ANNUAL REPORT 2019–20

אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
جامعة بن-غوريون في النقب

✳ YAZAMUT 360°

BRAINSTORM BGU

BRAINSTORM BGU

SUMMARY

Brainstorm BGU is about neurotech, community and innovation.

We founded the community December 2018, as a group of students and one PI from the Department of Cognitive and Brain Sciences. Since then we have launched a national community.

This year began with plans to have a summer hackathon and a grand opening of the NeuroHUB during the spring semester. Covid-19 changed our plans, so we pivoted to virtual events and focused on preparing more equipment for the NeuroHUB.

We also had an engaging social media activity which lasted for several weeks, with games and riddles.

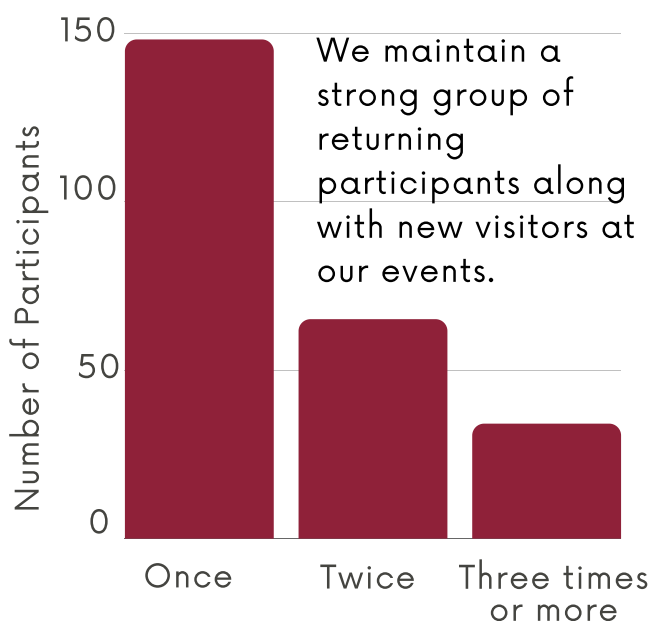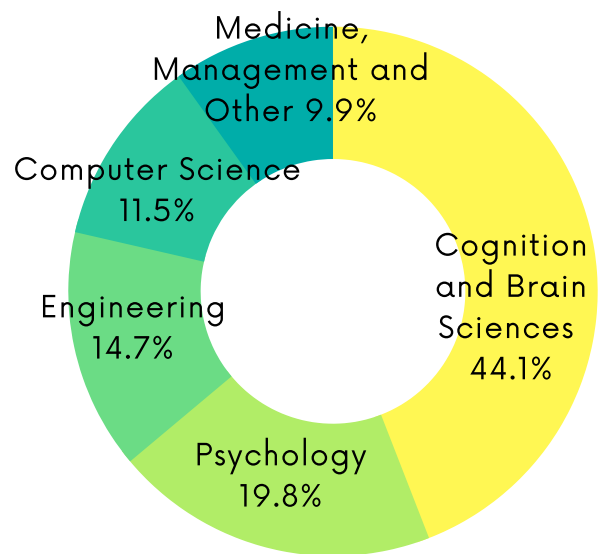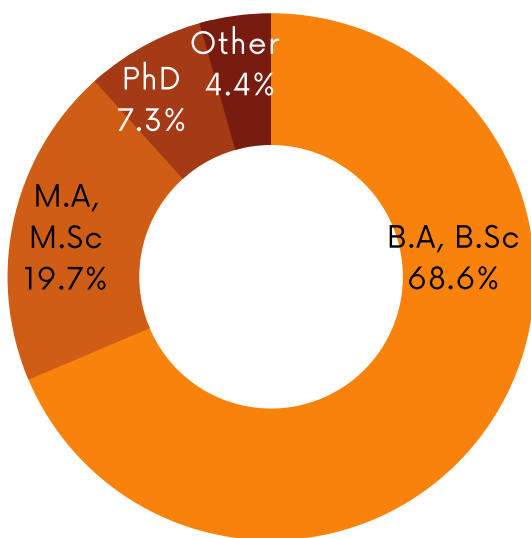## This report details our second year of activity, and it has been wild.

These are our main achievements this year:

- Team expansion while increasing our overall activity as well.
- Community growth in numbers and in other departments.
- NeuroHUB is now set up and ready for use by curious students.

We invite you to see a bit of our activity.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We had remarkable community growth this year, in numbers of members and also in their different departments. Our team grew as well.

Other
4.4%

PhD
7.3%

M.A,
M.Sc
19.7%

B.A, B.Sc
68.6%

Medicine, Management and Other 9.9%

Computer Science
11.5%

Engineering
14.7%

Psychology
19.8%

Cognition and Brain Sciences
44.1%

We maintain a strong group of returning participants along with new visitors at our events.

Number of Participants

150

100

50

0

Once   Twice   Three times or more

+12

Team members and group leaders

Participants not from Ben Gurion University were excluded from the analysis.

LOCAL EVENTS

The major part of our community's activities are events with outstanding lectures and workshops.
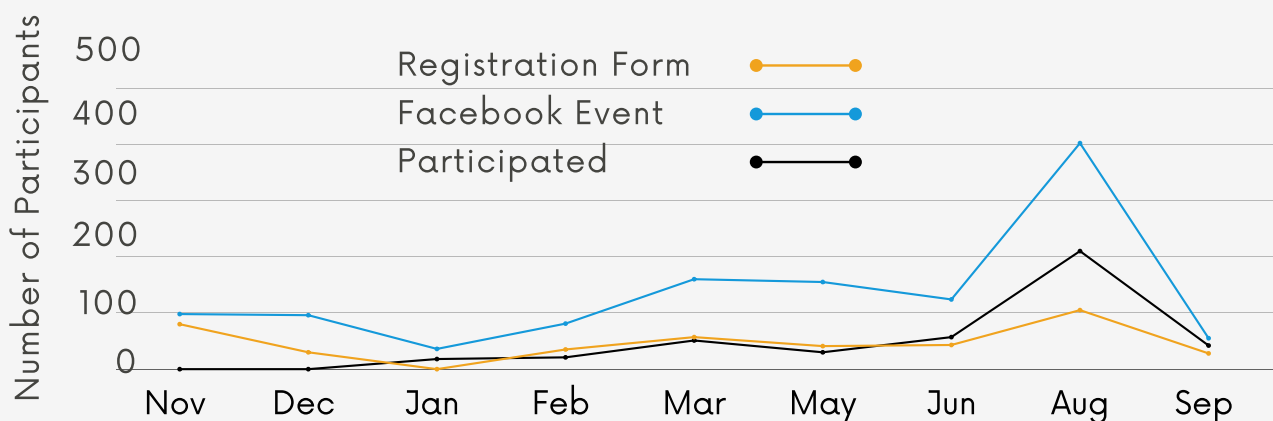
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Events throughout the year, focusing on various topics

105

participants had arrived to the Data Science & Cognitive Psychology event

17

companies and organizations had representatives in our events

TASC
CONSULTING & CAPITAL

OAZIS
YAZAMUT 360°

CACTUS CAPITAL
BY BGU

WIX

YAZAMUT 360°

PayPal

Pecan

XRHealth

BEYONDMINDS

Number of Participants

| | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | May | Jun | Aug | Sep |

Registration Form
Facebook Event
Participated

NATIONAL EVENTS

We are proud to be the first Brainstorm community. Currently, Brainstorm IL consists of 8 communities 8 universities across Israel.

POETRY BRAIN

+18%

Performances were from BGU in comparison with 3 other communities.

55%

of the articles in Brainstorm Magazine are written by BGU's community!

LET'S CONNECT

+15%

Participation from BGU in comparison with 3 other communities.

Of course, the **winners** of the hackathon were from BGU.

NEUROPICH 2025

+22%

Participation from BGU in comparison with 5 other communities.

100%

Of the groups that made it to the finals, had members from BGU.
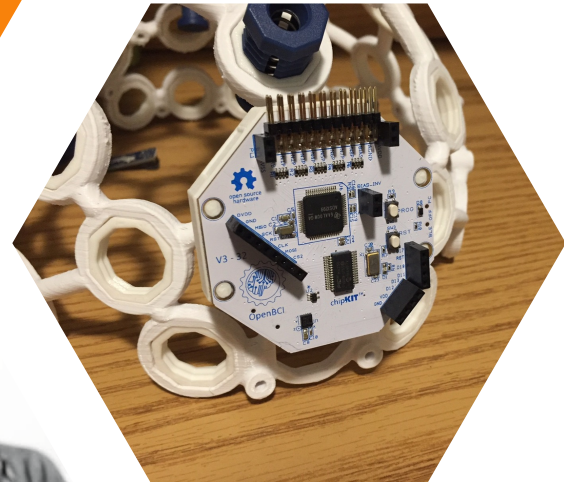
NEURO–HUB

A space for imagination! We're creating the perfect space for community members from diverse fields of study to meet and work together on neurotech projects. Thanks to the generous support by the CPL lab, ABC Robotics Initiative and Yazamut 360!

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Computational units: openBCI, Arduino and Raspberry Pi

9
Volunteers from: Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Brain Science and more

40
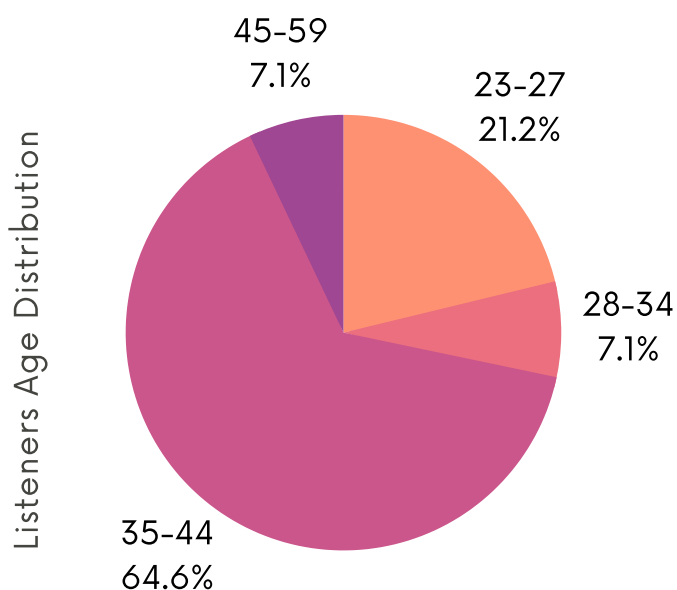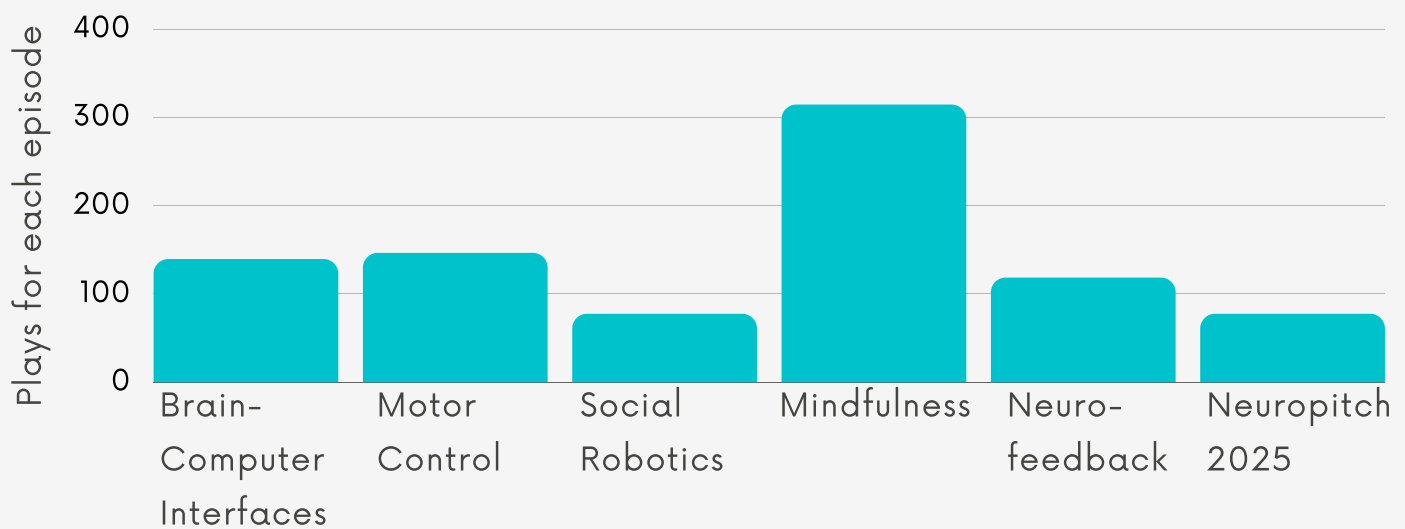Sensors (e.g. EEG, EMG, hand motion, voice)
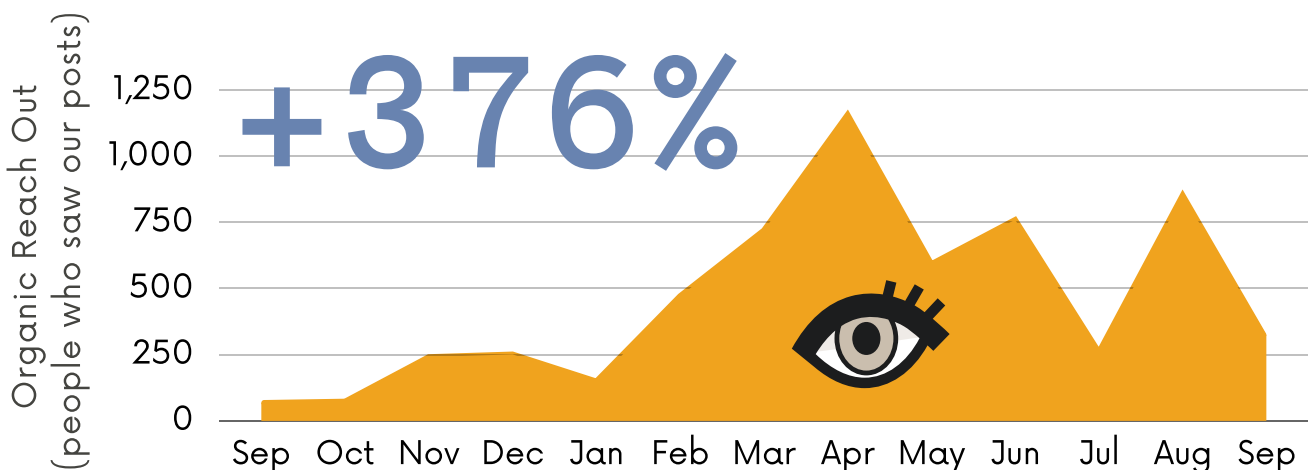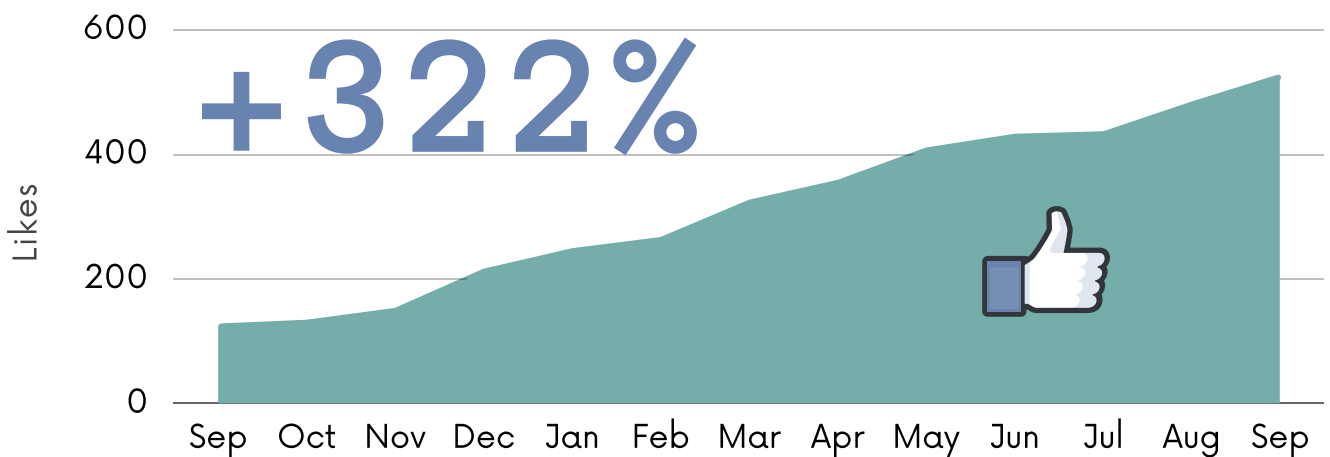
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BCI-controlled robots

BRAINSTORM FORECAST

We launched our podcast with BGU Radio on December 2019 and since then much has happened!

Plays for each episode

| | 400 300 200 100 0 |
| Brain-Computer Interfaces | Motor Control | Social Robotics | Mindfulness | Neuro-feedback | Neuropitch 2025 |

Listeners Age Distribution

45-59
7.1%

23-27
21.2%

28-34
7.1%

35-44
64.6%

314
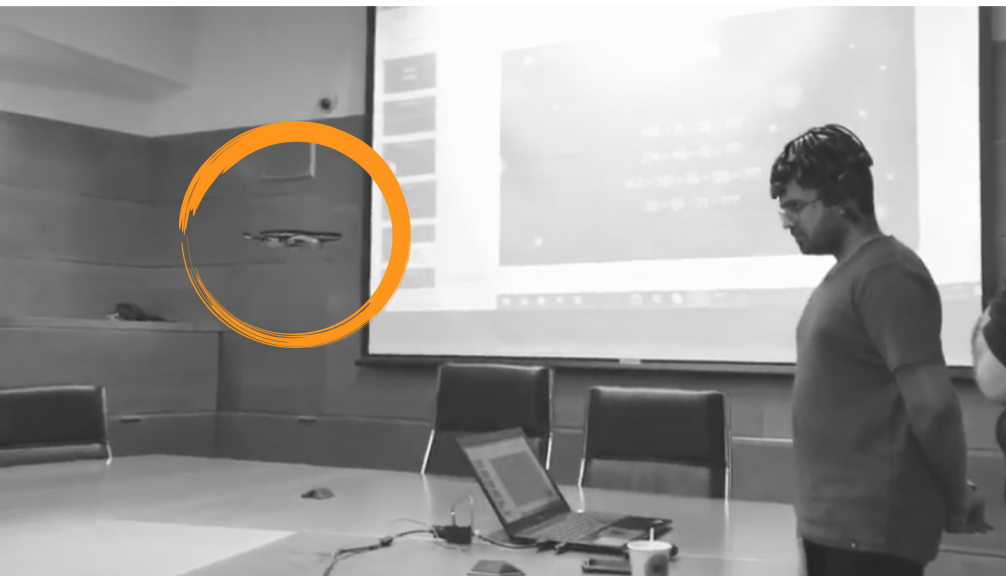
Plays for the Mindfulness Episonde

SOCIAL MEDIA

Especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, we appreciate the importance of social media, its role in the community and the way it engages people.

+322%

Likes
600
400
200
0
Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep

24K
Reaches by 103 posts

1K
Responses to 13 Facebook events

+376%

Organic Reach Out (people who saw our posts)
1,250
1,000
750
500
250
0
Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep

OUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

We have big plans!

The drone (in the circle) is controlled by brain waves! When the person is concentrating the drone rises higher.

Click to see the video.

1 GIVE BACK
We believe we have a role in the Be'er-Sheva ecosystem. Therefore, we are planning to initiate volunteering projects and to lead in the launching of the national BCI-4-ALS course.

2 GROW AND GET STRONGER
We plan to accelerate the community growth while maintaining real and meaningful connections between the people in the community by working together, studying and having fun.

3 MAKE NEUROTECH
We have (thanks to generous donors) a fully equipped NeuroHUB, and through challenges and hackathons we plan to create Neurotech prototypes.

BRAINSTORM BGU

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f Brainstorm BGU

📷 Brainstorm BGU