

Section Name

Italy Section (R80011)

Reporting Officer Names

Gianfranco Chicco (Chair), Daniela Proto (Secretary)

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 previous Vice-Chair was nominated by ballot and was then elected as the new Section Chair. The new Vice-Chair and Secretary elected were already active in the ExCom. The former Treasurer was re-elected and is continuing her previous activity. The new elections of the Section officers have been organized to be completed before the end of 2024.

The Section ExCom meetings are usually held three times per year, plus additional meetings when needed. The first meeting is generally held in the first part of each year, focused on the discussion of the activity for the current year. The second meeting is held to report the activities of the past year, to propose (and vote if needed) the activities of the current year and discuss the final budget of the previous year. Then, according to the Section bylaws, a full Section ballot is carried out to approve/reject the budget approved by the ExCom.

In the Section ExCom meeting held on 20 March 2024, the pre-final budget of year 2023 and the budget estimate of the year 2024 were discussed and approved. In the Section ExCom meeting held on 22 May 2024, the final budget of year 2023 was approved. Then, the full Section ballot held on 21 June 2024, approved the final budget of year 2023.

On 30 June 2024, the Section counts 6097 members, with an increase of 8.49% with respect to the members counted in the same month of the previous year (in June 2023 the Section counted 5620 members). Small fluctuations appear in all the categories.

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 Italy section recently increased the number of Student Branches (SBs) or Student Branch Chapters (SBCs), passing from 30 to 31 with the addition of the University of Pavia Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society Student Branch Chapter (approved on 22 April 2024, with ID code SBC10871B). The SBs and SBCs are evenly distributed along the whole territory.

No SB has been dissolved.

The SBs of Torino and Pavia participated to the IEEE R8 SYP Congress 2024 (Grenoble, 15-19 July 2024),

Among the activities carried out (with 22 activities reported on vtools), listing one activity for the most active SBs or SBCs shows the variety of the initiatives completed:

- the University of Florence SB organized the event “RF and microwave applications in particle accelerators”;
- the University of Bologna SB organized the event “Introduction to AI ethics”;
- the Rome Sapienza SB organized a Panel Session for SBs at the IEEEIC/I&CPS Europe 2024 Conference;
- the University of Naples SB is active in constructing a network of SBs within IEEE SIGHT;
- the Politecnico di Torino SB organized the PITCHD 2024 edition, in two days featuring 6 seminars;
- the University of Pavia SB organized the event “Curious Minds – Inspiring New Perspectives”;
- the University of Pisa SB Summer School on "Microwaves and mm-waves for the Design of Advanced Wireless Links: Communication, Sensing and Power Transfer".

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. In addition, the petition for the creation of the *Italy Section SIGHT Group* has been **approved** with the communication received on 29 July 2024. The IEEE Organizational Unit (OU) code is **SIGHT205**.

The Section usually organizes events with the AGs, oriented to their members as well as to the whole Section.

In the IEEE R8 SYP Congress 2024 (Grenoble, 15-19 July 2024), the Section has been represented by the SB of Torino and Pavia, and by the Section representative of the YP. The Congress has been an outstanding networking experience, with the possibility of presenting the activities during the poster session and the establishment of numerous contacts with SBs and YPs of many countries. Also, the Italian banquet organized for the multi-cultural night has been a successful event.

Young Professionals (YP) AG:

During the first semester of 2024, the YP board technically co-sponsored, together with the Italian Chapter of the IEEE Magnetics Society and the Italian Chapter of Industrial Applications and Power Electronics, the workshop "Frontiers in Magnetism 2024" (at the University of Catania, on April 23rd, 2024), and gave two talks: the former on YP Italy activities, and the latter on nondiffractive-beam-launcher design and optimization. Moreover, the board sponsored a workshop, organized by Italian YPs, entitled "3rd International Workshop on Edge Network Softwarization" at the conference IEEE Netsoft 2024, held in San Diego, USA. In addition, a YP Italy delegate actively participated to the IEEE R8 Student and Young Professional Congress 2024 (SYP), held in Grenoble 2024. Finally, the YP board endorsed the application for YP funds (i.e., Local Activity Fundings) of an Italian YP member, for the organization of the "1st Student Workshop on Medical Acquisition Systems: toward the hardware for implementing an electrocardiograph", held at the Università Politecnica delle Marche. The workshop has been successfully funded and reported.

Women in Engineering (WiE) AG:

The WiE AG continued the activity in the organization of many events. They organized a WiE event for empowering Women in Robotics and Automation at CASE 2024. This event was an excellent opportunity for women in robotics and automation to connect, share experiences, and discuss the latest trends and challenges in the field.

During the Forum RTSI 2024, the WiE AG organized various activities, including the Panel IEEE WiE – The advantages derived from female presence in working realities (sponsored by WiE Italy Section and WiE IEEE R8), the GENEVA (Gender equality in research and innovation) 2024 Poster Session (sponsored by WiE Italy Section) aimed at illustrating the best practices in managing "gender equality" within funded research and innovation projects. Finally, the WiE AG Italy Section Annual Meeting 2024 (sponsored by WiE Italy Section) was held during the Forum.

The WiE AG has participated in the IEEE WIE DAY 2024 by organizing a virtual event entitled "IEEE WIE Day 2024: La tecnologia è donna" (in Italian, "technology is woman"), with a program that included presentations from some young women that were awarded in the previous year for their contributions at conferences or for their Master and Doctoral theses.

During the conference IEEE MetroAutomotive 2024, WiE Italy organized the panel session "Exploiting the gender diversity impact in the Automotive sector with a Special Focus on Metrology for Automotive". The event aimed to bring to light the impact of gender diversity in the Automotive sector and encourage discussion about how gender-based differences should be taken into account and can be transformed into a value.

WiE Italy was present also at IEEE MetroAerospace 2024, at the panel session "Women in Engineering at IEEE MetroAeroSpace 2024", open online. The event consisted of the presentation of the WiE Italy Commitment Chart, followed by the speech of Andsera Adugna Mekonen, doctoral student at the University of Naples "Federico II" and winner of the Eni Award "Young Talents from Africa" 2022.

In 2024 the WiE Affinity Group of the Italy Section organized again the event IRIS (GENDER EQUALITY IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT SCHOOL). The purpose of the event is to offer schools a national space in which to showcase the initiatives implemented to promote the study of STEM subjects carried out during the school year, both in curricular and extracurricular programs, highlighting the activities capable of overcoming stereotypes linked to "gender", particularly present in the field of technical-scientific subjects. The event, held online on Wednesday 15 March 2024 during school hours, with free participation, was targeted to institutes and primary and secondary schools, with the intention of offering an opportunity to share "good practices" in promoting the dissemination of STEM subjects without gender conditioning.

Local Groups:

The Local Group (LG) *IEEE Torino Icarus-RA Group* was approved on 14 January 2024. The LG is the first one approved in Italy and is based on the competitive student team ICARUS Flying Team, with the ID LGR80011IR and the *mission* "To contribute to the advancement of an increasingly sustainable aviation sector by forming a community of Students, Professionals and Industries." The Associated Entities are SBA06971 - Politecnico di Torino and WIE STB06971.

On 11 June 2024, the LG organized a meeting at Politecnico di Torino to present the new solar-powered UAS prototype from the Icarus-RA Local group, designed to break the endurance record of its category. The IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society with the AESS Italy Chapter have sponsored the event, in the presence of 130 attendees and relevant speakers. Executives from ENAC (Italian National Authority for Civil Aviation) experts in innovative mobility, aerospace professionals and managers from the Piedmont Aerospace District, members of the IEEE Board of Directors, and Maurizio Cheli, astronaut and holder of the world speed record in an electric aircraft, have participated to add prestige to the event.

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 new Chapter **Professional Communications** has been formed (approved on 12 March 2024, ID code CH08925). In this way, the total number of Chapter has been **increased to 43** (after the recent increase to 42 happened at the initial date of 1 December 2023 by splitting the VT/COM joint Chapter into the separate chapters Vehicular Technology Chapter (VT07, geo-code CH08523) and Communications Chapter (COM19, geo-code CH08274).

The Section is continuing the strong action to revitalize the activity of some Chapters that have been less productive in the last years. The action has led to new elections also in Chapters in which the Chair was in place for a long time (over two years) and/or very few or no activity was reported in the last years. The elections of various Chapter Officers are in progress and will be concluded before the end of 2024.

On 22 April 2024 the new *University of Pavia Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society Student Branch Chapter* was approved (with ID code SBC10871B). In this way, the Section **passed from seven to eight SBCs**, together with the 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), and SB Chapter ComSoc (University of Bologna).

Industry and Entrepreneurship

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

The industry continues to be 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 milestone *Integrated Circuits for Satellite Digital Radio, 1996-1997*, proposed by ST Microelectronics in February 2024, was recently (September 2024) approved by the IEEE Board of Directors.

During the flagship conference **IEEE RTSI 2024** (the Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry), the Industry Workshop “AI in Manufacturing”, organized with the IEEE R8 Action for Industry Committee, hosted also some key speakers from ABB and STMicroelectronics, participating in the final discussion at the round table. Furthermore, IEEE RTSI 2024 has hosted the Workshop on Innovative Startups and Entrepreneurship (also open to remote participation) and the Best Entrepreneurship Project Video Pitch Competition.

During the interdisciplinary conference **IEEE IHTC 2024** (IEEE International Humanitarian Technology Conference), that will be held in Bari (Italy) on 27-30 November 2024, the organization includes the "Workshop on Advancing Technology for Humanity in Action with IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Consortium and the Call for Best HT Entrepreneurship Idea, in both cases with industry participation in the workshop and in the evaluation committee for the competition.

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) for the years 2023-2024 are perfectly gender-balanced.

The IEEE Italy section appointed in 2023 the DEI coordinator, who served for the past six years as the chair of the IEEE WiE AG Italy Section. Through the WiE Italy, the Italy Section continued its mission of promoting women in STEM careers by means of consolidated practices to raise awareness about the gender gap, to empower girls since very young age and to highlight the role of women into research projects. To this aim, the DEI coordinator and WiE Italy organised three events in RTSI 2024 to demonstrate the advantages of “diverse” teams in workplaces by the panel session “The Advantages Derived from Female Presence in Working Realities” moderated by the DEI coordinator, Dajana Cassioli, to create a community of WiE (IEEE WiE AG Italy Section annual meeting 2024) and to show the women participation in EU or Italy funded research projects through the poster session GENEVA 2024 (Gender Equality iN rEsearch and innoVAtion) at its 6th edition. These events gathered a significant participation of international attendants, more than 50 people per each event. Furthermore, the DEI coordinator took part to the IRIS initiative of WIE Italy on March 15, 2024, aimed to raise awareness about the diversity and inclusion at the primary and secondary schools. This online event gathered the participation of hundreds of students and tens of educators.

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.

The IEEE Italy Section has financially sponsored/co-sponsored conferences and workshops held in the first semester of 2024:

- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Living Environment (IEEE MetroLivEnv 2024), 12-14 June 2024, Chania, Crete, Greece.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for AeroSpace, 3-5 June 2024, Lublin, Poland.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Industry 4.0 & IoT, 29-31 May 2024, Florence, Italy.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Automotive, 26-28 June 2024, Bologna, Italy.
- 24th IEEE International Conference on Environment and Electrical Engineering, 17-20 June 2024, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Sport Technology and Research (STAR 2024), Lecco, Italy, 8-10 July 2024.
- IEEE International Workshop on Measurements and Applications in Veterinary and Animal Sciences (MeAVeAS), April 28-30, 2025, Pisa, Italy.

The Italy Section has co-organized with the University of Padova the Summer School of Information Engineering (SSIE) (Ph.D. School) held in Bressanone/Brixen, Italy, on 8-12 July 2024. This Ph.D. School has been delivered yearly since 1991, reaching its 33rd edition in 2024, with two tracks (electronics and telecommunications).

Planned activities

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

In 2024, the Section organizes two conferences with the R8:

- IEEE RTSI 2024 (the 8th Forum on Research and Technologies for Society and Industry Innovation), a flagship Conference of the R8, held in Lecco, Italy, 18-20 September 2024 (<https://2024.ieee-rtsi.org/>).
- IHTC 2024 (the IEEE International Humanitarian Technologies Conference), Bari, Italy, 27-30 November 2024 (<https://2024.ieee-ihtc.org/>).

Also, the Section is technical co-sponsor of several conferences planned in the second semester of 2024:

- International Workshop on Resilient Networks Design and Modeling. RNDM 2024, 25-27 November 2024, Pompei Italy.
- 14th International Symposium on Communication Systems, Networks and Digital Signal Processing - CSNDSP 2024 - 17-19 July 2024 - Rome, Italy.
- 7th International Conference on Smart Energy Systems and Technologies, SEST 2024, 10-12 September 2024, Torino, Italy.
- AEIT2024 International Annual Conference, 25-27 September 2024, Trento, Italy.

and financial co-sponsor of the following conferences planned in the second semester of 2024 and beyond:

- 2024 IEEE Workshop on Complexity in Engineering (COMPENG), 22-24 July 2024, Florence, Italy.
- 2024 IEEE 18th International Conference on Application of Information and Communication Technologies (AICT), 25-27 September 2024, Torino, Italy.
- 2024 IEEE International Conference on Metrology for eXtended Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Neural Engineering (MetroXRINE), 21-23 October 2024, St Albanis, London, UK.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for the Sea; Learning to Measure Sea Health Parameters (MetroSea), 14-16 October 2024, Portorose, Slovenia.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Agriculture and Forestry (MetroAgriFor), 29-31 October 2024, Padua, Italy.
- 2024 IEEE International Workshop on Technologies for Defense and Security (TechDefense), 11-13 November 2024, Naples, Italy.
- 2025 IEEE International Workshop on Metrology for Automotive, 25-27 June 2025, Parma, Italy.

and is a technical co-sponsor of the 2024 14th International Symposium on Communication Systems, Networks and Digital Signal Processing (CSNDSP 2024, 17-19 July 2024), and of the 7th International Conference on Smart Energy Systems and Technologies (SEST 2024, 10-12 September 2024).

Further initiatives in progress in 2024 are:

- The change of the registered office of the Section, moving the office to a location where the contacts with other Associations become easier.
- The proposal of new Milestones.

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 was launched in the ExCom meetings of the Section in 2023 about the possibility of having more than 2 years between successive elections of the Chapter Officers. This discussion is proposed at the R8 level, with the aim to allow the Sections that may be interested to change the mandate of the Chapter Officers from 2 to 3 or 4 years. On the other hand, no change is proposed to the duration of the mandate of the Section Officers.

Any other issues of interest

None.