

Section Name**Reporting Officer Name****Section Vitality**

Please provide information about the date of last Section elections, date of next elections, and do you have the practice of Vice-Chair becoming the next Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings (list them and provide brief summary if appropriate). List the activities carried out to retain and recruit members and the results obtained.

The last Section elections have been carried out on Feb. 15, 2021, for the term 2021-2022. The next elections will be organized within 2022 and carried out by the end of the year or the first month of 2023. We have the practice of Vice-Chair presented as candidate to the role of Section Chair. Section ExCom meetings are usually held three times per year, plus additional meetings when it is needed. The first meeting is held at the beginning of each year where a preliminary forecast budget is presented and discussed for the current year. The second meeting is held in Spring where the activities of the past year are reported, the activities of the current year are proposed and voted and the final budget of the previous year is presented and discussed. Then, according to our bylaws, a full Section ballot is carried out to approve/reject the budget approved by the ExCom. Finally, a third meeting is held in Autumn to report the past activities and organize the next ones. In order to recruit members and retain the current ones we: (i) develop the participation of young professionals and students, (ii) encourage and support the WIE AG initiatives, particularly in the STEM studies area, (iii) encourage and support the senior member and the fellow elevation, (iv) recognize the commitment of volunteers by awarding them, (v) encourage the active participation of industry members and life members, (vi) organize stands dedicated to membership during all sponsored conferences, (vii) organize tutorials, webinars and contests during conferences open also to students that are not IEEE members.

Currently, the Italy Section counts 5473 members against 5140 at the end of 2020, with a percentage increase of 6.00%. The number of SM decreased from 960 in 2020 to 950 in 2021 but the number of F and LF increased from 196 to 211 units. The number of S and GSM increased from 1154 in 2020 to 1342 in 2021.

The Section was awarded with the 2021 outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance Gold Medal.

Students

List of Student Branches (SB) in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved SBs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the student meetings held and Section activities addressed to Students and Young Professionals.

The number of SBs did not change we still have 30 SBs and SBAGs, most of them active. None has been dissolved yet. The Student Branch of Politecnico di Torino was awarded with the 2021 Darrel Chong Student Activity Award, bronze level for the PitchD initiative, a series of Doctoral Pitches organized every year. The Italy Section supports, by means of the SAC, the project NERD? (Non è Roba per Donne - Isn't it stuff for women?), an IBM project in collaboration with several Italian University that aims to spread the interest for computer science and digital skills among female students attending the last three-years of high school. Thanking to the constant activity of the SAC of Italy Section, Paolo Maresca, the SBs are forming a student network with joint inter-University initiatives and collaboration.

Affinity Groups

List of Affinity Groups (YP, LM, WiE, SIGHT, etc.), list of SB AGs, newly formed or dissolved AGs/SB AGs, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). List the activities intended to support affinity groups.

Italy Section has a YP, a LM and a WiE AG and three SBAGs: SB WIE AG Politecnico di Milano, SB WIE AG University of Pavia, and SB WIE AG Politecnico di Torino (the latter has been recently formed).

Our AGs are very active and we usually organize events with them and oriented to their members as well as to the whole Section. WIE AG received one of the two Honorable Mentions to the 2021 IEEE Women In Engineering Affinity Group of the Year Award and was assigned the organization of the IEEE International Leadership Summit in Italy, in December. The WIE launched the *WIE.steer2STEM.chart*, a commitment chart: "Steering girls to STEM": an open document, annually updated, which describes the shared objectives and the targeted actions to carry out in order to make the careers in STEM subjects more attractive for young women (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

The LM AG prepared a third note about history of IEEE in Italy and history of technology. Two of them are freely available online on the Italy Section web site. The first one has been also printed and distributed. The second one is in press. The third one is under revision. The Milestone dedication ceremony on "Giovanni Giorgi's Contribution to the Rationalized System of Units, 1901-1902" has been organized by the History Committee, mainly constituted by LM AG members, and has been held

on Dec.15, 2021 at the University of Rome “La Sapienza”, with the participation of the R8 Director, Antonio Luque, in person, and of the past President of IEEE, Toshio Fukuda, online. It was the third ceremony in 2021 and the ninth for the Italy Section. The LM committee is strongly committed to organize the HISTELCON 2023. Finally, YPs are involved in the membership activity during cosponsored conferences with their presence at the membership stands.

Chapters

List of Chapters and SB Chapters in your Section, the newly formed or dissolved Chapters, if any since the last meeting reporting (Oct 2020). Indicate how many have reported on time and received rebate. Highlight some of the activities.

Our Chapters continue to be very active in organizing meetings and conferences, often collaborating with their mother Societies, and in supporting the Section initiatives. By looking at vtools the total number of events held in 2021 was 218, in 2022 a similar number of events are expected. The total number of Society and Joint Society Chapters is stable at 41. Due to the consistent success of the event in the years, the Italy Section Summer School on Information Engineering (<https://ssie.dei.unipd.it/>), held virtually in June, is being organized again and will be held in June 2022 in Brixen (BZ), Italy, with the technical support of five Chapters.

The Section has still six SBCs: SB Chapter – SMC (University of Cagliari), SB Chapter - Computer Society (Politecnico di Milano), SB Chapter - EMB (Politecnico di Milano), SB Chapter – MTT (University of Pavia), SB Chapter – AP (University of Pavia), SB Chapter – IA (University of Rome La Sapienza).

Industry

List the activities carried out to foster relations with Industry and the results obtained.

The industry is significantly involved in the Section activities in two directions. They contribute to our activities by funding research grants and conferences and by co-writing milestone proposals. The multinational corporation ABB funds a best MS thesis and a best PhD award on yearly basis: the Award on New Challenges for Energy and Industry. Their involvement has been consistently increasing, now funding the grants with two years in advance. An increase in the number of grants provided each year is under discussion. Several companies collaborate to the IEEE PES-Italy Section Scholarship Program Plus providing grants that are doubled by the Section every year. Our flagship conference, the Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry has become an R8 Conference in the Fall Meeting and is going to be organized outside Italy for the first time in 2022. The Italy Section is supporting the France Section in the organization as technical co-sponsor. Within the program of MELECON 2022, a wide space will be provided to start-ups with a Special meeting on Innovative startups and entrepreneurs organized by R8 Director Elect Vincenzo Piuri and the Conference Co-General Chair Tiziana Tambosso. A pitch competition is also being organized for the start-ups. The initiative called Industry Distinguished Lectures continues to be successful, providing our members with lectures held by experts from the industry. The Industry Distinguished Lecturer 2021, Eng. Riccardo Lama, had a DL on Dec. 16, 2021.

Activities since the last report

Highlight some of the activities in your Section, with special attention to the things that work well, and things that don't, so that your acquired know-how can be used by other Sections.

Most of the activities are carried out between the Spring meeting and the Fall meeting of the R8, therefore most of our ‘Best practice’ events were carried out or already scheduled at the time of the last report. The main update concerns the organization of the biannual Complexity in Engineering (COMPENG) workshop, that will be held in Florence in July 2022. COMPENG was designed as an event to outreach different communities, including mathematicians and physicists, to form a new community merging them with EE engineers.

I recall below the list of main continuing initiatives that we consider significant:

- Yearly RTSI with a strong focus on Industry-IEEE relations, Student Branch general meeting, Chapter Chair general meeting, and YP meeting as parallel events.
- Industry Distinguished Lectures.
- Joint awards and grants with industry.
- Yearly Summer School on Information Engineering.
- Biannual Advances In Magnetics conference.
- Biannual Complexity in Engineering workshop.
- WIE and SAC projects for STEM studies of females.
- Giovanni Giorgi Milestone.

- IEEE Day celebration.
- History notes.

Planned activities

Highlight some of the future activities and initiatives in your Section.

We are in the middle of organization of MELECON 2022, which will be held in Palermo in June, and of RTSI 2022, that will be held in Paris in August. We have started the organization of EUROCON 2023 and we are starting the organization of HISTELCON 2023.

How Region 8 can be of help to your Section, members, and activities

List any challenges your Section is facing and what support is required from the Region 8. Please, also, give us your suggestions for agenda items that you want to be discussed during the R8 Committee meeting.

We are still struggling against the COVID-19 impacts on the meeting activities. Until now almost all the meetings have been held online. Starting from the Milestone celebration on Dec. 15 the Italy Section is trying to start a return to face-to-face meetings but the fourth wave in Italy did not allow for a step change yet. Currently the first scheduled face-to-face meeting is MELECON 2022, organized with a hybrid format. The teleconference tiredness is still high: the intermediate step to hybrid meetings could reduce it.

Any other issues of interest