

# **A CENTENARY OF THE SPARK: CONNECTING OUR PAST WITH OUR FUTURE**

**2024—2025 Special Edition  
New Leadership. New Format. Regional News.**

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# IEEE region8news

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IEEE Region 8 News is a newsletter, published by Region 8 Committee to keep IEEE members within the Region updated on programs, initiatives, events, and activities. The printed edition is distributed with [IEEE Spectrum](#) to IEEE members throughout the Region and the electronic version is distributed via email to IEEE Region 8 members, and downloadable from the [Region 8 News](#) website as well. IEEE Region 8 News is produced by volunteer editors with contributions from members from all over Region 8.

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This publication is here to showcase events, achievements, and news items from across the Region. As this is produced with specific deadlines throughout the year it is an ideal medium for reporting on past events, meetings or stories, with the ability to promote future events. We welcome reports, stories and general content, including photos and short videos. For article submissions, please use our [Publications & Communications Contribution Submission](#) form to ensure your contribution is properly processed. Please find the guidelines for content submission [here](#).

If you have questions, inquiries, or would like to check whether a topic or article is appropriate before submitting, feel free to contact us via email at [r8news@ieee.org](mailto:r8news@ieee.org) or [editors@ieeer8.org](mailto:editors@ieeer8.org). We're happy to help clarify guidelines or discuss potential contributions.

**The deadline for content submission for the next issue is 31 May 2026.**

## Director's column



Dusanka Boskovic  
IEEE Region 8 Director

I am stepping into the role of Director of IEEE Region 8 during a transition that underscores the importance of continuity, collaboration, and shared responsibility. I approach this position with a deep respect for the work that has been done and with a commitment to supporting our volunteers, strengthening our Sections, and fostering engagement across Region 8. Our region represents a diverse community of members across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, whose dedication continues to inspire.

Our strength lies in the dedication of volunteers and the diversity of perspectives across the Region. By working together, we can continue to expand opportunities for our members and contribute meaningfully to the mission of IEEE and IEEE strategic goals.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of my predecessor and thank the volunteers whose work supports our Sections, Chapters, Student Branches, and Affinity Groups. Their commitment forms the foundation of the strong community we have built together.

In the coming period, I will act in line with my position statement – I will be listening to our members, supporting initiatives that strengthen technical activities and professional development, and ensuring that Region 8 remains an inclusive and dynamic environment for innovation, learning, and service.

With the help of dedicated OpCom colleagues I will continue the work of implementing the IEEE mission to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Dusanka Boskovic  
IEEE Region 8 Director

### IEEE Region 8 Committee Meetings 2024–2025

Location	Date
Dubrovnik, Croatia	18–19 October 2025
Budapest, Hungary	05–06 April 2025
Bordeaux, France	19–20 October 2024
Vienna, Austria	02–03 March 2024



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## New Sections, milestone membership: 125th Region 8 Committee Meeting in Dubrovnik

The 125th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting gathered over 100 volunteer leaders from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 18–19 October 2025. The event opened on Friday evening with a welcome reception hosted by the IEEE Croatia Section and its Chair, Vinko Lesic, blending professional pride with Mediterranean hospitality to set a collaborative tone for the weekend.



### A new chapter in leadership

Region 8 Director Dusanka Boskovic chaired her first committee meeting since assuming her role on 1 July 2025. Her inaugural report highlighted a high-impact start to her term, including representing the Region at the IEEE Board of Directors and the Member and Geographic Activities Board, as well as participating in RTSI 2025 and HISTELCON 2025. She emphasised modernising governance by standardising election procedures through the mandatory use of vTools.

This unified vision was echoed by IEEE President Kathleen Kramer, whose “One IEEE” address highlighted the global synergy required to move the profession forward. Additionally, IEEE Foundation President Marko Delimar reported a landmark achievement: the Foundation has now impacted nearly 1 million lives globally through the technical community’s support.



Region 8 Director Dusanka Boskovic chairs her first Committee meeting to review key milestones, including a record-breaking 85,000 members across three continents

### Robust growth and technical impact

Reports underscored a year of significant expansion, with membership surpassing 85,000 - a 7% increase. This momentum was bolstered by the elevation of Kazakhstan to a full Section and the formation of the Rwanda, Armenia, and Senegal Subsections.

Technical excellence remained a cornerstone of 2025. Flagship conferences such as EUROCON (Poland), RTSI (Tunisia), and HISTELCON (Germany) served as innovation hubs. Notably, EUROCON hosted the first in-person finals of the IEEE Duino Student Hardware Contest, showcasing exceptional talent in microcontroller design.

### Empowering the next generation

The year saw a surge in activities for Students and Young Professionals, with five cross-sectional Student and Young Professional Congresses held in Ghana, Tunisia, Germany, Lithuania, and Türkiye. The Women in Engineering committee reported an 18% membership rise and new groups in Ghana, Oman, and Kuwait. Meanwhile, YP membership exceeded 30,000, focusing on “LEAD” programmes and humanitarian innovation hubs.

### Operational excellence and cybersecurity

The Region also refreshed its digital presence, reactivating “R8 Today” and updating the [ieeer8.org](http://ieeer8.org) homepage. To counter increased phishing attempts against volunteers, the Electronic Communications team implemented proactive awareness campaigns and tightened access management.

### The roadmap to 2026: Helsinki and Glasgow

While the committee rooms focused on business, the Gala Dinner celebrated the Region’s highest achievers against the backdrop of



IEEE leadership presented the Italy Section with a token of appreciation for organising IHTC 2024. A lovely moment on stage that reminds us we are paving the way for the engineers of tomorrow.



Local performers share Croatian traditions with IEEE delegates during the welcome reception in Dubrovnik

Dubrovnik's historic walls. Strategic focus now shifts toward the upcoming regional meetings, specifically the Spring 2026 gathering in Helsinki and the highly anticipated Sections Congress 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland, this August.

Key future initiatives include:

- Meeting locations: Future sessions are confirmed for Helsinki (Spring 2026), Glasgow (Autumn 2026), Naples (Spring 2027), and Seville (Autumn 2027).
- Standardised elections: To ensure operational health and rebate eligibility, all Sections are now required to use vTools for their election procedures.
- Climate and standards: The Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change will expand its presence at 2026 workshops, alongside new briefing sessions from the IEEE Standards Association.

The Dubrovnik meeting concluded with a renewed sense of purpose, driven by a commitment across three continents to advance technology for the benefit of humanity.

## Message from the Chair of Publications & Communications Committee



Dear Colleagues,

I am honoured and delighted to serve as Chair of the Publications & Communications (P&C) Committee for the 2025–2026 term.

For those who do not know me, I am Nick Wainwright. My career has been rooted in the Testing, Inspection and Certification industry, where I currently serve as Technical, Quality and Regulatory Affairs Director for the Eurofins Electrical and Electronics business line in Europe.

My journey with IEEE began in the late 1980s. Like many members, I remained something of a “silent member” for many years - paying my subscription and receiving my regular magazines. That changed just over a decade ago when I became involved with the IEEE UK and Ireland EMC Chapter. Shortly afterwards, I took on the challenge of designing and maintaining the Section’s website, a responsibility I continue to this day. This experience provided me with a strong foundation in publications and communications and ultimately led to my deeper involvement in this area of Region 8 activity.

The P&C Committee plays a vital role in promoting the activities of Region 8 through a variety of communication channels. Like any news platform, however, we rely heavily on contributions from our members. We encourage each Section and organisational unit to appoint a Communications Officer who can collaborate with us to highlight events, initiatives, and achievements. Organising events requires significant effort, and it is only right that these activities receive the visibility they deserve - both before and after they take place.

Our key communication channels include:

Region 8 Today – our online portal designed to rapidly share news, events, and the outstanding work of our members. <https://region8today.ieeeer8.org/>

Region 8 News – our flagship quarterly newsletter, including the publication you are reading now, which keeps IEEE members informed about programs, initiatives, and activities across the Region.

Region 8 Social Media – an active presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, providing near real-time updates and engagement with our community.

One of my immediate priorities as Chair has been to ensure that these channels are fully active and ready to support Region 8 activities. I am particularly pleased to be writing in *Region 8 News*, as this marks the first issue of the publication in over two and a half years. Its return represents a significant effort by the P&C team, particularly the editors Bojan Nikolic and Maja Matijasevic, whose dedication and persistence have made this edition possible.

Of course, no newsletter can exist without news. We are therefore extremely grateful to our Region leadership, committees, and members for contributing articles and updates. This edition covers a longer period due to the publication hiatus, but going forward our aim is to ensure that news and updates are shared in a more timely and consistent manner.

The role of the P&C Committee extends beyond publications. We also support many of the technical aspects of Region 8 communications, including electronic communications for Region 8 meetings, management of Region 8 committee email services, and website hosting infrastructure. These important services are expertly handled by George Michael and Maria Efthymiou, whose work ensures that many of our communications systems operate smoothly behind the scenes.

During 2025, our primary focus was on restoring the Region 8 Today website and laying the groundwork for the return of *Region 8 News*. In 2026, our attention will shift toward the main Region 8 website and the long-overdue improvements needed to modernise and strengthen it as a central hub for the Region.

Thank you to everyone across Region 8 for your continued support. I look forward to working with you and supporting the activities of our Region through an active, responsive, and effective Publications & Communications Committee.

Nick Wainwright

Chair, Publications and Communications Committee, 2025–2026

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## Editors' column

### A century of discovery, a new chapter of connection

By Region 8 News editors

In the world of engineering, silence is rarely empty; it is often the sound of momentum building behind the scenes. After a hiatus of nearly three years, this newsletter returns to resume its regular schedule and document the many activities of our members. This return marks a significant step forward for our publication, as we introduce our first-ever interactive digital version alongside the traditional printed edition. This special issue, spanning the pivotal period of 2024 and 2025, represents a new beginning for our newly formed editorial team and follows the appointment of our new chair of the Publications and Communications Committee. Together, we share a renewed commitment to our professional community.

This dual approach ensures that we honour our legacy of print while providing a modern, dynamic experience. The digital edition is designed to be more than a static document; it is a gateway to further exploration through integrated links and media.

Our return arrives at a remarkable historical crossroads. As we explore in this edition's feature on the 'Century of the Spark', the window of 1924–1925 gave us the breakthroughs that defined the modern world: the birth of quantum mechanics and the first blueprints for the transistor. These milestones remind us that Region 8 – stretching across Europe, the Middle East and Africa – has always been the foundry for the intellectual sparks that move the global stage.

Today, that legacy of leadership continues with a new generation of



voices. Today, that legacy of leadership is carried forward by a new generation of voices. This is a time of both transition and outward momentum, marked by the election of our new Region 8 Director and our growing community. Most notably, we are delighted to welcome Kazakhstan as a full Section, and Rwanda, Armenia, and Senegal as new Subsections. This spirit of innovation extends across our diverse network: from policy roadmaps discussed with the Lebanese Minister of Technology and AI, to the 30th anniversary of the Bulgaria Section and industry workshops in Tunisia.

Whether highlighting the drive of our Students and Young Professionals or the vital contributions of Women in Engineering and Life Members, these pages reflect a community that is actively looking forward. As your new editorial team, our mission is to ensure these stories are told with the precision and pride they deserve. Whether you are exploring these pages in print or through our new digital features, we invite you to join us as we begin this next chapter together.

## The century of the spark: Engineering the Region 8 legacy

One hundred years ago, in the laboratories and universities of IEEE Region 8, two separate but deeply intertwined breakthroughs occurred. They didn't just change the course of engineering; they redefined the human experience. As we dedicate this edition of the R8 Newsletter to the milestones of 2024 and 2025, we find ourselves at the heart of a remarkable double centennial—a moment to reflect on a century of genius that moved us from the era of mechanical gears to the era of the electron.

### The 'Impossible' Switch: 100 Years of the FET

In 1925, physicist Julius Edgar Lilienfeld filed a patent for a device that would become the cornerstone of modern life: the Field-Effect Transistor (FET). Working within the academic corridors of Central Europe, Lilienfeld conceptualised a way to control the flow of electricity through a solid material using an electric field.

At the time, his patent was considered nearly 'impossible'—a vision decades ahead of the materials science needed to build it. Yet, this 'spark' from a Region 8 pioneer eventually replaced the bulky, hot vacuum tubes of the early radio era. Today, the FET is the fundamental 'switch' in the billions of transistors inside your smartphone. Every tap, swipe, and scroll is an act of flipping a switch that was first imagined in our backyard exactly a century ago.

### The Secret Sauce: Quantum Mechanics as an Instruction Manual

While Lilienfeld was reimagining the switch, a group of radical theorists across Region 8 were rewriting the laws of nature. In 1925, quantum mechanics moved from a series of confusing observations to a rigorous mathematical framework. That was the year Werner Heisenberg, Max Born, and Pascual Jordan published their groundbreaking work on matrix mechanics, while Wolfgang Pauli articulated the exclusion principle—explaining why matter doesn't simply collapse into itself.

To the casual observer, quantum physics can sound like pure abstraction, far removed from the practical world of circuits and systems. For the electrical engineer, however, it is the indispensable instruction manual for modern reality.

This invisible science dictates our digital world in ways we often take for granted. Semiconductors such as silicon behave as both conductor and insulator only because of specific quantum mechanical effects. At its core, understanding how electrons move through these materials is a purely quantum problem.

Beyond the processor, the laser offers another powerful example. From the fibre optics that carry our internet to high-precision medical tools, laser technology depends entirely on quantum operations. Even MRI scanners in our hospitals save countless lives through the sophisticated manipulation of quantum phenomena. Without this 'manual', written a century ago, we would have no way to design, build, or even understand the components that power our digital world.

### A Region 8 Legacy: Engineering the Solid-State Revolution

This history is deeply personal to our organisation. Many early quantum pioneers in our region were active in the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE), the predecessor to the IEEE. Their insights propelled the 'Solid-State' movement, which birthed the modern semiconductor industry and fostered the global engineering standards we uphold today.

We have now entered an era where these two threads—the digital switch and the quantum manual—are intertwining more closely than ever. We are moving far beyond simply utilising quantum effects to build traditional transistors; we are now actively engineering the first generations of Quantum Computers. These devices represent a monumental leap forward, promising to solve complex problems

in mere seconds that would have occupied today's most powerful supercomputers for ten thousand years.

### A Century of Progress

IEEE Region 8, with its 85,000 members across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, stands at the forefront of this convergence. From the foundational research that sparked a century of progress to the practical applications we deploy today, our community continues to prove that the most profound changes begin with a single, brilliant thought.

As you interact with the digital world today, remember the invisible revolution that began a hundred years ago. The path lit in 1925 continues to illuminate our future, proving that in Region 8, we don't just witness history—we engineer it.

## The new strategic goals in the IEEE 2025–2030 Strategic Plan

*Dusanka Boskovic, Region 8 Director*

As we witness unprecedented technological acceleration and the many challenges it brings, the IEEE 2025–2030 Strategy offers more than a roadmap.

The IEEE Board of Directors, supported by the IEEE Strategy and Alignment Committee, has updated the strategic goals, with the IEEE's mission and vision remaining constant.

The 2025–2030 IEEE Strategic Plan introduces six new goals focusing on furthering IEEE's role as a leading trusted source, driving technological innovation ethically and with integrity, enabling interdisciplinary opportunities, inspiring future generations of technologists, further engaging the public, and empowering technology professionals throughout their careers.

Kathleen Kramer, 2025 IEEE President and CEO, presented the 2025–2030 IEEE Strategic Plan at the Region 8 Committee Spring meeting in Budapest, Hungary, on 6 April 2025, noting that 'IEEE organisational units are aligning their initiatives to these goals so that we all may move forward as One IEEE.'

2025-2030

# IEEE Strategic Plan

#### OUR GOALS

- Advance science and technology** as a leading trusted source of information for research, development, standards, and public policy
- Inspire intellectual curiosity** and support discovery and invention to engage the next generation of technology innovators

- Drive technological innovation** while promoting scientific integrity and the ethical development and use of technology
- Expand public awareness** of the significant role that engineering, science, and technology play across the globe

- Provide opportunities** for technology-related interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and knowledge sharing across industry, academia, and government
- Empower technology professionals** in their careers through ongoing education, mentoring, networking, and lifelong engagement

[Learn More](#)

[www.ieee.org/strategic-plan](http://www.ieee.org/strategic-plan)



*Kathleen Kramer, 2025 IEEE President and CEO, presents the IEEE 2025–2030 Strategic Plan at the IEEE Region 8 Committee Spring Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, on 6 April 2025.*

The six new goals are:

- Advance science and technology as a leading trusted source of information for research, development, standards, and public policy
- Drive technological innovation while promoting scientific integrity and the ethical development and use of technology
- Provide opportunities for technology-related interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and knowledge sharing across industry, academia, and government
- Inspire intellectual curiosity and support discovery and invention to engage the next generation of technology innovators

- Expand public awareness of the significant role that engineering, science, and technology play across the globe
- Empower technology professionals in their careers through ongoing education, mentoring, networking, and lifelong engagement

The strategic planning process is organised in two phases, and the ongoing second phase is designed to guide IEEE organisational units in cascading the goals into tactical objectives. This approach ensures that the efforts of organisational units are aligned with the holistic IEEE strategy.

More information on the IEEE 2025–2030 Strategic Plan is available at <https://www.ieee.org/about/ieee-strategic-plan>, with the complete Strategic Plan Toolkit available at <https://brand-experience.ieee.org/toolkits/ieee-strategic-plan-toolkit/>.

## In memoriam | Remembering Tony Davies (1936–2025)



Professor Anthony (Tony) Christopher Davies of King's College London, died on 22 March 2025 from heart failure. Tony was a Life Fellow of IEEE, and was an active member of the United Kingdom and Ireland Life Member Affinity Group until his death.

Tony held many volunteer positions in IEEE, beginning in 1975 as UK and Ireland Section Secretary, eventually becoming Section Chair in 1992.

He was elected as Region 8 Director (2003–2004) and was particularly active in developing IEEE activities in the countries of Eastern Europe and Russia. He served as Vice President of the IEEE Circuit & Systems Society, and made many contributions to the work of the Society in Student, Chapter and Conference activities.

His technical achievements were mostly in the fields of digital signal processing and circuit theory. Tony was an early exponent of short courses in microprocessor engineering. As a Life member he organised IEEE activities in the History of Technology.

With his seemingly tireless energy, good humour, and gregariousness, Tony stood out at every meeting he attended, from student meetings right up to the Board of Directors. Working with Tony was always an enjoyable and rewarding experience widely appreciated by his IEEE colleagues.

His passing has left a large gap in IEEE's volunteer resources.

## In memoriam | Remembering Nihal Sinnadurai



Professor Nihal Sinnadurai died on 4 July 2025.

Nihal was a long standing and committed IEEE Volunteer at Section, Region and Society level. He was the first IEEE R8 Action for Industry Chair 2015–2016. Among his volunteer activities, he served as UK and Ireland Section Chair from 2012 to 2013.

He was a renowned UK-based electronics and microelectronics expert, holding numerous prestigious fellowships: he was a Life Fellow of IEEE, Fellow of the Institute of Physics, Fellow of IMAPS, and a Chartered Engineer.

Nihal authored over 260 scholarly publications covering a spectrum of topics including space-use electronics, high-frequency Multi-Chip Modules (MCMs), plastic packaging reliability, and the environmental impact of electronics.



## From twisted pair to global broadband: IEEE milestone for ADSL celebrated in Antwerp

*Luc Claesen, IEEE Benelux Section Life Member Affinity Group*

In a fitting tribute to a technology that silently underpins our digital lives, a historic breakthrough in broadband communication was formally honoured on 4 September 2025. An IEEE Milestone was unveiled at Nokia Labs in Antwerp, Belgium, celebrating the development of the pioneering Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) system. The ceremony, presided over by IEEE President Kathleen Kramer and Region 8 Director Dušanka Bošković, was attended by over 200 former project collaborators and IEEE members, marking a celebration of Belgian innovation.

The story begins not in the 1990s, but in 1881, with Alexander Graham Bell's patent for twisted-pair cabling. This copper wire became the global standard for voice communication. The Belgian connection runs deep; Bell's father-in-law, Gardiner Hubbard, together with Francis Welles, co-founded the *Bell Telephone Manufacturing Company* in Antwerp in 1882.

Over a century later, this same network presented both a challenge and an opportunity. While the internet was emerging, data speeds over copper wires were painfully slow. At the accompanying symposium, ADSL pioneer Martin De Prycker narrated the journey of a small,

intrapreneurial team within the company (later part of Alcatel and Nokia). They envisioned a radical idea: to squeeze megabits of data through the kilohertz-rated copper lines designed only for voice.

Their success was not guaranteed. The team created an agile 'Virtual Company' within the larger corporate structure, pivoting from a focus on video-on-demand to the emerging internet market, and designing dedicated supporting chips early on. A key victory was winning the crucial JPC contract, which established their ADSL product as a global, interoperable standard. Today's streaming, video calls and bandwidth-heavy applications trace their origins to this breakthrough.

The IEEE Milestone citation reads: 'Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Enabling Broadband Internet, 1993–1997. In 1997, Alcatel's A1000 ASAM product revolutionized broadband Internet access by providing multi-megabit per second downstream speeds over ubiquitous but decades-old and ill-conditioned subscriber telephone lines. A team based in Antwerp, Belgium began development of the product in 1993. The combination of ADSL technology, innovative signal processing, cutting-edge silicon integration, and a revolutionary architecture brought affordable broadband Internet to nearly one billion people worldwide.'

This IEEE Milestone stands as a testament to a Belgian team that saw the future not in tearing up the old, but in brilliantly reimagining it, turning the world's telephone lines into the foundation of global broadband internet access.

For more information on this IEEE Milestone, please visit: <https://ieemilestones.ethw.org/Milestone-Proposal:ADSL>



*IEEE President Kathleen Kramer and Region 8 Director Dušanka Bošković with participants at the IEEE ADSL Milestone dedication ceremony, in front of the commemorative plaque.*

## Understanding the IEEE National Society Agreements Programme

In this article, we speak with Peter Nagy (Hungary), the volunteer lead for the IEEE National Society Agreements Programme. The interview was conducted by Marc Beebe, Senior Director of Strategic Research, Public Imperatives, & Corporate Development at IEEE Corporate Activities.



From left: Marc Beebe (Senior Director of Strategic Research, Public Imperatives, & Corporate Development at IEEE Corporate Activities) and Peter Nagy (volunteer lead for the IEEE National Society Agreements Programme)  
Photo credit: Peter Nagy

### Peter, what exactly is the IEEE National Society Agreements Programme?

The IEEE is dedicated to collaborating with National Societies worldwide. The NSA Programme establishes cooperative relationships between local IEEE Sections (or Geographic Councils) and Country National Societies. These relationships are formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding, fostering collaboration and joint initiatives. The agreement is signed by an appropriate executive from the National Society, the IEEE Section/Council Chair, and the IEEE President after thorough discussions and mutual agreement.

### Why is it beneficial for IEEE Sections and Geographic Councils?

Entering an NSA fosters contacts, cooperation, and joint activities between both organisations. This collaboration enhances the personal and professional lives of their members, supports the country's engineers and scientists in various fields, and contributes to the development of technical skills, professional growth, and networking opportunities.

### What are the benefits for National Society members if they join IEEE?

National Society members can access IEEE benefits at a discounted price, including opportunities to join a community of over 450,000 technology and engineering professionals. Other benefits include access to resources for staying updated on technological advancements and involvement in mentoring the next generation of engineers and technologists.

### How is the official relationship established? Is there a template Memorandum of Understanding?

Establishing an agreement involves initial contact with the local IEEE Section, followed by further arrangements through IEEE Corporate Activities. The process includes signing the basic NSA by both the IEEE Section and the National Society, along with defining three cooperative activities for the first year. Similar activities are then planned for subsequent years.

### What are the typical joint activities?

Joint activities under the NSA commonly include technical and social meetings, conferences, distinguished lecturer programmes, awards, seminars, tutorials, young professional and women in engineering events, and publication exchanges.

### Do you have a website or further information about existing cooperation?

Certainly! You can find more information at IEEE Corporate Agreements at link: <https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/agreements>. For inquiries, contact IEEE Corporate Activities at <mailto:national-societies@ieee.org>.



## IEEE Compeng 2024 brings researchers together to advance complexity science in Florence

Francesca Di Patti and Riccardo Meucci, General Chairs

The seventh edition of IEEE Workshop on Complexity in Engineering, Compeng 2024, took place on 22–24 July in Florence, Italy. This marked the third consecutive edition hosted at the Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics, situated in the historic 'Antonio Garbasso' building, the former site of the Physics Institute of the University of Florence. This location holds significant historical value, as it was here in 1926 that Enrico Fermi discovered the famous Fermi–Dirac statistics.

We are pleased to report that the conference saw 85 registered participants, along with 4–5 online contributions, which is particularly notable given that the event was primarily organised as an in-person gathering. The steady increase in participants over the last three

editions at the Galileo Galilei Institute underscores the growing importance of complexity in science and engineering.

This year's conference featured a wide range of disciplinary sessions, including machine learning, complex networks, engineering methods and applications, data analysis, nonlinear dynamics, remote monitoring, and laser dynamics and optics. Notably, two invited sessions garnered significant attention:

- Dynamics of Neural Networks from Single Neuron to Collective Behaviours, organised by Simona Olmi
- Chaos and Complexity Across Neural and Nonlinear Electronic Systems, organised by Ludovico Minati

The plenary speakers, including Giulio Biroli, Stefano Boccaletti, Lucia Valentina Gambuzza, and Maurizio Mattia, delivered outstanding presentations that covered a diverse range of topics, such as synchronisation in dynamical systems, generative AI, experiments on synchronisation in micro-robots, and population dynamics in networks of spiking neurons. Their talks highlighted the unifying nature of

complexity science, bridging seemingly disparate disciplines, and underscored the increasing significance of AI and machine learning in this field.

A special highlight of the conference was the visit to Villa 'Il Gioiello' on 23 July 2024, where Galileo Galilei spent his final years before passing away in 1642. The social dinner was also held at this historic location, providing attendees with a memorable experience that

combined scientific discourse with a deep appreciation of the rich history of science in Florence.

In conclusion, IEEE Compeng 2024 was a resounding success, reflecting the vibrant and interdisciplinary nature of complexity science and its applications across various fields. We look forward to the continued growth and impact of this conference in the years to come.



## IT 2024 conference delivers a multidisciplinary overview of modern ICT trends

Milutin Radonjić, IEEE Serbia & Montenegro Section, IT 2024 Committee Member

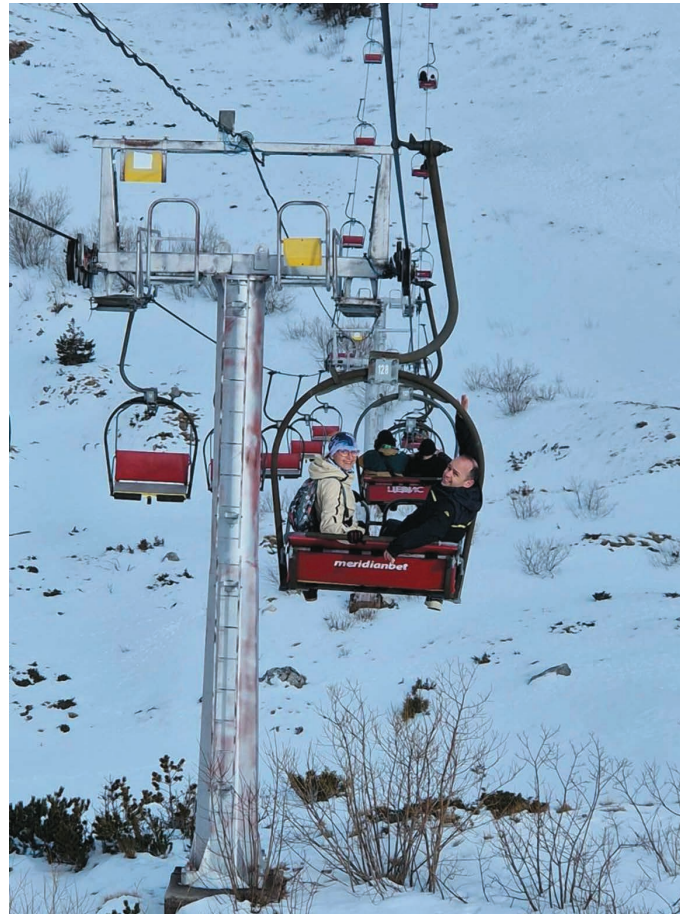
Researchers and experts from 20 countries gathered in Žabljak, Montenegro from 21-24 February 2024 for the XXVIII International Scientific and Professional Conference 'Information Technologies'. Co-organised by the IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section alongside several regional universities, the event served as a multidisciplinary hub for nearly 200 participants attending both in person and online.

The technical programme featured 67 peer-reviewed papers selected from 101 submissions. Research presentations spanned critical modern domains, including artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, IT security, and unmanned vessel management. Beyond research presentations, the event emphasised image processing, virtual trade, and knowledge transfer.

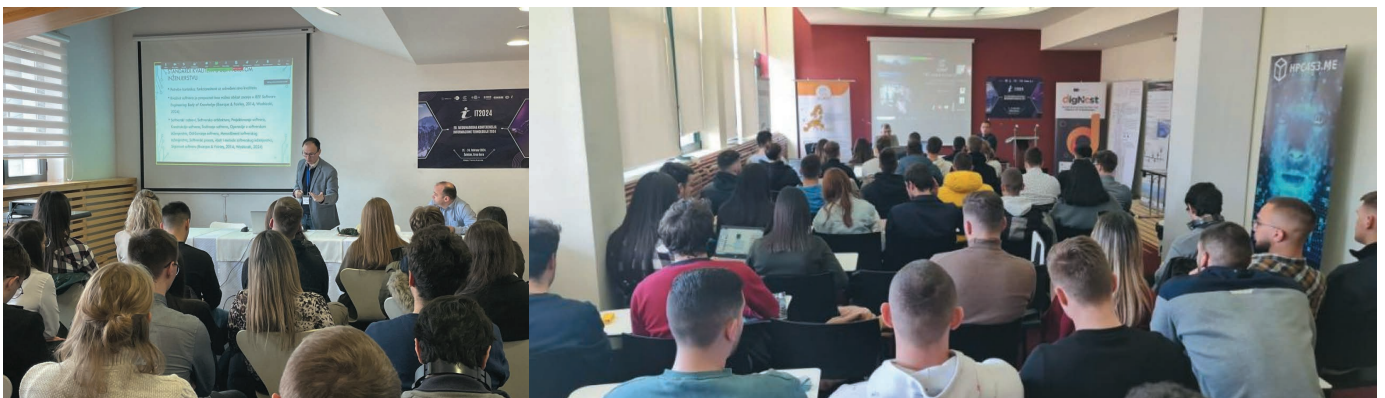
A significant portion of the conference focused on the EuroCC2 project and the development of National Competence Centres for High-Performance Computing. Workshops and panels showcased how HPC and AI are being integrated into industrial sectors, specifically aligned with Montenegro's Smart Specialisation Strategy. Experts from Cyprus, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Turkey, North Macedonia, and Romania joined local representatives to discuss how high-performance data analytics can support both public and private sector innovation.

The event also highlighted several regional initiatives, including the FoodHUB centre for food safety digitisation and the Montenegrin Academic Digital Innovation Hub. By bridging the gap between academia and industry with participation from companies like Čikom, Fleka, and FiveG Group, IT 2024 provided a multidisciplinary overview of current trends. Marking its 28th year, the conference successfully networked university professors, associates, and young researchers while delivering essential training in the field of information and communication technologies.

For more information and full project details, visit the official conference site at: <https://www.it.ac.me/en/>



Conference participants enjoying the winter scenery of Žabljak between technical sessions  
(Image credits: IT 2024)



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## Grow your local IEEE community with IEEE Local Groups

Vijay S Paul, IEEE MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee Member

Are you looking to further technical discourse within your Section, engage members around emerging topics, or strengthen ties with academia, industry, and government?

Do you want to explore new trends, or connect like-minded individuals within your local area—whether they are IEEE members or not?

If so, IEEE Local Groups offer an exciting new pathway!

# IEEE Local Groups

### What is a Local Group?

A Local Group (LG) is a new IEEE Organisational Unit that is a subunit of a Section, focused on a specified local interest. A Local Group shall comprise a minimum of two (2) IEEE members, one of whom has to be a voting member (Graduate Student Member or higher grade), and both of whom must be members of the geographic unit involved.

Both IEEE members and non-members may be part of the Local Group.

### Why are Local Groups important?

LGs are intended to be an agile and efficient way for a Section or Region to meet the needs of its members and non-IEEE member

colleagues. Therefore, starting and running a LG involves minimal overhead, just enough for IEEE to track its creation and activity.

Local Groups:

- Open a new channel for IEEE involvement and membership
- Re-energise Sections by including members and non-members
- Help discover, explore, and track new trends
- Enhance and increase IEEE's responsiveness to new trends and needs

### Scope of the Local Group

The scope of the LG should be related to the IEEE fields of interest. It should not act against or in competition with any other IEEE unit (Section, Chapter, Affinity Group, etc.)

### How can you form a new Local Group?

First, you must ensure that there isn't an LG already in your location within the specified field of interest. For a list of all LGs, visit [https://vtools.vtools.ieee.org/home/local\\_groups](https://vtools.vtools.ieee.org/home/local_groups).

To establish an LG, a petition shall be made electronically using the following link: [https://vtools.vtools.ieee.org/tego/\\_local\\_groups/request\\_group](https://vtools.vtools.ieee.org/tego/_local_groups/request_group).

The group will then need to be approved by the Section management.

### Naming Convention for Local Groups

Naming of the Group should follow the following convention: *IEEE <location><topic> Group*.

Some current examples of LGs include:

- IEEE Indonesia Broadcasting Industry and Technology Group
- IEEE Victorian Blockchain Group
- IEEE Delhi Section Impact of EVs Group
- IEEE Sri Lanka Cybersecurity Group
- IEEE Thailand Section Quantum Information Technology Group
- IEEE Hong Kong AI for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Group

For more details, visit the [IEEE Local Groups webpage](#).

## IEEE Bulgaria Section marks 30 years of excellence and impact

Todor Ganchev, IEEE Bulgaria Section Chair

On 24 June 2025, the IEEE Bulgaria Section commemorated the 30th anniversary of its establishment, celebrating three decades of commitment to engineering excellence, professional development, and the advancement of Bulgaria's role within the global IEEE community.

The initiative to establish a national IEEE Section in Bulgaria originated independently in Sofia and Varna and was spearheaded by Hristo Hristov of the Technical University of Varna and Nikolay Kolev of the Technical University of Sofia, with the support of Vassil Sgurev, a member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. A petition signed by 57 members led to IEEE formal approval on 24 June 1995. Jordan Kolev was appointed interim Chair. Soon thereafter, the Section adopted its bylaws, participated in its first IEEE Region 8 meeting in Barcelona,

and established the IEEE Bulgaria Section NPO to ensure legal and administrative compliance. In early 1996, elections formalised the leadership structure, with Jordan Kolev as Chair, Vassil Sgurev as Vice Chair, Stefan Alexandrov as Secretary, and Nikolay Nikolov as Treasurer.

An early milestone was the publication of *Vesti na IEEE Bulgaria Section*, a biannual bulletin covering Section news, events, and expert perspectives, later transitioned to digital format on the Section's website (<http://www.ieee.bg/>).

During this formative period, the first professional chapter—the Joint MTT/ED/AP/CPMT Chapter—was established in 1995. IEEE Student Branches followed in 1997 at the Technical University of Varna and the Technical University of Sofia. The Student Branch at the Technical University of Varna also established a library, jointly funded by IEEE Region 8 and local sponsors, providing access to IEEE's digital library. In November 2022, the Women in Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group was established, followed in 2023 by the Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG).

In the decades since its establishment, the Section has grown to include nine Professional Chapters, three Affinity Groups, and three

Student Branches. It supports over twenty national and international conferences each year, organises summer schools for graduate and postgraduate students, and hosts roundtables as part of its wider

programme of activities. Through these efforts, it continues to nurture the next generation of engineers and contribute to technological progress for the benefit of society.



IEEE Bulgaria Section meeting in Sofia (March 2024)

## IEEE Region 8 hosts DEI virtual workshop promoting inclusive engineering

*Gheith Abandah, Chair of the IEEE R8 DEI Committee*

The IEEE Region 8 Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) successfully conducted a virtual workshop on 23 May 2024, bringing together 18 IEEE volunteers from Region 8 and beyond. Moderated by Patience Obehi Enahoro, an Energy and Sustainability Professional at ExxonMobil, the 90-minute session explored key strategies and challenges in promoting a more inclusive engineering landscape.

Gheith Abandah, Chair of the IEEE Region 8 DEI Committee, provided an overview of the committee's initiatives and areas for improvement within Region 8. Following that, Dusanka Boskovic from the University of Sarajevo presented her insights on measuring equity through fostering a safe and inclusive professional environment.

The workshop also featured presentations from prominent figures in the DEI space. Heather McNairn, Chair of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) DEI Committee, discussed ongoing initiatives at the TAB level, while Simay Akar of AK Energy Consulting highlighted the critical role of diversity and inclusion within Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) strategies.

A collaborative discussion session capped off the workshop, allowing participants to share best practices and address challenges encountered in their respective regions. The workshop recording and materials are available for viewing at [bit.ly/IEEE-R8-DEI24](https://bit.ly/IEEE-R8-DEI24).

This workshop signifies the IEEE's ongoing commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all its members and stakeholders within the engineering community.



IEEE Region 8

Fostering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:  
A Workshop  
by  
IEEE Region 8

Gheith Abandah Dusanka Boskovic Heather McNairn Simay Akar Patience Obehi Enahoro

## R8 LMAG annual meeting 2024 held as Alpine Day in Switzerland

Hugo F. Wyss, Switzerland Section LMAG Chair  
Peter Magyar, R8 LM Coordinator

The traditional R8 LMAG Annual Meeting was held in Brugg-Windisch, Switzerland, on 11–12 October 2024, under the title Alpine Day 2024. The meeting was organized and hosted by the Switzerland Section Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) and attended by representatives of the LMAGs of the Austria, Benelux, Germany, Italy and North Macedonia Sections. Logistical and financial supporters were the University of Applied Sciences FHNW; Brugg-Windisch, Switzerland; SPECS GmbH, Switzerland; the Switzerland Section, as well as the Region 8 Life Members and R8 History Activities Committees. The expenses were covered by R8 (46%), the Switzerland Section (29%) and the LMC / LMAG budget (25%). The Alpine Day events have also been reported in vTools as an IEEE Day 2024 event, aligning the meeting with the wider IEEE Day celebrations.

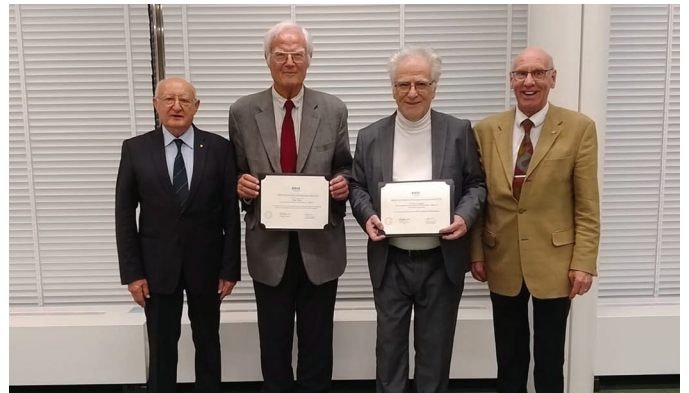
The event programme covered the main interests of the hosts, while reflecting the professional and geographical diversity of the participants. Austrian, Italian and Swiss participants delivered four distinguished lectures covering cooperation in two IEEE Milestones, partnership between Swiss industry and the Switzerland Section, the situation of the grid and renewable energy in Austria, and the long-term future of renewables networking of the Southern Alpine Region. The invited lecture session was followed by five technical presentations by the Switzerland Section's industrial experts on technological trends and solutions, mainly in conjunction with energy policy and development.

Later in the programme, six participating LMAGs, and the R8 Life Members Committee and the Region 8 History Activities Committee, presented activity overviews, while the ExCom of the Switzerland Section held its 2024 Q3 meeting. The first day concluded with a joint social session featuring Swiss apéro riche and an awards ceremony. The organizers and the invited lecturers were recognized, and Regional

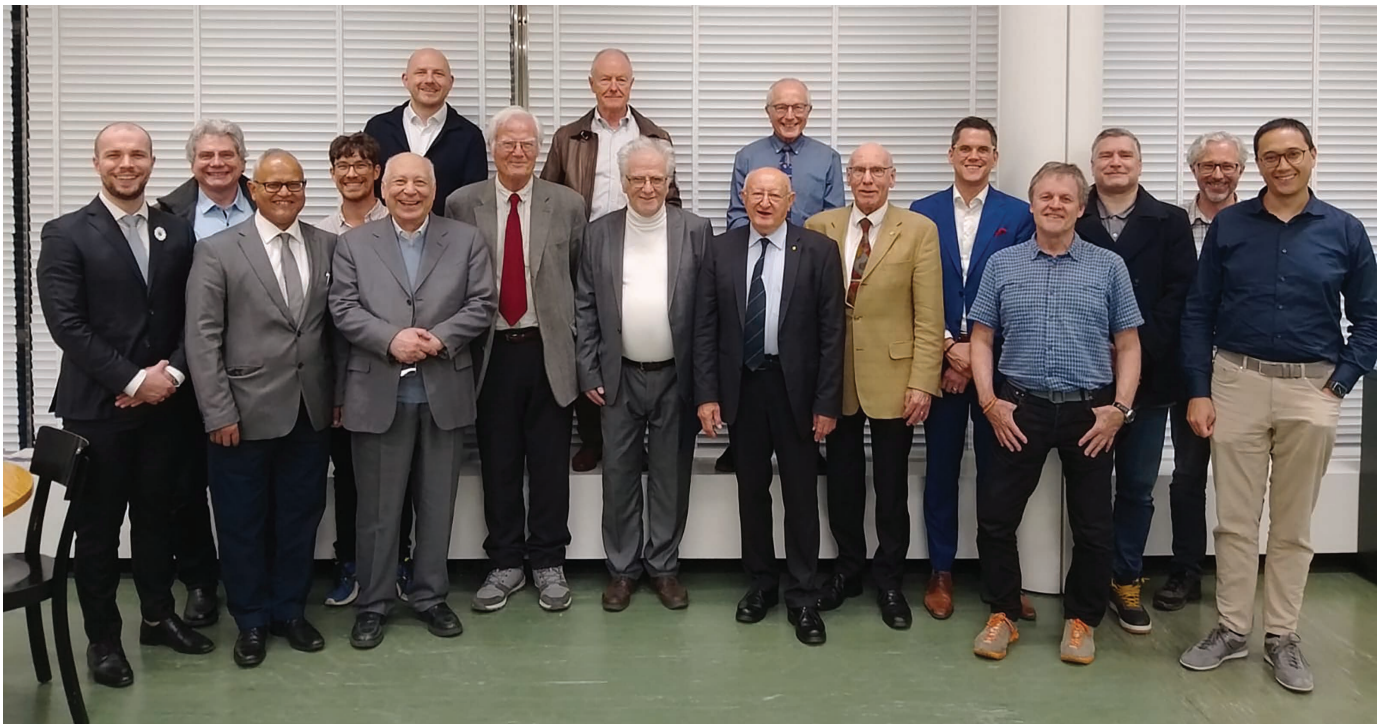
Individual LM Service and Regional LMAG Achievement Awards were presented.

The second day included a coach excursion along the Rhine to visit two important IEEE Milestones in European electrical power engineering: one in Rheinfelden ([https://ethw.org/Milestones:Rheinfelden\\_Hydroelectric\\_Power\\_Plant\\_1898\\_-\\_2010](https://ethw.org/Milestones:Rheinfelden_Hydroelectric_Power_Plant_1898_-_2010)), which established in 1898 the 50 Hz frequency standard for three-phase AC power transmission; and one in Laufenburg ([https://ethw.org/Milestones:Star\\_of\\_Laufenburg\\_Interconnection\\_1958](https://ethw.org/Milestones:Star_of_Laufenburg_Interconnection_1958)), marking the birth of the European power grid interconnection network in 1958. Both milestones represent the strong economic and political cooperation of the Alpine Region countries, as well as the partnership of the related IEEE Sections under the leadership of the Switzerland Section.

The event has demonstrated that successful LM events can be organized only if financial and logistical support from LMC, LMAG, Section, Regional committees and industrial partners is available and the programme is in accordance with the members' needs and interests.



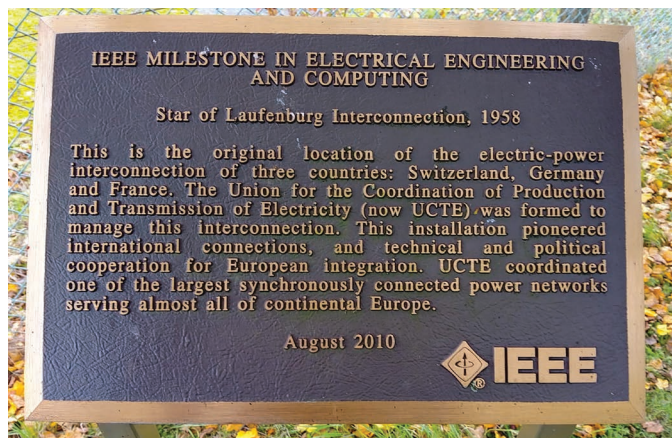
Regional Award Presentation Ceremony (l to r) Peter Magyar, R8 LM Coordinator (1st); Hugo F. Wyss, Switzerland Section Chair, Regional Individual Service Award Recipient (2nd); Goce L. Arsov, North Macedonia Section LMAG Chair, Regional LMAG Achievement Award Recipient (3rd); Martin J. Bastiaans, R8 HA Coordinator (4th).



Speakers, distinguished and invited lecturers of the Alpine Day



Group of Alpine Day participants visiting the 'IEEE Milestone 2010 Star of Laufenburg Interconnection, 1958.' (inset: plaque)



## Patrick Dewilde honoured with 2025 LMAG Service Award

Patrick Dewilde, IEEE Life Fellow, has been honoured with the 2025 Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) Individual Service Award for his 'exceptional and continuous service to IEEE, advancing engineering education, and fostering mentorship, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.' The award was presented by Region 8 Director Dusanka Boskovic at the LMAG meeting held in Bonn, Germany, on 29 September 2025.

Dewilde's service to IEEE spans nearly six decades. He founded the IEEE Student Branches at KU Leuven in 1966 and at Delft University in 1978, laying important foundations for student engagement in Region 8. He served as IEEE Benelux Section Chair in 1988–89 and played a key role in founding the Section's Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) in 2015.

An emeritus professor of electrical engineering at KU Leuven (Belgium), TU Delft (the Netherlands) and TU Munich (Germany), Dewilde held senior academic leadership roles throughout his career, including Director of the Delft Institute for Microelectronics and Submicron Technology (DIMES) and founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Study at TU Munich. He has also been closely involved in



Region 8 Director Dusanka Boskovic (left) and Vice Chair for Technical Activities Tiziana Tambosso (right) present the IEEE Individual Service Award to Life Fellow Patrick Dewilde

major IEEE-sponsored conferences, notably serving as founding chair of the Design, Automation and Test in Europe (DATE) conference. His academic and professional contributions are reflected in numerous publications and books, most recently *Time-variant and Quasi-Separable Systems*, published in 2024.

## Mentoring workshop introduces IEEE mentoring programmes and connects mentors and mentees in Budapest

Peter Magyar, IAS LM Representative  
Achref Selmi, IAS SYP Representative

An Introductory and Mentoring Workshop was held on 4 April 2025 in Budapest, Hungary, in conjunction with the 124th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting. It was initiated and organised by the Industry Applications Society Affinity Group Mentoring Team (IAS AGMT), hosted by Region 8 Member Activities, and supported administratively by the IEEE Hungary Section. Costs were shared between IAS and Region 8.

The workshop aimed to bring together mentors and mentees while introducing the mentoring programs of IAS, the Region 8 Life

Members Committee, the Hungary Section and the Life Members Committee.

The first part of the workshop featured a sequence of presentations introducing mentoring activities across IEEE. These included an overview of mentoring activities in Region 8; presentations on IAS mentoring initiatives (LM, WIE, YP, SYP, and D&I); the IEEE Life Members Committee mentoring program; and mentoring programs run by the Hungary Section, Óbuda University, and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

The second part included a one-hour discussion session addressing career paths in academia, industry, and consulting, as well as the role of IEEE in supporting professional careers.

A total of 38 participants attended, including representatives from IAS, the Region 8 Committee, the Hungary Section, and other Section Chairs, with a strong student presence of 20 participants — ten each from Óbuda University and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

The program closed with a social event and participation in the opening dinner of the Region 8 Committee Meeting, providing valuable networking opportunities for mentors and mentees.



Speakers, l to r: Habib Kammoun, R8 VC MA; Achref Selmi, IAS SYP representative; András Drexler, HS Chair; Imre Rudas, HS LMAG Past Chair; Zsófia Bangó, BUTE YP; Magdalena Salazar-Palma, R8 LM Coordinator; Levente Kovács, HS Past Chair; Peter Magyar, IAS LM representative.



Group picture of the discussion session participants with Peter Magyar (2nd l) and Achref Selmi (r), Co-chairs of the event



One of the SYP and YP discussion groups, moderated by Achref Selmi (m)



One of the LM, YP, WIE and SYP mixed discussion groups, moderated by Beata Polgari, BUTE (3rd r)

## IHTC 2024: A global platform for humanitarian innovation

*Massimo La Scala, IHTC 2024 General Chair, on behalf of the Organising Committee*

The seventh IEEE International Humanitarian Technologies Conference (IHTC 2024) took place in Bari, Italy, from 27–30 November 2024, marking the first time the flagship humanitarian event was held in Europe. Hosted at the Polytechnic University of Bari, the record-breaking edition brought together more than 436 participants from over 70 countries. Scientists, engineers, researchers and industry professionals convened to examine how technology can be harnessed for the common good, aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting humanitarian technologies in response to pressing environmental and socio-economic challenges.

The event was supported by IEEE Regions 7, 8 and 9, with technical and financial sponsorship from the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB), and technical support from five IEEE Societies — Power & Energy, Industry Applications, Education, Geoscience and Remote Sensing, and Oceanic Engineering—alongside ten IEEE Italy Section Chapters and the WIE and YP Affinity Groups. The programme also hosted the R8 Humanitarian Activity Committee Congress. IEEE Smart Village, IEEE EPICS and IEEE SIGHT showcased community-driven solutions for energy-impooverished regions, reflecting the initiative's strong global and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The conference programme featured 16 special sessions across three tracks: clean and affordable energy, critical events and adverse living conditions, and life quality improvement. Thirteen panel sessions and three keynote speeches broadened participation beyond academia, drawing a majority of participants from industry, governmental and intergovernmental bodies, and professional engineers. Women represented one quarter of participants. Discussions addressed universal electrification, energy poverty, disaster resilience, climate change mitigation and digital equity. A panel on 'Future Environmental & Humanitarian Challenges' examined international policy strategies, while sessions such as 'Women in Humanitarian Technology' highlighted

inclusivity and representation and underscored the role of women in advancing humanitarian engineering research.

The conference also invested in young talent through travel grants for researchers from low- and medium-development countries, a Best Student Paper Prize, an innovative PhD competition and climate-focused challenges including AI-driven weather forecasting. It also promoted humanitarian-focused start-ups by inviting them to showcase innovative solutions through the Call for Best HT Entrepreneurship Idea.

Concluding the event, the Organising Committee emphasised the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical AI, decentralised energy access and community-driven solutions as priorities for future humanitarian technology initiatives.



*IHTC 2024 leadership and guests*



*Group photo at the end of the conference*

## Building future leaders in Region 8: IEEE VoLT Program

The IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training (VoLT) Program is designed to prepare IEEE volunteers for leadership roles at local, regional, Society, and Board levels. Since its launch in 2013, the program has helped develop a growing global community of future IEEE leaders. As of December 2024, a total of 623 volunteers from 176 Sections worldwide have graduated from VoLT, including 135 participants from Region 8.

Participation in the program has grown steadily over the years, increasing from fewer than 20 graduates in its first year to 64 graduates in 2024, reflecting both the increasing interest in volunteer leadership development and the value the program brings to IEEE.

The VoLT Program is built around three key objectives:

- Accelerating volunteers' understanding of IEEE's organisational structure, products, services, and resources.
- Helping volunteers understand their roles within their local organisational units and within the wider IEEE community.
- Developing future leaders by providing a structured succession pathway for IEEE volunteers.

The program typically runs from September to December and combines a range of learning and collaborative activities. Participants attend leadership-focused webinars, complete quizzes, receive mentorship from experienced IEEE volunteers, and work collaboratively in international teams.

A central element of the program is an eight-week team project, where participants identify a challenge, opportunity, or need that

could add value to an IEEE organisational unit or to IEEE globally. Each team develops a business plan, presentation, and short video outlining their proposed solution. Projects are evaluated by VoLT mentors, and the top three teams are recognised during the program's closing session.

In 2024, 20 volunteers from Region 8 successfully graduated from the VoLT Program:

- Rushali Thakkar (Benelux Section)
- Mohamed Saeed Darweesh and Mohammad Darwish (Egypt Section)
- Christof Ullwer (Germany Section)
- Azubuike Aniedu, Jude Ofogu, Peter Magbo and Yakubu Bello (Nigeria Section)
- Stefan Momyr (North Macedonia Section)
- Jakub Zielonka (Poland Section)
- Udochukwu Akuru (South Africa Section)
- Qinghua Wang (Sweden Section)
- Ala Chalghaf, Iskandar Ghorbel, Khaled Khnissi and Mohamed Ali Zormati (Tunisia Section)
- Jonathan Simenya (Uganda Section)
- Miriam Cunningham, Ruth Lennon and Nagham Saeed (United Kingdom and Ireland Section)

Applications for the VoLT Program are open annually from 1 May to 30 June.

More information about the IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training Program is available at: <https://mga.ieee.org/volunteer-hub/volunteer-training/volunteer-leadership-training-program-volt>

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## Fostering industry connections: SIA training workshop ignites collaboration in Tunis

*Sohaib Qamar Sheikh, Region 8 Action for industry subcommittee member*

The Region 8 Action for Industry Section Industry Ambassador training workshop was held in the Tunisian capital of Tunis from 24–26 August 2025. Held in conjunction with the IEEE RTSI 2025 conference, the event brought together 11 participants, featuring ambassadors from the Austria, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and France Sections. The primary objective was to equip these leaders with the tools to improve industry engagement within their respective regions.

Moving away from traditional formats, the 1.5-day agenda focused on interactivity and practical planning. The workshop opened with a welcome from Region 8 Director Dusanka Boskovic and Afl Chair Nihel Ben Youssef, followed by a goals overview from Sohaib Qamar Sheikh. Participants engaged in a ‘Best Practice Exchange’ and ‘Solution Showcase’, where they shared successful initiatives and identified unique regional strengths. Tiziana Tambosso, Vice Chair of Technical Activities, and Peter Nagy of the Membership Development Subcommittee provided further guidance on membership development and engagement strategies.

A central activity involved the development of Section-specific action plans. Participants conducted SWOT analyses and defined ‘SMART’ goals for the next 12–18 months. Through peer coaching sessions, each ambassador received constructive feedback from their colleagues, leaving the workshop with a personalised roadmap for their Section.



Workshop participants and Region 8 leadership gathered in Tunis to develop strategic roadmaps and actionable plans for enhancing industry engagement across their respective Sections



The SIA programme aims to ensure these roadmaps translate into long-term industrial partnerships.

The programme concluded with industry visits to provide real-world context. At the Orange Digital Centre Tunisia, a strategic partner of the Tunisia Section, attendees explored 5G labs and innovation projects. The group also visited Startup Village to meet with founders and discuss the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The industry visits were

joined by Boskovic, Vice President of Member and Geographic Activities Antonio Luque and Region 8 Zone Representative Abdullateef Aliyu.

By creating a collaborative environment, the workshop—organised by a team including Aida El Sabban, Mohammad Galal Khafagy and Serge Dos Santos—successfully provided ambassadors with actionable strategies to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

## 2025 R8 Joint History Activity and Life Member regional meeting

*Peter Magyar, R8 Past LM Coordinator*

The joint R8 HA and LM Regional Annual Meeting took place on 29 September 2025 in Bonn, Germany, in conjunction with HISTELCON 2025, IEEE Region 8's flagship history conference. The meeting was co-organised by the R8 HA and LM Coordinators.

The programme began with a luncheon offering excellent networking opportunities with local organisers, R8 leaders, and the IEEE History Committee. During the meeting session, opening messages were delivered by Dusanka Boskovic, R8 Director, and Tiziana Tambosso, R8 Vice President for Technical Activities. Presentations were also given by Peter Magyar, R8 LM Coordinator, and Martin Bastiaans, R8 HA Coordinator, as well as by Daniel J. Mitchell, Senior Historian at the IEEE History Center. Chairs of the LMAGs for the Benelux, Bulgaria, Germany, North Macedonia, Switzerland, and UK and Ireland Sections presented their activities.



Fig. 1. Group picture of the 2025 Joint HA and LM Regional Annual Meeting participants, l to r: J. Kolev, Bulgaria LMAG, M. Bastiaans, R8 HA Coordinator, P. Magyar, R8 Past LM Coordinator, D. Boskovic, R8 Director, H. Wyss, Switzerland LMAG, Tiziana Tambosso, R8 VC TA, M. Wahl, Germany LMAG, G. Arsov, N-Macedonia LMAG, D.J. Mitchell, IEEE History Center, H. Wipf, Switzerland LMAG, L. Claesen, Benelux LMAG, P. Dewilde, Benelux LMAG, R. Saam, UK&I LMAG.



Fig. 2. Presentation IEEE Global Museum Program and its Potential Impact for Region 8 by Daniel J. Mitchell, IEEE History Center



Fig. 3. Hugo Wyss, Switzerland LMG Past Chair, Regional LMAG Achievement Award Recipient, Switzerland Section LMAG (l), Dusanka Boskovic, R8 Director (m), Tiziana Tambosso, R8 VC TA (r)



Fig. 4. Luc Claesen, Benelux Section Chair, Dusanka Boskovic, R8 Director, Patrick Dewilde, Regional LM Individual Service Award Recipient, Tiziana Tambosso, R8 VC TA (l to r)

They also received financial support from the R8 Committee to participate in HISTELCON as authors or attendees. A key part of the meeting was the awards ceremony, where the LMC Awards were presented to the regional winners, and Martin Bastiaans, R8 HA Coordinator, received a Certificate for Outstanding Activity.

Participants had the opportunity to visit Bonn, the former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as the Arithmeum, a

museum housing a comprehensive collection of historical calculating machines. The visit provided an excellent overview of the history of computer science and mechanical calculating machines, as well as their connection to modern computing.

Continuing the tradition of the past five years, planning is already underway for the 2026 LMC meeting.

## InduSpark explores smart industry and entrepreneurship in Sfax

*Oussema Elloumi, Chair of IAS ENET'Com Student Branch Chapter*

How does one become a 'smart' entrepreneur? On 13 April 2025, 72 participants gathered at the National School of Electronics and Telecommunications of Sfax (ENET'Com), Tunisia, for InduSpark to explore how emerging technologies and smart industry trends are revolutionising modern entrepreneurship.

The programme's centrepiece was a panel discussion titled 'Entrepreneurship in the Age of Smart Industry', organised by the IAS ENET'Com Student Branch Chapter. Moderated by Omar Guettat, Treasurer of ENET'Com SB, the session featured insights from Adam Bouchaala (CEO of Advantry X), Fatma Rebai (Industry 4.0 expert at Innova Power Concept), and Tasnim Chiboub (Tunisia Section Entrepreneurship Coordinator). Together, they provided actionable strategies for harnessing technology to achieve business success.

To equip attendees with practical tools, InduSpark hosted four specialised workshops:

- **Project Management:** Led by Lilia Ben Ammar, computer science engineer and techno-functional consultant at Planisware.
- **Business Model Canvas:** Conducted by Mohamed Ahmed Ben Messaoud, software development engineer and product owner at ZETABOX.

- **Personal Branding:** Hosted by Lina Hidouri, development manager at Ifriqiya Association.
- **IEEE Event Organisation:** Presented by Mohamed Rebai, Tunisia Section student representative and technical track chair at IES SYP Congress 2025.

The event's success was further underscored by the presence of IEEE leadership, including Hassene Mnif (Tunisia Section Chair), Nadine Jalleli (SAC Student Branch Coordinator), and Eya Chaabene (IAS Tunisia Chapter student representative). Their support highlighted the strong community network driving innovation within the region.

For additional information regarding upcoming initiatives, please visit the IAS ENET'Com SBC page: <https://www.facebook.com/IASENETCom> [https://www.instagram.com/ieee\\_ias\\_enetcom\\_sbc?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==](https://www.instagram.com/ieee_ias_enetcom_sbc?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==)

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/481480>



*A panel of experts discussing 'Entrepreneurship in the Age of Smart Industry'*



*InduSpark participants gathered at ENET'Com to explore the intersection of emerging technologies and modern entrepreneurship (Photo credits: IAS ENET'Com SBC)*

## Fourth Lebanese Electromagnetics Day brings future tech to ancient Byblos

*Ernst Huijer, Chair of AP03/MTT17/MAG33 Chapter Lebanon*

The Lebanese electromagnetics community gathered in the ancient city of Byblos for the Fourth Lebanese Electromagnetics Day on 14 June 2024. Organised by the AP03/MTT17/MAG33 Chapter, the event featured a series of presentations and a student competition involving established and emerging professionals in the fields of magnetics and electromagnetics.

The keynote sessions focused on the future of electronic design and cellular safety. Ali Harmoush, Associate Professor at Ahlia University in Bahrain, presented on the biological effects of electromagnetic radiation from BTS cellular links, exploring impacts on human health and student performance in the 5G era. Mohammad Haidar from the American University of Beirut followed with a discussion on 'Spin-Torque Oscillators: The Future of Electronics'. He highlighted the potential of spin waves as a low-power alternative to CMOS-based technology, focusing on the efficiency benefits of spin-torque oscillators.

The day included a student competition where undergraduate, MS, and PhD candidates presented projects on:



Attendees networking during the seaside lunch (Photo credits: Ranim Salman, Ernst Huijer)

- Wireless Mobile Charger
- Wearable Antennas for Telemedicine Applications
- Spin Pumping in YIG/C60/Pt Multilayers
- Indoor Localisation with Digitally Modulated Signals

Following a seaside lunch and the student awards ceremony, the day was rounded out by a presentation from archaeologist and restoration architect Jean Yasmine. This exploration of the ancient history of Byblos provided a unique conclusion to the gathering, celebrating both technological advancement and cultural heritage.



## Almost all Region 8 Life Members belong to LM affinity groups

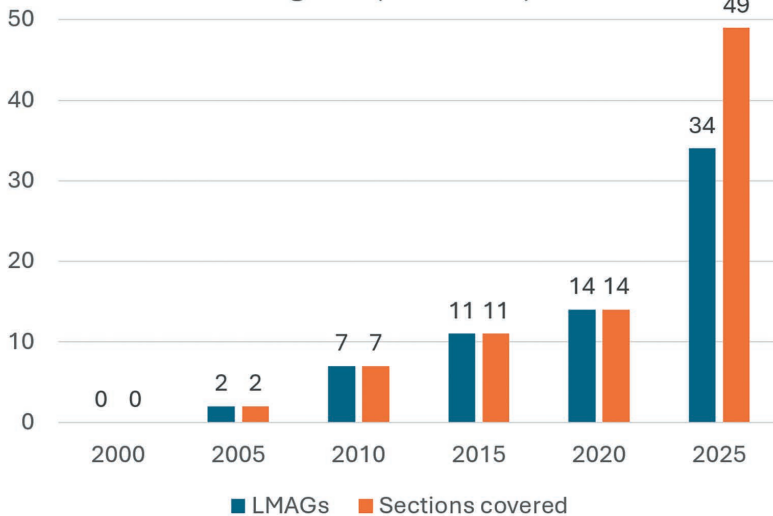
*Peter Magyar, R8 LM Committee Chair*

IEEE Region 8 covers Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Formed in 1963, it now serves technology professionals across 60 Sections, fostering collaboration among diverse nations in the region. The formation of Affinity Groups began about 25 years ago. During this pioneering phase, Region 8 established a Life Member (LM) Committee within Member Activities (MA). Led by the Vice Chair for Member Activities, it marked the first step towards promoting the formation of LM Affinity Groups (LMAGs).

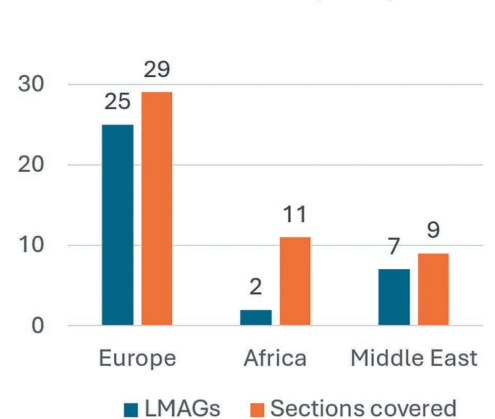
For the first 20 years, development was moderate, with the establishment of one or two LMAGs annually, resulting in 14 LMAGs in 14 Sections. A significant change occurred over the past five years (2021–2025), when a 20 new LMAGs were formed in 35 Sections.

The LMAGs represent great diversity. Most LMAGs are single-country, single-Section groups, but there are also two single-Section LMAGs covering more than one country in the Benelux and Czechoslovakia Sections. The joint Section LMAGs – Bahrain/Oman/Qatar; Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania; and Africa Council – bring together groups of Life Members from smaller Sections that do not individually meet the six-member minimum required to form an LMAG. The Sweden/Denmark/Finland LMAG, on the other hand, was formed to connect LMs in three large Sections with close geographical and cultural ties.

Growth of LMAGs and affiliated Sections in Region 8 (2000–2025)



Geographical distribution of LMAGs and affiliated Sections (2025)



The geographical distribution of LMAGs reflects the structure of Region 8. There are 25 in Europe covering 29 Sections, 2 in Africa covering 11 Sections, and 7 in the Middle East covering 9 Sections.

As of December 2025, 98% of Life Members are connected to LMAGs. The remaining 2% — approximately 80 members — are

spread across 11 Sections, making the formation of additional LMAGs challenging. The target of the Region 8 LM Committee is ‘making the opportunity possible’ by reaching out to non-affiliated LMs through ad hoc cooperation or by forming Local Interest Groups.

## Ambassadors recognised as IEEE Sheffield entrepreneurship event ranks among ‘top four’ in Region 8

*AbdulHameed Raji, IEEE UK and Ireland Power and Energy Society, Membership Development Officer*

Four ambassadors from the IEEE UK and Ireland Section have been recognised by the IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Committee for their outstanding work in fostering innovation. AbdulHameed Raji, Baslin James, Rea Nkhumise, and Zeyu Song were commended for organising the IEEE Sheffield Entrepreneurship Event, which was ranked among the top four initiatives in the region. As a result of

this achievement, one of the ambassadors received full funding to attend the IEEE Student and Young Professionals Congress in Grenoble, France.

The Sheffield event, held on 21 February 2024, attracted approximately 80 students to the University of Sheffield campus. Serving as a bridge between technical education and business, the gathering allowed engineering students to pitch innovative ideas to a panel of industry experts and IEEE representatives. Guest speakers from startups such as Mina EV and BOW shared essential strategies on fundraising and business growth.

Supported by several departments at the University of Sheffield, the competition featured seven teams vying for a place in the regional finals. Judges evaluated the business potential of each pitch, focusing on innovation, scalability, and market feasibility. The top three initiatives were:

- First Prize: ‘Xtract’ (formerly VapeDrop), for their initiative to recycle vape components to address environmental and health concerns.
- Second Prize: ‘MoveCritic’, for a real-time exercise monitoring system.
- Third Prize: ‘ToolOS’, for a streamlined mobile operating system.

This successful event underscores the commitment of the UK and Ireland Section to nurturing entrepreneurial talent and preparing young researchers for the global marketplace.

For more information on the event and the participants, you can read the full coverage here: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dcs/news/engineering-research-assistant-and-phd-students-host-ieee-entrepreneurship-pitch-event>



## Iraqi Ali becomes second Egyptian to win Larry K. Wilson Award

*Iraqi Ali, SAC, Egypt Section student representative*

Iraqi Ali has been named the recipient of the IEEE Region 8 Larry K. Wilson Award, becoming only the second Egyptian member to receive the honour. The award recognises extraordinary student leadership across the region.

The recognition follows Ali's leadership at the IEEE Benha University Student Branch, which secured both the Region 8 Exemplary Student Branch Award and the 'Best Activities Award' at the Egyptian Student and Young Professionals Congress during his



*Iraqi Ali*

tenure. Ali was also a recipient of the R8 Best Ambassador and Event Award for his service to the organisation.

He was later appointed as the IEEE SAC Egypt Communication and Outreach Officer, where he was instrumental in organising various events and initiatives. This latest award highlights his significant role in the growth of student activities within the Egypt Section.

## IEEE Tunisia Section empowers new wave of certified educators

*Rafed Jabri (TAC Activities facilitation taskforce coordinator) and Hamza Ben Tkhayat*

Tunisia Section Technical Activities Committee has launched the IEEE Training of Trainers initiative to bridge the gap between technical expertise and pedagogical mastery. Led by Programme Coordinator Mohamed Amine Zouaoui, the initiative has built a network of certified trainers to elevate professional workshops across the region.

### Strategic vision

The programme addresses a growing demand for instructors who can lead workshops on emerging technologies and leadership. 'By building a sustainable training network, we multiply the reach and impact of IEEE's mission across Tunisia,' said Mohamed Ali Zormati, Section Technical Activities Committee.

This initiative aligns with IEEE's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, emphasising intellectual curiosity, inclusivity, and the empowerment of technology professionals. By investing in these educators, the Section ensures that IEEE's mission translates into direct action.

### Dual-session approach

The initiative featured two intensive phases:

- Spring session (theory): Out of 100+ applicants, 40 participants joined a three-week online programme. Mohamed Ali Zormati explored IEEE's mission, Ilhem Kallel led sessions on the IEEE Code of Ethics, and Mohamed Amine Zouaoui led workshops on facilitation techniques.
- Summer session (practice): The top 20 participants moved to an in-person residency at Hotel Mouradi Skanes, Monastir, from 21–23 June 2025.



*A session on adult-learning principles and facilitation techniques during the summer session residency*



*Participants celebrating their success at the IEEE Training of Trainers initiative after completing both theoretical and practical phases (Photo credits: Eya Ben Hassine)*



*Trainees engaged in a collaborative workshop focusing on pedagogical mastery*

Led by social impact officer Sarra Ben Hamida and facilitated by Mohamed Amine Zouaoui, the session focused on adult-learning principles and navigating difficult audiences. Trainees received personalised coaching and delivered live sessions during a final showcase.

#### Participant impact

The group included everyone from students to senior professionals. Ryma Abassi, IEEE Senior Member and ISET'Com Institute Director, noted: 'As a cybersecurity educator, strong facilitation skills are essential. I look forward to using these skills to give back to my IEEE community.'

#### Next steps

The IEEE Tunisia Section has established a sustainable model for impact. These newly certified trainers are now tasked with conducting real-life sessions for IEEE members and the broader public, ensuring technical excellence spreads effectively across Tunisia.

For further details, please refer to the links provided below:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19UvLubn89/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/172C3pfLNj/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FriJt4Rj4/>

## Charting Lebanon's digital future: IEEE Lebanon Section and AUB host Minister Kamal Shehadi

*Ernst Huijjer, IEEE Lebanon Life Members Affinity Group, Chair*

The Lebanon Life Members Affinity Group, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at the American University of Beirut, hosted a special lecture on 8 October 2025 focusing on the nation's digital trajectory. The keynote speaker was Kamal Shehadi, the Lebanese Minister of Technology and Artificial Intelligence, who shared an ambitious roadmap for the country's digital transformation.

Lebanon continues to leverage its intellectual vibrancy to look toward an AI-powered future, even as the nation navigates the weight of economic crisis and the lingering scars of conflict. During his presentation, Shehadi highlighted four strategic pillars essential to this vision: strengthening infrastructure, building a robust framework for data governance, cultivating local talent in the field of artificial intelligence and creating innovation-friendly ecosystems.

At the heart of the message was a reminder that the nation's greatest resource remains its people. Shehadi emphasised that engineers, researchers and entrepreneurs are the driving force behind the digital future, underscoring how human capital can anchor competitiveness in the region.

The lecture sparked lively exchanges with students and faculty, covering topics ranging from ethics and public policy to practical industrial applications. Shehadi's openness to collaboration, particularly with American University of Beirut researchers and



*Kamal Shehadi, the Lebanese Minister of Technology and Artificial Intelligence, presenting Lebanon's digital roadmap during the special lecture at the American University of Beirut (Photo credit: Theana Mansour)*

Lebanon Section students, was a highlight of the session. Among the concrete initiatives shared was a government plan to establish tax-free zones designed to accelerate start-up entrepreneurship and technological innovation.

The event provided an inspiring glimpse into the country's digital aspirations and reaffirmed the role of the Lebanon Section and academia in bridging the gap between government and industry. By positioning itself as a hub of innovation and intellectual exchange, Lebanon continues to demonstrate resilience and the enduring power of knowledge.

# IEEE Tunisia Section commemorates Global Education Week 2025 with diverse technical programme

*Tawfik Sallemi, Educational activities coordinator; and Rafed Jabri, TAC Activities facilitation taskforce coordinator*

Tunisia Section Technical Activities Committee marked the 2025 IEEE Education Week, held from 6–12 April 2025, with a comprehensive programme of challenges, webinars, and professional networking. The week-long celebration successfully showcased the educational opportunities within the Section while advancing the goals set in the IEEE 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

## Student innovation and AI challenges

A major highlight was the ‘Empowering minds challenge’, which inspired 16 Student Branches to organise over 40 educational activities for pre-university students and professionals. Reaching more



*A panel discussion on bridging the gap between academia and industry during the IEEE Education Week event at South Mediterranean University.*

than 250 individuals, the initiative recognised the following student branches for their contributions: ENIT SB (Most Creative), ENET’Com SB (Outstanding), and ENICarthage SB (Most Impactful).

‘I see that it’s a highly impactful initiative that aligns closely with the core mission and values of IEEE. I truly enjoyed the challenge,’ shared Yosr Jabloun, a student member from the ENIT Student Branch.

In addition, the IEEE Educational Society Tunisia Chapter introduced the ‘Intelligent AI-powered learning assistant challenge’. Teams spent a



*Attendees and organisers celebrate IEEE Education Week 2025, an initiative that reached over 250 individuals across Tunisia (Photo credits: Aziz Hbaili)*

month developing AI-driven chatbots designed to assist pre-university students, culminating in final presentations on 12 April.

### Collaborative webinar series

Throughout the week, the Committee partnered with nine Tunisia Section units: SIGHT, RAS, VTS, SAC, SSIT-TEMS, PES, YP, WIE, and CIS. Together, they organised six webinars featuring national and international keynote speakers. These sessions, which averaged 30 participants, covered a wide range of topics including IoT in humanitarian efforts, leveraging mentorship and leadership in the energy sector, STEM initiatives, AI in education, and research paper writing.

### In-person celebration

The week concluded with an in-person session at South Mediterranean University. Held in partnership with Tunisia Section Consultant Group and Computer Society Tunisia Section, the finale was supported by the Orange Digital Centre.

The event featured cybersecurity keynotes and a panel on bridging the gap between academia and industry for over 100 participants. 'This



One of six collaborative webinars featuring national and international keynote speakers discussing topics such as AI in education and STEM initiatives (Photo credit: Mohamed Ali Zormati)

celebration is an important moment to reflect on our mission,' stated TAC Chair Mohamed Ali Zormati. 'I see this week as the inaugural step in a year-long journey of growth.'

For more information, visit: <https://ieee-tunisia.org/>

## 2024 IEEE Baltic Section summit held in Bauska

*Irina Naidionova, Joint Baltic Sections LMAG Chair*

The 2024 IEEE Baltic Section Summit was held in Bauska, Latvia on 4-6 October 2024. The event was a joint Life Members and Young Professionals meeting, including a technical workshop, discussion sessions, excursion, and social event. One of the discussion topics was future cooperation between the LMAG and Young Professionals. A successful technical workshop was held by Borisas Levitas, Lithuania Section Chair and CEO at Geozondas, UAB, about design principles of microwave antennas. It was agreed to hold similar joint LMAG and YP events in the future.



Technical exchange on microwave antenna design: Borisas Levitas (Lithuania Section Chair, right), Student Vilius Žalėnas (centre) and Eng. Sergej Jefremov (left).



Participants of the IEEE Baltic Section Summit at the excursion to Bauska Castle (Bauskas pils), a 15th-century castle complex in Latvia.



Participants of the IEEE Baltic Section Summit with Irina Naidionova, LMAG Chair (8th from right).

## International Youth Conference on Energy 2024 held in Colmar

Laszlo Szekely, IYCE '24 General Chair

IEEE Joint IAS/PES Student Branch Chapter of Budapest University of Technology and Economics

The International Youth Conference on Energy (IYCE) (<https://www.iyce-conf.org/>) was founded in 2007 by the Hungarian Student Association of Energy (ESZK) (<https://www.eszk.org/>) in partnership with the Budapest University of Technology and Economics IEEE Student Branch PES/IAS Chapter, which jointly launched a student-led technical paper conference. Now organised biennially under IEEE conference rules, with peer-reviewed papers and oral presentations, IYCE has evolved into an international series held alternately in Hungary and abroad. So far, host cities have included Budapest, Siófok and Eger in Hungary; Leiria in Portugal, Pisa in Italy, Bled in Slovenia and Colmar in France.

Since the IEEE Industry Applications Society (IAS) has been one of the main technical co-sponsors of IYCE, additional IAS Student Branch

Chapters in Regions 8, 9 and 10 have organised similar conferences adopting the same rules. Named after the first six such conferences, the international series is known as 'Club of 6'. In addition to the Hungarian IYCE events, fifteen further conferences have been held in Colombia, India, China, South Korea and across Europe.

The latest IYCE (<https://iyce2024.iyce-conf.org>) organised by the Hungarian organising team was held on 2–6 July 2024 at the Université de Haute Alsace in Colmar, France. Seventy-two registered participants from 23 countries submitted around 100 papers; 61 were accepted and published in IEEE Xplore. The conference technical programme featured seven plenary presentations and 11 oral presentation sessions covering the accepted papers. The social programme included a city tour and reception with the mayor of Colmar, a Young Professionals event and a gala award ceremony.

The conference programme also included keynote presentations by IEEE technical societies (PES, IAS, DEIS), an IEEE workshop including Life Member and LMAG overviews, an IEEE Young Professionals event, and a technical visit to Fessenheim Nuclear Power Plant. In addition to the IEEE Societies, the conference maintains a strong connection with the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE).

The 10th anniversary IYCE will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in 2025.



IYCE 2024 participants at an official reception hosted by Éric Straumann, Mayor of Colmar.



IYCE participants during the technical visit to Fessenheim Nuclear Power Plant.



IYCE conference organisers with technical society representatives. Sneha Hegde, Partnerships Lead of IEEE YP Climate and Sustainability Task Force and Chair of DEIS YP WIE (in the middle) and Andy Knight, IAS President (3rd from left)

## Jordan Section LMAG supports young professionals at JSYP 2024

*Mohammed Zeki Khedher Mohammed, Jordan Section LMAG Chair  
Mohammad Alqasem, Chair JSYP2024*

The 2024 Jordan Student and Young Professionals (JSYP2024) Congress, hosted by the IEEE Student Branch at the University of Jordan, was held on 12 October 2024 in Amman, Jordan, bringing together students, young professionals, and technology enthusiasts to explore 'Innovation in Gaming Development'. This year's theme centered on advancing skills in game design and development, with creative elements inspired by iconic gaming classics.

The congress featured six hands-on workshops, various sessions, and panel discussions with more than 14 distinguished speakers. Attendees had the opportunity to gain practical insights into the latest trends in engineering, computer science, and the gaming industry, guided by industry experts.

A major highlight of the event was the e-sports competition, which saw 16 IEEE Student Branches competing, alongside an 'Innovation in Gaming Development' hackathon. This hackathon encouraged participants to create gaming solutions aimed at addressing tourism challenges in Jordan, blending creativity and problem-solving in a real-world context.



*Social event performance*

JSYP 2024 exemplified the importance of fostering talent in Jordan's growing tech landscape. The congress provided a platform for skill development and collaboration among potential future technology leaders.

The event was organised by the Jordan Section Student and YP Committee, supported by the Jordan Section and the Jordan Section LMAG. A fund received from the IEEE Life Members Committee provided important financial support for the event.



*Group photo of participants of JSYP2024*

## Summer school 2024 organised by the IEEE Student Branch of the University of Peloponnese

*Konstantinos Dritsas, Vice Chair of the IEEE Student Branch of  
University of Peloponnese  
Organiser of Summer School 2024*

The IEEE Student Branch of the University of Peloponnese successfully organised its annual Summer School from 27 May to 1 June 2024 in Patras, Greece. The event attracted 50 participants and was hosted at

the University of Peloponnese's Koukouli campus and the University of Patras Conference Centre.

Over the course of six days, participants engaged in a programme that included lectures, practical workshops and networking opportunities. The event brought together students, academics and industry professionals, creating a collaborative learning environment. Speakers included Christoforos Pliatsikas (NVISO), Menelaos Makrygiannis (Bewise), Irene Ioannidou (Vongrid), Vasiliki Karathanasi (MOPTIL), Marios Nicolaou (p-Net) and Vassilis Papataxiarhis (Intellia), as well as representatives from Women4Cyber, TwelveSec, HackTheBox, NetCompany, Renesas, PwC Greece, EY Greece and Accenture. They provided insights into the evolving threat landscape and current defence strategies. Industry



Participants attending the Homelab 101: Securing your home network session at the University of Peloponnese's Koukouli campus



OlympianOverflow CTF Odyssey at the University of Patras Conference Centre

professionals delivered workshops to help participants develop practical knowledge in penetration testing and securing home networks to complement theoretical understanding. Career development sessions focused on the value of internships, career paths, and the multiple doors open in this cybersecurity space. The Women4Cyber presentation on closing the gender gap in cybersecurity highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusion for innovation and progress.

Participants concluded the programme with more than certificates of attendance: they gained enhanced technical knowledge, practical experience and expanded professional networks.

For updates on upcoming activities of the IEEE Student Branch of University of Peloponnese, visit <https://ieeesb.ece.uop.gr/>.

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#### 1. Conferences



**WIE International Leadership Conference:** Annual global event for mid-career to senior executive women.

**WIE International Leadership Summits:** Up to 10 regional summits yearly for networking, mentorship, and collaboration.

**WIE East Forum USA:** Regional conference in Northeast USA focusing on leadership skills.

#### 2. IEEE WIE Magazine

Biannual publication highlighting women's advancements in STEM.

#### 3. WIE Awards

The IEEE WIE awards program recognizes WIE members and WIE Affinity Groups who have made outstanding contributions to IEEE

WIE, their community, and the engineering profession, through their dedication and involvement in projects or activities directed toward fulfilling the IEEE WIE goals and objectives.

#### 4. IEEE WIE Day

Celebrated on June 29th with events organized by members and groups.

#### 5. WIE Scholarships

#### 6. The IEEE WIE Family Cares Grant Program

#### 7. IEEE WIE Global Network in IEEE Collabratec

Connect with 13K+ members for collaboration and discussion.



#### 8. IEEE WIE Professional Development Resources

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