

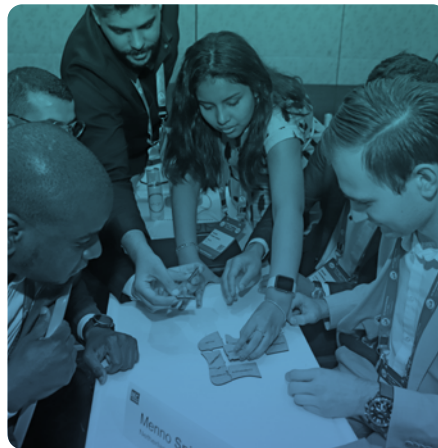


Shaping a better tomorrow



Annual Report 2025

www.iec.ch





Our purpose

IEC work provides the foundations for a connected and sustainable world by supporting broad electricity access, clean energy solutions and international trade. IEC International Standards and Conformity Assessment (CA) Systems help ensure the safety, efficiency, reliability and interoperability of electrical, electronic and information technologies. Together, they support our vision of a safer and more efficient world.

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Message from the IEC Secretary-General & CEO

2025 was a pivotal year for the IEC. The increasing demands of digital transformation required bold decisions and substantial investments. Among the highlights was the launch of a Single Delivery Unit (SDU) in partnership with ISO to accelerate the delivery of smart content.



Dear friends and colleagues,

Hard work, dedication and the support of all our stakeholders helped the IEC to achieve the highest income in its history. This helped to mitigate the impact of record expenditure, driven by major investments notably in IT and digital transformation. These are investments that I firmly believe are essential to our future.

I am also pleased to report that we have put in place new revenue measures and delivered meaningful reform of our funding mechanisms. This has been possible thanks to strong leadership and the willingness of all IEC Members to act in solidarity to support financial stability and to enable the continued relevance of the organization in a digital world. It is a milestone for the IEC and its Members, which fundamentally strengthens the financial foundation on which the future of the IEC will be built.

We achieved these results against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, trade tariffs and spending cuts that affected many international organizations. I would like to emphasize that we do not take this stability for granted and we remain deeply committed to using the resources at the disposal of the organization in the most efficient and transformational way possible.

Focus on people

This approach is underlying our investment in people, technology and state-of-the-art processes to respond to the demands of today, while laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient organization for tomorrow.

In 2025, we also completed the analysis phase of our review of the IEC brand, which is designed to reflect how important the contributions of the IEC are for a better tomorrow. I would like to highlight the scale and depth of stakeholder engagement in the context of this project. Our team consulted over 3 000 voices across Members, governing bodies, the broader IEC community, external partners and the public. It included in-depth stakeholder interviews, dedicated Member surveys and large-scale online research.

The consultation was rigorous, inclusive and extensive. For an organization like the IEC, whose authority and reach depend on the trust and engagement of a diverse international community, a compelling and coherent brand will further transform technical credibility into genuine influence. Strengthening the brand will ensure that the vital role of the IEC is not just understood, but valued and sought out by the Members, partners and stakeholders it exists to serve.

Future-proofing the IEC

Our achievements were not only about strengthening and future proofing the IEC. There were many other priorities and highlights, especially strengthening our inclusivity and expanding our membership in developing and emerging regions. Our Regional

Centre in Africa celebrated its first 10 years with a VIP stakeholder event in Kenya. Government ministers and industry leaders came to our General Meeting in New Delhi, which attracted a higher level of attention than usual, including by the media. Last but certainly not least, we are likely to remember 2025 as the year of the International AI Standards Summit, in Seoul.

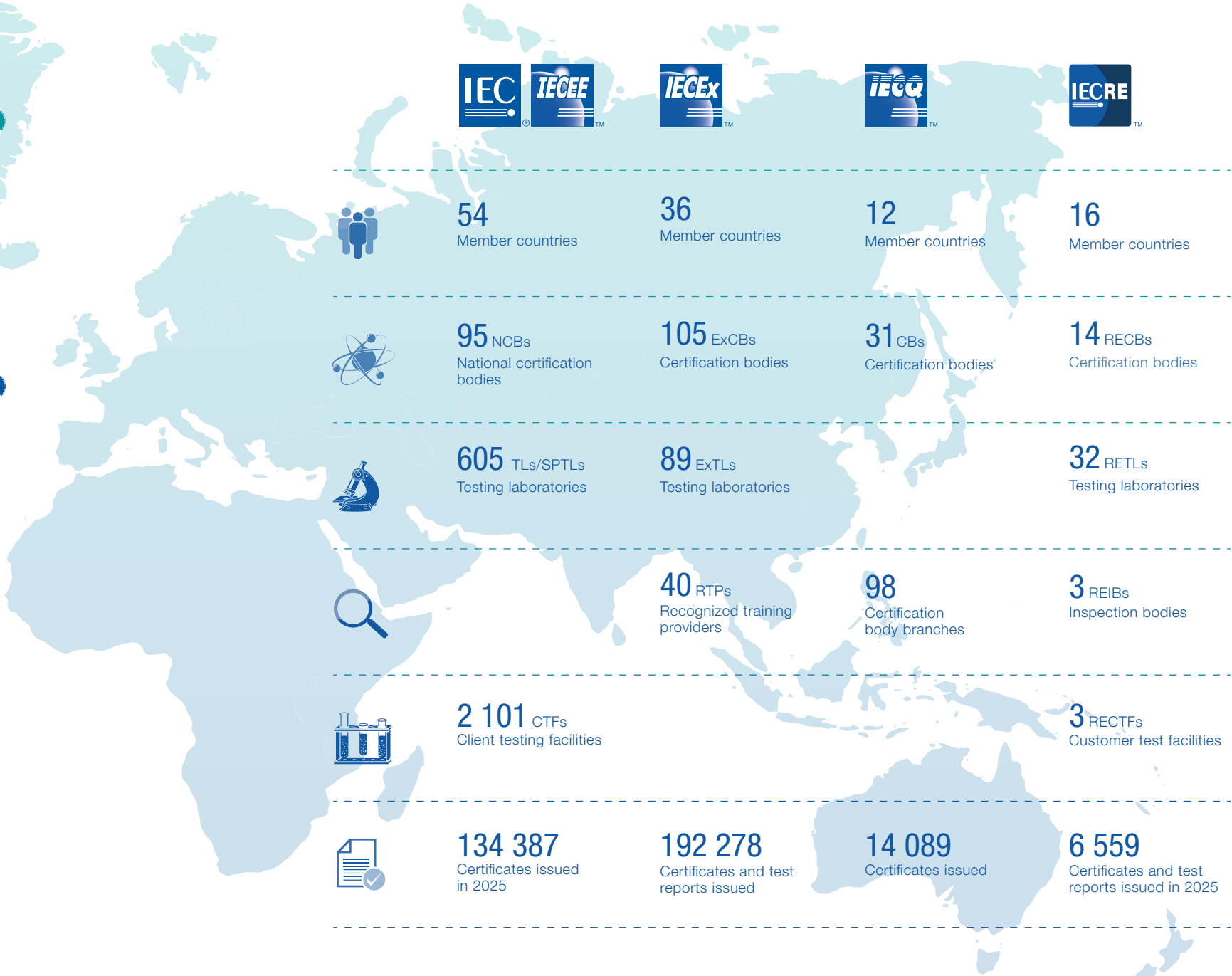
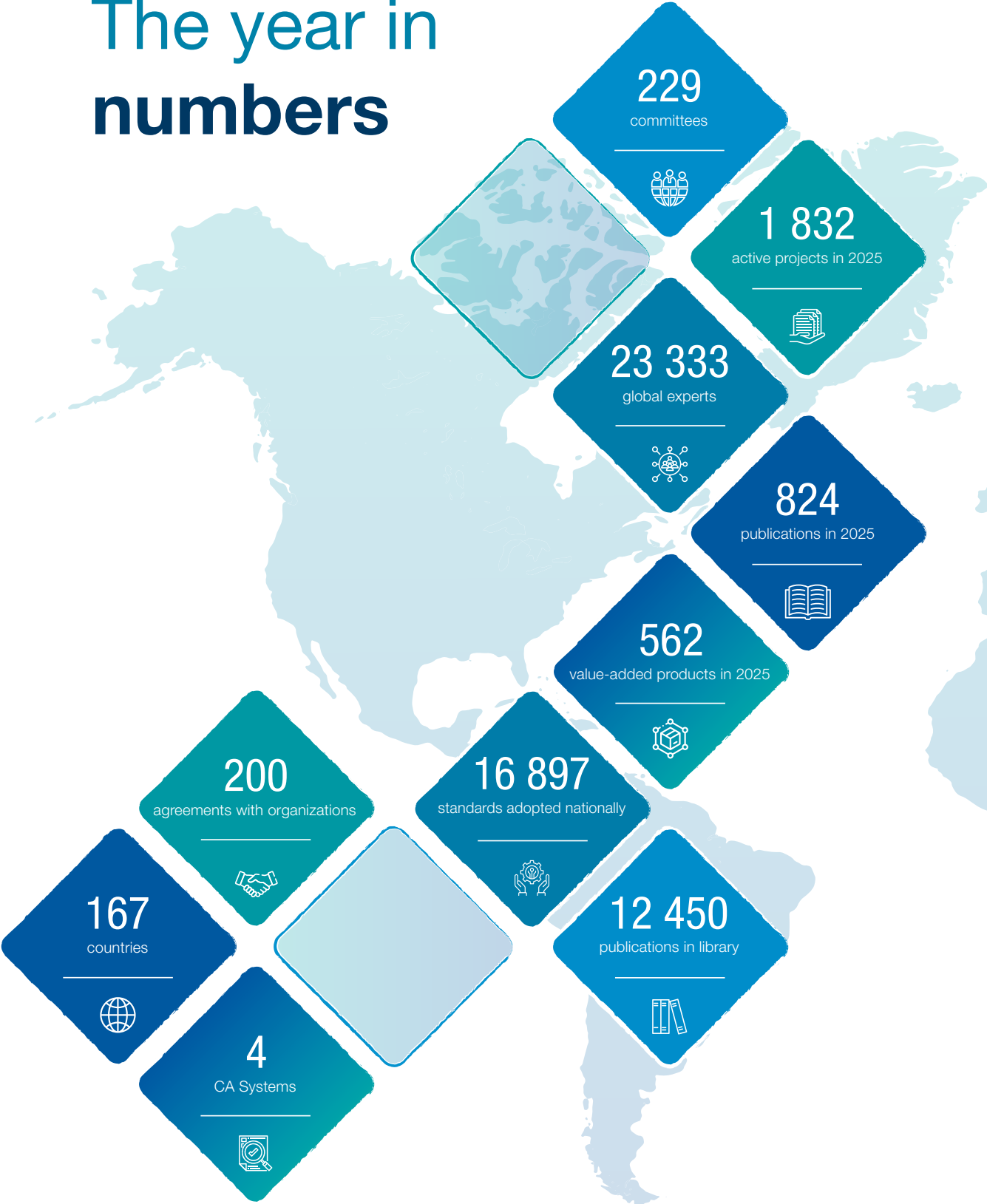
There, together with our closest partner organizations ISO and ITU, we identified solutions for some of the most pressing challenges of our times. The event attracted over 300 participants from 65 countries, spanning leaders and senior experts from government, industry, academia and civil society. The defining moment was the Seoul Statement, a joint commitment to advance AI standards that are inclusive, safe, sustainable and recognize the importance and universality of human rights. The joint statement emphasizes the importance of using international standards to build trustworthy AI, bridge digital divides and prevent regulatory fragmentation.

This report highlights not only continued progress amid global tensions but also results that have exceeded even our most optimistic forecasts. On behalf of the entire IEC, I want to thank all of you for your continued support. It is your engagement and commitment that ensures our standards and conformity assessment systems can contribute to shaping a better tomorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Metzger

The year in numbers



For the 4 CA Systems: IECEE and IECRE, the figure shown is the total number of certificates issued each year, representative of the system activity. For IECEX and IECQ the number of certificates/reports is cumulative from the beginning of the systems, as there are yearly on-going surveillance activities and related actions.

Our impact in 2025

1. Advancing technology responsibly

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the metaverse and biometrics are essential to supporting our vision of a safer and more efficient world. They also have the potential to help solve many of the world's challenges by driving innovation and providing insights that can transform industries and benefit the planet. Our international standards and conformity assessment (CA) systems are essential tools for building trust in these technologies, supporting their responsible adoption and enabling innovation to thrive.

Building trust in AI

Building trust in AI and ensuring its responsible deployment is a key element of IEC's [vision and mission](#). The joint IEC and ISO technical committee [ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42](#) develops international standards for AI, taking a holistic approach to consider the [entire AI ecosystem](#).

Several new standards were published in 2025 that will help to strengthen trustworthiness in AI. These include [ISO/IEC 12792](#), which aims to identify and address an organization's needs for the transparency of AI systems; [ISO/IEC 42005](#) for [measuring the impact of AI systems](#); and [ISO/IEC TS 42119](#), the first in a series of standards to specifically support testing

of AI systems. This is in addition to [ISO/IEC 42006](#), which defines the additional requirements for bodies auditing and certifying AI management systems (AIMS) against [ISO/IEC 42001](#), ensuring that certification bodies possess the necessary competence to assess organizations developing, deploying or offering AI systems.

How to build trustworthy, sustainable AI systems was also a key item on the agenda of the first [International AI Standards Summit](#) held in Seoul, Korea, in December 2025. The event saw the announcement of the [Seoul Statement](#) on AI, in conjunction with ISO and ITU, which outlines a commitment to advancing AI ethically and responsibly through international standards, taking a human-centred approach. In the lead up to the event, we ran a series of [public webinars](#) that provided an introduction to many of the issues that the summit explored.

We also published [ISO/IEC 21617-1](#) that outlines a new way of identifying authentic content published to help combat deepfakes and build trust in media content. Known as JPEG Trust, the [new standard](#) will enable photos and videos to be “tagged” and authenticated, so that users and creators can build trust in media content.



Navigating the challenges of AI-generated content

AI generated content (AIGC) offers the potential to transform numerous industries by enabling users to interact with machines more naturally, solve previously unsolvable problems and enhance productivity and decision-making like never before. Recent advances are laying the foundation for extensive application prospects across sectors such as intelligent manufacturing, smart homes and smart healthcare, not to mention its potential to help address environmental issues and advancing sustainability goals. Yet, despite the benefits, AIGC faces a number of challenges. The IEC technology and market outlook paper [Artificial intelligence generated content \(AIGC\): Industry insights and exploring the future](#) provides valuable perspectives and insights on how to address critical challenges with AIGC such as energy consumption and infrastructure demands.

Strengthening cyber security worldwide

In a world where cyber security is a rising global concern, the use of biometrics for authentication is also increasing, being a robust and reliable way of identifying individuals. But biometrics are not completely cyber secure, with techniques such as morphing that threaten to outwit biometric systems. International standards help reduce these risks by providing requirements for biometric security and enabling interoperability. This is important because the more platforms, operating systems, networks and environments that use the technology, the more vulnerable it can become.

Published in 2025, [ISO/IEC 27553-2](#) provides high-level security and privacy requirements for biometric authentication on mobile devices, particularly in “remote modes” where the biometric sample is captured through mobile devices and the data are transmitted between the mobile devices and the remote services.

The standard complements [Part 1](#) in the series which covers local modes, i.e. where the biometric data and derived biometric data do not leave the device.

Further reinforcing cyber security, [ISO/IEC 27404](#) is an internationally aligned cyber security labelling framework to enable guidance for new labelling schemes, as well as mutual recognition of schemes to enable the interoperability of products. This helps to make labels more transparent to consumers, while raising awareness of cyber security risks and enabling more informed choices.

Keeping children safe online

In 2025, a number of governments introduced social media bans for children, supported by age verification laws that seek to prevent children from accessing age-restricted sites. But age verification technologies come with their own set of complexities, notably around privacy and data issues. [ISO/IEC 27566](#) was published to clarify and address these challenges and provide clarity through detailing internationally agreed definitions, methods and characteristics of age assurance systems, thus providing a strong foundation for governments and industry. Being a certifiable standard, age assurance system providers can use it to demonstrate they meet the minimum requirements, helping them comply with regulations and build more robust systems at the same time.

Brain-computer interfaces

The technology behind brain-computer interfaces (BCI) is evolving rapidly, and international standards are essential tools to support the safe, ethical and responsible deployment of BCI technology. This is why the topic was the subject of an IEC webinar, [Brain-computer Interfaces Standardization for Human Augmentation](#), which brought together international experts in the field to showcase the latest technological advancements and discuss some of the barriers to progress.



It also highlighted the urgent need for standardization in this area, outlining the work of the recently formed joint IEC and ISO technical committee for BCIs, [ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 43](#). In 2025, the committee published [ISO/IEC 8663](#), which contains the internationally agreed vocabulary for BCI, necessary to drive innovation and collaboration in the industry.

Gender responsive standards (GRS)

Standards influence a vast array of things in our lives, from the safety of household appliances to the usability of voice recognition technology. This is why it is important that they recognize and integrate gender differences to ensure they adequately serve and protect all users. To this end, in 2019, we signed the [UNECE Declaration on Gender Responsive Standards](#), committing to making the standardization process more inclusive. Since then, with ISO we established a

joint international strategic group that advises on the importance of considering gender when developing standards. In 2024, the group produced a formal [ISO/IEC Guide](#), providing technical committees (TCs) with practical tools and frameworks to identify and assess gender differences.

In 2025, we undertook a number of activities to promote the importance of GRS, including social media campaigns, videos, webinars and articles, and held a dedicated workshop during the IEC General Meeting. A survey of TCs conducted at the end of 2025 showed that awareness of GRS had increased but more work still needs to be done.

The industrial metaverse

While there is no universally agreed definition, the metaverse could be described as a virtual reality space in which users can interact with a computer-generated environment and with one another. In manufacturing, it can be used to simulate prototypes to refine designs or test new products for safety or compatibility. Yet, many questions remain as the metaverse evolves. Issues such as privacy, ownership, safety and sustainability, for example, are still not entirely addressed. Standardization is and will be essential, and a number of standards organizations, including the IEC, ITU, ISO, IEEE and the Metaverse Standards Forum, are actively analyzing metaverse technologies.

Recognizing its complexity and the need to anticipate standardization needs, we published [Industrial metaverse](#), a societal and technology trend report that explores the emerging landscape of the industrial metaverse, highlighting the gap in current standardization efforts.

Impact summary

- New standards to build trust in AI and support cyber security
- The first *International AI Standards Summit* enshrining a shared commitment for the future development of AI
- New guidance to support age-restricted websites and protect children online
- Industry reports on the metaverse and AI-generated content
- A guide for committees to ensure standards are gender responsive

2. Sustainability in action

Through our globally recognized standards and CA systems, we are equipping industries and governments with the tools to accelerate the clean energy transition while ensuring safety, reliability and interoperability. This is why the theme for the IEC 2025 General Meeting was *Fostering a Sustainable World*.

The results of a [global survey](#) we conducted in 2025 reaffirmed our commitment to this goal. It showed that the majority of respondents not only care greatly for the environment and view environmental sustainability as critically important but would like to see more commitment from in-country leadership,

particularly in the move to more renewable or sustainable energy solutions (such as solar, wind and hydro).

From smart grids to energy storage, from eco-design to circular economy principles, our work is providing the foundation for the transition to sustainable systems through international technical standards and conformity assessment frameworks.

Leading on standards and conformity assessment at COP30

For the second year, we joined forces with ISO and UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE) as well as 18 other global organizations at the [Standards](#)

[Pavilion](#) at COP30, where we mobilized significant momentum in embedding international standards into the climate agenda.

Together with ISO and ULSE, we released a landmark climate action policy paper, [How to use international standards for climate action](#), as part of our efforts to elevate the world's understanding of standards and promote their use among policymakers as critical tools for successful climate action. The paper explores the potential of standards to ensure comparability, credibility and accountability for climate action. In addition, international standards featured prominently in multiple high-priority *Plans to Accelerate Solutions*, the COP30 Presidency's flagship mechanism to unblock systemic barriers.

Advancing renewable energies

Renewable power capacity is expected to play a vital role in the transition to clean energy, with estimates that global production from 2025 to 2030 will be almost [double](#) that of the previous five years. Our work is fundamental to this growth, supporting small and big renewable energy systems to operate safely and efficiently.

Integrating renewable sources of energy into the electricity grid is a key element of the energy transition, but their intermittency and variability pose challenges to grid stability. The rise of power-electronics-dominated grids (PEDGs), a key tool in this integration, has resulted in a fundamental alteration of grid dynamics, bringing with it a number of challenges, as well as opportunities, states a new IEC societal and technology trend report [Relay protection for power-electronics-dominated power grids: Technical challenges and future roadmap](#). The report details the impact of the rise of PEDGs, the challenges they pose and solutions to overcome them.

We also published a number of new or revised standards for renewable technologies in 2025. These include [IEC 61400-3-2](#), a new standard for floating offshore wind turbines, which specifies essential design requirements to ensure their engineering integrity. It aims to provide an appropriate level of protection against damage from all anticipated conditions over their planned lifetime.

The industry-accepted benchmarks for wind energy generation systems, the [IEC 61400 series](#), saw a new addition in 2025. [IEC TS 61400-28](#) sets out minimum requirements for actions, investigations and assessments to ensure the continued structural integrity of wind farm assets, particularly wind turbines, aimed at verifying that they remain safe for personnel to operate.



We also updated [IEC 61116](#), which gives guidance on the electromechanical equipment for small hydroelectric installations, and published the IEC societal and technology trend report [Emerging photovoltaic materials and technologies](#), which examines technologies such as perovskite, one of the fastest developing and most promising technologies in the solar photovoltaic space. The report evaluates real-world application scenarios, highlights key challenges in performance and manufacturing, providing a useful resource for IEC committees and partners to better understand and support these technologies.

Towards more sustainable cities

The IEC Systems Committee for Smart Cities ([SyC Smart Cities](#)) takes a systems approach and collaborates with IEC technical committees and other standards development organizations (SDOs) to understand the needs of cities and how standards can help. In 2025, it joined forces with ISO to create the joint committee for smart and sustainable cities and communities ([ISO/IEC JTC 4](#)). Its goal is to help all cities become more sustainable and smarter with the help of standards.

Supporting clean transportation

In the race to meet net zero, trains are often hailed as the least polluting way to travel, particularly when powered by electricity, and hydrogen is now emerging as a low carbon, non-polluting source.

A new international standard was published in 2025 to support this. [IEC 63341-1](#) applies to fuel cell power systems installed onboard rolling stock for railway applications (e.g. light rail vehicles, tramways, streetcars, metros, commuter trains, regional trains, high speed trains and locomotives).

The standard describes the design requirements to ensure that the fuel cell system complies with railway

applications. Other sections of this standard address the safety, reliability and protection requirements needed for designing and installing the fuel cell system, as well as the validation process for these requirements.

Our work is also supporting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) as distributed energy resources (DERs) for the grid, meaning that EVs can charge electricity from the grid as well as discharge energy to it when required. In 2025, the SyC Smart Energy published [IEC SRD 63460](#), a systems reference deliverable which assesses how EVs may (or must) act as DERs when they are interconnected to the electric power grid.

Reducing emissions from technology

While there has been a shift towards more energy efficient electrotechnical products in recent years, no two products are the same and overall environmental impacts vary widely. The key to reducing this impact is by ensuring transparency of across the entire life-cycle. In this way manufacturers can make better design and procurement decisions, which enables market pressure towards lower-emission products.

To this end, we published [IEC 63366](#), which provides a framework behind environmental labelling and reporting of electrical and electronic products and systems.

The standard specifies the process and requirements on how to conduct life cycle assessment in the context of environmental declarations, ensuring the results are comparable, transparent and credible across different products and manufacturers. In this way it supports eco-design and low-carbon product development.

AI is also contributing positively to our lives while posing ecological challenges. To address this, the UN Environmental Programme, [UNEP](#), made a number of



recommendations such as establishing standardized ways of measuring AI's environmental impact and developing regulations that companies must adhere to. Recognizing the power of international standards in this space, the joint IEC and ISO committee for AI, [ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42](#), published a technical report as a firm foundation on which more specific standards in this area can be developed.

[ISO/IEC TR 20226](#): *Information technology – Artificial intelligence – Environmental sustainability aspects of AI systems*, provides an overview of all the elements of AI that have an impact on the environment, including workload, use of resources, carbon impact, pollution, waste and much more. By covering the entire life cycle of AI systems, it provides reliable support to any project related to AI

system environmental sustainability, including future standards.

Carbon footprint verification

In 2025, three technology industry leaders became the first global companies to obtain international [IECQ carbon footprint of product \(CFP\) verification certificates](#) within the new portfolio of verification services launched in 2024.

The certificates were awarded to ASUS, Acer and Fwusow following a rigorous verification process, setting a new benchmark in promoting transparency and accountability in industry for environmental impact.

Impact summary

- Global presence at COP30
- New standards and deliverables for renewable energy
- Supporting the electrification of transport
- Reducing emissions from technology

3. Energy for all

According to UN estimates, 666,4 million people worldwide still lack access to electricity, with 85% of them living in Sub-Saharan Africa. More needs to be done to reach the target of universal access by 2030.

Our international standards and conformity assessment systems are enablers of energy access. They are valuable drivers in helping us realize our mission where everyone, everywhere, will have access to affordable, clean and sustainable energy.

IEC Global Impact Fund

IEC Global Impact Fund is a key contributor to this goal. Through the Fund, we partner with organizations who can help us turn the value of the work we do in electrical, electronic and ICT standards and conformity assessment into tangible benefits for the communities who can benefit from them most.

For our first project, [Empowering Kenyan communities to create a better, cleaner future](#), Differ Community Power (DCP), an international provider of solar energy services to communities, is determining the feasibility of using second-life lithium batteries to rehabilitate solar PV installations at nine schools and healthcare facilities in rural Kenya, designed around conformity to international standards. In 2025, all of the installations were completed, with ongoing evaluation and monitoring.

By aligning with relevant standards throughout the project, residents in the locations can be assured that the installations were done safely, efficiently and for long-term reliability. The project is also an opportunity to train local subcontractors on wiring regulations and commissioning procedures aligned to the standards. Real-time remote monitoring of performance and environmental factors will inform the technical and economic feasibility analyses.



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The IEC has now commissioned an independent impact and scalability report to determine its viability to extend the project to other countries (to be finalized in 2026).

Enabling access to clean cooking

2025 saw the launch of the Fund's [second project](#), which aims to accelerate access to clean cooking in Asia through conformance to international standards. Around 2,4 billion people – roughly a third of the global population – still rely heavily on solid fuels like wood, charcoal and animal dung for cooking that are inefficient, toxic to the environment and dangerous to human health. As a result, over [3 million people](#) die each year from illnesses related to household air pollution due to “dirty” cooking, which is also estimated to contribute up to [2% of the world's carbon emissions](#).



© Photo: Bhutan Government

eCooking, which includes electric induction, pressure cookers, electric hot plates, infrared hobs and other appliances, is increasingly recognized as a feasible clean cooking alternative.

Global leader in Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled electric stoves, [ATEC Global](#), has been selected to elevate the use of international standards in delivering clean cooking solutions to communities in need. Through concrete use cases, ATEC will demonstrate the value of standards and CA systems in improving the safety, quality and accessibility of eCooking products and installations in underserved communities.

The project will contribute to many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including no poverty (1), zero hunger (2), good health and well-being (3), and affordable and clean energy (7). It also supports a critical element of [Mission 300](#), the commitment by the World Bank Group together with the African Development Bank to provide access to electricity to 300 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. In addition, the project will contribute to reducing carbon emissions through the exploration of standards and methodologies for their measurement, reporting and verification.

Expanding electricity access

Low-voltage direct current (LVDC) is gaining recognition as a green and efficient way of reaching the millions of people who lack access to the grid, offering lower energy losses and easier integration with renewable sources.

LVDC distributes electricity through microgrids, unlike the top-down alternating current (AC) system. With LVDC, electricity can be used directly from the source, removing the need for repeated conversions between direct current (DC) and AC, thereby reducing energy losses and making the process more efficient and cost-effective compared to the



conventional AC grid. The use of LVDC and related medium-voltage direct current (MVDC) will help improve energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint, while ensuring excellent power quality. In developing countries, it will enable the direct use of power generated by a solar panel, small wind turbine or micro-hydro, including in very remote locations.

The IEC Systems Committee for LVDC, [SyC LVDC](#), is coordinating the work of all relevant TCs to make this technology safe, reliable and affordable. In 2025, it published [IEC SRD 63317](#), which describes certain aspects of standardization of LVDC in industrial applications. The local LVDC distribution can be connected to the public grid (AC or DC) or can work completely off grid (intentional islanding). This document provides practical guidelines for the design and planning of industrial LVDC systems, aiming at interoperability amongst different devices.

Other standards published in 2025 to support electricity access include [IEC 63437](#), a standard for solar PV fridges that have weak and unreliable or intermittent electricity supplies, and [IEC 62933-3-1](#) and [IEC 62933-4-2](#) for storing renewable energy.

Strengthening the grid

Extreme weather episodes are becoming more and more frequent and place significant pressure on the electricity grid. Resilience is essential. [IEC TR 63515](#) is a new technical report providing a conceptual framework for power system resilience. This framework defines terminology for resilience, metrics for evaluating grid robustness, methods to identify weak points and strategies to improve resilience (such as redundancy, decentralization and smart grid functionalities).

Protection intelligent electronic devices (IEDs) also contribute to grid resilience as they detect electrical faults in the grid and isolate these faulty sections. This allows for an uninterrupted power supply and protects the electrical network from severe failures. A new standard published in 2025, [IEC TS 60255-216-1](#), standardizes the [IEC 61850](#) applications for protection functions of the grid. IEC 61850 is a core series of standards for the smart grid which includes substation automation, as specified in [IEC 61850-4](#).

Impact summary

- Rehabilitating solar PV installations in rural Kenya
- The launch of a new project to accelerate access to clean cooking
- Extending electricity access with standards for LVDC
- Building a more resilient electricity grid



Powering **our** digital transformation

International standards are essential tools for addressing many of the world's global challenges, which is the basis of our strategic vision. However, for their value to be realized, they need to be relevant and accessible. This is why we are on a journey to leverage today's data driven technologies to deliver a new generation of user-centric standards for the benefit of standards users and standards developers globally.

2025 saw the continuation of this journey of transformation, with the launch of a dedicated single delivery unit jointly with ISO and the launch of a strategic initiative to accelerate the responsible adoption of AI across the whole organization. This involved building a trusted AI infrastructure with a clear governance framework, while strengthening internal capabilities to ensure that we can harness the potential of AI to improve our work in a safe and effective way.

Collaboration with ISO for standards of the future

Recognizing that international standards can only offer the value they promise if they are used widely and effectively, in 2025 we evolved our SMART programme to create a joint Single Delivery Unit (SDU) with fellow international standards organization, ISO. Through this dedicated unit, we aim to modernize the development, access and implementation of our standards, reinforcing our global leadership in digital standards.

The objective of the SDU is to ensure that our digital transformation is scalable and enables both organizations to respond efficiently to market and member needs. This means leveraging new and emerging technologies to deliver tailored, integrative standards and standardization services such as machine-readable standards, the harmonization of digital standard formats and tools and the enhancement of the user experience.

Working with ISO means we can ensure consistency and harmonization of the tools to accelerate and enhance the value of standards across a wider scale.

Communications and outreach

In 2025, we continued to deliver on our strategy of more effectively communicating the impact of our work in shaping a better tomorrow. Every effort we've made this year, from evolving our external communications to strengthening our internal communications, has been geared towards amplifying IEC's mission and ensuring people understand the vital role we play globally.

The year has seen a greater focus on strengthening IEC's voice externally on global issues such as AI, sustainability, clean energy access and responsible technology, leveraging key engagement opportunities such as COP30 in Brazil, AI for Good, the International AI Standards Summit and our own General Meeting in Delhi.

We have deepened our engagement with external media, achieving more than 100 pieces of earned coverage secured across numerous tech trade publications and global outlets, reinforcing our leadership across these key themes. By reshaping our social media presence and improving our online content offering, we have seen greater engagement across all channels.

Despite these efforts, we know that our work is not always seen or understood by many of the stakeholders we need to reach. By focusing on our identity as a strategic asset, we can be more effective in delivering on our vision and mission.

So, in 2025, we continued with the strategic brand effort started in 2024 to help us better articulate our value. We undertook an extensive assessment of our brand to provide an up-to-date view of the perceptions that exist, as well as the opportunities we have to deliver on our ambition for the IEC to be better and more widely known. These important findings will be used to form the basis of a brand strategy to take the IEC forward into the future.



It is the responsibility of governments and utilities to accelerate the modernization of grids. They must invest in digital grid management, storage and synthetic inertia technologies, which are all supported by IEC Standards. It is vital to strengthen international cooperation because electricity does not stop at borders. Harmonized standards ensure that when one country faces a crisis, neighbours can provide backup power seamlessly.

Gilles Thonet in Data Centre Dynamics

Participation and engagement

In 2025, IEC membership consisted of 167 countries (89 member countries and 78 affiliates).

Over the year, we continued our efforts to strengthen the capacity of our members to participate in and benefit from international standardization, particularly in relation to our digital transformation. This meant supporting members with the use of online tools for standards development and building confidence in digital collaboration. We also put a strong focus on exploring how digital standards can be best leveraged by our members to deliver new, value-added services to their stakeholders and end users.

Supporting developing countries

The IEC Affiliate Country Programme is aimed at helping newly industrialized and developing countries join and participate in the international standardization and conformity assessment community.

Countries participating in the IEC Affiliate Country Programme join a global community of experts and gain access to an online learning platform, webinars, training, capacity building events, the IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme and the opportunity to participate in the annual IEC General Meeting and

Affiliate forum. Affiliate countries also benefit from a quota of IEC publications free of charge and can adopt IEC Standards in their national context.

More than 40 affiliate delegates attended the 2025 General Meeting, participating in dedicated sessions such as the Affiliate forum and the Affiliate roundtable. These sessions gave participants the opportunity to learn about topics such as how our work contributes to sustainability, conformity assessment and online standards development.



In addition, a total of 10 countries participated in the IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme in 2025, involving five partnerships whereby four were concluded and one was started over the course of the year. The partnerships that were concluded in 2025 were Burkino Faso and France; Cabo Verde and Brazil (see box); Saudi Arabia and China; and the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom; while the partnership between Timor Leste and Australia was initiated. The programme is designed to build the standardization capacity of affiliates, enabling them to focus on areas specific to them.

IEC Africa Quality Infrastructure in Electrotechnology Week

Recognizing the power of international standards in helping to build thriving economies, the IEC held its first *Africa Quality Infrastructure in Electrotechnology Week* in 2025, bringing together influential government and industry leaders from the region and around the world.

The event, held in Nairobi, featured high level discussions, workshops and networking aimed at advancing Africa’s position in the global electrotechnical landscape, supporting international trade, improving the quality of goods and services and contributing to its transition to clean energy.

It also marked the 10-year anniversary of the IEC Africa Regional Centre (IEC-AFRC) in Nairobi, which has been instrumental to Africa’s adoption of international standards, improved quality infrastructure and access to international markets. The office has also played a pivotal role in strengthening Africa’s participation in international standardization and conformity assessment as well as the harmonization of standards across the region.



IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme: Cabo Verde and Brazil

The IEC Affiliate Mentoring Programme enables affiliate countries to learn from IEC members and apply that knowledge to their specific needs. The mentoring partnership between Cabo Verde and Brazil focused on three dedicated areas: raising awareness of and building engagement in standardization and conformity assessment across Cabo Verde; facilitating the use of IEC Standards by Cabo Verde regulators as a basis of their national regulations; and strengthening their technical capacity to adopt IEC CA Systems to ensure the quality of imported products.

Thanks to the programme, Cabo Verde was able to identify the most relevant IEC Standards for national adoption, learn about the role of standards in regulation and market surveillance, and gain firsthand experience of product testing, certification and product labelling schemes.



Unlocking the potential of young standardizers

Since its launch in 2010, the IEC Young Professionals (YPs) Programme has offered a platform for the next generation of experts to further their careers while bringing new perspectives to the IEC community. Since its inception, the programme has welcomed over 1 000 participants from 67 countries and over 400 of them have active roles within the IEC.

The IEC General Meeting provides an opportunity for YPs not only to meet and engage with industry leaders, standardization experts and IEC officers, but also to help shape the future of the IEC.

At the 2025 IEC General Meeting, 93 YPs from 46 national committees participated in a workshop to both deepen their understanding of IEC work while also contributing innovative ideas and feedback on several IEC initiatives.

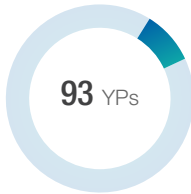
IEC YP Programme since 2010

~1 000 participants

67 IEC National Committees

~40% active roles in the IEC

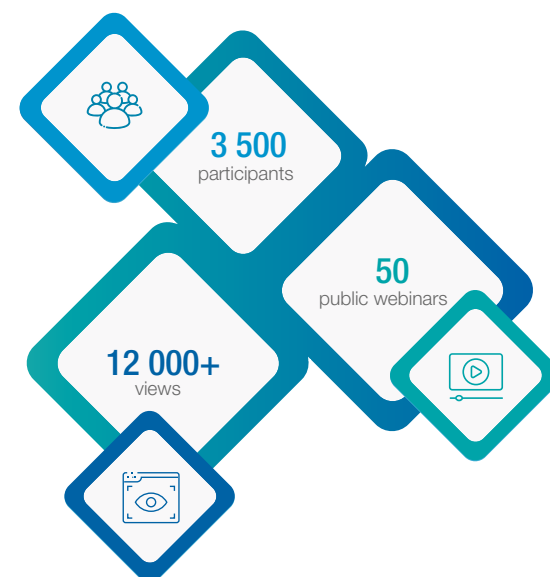
2025 YPs participation



Training and development

Continually developing the capacity and knowledge of our members and technical experts is a strong pillar of our strategic plan and essential for us to realize our vision of the IEC everywhere for a safer and more efficient world. In addition to our rich database of online learning materials, we have a vast array of training programmes tailored to support our various stakeholder groups.

In 2025, we trained over 3 500 people in eight customized events and organized more than 50 public webinars that attracted over 12 000 views. We also, in conjunction with ISO, created the Champions Network to help accompany members through our digital transformation in the most effective and collaborative way.



Champions Network

In 2025, the Champions Network was established to encourage greater engagement by members in the joint IEC and ISO SMART programme. Consisting of 62 nominated national champions from 49 countries, along with more than 130 other stakeholders from industry, government, academia and other relevant organizations, the network participated in four information sharing sessions as well as many numerous tailored communication and training events. A total of 20 champions contributed to digital sessions at the IEC General Meeting and the ISO Annual Meeting. There is also an active and growing LinkedIn community and ongoing collaboration with the new SDU.

The power of collaboration

People are at the heart of everything we do, and our achievements reflect the dedication, expertise and shared purpose of the entire IEC community.

Below is a snapshot of some of the defining moments of collaboration and innovation that have shaped our work over the past year.

Our global community

IEC draws its strength from its diversity of voices. Which is why a key pillar of our vision is to lead on trust, inclusion and collaboration.





Young professionals leading the way

The IEC General Meeting provides an opportunity for the IEC Young Professionals not only to meet and engage with industry leaders, experts and IEC officers but also to help shape the future of international standardization.



Sharing a more equitable tomorrow

IEC is committed to advancing women's full participation in standardization, recognizing the value of diverse perspectives. By fostering inclusive engagement, we ensure that standards and conformity assessment reflect the needs of all users, delivering safer and more beneficial outcomes for society.

Our gender-responsive standards initiative promotes the integration of gender perspectives into standards development, ensuring that they are inclusive, relevant and deliver equitable benefits for all.

Be part of the change



Empowering communities

Our Global Impact Fund brings together National Committees, local partners and communities to deliver lasting impact where it is needed most. In rural Kenya, this collaborative effort is helping schools and healthcare facilities gain access to reliable electricity, creating new opportunities for the communities they serve.

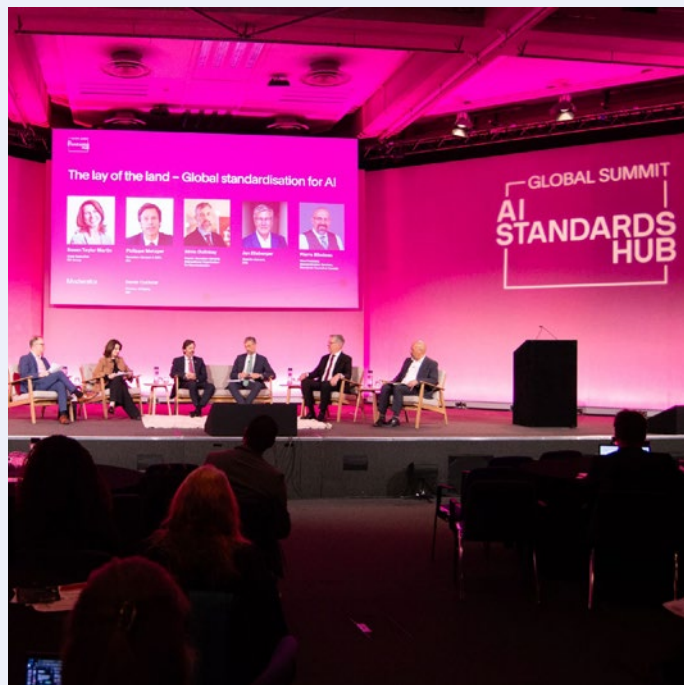
Discover the full story



Collaborating for a better tomorrow

Through engagement in global forums and strong international partnerships, we help shape the sustainability agenda worldwide. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we influence key debates and drive meaningful progress – supporting safe, responsible technologies and advancing an all-electric, connected society.

At our joint Standards Pavilion at COP30, for example, we strengthened the role of international standards in shaping effective climate policies.



Celebrating our experts

The IEC could not exist without the more than 23 000 experts around the world that come together to develop international standards. At our annual general meeting each year we present a number of awards that recognize exceptional and extensive contributions to global electrotechnical standardization.



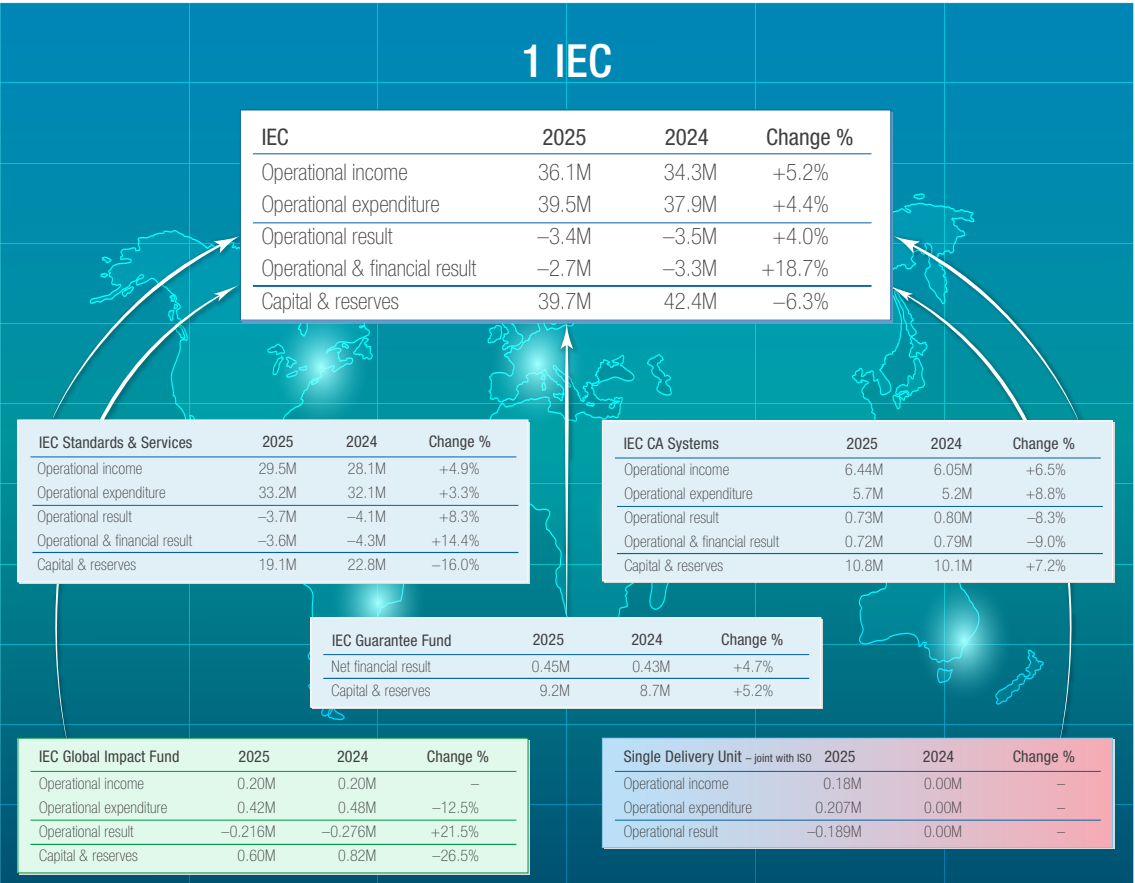


Financial highlights

The IEC is financed by a combination of membership dues and revenues from the sales of its publications, certificates, and conformity assessment services. In the 2025 IEC statutory accounts, total membership dues amounted to CHF 13,24 million (CHF 12,00 million for IEC Standards & Services and CHF 1,24 million for IEC CA Systems). Net revenues from sales and royalties together came to CHF 17,22 million.

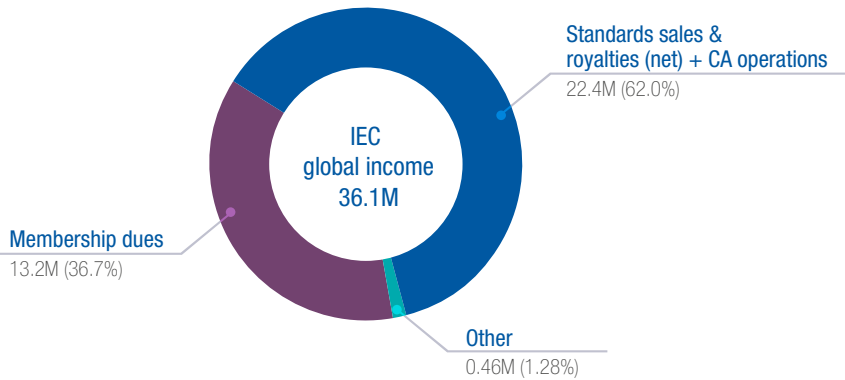
This – along with IEC CA Systems Operations and other income – resulted in a total net operational income of CHF 36,11 million, up 5,2% on last year and the highest in IEC history. Also, with the highest ever total operational expenditure in the history of the organization, at CHF 39,52 million, up 4,4%, the IEC produced an operational result for 2025 of CHF (3,40) million (4% better than 2024). Taking into account depreciation of CHF (0,43) million and net financial revenue of CHF 1,14 million, an overall allocation of CHF (2,69) million was assigned from Capital & Reserves: CHF (3,9) million from IEC Standards & Services, CHF 0,72 million to IEC CA Systems and CHF 0,45 million to the Guarantee Fund. This fund is a monetary investment reserve set up to ensure that at all times throughout the financial year, the IEC Secretariat (IEC SEC) is able to meet its debts and liabilities.

The Operational & Financial Result at CHF (2,69) million was still negative, but CHF 4,5 million less negative than in the approved budget. Total royalties paid to National Committees on both IEC sales and royalties received from IEC SEC appointed resellers rose by +6.0% from CHF 11,17 in 2024 to 11,83 million in 2025. Compared to world financial markets, IEC investments and the Guarantee Fund still performed relatively well in an uncertain environment.



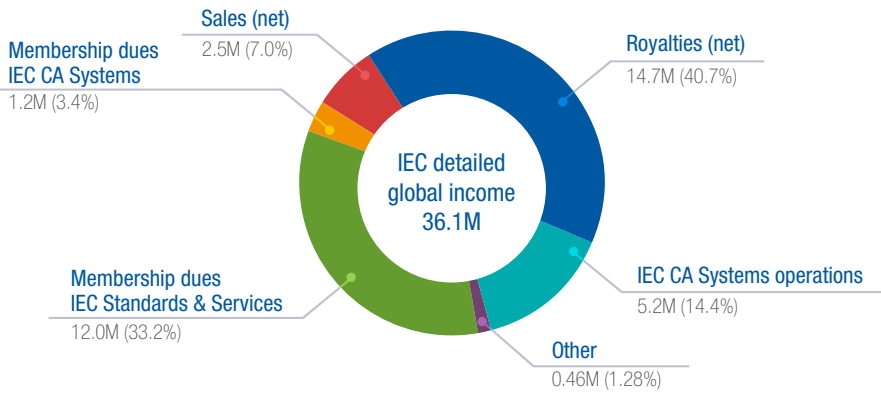
IEC global income

IEC funding is composed of 37% membership dues and 62% net sales, royalties, and conformity assessment operations with 1% of other income.



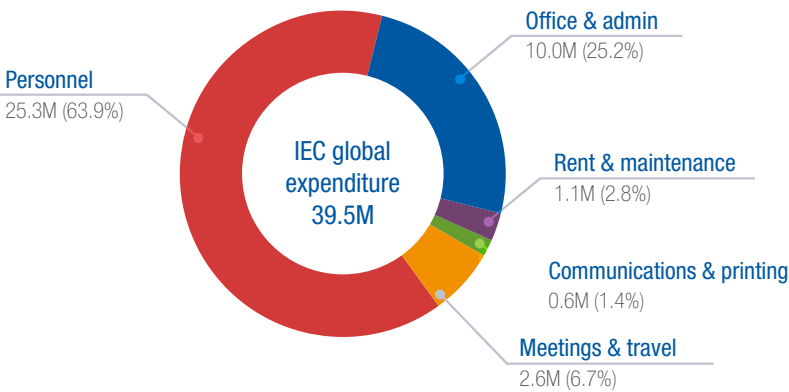
IEC detailed global income

IEC Standards & Services contribute 82% of IEC global income, comprising membership dues, net sales & royalties, and other income. Sales & royalties (net) are 48% of the IEC total. Revenue from IEC CA Systems for membership dues and operations represents 18% of IEC global income.



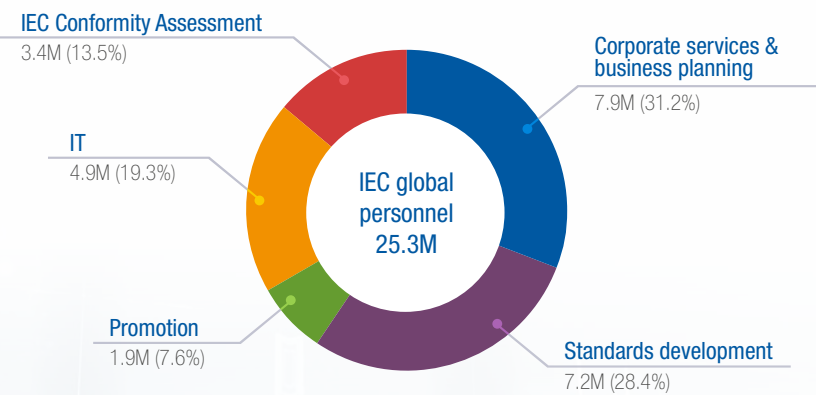
IEC global expenditure

As a service organization dealing almost exclusively in intellectual know-how, personnel along with office & administration account for 89% of IEC global expenditure. Note, again, increased spending on meetings & travel this year, now back to pre-pandemic levels.



IEC global personnel expenditure

A breakdown of personnel costs shows that the largest concentration of effort and expenditure is focused on the development of standards, IT services and corporate services & business planning.



Balance sheet as at 31st December 2025

	2025 CHF	2024 CHF
Assets		
Current assets	50 548 065	53 114 194
Cash & cash equivalents	7 701 505	10 066 841
Securities	31 469 304	32 628 594
Securities (IEC pool investment)	22 962 755	24 300 345
Securities (Guarantee fund)	8 506 549	8 328 249
Accounts receivable	3 554 512	3 915 339
Publications and royalties	2 083 872	2 075 545
Membership dues (all years)	888 588	886 509
CA products receivable	582 052	953 285
Other receivables	404 547	183 989
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	7 418 197	6 319 432
Long term assets	1 329 254	1 269 378
Rental guarantee	137 215	137 145
Trademarks	886 494	1 000 857
Tangible fixed assets, net	305 546	131 376
Total assets	51 877 320	54 383 572
Liabilities, capital & reserves		
Current liabilities	12 211 455	12 031 923
Short-term liabilities	9 001 277	8 838 617
Suppliers	2 721 979	1 091 022
Royalties to be paid	5 038 786	6 007 806
Social charges and insurances to be paid	1 240 512	1 739 789
Deferred income and accrued liabilities	1 910 117	1 956 039
Accrued liabilities	998 065	1 307 566
Membership dues received in advance	555 596	335 445
Publications income received in advance	356 456	313 029
Provisions	1 300 061	1 237 267
Provision for untaken holiday	430 689	367 895
Provision for IECEX & IECQ	869 372	869 372
Capital & reserves	39 665 865	42 351 649
Free capital	16 693 749	15 971 319
Guarantee fund	9 155 717	8 706 788
Designated funds	13 816 399	17 673 542
Reserve for operational & financial risk	2 472 668	2 472 668
Reserve for fluctuation of investment portfolio	1 300 000	1 300 000
Reserve for equipment depreciation & renewal	1 381 641	1 610 589
Reserve for general meeting	800 000	800 000
Reserve for strategy/masterplan	3 960 840	5 110 148
Reserve for innovation & digitalization	1 000 000	3 262 430
IECEE development and implementation of new services	1 000 000	1 000 000
IECEE development and support of IECEE infrastructure	1 000 000	1 000 000
IECEX reserve for innovation & promotion	300 000	300 000
Global Impact Fund	601 251	817 708
Total liabilities, capital & reserves	51 877 320	54 383 572

Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures.

Statement of income & expenditure as at 31 st December 2025	Budget 2025 (unaudited)	2025	2024
	CHF	CHF	CHF
Income			
Membership dues	13 245 550	13 242 871	13 609 013
Net sales	2 901 950	2 523 523	2 712 722
Gross sales	6 486 350	6 404 516	6 540 871
Commission & other expenses	(185 400)	(260 982)	(226 253)
Royalties to NCs	(3 399 000)	(3 620 012)	(3 601 896)
Net royalties	13 256 100	14 692 507	13 305 175
Gross royalties	21 496 100	22 906 164	20 872 114
Royalties to NCs	(8 240 000)	(8 213 657)	(7 566 939)
IEC CA Systems operations	4 792 076	5 190 993	4 093 525
Participation fees	588 000	524 500	554 000
Certificates	3 176 076	3 341 228	2 368 374
Assessment fees	552 000	877 003	672 652
TRF forms	251 000	207 150	268 188
Training	20 000	65 970	20 860
Other	205 000	175 142	209 452
Other income	300 000	463 364	593 781
Total operational income	34 495 676	36 113 257	34 314 216
Expenditure			
Personnel expenses	27 420 558	25 261 646	24 881 839
Corporate services & business planning	8 290 200	7 872 868	8 006 534
Standards development	7 660 850	7 181 800	7 382 320
Promotion	2 551 225	1 919 503	2 020 129
IT	5 336 150	4 887 574	4 253 766
Conformity assessment	3 582 133	3 397 901	3 219 090
Rent & maintenance	1 140 000	1 098 191	1 197 219
Office & administration	9 553 163	9 960 976	8 984 481
IT	3 372 542	3 953 484	3 415 367
Legal & audit	200 000	381 660	147 062
White papers	150 000	168 251	113 200
Other office & administration	2 405 621	2 579 238	2 791 722
Assessment costs	500 000	756 631	592 765
Digitalization	2 925 000	2 121 712	1 924 365
Communications & printing	630 000	559 337	445 307
Communications	560 000	516 010	391 429
Printing	70 000	43 327	53 877
Meetings & travel expenses	2 792 000	2 635 439	2 349 649
Meeting	545 000	574 088	515 489
Travel	2 247 000	2 061 351	1 834 160
Total operational expenditure	41 535 721	39 515 589	37 858 495
Operational result	(7 040 045)	(3 402 332)	(3 544 279)
Depreciation	(306 613)	(426 597)	(901 115)
Net financial revenue	169 000	1 143 145	1 140 209
Operational & financial result	(7 177 658)	(2 685 784)	(3 305 185)

Operational & financial result before allocations	(7 177 658)	(2 685 784)	(3 305 185)
IEC Standards & Services		(3 451 752)	(4 251 637)
IECEE		233 490	434 365
IECEX		214 474	121 298
IECQ		144 576	99 675
IECRE		129 890	138 244
Guarantee fund		448 929	428 765
Global Impact Fund		(216 457)	(275 896)
Single Delivery Unit		(188 932)	0
Allocations			
Allocations (to)/from capital & reserves	7 177 658	2 685 784	3 305 185
Capital fund IEC Standards & Services for GIF		0	356 040
Capital fund IECEE	133 834	(233 490)	(434 365)
Capital fund IECEE for GIF		0	61 544
Capital fund IECEX	(43 489)	(214 474)	(121 298)
Capital fund IECEX for GIF		0	26 572
Capital fund IECQ	(10 032)	(144 576)	(99 675)
Capital fund IECQ for GIF		0	5 978
Capital fund IECRE	(3 973)	(129 890)	(138 244)
Guarantee fund		(448 929)	(428 765)
Designated funds			
Reserve for standards development & business platform		0	670 300
Reserve for equipment depreciation & renewal	100 000	228 948	23 505
Reserve for innovation & digitalization	3 661 761	2 262 430	3 557 831
Reserve for strategy/masterplan	3 339 557	1 149 308	0
Global Impact Fund		0	(450 134)
Global Impact Fund		216 457	275 896
Annual position after allocations	0	0	0

In a move to increase transparency, comprehension and comparability of its financial data, the IEC transitioned to Swiss GAAP accounting standards in 2018. Swiss GAAP was adopted to give management, members and the community a better overall insight into the operations of the IEC, thus facilitating communication, understanding, planning and decision-making.

Further information

For further information, please visit the IEC website at www.iec.ch. In the “Who we are” section, you can contact your local IEC National Committee directly. Alternatively, please contact the IEC Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland or the nearest IEC Regional Centre.

IEC Secretariat

IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission

3 rue de Varembé
PO Box 131
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
T +41 22 919 0211
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

IEC Regional Centres

Africa

IEC-AFRC – Africa Regional Centre

7th Floor, Block One, Eden Square
Chiromo Road, Westlands
PO Box 856
00606 Nairobi
Kenya
T +254 20 367 3000
M +254 791 010 491 / +254 704 937 706
Fax +254 20 374 0913
fya@iec.ch

Asia Pacific

IEC-APRC – Asia-Pacific Regional Centre
2 Bukit Merah Central #15-02
Singapore 159835
T +65 6377 5173
dch@iec.ch

Latin America

IEC-LARC – Latin America Regional Centre

Rua Maranhão, 554 – Sala 71 Higienópolis
São Paulo – SP – CEP 01240-904
Brazil
T +55 11 3666 0131
as@iec.ch

North America

IEC-ReCNA – Regional Centre for North America

446 Main Street, 16th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608
USA
T +1 508 755 5663
pjl@iec.ch

IEC Conformity Assessment Systems

IECEE / IECRE

c/o IEC – International Electrotechnical Commission
3 rue de Varembé
PO Box 131
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
T +41 22 919 0211
secretariat@iecee.org / www.iecee.org
secretariat@iecre.org / www.iecre.org

IECEX / IECQ

The Executive Centre
Australia Square, Level 33
264 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
T +61 2 4628 4690
Fax +61 2 4627 5285
info@iecex.com / www.iecex.com
info@iecq.org / www.iecq.org

International Electrotechnical Commission

3 rue de Varembe
PO Box 131
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

T +41 22 919 0211
info@iec.ch

For more information visit www.iec.ch

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