

Conference Coordination Committee (CoCC)

René Garello
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2025 Team:

Rene Garello (France) Chair
 Tiziana Tambosso (Italy) Past-chair
 Ibrahim Kucukdemiral (UK&Ireland) member
 Ilhem Kallel (Tunisia) member
 Tulay Yildirim (Turkey) c. member
 Albert Lysko (South Africa) c. member
 Filippo Sanfilippo (Norway) c. member
 Ahmed Hasan (Egypt) c. member
 Abdelhamid Iratni (Algeria) c. member
 François Rivet (France) c. member
 Katerina Papanikolaou (Cyprus) c. member
 Nadezhda Kunicina (Latvia) c. member and Special Appointment for Cross-Sectional Event
 Sergio Rapuano (Italy) c. member and Liaison with IEEE Society/Technical Councils and National Activities
 Toni Mattila (Finland) Liaison with Action for Industry Committee
 Pascal Lorenz (France) Liaison with Finance Committee
 Rodolfo Oliveira (Portugal) Liaison with Climate Change Committee

2025 Members – ex officio (Members of the IEEE Conferences Committee (ICC)):

Maciej Ogorzalek (Poland)
 Shmuel Auster (Israel)
 Dominique Schreurs (Belgium)
 Shashank Gaur (Portugal)
 Ana I. Perez Neira (Spain)

Goals

In 2025 the following Goals and KPI have been defined.

| Goals | KPI |
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| Efficient management of the CoCC (internal goal) 1. CoCC Meeting minutes 2. Reports for the R8 OpCom 3. Reports for the R8 meetings 4. CoCC webpages updated | Number of CoCC Meeting minutes Number and timely reports for the R8 OpCom and R8 meetings Timely update of the CoCC webpages |
| Timely review of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) requests | Number of evaluated TCS/FCS requests in 2025 |
| Ensure success of the R8 flagship/portfolio conferences: call for bids, support, oversight | Oversight the process from call for bids to conference closing and budget control. Propose the Steering Committee for the R8 flagship and portfolio conferences to be approved by the OpCom Participation of at least one R8 CoCC representative to the R8 flagship/portfolio conferences (exception in case of multi-region conferences). Percentage of successful flagship/portfolio conferences (timely reporting, financial surplus, papers published in IEEE Xplore, number of special events organized in cooperation with other R8 committees) |
| Ensure success of IEEE conferences TCS/FCS by R8 | Oversight the process from Application form to final report and budget control (for FCS conferences) Percentage of successful conferences (timely reporting, financial surplus, papers published in IEEE Xplore) |

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| Increase IEEE R8 visibility through conferences | 1. No. of conferences programs including R8 speech / presentation in opening or closing conferences |
| | 2. Liaison with R8 TA Committees: |
| | 2.1 No of TCS/FCS conferences including industry-focused events (coordination with Action for Industry subcommittee) |
| | 2.2. No of TCS/FCS conferences including climate change events (coordination with Climate Change ad hoc committee) |
| | 2.3. No of TCS/FCS conferences including standards workshops (coordination with standards ad hoc committee) |
| | 3 Liaison with R8 MA and SA Committees: |
| | 3.1. No of TCS/FCS conferences including women in engineering workshops (coordination with WIE Committee) |
| | 3.2. No of TCS/FCS conferences including Young Professional events (coordination with YP Committee) |
| | 3.3. No of TCS/FCS conferences including R8 booths (coordination with Membership Development committee) |
| | 3.4. No of TCS/FCS conferences including Humanitarian events (coordination with Humanitarian Committee) |
| 3.5. No of TCS/FCS conferences including student sessions / challenges/events (coordination with SAC) | |
| Support the sections' conference coordinators, section chairs and IEEE R8 TCS/FCS Conference organizers | 1. Number of appointed section / subsection conference coordinator (59 sections + 10 subsections) 2. Number of webinars and training events |
| Ensure good relationship with MGA, CEE/ICC, and other regional conference coordinators | Percentage of participation in the MGA and CEE/ICC meetings and workshops Participation in Convene 2025 |
| Engage more industries in R8 conferences (Liaison with Afl Committee) | Number of R8 flagship/portfolio/FCS conferences with strong industry involvement |
| Promote the involvement of IEEE Societies/Councils in the R8 TCS/FCS conferences (Liaison with the ad hoc committee on Cooperation with S/TCs and NA) | Number of conferences TCS/FCS by the Region with the involvement of IEEE Societies/Councils as FCS/TCS |
| Promote Multi-Sections Events | Number of MoU among Sections for organizing multi-Section Conferences and events |

Progress against goals since the last (19-20 October, 2024) R8 Committee Meeting report

1. Efficient management of the CoCC

CoCC meetings were held (Oct, Dec) with detailed minutes containing task distribution and reports on activities.

The kick-off meeting of the new CoCC has been held on January 2025 and the second meeting will be held on April 4 in hybrid format.

The committee webpages are periodically updated (see <https://ieeer8.org/conference-coordination/>).

All CoCC documents are available to all members and VC-TA in a dedicated google drive folder.

2. Timely review of the financial and technical co-sponsorship (TCS/FCS) requests and conc unit approval

From October 2024:

4 R8 Financial Co-Sponsorship requests have been approved

4 R8 Technical Co-Sponsorship have been approved, 2 are in progress

3 requests of Conc. Unit. evaluation have been approved, 2 declined, 6 are in progress

3. Ensure success of the R8 flagship conferences: call for bids, support, oversight

The organization process of each flagship/portfolio conference is supervised from the application form check list to the final report submission and budget control.

The R8 steering committees are working with the organizers to supervise and give support.

The steering committees of conferences held in 2024 have worked with the organizers to close the pending actions (R8 final reports and final financial report, best practices and lessons learned documents).

The process has been finished for ENERGYCON 2024, MELECON 2024 and RTSI 2024.

IHTC 2024 is close to the end of the process.

The steering committees of 2025 R8 flagship and portfolio conferences (EUROCON 2025, RTSI 2025, HISTELCON 2025, AFRICON 2025) held their meetings (on average one per month).

EUROCON 2025 4-6 June 2025, Gdynia, Poland (<https://2025.ieee-eurocon.org/>)

- The DL for paper submission was March 15 (more than 130 papers have been received)
- It is still open the submission of abstract for poster session (DL: April 6). This session was introduced to facilitate more industry participation
- In progress the organization of special events (panels/workshop/competitions) in cooperation with R8 Committees (AfI, WIE, YP)

RTSI 2025 24-26 August 2025, Gammarth, Tunisia (<https://2025.ieee-rtsi.org/>)

- DL for paper submission is March 30, 2025
- In progress the organization of special events (panels/workshops) in cooperation with R8 Committees (AfI, Standard)
- A competition for young startup in cooperation with R8 Entrepreneurship committee has been organized: NextGen Startups for Impact Competition (see: <https://2025.ieee-rtsi.org/nextgen-startups-for-impact/>)
- Another competition for PhD and post-doc has been organized: Innovation for Research Impact Competition (see: <https://2025.ieee-rtsi.org/innovation-for-research-impact-competition/>)
- Two tutorial are available

HISTELCON 2025 30 September-2 October 2025, Bonn, Germany (<https://2025.ieee-histelcon.org/>)

- CfP has been circulated
- The IEEE History Committee will organize a meeting in conjunction with the conference
- IEEE Foundation with History Center and three Regions are supporting this event with their patronage. HISTELCON from 2026 will become annual and multi-regional (R7, R8, R9, R10)

AFRICON 2025 10-12 December 2025, Polokwane, Soth Africa (<https://2025.ieee-africon.org/>)

- CfP available on the website - Paper Submission Deadline: 15 June 2025

IHTC 2025 13-15 August 2025, Edmonton, Canada (<https://2025.ieee-ihtc.org/>)

- DL for paper submission is May 2, 2025
- Steering committee and advisory committee had their meetings. This is multi-region event and this year will be held in R7, R8 is FCS.

MELECON 2026 2-4 February, New Cairo, Egypt (<https://2026.ieee-melecon.org/>)

- CfP available on the website - Paper Submission Deadline: 30 September, 2025

RTSI 2026 19-21 August 2026, Espoo, Finland

- started working on the application form

Regarding the 2027 flagship/portfolio conferences:

- 22nd IEEE EUROCON 2027
- 12th IEEE AFRICON 2027
- 11th IEEE RTSI 2027
- 9th IEEE IHTC 2027

- A virtual meeting with the bidders has been organized on December 16th, 2024 to help in the preparation of the final bid documents for the following R8 flagship/portfolio conferences
- The motions for OpCom approval of the proposals and the motions for the R8 Committee approval have been prepared.

After October 2024 one R8 portfolio conference has been successfully held:

IHTC 2024

(27-30 November 2024, Bari - Italy)

Website: <https://2024.ieee-ihtc.org/>

IHTC is a multi-region conference with the participation of three Regions as FCSs (R7, R8 and R9).

- This year's IEEE IHTC saw an unprecedented level of participation, with over **70 countries represented** and a total of **436 attendees**, with a quarter of them being women.

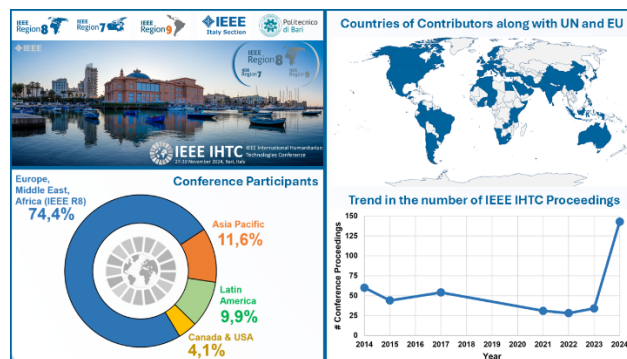


Figure 1 - Conference presentation flyer, contributors and numbers

- **23.5% of attendees came from industry and governmental or intergovernmental organizations and 17.5% were professional engineers.**
- Exhibition with big, medium and small enterprises.
- **16 special sessions divided into three tracks: clean and affordable energy, critical events and adverse living conditions, and life quality improvement.**
- 143 papers have been published on IEEExplore.
- **13 panel sessions**, 6 of them organized by R8 Committees (Afi, WIE, HAC).
- The R8 Afi Committee organized an Industry panel on “Connecting the Unconnected”
- The panel “Future Environmental & Humanitarian Challenge” with the participation of UNESCO, UNGSC, International Energy Agency, two representatives of R8 Climate Change Committee, a representative of the National Council of Economy and Occupation, a professor of Cornell University and representative of CEET UN Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition.
- The panel: “Energy Regulation in Europe, Africa and Middle East” organized by GSE Spa (The Italian Energy Services Agency) with participation of representatives of ten Energy Regulatory Authorities of Europe, Africa and Middle East.
- The panel: “Research & Industry for the Energy Transition” with participation of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and 6 executives from Energy big companies (Terna, Enel, ENI, Acquedotto Pugliese) and two Research Centers (RSE and ENEA).
- Two panels: “Energy Poverty, Renewable Energy Communities, and Emerging Models of Energy Access” organized by RSE S.p.A.
- A panel on: “Water and energy between efficiency and climate change challenges” sponsored and organized by Acquedotto Pugliese S.p.A.
- The R7 director contributed with a special panel.
- **3 keynote speeches** one was the chair of IEEE HTB and the other was from R8
- R8 Humanitarian Activity Committee with participation of members of the IEEE HTB organized **the R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress, one workshops and two panels**
- IEEE Smart Village Initiative organized a workshop
- **The finals of two challenges** organized by R8 HAC (IEEE R8 Climate Challenge on AI in Enhanced Weather Forecasting) and R8 SAC (Climate change and Disaster Resilient Communication)
- **Two competitions** for young entrepreneurs and for PhD students

A detailed program can be found on the website.

4. Increase IEEE R8 visibility through conferences and Industry focused events @ R8 flagship conferences

Many events involving R8 Committees (Entrepreneurship, Industry, WIE, YP, Students, Standard, Membership, ...) were organized with great success during MELECON 2024, RTSI 2024 and IHTC 2024 (see above) thanks to the approval of a project funded by MGA: “Industry Tracks at R8 flagship/portfolio conferences” and other projects supported by IEEE Foundation and IEEE HTB.

The final report for this project was prepared by the end of 2024.

5. Ensure success of IEEE conferences TCS/FCS by R8

CoCC liaison members have been assigned for each R8 conference (FCS/TCS/conc. unit).

The task of the liaison member is the supervision of the entire process from the application form to the final report submission and budget control for R8 FCS conferences only.

3 R8 TCS conferences have been organized in November - December 2024. The complete list of the 2024-2025 R8 conferences is available on the R8 website, at this [link](#).

TELFOR 2024 (5% R8 FCS) has been held on 26-27 November, 2024 with the R8 FCS. The attendance was good with participation of industry. They organized a successful Exhibition with 21 companies of communications hardware, software, equipment, systems and services.

They also organized Commercial presentations of the companies and their products

The technical program included 14 regular Sessions and one special session.

EDUCON 2025 will be organized on 28 April - 1st May 2025, London (UK) (<https://2025.ieee-educon.org/>)

This conference is a successful example of cooperation. between IEEE Education Society and R8.

The MoU to transform this conference into a R8 portfolio conference is under evaluation.

ISCC 2025 will be held in Bologna (Italy) on 2-5 July 2025 (<https://ieee-iscc.computer.org/2025/>)

This conference has the FCS of IEEE COMSOC, IEEE Computer and R8 (20%) and the TCS of Italy Section and the Italy chapters of COMSOC and Computer. It is a successful example of cooperation between two IEEE Societies and R8.

6. Support the sections' conference coordinators, section chairs and IEEE R8 TCS/FCS Conference organizers

The updated list of the Section Conference Coordinators is available on the R8 CoCC website [link](#).

The third training workshop of 2024 was organized on 13 November, 2024 The slides of the presentations are available for download on the IEEE R8 Conference website [link](#).

The next training workshop (for R8 Section chairs, SCCs and other conference leaders) is organized in cooperation with IEEE CEE and it will be held on April 4 in hybrid format.

7. Ensure good relationship with MGA, CEE, and other regional conference coordinators

Weekly correspondence with IEEE CEE is maintained.

Participation in IEEE ICC in person meeting of February 12, 2025 of the past-chair of the CoCC and the ex-officio members of the CoCC.