



2026 IEEE International Leadership Conference

Evolution: *Advancing Leadership Across Generations*



3–4 October 2026



Budapest, Hungary

Program Book



ieeailc.org

We are very excited to welcome you to the 1st IEEE International Leadership Conference (ILC), taking place on 3-4 October 2026, at the InterContinental Budapest Hotel by IHG in Budapest, Hungary!

This exciting in-person event features a curated blend of keynote addresses, workshops, strategic roundtables, and immersive learning experiences. The ILC will provide a comprehensive leadership journey that supports leaders and learners at every stage. The global forum will examine the evolving demands of leadership in an era defined by rapid technological change, AI-driven transformation, and increasing societal expectations for responsible innovation, a forum that equips professionals with new insight, shapes leadership mindsets, and catalyzes collaborative action.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our entire devoted IEEE ILC Volunteer Committee, Women in Engineering, Life Members, as well as the MGA and CEE staff for their diligent efforts in orchestrating this event. Special recognition is extended to our committee chairs for their invaluable support.

We can't wait to host you at this impactful event in Budapest.

Vickie Ozburn and Howard Wolfman
Co-Chairs, 2026 IEEE ILC

Thank You!

Conference Committee

- Emna Amri
- Wafa Ben Hmida
- Jacob Kulangara
- Deyasini Majumdar
- Neeli Prasad
- Jeewika Ranaweera
- Sudhanshu Shekhar Jamuar
- Daniel E. Snizek
- Suresh Vadhva
- Baya Bouchaala
- Susan Delafuente
- Abdul Halik
- Nahla Khairreddine
- Windhya Rankothge
- Peggy Snizek

CEE Staff

- Alissa Maldonado
- Kacie Ros

On-site volunteers

- Tamás Máté Basa
- Evelin Dobo
- Kiss Géza Máté
- Peter KadarGeza
- Geza Rauscher
- Laszlo Szekely

MGA Leadership

- Andrew Lowery
- Antonio Luque
- Teofilo Ramos
- Winnie Ye

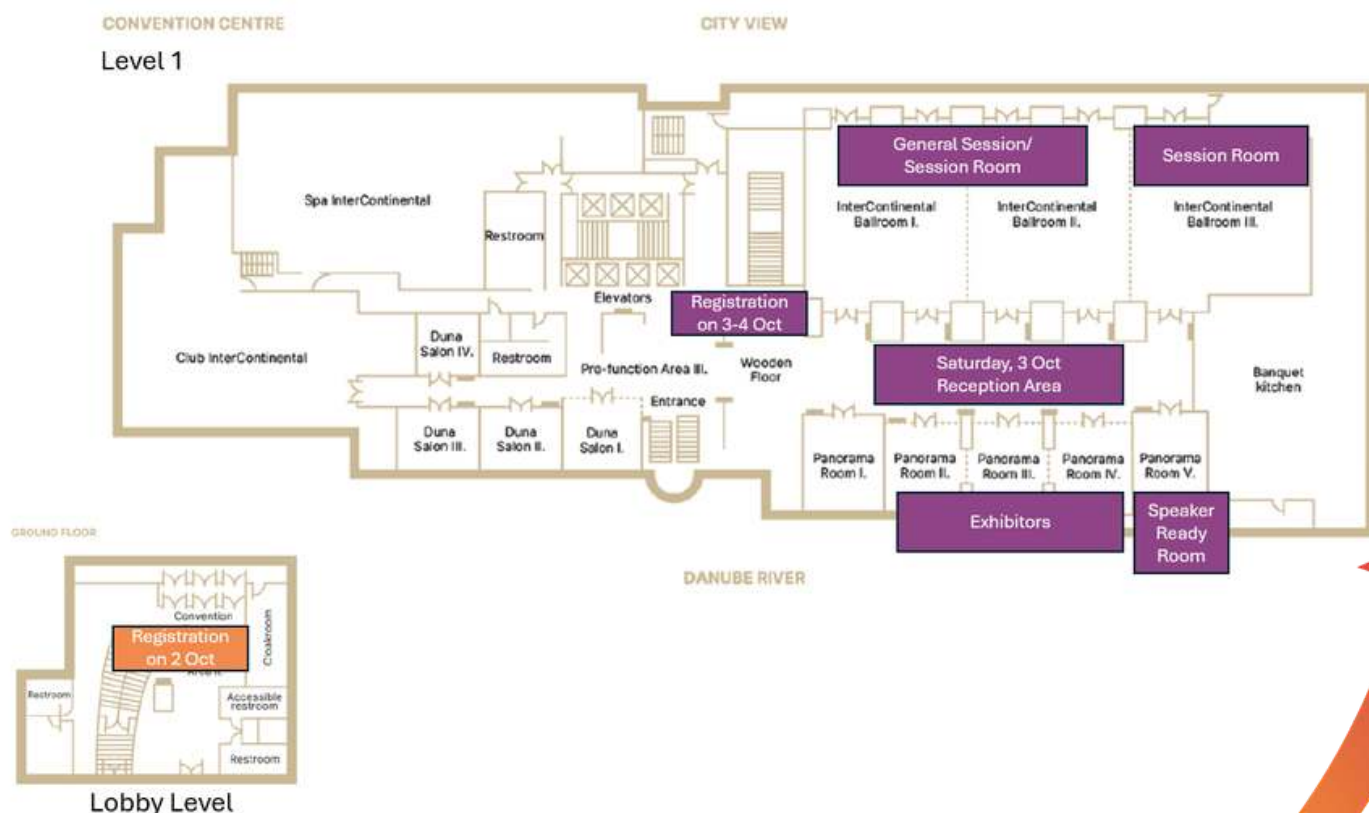
MGA Staff

- Cecelia Jankowski
- Michael Kreisberg
- John Day
- Alicia Tomaszewski
- Prachi Jain
- Faith Mercurio
- Laura Hall

IEEE EVENT CONDUCT AND SAFETY STATEMENT

IEEE believes that science, technology, and engineering are fundamental human activities, for which openness, international collaboration, and the free flow of talent and ideas are essential. Its meetings, conferences, and other events seek to enable engaging, thought-provoking conversations that support IEEE's core mission of advancing technology for humanity. Accordingly, IEEE is committed to providing a safe, productive, and welcoming environment to all participants, including staff and vendors, at IEEE-related events. IEEE has no tolerance for discrimination, harassment, or bullying in any form at IEEE-related events. All participants have the right to pursue shared interests without harassment or discrimination in an environment that supports diversity and inclusion. Participants are expected to adhere to these principles and respect the rights of others. IEEE seeks to provide a secure environment at its events. Participants should report any behavior inconsistent with the principles outlined here to on-site staff, security or venue personnel, or to eventconduct@ieee.org

HOTEL LAYOUT



INFORMATION

Registration:

The IEEE ILC Registration is located at the Conference Center (Level 1) of the [Intercontinental Budapest Hotel by IHG*](#)

***Friday:** 3 pm - 6 pm - Cloak Room (Lobby Level)

Saturday: 7 am - 7 pm

Sunday: 7 am - 4:15 pm

Note: Closed during lunch

All Times are in CET

Badges:

The IEEE ILC badges must be worn at all times and are necessary for admittance to sessions, meals, and networking events.

Networking Breaks:

The Networking breaks will be held in the pre-function foyer and the Panorama Rooms II-IV on the Conference Center (Level 1).

Lunch:

Lunch will be served on Saturday and Sunday at 12 noon in the Corso Restaurant (included in the registration fee).

Speaker Ready Room:

Space available for speakers in the Panorama Room V.

WIFI ACCESS

Complimentary WiFi access will be available during conference hours.

WIFI Name

IEEE TechSummit x ILC

WIFI Password

IEEE_Collab2026

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Please turn off your devices that chirp, beep, buzz or ring, including but not limited to pagers, beepers, cell phones, PDAs, and laptops during the conference. The speakers and audience thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

CULTURAL EVENING RECEPTION

Sponsored by:



Join us for an evening celebrating the diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences of our global IEEE community! Enjoy cultural connections, networking, and conversation with fellow participants and exhibitors.

Date

Saturday, 3 October 2026

Time

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM CET

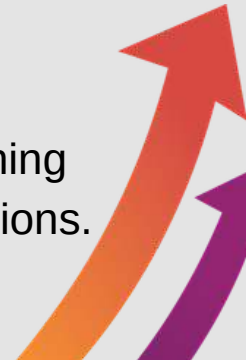
Location

Ballroom 1-2
InterContinental Budapest

Attendance & Guest Information

- **Conference Attendees:** This event is included in your conference registration fee. Your official conference badge is required to attend.
- **Guest Tickets:** Attendees may purchase guest passes for \$96 per ticket.
- **How to add guest tickets:** Log back into your event registration portal, return to the Registration Items page, and click Select next to Guest Reception Pass.

Note: Guest tickets grant access exclusively to the Cultural Evening Reception and do not include access to the main conference sessions.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Madhuri Andrews

**Executive Vice President &
Chief Information Officer, MKS Inc.**

**Talk Title: The Leadership Genome: What Gets Inherited,
What Gets Disrupted**

Saturday, October 3 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am CET



Boudewijn Bertsch

**Leadership Consultant &
Somatic Coach**

**Talk Title: The Organizational Rebellion: Reinventing
How We Lead**

Saturday, October 3 | 8:45 am – 9:30 am CET



Sudeendra Koushik

**Chief Innovator & Founder,
Innovation by Design**

**Talk Title: ILC.future – Innovative Leadership by
Collaboration**

Sunday, October 4 | 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm CET



Himamshu Prasad

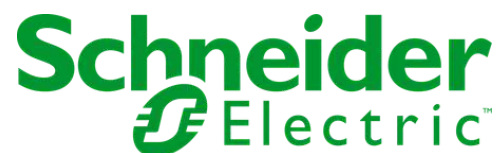
**Senior Vice President, Transactional & Edge
LoB, Connected Intelligence & Energy
Storage CoE, Schneider Electric**

**Talk Title: The Unwritten Playbook: Navigating
Corporate Careers and Future-Ready Skills in the
AI Era**

Sunday, October 4 | 8:45 am – 9:30 am CET



THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



Program: Day 1 | 3 October 2026

Time (CET)	Day 1: 3 October 2026		Location
07:00 – 18:00	Registration		
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Welcome & Conference Overview: Vickie Ozburn and Howard Wolfman (IEEE ILC Co-Chairs)		Ballroom 1-2
08:45 – 09:30	Keynote Boudewijn (Bou) Bertsch Leadership Consultant and Somatic Coach The Organizational Rebellion: Reinventing How We Lead		Ballroom 1-2
09:30 – 10:00	Morning Break & Networking with Exhibitors		
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote Madhuri Andrews Executive Vice President & Chief Information Officer The Leadership Genome: What Gets Inherited, What Gets Disrupted		Ballroom 1-2
11:00 – 12:00	Beyond Technical Excellence: The Leadership Journey from Engineer to Influencer Discussion Deyasini Majumdar -IEEE ILC Program Committee Co-Chair Sudeendra Koushik – President – Chief Innovator & Founder Anina Barth – PhD – MKS Inc. Paulina Chan – Chair IEEE Collaboration & Engagement Committee Limor Bergman Gross – Executive Leadership Coach		Ballroom 1-2
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch & Networking		
13:00 – 13:30	Group Photo		
	Ballroom 1-2	Ballroom 3	
	TRACK A	TRACK B	
	Leadership & Professional Growth Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages systems thinking for	Innovation, Industry & Entrepreneurship Focus: Connecting engineering with industry and innovation	
13:30 – 14:15	Michelle Smeby You Are a Superhero. Let's Discover Your Superpower So You Can Use It for Greatness	Kathy Hayashi Building Innovation Ecosystems: The Role of Engineering Leaders	
14:15 – 15:00	Aditi Khullar Career Gradient Ascent: Navigating the IC-versus-Manager Decision	Gokce Nur Yilmaz Building an AI-Ready Engineering Program: A Cross-Generational Industry-Academia Playbook	
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break & Networking		
	Ballroom 1-2	Ballroom 3	
	TRACK C	TRACK D	
	Career Readiness & Mentorship Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages systems thinking for leaders	Global Impact & Inclusion Focus: Connecting engineering with industry and innovation	
15:15 – 16:00	Leslie Gruis When Opportunity Knocks: My Evolution from Intelligence Officer to Public Privacy Persona	Priscilla Amalraj The Heartbeat of Innovation: Centering Humanity in the Age of Emerging Technologies	
16:00 – 16:40	Limor Bergman Gross What Directors Wish Their Managers Knew About Promotions	Jan Carroll Flying Blind: Shadow AI, Digitisation Legacy Risk, and the Implications of the Cyber Vulnerability of Irish Micro-SMEs	
16:45 – 17:30	Fireside Chat <i>The Power of Leadership: IEEE Presidents on Community, Impact & Vision</i> Vickie Ozburn (Moderator) – IEEE ILC Co-Chair Mary Ellen Randall – 2026 IEEE President and CEO Jill Gostin – 2026 IEEE President-Elect Kathleen Kramer – 2026 IEEE Past President		Ballroom 1-2
17:30 – 18:15	Closing Remarks Day 1		Ballroom 1-2
18:30 – 20:30	Networking / MultiCultural Event		Ballroom 1-2

Program: Day 2 | 4 October 2026

Time (CET)	Day 2: 4 October 2026		Location
07:00 – 18:00	Registration		
08:30 – 08:45	Opening Welcome & Conference Overview: Vickie Ozburn and Howard Wolfman (IEEE ILC Co-Chairs)		Ballroom 1-2
08:45 – 09:30	Keynote Himamshu Prasad SVP Schneider Electric The Unwritten Playbook: Navigating Corporate Careers and Future-Ready Skills in the AI Era		Ballroom 1-2
09:30 – 10:00	Morning Break & Networking with Exhibitors		Ballroom 1-2
10:00-11:00	Innovation Across Generations: Connecting Experience, Diversity, and New Ideas Discussion Howard Wolfman (Moderator) – IEEE ILC Co-Chair Teofilo Ramos – IEEE Life Member Chair Jeewika Ranaweera – IEEE ILC Program Committee Co-Chair Gokce Nur Yilmaz – TED University Head of Department Preeti Bajaj – Global Higher Education Strategist Ranking & Accreditation Expert		Ballroom 1-2
	Ballroom 1-2	Ballroom 3	
	TRACK C	TRACK B	
	Career Readiness & Mentorship Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages systems thinking for leaders	Innovation, Industry & Entrepreneurship Focus: Connecting engineering with industry and innovation	
11:15 – 12:00	Subodha Charles Essential Professional Skills in the AI Era: An IEEE Perspective on Preparing Engineers for What's Next	Preeti Bajaj Technology for Humanity: Empowering Future Engineers for Healthcare Innovation and Medical Device Development	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch & Networking		
	Ballroom 1-2	Ballroom 3	
	TRACK A	TRACK B	
	Leadership & Professional Growth Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages systems thinking for leaders	Innovation, Industry & Entrepreneurship Focus: Connecting engineering with industry and innovation	
13:15 – 14:00	Susanne Richter Work Smart. Lead Better. – Why We Should Rethink Some Established Work Habits	Bhaskara Raju Rallabandi From Engineer to Entrepreneur: Building AI-Native Connectivity Ventures for Digital Equity	
	TRACK A	TRACK C	
	Leadership & Professional Growth Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages	Career Readiness & Mentorship Focus: Building leadership capacity across career stages systems thinking for leaders	
14:00 – 14:45	Leadership Café Conversations That Inspire, Connect, and Grow	Margot Halstead The Competency That Got You Promoted May Not Be Yours to Keep	
14:45 – 15:30	Coffee break & Networking with Exhibitors		
16:00 – 16:45	Closing Keynote Sudeendra Koushik President: Chief Innovator & Founder ILC.future – Innovative Leadership by Collaboration		Ballroom 1-2
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Remarks and event wrap up		Ballroom 1-2

Honoring Visionary Leadership

—— A SPECIAL THANK YOU ——

IEEE MEMBER & GEOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

for its cornerstone financial sponsorship,
strategic leadership, and vision
in establishing the
2026 IEEE International Leadership Conference

Thank you to MGA leadership, volunteers, and staff
for your dedication to fostering professional
excellence, cross-generational mentorship, and
responsible innovation across the global
IEEE community.



IEEE Women in Engineering proudly supports the IEEE International Leadership Conference



What is IEEE Women in Engineering?

IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) is a global leader in transforming the face of engineering. With over 40,000 members in 127+ countries, WIE advances women in technology throughout their lives and careers.

NOT JUST FOR ENGINEERS!

Whether you're an engineer, scientist, technologist, mathematician, or simply passionate about innovation, An IEEE WIE membership is for you

WIE Contests

IEEE WIE Big Idea Pitch Competition:

Encourages students and young researchers to develop entrepreneurial and business mindsets based on their research and development (R&D) endeavors. The vision behind this competition is to promote the growth of startups in technical fields.

IEEE WIE Manga Stories:



Become STEM Role Models:

Introduce young students to the engaging IEEE WIE Manga series. These stories offer a fun and meaningful way to inspire future engineers and scientists while fostering early interest and confidence in STEM fields.

IEEE WIE Volunteering

Gain leadership experience through volunteering.

How We Connect

Engage with us on social media for updates and announcements.



IEEE Women in Engineering Membership Benefits

Why JOIN IEEE Women in Engineering?

WIE Benefits

1. Conferences

WIE International Leadership

Summits: Up to 10 regional summits yearly for networking, mentorship, and collaboration.



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 worldwide for 2 weeks from 23 June to 7 July. Events organized by members and groups. Brings visibility and networking opportunities.

5. WIE Scholarships & Grants

Supporting students at all levels with opportunities to grow, connect, and present at IEEE events.

6. The IEEE WIE Family Cares Grant Program

IEEE WIE Family Cares Grant helps cover up to \$1,000 in caregiving costs to support conference attendance for qualifying members.

7. IEEE WIE Global Network in IEEE Collabratec

Connect with 11K+ members for collaboration, networking and discussion.



8. IEEE WIE Skill-Enhancement and Professional Development Resources

Webinars/Workshops:

WIE webinars/panel discussions assist in career development at various stages in one's professional journey.

Podcasts: Explore inspiring STEM journeys, dual career experiences, expert insights, and actionable tips.

As part of the IEEE WIE membership, you can avail of all these opportunities.



IEEE Life Members proudly support the IEEE International Leadership Conference

**One Million Years of Experience.
Infinite Impact.**

IEEE Life Members mentor emerging innovators, guide complex technology decisions, and champion lifelong learning across generations.



Technology Influencers | Pioneers | Valuable Partners

Our Values Move Technology Forward!

Values guide everything we do. IEEE Life Members uphold principles that shape our conversations, our contributions, and how we invest our time.

**Learning
never
stops**

Stay curious, remain technically current, and explore new ideas.

**Make a
difference**

Mentor students, support humanitarian work, and contribute to the IEEE Life Member Fund.

**Provide
guidance**

Engage in and influence IEEE events.

**Actively
participate**

Serve as visible contributors and sources of expertise.

**Contribute
time and
ideas**

Clarify technology issues and help policy makers translate complex technical matters.



Welcome to IEEE ILC



95k +
Members



60 +
Sections



300 +
Conferences



R8 flagship conferences 2027



EUROCON 2027

22nd IEEE Region 8
International Conference on
Smart Technologies

📅 9-11 June 2027
📍 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
🌐 2027.ieee-eurocon.org



RTSI 2027

11th IEEE Region 8 Research
and Technologies for Society
and Industry

📅 6-8 September 2027
📍 Catania, Italy
🌐 2027.ieee-rtsi.org



AFRICON 2027

18th IEEE Region 8 AFRICON
Conference

📅 23-25 September 2027
📍 Accra, Ghana
🌐 2027.ieee-africon.org



IHTC 2027

10th IEEE International
Humanitarian Technology
Conference

📅 17-20 November 2027
📍 Zagreb, Croatia
🌐 2027.ieee-ihctc.org

Student and Young Professional congresses 2027



ASYP 2027

IEEE Region 8 Africa Student
and Young Professional
Congress

📍 Kigali, Rwanda



MENASYP 2027

IEEE Region 8 Middle East
and North Africa Student
and Young Professional
Congress

📍 Cairo, Egypt



NCESYP 2027

IEEE Region 8 Northern and
Central European Student
and Young Professional
Congress

📍 Glasgow, UK and Ireland



SESYYP 2027

IEEE Region 8 Southern
European Student and Young
Professional Congress

📍 Athens, Greece



MultiCultural Event

Join us for an evening celebrating the diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences of our global IEEE community! Enjoy cultural connections, networking, and conversation with fellow participants and exhibitors.

📅 Saturday 3 October 🕒 6:30 pm-8:30 pm 📍 Ballroom 1-2



ieeer8.org



LEADING BOLDLY SHAPING WHAT'S NEXT

Driving Innovation Through Different Perspectives

MKS has a powerful community of women driving innovation. Our global Women@MKS platform is fueling fresh ideas and building meaningful connections in networking, mentorship, and collaboration. We connect across regions, disciplines, and backgrounds—sharing perspectives to accelerate opportunities and open new possibilities. MKS is leading boldly—turning today's challenges into tomorrow's breakthroughs.

EMPOWER • INSPIRE • CONNECT • ACHIEVE
www.mks.com/women@mks




What does expanding collaboration and engagement mean for IEEE?



EXPAND

Widening the collective experiences of disciplinary backgrounds



COLLABORATION

Working together to innovate



ENGAGEMENT

Commitment to advancing technology for humanity

Learn more:

ieee.org/collaboration-engagement



EXPANDING
Collaboration & Engagement
at IEEE

Make an Impact. Get Involved.

volunteer.ieee.org



Discover Opportunities

Connect with like-minded people

Develop new skills

Contribute to meaningful initiatives

Find Your Next Opportunity

Your IEEE volunteering journey starts here.

IEEE Volunteering



**Thank you for attending
the 2026
IEEE International Leadership Conference!**