

Italy Section

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What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to foster Industry Relations? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Industry Relations? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Industry Relations? How are you going to continue to foster Industry Relations?

The initiatives that work well in Italy Section to foster Industry Relations are the following:

- the Industry Relation Committee is continuously working to increase the number of industries participating in the R8 Programs (Mentor and Internship) and Italy Sections Programs (forum, panels, workshops, job fairs, awards, Student Branch initiatives, special meetings).
- every year the Section organizes a special forum where Industry and Academia, Students and Young professional can meet and synergistically interact. The forum is IEEE-RTSI International Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry. The third edition was on Sept. 11-13, 2017 in Modena, the fourth edition will be on Sept. 10-13, 2018 in Palermo.

During RTSI many events enrich the technical program:

- The meeting with industries with participation of representatives of R8 Industry Committee and R8 Sections;
- three panels with industries and academia in the main fields of interest of the forum
- a research exhibition with start up and university spin off with demo and prototypes
- a special meeting on innovative startups (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.
- an Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award. The awardees and their employing companies are given the opportunity to make a strong impact on IEEE Italian community. The 2017 IDL award was given to Benedetto Vigna (ST Microelectronics) (see: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/2017-industrial-distinguished-lecturer-award-of-benedetto-vigna/>). He will be invited by three Chapters/Student Branches in 2018 sponsored by Italy Section to give a lecture on: "Innovation in Big Companies"

An updated list of members of industry can be useful to improve the service to members of industry and also to find other Industry Ambassadors. R8 can promote the introduction of the Corporate membership of industry companies. Some big companies in Italy already asked that options, an incentive to increase the number of internal memberships.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well in your Section to Attract and Support Future Members, e.g., Students and Young Professionals? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to better Attract and Support Future Members? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Attracting and Supporting Future Members? How are you going to continue to support Students and Young Professionals?

New counselors were found and nominated and three SBs in probation (Bologna, Calabria and Politecnico di Torino) have been revitalized and have increased their membership. The active student branches have increased their membership (the number of IEEE students in 2017 increased of 124 new students as compared to the previous year). The Exemplary Student Branch Award (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>) was given to Pavia Univ. Student Branch the second (Roma La Sapienza Univ. SB) and third (Brescia Univ. SB) place were also awarded. The Ceremony was held in Modena in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2017 annual conference of the Section. A new edition of the award is now open for candidates. The second IEEE Italy Section meeting of Student Branches organized during IEEE RTSI 2017 in Modena was a very successful event with participation of representative of R8 SAC animating the event. The SB chairs received a financial support from the Section to participate in the meeting. A sponsorship program, to support Student Branches in their activities, has been implemented with procedures, modules and financial resources (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/documenti/>).

During the annual meeting of the Italy Section RTSI 2017 in Modena, for the second time (after the first edition in Bologna in 2016), a "YP Demo competition" was organized. Eight teams of IEEE YP presented their demonstrators in a special exhibition and dedicated time. All participant to the conferences were able to ask questions, see the demonstrators and vote their favorite one. The best demo was chosen by a special commission and the votes of the participants were taken into account. During the award ceremony the winners (the first four demo) were announced. The first place team received the Section award and the first four had a special project kit from ST Microelectronics (the industrial sponsor of this competition).

The third edition of the IEEE Italy Section PhD Summer School was held in Perugia from 17 to 23 September. The main topic of this edition was: "Smarter Engineering for Industry 4.0" (web site: ieees2017.unipg.it). With the support of "IEEE Smart Cities Initiative", Italy Section in cooperation with University of Trento, the IEEE European Summer School on Smart Cities (<http://events.unitn.it/en/ieees3ceu2017>) was held from 4 to 8 of September, 2017 in Trento.

In order to increase the number of students that maintain the IEEE membership after graduation I suggest a discounts for YP membership in order to smooth the passage from Student member fee to full member fee.

What activities/programs/initiatives work well to drive the vitality and sustainability in your Section? What changes would be required by IEEE/the Region/your Section to improve Section vitality and sustainability? What were major successes since the last meeting in terms of Section Vitality? How are you going to continue to foster Section Vitality?

The Committee on Professional and Career Activity, recently created is working 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. In the meantime special effort is dedicated to obtain certified credits for the tutorial organized by the section at the regional and local level.

The History activity committee is working on two new milestones, one for Galileo Ferraris together with Politecnico of Torino and the other to Giovanni Giorgi with University of Roma La Sapienza. The Life Member Affinity Group had its annual meeting in Milano on December 5, 2017 with the participation of the Student Branch of Politecnico di Milano. The meeting has also a

special session with two lectures on the history of technology (see the program on <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2017/11/LM-AG-meeting-5dic-flyer.pdf>). As an output of this meeting a new activity of the section will start. A series of interviews (coordinated by a volunteer LM) with answers to questions on the history of technology, to be published on the section web.

The Section has a very reach Section Award Program: six new awards were established and assigned in 2017 (see: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>) and the 2018 edition of these awards is on. 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 or Best paper presented by a young researcher during an IEEE conference organized in Italy. These awards are supported by Italy Section and, sometime by the IEEE Societies.

We had the first call of the Italian PES Scholarship Plus Initiative and the first four Scholarship were assigned during a special ceremony held during the Workshop ? IEEE PES Careers & Scholarship Plus in Europe held at ISGT (International Conference on Innovative Smart Grid Technologies), in Torino on September 26 Two of these scholarship are sponsored by an important industry in the power electric field (Schneider Electric).

Recently we add new awards sponsored by another big industry -ABB (more info on these awards are available on: <http://abbaward2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it>).

Italy Section continues to strengthen its relationship with Italian Technical Associations. In particular Italy Section has signed MoU in 2017 with: AICA - Associazione Italiana per l'informatica ed il Calcolo distribuito (www.aicanet.it/) According to the new IEEE procedure to partnering with national technical organization, Italy Section is organizing three joint events with AICA in 2018, two of them are together with WIE AG.

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 December 2017 edition of the newsletter (http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2018/01/newsletter_21-dicembre_2017-TT_DP_rev2-3.pdf).

What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Area Chair Gloria Chuckwudebe to foster IEEE in Africa? How does your Section support IEEE Activities 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.

What services and which kind of support would you expect for Region 8 and/or your section out of the new IEEE office in Vienna, Austria? How has the existence of this office influenced your section since its inauguration last year?

IEEE Office in Vienna could give help:

- Being a meeting place for section chairs
- obtaining new benefits for European members like: discounts on flight tickets, discounts on SW packages,

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- increased membership
- two new SB WIE AG and one new chapter
- new activity with industries
 - Industrial Distinguished lecturer award
 - Four new awards sponsored by Industry
 - Special meeting for innovative start up
 - a large award program
- a new linkedin site: <https://it.linkedin.com/company/ieee-italy-section>
- a new financial support program for Student Branch activities



Fig. 1. Exemplary SB award- SB Pavia



Fig. 2. IDL Award2017-Roma-BenedettoVigna



Fig. 3. Riunione LM a Milano 5dic



Fig. 4. WIE AG Modena



Fig. 5. YP Demo competition