

Activity & Progress Reporting
Section Autumn Meeting 13th Nov 2020

1. Chapter/Affinity Group:	Young Professionals
2. Committee Members	Noel Gomes (Chair) Dr Thaddeus Eze (Vice Chair) Nazila Fough (Secretary)
3. Reporting Officer:	Noel Gomes
4. Overview of current plan and activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. UK and Ireland YP awarded this years Region 8 Outstanding Young Professional Affinity Group Award presented at the recent IEEE Region 8 virtual Student and Young Professional Congress in Sept 2020. This is a significant achievement for us and goes out to the commitment our volunteers that have consistently contributed to serving members over the years. ii. Build on current success and volunteer base from existing events to further reach out to members across the section with the following high-level plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● YP successfully co-hosted the YP track events at Comsoc’s International Conference on Communications (ICC) from 7th to 11th June, Dublin. YP provided specific input into organising speakers for the YP track and social networking sessions followed by promotion of the event, but due to the onset of the pandemic, the conference program had to be re-organised and moved to a virtual mode. As a result, a lot of the originally planned YP sessions were scaled down to a few on topics and relating to the benefits of volunteering, a fireside chat with two IEEE Senior Members, writing grant proposal and best practises in research funding proposal, attended by 53 virtual participants. Event write-up can be found here https://ieeekiyp.org/previous-events/2020/06/07/International-Conference-on-Communications-Dublin.html ● YP Track at International Conference on Electronics Circuits and Systems (ICECS), Glasgow, <i>Nov 23-25th 2020</i> - YP has collaborated with CAS to jointly organise a virtual one-day YP track during the 27th edition of the IEEE ICECS. The event is targeted towards postgraduate and young professional researchers with a series of opening talks, followed by technical papers on topics broadly relating to this year’s theme, poster competition and a demo session. Accepted papers will be published in IEEE Xplore. Event details can be



	<p>found here https://ieeekiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/International-Conference-on-Communications-Dublin.html</p> <p>iii. Due to the current government restrictions the section and its impact on the everyday life our members, volunteers, we have had to make adjustments to our calendar of scheduled events and plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• YP AGM Nov 2020 - Annual event for volunteers to meet, review progress, strategize and plan ahead for the following years YP program. Event will now be held virtually on 14th Nov.• Digital Health Conference, Dublin 2020 (<i>now planned for early 2021</i>) – Full day conference with multiple 1-hour talks, and/or 1-hour seminars on real world digital health initiatives by academic, industrial and bureaucratic leaders. Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic but is intended to be held early next year. Further details can be found here https://ieeekiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Digital-Health-Conference.html• Arduino workshop, Dublin – (<i>now planned for early 2021</i>) - Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic restrictions but is intended to be held in the second quarter of next year. Further details can be found here: https://ieeekiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Arduino-Workshop-Dublin.html• 3rd YP PG STEM Symposium (<i>planned for late 2021</i>) - to be held virtually unless it is safe to take place face to face.• Other previously planned events have been moved to the following year. <p>iv. Ongoing Improvement to digital/social media presence and communication with members through re-vamped website, Facebook and twitter page.</p> <p>v. Continue to collaborate with industry, chapters and other similar organizations with shared interests</p>
<p>5. Key Achievements and member value/services to date:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team has 15 volunteers with representation in all major cities across UK & Ireland. However, our committee is in a state of transition with volunteers moving around for new jobs/commitments. A new recruitment drive has been initiated to take on more volunteers, review workload and support our activities across the section. We are still looking for volunteers in the South east of the country.• YP website https://ieeekiyp.org/ is now enhanced and upto date with new webmaster.• Increased participating in collaborative Chapter /similar group events across the across the country:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ IEEE International Conference on Communications

	<p>(ICC), Dublin – June 2020</p> <p>➤ IEEE Conference on Electronics Circuits and Systems (ICECS), Glasgow – Nov 2020</p>
<p>6. Key Challenges:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The current lockdown situation poses a risk to plan and host events for the rest of the year and beyond. We continue to monitor the situation and follow the government advice collectively as a group with changes to our plans where possible by hosting the event online or delaying it when it is safe to resume. ● Volunteers are finding that they are facing increased workload in their full-time jobs due to remote working while having to manage family life. This coupled with an increase in screen time, potentially results in less available time to volunteer. We are continuing to review volunteer workload and offer support as much as possible. ● Event costs are generally quite high due to room/hire facilities fees. However there are potential ways of saving of costs by hosting events at universities. ● Member turnout- at events varies depending on topic/day of week/entry fee, weather etc. ● A lot of effort is required by volunteers to host medium scale events. This varies across the section as volunteer commitment is dependent on their research workload and availability. Seems to be an ongoing challenge that we are trying to managed best.
<p>7. Deficits/Required Resources:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incorporating up new goals from last year's YP AGM, ● Review of current structure and division of workload in the AG as we look to further expand roll out of quality events. ● Building on existing success for advance planning, co-ordination, accountability and timely communication of allocated tasks between volunteers
<p>8. Actions/Support requested from the Section:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial support to host in person events when safe to do so ● Volunteer development and attendance at Regional/national events
<p>9. Action Plan:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ongoing-review of events planned for the next 6 months in view of current pandemic situation and make adjustments as required to host it virtually until it is safe to resume face to face events. ● Increase communication and planning via regular committee meetings to review progress and performance. ● Ensure volunteer workload is reviewed on regular basis to avoid burn-out. Recruit additional volunteers, leverage and collaborate where possible. ● Reconfirm volunteer commitment at start of every year