

WELCOME TO CIGRE

AUGUST 2016



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON LARGE ELECTRIC SYSTEMS

This document is a brief introduction of CIGRE for new members
or for potential new members.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. What is CIGRE ?..... 3
- 2. CIGRE key figures 4
- 3. CIGRE goals 5
- 4. How CIGRE works?..... 6
- 5. National Committees 7
- 6. Study Committees 8
- 7. Working Groups 10
- 8. Contributing to the work of CIGRE 10
- 9. Contributing to CIGRE Working Groups 11
- 10. Other CIGRE industry events 12
- 11. CIGRE website 13
- 12. Further information 14



1 • What is CIGRE ?

CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems) is a permanent, non-governmental and non-profit International Association.

Based in France, CIGRE was founded in 1921.

CIGRE is an international organisation dedicated to the development of the power supply sector through the identification and the development of solutions to industry issues.

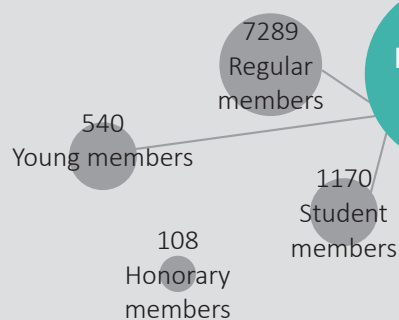
With members in more than 80 countries, it is the leading worldwide organization on Electric Power Systems, covering their technical, economic, environmental, operational, organisational and regulatory aspects.

2 • CIGRE key figures (2015 data)

58 National Committees



Membership



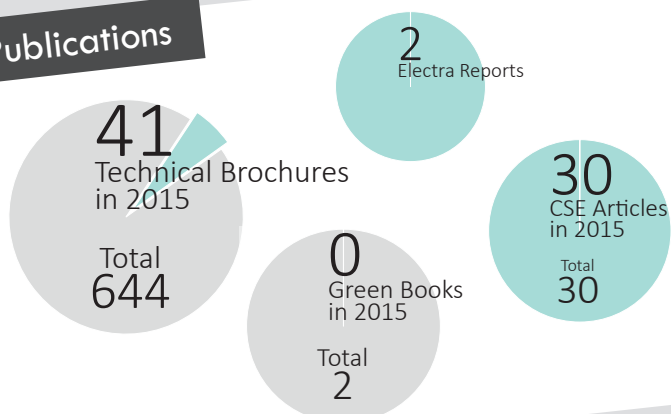
Working Groups

241 Working Groups
3801 Experts
including 295 Women
from 64 Countries

E-CIGRE

Downloadings on E-CIGRE:
150 000 publications in 2015
(102 000 publications en 2014)

Publications



Tutorials

Events

2 symposia in 2015 (Sweden and South Africa)
20 regional or colloquia around the world

52 participations from Study Committees

63 tutorials delivered

3 • CIGRE goals



CIGRE aims to:

- Facilitate and develop the exchange of knowledge and information, in all countries as regards the production, transmission and distribution of electricity.
- Add value to the knowledge and information exchanged by synthesizing state-of-the-art and world practices.
- Make managers, decision-makers and regulators aware of the synthesis of CIGRE's work, in the area of electric power systems.

4 • How CIGRE works ?



CIGRE develops technical knowledge using two main methods:

- Conferences and meetings, where papers are produced and discussed; and
- Studies carried out by Study Committees through the work of international Working Groups (WG) on identified industry issues.

The Biennial Session held in Paris every even numbered year is the most important CIGRE event. It brings together more than 3000 delegates from all the parts of the world and more than 400 papers, covering all the fields of CIGRE, where industry issues are discussed, debated and agreed.

Symposia are usually held in odd numbered years, in different countries. These events focus on a limited number of topics relevant to the Study Committees organising the event.

Other meetings are also held at country level or at Region level.

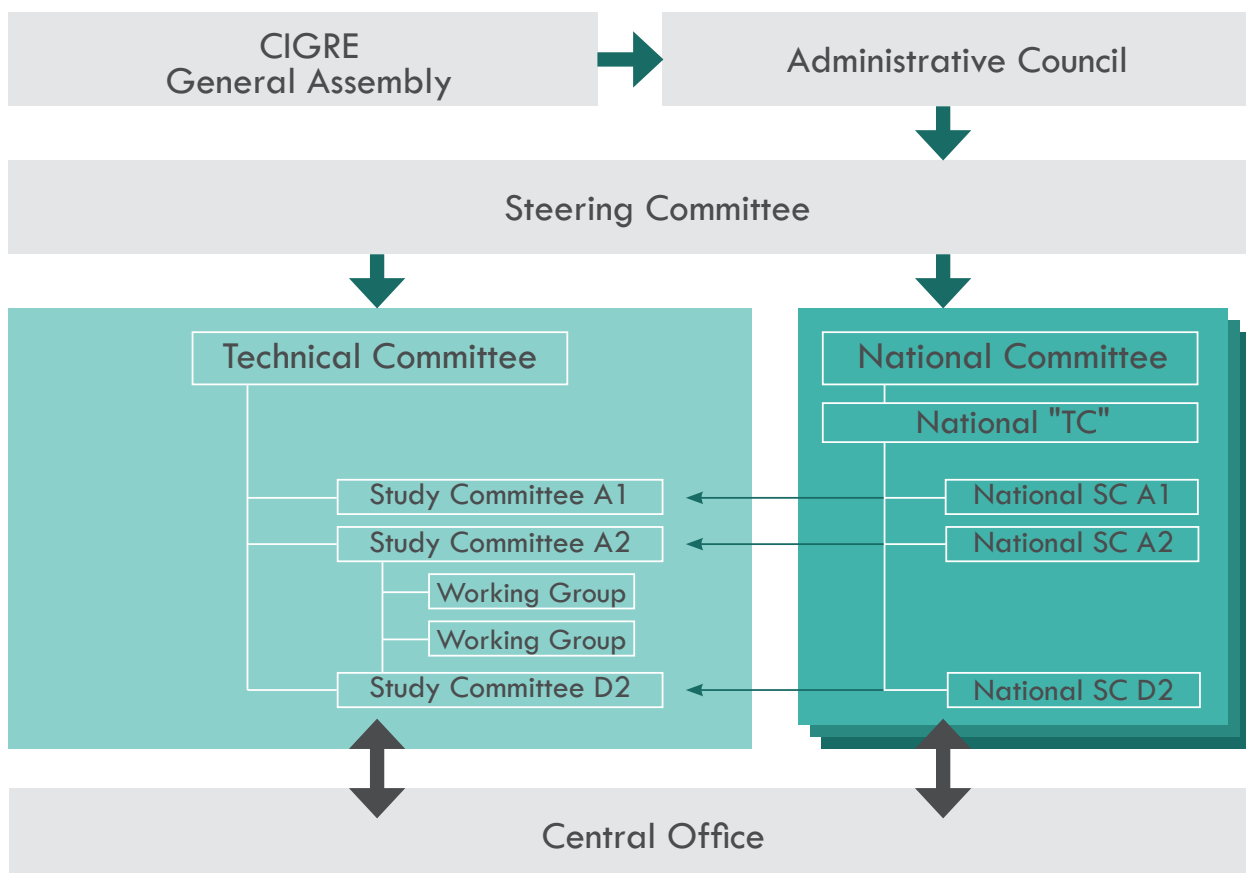
5 • National Committees

CIGRE has approximately 60 National Committees, representing over 95% of its Members. Members in countries that do not have a National Committee are managed from CIGRE's Central Office in Paris.

The CIGRE structure within many of the larger National Committees mirrors the international CIGRE structure. For example, there are 16 Australian Panels in each of the equivalent areas of activity of the international Study Committees (SC). The Australian National Committee representative for each Study Committee is also the convenor of the equivalent Australian Panel (AP).

Members of CIGRE can be individual members or collective members. Companies usually become collective members and employees of those companies can become members of National Committee Panels or Working Groups.

Each panel convenor is also a member of the National Technical Committee (NTC) which provides a forum for the exchange ideas, coordination of activities and reporting on particular issues.



6 • Study Committees


There are 16 Study Committees, also called “International Study Committees”, each dealing with a technical field of the Power Industry. Their work, carried out by Working Groups, is coordinated by the Technical Committee of CIGRE. Altogether several thousands of experts are involved in these Working Groups and tens of reports are issued every year, usually in the form of Technical Brochures.

In many countries, 16 “mirror” national study committees or “panels” support the activities of their related Study Committee, provide support to the local power industry and disseminate knowledge generated by CIGRE to the industry.

National Committees regularly hosts meetings of international Study Committees and Working Groups. These bodies contain the pre-eminent international experts in their fields who thereby bring their expertise to the region. Seminars, workshops and other events are organised by local panels when Study Committees or working Groups are visiting, to enhance this transfer of knowledge.

As CIGRE is the primary organisation that supports the activities of international standards organisations in the power sector, it is also important that these activities provide the opportunity for regional input into the international activities of CIGRE.



A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, with numerous skyscrapers illuminated by lights. In the foreground, there is a body of water with several dark wooden pilings or piers extending into it. The sky is dark blue.

Study Committees consist of a chairperson, a secretary, 24 regular members, about 12 observer members, and experts. A National Committee can have one member on any Study Committee.

Each Study Committee has a specified scope of activity. Strategic Plans and Action Plans establish the goals of the activities of the Study Committees. Specific industry needs are addressed through the formation of Working Groups that report to the Study Committee.

The role of Chairperson is a position of importance to the industry. It requires the combination of technical skills, organisational ability, and ability to run a forum style meeting, pro-active communication style and a personal commitment to the aims of CIGRE and the support and facilitation of the Working Group members.

Chairpersons are appointed by CIGRE's Administrative Council on the recommendation of the Technical Committee Chairperson.

Each Study Committee meets at least once a year, and manages a one day group discussion meeting, also called "technical session", during the biennial CIGRE conference in Paris, also named Paris Session, in even years. These events provide a structured environment to discuss papers submitted to address specific preferential subjects.

Every odd year, a group of Study Committees meets at the invitation of a National Committee where a symposium is usually held on a topic of regional interest.

A Study Committee not involved in symposium, meets at the invitation of a National Committee and generally hold a colloquium in the venue.

7 • Working Groups

Working Groups are the main engine room of CIGRE. Working Group scopes are created by the Study Committee and approved by the Technical Committee. A period of up to 4 years is then given to address the issue. A Working Group convenor is nominated and a “call for experts” is initiated to identify members of the Working Group. Membership of the Working Group is approved by the Study Committee. Each Working Group reports on progress to Study Committee meetings annually.

The output of the Working Group is usually a Technical Brochure. This is in a form of an electronic or printed book that is made available to all members of CIGRE. As these documents have been produced by international experts, they define industry practice or “state of the art”. Many form the basis for standards generated by IEC or IEEE. Working groups also produce a tutorial presentation based on the information in the Technical Brochure. A suitably qualified presenter (eg. a Working Group member) can use this prepared presentation in a workshop.

The list of active Working Groups is available at:

<http://www.cigre.org/Technical-activities/Study-Committees-Working-Groups>

8 • Contributing to the work of CIGRE

The value of CIGRE derives from the contributions of its members. It is accepted that any member will not have contributions to make in all areas of CIGRE work but member is required to be a contributor to the CIGRE group they have membership.

9 • Contributing to CIGRE Working Groups

Working Group membership is a vital and core part of CIGRE's activities as Working Groups are the method by which CIGRE establishes new industry references and guidelines for the application of state of the art methods and technologies for the best operation of the power system.

Working Groups are charged with the responsibility to generate Technical Brochures covering a particular topic over typically a 3-4 year time frame. Topics are chosen by the Study Committees and endorsed by CIGRE.

Technical Brochures are typically 50 – 150 pages in length and are published for sale to the general industry or available as download to CIGRE member individuals and organisations.

Working Group membership is managed by the Convener of the Working Group as appointed by the Study Committee. The Convener may appoint or remove members as necessary for the efficiency and quality of the Technical Brochure and according to the active participation of the member.

A request for membership to the Working Group is via the respective Country Representative to the Study Committee.

Responsibilities

- Working Group members are required to act in the following respects;
- Contribute to the writing and editing of the Technical Brochure themselves;
- Liaising with other people and organisations within their country to identify best practice requirements and solutions of benefit to the quality of the Technical Brochure;
- Encourage support in undertaking these activities with young engineers as a means to promote the CIGRE experience and participation.

In the case of 'native' English speaking members, these members are generally expected to take an additional proactive lead role in ensuring the quality of the document in terms of context, grammar, spelling and readability.

In all other respects, all members share the same responsibilities to the production of the Technical Brochure.

Workload Commitment

Working Group membership will require commitment of the individual and support of their organisation to the timely response to issues and production of the Technical Brochure to the agreed plan. The time commitment will vary for each topic, role and throughout the life of the Working Group. However it is reasonable to assume that Working Group membership may constitute typically require a commitment of 5-10 days per year.

As Working Group membership is a joint responsibility of representing the individuals personal expertise and that of representing the CIGRE organisation and industry as whole for their country, the member is required to submit a brief annual report summarising progress and matters of interest, either personally or via their company representative, to the CIGRE Australian Panel.

Membership

Working Group membership is available in two forms:

1. Regular members are required to attend most of the Working Group meetings typically held up to 4 times a year in locations around the world as deemed appropriate by the Working Group Convener;
2. Corresponding members are not specifically required to attend the Working Group meetings in person although tele or video conferencing is a useful alternative. However they are encouraged to attend whenever and wherever possible, especially in the early formative meetings for the tasks to establish a good team relationship.

10 • Other CIGRE Industry events

As one of the main mechanisms to achieve the aims of CIGRE to “Facilitate and develop the exchange of knowledge and information”, National Committees and their mirror Panels may organise open invitation events and seminars for the industry at large.

These events are an effective means to broaden involvement and benefit of CIGRE work beyond just the limited numbers of Panel members or available Working Group participation.

The events are promoted as highly cost effective seminars, often significantly less than similar commercial run organisations.





The collection, creation and dissemination of industry information is fundamental to the work of CIGRE. There are three websites to assist members.

CIGRE International

The CIGRE international website provides information on the world wide activities of CIGRE. This includes the work of Study Committees and Working Groups. It also has information on international CIGRE events.

E-cigre

E-cigre is the reference site for CIGRE publications. It includes Technical Brochures, papers and the Electra magazine. Documents can be purchased or downloaded for free with a valid membership number.

National Committee websites

Many National Committees have established their own websites as a reference site and workplace for CIGRE activities. Information about CIGRE hosted events is also available.

12 • Further information

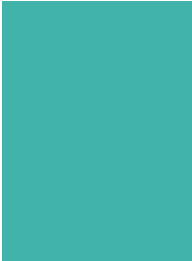
Important website links are:

International website: www.cigre.org

CIGRE e-library: www.e-cigre.org

For further information please contact the Central Office: +33 (0)1 53 89 12 90

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