



# Impact of IEEE conferences for Sections' vitality through the experience of Section Chairs

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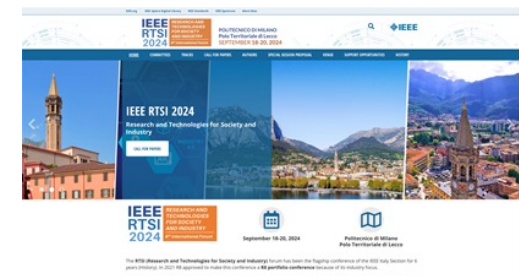
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# Conference organization at the IEEE Italy Section

<https://italy.ieeer8.org/>

- ▶ **Most R8 flagship & portfolio conferences** hosted in Italy recently (RTSI 2021 and 2024, Melecon 2022, Eurocon 2023, Histelcon 2023, IHTC 2024)



- ▶ The IEEE Italy Section is financial sponsor/co-sponsor of 11 annual/biannual conferences and workshops
- ▶ It is technical co-sponsor of many other conferences organized by IEEE Societies and no-profit entities outside the IEEE



# Involvement of Chapters and Affinity Groups

*Coordinating the activities: interdisciplinarity is the key*

- ▶ For *financially (co)sponsored* conferences, the Italy Section requires the involvement of the Chapters/AGs interested and in scope with the focus of the event
  - Chapters/AGs involved: Eurocon 2023 (31), RTSI 2024 (17), IHTC 2024 (12)
- ▶ To provide *technical (co)sponsorship*, the Section requires the involvement of *at least two* Chapters/AGs
- ▶ For conferences dedicated to the activity mainly developed by a *single Chapter* (e.g., in collaboration with a Society and other public or no-profit institutions), the Section can provide an *endorsement* on request, without giving the TCS

# Involvement of Student Branches

## *Synergies between SBs, HKN Chapters and student associations*

- ▶ The participation in a conference is useful for the students for *widening their knowledge* on the organization and presentation of the research activities
- ▶ Depending on the rules of the single Universities, the students could ask the University a contribution to *register* to a conference (viable for *groups* of students of the same course)
- ▶ The *internal organization* of the IEEE SBs simplifies the contacts with the conference organizers
- ▶ The IEEE SBs and HKN Chapters can assist organizing or participate in dedicated *competitions* at the conference
- ▶ In Italy the students that participate as *volunteers* to the organization of conferences *cannot* receive incentives in terms of *course credits* by universities nor *direct payments*
- ▶ The volunteers can be *rewarded* with free entrance to coffee-breaks, lunches, the conference dinner, and networking opportunities





# Conference organization at the IEEE Italy Section

## *Impact on the Section vitality*

- ▶ The *intense activity* carried out for Conference organization has involved many Italian Chapters/AGs and volunteers
- ▶ In addition, the Regional Conferences have attracted *many participants* from different Italian Chapters with the possibility of meeting each other and exchanging ideas
- ▶ Improved the visibility of IEEE in the Country, especially in non-IEEE communities co-organizing the events
- ▶ Strengthened relations
  - ▶ among Chapters/SB Chapters and Societies
  - ▶ among Chapters of different Societies
  - ▶ between members from academia and industry
  - ▶ between members and non-member volunteers



# Conference organization at the IEEE Italy Section

## *Impact on the Section vitality*

- ▶ Allows starting or strengthening partnerships with external organizations (Universities, Scientific Sectors, companies, government agencies, etc.)
- ▶ Provides financial support (surplus)
- ▶ Creates opportunities for IEEE members and students to network together and with IEEE leaders, distinguished speakers, stakeholders, etc.
- ▶ Fosters the membership growth (registration discount for members) and attracted non-member volunteers
- ▶ Fosters the creation of new Chapters

# Conference organization at the IEEE Italy Section

## *Impact on the Section vitality*

- ▶ The activity for Conferences has been one of the major drivers for keeping *high vitality* of the Section, with excellent results obtained in the last few years:
  - Sustained membership growth (+7% one year 23-22, +16% two years 23-21, +23% three years 23-20): **2023 IEEE Outstanding Member Recruitment Performance Award, 2021 and 2018 Outstanding Section Membership Recruitment and Retention Performance Awards**
  - **2023 IEEE MGA Outstanding Large Section Award**, the highest recognition worldwide of the IEEE for a (Large) Section, given during the *IEEE Section Congress* (Ottawa, Canada, August 2023)
  - **2024 IEEE Region 8 Outstanding Large Section Award**, the highest recognition of the R8 for a (Large) Section, given during the *123<sup>rd</sup> IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting* (Bordeaux, France, October 2024)

# Challenging aspects

*Need for facilitating and clarifying the interactions*

- ▶ *Cross-information* between Section and Societies through Chapters should be improved to avoid the IEEE members feeling a “double channel” with the Section and the Society
- ▶ *Lack of coordination* can happen when the Societies organize events and the corresponding Chapters do not involve the Section with sufficient advance (and vice versa)
- ▶ Volunteer involvement is critical: the *participation* of the Chapters/AGs/SBs has to be *effective* and not limited to minor contributions, also when the officers of the OUs that signed the MoU end their terms before the conference







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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IEEE Italy Section

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