

Section Name

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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 (typically in 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 present their research to a general audience of IEEE members. Presentations are often well received and spark interesting questions and follow-up from the audience.

- Student representation at the R8 SYP Congress and planned organization of one at the Benelux level.

- Support for the IEEE Student Paper Contest and current planning to try and organize a best PhD thesis competition within the Section

-In July, Martijn Dendooven attended from our Section the R8 Volunteering Training in Tunis, focusing on several topics. While Martijn was invited to attend the SAC specific training, he also participated in Membership Development (MD) trainings. The combination of SAC and MD training will help the Section to improve organized student activities and in attempting to attract new Student Members.

Below an overview can be found of the Benelux membership evolution in recent times, the data and explanation were presented at the previous ExCom meeting on June 10, 2025. 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 overall! Also, we have as a Section more senior members and fellows than the average IEEE.

	nov, 2023	mei, 2024	nov, 2024	mei, 2025	Y-over-Y
Associate Member	48	35	66	36	1
Affiliate	99	70	84	81	11
Fellow	86	88	84	86	-2
Honorary Member	1	1	1	1	0
Life Fellow	47	44	48	47	3
Life Member	153	148	161	153	5
Life Senior	57	56	62	60	4
Senior Member	448	450	475	475	25
Member	1987	1634	2088	1594	-40
Student	108	120	123	130	10
Graduate Student Member	928	899	995	1014	115
Total:	3962	3545	4187	3677	115 (+3,72 %)

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, still ongoing.

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 nominally 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 non-exhaustive list of activities that happened in the past months this year:

- General assembly and “Meet the Fellows” at Nokia Antwerpen in February 2025
- Some student branches in Belgium have been very active
- 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...)
- The WIE affinity group co-organised a celebration event in August to honour Prof. Nuria Llombart Juan for receiving the IRMMW-THz Society Exceptional Service Award. The event, co-hosted by IEEE WIE TU Delft, featured inspiring talks, a panel discussion, and highlighted Prof. Llombart's contributions to diversity and leadership in STEM. It was locally funded by the Departments of Microelectronics and Quantum & Computer Engineering (https://www.linkedin.com/posts/quantum-and-computer-engineering_nuriallombartjuan-academicleadership-impact-activity-7368309393517453312-18HH/).
- The LM affinity group has been very active with many activities for their members (e.g., Underground Einstein Telescope, Siemens Digital Industries Software, ADMESY, IMEC, Centre Spatiale Liege, FEL TNO) and invaluable work for milestones. For example on September 04 IEEE honored Nokia with its prestigious Milestone Award for the introduction of Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) in the 1990s, a breakthrough innovation that marked the beginning of the broadband era for 1 billion people ([Nokia recognized with IEEE Milestone Award for ADSL breakthrough, enabling the evolution from 1 Mbps to 100 Gbps broadband](#)).

Planned activities

Milestone celebrations after acceptance of the IEEE Milestone Awards for ADSL (see above) and the IEEE Milestone Award “Rijndael and the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), 1995 - 1998” (planned for November 18th 2025 in Leuven, Belgium)

- Reactivation and update of the section website and its social media presence (e.g., LinkedIn)
- IEEE Hack and Meet event organized by the Benelux's Student Branches, Young Professionals, and Section (Oct 2025)
- Continue with chapter support and monitoring of effective reporting
- Conference among chapters within the Section

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