

# IEEE ITSS New Initiatives Projects Final Report Template

**Project Leader(s):** Stelios Timotheou

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**IEEE Membership Number(s):** 80044920

**New Initiatives Project Title:**

2025 IEEE ITSS R8 Chapters Meeting

**Event Website:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/ieeeitsscypruschapter/2025-ieee-itss-r8-chapters-meeting>

**Project Duration:**

Enter as Month/Year to Month/Year. For example: 03/2024-12/2024

The event was held on 16-17 October 2025, University House "Anastasios G. Leventis" / Room B108, University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus.

**Approved Total Budget:**

Enter as \$12345.67.

US\$ 40000

**Project Goal and Short Descriptions:**

Include the project goal and short descriptions of the project.

The main goal of the 2025 IEEE ITSS R8 Chapters Meeting was to encourage collaboration among universities, industry, research institutions and authorities working in ITS within Region 8. This meeting marked the fourth edition of the ITSS R8 Chapters meetings. The initiative began in 2022 in Madrid, involving four R8 Chapters, continued in 2023 in Berlin with six R8 Chapters, and was most recently held in 2024 in Genoa with the participation of ten R8 Chapters. The event in Nicosia, Cyprus in 2025 involved participation of 11 ITSS chapters: Austria, Benelux, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain, Tunisia, UK & Ireland.

The event attracted strong participation. The main figures are as follows:

- **64 participants** attended the event;
- **44 fellowships were offered**, to support for traveling and attending the event;

- **26 fellows** attended the event and 25 received financial support for traveling (one has not yet submitted their reimbursement documentation);
- **22 young researchers** participated in the Young Professional Poster Session and Competition, organized by the YP Representative of the Cyprus Chapter;
- **12 Chapter Chairs** (Austria, Beijing, Benelux, Cyprus, Delhi, France, Germany, Italy, Serbia & Montenegro, Singapore, Tunisia, UK & Ireland) from all over the world attended the hybrid session organized on October 16 in order to exchange the best practices and new ideas about the management of ITSS Chapters.

## **Completed Project Tasks and Milestones:**

Include completed project tasks and milestones.

### **Agenda**

#### **DAY 1: October 16, 2025**

**09:00 – 09:30:** Registration

**09:30 – 10:00:** Welcome and Introduction

**10:00 – 11:00:** Keynote: "**Connected and Electrified Mobility Systems: Towards eco-driving control solutions**" ([Keynote Info](#))

*Professor Stefania Santini, University of Naples Federico II, Italy*

**11:00 – 11:30:** Coffee break

**11:30 – 12:30:** Round Table "Artificial Intelligence for Intelligent Transportation Systems: Challenges and Opportunities" ([Details](#))

**12:30 – 13:40:** Technical presentations by members of IEEE ITSS Chapters ([List of Presenters](#))

**13:40 – 15:00:** Lunch

**15:00 – 16:00:** Presentation of Chapters and discussion for the creation of new Chapters (hybrid session with Chapters both within and outside Region 8)

**16:00 – 17:30:** YP Poster Session and Competition and Coffee Break ([List of Presenters](#))

*Coordinator: Kyriacos Theocharides (University of Cyprus)*

**18:00 – 19:30:** Guided walking tour, Starting

Location: [https://maps.app.goo.gl/WKEoSytJyTrzsBmY9?g\\_st=ipc](https://maps.app.goo.gl/WKEoSytJyTrzsBmY9?g_st=ipc)

**20:00 – 23:00:** Social dinner

#### **DAY 2: October 17, 2025**

**09:30 – 10:30:** Keynote: "**Smarter Traffic Signals: From Theory to Deployment**" ([Keynote Info](#))

*Professor Jack Haddad, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology*

**10:30 – 11:00:** Coffee break

**11:00 – 12:00:** Round Table "Electrification for Transport" ([Details](#))  
**12:00 – 13:00:** Technical presentations by members of IEEE ITSS Chapters ([List of Presenters](#))  
**13:00 – 14:30:** Lunch  
**14:30 – 15:00:** Closing Session and Ceremony for the Best Poster Award

#### **Scientific and Local Organizing Committee**

Stelios Timotheou (ECE Department, University of Cyprus)  
 Christos Panayiotou (ECE Department, University of Cyprus)  
 Yirolanda Englezou (MAS Department, University of Cyprus)  
 Charalambos Menelaou (KIOS Center of Excellence)  
 Kyriacos Theocharides (KIOS Center of Excellence)  
 Despina Petrou (KIOS Center of Excellence)  
 Christiana Koutsoulli (KIOS Center of Excellence)  
 Eleni Farsari (KIOS Center of Excellence)

#### **Report on the Budget Usage:**

Include main categories of your budget spending and approximated amount.

The biggest part of the budget has been used for covering the travel expenses for participants coming from R8 countries in which local Chapters are present, excluding Cyprus (Austria, Benelux, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain, Tunisia, UK & Ireland) or in which there is interest to establish local Chapters (Switzerland and Greece).

The remaining part of the budget has been used to cover the catering and social dinner costs, the travel costs for the invited keynote speakers, as well as the publicity and merchandising costs.

In the following table, all the mentioned types of costs are analyzed, reporting both the expected value indicated in the proposal and the effective value.

| <b>Type of cost</b>               | <b>Proposal [US\$]</b> | <b>Effective value [US\$]</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fellowships for travel costs      | 28000                  | 21548.56                      |
| Travel costs for keynote speakers | 2800                   | 1647.51                       |
| Catering and social dinner        | 8700                   | 6243.53                       |
| Publicity and merchandising costs | 500                    | 150.96                        |
| <i>Total</i>                      | <i>40000</i>           | <i>29590.56</i>               |

All the effective costs have been below the requested funding. Note that out of the 26 fellows who attended the event, one fellow has not yet submitted their reimbursement documentation.

### **Benefits to the IEEE ITSS:**

Include the potential benefits to the growth of IEEE ITSS and its activity areas upon completion of the project (membership, conferences, publications, education, technical activities, standards, and outreach).

The main benefits of the 2025 ITSS R8 Chapters Meeting can be summarized as follows:

- Promote IEEE and ITS in R8: many professionals from industry and institutions, as well as professors, researchers and PhD students working in the area of ITS attended the event organized in Nicosia, Cyprus and are now more informed about the activities of the ITS Cyprus Chapter and of the ITSS community in general.
- Increase the number of IEEE members and ITSS affiliates in R8: during the event organized in Cyprus, the benefits of being an IEEE ITSS member have been explained on different occasions and, hopefully, some of the attendants will become new IEEE ITSS members in 2026.
- Establish new Chapters in R8: the annual R8 Chapters meetings, that started in 2022, have surely favored this process, since the number of R8 Chapters increased from 4 in 2022 to 13 in 2025, out of which 11 participated in the event. In addition, there is a potential interest by IEEE members in Greece and Switzerland for starting new Chapters.
- Increase the collaboration of ITSS Chapters in different regions: the hybrid session organized on October 16 with Chapter Chairs outside R8 was a successful event, with 12 Chapter Chairs presenting their activities and sharing their experience.
- Create a collaborative environment for researchers involved in ITS: the keynote presentations, the technical sessions and the two round table discussions organized during the event in Nicosia, Cyprus were very inspiring and stimulated rich discussions among the event attendants.
- Involve students and young professionals in IEEE ITSS: the YP representative of the Cyprus Chapter, Kyriacos Theocharides, organized a very successful YP Poster Session and Competition, with 22 participants, assigning two prizes, respectively for the Ph.D. Students Category and the Researchers & Professionals Category.

### **Lessons Learned:**

Please including the following points: 1) Assessment if your project's objectives and goals are met. 2) Summary of what went right in your project. 3) Summary of what went wrong in your project. 4) Suggestions for improvements.

**Assessment of Project Objectives and Goals**

The event was highly successful and fully met the project's objectives. It brought together participants from multiple countries within IEEE R8, fostering meaningful networking opportunities and strengthening collaboration among members of the ITS community. The strong international participation demonstrated the relevance and impact of the event at the regional level.

**Summary of What Went Right**

One of the most significant indicators of the project's success is the notable increase in the number of ITSS Chapters established in Region 8 over recent years. This growth reflects the rising interest and engagement of volunteers who are eager to join the ITS community and actively contribute to Society activities. The event effectively facilitated knowledge exchange, community building, and collaboration among researchers and practitioners in ITS.

**Summary of What Went Wrong**

Overall, the event was well organized and successfully achieved its intended objectives without significant challenges or disruptions. One aspect that could be improved concerns the initial allocation of 700 USD per fellowship. This amount proved insufficient for several fellowship recipients, who were ultimately unable to attend the event due to the inability to cover their travel expenses. Although higher amounts were subsequently offered to participants traveling from distant regions, such as Africa, a number of invitees still decided not to attend.

**Suggestions for Improvement**

Given the success of this event, I strongly recommend that it be funded again in 2026 to ensure continuity and to further strengthen the ITSS Annual R8 Chapters Meetings series. In addition, this successful model could be replicated in other IEEE Regions, where motivated volunteers and active Chapters could organize similar initiatives. Expanding this approach would reinforce regional collaboration, enhance networking opportunities, and further strengthen the global ITS research and professional community.

**NOTE: The Project Final Report must be submitted to the ITSS Vice President for Finance at [lingxili@purdue.edu](mailto:lingxili@purdue.edu) within (30) days upon completion of the project. Further funding requests will NOT be approved until the final report of the prior project is received.**