

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 elections of the Section officers, for the term 2023-2024, took place by December 20th, 2022. The new officers started their activity on January 26th, 2023, after the ExCom meeting of the Section. The Section has the practice to encourage the Vice-Chair to volunteer as candidate to the role of Section Chair. The previous Vice-Chair was nominated by ballot and was then elected as the new Section Chair. The previous Treasurer was re-elected and is continuing her previous activity.

The Section ExCom meetings are usually held three times per year, plus additional meetings when it is needed. The first meeting is generally held at the beginning of each year, focused on the discussion of the activity 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 the Section bylaws, a full Section ballot is carried out to approve/reject the budget approved by the ExCom. In 2022, the budget for the year 2021 was approved in the ExCom held on May 30th, 2022. In the same ExCom, the provisional budget for the year 2022 was approved, the Awards given by the Section were communicated, and the new Milestone Coordinator was appointed. Finally, a third meeting is generally held in late Autumn to report the past activities and organize the next ones. In 2022, the late Autumn meeting was postponed to January 2023 because of the extended round of elections of the new Chapter officers that lasted on December 20th, 2022.

In order to recruit members and retain the current ones, the Section: (i) encourages the participation of young professionals and students, (ii) encourages and support of the WiE AG initiatives, particularly in the STEM studies area, (iii) encourages and supports the Senior Member and Fellow elevation, (iv) recognizes the commitment of volunteers by awarding them, (v) encourages the active participation of industry members and life members, (vi) organizes stands dedicated to IEEE membership during the sponsored conferences, (vii) organizes tutorials, webinars and contests during conferences open also to students that are not IEEE members.

At the end of 2022, the Italy Section counts 5825 members, versus 5378 at the end of 2021, with a percentage increase of 8.3%. The number of Senior Members increased from 1007 at the end of 2021 to 1101 at the end of 2022 (+9.3%) and the number of Fellows rose from 201 to 211 units (+5.0%). The number of Student Members and Graduate Student Members increased from 1258 at the end of 2021 to 1488 at the end of 2022 (+18.3%).

Students

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

The number of SBs did not change recently. The Section has 30 SBs and SBAGs, most of them active. None has been dissolved yet.

The SB of Politecnico di Torino has been one of the Winners in the R8 of the IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Award 2022.

The Section has assigned the Exemplary Student Branch Award 2022, with 1st classified Politecnico di Torino (STB06971), 2nd classified University of Brescia (STB01019), and 3rd classified University of Pisa (STB15911).

The 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 in computer science and digital skills among female students attending the last three-years of high school.

The SB of the University of Calabria was represented to the SYP Congress 2022 in Tunis.

During MELECON 2022 the final stage of the R8 student paper contest was held in the conference venue.

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. List the activities intended to support affinity groups.

The 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 AGs are very active. The Section usually organizes events with the AGs, oriented to their members as well as to the whole Section. During MELECON 2022 the AGs had a parallel event: the WiE AG organized a panel, a committee meeting, and a competition in collaboration with Student Activities Committee, the YP AG organized a competition called “My research in 5 min” best video pitch in collaboration with Student Activities Committee. Apart from MELECON 2022 the AGs continued organizing activities all over the year.

The WiE AG is still working to constantly update 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 to make the careers in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) more attractive for young women. Each year, the WiE AG organizes the event IRIS (gender equality in research and innovation at school), to promote the study of the STEM subjects.

The LM AG prepared a third note about history of IEEE in Italy and history of technology. The History Activities Committee is strongly committed to organize the HISTELCON 2023 with the LM AG. The History Activities Committee prepared and published the third note on the history of computers.

YPs are involved in the membership activity during cosponsored conferences with their presence at the membership stands. The YP AG, thanking also to a new organization based on local representatives, at the end of 2022 reached an impressive improvement of 56% in the number of members.

Chapters

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

The total number of Chapters and Joint Chapters is stable at 41. In 2022 there has been no newly formed Chapter or dissolved Chapter. After an action undertaken by the Section to promote a similar period for the elections of Chapters with officers in charge from more than 2 years, 11 Chapters have elected their new officers at the end of 2022, and the officers have started their activity at the beginning of 2023. Further actions are in progress to complete the elections for some Chapters in which the officers were elected more than 2 years ago.

The Chapters of the Section continue to be very active in organizing meetings and conferences, often collaborating with their mother Societies, and in supporting the Section initiatives. Over 30 Chapters of the Section have ensured their support to the organization of EUROCON 2023 providing their technical co-sponsorship.

From vtools, the total number of events held and reported in 2022 has been 241, and in 2023 a similar number of events is expected.

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), and 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 different directions. They contribute to the activities of the Section by funding research grants, supporting conferences, and co-writing milestone proposals. The multinational corporation ABB is continuing to provide funding to a best MS thesis and a best PhD award on yearly basis, while the Section is funding an equal additional number of awards. The number of grants provided each year has been recently doubled upon request by ABB.

The flagship conference RTSI (the Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry) was founded with the aim of bridging the gap between academy and industry and strengthening the relations between the Italy Section and the industry. Since 2022 the RTSI Forum became a Region 8 Portfolio conference. By following the agreement taken in the previous years the RTSI 2022 has been organized in France, for the first time out of Italian borders, with the support of the Italy Section and Region 8, technical co-sponsors.

Wide space is provided to industrial partners in the conferences and events organized by the Section. In the conference MELECON 2022 there has been a focus on fund-raising and start-ups in a Special meeting on Innovative startups and entrepreneurs organized by R8 Director Elect Vincenzo Piuri and the R8 Conference Committee representative Tiziana Tambosso. A pitch competition was also organized for the start-ups. Various initiatives related to entrepreneurship and start-ups are being scheduled for EUROCON 2023.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Highlight any diversity metrics (gender, age, religion, geographical, employment, etc.), new initiatives, best practices and progress around diversity and inclusion happening in your Section. Link to IEEE DEI statement <link>.

The Section officers elected at the end of 2022 (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) are gender-balanced.

In 2022, the Section has appointed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representative.

All conferences sponsored financially by the Section (RTSI 2021 and IEEE MELECON 2022) and the International Annual Conference organized in collaboration with the Italian Association AEIT have a special event dedicated to WiE. All the activities of WiE are devoted to gender-based diversity and inclusion.

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.

After the successful event MELECON 2022 (Flagship Conference of the Region 8 held at the University of Palermo from 14 to 16 June 2022), the Section has financially sponsored further conferences and workshops in the last 6 months of 2022, among which:

- IEEE MetroAutomotive 2022, held in Modena (Italy) on 4-6 July 2022, <https://www.metroautomotive.org/metroautomotive2022/>
- IEEE STAR 2022, held in Cavalese (Trento, Italy) on 6-8 July 2022, <https://event.unitn.it/ieee-star2022/>
- IEEE COMPENG 2022, held in Florence, (Italy) on 18-20 July 2022, <https://compeng2022.ino.cnr.it>
- IEEE MetroSea 2022, held in Milazzo (Italy) on 3-5 October 2022, <https://www.metrosea.org/ms2022/>
- IEEE MetroXRAINE 2022, held in Rome (Italy) on 26-28 October 2022, <https://ieee-ims.org/metroxraine-2022>
- IEEE MetroAgriFor 2022, held in Perugia (Italy) on 3-5 November 2022, <https://www.metroagrifor.org/maf2022/>

During the celebrations of the IEEE Day (4th October 2022), the Section has organized the Awards Ceremony 2022, held online, with the indication of the Best Chapter Award 2022, the Exemplary Student Branch Award 2022, the Distinguished Service Awards 2022, the Honorary Award 2022, and the Award on New Challenges for Energy and Industry 2022 (sponsored by ABB), for which the winners have had the opportunity of presenting their thesis work.

The winner of the Honorary Award is the engineer Pasquale Pistorio, with the following motivation: “Ground-breaking contributions and pioneering innovation in electronic design automation that have enabled the design of modern integrated circuits and their industrial implementation”.

Some continuing initiatives considered particularly significant are as follows:

- Yearly Summer School on Information Engineering.
- Biannual Advances In Magnetism conference.
- Biannual Complexity in Engineering workshop.
- WiE and SAC projects for STEM studies of females.
- Definition of relevant Milestones.
- Preparation and release of History notes.

Planned activities

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

In 2023, the Section is organizing two flagship Conferences of the R8, namely, EUROCON 2023 and HISTELCON 2023.

For EUROCON 2023 (Torino, Italy, 6-8 July 2023, <https://2023.ieee-eurocon.org>) the activity is in progress, with the completion of the review process of the scientific papers by March 2023 and the advanced definition of many other activities (tutorials, workshops, entrepreneurship events, and competitions -- also based on demos -- for students and YPs).

For HISTELCON 2023 (Florence, Italy, 7-9 September 2023, <https://2023.ieee-histelcon.org>), most of the activities have been defined, and the deadline for the paper submissions is on 15 April 2023.

The Section has organized with the Magnetics Society Chapter the Conference IEEE Advances in Magnetics (AIM 2023), held in Moena, Trento (Italy), on 15-18 January 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.

A discussion is needed on the Organization of the future IEEE RTSI Conferences, after the UK Section has renounced to organize the 2023 edition.

Any other issues of interest