



Executive summary

2024 IEC Young Professionals workshop

About the Programme

The IEC Young Professionals Programme was developed as a mechanism to enable the IEC and its National Committees to reach out to the younger generation of experts, managers and leaders and to encourage their long-term participation in standardization and conformity assessment activities. This helps guarantee continuity in the availability of high-quality leaders and experts, enabling the IEC to maintain its focus on responding to market needs on a long-term basis. Participants help shape the future of the IEC by sharing their ideas about how the IEC should evolve to respond to the needs of future generations.

About the 2024 YP workshop

The fourteenth edition of the IEC YP workshop was held from 20 to 25 October 2024 in a fully face-to-face format in conjunction with the IEC General Meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

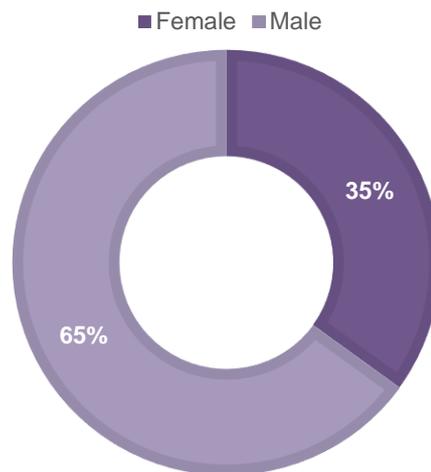


Attendance of the 2024 YP workshop

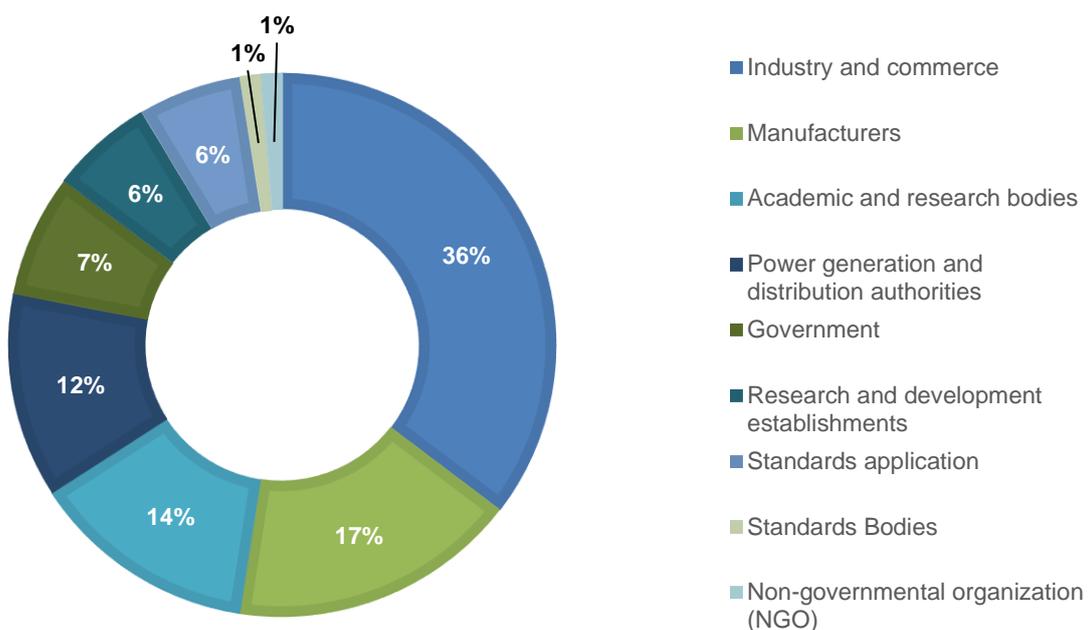
85 YPs from 45 IEC National Committees attended this year's workshop. In total, 43 speakers shared their views and expertise with the YPs during the entire week.

35% of the 2024 YP cohort are female and 65% are male, representing all stakeholder categories: Industry and commerce, manufacturers and Academia represent the biggest portions of participants adding up to 67%. The average age of participants at the time of the workshop was 31 years old.

GENDER DIVERSITY



BUSINESS AREA



Content of the 2024 YP workshop

The 2024 IEC YP Workshop began with an informal gathering, fostering connections among participants.

On the first day, attendees were officially welcomed, followed by an “Ask Me Anything!” session with IEC leaders. This was succeeded by presentations from the 2023 IEC YP Leaders, who shared updates on their ongoing projects. YPs were then introduced to five breakout topics for in-depth focus throughout the week: Online Standards Development (OSD), the IEC Global Impact Fund, the IEC Smart White-Label Application (Digital Transformation), IEC Brand (Communication), and the Customer Journey (Sales). These breakout sessions aimed to gather YPs' innovative ideas and feedback on these key IEC initiatives.

In the afternoon, attendees observed either the Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) or Standardization Management Board (SMB) meetings, offering insight into IEC governance. Later, YPs attended a plenary YP Alumni panel discussion before concluding the day with their first breakout session.

On the second day, YPs began with breakfast alongside their National Committees before observing various technical committee meetings (e.g., TC 23, SC 23A & G, SC 31M, TC 57, TC 66 WG 1, TC 69 WG 12, TC 129, IEC/ISO JTC 3, TC 114, SyC COMM, ACOS). They then participated in the interactive IEC Academy Bootcamp, which simulated standards development and provided hands-on experience with the OSD tool. This practical session allowed YPs to engage with IEC's latest tools and offer real-time feedback.

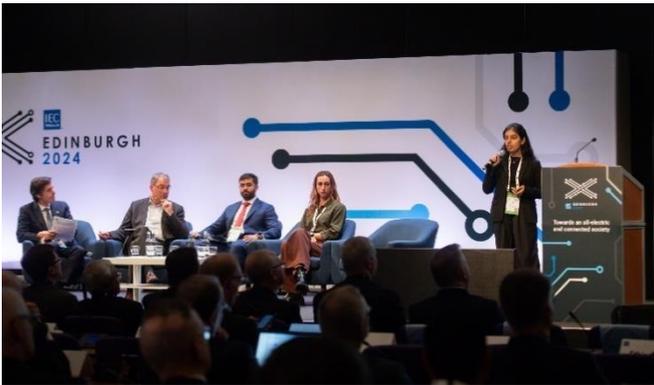
The third day highlighted the IEC's second pillar, conformity assessment, through another bootcamp. In the afternoon, YPs attended parallel sessions covering various technical committee topics (ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 41, TC 62, IEC Systems Work, TC 119, TC 114) before participating in the second breakout session.

The fourth day featured a site visit to the National Robotarium, followed by an MSB White Paper session and the final breakout session. The day concluded with a YP dinner event.

On the final day, YPs presented their breakout group ideas, voting on three to showcase at the General Assembly. In the afternoon, they attended their last parallel sessions (ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 41, TC 35, TC 31, SyC, IEC/ISO JTC 3). The workshop concluded with the election of the next YP Leaders.



YPs share ideas during the General Assembly with the IEC community



For the second time after the San Francisco edition, the YPs shared their ideas with the entire IEC Community at the General Assembly. Pauline Mourlon (France), Majid BinZawbaa (UAE) and Maria Jose (Australia) presented the results of their respective breakout topics: OSD; IEC Brand and the SMART white-label application through diverse formats including video recordings, voice-overs and dynamic presentations.

The presentations from the YPs were much appreciated and they were made accessible [online](#).

Networking opportunities

YPs had the opportunity to network with the attendees of the IEC General meeting, including IEC Officers, IEC Awardees, technical experts, IEC Secretariat staff, and other delegates: during the YP welcome gathering, the Opening Ceremony, the YP dinner and the farewell ceremony. NCs were able to network and discuss with their YPs during the YP-NC breakfast.



2024 IEC YP Leaders

The three 2023 YP Leaders elected by popular vote are:

- Fatoumata Sangare (France)
- Majid BinZawbaa (UAE)
- Luiz Ferraro (Brazil)

Their biographies can be found on the IEC website at iec.ch/yps/yp-leaders.



Post-workshop survey

55 out of 85 YPs responded to the post-workshop survey. Overall, YPs had a positive experience and look forward to staying connected and involved in the IEC work.

- 49% found the participation extremely valuable, while 45% stated that they found the YP workshop very valuable
- 62% that the workshop exceeded their expectations, with an additional 37% saying that the experience met their expectations.
- The site visit at the Robotarium is the most popular activity, closely followed by the Standard in a Day bootcamp and the social gatherings.
- More than 40% indicated that more time should be dedicated to the breakout sessions.
- Many responses suggested the need to review the time allocation of the YP workshop, the tendency being more time for breakout sessions and group collaboration activities, shorter breaks, and shorter days overall.
- 95% indicated that they plan to increase their involvement in IEC work after the workshop while 75% said they would recommend the IEC YP Programme to a friend or colleague.

A report on the survey results can be found [here](#).

Useful material

- Blog article: *A week at the International Electrotechnical Commission* by Thomas Ruddell (YP 2024, United Kingdom) available [here](#).
- Blog article: *Meet the 2024 IEC Young Professional leaders* available [here](#).
- A study by 2023 YP Leader, Abdel fattah Alshadafan: *Drivers and challenges of stakeholder participation in the IEC Standard-setting* available [here](#).

Next steps

The 2024 YP Leaders are working closely with the YPs and the IEC Secretariat to define their annual project concept and develop the Programme further. YPs will have the opportunity to contribute to the annual projects of the YP Leaders. YPs are also invited to contribute to a series of topics, according to their expertise, as part of the 2024 IEC YP Programme.

- The first activity is a call for applications for one YP to travel to the COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Next up, an invitation for three YPs to attend the IECEE preparatory meetings in Lake Forest, CA, USA in February 2025.
- At the end of November 2024, a call for applications for one Young Professional to join the IEC Directives Maintenance Team (DMT).
- At the beginning of December 2024, the IEC Academy & Capacity Building will hold a webinar for all breakout groups to present what they worked on during the YP Workshop 2024.
- Follow-up meetings for each breakout group with the respective IEC teams to gain further feedback and insights from the YPs on the given topics. These meetings open the floor for continued discussion and collaboration opportunities proactively involving YPs.
- Following up on the 2022 IEC YP Leader project on creating a YP Strategy Committee, YPs will have the opportunity to participate in a forum to provide feedback to the Market Strategy Board (MSB) on strategic initiatives



Success of the IEC YP Programme

The IEC YP Programme has welcomed 992 participants from 64 National Committees since its debut in 2010. Currently, 299 YPs have active roles in the IEC, which corresponds to 30.2% of the total number of YPs. Many more have stayed active at the national and regional levels. Below is a summary of the roles that these YPs currently have in the IEC¹:

Role	YPs
Member TC/SC/SyC	270
Convenor	29
Chair/Vice Chair TC/SC/SyC	4
Secretary/Assistant Secretary TC/SC/SyC	13
Project leader	1
MSB/SWG	15
Advisory Committees	4
NC Secretary	2
IEC Board member	2
IEC Board Task Force	2
SMB	1
SMB/SEG	3
SMB/SG	11
CAB	1
CAB WG/TF	4

¹ Data available on the Expert Management System (EMS) as of 15 November 2024. Some YPs have more than one active role. The table includes information about the roles in governance bodies and standardization work. The table does not include information on conformity assessment or contribution in the national level, as data is not available.