

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 Italy Section Action for Industry Committee 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).
- we had, in Palermo, the fourth edition of IEEE RTSI (Research and Technology for Society and Industry) (9-13 September 2018) <http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it>.

This is the annual flag event of the Italy Section with some important initiatives devoted to industries such as:

- The meeting with industries (<http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/meetingindustries.html>), this year with the special contribution of R8 Action for Industry coordinator presenting R8 initiatives and the France Section Chair presenting Afl in France.
- three panels with industries and academia in the main fields of interest of the forum: 1st panel: Smart grids and energy systems for smart city districts (http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_1.pdf) (participants ? 2 big industries ENEL and ENI) 2nd panel: Smart Technologies & Best Practices for Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation (http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_2.pdf) (participants ? 5 local SME industries) 3rd panel: ICT at the service of the citizen: best practices and business cases (http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Panel_3.pdf) (participants ? Municipality of Trento and two local start ups)
- a research exhibition with start up co-organized together with a local incubator ARCA (we had 8 start up presenting their products and prototypes) (exhibition catalogue: <http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/Startup20%Exhibition.pdf>)
- a special meeting on innovative startups and entrepreneurs (this second edition ? after the success of the first one was enlarged and held plenary) we had one keynote speech Piero Formica: Exploring the culture of Open Innovation. Towards an altruistic model of economy, and three panels with incubators, associations and foundations promoting start-ups and innovative enterprises; 4 big industries (ENEL SpA; Terna SpA; Prysmian Electronics, ST Microelectronics) presenting their models of Open Innovation and 6 start ups presenting their personal experience of success. (see: http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/innovative_enterprises.html)
- The 2018 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/files/2018/02/DistIndustryAward-SECTION-2018-1.pdf>) has been given to Enrico Ragaini (ABB). He will be invited by three Chapters/Student Branches in 2019 sponsored by Italy Section to give a lecture on: "" Not only smart grid: the many links between electronics, software and power systems ""

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?

The active student branches have increased their membership. The Exemplary Student Branch Award 2018 (see <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/award>) was given to Politecnico di Milano Student Branch; the Most innovative SB award was given to Univ. of Pavia SB and the most improved SB award was given to Politecnico di Torino SB. The Ceremony was held in Palermo (2018, Sept. 12) in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2018 annual Forum of the Section. The third IEEE Italy Section meeting of Student Branches organized during IEEE RTSI 2018 in Palermo (<http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/studentsmeeting.html>) was a very successful event with special contribution of:

- UK and Ireland Section Past chair and SAC Coordinator;
- Mona Ghassemian who presented the Humanitarians programs of R8 and held a very interesting workshop on ?wearable devices?.
- the SB chair of Politecnico di Milano and a YP representative who gave their witnesses on their participation in the SYP Congress in Porto.
- Marco Santambrogio (the Italy Section Student Activity Coordinator) who held a very professional short course on effective pitch presentation. The SB chairs received the financial support from the Section to participate in the meeting. Students from University of Palermo (co-organizer of RTSI2018) received from Italy Section 30 free subscription to the Forum. IEEE was advertised during the conference (at the reception desk and in a special corner dedicated to IEEE, gadgets and other support material of IEEE was distributed).

In order to increase the number of students that maintain the IEEE membership after last graduation (usually Master or PhD) I suggest a special discounts for YP membership in order to smooth the passage from Student member fee to full member fee. Many graduated students spend almost one year looking for a work in an industry without a regular salary.

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 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 Milestone ?Pacinotti's ring armature of direct current dynamos? has been approved, the Dedication Ceremony will be held on December 4th 2018, in Pisa.

A series of interviews (coordinated by a volunteer LM ? Prof Roberto Napoli) with answers to questions on the history of technology, has been started. The first interview is available on the Italy Section web page (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/storia-della-tecnologia-interviste/>) and is on the History of Microelectronics in Italy, through the witnesses of Bruno Murari (past-ST Microelectronics Director).

The Section has a very reach Section Award Program (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/awards/>): six new awards, financially supported by ABB, were established and assigned in 2018 (<http://abbaward2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it>). The 2018 Honorary Award was given to Federico Faggin for his outstanding contributions to the self aligned MOS silicon gate theory & technology and to the development of the first microprocessor. A plaque will be given to the winner of the award on Sept. 26 in Pisa during a special event organized at University of Pisa. The official announcement with a video prepared by the awardee was projected in Palermo at RTSI, during the Italy Section award Ceremony. The 2018 Distinguished service award was given to Ermanno Cardelli for exceptional contributions and service for the benefit and advancement of the Section. Three awards are assigned, each year to the three best chapters and three awards for the three Best Student Branches.

The 2017 Best PhD Thesis Award of Computer chapter and of Computational Intelligence chapter were assigned during RTSI2018 in Palermo.

Italy Section continues to strengthen its relationship with Italian Technical Associations. In particular Italy Section has signed MoU in May 2018 with: AEIT (www.aeit.it) According to the new IEEE procedure to partnering with national technical organization, Italy Section is organizing three joint events with AEIT in 2018, one of them has been held at RTSI2018 in cooperation with IEEE Italy Section WIE AG and AICA (another Italian Association with which Italy Section signed a MoU. (http://rtsi2018.ieeesezioneitalia.it/RTSI_WIE_Italy_event2018.pdf))

The Newsletter of the Section has been digitalized in order to be more up to date. 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 2018 edition of the newsletter (<http://sites.ieee.org/italy/category/news/>).

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?

No news on this activity

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 in having reimbursement from IEEE Legal Office of the managerial expenditures of the Section (expert in commercial Italian law, annual account auditing, GDPR consultant, treasurer assistant), these expenditures are requested by the Italian law in order to prepare the annual budget, pay VAT, ... and according to the IEEE Bylaws the rebate has to be used to financially support the technical activity of the Section/Chapters/SB/AG and cannot be used to pay these consultants and experts.

Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- this year the Section became, after a long process, an officially registered Italian association (with juridical personality)
- one new chapter IES chapter (we have now 40 chapter)
- the chapter activity is well organized and they find financial support from the Section for their technical activities, whose number is increasing every year. For this task the Chapter Activity coordinator is crucial as well the treasurer efficiency.
- more active student branches whose activity is promoted and encouraged also with financial support of the Section
- the RTSI forum is becoming more and more important (this year we had more than 250 participants from academia, industry, students, many section chapters) with the contribution of other R8 Sections and the R8 technical sponsorship.
- The award program of the Section has been increased with new awards sponsored by Industry and more awards for active SB and chapters.
- the member of Italy Section WIE AG increased and its activity is growing fast with cooperation with other Italian association with the same objective.