

## R8 Young Professionals Committee

Mohamed Saeed Darweesh

### Committee Composition

- Mohamed Saeed Darweesh (Egypt) – Chair
- Ana Inês Inacio (Benelux) – Past Chair
- Ali Alfayly (Kuwait)
- Georgia Saridaki (Greece)
- Ahsan Qamer (Germany)
- Cybele Ghanem (Lebanon)
- Moataz Alaa (Egypt)
- Ferial Saied (Benelux)
- Mustafa Aqrabawe (Jordan)
- Sameh Betamony (France)
- Mona Demaidi (Palestine)

### Goals

The committee's mission is to engage and motivate the young professionals around Europe, Middle East and Africa. The 2025 R8 YP committee goals include:

1. **Member Engagement & Retention:** Provide valuable programs, resources, and networking opportunities to strengthen engagement with existing YP members and improve retention rates.
2. **Expand Regional YP Leadership Training & Development:** Develop and empower IEEE YP leaders in the region by offering structured training and leadership development opportunities.
3. **Promote YP Humanitarian & Sustainability Initiatives:** Encourage IEEE YPs to contribute to humanitarian and sustainability efforts through IEEE HTB and the Climate & Sustainability Task Force (CSTF).
4. **Strengthen Collaboration with IEEE Organizational Units:** Build strong partnerships with IEEE R8 committees, societies, and IEEE HTB to organize impactful programs.

Our KPIs focuses on the following areas:

- Increasing YP AG events reporting on vTools by at least 30%.  
✓ *On progress*
- Launch two or three new member-exclusive programs (mentorship, leadership, or technical training) to increase active participation in IEEE YP events by 25% compared to 2024.  
✓ *Progress: 2 events have been organized*
- Organize one dedicated IEEE R8 YP Chairs Training Program and conduct at least three leadership development webinars/workshops.  
✓ *Progress: 1 leadership program have been organized*
- Organize at least one dedicated event on humanitarian technology and sustainability.  
✓ *Progress: 1 event has been organized and another event running now during Q4*
- Establish at least two collaborations with IEEE R8 committees, societies, and IEEE HTB.  
✓ *Progress: 2 collaborations have been made with IEEE R8 HTAC and IEEE YP CSTF*

## Progress against goals since the last report

### 1. 2025 Cross-Sectional Student and Young Professionals Congress

From the previous report, 5 hosts were selected to host the eventful cross-sectional congresses across Region 8, as follows:

Congress	Country	Dates	Organizers
Africa SYP (ASYP)	Accra, Ghana	22nd–25th August 2025	YP, UG SB, UPSA SB
Middle East and North Africa (MENA SYP)	Tunis, Tunisia	27th–29th August 2025	INSAT SB
Western European SYP (WESYP)	Hamburg, Germany	11th–13th Sept. 2025	YP, Hamburg SB
Nordic SYP (NSYP)	Vilnius, Lithuania	19th–21st Sept. 2025	YP, WiE
Central European SYP (CEUSYP)	Istanbul, Turkey	10th–12th October 2025	Istanbul SB, Yeditepe SB





## 2025 Africa SYP (ASYP)

The 2025 IEEE R8 Africa Student and Young Professional Congress (ASYPC), held in Accra, Ghana, brought together emerging leaders, innovators, and engineers from across Africa and beyond. The event served as a premier platform for students and young professionals to exchange knowledge, develop leadership skills, and engage with global IEEE initiatives. The number of attendees was 100 students and young professionals. The ASYP program highlights:

- Keynote addresses by distinguished IEEE and industry speakers
- Technical sessions & panels covering current trends in engineering, technology and leadership
- Workshops focused on skills development, innovation, and professional growth
- Social/cultural activities bridging interaction among participants
- Project showcases and competition presentations by student groups
- Networking opportunities embedded between sessions





## 2025 Middle East and North Africa (MENA SYP)

The IEEE R8 MENA Student and Young Professional Congress (MENASYP) is a premier regional event that unites students, young professionals, and industry leaders from across the MENA region. Taking place from August 27–29, 2025, in Gammarth, Tunis, Tunisia, MENASYP 2025 aims to empower participants, foster professional growth, and build meaningful connections through a dynamic program of technical workshops, keynote sessions, industrial tours, and cultural activities. This edition embraces the rich heritage of Tunisian folklore, infusing the event with cultural experiences that highlight Tunisia's traditions. The number of attendees was 150 students and young professionals. The MENA SYP program highlights:

- Keynote addresses by distinguished IEEE speakers
- Technical sessions & panels covering current trends in engineering, technology and leadership
- Workshops focused on IEEE OUs and professional growth
- Cultural activities bridging interaction among participants

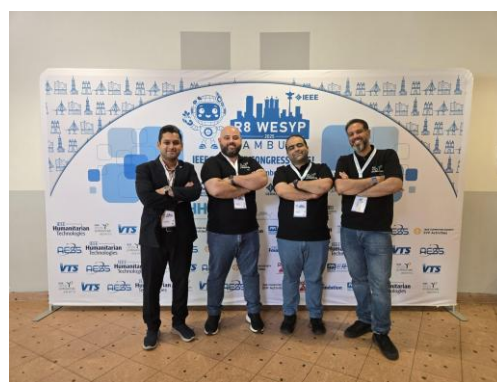




### 2025 Western European SYP (WESYP)

IEEE R8(Region 8) Western European Students and Young Professionals (WESYP) Congress is a premier annual event that unites students, young professionals, and industry experts across Western Europe. Focused on “Artificial Intelligence: Sustainability, Ethics, Education, and Environmental Impact,” this year’s congress offers engaging talks, workshops, and technical sessions. Participants will gain valuable mentorship, explore cutting-edge AI advancements, and connect with industry leaders. With a strong emphasis on inclusivity, diversity, and collaboration, WESYP empowers the next generation of engineers and professionals to thrive in their careers. The number of attendees was 100 students and young professionals. The WESYP program highlights:

- Keynote speeches by distinguished IEEE speakers
- Technical sessions & panels covering current trends in engineering, WIE, technology and leadership
- Workshops focused on IEEE OUs and professional growth
- Cultural activities bridging interaction among participants





## 2025 Nordic SYP (NSYP)

The 2025 IEEE Region 8 Nordic Student and Young Professionals Congress – “Sustainable Smart Space Aviation”, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, gathers students, engineers, and young professionals from across the Nordic and Baltic regions to explore the future of sustainable technologies in aviation and space. The event features keynote sessions, technical workshops, and networking opportunities focused on innovation, environmental responsibility, and leadership. With its central theme of advancing smart and sustainable aerospace solutions, the congress serves as a collaborative platform to inspire young technologists to shape a more connected and eco-conscious future through engineering and technology. The number of attendees was 50 students and young professionals. The NSYP program highlights:

- Keynote speeches by distinguished IEEE speakers
- Technical sessions & panels covering current trends in engineering, WIE, technology and leadership
- Workshops focused on IEEE OUs and professional growth
- Cultural activities bridging interaction among participants



## 2. 2026 Student & Young Professionals Congress

After the previous report, the primary and secondary calls to 2026 R8 SYP were opened. Both social media campaigns and e-Notice advertisements were done with the goal of reaching as many members as possible. This was a joint action together with the R8 Student Activities Committee (SAC) team.



After the final deadline, 4 very promising proposals were submitted: Poland, Kenya, and 2 from Turkey. To evaluate them, a team of 18 volunteers including the full R8 YP team and R8 SAC team was formed, and a winner was selected. The winner was approved by R8 OpCom and it is going to be publicly announced at the 125th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting.

## 3. 2025 R8 Young Professionals Awards

Together with the R8 awards and recognition committee, the awards campaign was launched, and 11 submissions were received. This year, we selected the most active and promising volunteers and affinity groups and contacted them directly to encourage them to apply for the awards, 60% of the submissions were from the people and affinity groups that were contacted. Thus, this seems to be good practice.

The R8 YP team evaluated the submissions as selected a winner for:

- Region 8 Young Professional Exceptional Volunteer Award
- Region 8 Outstanding Young Professional Affinity Group Award

Both winners are going to be publicly announced at the 125th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting.

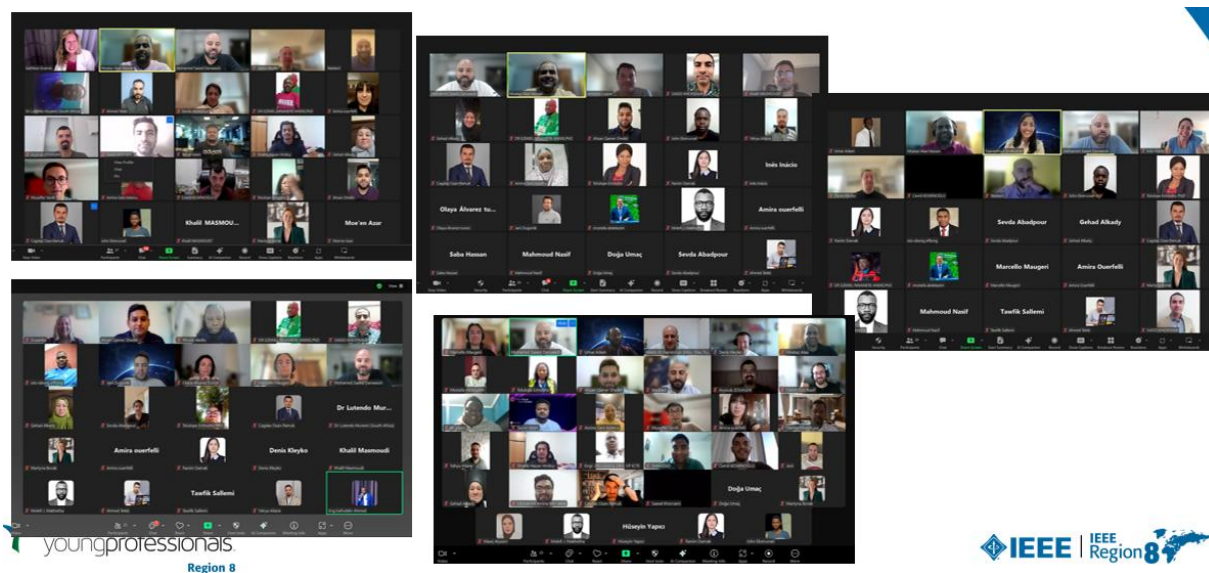




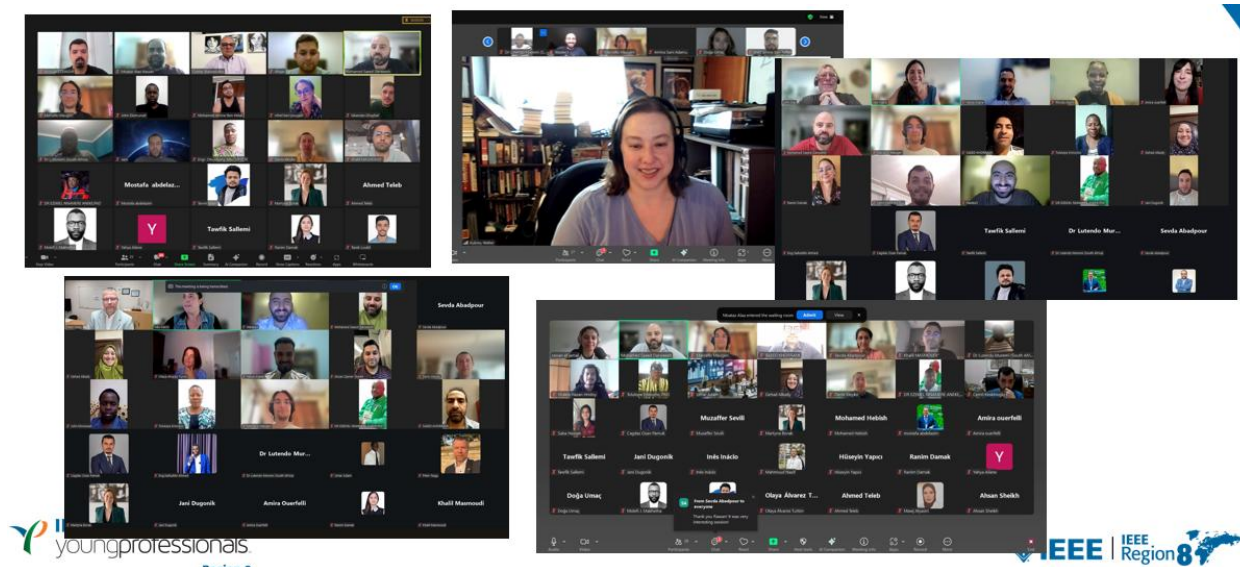
#### 4. IEEE R8 YP LEAD (Learn, Empower, Adapt, and Drive) Program

The R8 Young Professionals LEAD program is a dynamic event designed to empower and connect YP leaders across Region 8. It fosters collaboration, enhances leadership skills, and shares best practices to strengthen YP activities. Through interactive sessions and networking, attendees gain insights to drive impactful initiatives in their local communities. The program structure is:

- Duration: 10 weeks (Virtual Sessions on a weekly basis)
- Target Audience: IEEE YP members, YP AG ExCom, and emerging leaders in R8
- Final Deliverable: the accepted candidates will be assigned into teams to work on their project to deliver a new initiative proposal within the IEEE R8 YP. These proposals will be evaluated by the R8 YP committee.







Here are the 2025 IEEE R8 LEAD program statistics:

  
**72**  
Applicants from  
56 Sections (R8 and R10)

  
**48**  
Accepted  
Applicants

  
**24**  
Rejected Applicants

  
**30**  
Graduates



## 5. 2025 R8 YP Meetups

### a. R8 WIE International Leadership Summit (ILS) in Poland

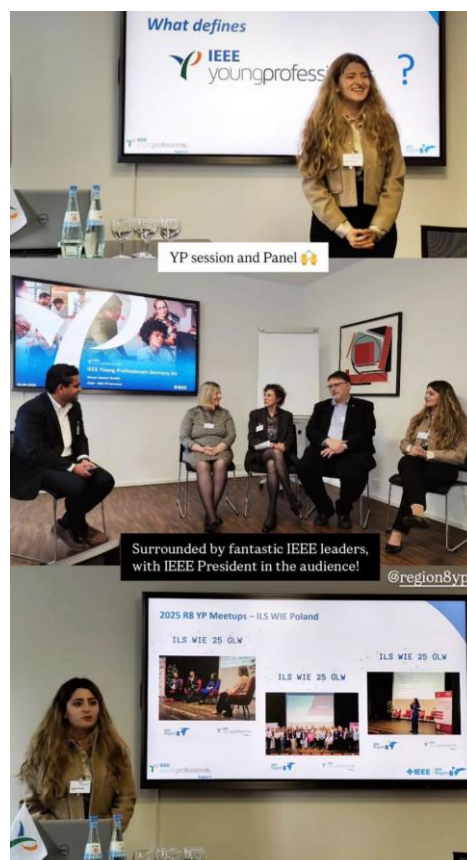
The IEEE R8 Women in Engineering (WIE) International Leadership Summit in Gliwice, Poland is a three-day regional gathering designed to empower IEEE women members through leadership development, mentorship, and collaboration. Held at the Silesian University of Technology, the summit brings together volunteers, IEEE WIE leaders, and distinguished speakers from academia, industry, and governance to inspire, share experiences, and build networks. It features workshops, panel sessions, and interactive discussions aligned with the mission of IEEE WIE, focusing on emerging technologies, leadership skills, and opportunities to make tangible impact within Region 8. In this ILS, the R8 YP has a workshop and panel discussion.





b. HISTory of ELectrotechnology CONFERENCE (HISTELCON 2025)

As IEEE Flagship Conference run by the IEEE Region 8 HISTELCON 2025 is dedicated to any aspects of the history of electrical engineering, electronics, sensing technologies, computing, telecommunications, and IT-based systems in general as well as their impact on social and economic development. HISTELCON 2025 is the ninth in a row and the first to be held in Germany. In this conference, the R8 YP has a workshop and panel discussion.



c. IEEE PES/IAS PowerAfrica Conference

The IEEE PES/IAS PowerAfrica Conference is a premier event that brings together research scientists, engineers, and practitioners from across the globe to discuss the latest research findings, innovative ideas, and emerging technologies in the power systems sector. This conference is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities present on the African continent, focusing on power systems integration, business models, technological advances, policies, and regulatory frameworks. In this conference, the R8 YP has a workshop, panel discussion, and another panel discussion in collaboration with MGA YP CSTF.





## d. European Microwave Week (EuMW 2025)

European Microwave Week (EuMW) is the premier annual conference and exhibition bringing together researchers, engineers, industry representatives, and students working in microwave, RF, and wireless technologies. The event features a comprehensive program of conferences, workshops, and forums that highlight advancements in areas such as next-generation wireless communication (5G/6G), automotive radar, antennas, and advanced materials. Young professionals play an increasingly important role within EuMW, contributing innovative research, engaging in technical sessions, and fostering collaboration across academia and industry. To further support early-career engagement, IEEE Young Professionals, together with IEEE AP-S Young Professionals and IEEE MTT-S Young Professionals, sponsored a Young Professionals get-together on 21 September 2025 at The Boules Club in Utrecht, Netherlands. The event attracted more than 150 participants and delegates, providing a valuable platform for networking, professional development, and community building within the global microwave and RF community.

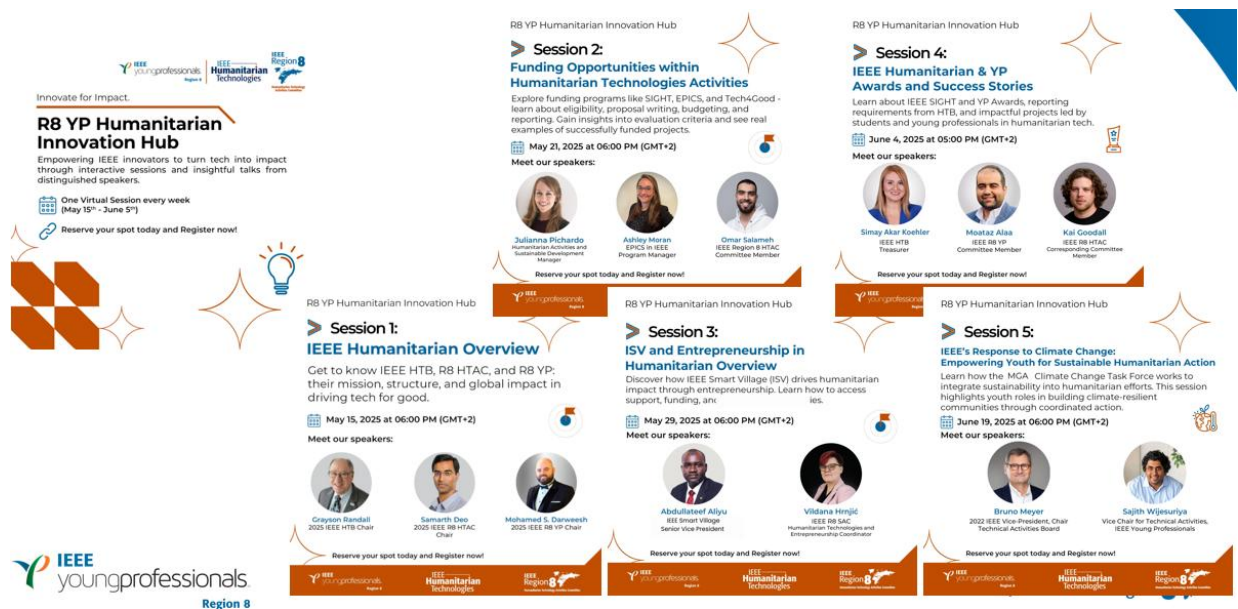


## 6. Collaborations

### a. R8 YP Humanitarian Innovation Hub Series with IEEE HTB

The IEEE R8 Humanitarian Innovation Hub Series is a collaborative initiative between IEEE Region 8 Young Professionals, the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB), and IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Technologies Activities Committee. This series aims to equip IEEE members with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to drive humanitarian innovation. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants will gain insights into IEEE HTB programs, learn how to secure funding for impactful projects, and explore entrepreneurship in humanitarian technology. This initiative will empower volunteers to leverage technology for social good while fostering a strong network of changemakers across Region 8. The series structure is:

- Duration: 5 weeks (Virtual Sessions on a weekly basis)
- Target Audience: IEEE students, YP members, and all Region 8 members



**Innovate for Impact.**  
**R8 YP Humanitarian Innovation Hub**  
Empowering IEEE innovators to turn tech into impact through interactive sessions and insightful talks from distinguished speakers.  
One Virtual Session every week (May 15<sup>th</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!

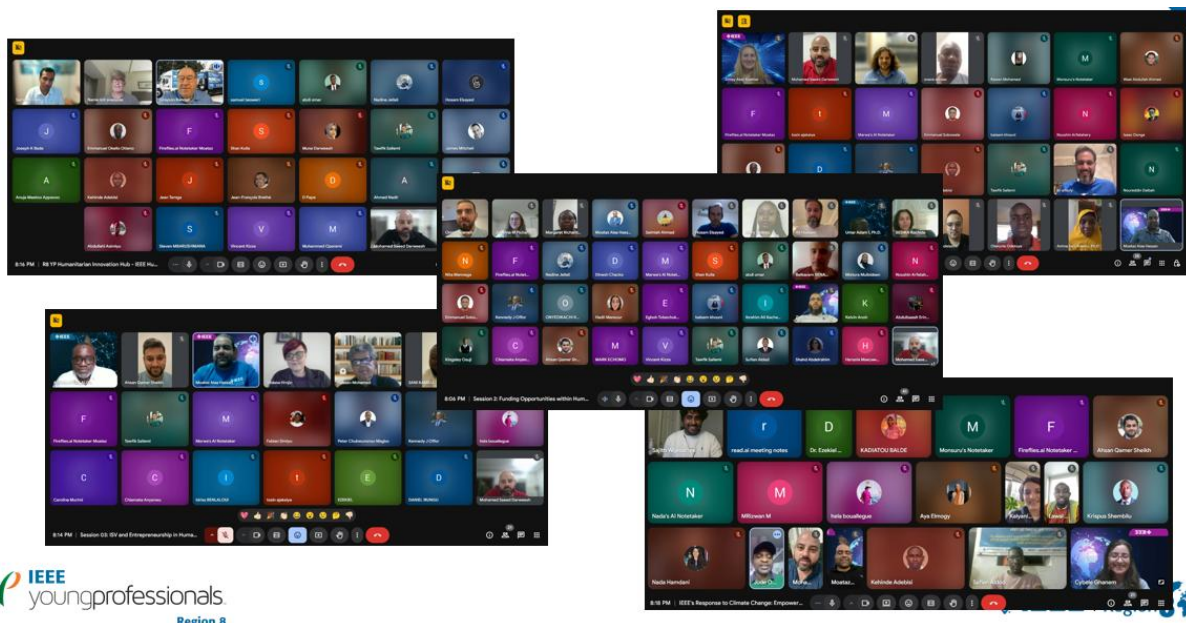
**Session 1: IEEE Humanitarian Overview**  
Get to know IEEE HTB, R8 HTAC, and R8 YP: their mission, structure, and global impact in driving tech for good.  
May 15, 2025 at 06:00 PM (GMT+2)  
Meet our speakers:  
Gregory Standish, 2025 IEEE HTB Chair  
Samarth Dey, 2025 IEEE R8 HTAC Chair  
Mohamed S. Dawoud, 2025 IEEE R8 YP Chair  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!

**Session 2: Funding Opportunities within Humanitarian Technologies Activities**  
Explore funding programs like SIGHT, EPICS, and Tech4Good - learn about eligibility, proposal writing, budgeting, and reporting. Gain insights into evaluation criteria and see real examples of successfully funded projects.  
May 21, 2025 at 06:00 PM (GMT+2)  
Meet our speakers:  
Juliana Pichardo, Humanitarian Activities and Sustainable Development Manager  
Ashley Maran, EPICS in IEEE Program Manager  
Omar Salameh, IEEE Region 8 HTAC Committee Member  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!

**Session 3: ISV and Entrepreneurship in Humanitarian Overview**  
Discover how IEEE Smart Village (ISV) drives humanitarian impact through entrepreneurship. Learn how to access support, funding, and more.  
May 29, 2025 at 06:00 PM (GMT+2)  
Meet our speakers:  
Abdulleef Aliyu, IEEE Smart Village Senior Vice President  
Vildana Henjic, IEEE R8 SAC Humanitarian Technologies and Entrepreneurship Coordinator  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!

**Session 4: IEEE Humanitarian & YP Awards and Success Stories**  
Learn about IEEE SIGHT and YP Awards, reporting requirements from HTB, and impactful projects led by students and young professionals in humanitarian tech.  
June 4, 2025 at 05:00 PM (GMT+2)  
Meet our speakers:  
Simay Akar Koehler, IEEE R8 YP Treasurer  
Mostafiz Alia, IEEE R8 YP Committee Member  
Kai Goodall, IEEE R8 HTAC Corresponding Committee Member  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!

**Session 5: IEEE's Response to Climate Change: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Humanitarian Action**  
Learn how the MCA Climate Change Task Force works to integrate sustainability into humanitarian efforts. This session highlights youth roles in building climate-resilient communities through coordinated action.  
June 19, 2025 at 06:00 PM (GMT+2)  
Meet our speakers:  
Bruno Meyer, 2022 IEEE Vice-President, Chair Technical Activities Board  
Sajith Wijesuriya, Vice Chair for Technical Activities, IEEE Young Professionals  
Reserve your spot today and Register now!





b. Impact 17 with IEEE SIGHT Tunisia

A landmark initiative by IEEE SIGHT Tunisia Section, IEEE Young Professionals Region 8, and IEEE YP Climate Sustainability. This event explores how technology can drive progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, sparking ideas, solutions, and collaboration to shape a better future for everyone.



## 7. Continuous engagement with our Affinity Groups (R8 YP AG Vitality)

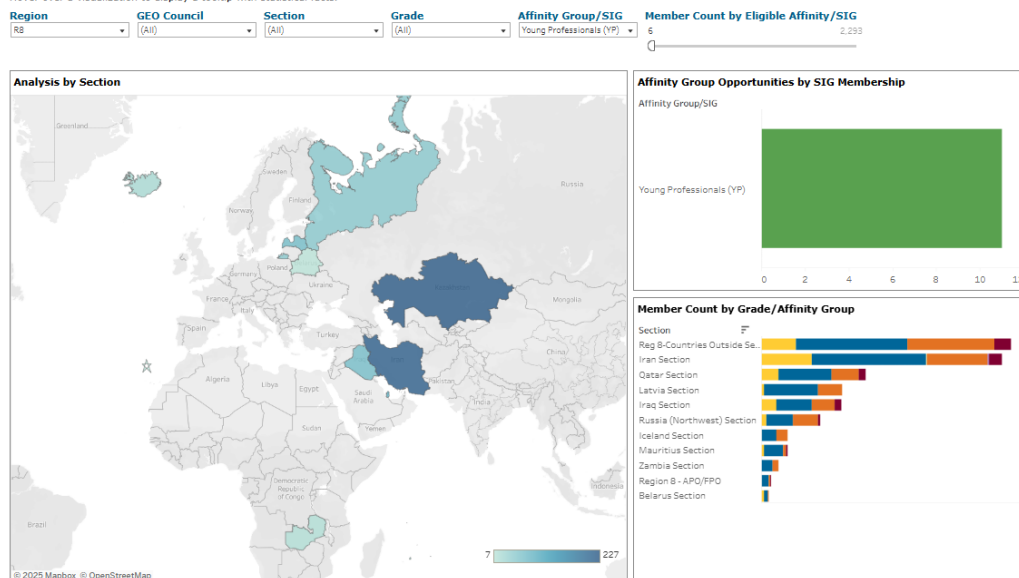
In collaboration with MGA YP staff, the first email was sent to each YP AG chair with cc section chair as shown in the below figure. A second email will be sent to the YP AG chair about the chair term status. A third email will be sent to the YP AG ExCom about the YP opportunities.

Also, we have already contacted the section chairs for their potential YP AG and are waiting for their response to proceed with the AG formation.

- Iran, Hossein Askarian Abyaneh
- Iraq, Abbas Sadkhan
- Latvia, Anastasija Ziravecka
- Russia (Northwest), Victor Sheludko
- Qatar, No chair
- Zambia, Ariel Phiri
- Iceland, No chair
- Belarus, No chair

### Potential Affinity Groups Opportunities

This view identifies Sections with a minimum of 6 eligible Affinity/SIG members for potential Affinity Group formation. Refine data through filters and view results. Change filters if no visualizations appear. Hover over a visualization to display a tooltip with statistical facts.



For the 17 dormant YP AG, we have already contacted their section chairs asking for reactivation and offering the support needed.

- Mauritius
- Bulgaria
- Spain
- Malta
- Russia
- Czechoslovakia
- Palestine
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Algeria
- Libya
- Romania
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa (Cape Town)
- South Africa (Pretoria)
- Uganda
- Hungary
- Norway



### Current Affinity Group status, in Region 8:

On October 1, 2025, out of the 84,892 R8 members, roughly 30,629 have an active YP membership as shown in Figure 1. In Region 8, YP has the most members by far! Out of the 13 Sub-Sections and 59 Sections, we have currently 55 “active” affinity groups.

Summary by Product by Region		
Product Name	Region	Total
IEEE Young Professionals	R8	30,629
	<b>Total</b>	30,629
<b>Grand Total</b>		30,629

Figure 1: Summary of Young Professional membership in Region 8. Data from October 1, 2025

Looking at Figure 2(a), there are depicted 3 distribution plots of the number of R8 YP members by membership status (in the top center), gender (top right) and at Figure 2(b) membership years (bar plot, bottom), it is evident that the biggest part of our members are graduate students. Also, the majority is signing with the IEEE for the first time.

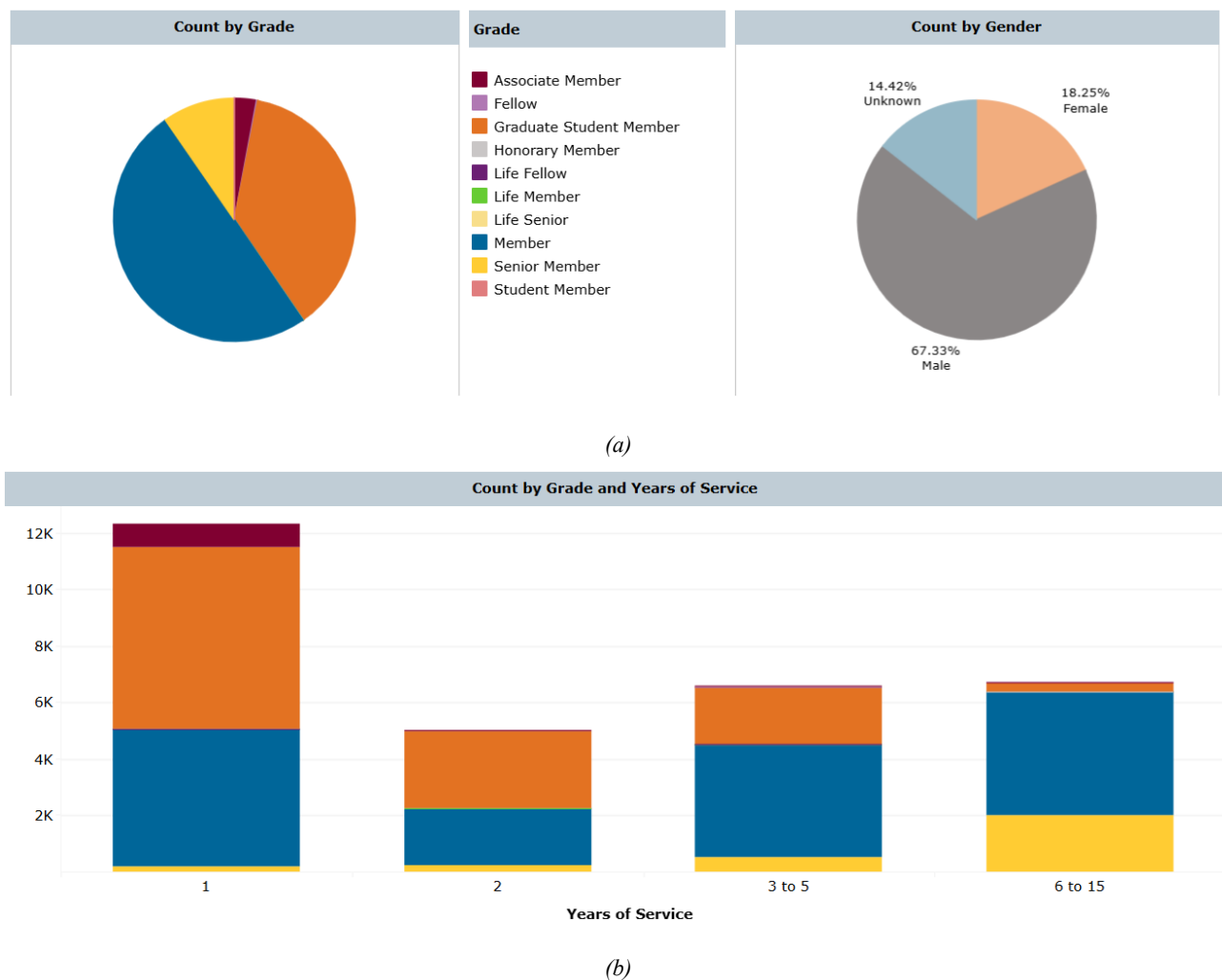


Figure 2: Data collected from OUNalytics about the Young Professional membership, in Region 8. Data from October 1, 2025

Congratulations to the R8 top 3 YP communities (member-wise)!

- UK & Ireland, with > 4.3k YP members
- Germany, with > 4k YP members
- Italy, with > 3.2k YP members

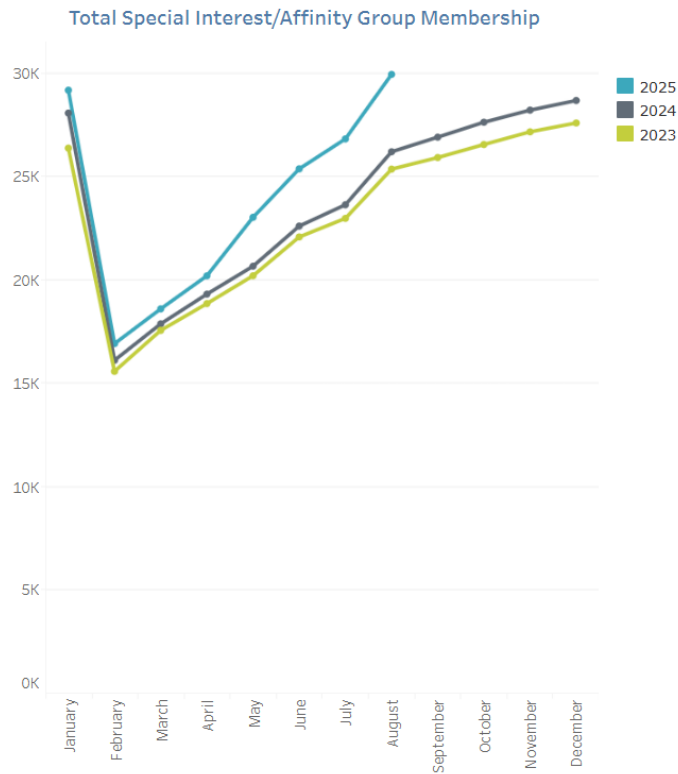
Other congratulations to the R8 top 3 YP AG (reported events-wise, so far):

- Turkiye, 71 events reported
- Jordan, 50 events reported
- Germany, 35 events reported

Figure 3 shows the variation of the YP membership, per month, for the last 2 years. We can see that the “over the year” trend is very similar for both years - it has a great reduction of members from January to February due to the memberships expire at the start of the year before members renew.

From Figure 3, we can notice the following:

- Gradual Recovery: After February, there is a steady increase in membership for all three years, suggesting a pattern of renewals and new members joining.
- Summer Growth Surge (June - August): There is a noticeable increase in membership from June to August, which reflects recruitment efforts, events, or membership campaigns.
- Plateau Toward Year-End: From September to December, it's expected that the membership numbers will stabilize by showing only a gradual increase rather than sharp jumps.
- By comparing August 2025 with August 2024, there is a 12.5% YoY membership increase.



(a)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2025	29,132	16,882	18,563	20,160	22,988	25,329	26,777	29,896	26,863	27,584	28,168	28,634
2024	28,027	16,078	17,839	19,276	20,625	22,563	23,595	26,156	25,876	26,507	27,120	27,548
2023	26,331	15,543	17,524	18,817	20,164	22,038	22,937	25,316	25,876	26,507	27,120	27,548

(b)

Figure 3: Year-over-year statistics of Region 8 YP membership totals, per month. Data from October 1, 2025



The average monthly membership increase percentages for each year are:

- 2023: ~1.9%
- 2024: ~1.83%
- 2025: ~1.9%

This indicates a steady membership growth across all years, with a slightly decreasing rate in 2025 compared to previous years, but we are still at the beginning of the year. While membership continues to rise, the growth rate is marginally slowing down. We are now 30,629 R8 YP members (from Fig. 1) with an active YP membership, 12.5% higher than in August 2024.

#### Coming events for this year

- Celebrating IEEE Day with the Rwanda Subsection by committee chair online talk, October 6, 2025
- GITEX GLOBAL in Dubai, October 12-15, 2025
- IEEE WIE ILS France, Brest, 24-25 November 2025
- IEEE AFRICON 2025, Polokwane, South Africa, 10–12 December 2025

#### Young Professionals Committee of R8 Points of Concern

1. The xSYPs YP/SAC mentors must collect the needed information to ensure that the handover will be done during a crucial time for the congress execution with the 2027 hosts.
2. Being able to convey the IEEE Membership added value: this concern is directed to first-year non-students, to whom the annual membership increases by more than 300%, from 27\$ to >100\$. Even though the Young Professional membership has no additional cost, in Region 8 it is by far the biggest membership thus we believe we should. Then, how do we keep ourselves relevant?
3. Also, being able to provide benefits for our members to justify the membership annual value such that they renew it for another year (Referring back to the bar plot above).
4. Decreased engagement by Affinity Groups and member retention: In line with the second point of concern, it is paramount to maintain our relevance to the affinity groups because they are our voice in their Section.

#### Proposals for improvements/Other Issues to report

1. This year, the committee will request the xSYPs organizers to store and share all of the congress data to be ready for sharing with the next organizing team in 2027.
2. This year, we already have several new initiatives for our R8 YP members to engage them and for member retention.
3. We need to revisit the xSYPs and study again if we need to reduce the number to less than 5 xSYPs.

#### Online Presence

- Facebook: IEEE Region 8 Young Professionals (@Region8YP)
- Instagram: @region8yp (IEEE Region 8 YP)
- LinkedIn: IEEE R8 Young Professionals
- Email: [yp@ieeer8.org](mailto:yp@ieeer8.org)