

Around Europe

In this short note we present an account of the current activity from ITP sister organisations across Europe.

In Austria visits are held monthly, covering cultural and technical topics, for example there has been a recent technical event on “shopping in 2020” and a conference on automatic driving and other automotive issues is planned for October. There is a technical planned every two months, with a session on Block Chain scheduled. In Poland the aim is to propagate knowledge in telecommunications. Membership is increasing and the Polish association provides paid technical consultancy to a number of organisation. In particular support has been provided to the ministry of telecommunications on regulatory and legal issues and the association is try to set up a suitable panel of experts to help. In addition it organises congresses and contributes to other conferences. In addition it is actively documenting the history of telecommunications in Poland and sponsors a prize for the best Master’s degree.

The Belgium Association has held a workshop with a broad group of people on what they expect from FITCE, this will be a major input in to their strategy for the future. They held a conference, at the end of September in the town hall in Ghent, to debate the status and future of Fiber to the Home in Belgium. This was successful with 80 people attending. Their future plans include session on: Smart listening - indoor acoustic sensor networks, the (r)evolution of the payment industry and the Gigabit Society (5G, millimetre wave radio). They have two new board members, have added participation from young people, through workshop and provided support for IEEE through workshop in Leuven.

Italy has selection of the new board; with Andrea Penza re-elected as President. There have been meetings to discuss Photonics and driverless and connected cars, in the automotive sector. They are hosting an international congress on energy savings in 5G and are planning a seminar on Artificial Intelligence in Milan. In Spain the bulk of the effort has gone into the organisation of this year’s congress. The Spanish association provides about 50 lectures per year and maintains strong links with the industry. In Greece: workshop planned in Thessaloniki on the presentation of technical work and an event to look at 5G, satellite and fibre technology is planned in Cyprus. The German association has recently grown its membership based by 25% and holds regular teleconferences amongst its members. It is establishing a working relationship with a similar organisation in Germany.