

## 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 activities that work well in Italy Section to foster Industry Relations are:

- The Industry Relation Committee works to establish direct dialogue with industry firms, to facilitate engagement of industry firms in IEEE initiatives, to increase the number of industrial companies participating in the R8 Programs (Mentor and Internship) and Italy Sections Programs (forum, panels, workshops, job fairs, awards, Student Branch initiatives, special meetings).
- Benedetto Vigna (STM), which received the 2017 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award, held three conferences in 2018. Since the last R8 meeting, he held the lecture on "Innovation in big companies: the MEMS in STM" by the Politecnico di Torino, 26 October 2018, and by the Università of Pavia, 15 November 2018, invited by SB and Chapter.
- The 2018 Industrial Distinguished Lecturer Award (<http:sites.ieee.orgitalyfiles201802DistIndustryAward-SECTION-2018-1.pdf>) has been given to Enrico Ragaini (ABB). He already received eight invitations by several IEEE Italy Section Chapters/Student Branches in 2019 sponsored by IEEE Italy Section, to give a lecture on: "Not only smart grid: the many links between electronics, software and power systems"
- Two new members were appointed as Industry Ambassadors in collaboration with the Industry Relation Committee of the IEEE Italy Section: Valerio Grassi from ATLAS Advanced Technologies s.r.l., and Enrico Ragaini from ABB.
- The new Entrepreneurship Committee was established in 2019 with the aim of analyzing the Italian Entrepreneurship scenario, promoting events in collaboration and developing agreement with startup incubators, accelerators, venture capital, collaborating with R8 and IEEE Entrepreneurship. Vincenzo Piuri from University of Milan was appointed as the Committee Coordinator.
- We will have, in Florence, the fifth edition of IEEE RTSI (Research and Technology for Society and Industry) (9-12 September 2019) <http:rtsi2019.ieeesezioneitalia.it>, as the annual flag event of the Italy Section. As for the past editions, the forum foresees important initiatives devoted to industries such as: 4th Industry Forum, Forum on Innovative start up and entrepreneurs, panels with industries. The program is still in progress.

**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 number of activities by the Student Branches registered an increasing trend. They play a very important role to attract new Student Members. The Section promotes and supports their initiatives as well as their interaction with the Young Professionals.

A novel Student Branch was formed since the last R8 meeting: SB Campus Bio-medico of Rome (Councilor: Emiliano Schena). Possibly other SB will be formed during the year.

The active Student Branches have increased their membership, reaching more than 1000 student/graduate student members. This contributed to the formation of novel SB Chapter and AG.

The Section will open this year the call for four (4) Exemplary Student Branch Awards.

The annual meeting of students and young professionals will be held during the IEEE RTSI 2019 (9-12 September). This event, students and YP will be put together to work towards new initiatives, interacting with representatives of the industry world in an international contest.

Several awards for Master and PhD Students are foreseen with the support of Industry and IEEE Societies.

The IEEE Computer, IM, IE/IA/PEL, Sensor Council Chapter together with IEEE Italy Section and the patronage of several institutions are organizing an IEEE Student Hackathon in Naples, June 5-6, 2019.

**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 Chapter and AG activity is well organized. They receive financial support by the Section for their technical activities, whose number is increasing every year.

Milestone "Pacinotti's ring armature of direct current dynamos" - the Dedication Ceremony was held on December 4th 2018, in Pisa hosted by the University of Pisa. The event was a great success with a wide participation and presence of students. 2018 IEEE President Jim Jefferies participated at the event.

The History activity committee is working on two new milestones, one for Galileo Ferraris together with Politecnico of Torino and the other for Giovanni Giorgi together with the University of Roma La Sapienza.

WIE Affinity Group is still fast increasing its activity. This thanks also thanks to the financial support by the Section and to the cooperation with other Italian Association and Industrial firms having same purposes.

On November 9, 2019 WIE and the Italy Section, organized together with the support of Tuscany Region, University of Pisa and other institutions the event: "L'ICT non e roba da donne?".

The Section has a very reach Section Award Program. In 2018, 47 awards have been assigned by the Section and Chapters. For 2019, the following awards have been defined: Honorary award (1), Industrial Distinguished Lecture award 2019 (2), Distinguished service award (2), Best Chapter award (4), Exemplary SB award (4).

The Section continues to foster its collaboration with Italian Technical Associations. In particular, with AEIT ([www.aeit.it](http:www.aeit.it)) and with AICA with which the Section signed a MoU. Novel events promoted in collaborations are foreseen for 2019.

The Section sponsored the event Lab-on-chip & Bio-data analytics of the 19th November 2018 together with three Italy Section Chapters.

The newsletter of the Section (available on: <http://sites.ieee.org/italy/newsletter/>) informs the Section members on the recent news, activities, announcements.

**What are your recommendations to IEEE Region 8 and the Africa Council 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 help to have reimbursement from IEEE Legal Office of the managerial/administrative costs of the Section (expert in commercial Italian law, annual account auditing, GDPR consultant, treasurer assistant). Such 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 it cannot be used to pay these consultants and experts.

**Outstanding new initiatives, Special Achievements, Anniversaries.**

The major achievements of IEEE Italy Section are:

- The Section reached in 2018 40 Chapters.
- The Chapter Activity Coordinator and Treasurer play a crucial role to make efficient and well organized the activity by the Chapter and AG.
- Number of Student Branches is still increasing as well as their activities, also because of the attention and financial support by the Section.
- The RTSI forum is becoming more and more important with the contribution of other R8 Sections and the R8 technical co-sponsorship. For RTSI 2019, we already received the technical co-sponsor by Israel, UK&Ireland, and Switzerland. Possibly other Sections will also support the 5th edition.
- The award program of the Section has been increased with new awards sponsored by Industry and more awards for active SB and chapters.
- In collaboration with the University of Padua, the Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Sensor Council, Computer Intelligence, Computer Chapter, the Section organizes the summer school: "Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning for ICT Applications" which will be held in Bressanone, Italy, on July 8-12, 2019.
- Together with the IEEE Switzerland Section, the Italy Section is organizing a joint event to celebrate the IEEE Day 2019, on 2019, 1 October. The venue of the event should be Como by the Fondazione Alessandro Volta, in order to celebrate twenty years by the Volta Milestone. Topic of the event will be on "batteries".