

Finland Section

Mahdi Pourakbari Kasmaei, chair

Section Vitality

- The last Section election took place in Dec. 2023, and the new officers started their roles on January 15, 2024. We do not have a mandatory practice of the Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair, we carry out elections, and any candidate can be nominated. We had 2 section board meetings in 2024 so far. In our meetings, we discussed our plan to bring the IEEE Region 8 meeting to Finland, support local conferences in Finland, arrange joint events at the time of the conferences, and support elevation to Senior or Fellow membership. We also set the bimonthly meeting, for which we will also invite the chapter chairs, aiming at helping different chapters to enhance their activities.
- We appointed a new webmaster to reshape the IEEE Finland website very actively and also create a LinkedIn page where we communicate with our followers. All the fellow members have now been listed on the webpage.
- Together with the Finnish Society of Automation (FSA), we are organizing the flagship conference (RTSI) in Finland Section.
- We aim at organizing the Best Paper Award for papers published in 2024 (no financial prize, just recognition). The submission will be open during May.
- We formed two new chapters (CH08146 and CH08920).
- Our vice-chair needed to step out of the role, and now, after communicating with the Election team of IEEE, we are looking to appoint a new vice-chair for the rest of this term (till end of 2025).

Students

No student branches, but the student representative was very active, e.g., in organizing social events, and workshops for students.

Affinity Groups

We have a very active young professionals (YP) affinity group in Finland and a young professionals representative in the Finland Section Board. A very nice in-person workshop was recently organized for young professionals in Jyvaskyla, the idea is that the next workshop will be organized in Helsinki.

We exchanged some ideas with the leaders of IEEE R8 in WIE to form the WIE affinity group.

Chapters

- Finland Section Jt. Chapter of Signal Processing/Circuits and Systems (CH08056 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, SP01/CAS04)
 - Academy and Industry talks on CODECS SP CAS 2024
 - IEEE Finland SP/CAS Best PhD and Master Theses Award Ceremony 2024
 - 2 board meetings so far
- IEEE Nordic Countries Nanotechnology Council Chapter (CH08067 - Finland,Sweden,Denmark,Norway Jt Sec. Chap,NANO42)
 - Webinar on Nano Materials & Digital Technologies
- CH08037 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, AP03/ED15/MTT17
 - Distinguished Lecturer (DL) talk in IEEE AP/MTT/ED Finland Chapter.
 - Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML) talk in IEEE AP/MTT/ED Finland Chapter
 - 100-300 GHz Wireless: transistors, ICs, systems
 - Distinguished Microwave Lecturer (DML) talk in IEEE AP/MTT/ED Finland Chapter
- IEEE Finland Joint IES&PES Chapter (CH08486 - Finland Sect Chap, IE13/PE31/IA34/PEL35)
 - IEEE IES Student Branch Chapters Forum
 - SUMMER COURSE: ICT Applications in Modern Power Systems (5 ECTS)

- IEEE Finland Section Communications and Information Theory Joint Societies Chapter (CH08196 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, COM19/IT12)
 - IEEE Trust'24
- CH08267 - Norway/Denmark/Finland/Sweden Jt. Chapter, E25
- CH08746 - Finland Section Jt. Chapter, CS23/RA24/SMC28
 - Visit to Factory of the Future in Aalto University
 - Future Industry applications seminar 2024 of IEEE CSS/SMSC/RA Chapter of Finland
- Computer Sciences; CH08920 - Finland Section Chapter, C16 (**NEW Chapter**)
 - Leveraging Memristor Functionalities for Neuromorphic Computing and In-Memory Logic Operations
 - Tensor Computations with Applications
 - Swarm Intelligence: Exploring Collective Behavior for Problem Solving
 - Simulink Implementation of Recurrent Neural Networks for the Solution of Numerical Linear Algebra Problems
- Circuits and System Chapter: CH08146 - Finland Section Chapter, CAS04 (**NEW Chapter**)
 - IoT Security: Safeguarding Connected Devices in a Digital World
 - Addressing Data Scarcity in anomaly detection: One-Class Classification Methods

Industry

- Joint activities with the Finnish Society of Automation (FSA) on organizing an industry-based conference which takes place in Finland, RTSI 2026.
- In our upcoming meeting in March, we will discuss organizing some industry visits for our members.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- We discussed this in our recent meeting with all chapter chairs and showed our support for these activities. WIE was also another topic we discussed and exchanged ideas about forming a WIE affinity group in our Section.

Activities since the last report

The following types of activities, in our opinion, are the most attractive and we can recommend those to the other sections:

- A licentiate 5-credit course for our IEEE Section members. We have registrants from industry, which is indeed something we are looking for.
- Supporting two conferences financially and several conferences technically.
- Cooperation with the IEEE Estonia Section for a joint meeting.
- Organizing young professional activity; the meeting was hybrid, and we had more than 20 participants.
- Organizing bimonthly meetings with the chapter chairs.

Planned activities

- Organizing bimonthly meeting with .
- Call for new round of the **Best IEEE Finland Section Student Paper Award** for papers published during 2023.
- Together with the Finnish Society of Automation (FSA), we are planning a student and young professionals side event for ISIE2023 and the Finnish Automation days.
- Organizing keynote speeches, especially focusing on the distinguished lecturer program.
- Organizing a summer course (August 18th to August 22nd)

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

We are looking to form the WIE Affinity Group and the Life Member Affinity Group in the IEEE Finland Section, and although we have received great support from IEEE R8 for forming LMAG, we are still looking for an active volunteer. We will start communication with WIEAG to form this important AG in our section.

Any other issues of interest