



## **IFIP Working Group 10.5 Minute Meeting**

***April 21, 2026 4:00pm – 6:00 pm***

***Verona (Italy) @DATE 2026***

Notes taken by Graziano Pravadelli

**Attendees in presence:** Graziano Pravadelli, Said Hamdiou, L. Miguel Silveira, Leticia M. Bolzani Pohls, Sara Vinco, Florenc Demrozi, Tiziana Margaria, Achim Rettberg, Ian O'Connor, Chi Ying Tsui, Yuanqing Cheng

**Attendees in remote mode:** Victor Grimblatt, Fatih Ugurdag, Abe Elfadel, Jurgen Becker, Salvador Mir, Pierre Emmanuel Gaillardon, Katel Morin Allory, Luc Claesen

**Apologies:** Giovanni De Micheli, Matteo Sonza Reorda

### **Agenda**

- Communication
- Nomination of the WG Chair for the period October 2026-October 2029
- Special issue JETC (VLSI-SOC 2025)
- Status of VLSI-SOC 2026
- Status of VLSI-SOC 2027
- Proposal for VLSI-SOC 2028

### **1. Communication**

#### **From previous WG meeting**

The chair reported some communications from the previous meeting (October 2025 in Puerto Varas) because only a few WG member where present.

#### ***WG membership rules***

The chair remembers the rules to be part of the WG 10.5:

- Attending WG 10.5 meetings, participating in the TPC of VLSI-SOC or the conference itself, submitting papers
- After two years of inactivity the WG chair will reach out via email to assess interest and availability to continue as part of the WG

The rules are operative from October 2024, thus in October 2026 people that were not involved as reported above will be contacted to understand if they are still interested in being part of the WG.

#### *Web site*

The chair informs that Prof. Demrozi has completed the setup of the VLSI-SOC series of events. From 2026 the current year event will be available at <https://www.vlsi-soc.com> which will be redirected to <https://vlsi-soc.github.io/vlsi-soc/>  
Past year event will be moved to <https://vlsi-soc.github.io/vlsi-soc/202X/> and linked to the main site in the past event page.

#### *Initiative derived from the mapping of competences*

The chair informs about two initiatives derived from the mapping of competences.

Submission of an EU COST action proposal, titled “*Hardware-Aware AI Architectures for Scalable and Interpretable Genome-Wide Regulatory Modeling*”, to finance the organization of workshops, schools, meetings among international researchers.

The proposal has been coordinated by prof. Rosalba Giugno (UNIVR) that asked to identify people with expertise in AI-aware architecture design and optimization. The following WG 10.5 members have been then involved: N. Bombieri, L. Bolzani Phoelps, F. Demrozi, S. Germiniani, G. Pravadelli, L.M. Silveira, F. Ugurdag, Ozyegin University, Turkey, E.I. Vatajelu. If funded further people can be invited to participate.

The notification is expected by May 21.

#### *Organization of the Advanced School on AI and Intelligent Systems (AIS)*

The school is at the second edition. <https://ais-school.org>.

In 2025 it was in Favignana island (Italy) from September 1 to September 5. It was supported by IEEE CEDA, Synopsys, University of Verona, and Municipality of Favignana, with the contribution from the following members of the WG: N.Bombieri, G. Pravadelli, M. Sonza Reorda, Y. Cheng, I. O'Connor and A. Elfadel.

There were 24 participants 11 PhD students, 12 university faculties, 1 from industry. It included 3 lectures from M. Sonza Reorda (Politecnico di Torino, IT), Y. Zoriant (Synopsys, USA), Abe Elfadel (Khalifa University, UAE), and 6 tutorials organized by Y. Chen.

In 2026, it be host again in Favignana to amortise 2025 effort and consolidate the school organization. The date will be anticipated to June 8-11, which seems a better period for maximizing participation of PhD students.

Four lecturers have been already confirmed their presence (Giovanni De Micheli – EFL, Ian O'Connor – ECPL, Elham Azizi – Columbia University and Yearvant Zoriant – Synopsys). In addition 4 tutorials are also confirmed (Lorenzo Ruggeri – University of Verona, Yuanqing Cheng – Beihang University, Wei Xing – University of Sheffield, Eva Viesi, Gustavo Cardenas and Ugo Perricone – Ri.MED Foundation)

WG members are invited to attend and share the initiative within their contact network.

#### **IFIP awards**

The chair remember it is time to nominate people for IFIP award. Only IFIP fellow and IFIP service award can be nominated this year, IFIP silver core award is only on odd years.

Luis Miguel, award chair, announced the award committee decided to nominate Manfred Glesner for the IFIP fellowship, with two references already secured and waiting for a third

from Ricardo. Dominique Borrione was also nominated; she was sincerely thankful for the fact that we were planning to do this and thanked us for the idea, but states that she has been retired and away for a long time, so she respectfully declined.

### **ICORE ranking**

The chair informs he completed on June 2025, the submission of VLSI-SOC documentation for the ICORE ranking (<https://www.core.edu.au>) asking for the class B.

Unfortunately the evaluation committee decided to assign class C due to lower citation impact (7%) and selectivity issues (acceptance rate: 38%-45%).

Graziano recommends to keep the acceptance rate near 30% but this requires to attract a higher number of papers w.r.t. the past editions.

Said suggested to use special sessions, which are not considered for the acceptance rate, to fill in the technical program when necessary.

### **Communication from the TC 10 chair**

Achim, as TC 10 chair, provided an update on IFIP's financial situation, noting that the organization survived the COVID-19 pandemic. However, he explained that the recent change of the IFIP president and of the IFIP bank created some financial problems because IFIP cannot take advantage from high interest rates with the new bank.

This required to reduce the support for PhD students, with the introduction of the following rule "PhD fundings to support the participation to an IFIP event in year X will depend on the surplus originated by the same event in year X-1. In particular 50% of the surplus will be available". Given that in 2025 VLSI-SOC had a very small surplus (about 500€), there will be no support for PhD student participation in 2026.

Achim also discussed changes to the publishing contract with Springer, which now provides 4 euros per page instead of 2 euros, though some conferences have moved away from the IFIP umbrella, resulting in lost revenue.

## **2. Nomination of the new WG 10.5 chair for the period October 2026-October 2029**

Graziano remembered the IFIP bylaws, at art. 4.2.7 say:

- «The term of office of Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be three years and may be renewed once only»
- «The Chair of the Working Group is appointed by the TC or SG Chair upon the recommendation of the Technical Committee or Specialist Group»

Then, a new chair candidate will be nominated during the WG meeting next October 2026 during VLSI-SOC and submitted to the TC 10 chair for consideration.

Interested WG members are then invited to propose their candidature.

Victor said he is going to submit his candidature and he will share his thoughts by email in the coming weeks.

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- Status of VLSI-SOC 2026
- Status of VLSI-SOC 2027

### 3. Special issue JETC (VLSI-SOC 2025)

Graziano reported that 44 manuscripts were submitted, but only 7 are extended versions of VLSI-SOC 2025 papers.

The reason could be the announcement of the special issue was made too late, and the submission site opened at the end of January 2026

For the future Graziano suggested the program chairs start the process related to the special session immediately after the closing of the conference to avoid extended version are submitted to other venues. He also suggested to clearly state the rule in the web site and in the call for paper. Authors of all accepted regular papers are invited to submit an extended version to the special issue of ACM JETC.

At the end Graziano asked collaboration from the WG members for the review of journal papers such that we can respect the notification deadline indicated in the call for contribution.

### 4. Status of VLSI-SOC 2026

Tiziana and Florenc presented the status of the organization for 2026. The conference will be in Limassol, Cyprus, from October 11 (tutorial day) to 14 at the St. Raphael hotel.

Florenc provided an overview of the organizing committee, which includes representatives from various institutions and regions, aiming for gender balance and international participation.

Keynote speakers (Valeria Bertacco, Nanni De Micheli and Freddy Gabbay), industrial talks (Victor Grimblatt, Wolfgang Ecker, Odysseas Economides) and panelists (Frank K. Gurkaynak, Sandro Belfanti, Valerio Tenace, Christos Sotiriou) were confirmed, with efforts underway to secure additional participants.

The abstract submission deadline was extended by two weeks, resulting in 90 papers submitted so far, with expectations of an additional 20-25 papers.

The review process will involve at least three reviewers per paper, and discussions are ongoing regarding the organization of special sessions.

Accepted regular papers will be invited to submit an extended version to ACM JETC while special session papers will be invited to submit an extended version to the Springer Book.

### 5. Status of VLSI-SOC 2027

Yuanqing reported the status of the organization of VLSI-SOC 2027 in Beijing. Due to Chinese holidays at the beginning of October, the conference will be held from Sept. 26 to Sept. 29.

300 participants are expected.

Sponsor partners will involve some companies like Huawei, Lenovo, Byd, Mi, Alibaba, etc.

GCs will be Prof. Yue Zhang and Prof. Amara Amara from Beihang University, China.

Proposed PCs are: Dr. Yervant Zoriant, Prof. Yongpan Liu and prof. Sorin Cotofana.

Yuanqing summarized the proposed schedule that include also an optional social event the day after the closing of the conference including the Great Wall Tour or the Forbidden City Tour.

Yuanqing proposed to extend the conference topics to include some emerging areas like quantum computing.

Complete information about the venue were presented as reported below. Rooms are adequate to host a high number of participants.

Conference fees are in line with the past years (600 USD for early registration of IEEE/IFIP members, 250 USD for students).

Graziano suggested to involve WG members in the TPC paying attention to identify them accordingly to the mapping of competence.

Salvador said extending the topics outside competence mapping is a good idea given the high number of expected participants.

Said identified a potential risk in having only senior people in the role of program chairs.

Florenc suggested to give continuity to the organizational roles, such that the co-chair for year X can be the co-chair for year X+1.

## **6. Proposal for VLSI-SOC 2028**

Currently there are no proposal for 2028. WG members are invited to solicit proposals.

Graziano said about the possibility of organizing the conference in Mexico in 2028 but the person that contacted him at Puerto Varas did not advance a proposal after the initial interest.

**Next meeting: at VLSI-SOC 2026.**