhoc Committee  
Student Branch  
Leadership Support



**Martyna Borak**  
Chair, Adhoc Committee  
Student Experience  
Portfolio Initiatives



**Neemat Abdelrahman**  
S-YP Transition  
Coordinator



**Oussema Fitouri**  
Student Branch Counselors  
Coordinator



**Krishna Ajith**  
Student Branch Chapters  
Coordinator



**Cybele Ghanem**  
Ex-Officio MGA



**Ahmed Ayman**  
Ex-Officio MGA



**Athanasios Kakarountas**  
Ex-Officio MGA



**Vildana Hrnjić**  
Humanitarian Technologies &  
Entrepreneurship Coordinator



**Mohamed Ali Zormati**  
Professional and Educational  
Activities Coordinator



**Fay Majid Elhassan**  
Communications and Publicity  
Coordinator



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# R8 SAC Team



**Theodoros Chatzinikolaou**  
Chair



**Abdulateef Aliyu**  
Past Chair



**Abdulrahman Mohammed**  
Student Representative



**Martyna Borak**  
Chair, Active Committee  
Student Experience  
Portfolio Initiatives



**Khaldoun Taktak**  
Chair, Active Committee  
Students' Awards & Contests



**Ala Chaighaf**  
Chair, Active Committee  
Student Branch  
Leadership Support



**Athanasios Kakarountas**  
Ex-Officio MGA



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Ex-Officio MGA



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**Vera Marković**  
Student Paper Contest  
Coordinator



**Iraqy Ali**  
Student Hardware  
Contest Coordinator



**Oussema Fitouri**  
Student Branch Coordinators  
Coordinator



**Neemat Abdelrahman**  
S-VP Transition Coordinator



**Krishna Ajith**  
Student Branch Chapters  
Coordinator



**Vildana Hrnjić**  
Professional & Educational  
Activities Coordinator



**Mohamed Ali Zornati**  
Professional & Educational  
Activities Coordinator



**Fay Majid Elhassan**  
Communications & Publicity  
Coordinator



# R8 SAC Goals



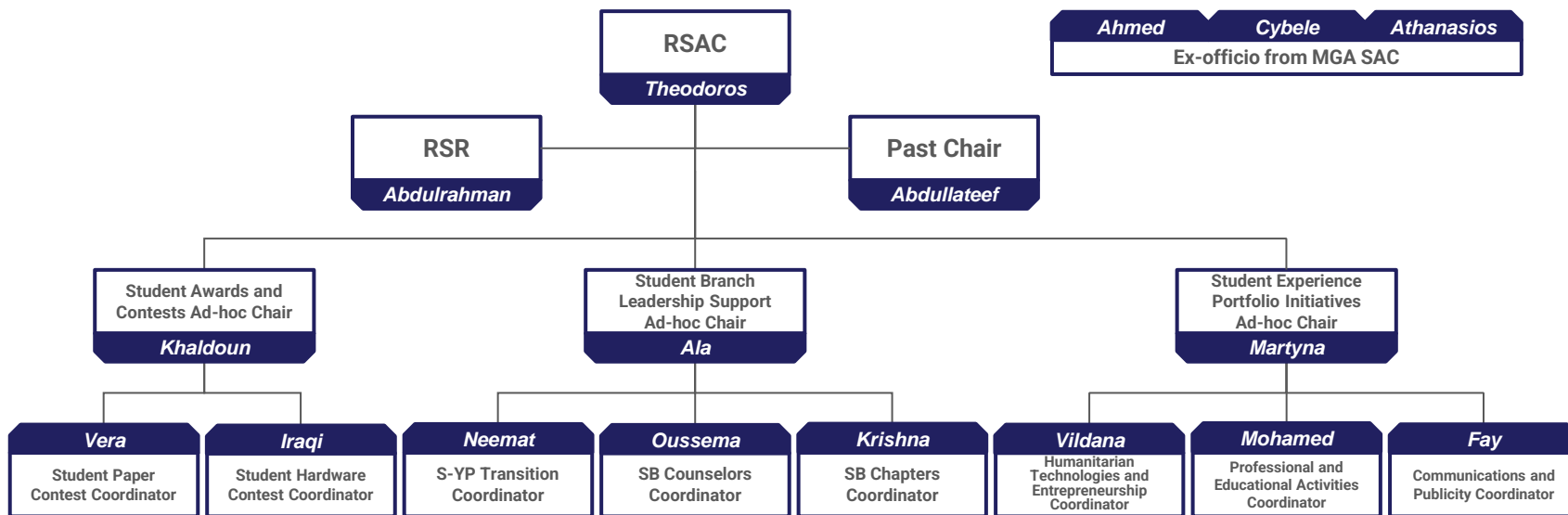
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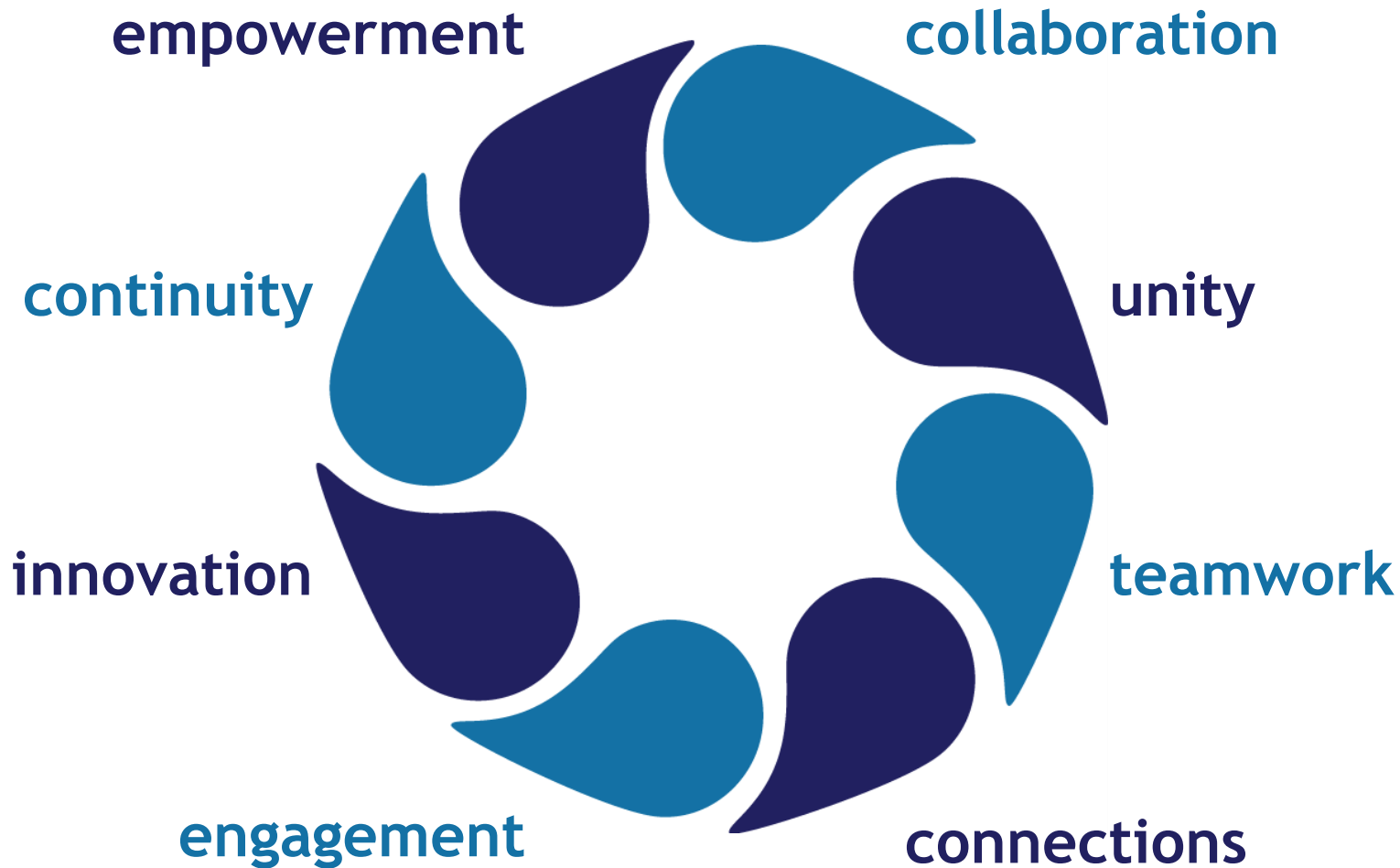
- I. Review and revise the decentralized operation of R8 SAC into smaller, manageable units and update the committee operations manual accordingly.
- II. Support sections to be the most effective point of contact for their students, as well as the xSYP/SYP Congresses to ensure their success.
- III. Promote good communication between students, counselors, and sections, and encourage inter-branch and cross-sectional student collaborations.
- IV. Improve student membership experience in the region and enrich the regional portfolio of student opportunities.
- V. Increase collaboration with other relevant activities, i.e., YP/WIE/HTA/entrepreneurship/PEA, and enhance student engagement in technical activities, i.e., societies/Afl/conferences.
- VI. Increase awareness of student programs, events, and competitions both regionally and globally, and promote membership growth.
- VII. Recognize excellence with awards, contests, and other formats of recognition, and nurture the next generation of IEEE volunteers and leaders.

# R8 SAC Structure



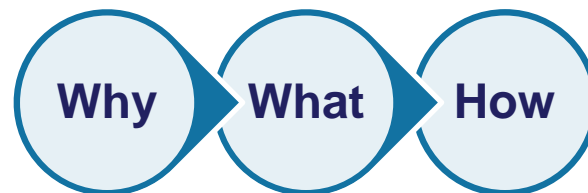
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# Be purpose-driven



Mission and Goals

Initiatives that drive  
the mission and goals

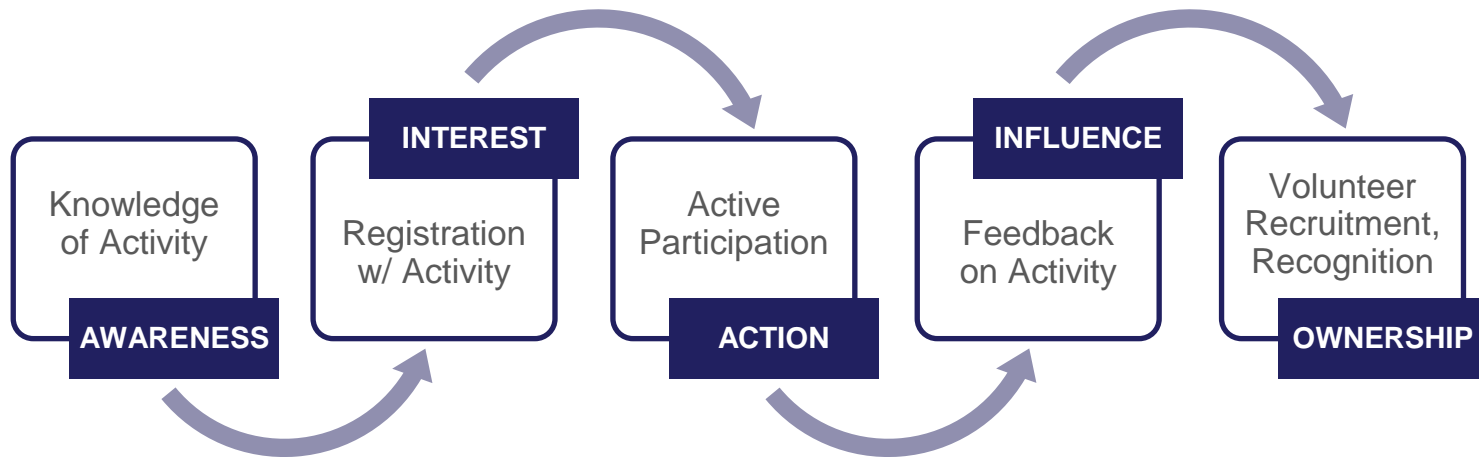
Activities and events  
that advance the initiatives

- Obtain consensus around the **Why** before moving on to the **What**
- Obtain consensus on the **What** before moving on to the **How**



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# Approach member engagement along a continuum of successes



- The probability of achievement in subsequent phases is driven by success in the preceding phases
- With progression through the continuum, the number of individuals decreases as the individuals' investment of time increases



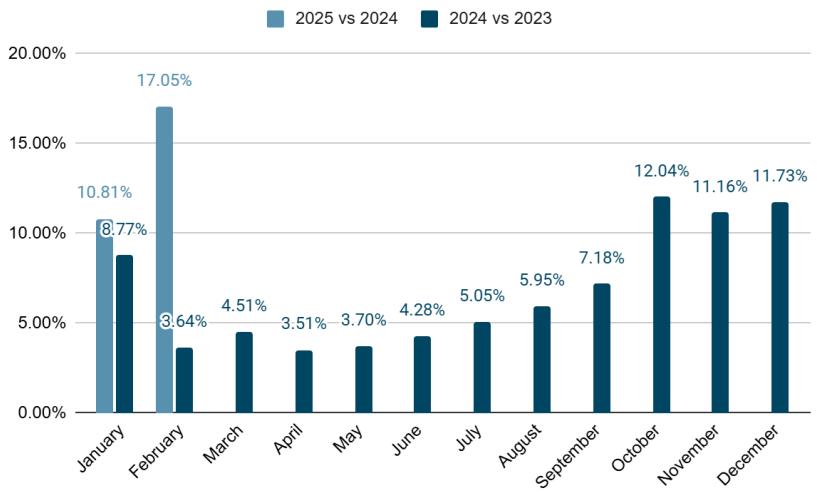
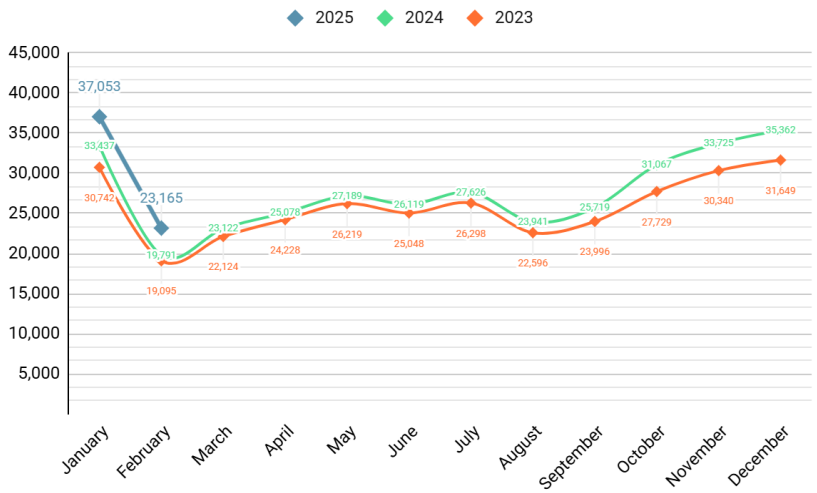


# Student Statistical Report

# Student Membership Year over Year



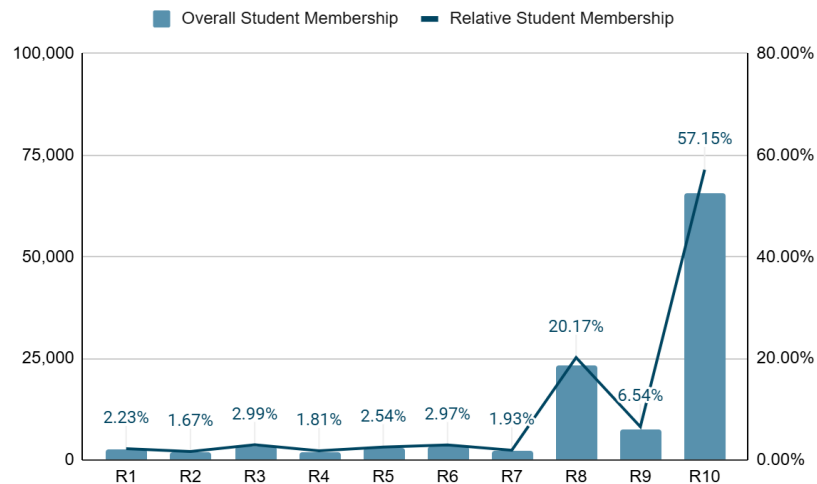
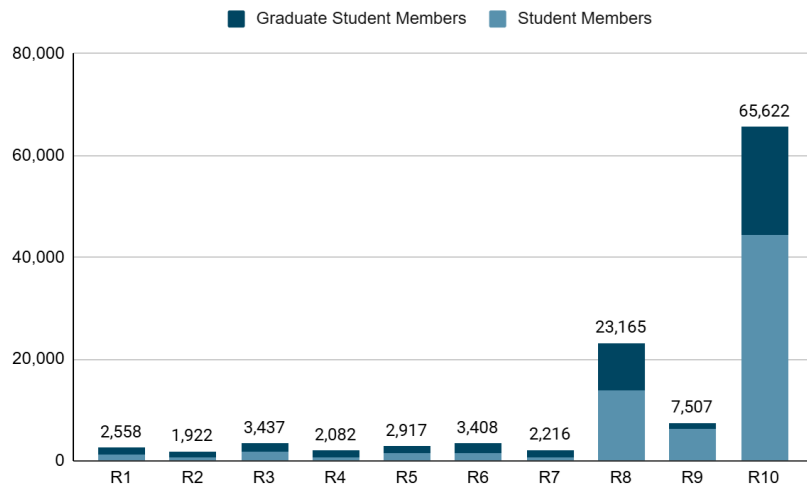
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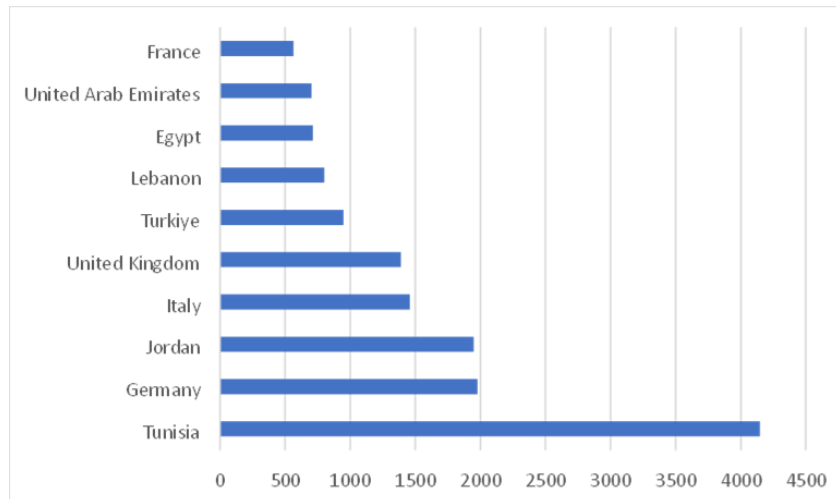
# Student Membership per Region



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# Top 10 Sections in Student Membership



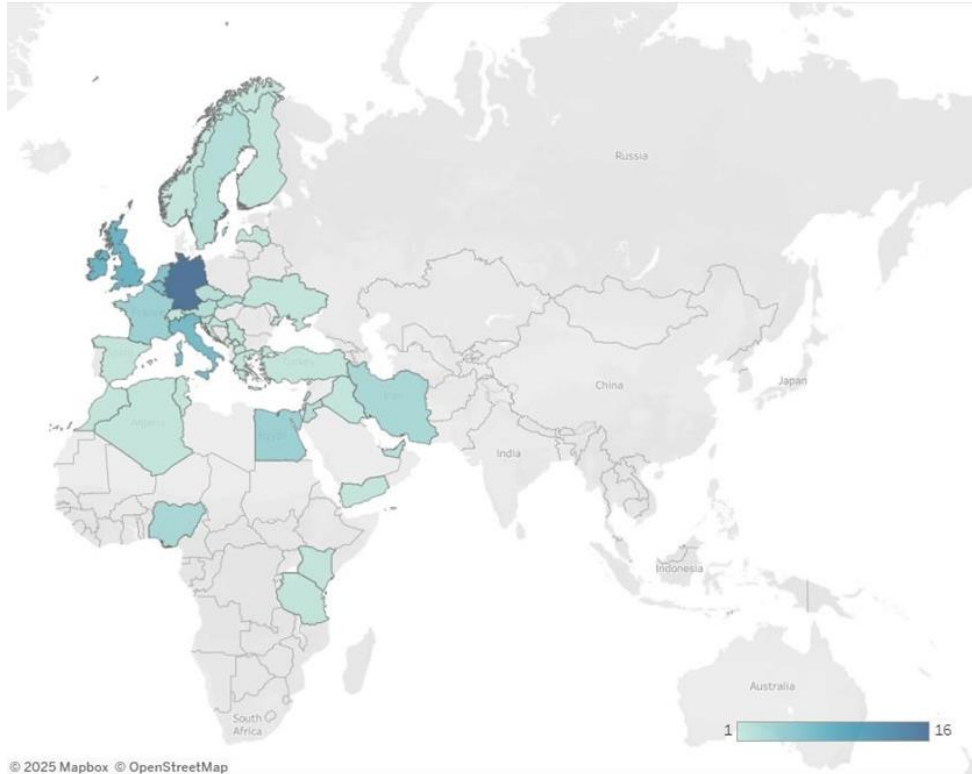
## Student Units Status

	Student Branches	Student Branch Affinity Groups	Student Branch Chapters
OCT 2024	786	210	719
MAR 2025	812	220	777
Difference	+26	+10	+58



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# Potential Student Units Formation



There is a potential of 76 new SBs and 135 new SBCs formation

[IEEE MGA Formations and Petitions](#)



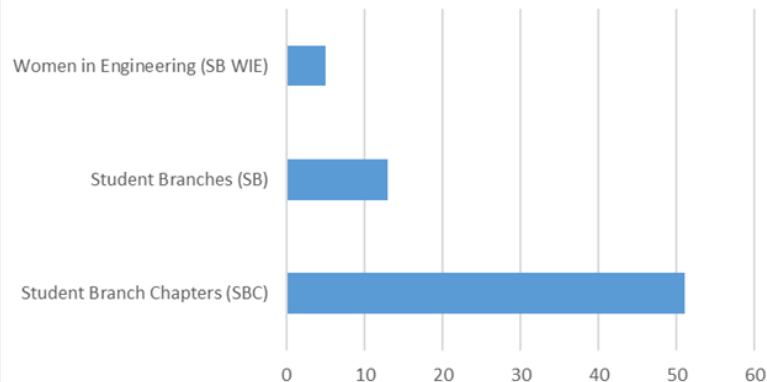
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# Student Units Petitions Statistics

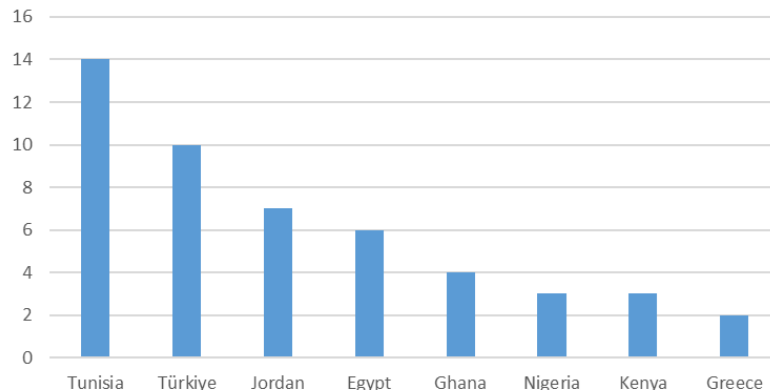


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Student Unit Type



Top Sections in number of petitions



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



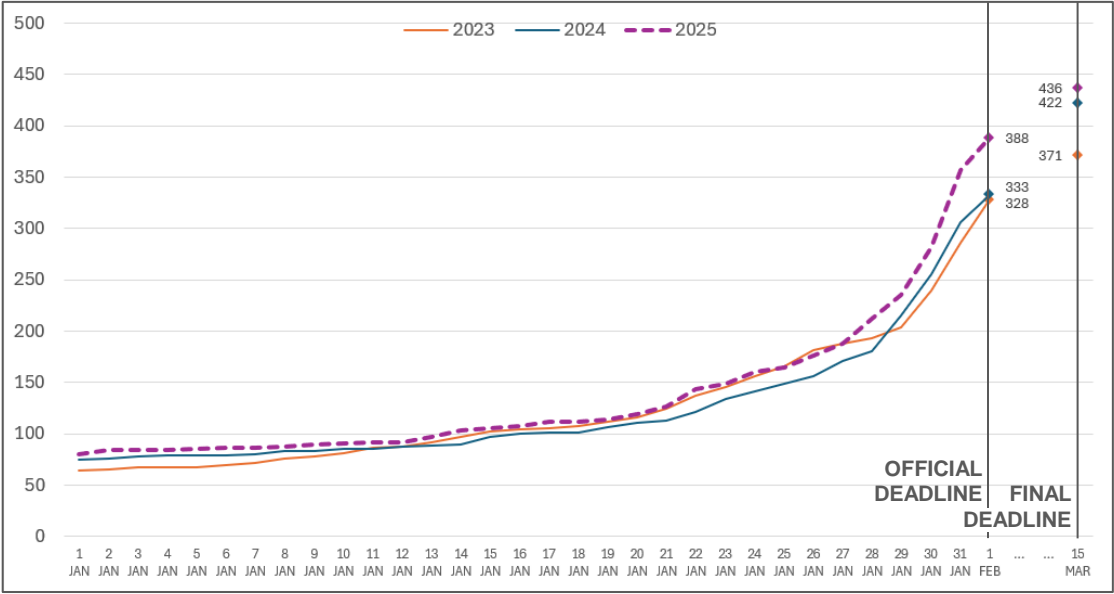
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# List of Dissolved Student Branches

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

*as per the November 2024 MGA Board meeting*

# Student Branch Annual Plan Reporting

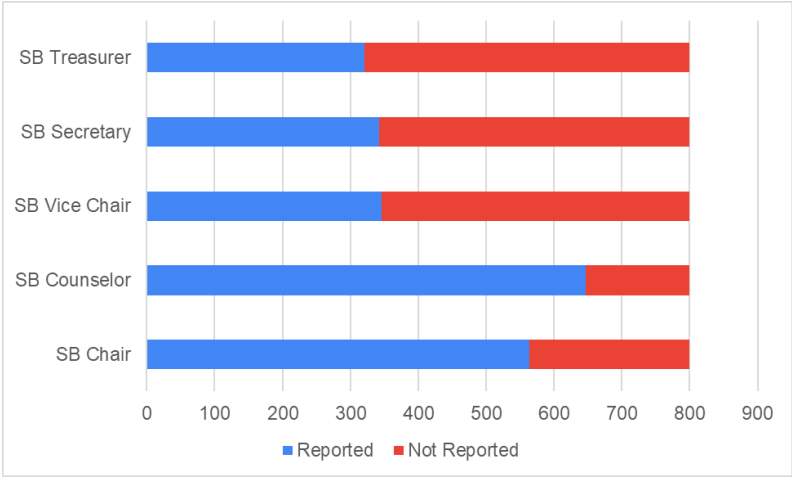




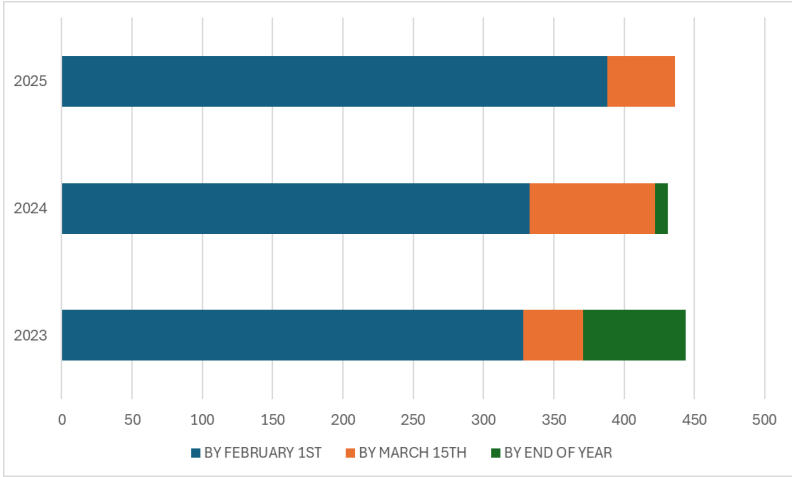
# Student Branch Reporting Status



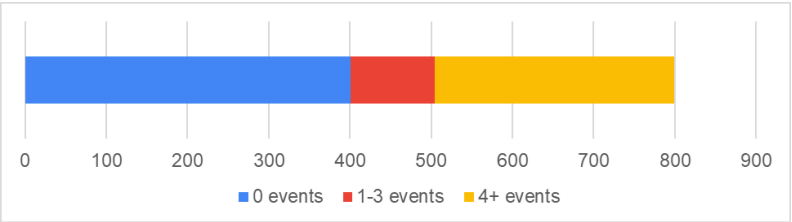
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Officers Reporting



Annual Plan Reporting

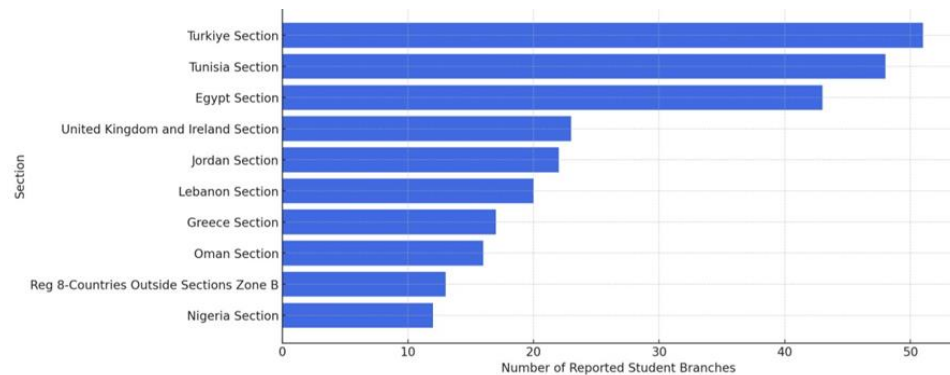


Events Reporting

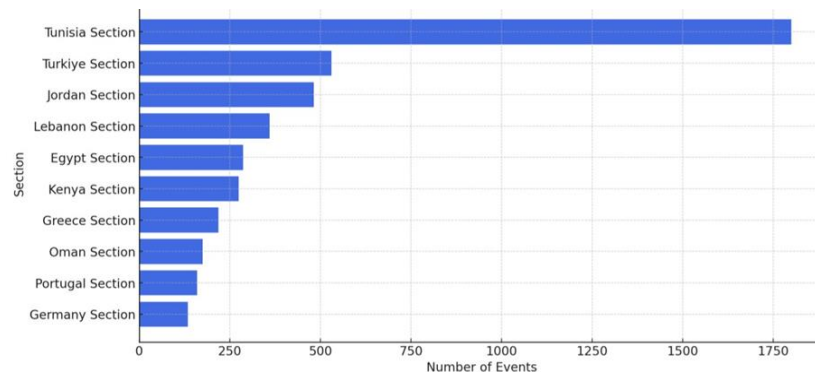
# Top 10 Sections in Student Branch Reporting



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Events  
Reporting





# Annual Plan Reporting Key Observations

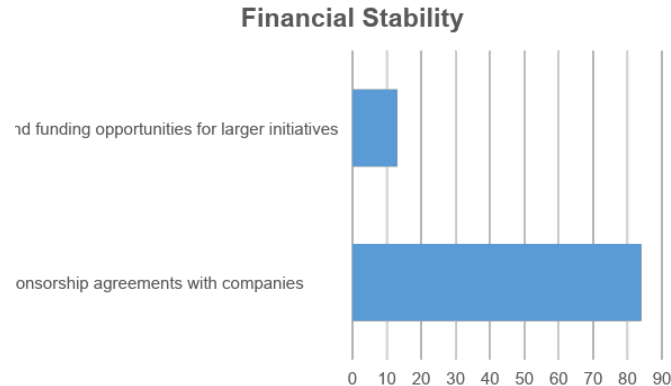
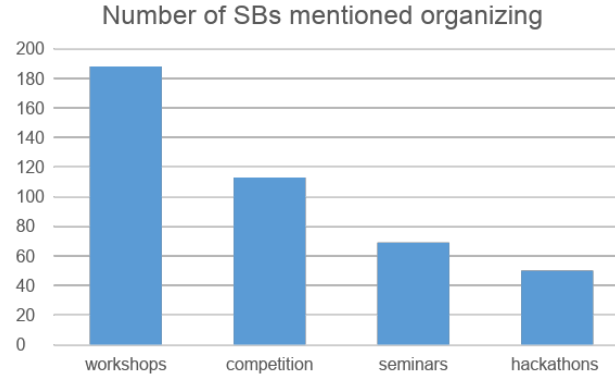
## Type of events mostly organized:

- workshops
- technical events
- seminars

to enhance student knowledge and professional development.

## General remarks:

- SBs rely on industry funding
- Lack of awareness of the available IEEE funding opportunities
- A very small number of SBs stated relying on Societies' funding through their respective SBCs
- Starting to rely on paid workshops and sessions to secure funds.



# Student Activities Support



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# Support for New Units through Spark Training

- 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.
- The focus is to help 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.

# New Student Units Spark Training

- **Goals**

- **Onboarding and Orientation**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Resource Provision**
- **Networking and Collaboration**
- **Sustainability and Growth**

Topics
1. Understanding IEEE Student Branches 2. Student Branch Reporting
1. Funding Opportunities 2. xSYPs & R8 SYP 3. Set up Your Committees 4. Recruiting Members & Volunteers
1. IEEE MGA and R8 Student Awards 2. IEEEExtreme Student Competition 3. IEEE Region 8 Student Contests
1. IEEE Organizational Units Roster 2. Brand Identity Toolkit 3. Web Hosting 4. Student Activities Website
Q&A and Open Discussion

- The session will be given by **different instructors** to showcase to the newly joined SB Leaders the **diversity we have in the Region**
- The main goal is to **give a space for interaction** rather than simply giving information



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# Coordination Plan with Section Student Activities

- **Challenges:**

- Limited communication between SSRs, Section SAC Chairs, and the Region 8 SAC.
- Difficulty in identifying student branch challenges at the Section level.

- **Channels:**

- Feedback Surveys.
- Quarterly Meetings.
- Continuous Communication (WhatsApp group)
- Motivation and Engagement (through our funding programs and activities for Sections)

# Vacant Student Activities Positions in Sections



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## **Section Student Activities Chair**

Belarus Section

Bulgaria Section

Cyprus Section

Finland Section

Iceland Section

Iran Section

Malta Section

Morocco Section

Norway Section

Romania Section

Saudi Arabia (East) Section

Saudi Arabia (West) Section

South Africa Section

## **Section Student Representative**

Bulgaria Section

Czechoslovakia Section

Germany Section

Hungary Section

Kenya Section

Kuwait Section

Norway Section

Saudi Arabia (East) Section

South Africa Section

Spain Section

Turkiye Section

Uganda Section

Ukraine Section



# Sectional Student Branch Leadership Meeting Program



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- **Goals**

- Meet each other and create synergy
- Provide IEEE operational knowledge
- Create a space to answer questions
- Accelerate student volunteers' knowledge of the IEEE.
- Help student volunteers understand their roles.
- Encourage SB officers to transfer knowledge to their student members.
- Provide more contextualization and formation about IEEE and guide Student Branches.



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## Sectional Student Branch Leadership Meeting Program

- The program provides financial support of up to **\$500**
- The funding amount must not exceed **75%** of the total event expenses
- In case of Student Branch, **Counselors** are invited and a Student Branch Counselors Forum is included, an additional funding of **200\$** (**total 700\$** for the event) is offered.
- A total of **4 Proposals** were received in the **1<sup>st</sup> Cycle**

# Funding Programs Funding Cycles



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## Cycle 1

currently open

Submission Deadline

**20** March

- ✓ Applications: Mar 1 - 20
- ✓ Decision: Mar 30
- ✓ Events: Apr 1 - Jul 15
- ✓ Final Reporting: Jul 20
- ✓ Funding Release: Aug



## Cycle 2

...

Submission Deadline

**20** June

- ✓ Applications: Jun 1 - 20
- ✓ Decision: Jun 30
- ✓ Events: Jul 1 - Oct 15
- ✓ Final Reporting: Oct 20
- ✓ Funding Release: Nov



## Cycle 3

...

Submission Deadline

**5** September

- ✓ Applications: Aug 16 - Sep 5
- ✓ Decision: Sep 15
- ✓ Events: Sep 16 - Nov 15
- ✓ Final Reporting: Nov 20
- ✓ Funding Release: Dec

# Regional Student Events

# 2025 Student Branch Counselors Training

1. Plan to collocate it with WESYP
2. Funding Request submitted to MGA Surplus fund 2025
3. Update for fund approval is expected in June/July
4. Call to participate in July
5. Training in September [11-13]



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# Section Student Activities Officers Training

1. Training will be in conjunction with MA and TA (R8 Training Series)
2. R8 provide accommodation, ground logistics, feeding, registration
3. Section to provide travels
4. Location: Tunisia
5. Date: 11th - 13th July, 2025
6. For any inquiry contact: [r8sac@ieee.org](mailto:r8sac@ieee.org)



**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC Officers**  
**Leadership Training**  
Alexandria 2024



**IEEE R8**  
**Counselors Training**



**IEEE Region 8**  
**Sectional Student Branch**  
**Chapters Coordinator**  
**Training**



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# Cross-Sectional SYP Updates



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	CEuSYP	Africa SYP	MENASYP	WESYP	Nordic SYP
Entities Involved & Section	Istanbul Technical University SB; Yeditepe University SB ( <i>Türkiye</i> )	UPSA SB; Ghana YP ( <i>Ghana</i> )	INSAT SB ( <i>Tunisia</i> )	Germany YP; TU Chemnitz SB; Hamburg University of Technology SB ( <i>Germany</i> )	Lithuania YP; Vilnius Tech SB ( <i>Lithuania</i> )
Location	Istanbul, Türkiye	Accra, Ghana	Tunis, Tunisia	Hamburg, Germany	Vilnius, Lithuania
Proposed Venue	Doğa Holiday Village	University of Professional Studies, Accra	Regency Tunis Hotel, Gammarth	Hamburg University of Technology	Go Vilnius
Dates	May 23-25 Sep/Oct [TBC]	August 22-24 August 25 (optional)	August 27-29 August 30 (optional)	September 11-13	September 19-21
Event Duration	3 days	3 days + 1 optional	3 days + 1 optional	3 days	3 days
Chair	Sude Kart	Maxwell Addison	Hanine Sassi	Moinam Chatarjee	Eldar Šabanović
Estimated Registration Fee	\$300	\$135 (+\$100)	\$250 (+\$50)	\$330	\$220
Expected # of Participants	150 - 200	200 - 250	250	100 - 150	100 - 150

# Cross-Sectional SYP Updates



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## Key important Actions from Mentors:

1. Visual identity unveiling
2. Follow up with respective organizer leads on Budget
3. Confirm status of any contracts and need to bring it to R8 Attention before endorsement
4. Confirm Time for registration open-Close with refund policies
5. Confirm the mean of receiving funds (CB, vtools, transfer, Visa, Mastercard, or any third party)
6. Website links and social media platform
7. Draft program (Objective is to train volunteers)
8. Funding Status
9. Schedule bi-weekly check-up



# Student Branch Leadership Support



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**AdHoc**  
Committee  
*Student Branch  
Leadership Support*



**Ala Chalhaf**  
Chair



**Neemat Abdelrahman**  
S-YP Transition  
Coordinator



**Oussema Fitouri**  
Student Branch Counselors  
Coordinator



**Krishna Ajith**  
Student Branch Chapters  
Coordinator



**Gina Carrillo**



**Matteo Bruno Lodi**



**Andre Çakici**



**Harout Topjian**



**Martijn Dendooven**



**Wadee Hajali**



# Meet Our Team



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# Student Branch Surveys & Coordination

## Objective

Collect structured feedback from **Student Branches**, **Student Branch Chapters**, and **Counselors** to:

- Enhance their overall experience
- Identify and address challenges
- Provide necessary support and resources
- Ensure alignment with IEEE R8 initiatives

## Results

Number of responders to the surveys as of 31 March 2025:

- Counselors Survey: 32
- Student Branches Officers Survey: 39
- Student Branch Chapters Officers Survey: 15

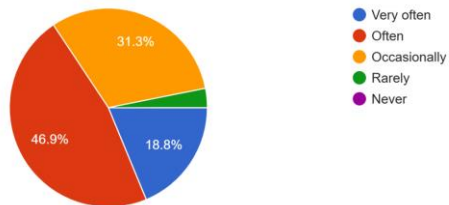
# Student Branch Surveys & Coordination



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How often are you consulted or involved in decision-making by your Student Branch officers?

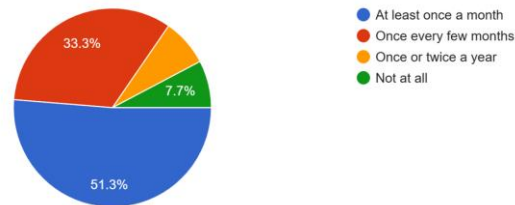
32 responses



Counselors Survey

How often do you communicate with your local IEEE Section officers?

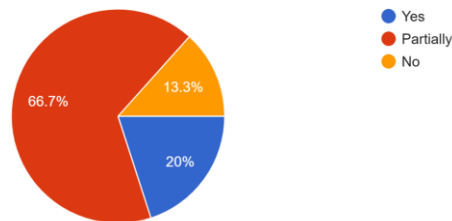
39 responses



Student Branches Survey

Do you feel you receive enough recognition or support from your institution ?

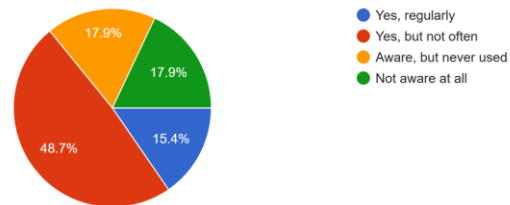
15 responses



Student Branch Chapters Survey

Have you used any available IEEE training resources or manuals for Student Branch officers (e.g., Student Branch Operations Guide)?

39 responses



Student Branches Survey



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# Student Branch Leadership Training Webinar Series

## Objective

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.

## Webinars Strategy Overview

- **Dedicated Webinar Series in September:**
  - Curated for Student Units and Student Volunteers.
- **On-Demand Webinars:**
  - Organize webinars based on survey responses and specific requests.

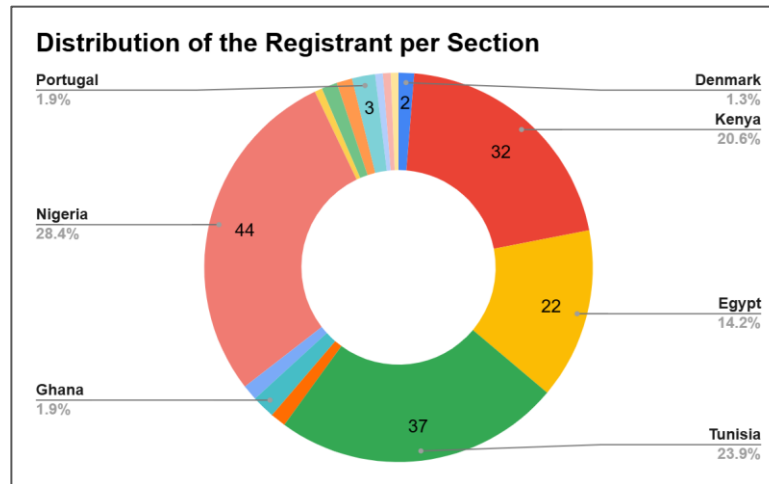
# Student Branch Leadership Training Webinar Series



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Organized the 1st webinar “IEEE R8 SAC Funding Programs” on 18 March 2025

- Number of Registrations: 155 (*from 15 different Sections*)
- Number of Attendees: 90



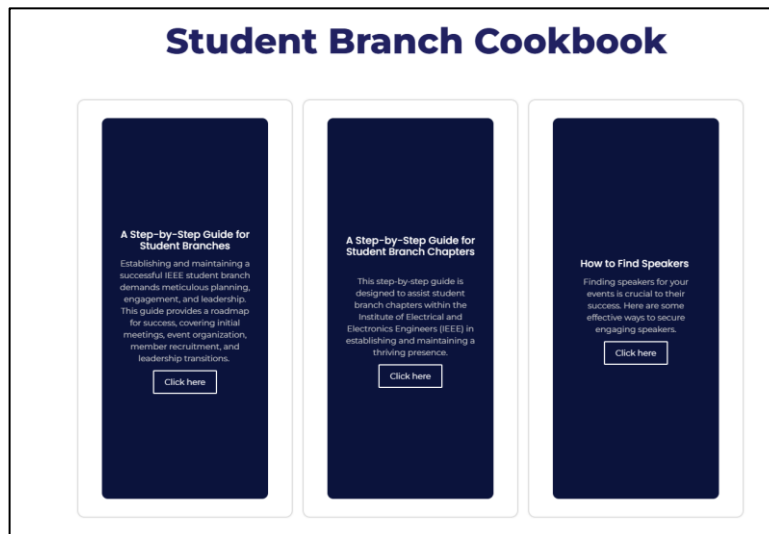
# SBs & SBCs Guidelines



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## Objective

- To enhance and update the R8 SAC SBs & SBCs Guidelines, with the aim 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
- Improved awareness and accessibility of SBs & SBCs guidelines
- Higher adoption rates of best practices among Student Branches
- Currently working on review and integrate “Open Office Hours” Program





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# Section Student Branch Excellence Badge

## Objective

- To recognize IEEE Sections based on the **percentage of submitted Student Branch reports** submitted per year, encouraging greater compliance, engagement, and accountability in Region 8

## Release timeline:

- The 2025 badge will be communicated to the Sections in Q4 2025

## Badges Tiers:

- Based on percentage of submitted Student Branch reports







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# Funding Programs Overview

- **Bridging Students with Industry Program** *(for Student Branches only)*  
Designed to foster collaboration between students, Young Professionals (YPs), and industry partners.
- **Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program** *(for both Sections and Student Branches)*  
Designed to support innovative and impactful student-led initiatives with goal of strengthening teamwork at sectional level and beyond.
- **Local Student Paper Contest Events Program** *(for both Sections and Student Branches)*  
Designed to support local versions of SPCs that can lead student papers to be showcased at the Regional SPC.
- **Student Branch Hardware Contests Program** *(for Student Branches only)*  
Designed to support SBs in organizing hardware contests, encouraging students to develop innovative hardware-based projects.
- **Sectional Student Branch Leadership Meetings Program** *(for Sections only)*  
Designed to support leadership training sessions for the Executive Committee members of the Student Branches within a Section.



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# Funding Programs Specifications

- Each Section or Student Branch can receive funding **only once per program per year**.
- Funding for **each activity** is limited to **one program only**.
- The applications have to include endorsement letters:
  - For **Sections**: Section Chair (or their designee), **SSAC or SSR**
  - For Student Branches: Student Branch Chair or Counselor or any Advisor
- Should your application be initially approved, you will have to submit the outcome report **within thirty (30) days** after the conclusion of the activity (or by the cycle final reporting deadline if earlier) with all requested details, including the use of funds.
- Funding can cover the total budget only **partially** to ensure that applicants secure additional resources and demonstrate financial commitment to their event.



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# Bridging Students with Industry Program

## *Funding Program*

### Objective

- Aims to foster collaboration between **Students, Young Professionals, and industry partners** by supporting events that blend professional networking, career development, industry exposure and encourage IEEE membership transition (Student → YP)

### Who Can Apply

- Student Branches

### Funding

- Financial support **up to \$600 USD**

For more details: <https://r8.ieee.org/sac/events-funding/>



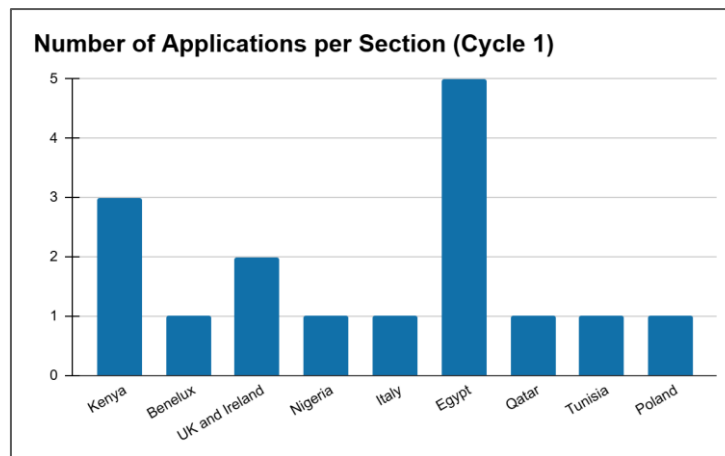
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# Bridging Students with Industry Program

## *Funding Program*

### Results

- Number of applications (cycle 1): 16
- Approved Proposal from:
  - IEEE Student Branch Politecnico di Torino  
Italy Section
  - Modern Academy for Engineering and Technology  
Egypt Section
  - Leuven SB  
Benelux Section
  - IEEE University of Birmingham Student Branch  
UK & Ireland Section





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# Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program

## *Funding Program*

### Objective

- The Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program aims to support and incentivize quality sectional, cross-sectional and regional levels **collaborations** between SBs, SBCs, SB WIE Affinity Groups, and Sections to create innovative, impactful, and scalable student-led initiatives

### Who Can Apply

- Student Branches and/or Sections

### Funding

- Financial support **up to \$1,000 USD**

For more details: <https://r8.ieee.org/sac/events-funding/>

# Collaborative Student Initiatives Booster Program

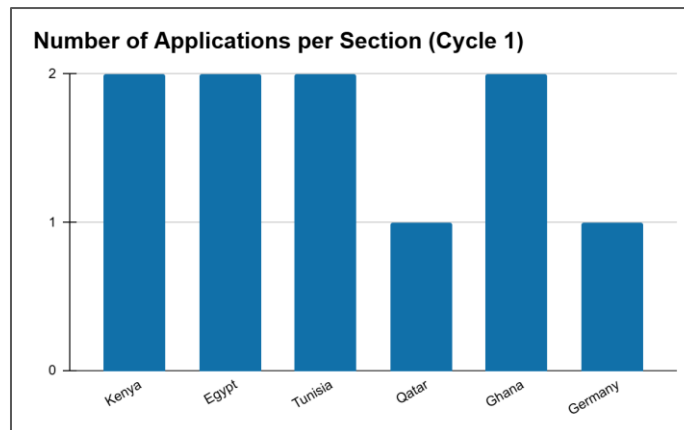
## *Funding Program*



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## Results

- **Number of applications (cycle 1): 10**
- **Approved Proposal from:**
  - Kenyatta University  
Kenya Section
  - Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology  
Egypt Section



# Student Awards and Contests



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**AdHoc**  
Committee  
*Student Awards  
& Contests*

# Meet Our Team



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**Khaldoun Taktak**  
Chair



**Vera Marković**  
Past Chair & Student Paper  
Contest Coordinator



**Iraqy Ali**  
Student Hardware Contest  
Coordinator



**Haris Čapelj**



**Yahya Al Balushi**



**Alkiviadis Michalitsis**



**Tawfik Sallemi**



**Qusai Mashriqi**



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# IEEE MGA SAC Awards

- **Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Activities Award**  
*for student volunteers*
- **IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award**  
*for student branches*
- **The Darrel Chong Student Activity Award**  
*for student events*
- **IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Award**  
*for counselors and advisors*



**CALL FOR IEEE STUDENT AWARDS 2025**



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The Darrel Chong Student Activity Award  
IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award  
Larry K. Wilson Regional Student Volunteer Award  
IEEE Outstanding Branch Counselor and Branch Chapter Advisor Award

**DEADLINE: 31 MARCH 2025**

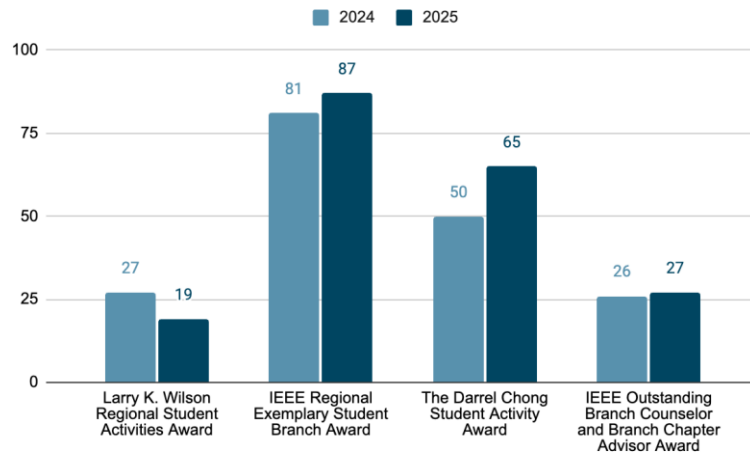
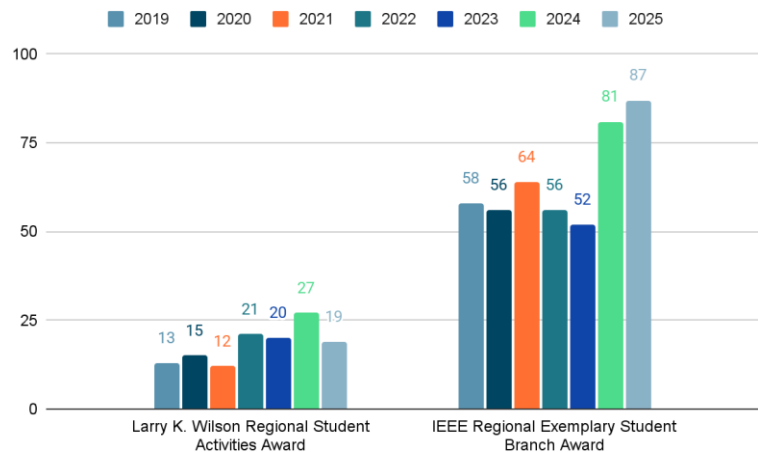
For more information please visit:  
[students.ieee.org/student-opportunities/sac-awards-programs/](https://students.ieee.org/student-opportunities/sac-awards-programs/)

BE ON TOP. INSPIRE OTHERS

# IEEE MGA SAC Awards - Statistics



IEEE  
R8 SAC



# IEEE MGA SAC Awards - Next Steps



**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC**

- Coordinate with MGA SAC and the coordinators for each award the judging process
- When possible and for some of the awards; shortlist the applications that are not eligible to make the judging process easier
- Try making the judging process smoother to get results in a better time frame
- Finalize the call for judges and start working on the evaluation process

# IEEE Region 8 Student Awards



**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC**

 **IEEE Region 8 Student Branch of the Year Award \***

 **IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Website Contest**

 **IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year Award**

 **IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group of the Year Award**

 **IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Student Volunteer Award**

 **IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Student Branch SIGHT Group of the Year Award**

## Apply following IEEE Region 8 Awards deadlines

*\* The IEEE Region 8 Student Branch of the Year Award nomination is automatic during ExSB nomination*

# IEEE Region 8 Student Branch of the Year

- Documentation submitted during Exemplary Student Branch Award Application
- Nomination is automatic
- Categories:  
First, Second and Third Place
- Prize:  
Certificate from IEEE Region 8

# IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Website Contest

- Award given to recognise the best Student Branch Websites
- Part of the IEEE Region 8 Awards Program
- Prize:  
1st (\$300) 2nd (\$200) 3rd (\$100)



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## IEEE Region 8 Student Branch Chapter of the Year

- Selection is based on the outstanding performance of the nominated chapter
- Nomination form and supporting documents required
- Categories:  
Small (<25), Medium (25 – 60) and Large (>60 members)
- Prize:  
Certificate from IEEE Region 8

## IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Student Branch SIGHT Group of the Year Award

- Recognize a SIGHT Student Branch Group who has made an outstanding contribution to IEEE SIGHT and to the local underserved community
- Prize:  
\$300 + Certificate



IEEE  
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# IEEE Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Awards



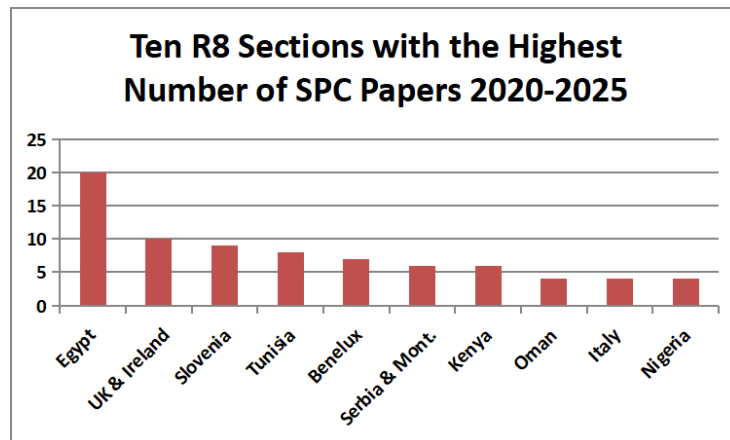
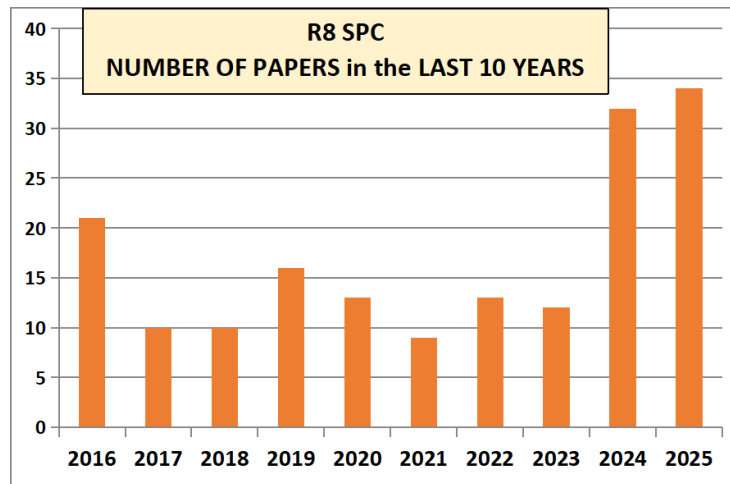
IEEE  
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- ▶ Recognizes WIE members and WIE Affinity Groups who have made outstanding contributions to IEEE WIE, their community, and the engineering profession.
- ▶ **Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Affinity Group of the Year Award.**
  - Prize: \$350 + Certificate
- ▶ **Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Student Volunteer Award.**
  - Prize: \$250 + Certificate



# IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest

- The first phase of the 2025 Student Paper Contest has successfully concluded.
- A significant number of valid submissions were received (34).
- The review process, conducted by an international jury, was completed before the end of February.
- The selection of the top five papers has been finalized. All 34 authors have been informed via email with decision letters.
- The preparation of certificates for all SPC participants is in progress.



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# IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest Places 6-10



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**Imperial College  
London -  
6th Place**

Václav Pavlíček - UK & Ireland (UK)

Unlimited Sampling of Sparse Signals: Beyond Fourier Domain and Bandlimited  
Kernels

**Imperial College  
London -  
7th Place**

Bastien Baluyot, Marta Varela, Chen Qin - UK & Ireland (UK)

Spectral Bias Correction in PINNs for Myocardial Image Registration of  
Pathological Data

**University of  
Ljubljana -  
8th Place**

Eva Urankar - Slovenia

Waste Detection on Mobile Devices: Model Performance and Efficiency  
Comparison

**American University  
of Beirut -  
9th Place**

Mohammad Zbeeb, Mariam Salman, Mohamad Bazzi - Lebanon

Optimizing Deep Neural Networks using Safety-Guided Self Compression

**Politecnico di  
Torino -  
10th Place**

Giovanni Ferrannini, Dario Di Gregorio, Federico Fissore - Italy

Mapping Game Theory to Quantum Systems: Nash Equilibria via Neutral Atom  
Computing

# IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest Finalists



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<b>Institut national des sciences appliquées et de technologie - INSAT</b>	<b>Mohamed Achref Ben Ammar - Tunisia</b> A Computational Approach to Modeling Conversational Systems: Analyzing Large- Scale Quasi-Patterned Dialogue Flows
<b>Catholic University of Louvain</b>	<b>Arman Nikrafta Khiabani - Belgium</b> Deep Reinforcement Learning for the Expert-Advice Multi-Armed Bandit
<b>Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje</b>	<b>Emilija Chona - North Macedonia</b> Transformer-Driven Dynamic Resource Reconfiguration in Cellular Networks
<b>University of Maribor</b>	<b>Klemen Berkovič, Borko Bošković, Janez Brest-Slovenia</b> Cooperative Coevolution Framework with Recursive Differential Grouping Algorithms for Solving Large- Scale Optimization Problems
<b>Imperial College London</b>	<b>Zeyang Ai, Yiming Zhou - UK &amp; Ireland (UK)</b> Interpretable Learning via Proximal Optimization

*the list of finalists is presented in no particular order  
and does not reflect the ranking or the winners*



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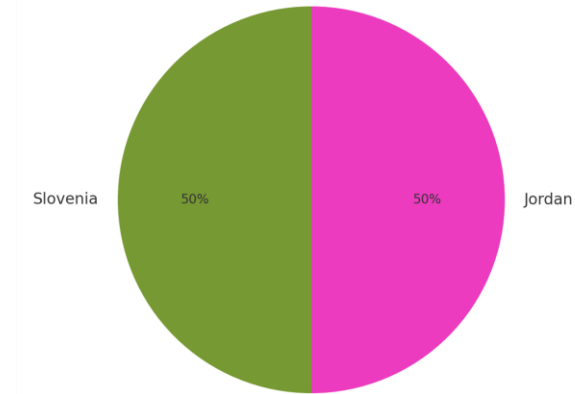
# IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest Finals

- The 2025 IEEE Region 8 Student Paper Contest Finals will be held during IEEE EUROCON in Gdynia, Poland, on June 4-6, 2025
- Preparatory activities for SPC Finals are in progress:
  - Preparation and submission of camera-ready papers for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings and IEEE Xplore Library
  - Coordination of traveling arrangements for the five SPC finalists and booking suitable accommodation in a student residence provided by Gdynia Maritime University
  - Help in obtaining visas for those finalists who need them
  - Coordination of traveling and accommodation arrangements for the SPC Jury members
  - Preparation of the SPC certificates



# Local Student Paper Contest Events Program – Cycle 1

- First call **exclusive for sections** was concluded
- Added the possibility of holding training events before the contest
- 2 applications were received from Jordan and Slovenia
- We are considering opening another call for proposals during summer in the second funding cycle to encourage more participations from sections in the next calls





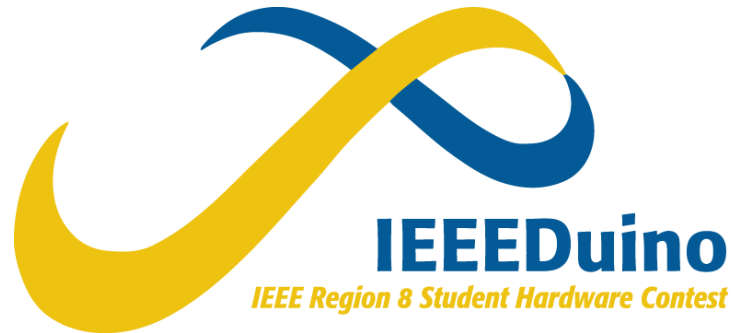
**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC**

# IEEEDuino – IEEE Region 8 Student Hardware Contest

IEEEDuino 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

## 2025 Goals

- Increase Awareness and Engagement
- Expand Participation
- Enhance The Process of the Contest
- Build Strategic Partnerships
- Support Scalable Projects



# IEEEDuino 2025



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## What we have achieved

- Team Selection
- Updating Rules
- Timeline
- Social Media Designs

## What we will achieve

- Updating Website
- Starting the Contest Process
- Contacting TS to collaborate

# IEEEDuino 2025



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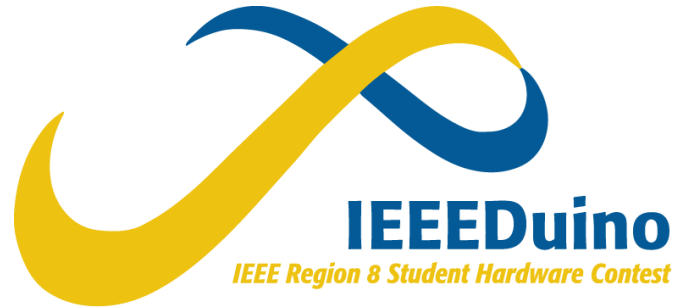
## Timeline

Milestone	Date
Finalizing Rules and Forms	Mar 11, 2025
Teams Registration Announcement	Mar 28, 2025
Call For Judges	Mar 31, 2025
Judging Selection	Apr 15, 2025
Design Phase Submission	Apr 15, 2025
Design Phase Results	May 5, 2025
Build Phase Submission	May 31, 2025

# Join us as a Judge



<https://forms.gle/5qQxbSGLCaBHXqddA>



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# Student Branch Hardware Contests Program

Designed to support Student Branches in organizing hardware contests, encouraging students to develop innovative hardware-based projects.

## Goals

- Facilitate Collaboration and Stronger Relationships between R8 SAC and SBs
- Promote the Awareness of Hardware Activities and Develop New Hardware Program/s
- Focus on following SBs Hardware Activities to offer our support
- Identifying outstanding Hardware Activities

## Cycle 1 Insights

- We have received **14 SB** unique applications from **8 Sections**

# Student Branch Hardware Contests Program

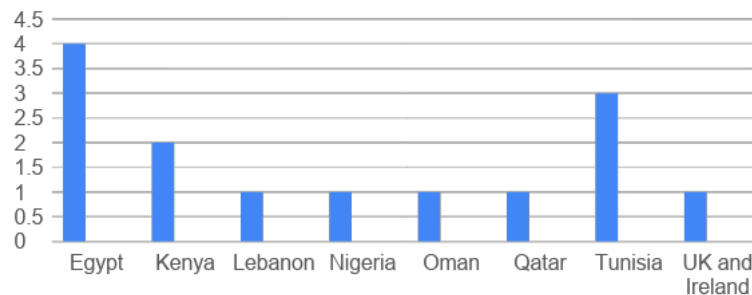


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5 proposals were accepted during the first call from:

- Kenya
- Tunisia
- UK & Ireland
- Egypt
- Lebanon

Cycle 1 Applications



# Student Experience Portfolio Initiatives



IEEE R8 SAC

## AdHoc Committee

*Student Experience  
Portfolio Initiatives*



**Martyna Borak**  
Chair



**Vildana Hrnjić**  
Past Chair &  
Humanitarian Technologies &  
Entrepreneurship Coordinator



**Mohamed Ali Zormati**  
Professional & Educational  
Activities Coordinator



**Fay Elhassan**  
Communications &  
Publicity Coordinator



**Sahar Youssef**



**Abdulhameed Raji**



**Seie Vasia Soula**



**Davide Morgado**



**Gasser Ahmad**



**Jafar Alkhadrawi**



**Antony Gitau**



# Meet Our Team



**IEEE  
R8 SAC**

# IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Journey

3-month online course designed to equip IEEE members with foundational entrepreneurial skills and a growth-oriented mindset, co-organized by **IEEE R8 SAC** and **IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Committee**.

## >> Pilot edition

- 200+ applications
- 100+ active participants
- 20+ speakers
- 11 webinars + 4 panels



>> Started in 2024

New edition in 2026 >>



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# IEEE R8 Entrepreneurship Journey



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IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship  
Journey

**PANEL:**  
**Pitfalls, dos and don'ts  
of Entrepreneurship**

June 9th, 2024  
11 AM (GMT)



**Mohamed El Dallal**  
Serial Entrepreneur  
& Vice Chair  
IEEE Entrepreneurship


Organized by:

IEEE R8 SAC IEEE regions  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE

IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship  
Journey

**PRESENTATION:**  
**How to build a  
business plan?**

June 15th, 2024  
12 PM (GMT)



**Rawan El Jamal**  
Manager at Mastercard UK,  
Entrepreneurship Enthusiast  
& Chair of IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship

Organized by:

IEEE R8 SAC IEEE regions  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE

IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship  
Journey

**PRESENTATION:**  
**Negotiations skills**

September 1th, 2024  
3 PM (GMT)



**Mohamed Amin**  
Head of Transportation &  
Cities Segment Sales - MEA  
& Chair of IEEE R8 Careers  
Ad Hoc Committee

Organized by:

IEEE R8 SAC IEEE regions  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE

IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship  
Journey

**PANEL:**  
**The power of Habits  
for Entrepreneurs**

June 30th, 2024  
2 PM (GMT)



**Simay Akar**  
Founder and CEO  
of AK Energy Consulting  
& IEEE Senior Member

Organized by:

IEEE R8 SAC IEEE regions  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE

IEEE R8  
Entrepreneurship  
Journey

**PRESENTATION:**  
**Who is your  
target segment?**

June 22nd, 2024  
12 PM (GMT)



**Larissa Abi Nakhle**  
Co-founder and Head of  
Partnerships at ZAKA  
& IEEE Entrepreneurship  
Social Media Core Team  
Lead

Organized by:

IEEE R8 SAC IEEE regions  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COMMITTEE

# Students PodTalk – IEEE R8 SAC Podcast

Official podcast of IEEE R8 SAC highlighting **outstanding IEEE members**, engineers, and innovators across IEEE Region 8, sharing the journeys of award-winning professionals, pioneering leaders, and successful entrepreneurs.

>> Episodes **every 3-6 weeks**

>> Streamed live on **social media and YouTube**

>> Started in 2024

THIS WEEK'S GUEST

IEEE R8 SAC Students PodTalk

**ANTONIO LUQUE**  
VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT, MEMBER AND GEOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

**CYBELE GHANEM**  
IEEE DAY CHAIR

**SAHAR YOUSSEF**  
R8 SAC ADHOC MEMBER

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER  
17:00 CEST/GMT+2

EP 01

THIS WEEK'S GUEST

IEEE R8 SAC Students PodTalk

**JIHEN CHOUAIB**  
IEEEEXTREME AMBASSADOR PROGRAM CO-LEAD & STRATEGY AND PROCTOR PROGRAM LEAD

**SAHAR YOUSSEF**  
R8 SAC ADHOC MEMBER

SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2024  
12:00 CEST/GMT+2

EP 02

WE ARE BACK !!

IEEE Region 8 Students PodTalk

**THEODOROS CHATZINIKOLAOU**  
REGION 8 STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHAIR  
VICE-CHAIR, STUDENT ACTIVITIES

**SAHAR YOUSSEF**  
R8 SAC ADHOC MEMBER

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2025  
12:00 CEST/GMT+2

EP 03



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# IEEE R8 Student Experience Survey

Designed to evaluate students' **satisfaction with IEEE membership**, identify gaps or issues in the programs, including **R8 SAC and PEA**. Provides students with an **opportunity to share their needs** for new or improved initiatives.

## >> Methods

- All **Student and Graduate Student Members** in IEEE Region 8 were invited to participate
- Questions regarding:
  - General IEEE membership experience
  - IEEE R8 SAC brand and role
  - Professional and Educational Activities (PEA)
  - Barriers to IEEE engagement

## >> Results

- **200** responses
- **48+** Sections



*\*Data as of April 1, 2025*



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# IEEE R8 Student Experience Survey



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## Demographics

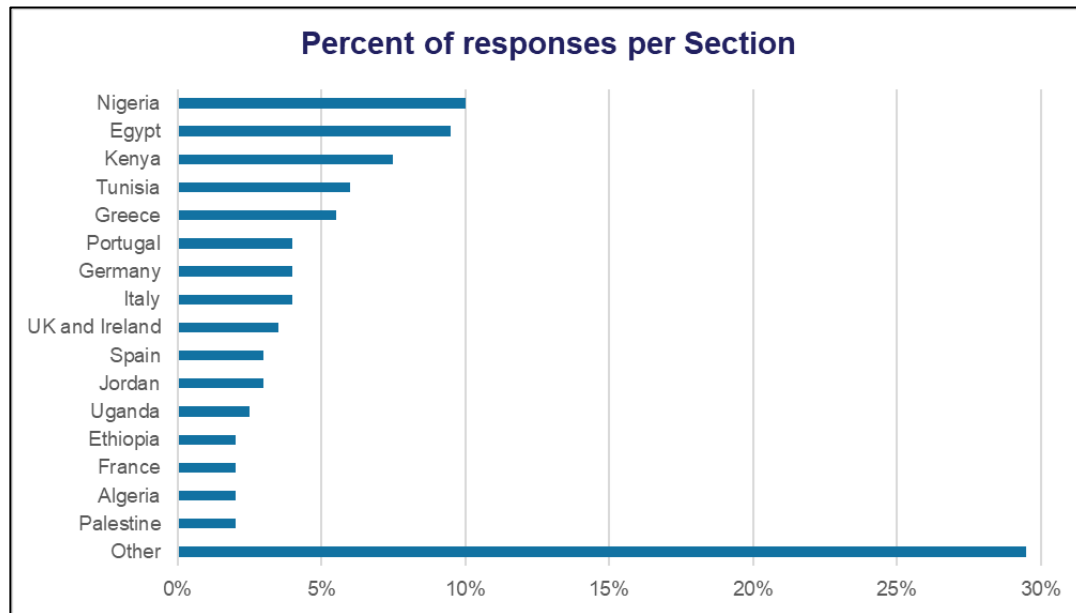
>> **200** responses

>> **48+** Sections

>> **75%** Student Members

>> **21.5%** Graduate Student Members

>> **46.5%** have held a leadership position



*\*Data as of April 1, 2025*

# IEEE R8 Student Experience Survey



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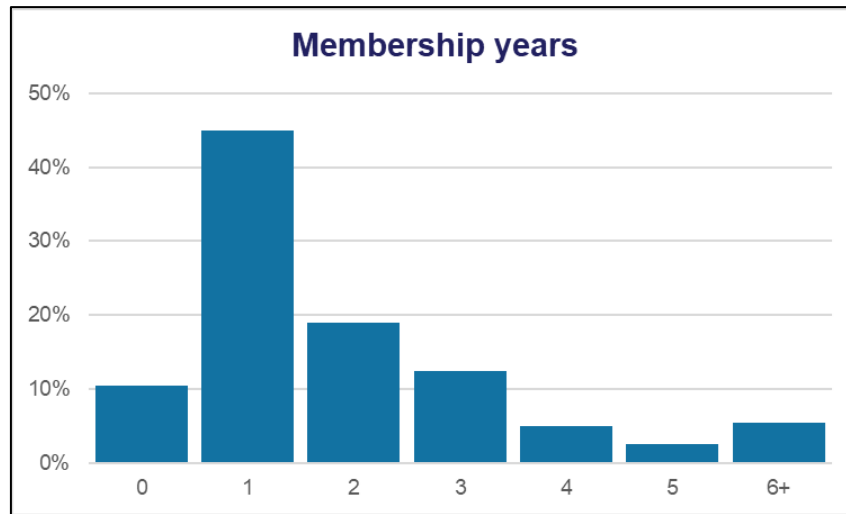
**>> 62% first heard about IEEE from university or professors**

**>> Top 3 motivations to join:**

- Technical events, workshops, and conferences
- Interest in technology and innovation
- Professional networking opportunities

**>> Top 5 types of activities:**

- Conference or symposium
- Volunteering activities
- Webinars and online trainings
- Technical seminars, workshops, and industry visits
- Student contests



*\*Data as of April 1, 2025*

# IEEE R8 Student Experience Survey

Range: -100 to 100

Above 0 is good

Above 20 is favorable

Above 50 is excellent

Above 80 is world-class



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>> NPS of IEEE Membership: 4 (good)

>> Top 3 barriers to participation:

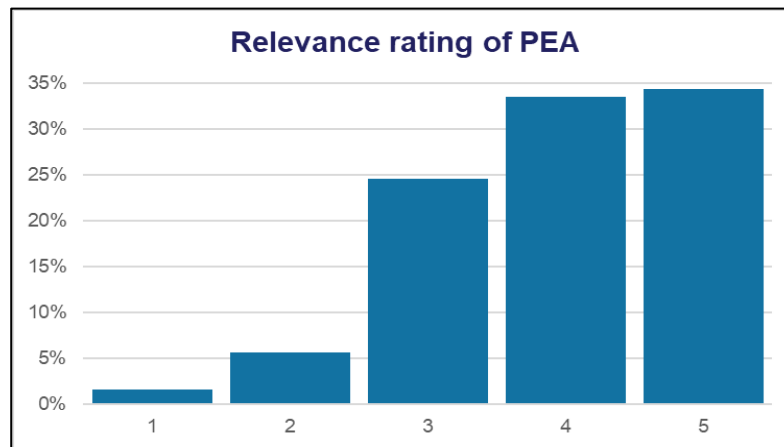
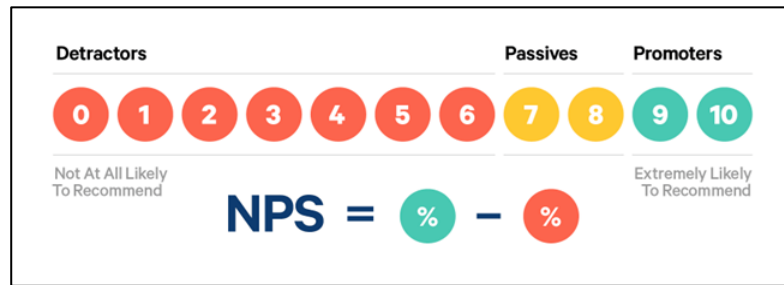
- Financial barriers (~60%)
- Time constraints
- Limited local activities / Insufficient information

>> 26.5% of respondents **don't know** if they will continue their membership after graduation

>> NPS of PEA: 4.9 (good)

>> Top 4 types of activities:

- Webinars and online course
- Mentorship programs
- Entrepreneurship Week
- Pre-University STEM outreach



\*Data as of April 1, 2025

# Soft Skills Training Sessions

Series of workshops at key events such as **Cross-Sectional SYP Congresses** and **IEEE R8 flagship/portfolio conferences**, aiming to expand the range of topics covered by R8 SAC during in-person meetings.

>> Submitted an **MGA Surplus Funding** request to support the initiative.

>> Will equip IEEE members with **skills essential for success** in:

- early-career
- research
- volunteering roles



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R8 SAC

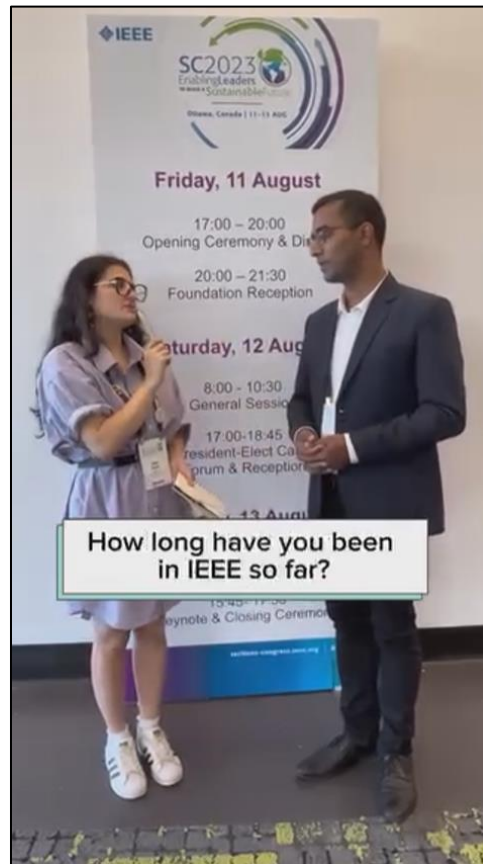
— NEW —

# kIEEEp up / Keep It Up

Content-driven initiative launched in 2023, focusing on capturing **in-person interviews** with experienced IEEE volunteers at IEEE events, aiming to enhance IEEE R8's social media presence with dynamic and impactful content - **reels/shorts format**.

- >> Uplifting insights
- >> Funny stories
- >> Behind the scenes moments

>> Started in 2023



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# Collaborations

>> IEEE R8 HTAC: Student Humanitarian Ambassadors Program

>> AiN: Introduction to Computational Neuroscience Summer School

>> SIGHT Kenya: IEEE Humanitarian Impact Evaluation Challenge



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# Website and Social Media

Maintaining the official **R8 SAC website** and overseeing its all **social media accounts** to provide up-to-date information on programs and resources, while strengthening the online presence of R8 SAC.



[r8.ieee.org/sac/](https://r8.ieee.org/sac/)



**IEEE R8 SAC**  
[facebook.com/ieee.r8sac](https://facebook.com/ieee.r8sac)



**IEEE R8 SAC**  
[linkedin.com/company/ieee-r8sac](https://linkedin.com/company/ieee-r8sac)



**@ieee.r8sac**  
[instagram.com/ieee.r8sac](https://instagram.com/ieee.r8sac)



**IEEE R8 Student Activities Committee**  
[@ieeer8studentactivitiescom46](https://@ieeer8studentactivitiescom46)



**IEEE**  
**R8 SAC**



# IEEE R8 SAC Newsletter

Proposed new channel of communication that students can opt-in to receive, aiming to provide IEEE students with regular **updates, insights, and opportunities** within IEEE Region 8, by delivering relevant content in a **structured format**.

- >> Issued every **2 or 3 months**
- >> Relations from events
- >> Exclusive insights
- >> Featured stories



— N E W —

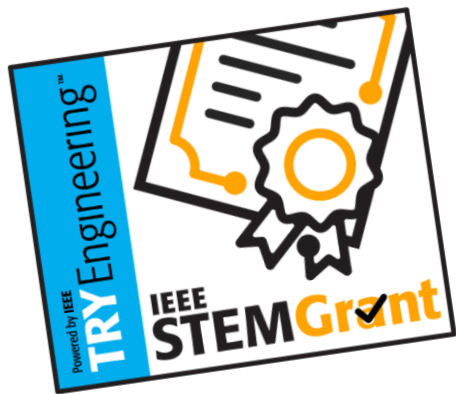


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# Student Opportunities

# An IEEE world of opportunities



IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu



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# Student Professional Awareness (SPAx)

- Provides funding for IEEE Student Branches to plan **career-focused events**
  - Events with two or more speakers are encouraged
  - Can be multi-day events
- IEEE Student Branches are encouraged to:
  - Promote IEEE Student to IEEE Young Professional transition
  - Promote IEEE member recruitment

IEEE  
students

# Virtual Speakers Bureau

- Allows IEEE OUs from anywhere in the world to select from a list of **600+ professional and technical topics**
- Vetted professionals deliver **live virtual talks** free of charge in 17 different languages
- Dates, times, and digital platforms used for events are decided by speakers & Student Branches



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# IEEE Potentials Magazine

- Award-winning magazine **established in 1982**
- Provides **undergraduate and graduate students** with content addressing global issues, career development topics, and technology trends while emphasizing the value of continuing membership
- Aims to be topical, authoritative, entertaining, and informative
- Publishes **technical articles** (up to 4000 words), **opinion essays** (up to 1000 words), **columns**, and **Student Branch Features**



**Always looking for student-authored content!**



**IEEE**  
R8 SAC

# Young Professionals STEP Events

- Student Transition and Elevation Partnership (STEP) Funding
  - Maximum award is **US\$500**
- STEP events unite IEEE Young Professionals and IEEE Students to help facilitate the transition from Student to Young Professional.
- STEP events expose existing and potential IEEE Members to IEEE Membership benefits, YP services, and pathways for continued involvement with IEEE.

# Humanitarian Technology Projects

- EPICS in IEEE
  - Empowers **university students** to work along with technical professionals and communities around the world to enhance their practical engineering skills and knowledge through **service-learning experiences**
- Tech4Good
  - T4G program offers funding opportunities to support grassroots **technological projects**, led by IEEE members, that address local challenges related to **sustainable development**



**IEEE**  
R8 SAC

سپاس Dank u Küitos  
Paldies Спацидо Multumesc  
شكرًا Đakujem Gracias  
Asante Obrigado Tanemmirt  
Hvala Teşekkür ederim Дзякуша Рахмет  
تشكرم Tack  
**THANK YOU**  
Grazzi Ευχαριστώ Dziękuję Enkosi  
Ačiū Kösönöm Благодарам Dankie  
Благодаря Tak Дзякуй  
Takh Grazie Danke Děkuji  
Aitäh Merci Grazia