

## Austria Section

Werner R. Drexel (Section Chair)

### Section Vitality

The last election for the term 2024-2026 was held in October 2023. The elected/appointed officers are listed under the [Executive Committee](#) (ExCom) of the section's [website](#). According to the section's [bylaws](#), the next election is foreseen during the last quarter of 2026.

Besides that, several section meetings and events have been held according to the meeting plan of the section in the last year. An overview of past activities and meetings is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page of the section's [website](#).

### Students

Overall, 6 different student branches (SB) belong to the section.

Only 2 student branches are really active (Linz and Vienna).

The other SBs are somehow active but compared to the pre-pandemic time they organized fewer activities and events. An overview of all student-related activities is provided on the section's [website](#) under [Student Branches](#) (with sub-pages of the different student branches). The student branch of Vienna is re-activated.

### Affinity Groups

The section currently has a young professional (YP) and women in engineering (WIE) affinity group. An overview of all affinity group activities can be found on the related [Young Professionals](#) and [Women in Engineering](#) pages of the section's [website](#).

The Life-Member (LM) is established 2024 in Austria

### Chapters

Overall, the section has 14 different (joint) chapters. Nine of them reported a sufficient number of activities for the last year in time. One chapter (Electromagnetics) was established in Nov 2024 and the other (Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society Chapter) in July 2025. So 2 chapters has none or too less reports. An overview of their activities is provided on the section's [website](#) under [Chapters](#) (with sub-pages of the different chapters). The electromagnetics chapter was established 2024 in Austria

### Industry

Some talks and webinars (mostly online) with industry participants have been organized during the last year. An overview is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#).

Participation on the RTSI 2025 in Tunis (Tunisia).

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Currently, no specific DEI officer is appointed for the section; DEI-related issues are more or less handled by the section's ExCom. The WIE affinity group is the most active group in the section that works on the improvement of gender inequality in the section (which is not specific to the section).

### Activities since the last report

An overview of the main activities is provided on the [Past Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#) as well as in the section newsletters (see [Newsletter](#) page on the section's [website](#)). Despite the COVID-19 pandemic it was quite interesting to see so many activities organized by the different groups of the section.

### Planned activities

An overview of future activities is provided on the [Future Events & Activities](#) page on the section's [website](#).

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

The provision of a description of the different roles (chairs, officers, etc.) could be helpful, especially for new persons taking over a specific role; such a role description could help them in their daily work.

### Any other issues of interest

An observation shows, that the benefit of IEEE membership for student members is generally decreasing; the main motivation for student membership is the reduced fee for conference participation but this was less relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic; at least for the Austria Section.

Anyhow, to have a tighter collaboration and information/knowledge exchange between the different groups/branches of the section, the so-called "Stammtisch" idea was born. In addition to the regular meetings of the ExCom, the Officers, and the General Assembly, the section will organize 2-4 informal meetings with section members regularly. Further we organize in the last 2 years a walk following a dinner. This should bring students and members closer together.