

## Italy Section

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### Getting Closer to Industry

The Industry Relation Committee, with the coordination and other members of the committee from industry and the contribution of chapter chairs and other volunteers, is working on strengthen the relationship with industries through: increasing the Italian Industry participation in the R8 Mentor Program and R8 Internship Program; informative specific meetings with selected big industries; organization of panels and other joint events; organization of student visits; organization of job fairs during Section conferences.

A second edition of the special meeting with industries is part of the program of the annual conference of Italy Section IEEE-RTSI International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry Sept. 12, 2017 (Modena). The objective of the meeting is to inform all participants of the initiative that IEEE Region 8 and IEEE Italy Section is promoting in favor of industries and to gain new ideas and initiatives of common interest. In this second edition the special participation of the chair of IEEE UK & Ireland Section (the largest in R8) will present a useful experience and another perspective on the IEEE-Industry Partnership.

In the RTSI 2017 edition a strong technical program with contributed and invited papers and three panel with local industries is organized. In the three panels industry and university representatives will discuss on future strategies in the fields of: Smart mobility, Industry 4.0 and Smart healthcare.

A special exhibition with innovative start up and university spin off is organized in parallel to the technical sessions. Cooperation with Italian District of Industries in Modena (Confindustria and Democenter) is established with the strong support of University of Modena and Reggio Emilia Department of Electronics.

A special meeting on innovative startups is also organized for the first time at the 2017 edition of RTSI with the objective to inform young graduated and entrepreneurs on how to develop an innovative enterprise project also with the examples of some success cases of Italian start-ups.

A new award of Italy Section was introduced for recognizing an IEEE member of industry who is an excellent speaker and have made high quality technical contributions on advanced topics that are of primary importance to the industry and to IEEE Italy Section community. At the same time, the speakers and their employing companies are given the opportunity to make a strong impact on IEEE Italian community. Ultimately, this award aims to strengthen the ties between IEEE members and industry leaders.

See: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/industrialdistinguished-lecturer-award/>.

### Attracting and Supporting Future Members

The effort of the Student Activity Committee of the Italy Section has been concentrated on the inactive SBs with more IEEE student members. New counselors were found and nominated, meetings with present counselors and other active member of the universities are organized. Thanks to these actions new SBCs are under way and two/three SBs have been revitalized. Some Student Branches are very active and their effort will be recognized with a dedicated award, the Exemplary Student Branch Award (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2016/12/IEEEItalySectionExemplarySBAward-DEF.pdf>). The award Ceremony will be held in Modena in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2017 annual conference of the Section. The second IEEE Italy Section meeting of Student Branches will be organized during IEEE RTSI 2017 in Modena. The event was a special occasion for the student members to discuss new ideas and exchange experiences and also meet industries representatives. The official representative of Italian Student Branches has been nominated during the last meetings of the Italy Section EXCO (Executive Committee) and he has been registered on IEEE vtools. During the annual meeting of the Italy Section RTSI 2017 in Modena, for the second time it will be offered an important opportunity to young graduated and PhD student to be on the stage showing their advancement in the field. The focus will be on innovative prototype implementations, systems and technologies in the research fields of RTSI2017. Demos were considered as real, practical, and interactive proof of the presenters' research ideas and scientific or engineering contributions, with the goal of offering YP the opportunity to discuss systems, applications, prototypes, or proofs-of-concept with Senior researchers and people from industry. All demo submissions will be subscribed to the "YP Demo competition". An evaluation committee scored posters/demos/speeches to award the best one. Demos will be judged on originality, execution, and illustration of the core research ideas. In addition, four YPs were awarded with a development kit sponsored by an important semiconductor company.

In 2017 IEEE Italy Section is organizing two international schools for master and PhD students and also young professionals (IEEE student members will have a participation diploma from IEEE R8 and professionals will have credits from local Order of Engineers). The third edition of the IEEE Italy Section PhD Summer School will be held in Perugia from 17 to 23 September. The main topic of this edition is: "Smarter Engineering for Industry 4.0" (web site: [ieees2017.unipg.it](http://ieees2017.unipg.it)). With the support of "IEEE Smart Cities Initiative", Italy Section in cooperation with University of Trento, is organizing the IEEE European Summer School on Smart Cities (<http://events.unitn.it/en/ieees3ceu2017>). The school will be held from 4 to 8 of September, 2017 in Trento.

In several events, co-organized with the IEEE Italy Section, a poster area to illustrate the benefits for a IEEE Student Member and IEEE Member has been organized, with the presence of a IEEE Italy Section volunteer.

### Section Vitality

A new Committee on Professional and Career Activity was created. Its activity is in progress. The objective is to obtain certified credits from Engineering National Committee (CNI) for the courses, tutorials, schools, organized by the Italy Section for the career development of professionals. This action is intended to increase the number of professional affiliation to IEEE.

The newly created committee on History activity is working on two new milestones. The milestone ceremony is always an important moment of communication and advertisement of IEEE and Italy Section.

See: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/history-activity/>.

The Section has a Section Awards Program: six new awards were established and assigned in 2017: Honorary award, Distinguished Service Award, Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award, Best Chapter Award, Exemplary Student Branch Award, Best Demo Competition for Young Professionals (for details see: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>). Italy chapters, each year, assigned a tenth of awards to students and young researchers, i.e.: Best PhD thesis award, Best master thesis award, Best paper on an IEEE journal published by young researcher. These awards are supported by Italy Section and, sometime by the IEEE Societies.

Italy Section continues to strengthen its relationship with Italian Technical Associations. In particular Italy Section has signed MoU with: AICA - Associazione italiana per l'informatica ed il calcolo distribuito ([www.aicanet.it/](http://www.aicanet.it/)) AEIT - Associazione Italiana di Elettrotecnica, Elettronica, Automazione, Informatica e Telecomunicazioni ([www.aeit.it](http://www.aeit.it)) that is also sister society of IEEE. According to the new IEEE procedure to partnering with national technical organization, Italy Section is organizing joint events with AICA and AEIT. Italy Section started its cooperation with FAST (the Italian Federation of the Scientific and Technical Associations) (<http://www.fast.mi.it/inglese/english2.htm>) and joint activity are on the way.

A two per year Newsletter of the Section is sent to all members. The newsletter informs the section members about the recent news of the Section, the Chapters, Section Committees, Student Branches, Young Professional, other activities, announcements. See Section website for the June 2017 edition of the newsletter (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/newsletter/>).

### **IEEE in Africa**

Italy Section can offer special rate for participation of IEEE Africa Sections members to Italy Section events/ workshops/ conferences/ schools.

Cross-fertilization: Italy Section Distinguished lecturer can give their lectures at IEEE Africa Sections. It is possible to organize visits of Fellow and Senior Members of the Italy Section to Africa Sections/Chapters.

Italy Section can participate in humanitarian programs of R8 for Africa also with active cooperation of some very active Student Branches.

### **Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria**

IEEE Office in Vienna could give help:

- in coordinating technical activities shared from the different Sections and European Industries.

and also, as already said:

- in the process of registering IEEE Sections as a juridical person.
- in case of fiscal problems
- in obtaining new benefits for members like: discounts on flight tickets, discounts on SW packages, ....

It can be a place were to meet:

- organize joint meeting between Sections
- organize special meetings of R8 committees
- organize special meeting s of EPPI
- organize standardization committees meetings

### **Miscellaneous / Recommendations / Feedback**

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