

## Eleven new LMAGs in the largest LMAG regional group

The LMAG activity in R8 started with the formation of the Israel Section LMAG in 2002 and continued its moderate development resulting in the establishment of one African, one Middle Eastern and 12 European LMAGs up to 2020. In the last two and a half years the LMAG group has grown by additional 11 LMAGs, namely three LMAGs in the Sections Czechoslovakia, Germany, and North Macedonia in 2021, three others in Jordan, Poland, and Turkey in 2022 and further five ones in the Sections Bulgaria, Cyprus, Serbia & Montenegro, and Russia Northwest this year. The R8 LMAG group has become not only the largest regional group but also one which has a significant high number of new LMAGs. 11 of 25 existing LMAGs are younger than two years.

Considering the membership structure, 20 LMAGs are in Europe, four in the Middle East and one in Africa. These LMAGs cover 84% of the life membership. Only 2%, a small part of the life membership is connected to Sections which have not enough members to form an LMAG. The remaining 14% has a chance to form further LMAGs in the South Africa Section, furthermore in the Middle Eastern Sections Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE as well as the European Sections Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine. The R8 LM Committee wanted to use this chance and started an intensive campaign to form new LMAGs in order to reach the coverage level of 98% for providing nearly all R8 Life Members after retirement with the IEEE frame for professional activities. To help the LMAG organizers, even a face-to-face workshop with the topic 'How to Prepare the Petition' was held with ~20 participants. Not only the five new LMAGs of this year but especially the newest LMAG has proved the usefulness of this work. The formation of the Russia Northwest Section LMAG has demonstrated clearly that IEEE Life Members want to continue their professional activity in their professional IEEE home even under the specific circumstances. The development has not stopped at 11 new LMAGs. While writing this article, the Sweden Section has already submitted the petition to form the next new LMAG.

The R8 LMAGs reported about 111 events in vTools last year which corresponds to 5.55 events per LMAG in average. This is significantly more than the requested two events annually. Naturally, the activity rate of the LMAGs is varying around the calculated average. One LMAG is in probation because of the lack of reported activity but the other end of the scale is the significant high meeting frequency of the North Macedonia Section LMAG with 34 reported events.

The R8 LM Committee is proud to be able to report about some LMAG activity highlights. The Benelux Section LMAG has published an e-book for free download (Fig.1). The Czechoslovakia Section LMAG organized a regional LMAG meeting in 2022. The Germany Section LMAG was awarded the 2022 LMAG Achievement Award recognizing the well-organized joint administrative, leadership and technical online meetings quarterly (Fig. 2). The IEEE R8 Conference HISTELCON is hosted by the Italy Section LMAG (Fig. 3). The North Macedonia Section LMAG demonstrated a broad joint activity with the local Section, Chapters and YP groups by holding meetings nearly every 10 days. Moreover, a member of this LMAG also received the LM Individual Award (Fig. 4). The Bulgaria Section LMAG, one of the very new LMAGs reported a couple of remarkable scientific and professional meeting series and newsletter submissions already after 2...3 months of its formation.

Preserving the history of technology is one of the important activities of LMAGs. The Switzerland Section LMAG is sponsoring and contributing to the extension of the ENTER National Museum of Consumer Electronics, opening in new premises in Derendingen OS, Switzerland by the end of 2023,

and celebrated a valuable Milestone event (Fig 5). Another outstanding achievement was demonstrated by the UK & Ireland Section LMAG in this field by finishing four IEEE Milestone projects in 2022 (Fig. 6). Other LMAGs are going to run or have already started Milestone related activities, too. Thus for an example, the Hungary Section LMAG has created a work group in co-operation with the History of Technology Committee of the Hungarian Electrotechnical Association to search for and propose Milestones.

The R8 LM Committee has realized that the information rate level is significantly higher if our ~3,000 members are reached out directly by eNotice letters than by emails to the LMAG chairs. Current news and to-do messages reach the members more reliably this way. This practice has been often recognized by the LMs in feedback emails expressing their thanks for getting IEEE information. One of such latest appreciations has been received from a Life Senior Member who has the quite high life member index of 145 being calculated from the age of 94 and the IEEE membership of 51 years. The information has inspired him to start a Milestone proposal. This is an excellent example for the verification of our slogan “Experience does not go on retreat”.

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**Pictures**



**Fig.1. Symposium book of the Benelux Section LMAG**



**Fig. 2. Technical and administrative meeting 2023 Q2 of the Germany Section LMAG**



**Fig.3.** The IEEE R8 Conference Histelcon 2023 is hosted by the Italy Section LMAG



**Fig. 4.** IEEE Day 2022 celebration of the North Macedonia Section LMAG jointly with Chapter and YP members



**Fig. 5.** Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of transistor by the Switzerland Section LMAG at EFPL Lausanne



**Fig 6. Steve Welby, IEEE former Executive Director, Martin Bastiaans, R8 History Activity Committee Chair and Mike Hinchey, Region 8 Director-elect (l to r) in CT X-Ray Scanners Milestone celebration of the UK and Ireland Section LMAG**