



SIE - Italian society of Ergonomics and human factors

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Website address	http://www.societadiergonomia.it/
Number of society members	SIE during 2024 is maintaining numbers of ordinary members (150), with a slight increase of certified ergonomists (66) and 20 registered as professional ergonomist according to the new rules approved in 2022.
Is the title Ergonomist, HFE specialist, or similar protected by law in your country?	It is recognized as a profession, but without the protection given to the chartered professions (i.e. medical doctors, engineers, psychologists). As a result, SIE in 2018 changed his statue to become a scientific and professional association, according to the EU legislation on non-chartered professions, so to recognize professional ergonomists among its members, beside the existing members certified as European Ergonomists. The level of membership of professional ergonomist is based on a simplified version of the European standard for Eur.Erg.
Are there laws in your country requiring ergonomic adaptations in the workplace, or for working tools, etc.	Yes, we apply EU legislation on health and safety at work requiring ergonomic evaluations at the workplace on MSD and stress, as well as design of industrial machines and biomedical devices, ad more recently on software and digital technologies.
Is there a professional certification system for HFE specialists in your country or region?	SIE is among the founder of the Centre for the Registration of European Ergonomists (CREE), we have a National Assessment Board and now there are 66 active Eur.Erg. After becoming also a professional association, according to EU legislation, SIE has started to recognize professional ergonomists among its members and actively participated at the preparation of a national standard for the certification within UNI (national standardization organization affiliated with CEN and ISO). The standard on the profession of ergonomist was approved in March 2024 and now SIE is working to establish agreements with certification bodies to promote the national title between its members and to the potential audience of practitioners. SIE continues at the same time to support Eur.Erg. certification, the national standard is in fact based on the European model, but with a reduced level of academic education and supervision to facilitate the access to the profession for the practitioners and overcome the lack of academic programs in HFE in Italy. The development of this standard was also supported by the national insurance institute for H&S at work, by some important companies, academic institutions and senior ergonomists.

Do you have a promotion program or special membership categories for early career / students?	Yes, we have a junior level for membership, not very popular. We also provide orientation and supervision to people interested in the certification process, both for the national and European standards.
Are there university level courses for HFE specialists in your country?	An online Master in Ergonomics and Human Factors has been completed for the first time on 2023-24 at the private university "Marconi", with the endorsement of SIE. Also, an Advanced training program on Environmental Ergonomics has been successfully conducted at the Polytechnical University of Milan.
Does your society have any official special interest sub-groups, similar to IEA's Technical Committees?	Yes, SIE has 9 regional branches and several thematic groups, currently the more active is on ergonomics of landscapes and walking pathways. This is the topic of the 2024 national conference that will take place in Cassino on 24-25th October
Are there adequate work opportunities for HFE graduates?	Yes, even though ergonomics and human factors continue to be considered mainly as an additional competence to existing professions, rather than an individual discipline, especially due to the discontinuity of academic programs and weak regulation for professional recognition and protection.
What issues do you have that you would like to discuss with others at the next IEA meeting?	We would like to reinforce IEA support to promote the internationalization of local initiatives and knowledge sharing. We would also like to speed up the publication and dissemination of technical documents, such as the IEA-WHO guidance on HFE for patient safety. We appreciate the effort to support mentorship programs for PhD students, as well to use awards to promote recognition of young and well-established researchers and professionals. The website could be improved with easier to access information and links existing resources, social networks use should be further developed, also by asking national societies to present their ongoing activities by popular platforms at the state of the art.
Society activities held since last annual report or planned for the following year.	Collaboration at the final definition and approval of the national norm for the certification of ergonomists. Publication of volume 27 and 28 of the Italian Journal of Ergonomists. Organization of several national and regional events, especially on healthcare ergonomics, on health and safety, on design for all, on ergonomics of landscapes and walking pathways, on world usability days. Preparation of a series of international webinars, based on the success of the national experience, that will be launched hopefully with the support of IEA, starting in October 2024.

Any other comments:



Tommaso Bellandi, PhD, Eur.Erg.

SIE secretary for international relations