

Situation Assessment as Based on JML Survey

Chapter of Electrical Engineering and Chapter of Medical Engineering

2024



Introduction

The following document is a summary of responses to the *Equality and Diversity Survey Elektro and MiT 2024* performed by the joint Equality Committee of the Chapters of Electrical Engineering and Medical Engineering in the spring of 2024. The survey was based on the year of 2023 and consisted of four parts:

1. Inclusion in student life and activities
2. Alcohol and pressure within the Chapters
3. Access to information pertaining to the Chapters
4. Information about the respondents

The survey and the response analysis was carried out by Elin Björklund, Marla Touma and Daniel Hallberg from the Chapter of Electrical Engineering, and Andrea Söderberg from the Chapter of Medical Engineering. Translation of the Swedish report to English was carried out by Arvid Söderberg from the Chapter of Electrical Engineering. The analysis is broken down into four parts:

1. The Respondents
2. Assessment Results
3. Conclusion
4. Closing Words

Part 1 provides general information about the respondents, part 2 describes the survey responses collected and part 3 summarizes the conclusions drawn from the preceding parts.

1 The Respondents

The survey received a total of 81 responses, with the Swedish version of the survey accounting for 74 responses, the English for 5 and 2 respondents chose not to answer the question regarding language. The Chapter of Electrical Engineering numbered 549 members as of this spring; the Chapter of Medical Engineering had 210 members at the same time. The distribution of respondents between chapters can be viewed in figure 1. Many Master's Degree students in the Electrical Engineering program are studying abroad and therefore cannot participate in activities, which makes them difficult to reach.

According to figure 2¹, the responses were relatively evenly divided between men and women, although the majority of respondents were men. The largest proportion of those who answered the survey started in 2023, with 2022 and 2021 following closely behind, see figure 3.²

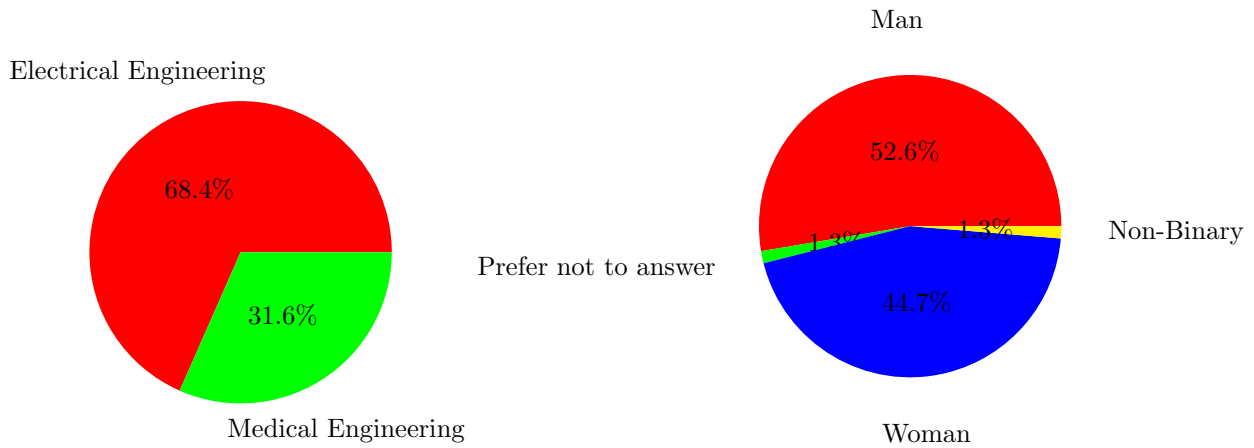


Figure 1: Responses to the question "Which program are you enrolled in?"

Figure 2: Responses to the question "What is your gender identity?"

¹The figure only shows the options chosen by the respondents. There were more gender identity options available in the survey.

²The hard to read numbers in figure 3 are: 2018 - 5.3% and 2017 - 2.7%.

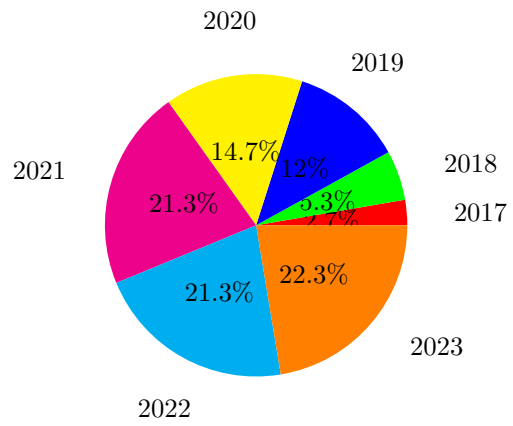


Figure 3: Responses to the question *What year did you join the Chapter?*

2 Assessment Results

2.1 Inclusion in Student Life

Figure 4 shows the respondents' participation in various Chapter activities. The number next to each bar corresponds to the number of respondents who selected the option (81 being the total number of respondents). Approximately 75% of respondents have participated in activities during the Student Reception, which, along with Chapter meetings, Thursday Pubs, and gasques, comprise the Chapter activities with the most participants. Of all the respondents 60% have been engaged in various Chapter Committees and approximately 30% in various clubs within the past year.

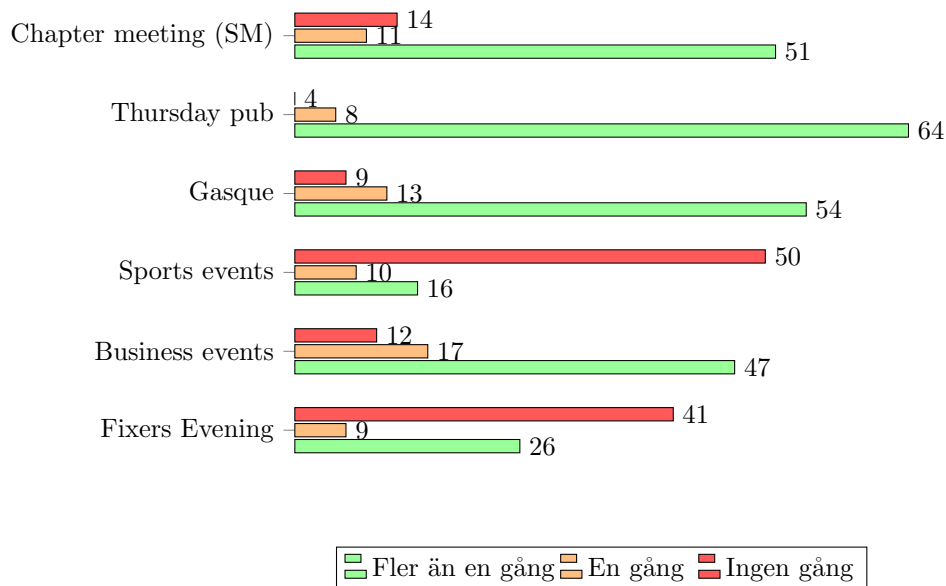


Figure 4: Responses to the question *How many times have you attended the following events in the past year?*

The following section pertains to questions on harassment and on the general atmosphere within the Chapters. As shown in figure 5 and 6 in the past year approximately 10,5% of members have been harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise treated poorly within their Chapters, and 18,4% have witnessed it happening to someone else. There was an option to elaborate on one's answer in a comment in what situation this happened. Events that came up were: pubs which was mentioned multiple times, the reception, gasques and exam pubs.

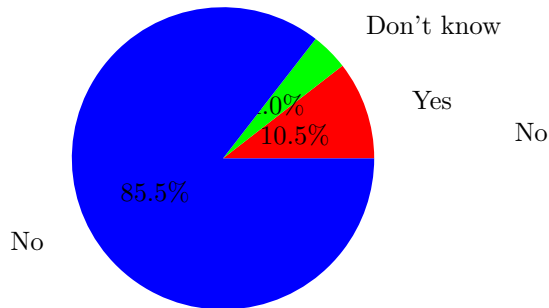


Figure 5: Responses to the question *Have you been harassed, discriminated against or in any other way been treated poorly by other chapter members?*

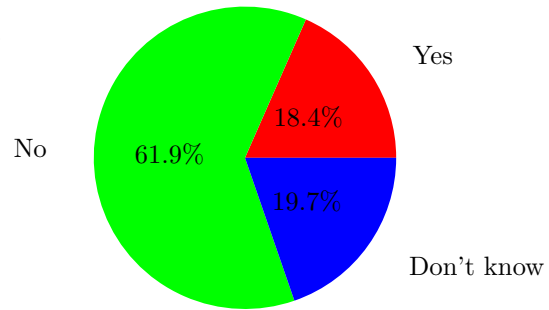


Figure 6: Responses to the question *Have you seen someone being harassed, discriminated against or in any other way being treated poorly by other chapter members?*

As seen in figure 7, approximately three quarters of the respondents know how to report harassment and discrimination, and 13,2% are unsure. Respondents had also the option to add a comment where they would like to find such information. Several respondents stated they would like to find it on social media, the Chapter websites, as well as at the toilets in Tolvan in the form of posters. The bulletin board at Tolvan was also suggested.

On the question *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, have been receiving special treatment within the chapter?*, there was an option to elaborate on one's response with a comment. Several respondents reported that Chapter members with certain posts in the Chapter, or members who are in some clubs³ receive positive special treatment. Some of the comments also mentioned that these members get benefits in form of doing however they please without receiving the expected consequences. Another problem that was mentioned was that members holding high-ranked posts have an easier time being elected to other posts meaning it is hard for people on the outside to get into the community. Other mentioned problems were ostracism and alcohol related problems.

³Where, among others, the Chapter Board is specifically mentioned.

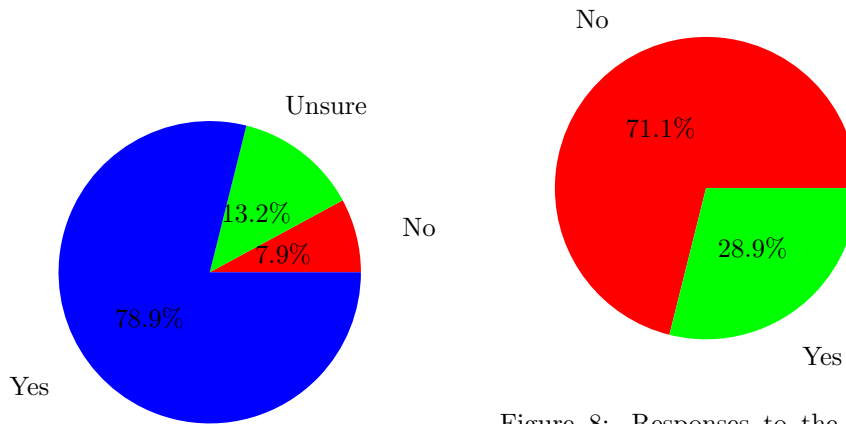


Figure 7: Responses to the question *Do you know how to report harassment, discrimination or poor treatment?*

Figure 8: Responses to the question *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, have been receiving special treatment within the chapter?*

Most of the respondents feel at home in their Chapters, as can be seen in figure 9. The label "Other" represents three answer categories between yes and no which each got 1,3%. Respondents had the option to elaborate with a comment. More events with other sections or with THS are mentioned as fun ideas to promote interaction between different sections. It is also noted that it can easily feel like people are excluded from the community during the first year, as contact with older students is often poor at that time. However some other respondents mention that they feel like Tolvan is their second home and that the atmosphere is very good.

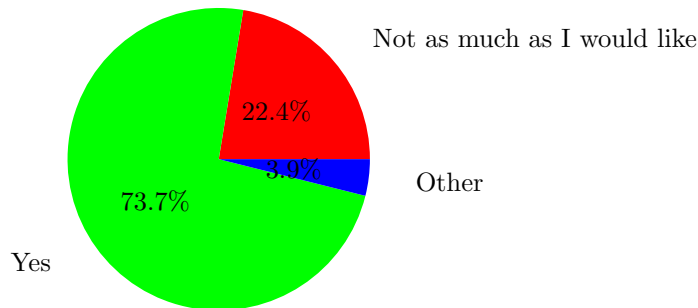


Figure 9: Responses to the question *Do you feel at home in the chapter?*

The question *How do you experience the social environment of the chapter?* prompted the respondents for a text answer. More than majority of the respondents answered that they considered the social environment to be positive

and very good, and other synonyms that was mentioned was welcoming, nice, inviting. On the other hand, respondents also mentioned that there is too high alcohol consumption and too high alcohol pressure.

2.2 Access to Information

To the question *Do you feel that you are reached by the information you need / want? (From the chapters)*, the majority (90,8%) responded yes. Figure 10 shows that many receive information about Chapter happenings from their peers, as well as via Facebook. Figure 11 shows that the majority of the respondents receives the information that they want from all different parts of the chapter. Some however wish to receive more information from different groups. Most respondents would like to access this information via Facebook or mail/newsletters, as illustrated in figure 12.

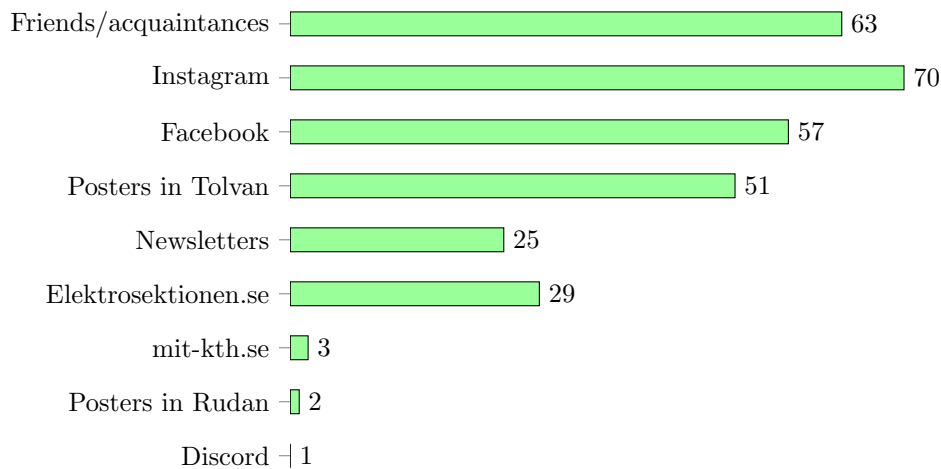


Figure 10: Responses to the question *How DO you get information about what is happening within the chapters?*

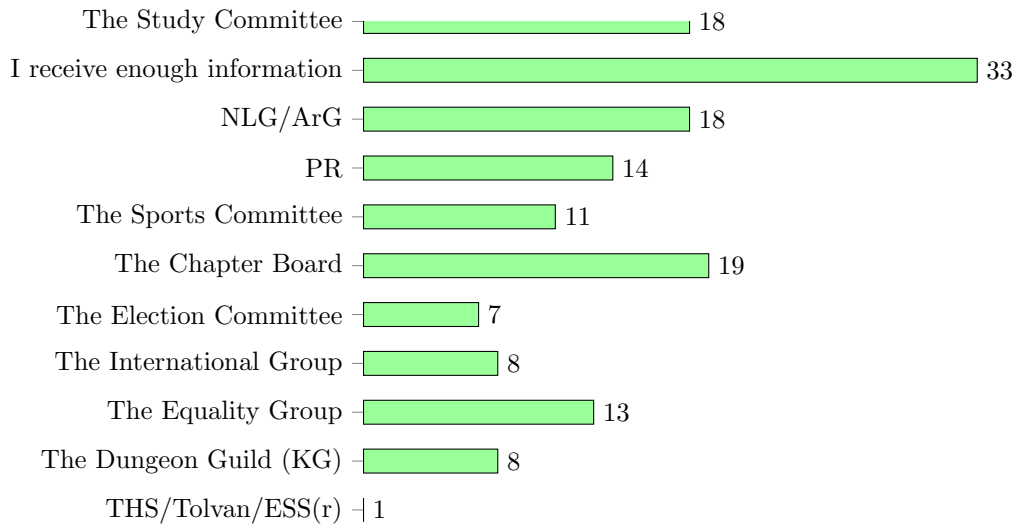


Figure 11: Responses to the question *From which part of the chapters would you like to receive more information?*

Some suggestions of how the information regarding what is happening in the Chapters could be displayed were posters, notifications on the websites and a canvas page for the Chapters.

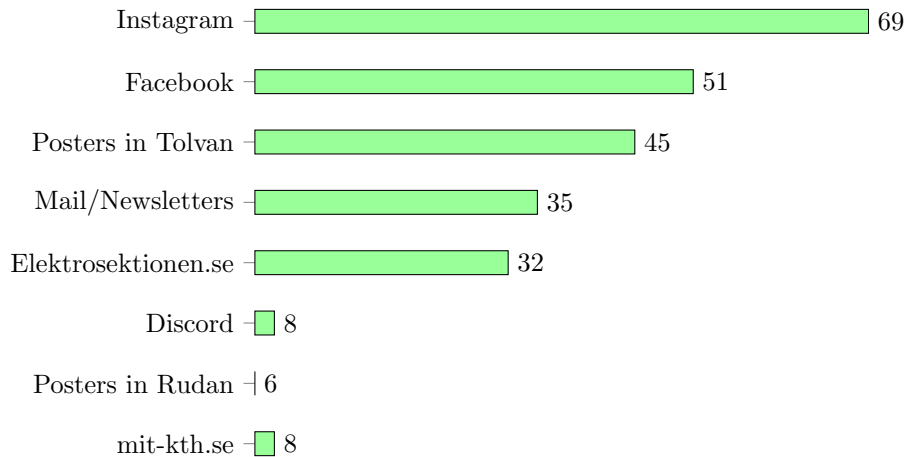


Figure 12: Responses to the question *How WOULD you like to get information about what is happening within the chapters?*

2.3 Alcohol/Pressure

Approximately 43% of respondents have felt questioned on grounds of their alcohol consumption, as shown in figure 13. The numbers show the number of respondents (as opposed to percentages.)

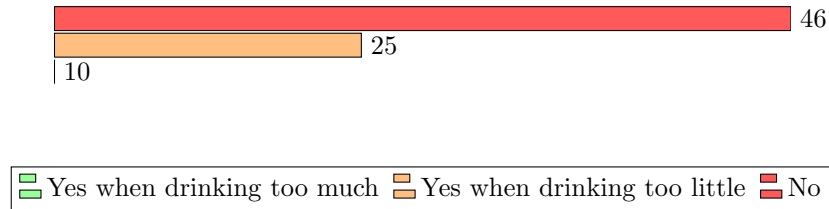


Figure 13: Responses to the question *Have you ever felt that you have been questioned because of your alcohol consumption?*

The question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (either related to alcohol or something else)* gave the respondents the option to elaborate with a text answer. Some reported that they have pressured friend but that it has been as a joke. Some also stated that they were uncertain since they don't know how it has been perceived by others. Regarding the question *Have you ever been pressured to do something against your will? (either related to alcohol or something else)*, it is mentioned that there is a lot of pressure to use snus and take shots.

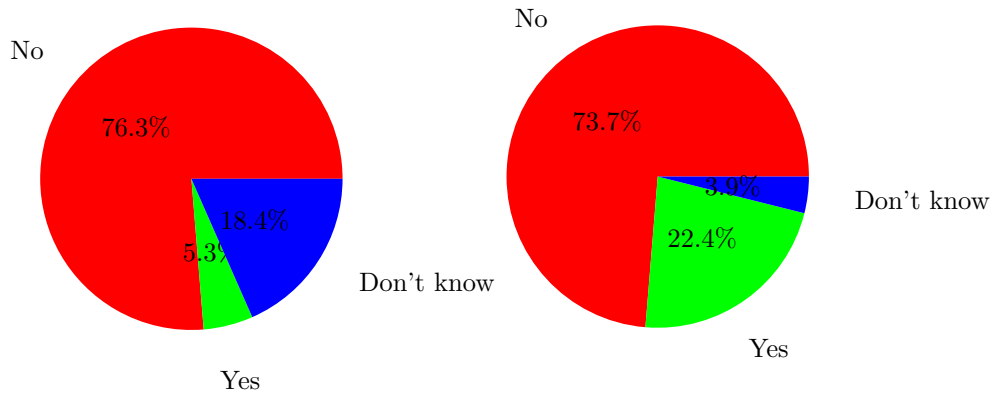


Figure 14: Responses to the question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (either related to alcohol or something else)*

Figure 15: Responses to the question *Have you ever been pressured to do something against your will? (either related to alcohol or something else)*

The respondents were asked to rate the intensity of the pressure to drink within

the Chapters. One could choose between very high, high, low and none. The results can be viewed in figure 16.

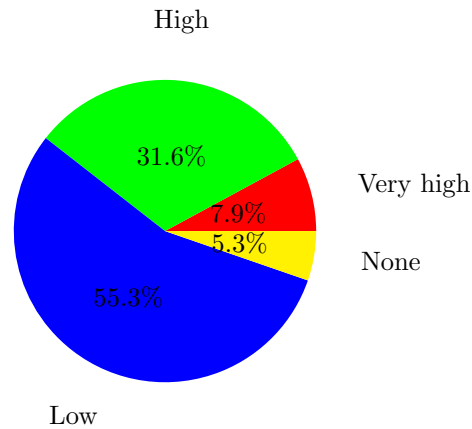


Figure 16: Responses to the question *How strong do you feel the pressure to drink is in the chapters?*

Figure 17 shows that the vast majority feel comfortable with being sober at a party. Most added that it is not viewed in a negative light, but that it is less fun. Some brought up that they can feel left out when sober at some parties where the norm is to become very intoxicated, and in that case, you can feel obligated to have an excuse as to why you are sober.

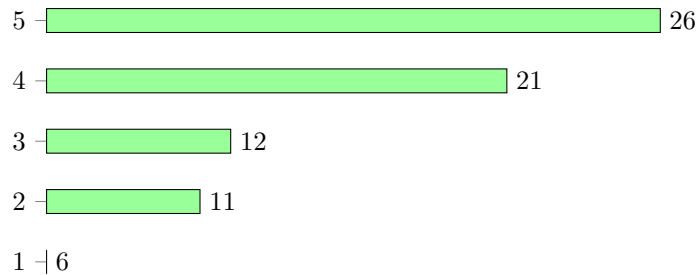


Figure 17: Responses to the question *How comfortable are you with being sober during a party?* 5 means "completely comfortable" and 1 means "Not at all comfortable".

55,3% of respondents answered no to the question *Do you want the chapter to arrange more alcohol-free events?*. Those who answered yes had the option to

add what types of alcohol-free events they would like to see. Among the suggestions were game nights, movie nights, sports events, sewing circles and business events. Various outdoor activities and study related events were suggested.

3 Conclusion

Something worth noting in this year's report compared to last year's is that fewer people responded, which is why the relevant results are presented in percentage form.

In this year's report, more people have indicated that they attended section events multiple times, which reflects a percentage increase in participation. The report also suggests that those who responded are the ones who spend a lot of time in Tolvan, meaning that many voices from those less active in section life may have been missed. Something to consider for next year is to improve the survey's distribution so that more voices, especially those that are often unheard, can be included.

Last year, 9% of respondents had experienced harassment or mistreatment. This year, that figure increased to 10,5%, and more people have witnessed such incidents compared to previous years. Slightly more respondents know how to report harassment compared to last year, with an increase from 77% to 78,9%. Overall, there has been an increase in harassment within the section.

The proportion of people who have experienced some form of discrimination has decreased from 31% last year to 28,9% this year. This question allowed for comments, and the most common remarks concerned positive discrimination, where individuals in 'higher' positions receive benefits, such as being able to do what they want without consequences, and that the section's alcohol culture is often excessive.

Fewer people feel at home in the section compared to last year, with a decrease from 78% to 73,7%. This question also allowed for comments, and the most common feedback was that while the sections are fun, they can sometimes be biased and cliquish.

The environment in the section was described as largely positive. Compared to previous years, the proportion of people describing the environment positively has increased. However, there are also comments indicating that the environment is closed-off and male-dominated. Similar to last year, these comments are recurring.

Similar to previous years, several respondents indicated that individuals with certain positions and their friends receive preferential treatment within the section, and that there is a hierarchical structure within the sections.

4 Closing Words

This year's survey has been modified by adding answer options to increase the nuance and distinctness of the result.

New in this year's survey is that the question *How comfortable are you with attending a party while sober?* has been changed from a yes/no format to a 5-point scale, where 5 represents being very comfortable attending a party sober, and 1 represents being not at all willing to attend a party sober.

Additionally, a non-mandatory question has been added asking which year the respondent started at KTH. Another new question is *Where did you get information about this survey?*, which aims to improve the reach of the survey among section members next year.