[cool-down](#) after [hackmeeting 2025](#)

from Friday, July 25 to Sunday, July 27, 2025
at MIAI and MusIF Museums Laboratory and Depot: Ex-CUD Building - Via C.B. Cavour 4, Rende (CS)

..for the fifth consecutive year, a midsummer weekend dedicated to the restoration of the GE-120 system of the MIAI and MusIF museums!

As you may know by now, in 2017 we recovered this big thing, which ran the Zurich airport in the 1970s, and we are working to bring it back to life!

** How far along are we with the restoration?

In the past 4 editions we examined the documentation, which was later on also entirely digitally acquired and [published on archive.org](#). We tested and, wherever necessary, repaired all the logic boards that make up the CPU of the system, by restoring the original diagnostic console. The console has been also replaced and integrated with modern embedded devices designed, built and programmed by us.

Finally, last year we eventually ignited the spark, by turning the CPU on! \o/

The CPU does stuff, and seems to have its own "stability", but it seems to have a FAULT turned on, so we are not sure yet if it is actually working as expected (e.g. it looks like we don't have a CLOCK yet).

** What is the plan for this session?

In order to understand whether the processor is doing what it's supposed to do, and if it is doing that in the way it's supposed to do it, it's necessary to run software tests. The diagnostic routines needed to proceed with the tests are saved on punched cards.

The tasks for this session are to continue studying the processor (both the internal workings of its operation and the practical procedure for starting up the computer), and to get the device capable of reading punched cards up and running, to send the diagnostic programs to the system!

Between the summer of 2024 and the spring of 2025, we began building a prototype reader by (reversibly!) modifying an old 1970s Burroughs tabletop punched card reader. We already have some early software drafts for converting images into binary code. We hope to complete this activity and begin thoroughly testing the CPU by running the code stored on the cards.

We also have a backup plan for the "card reading" part of this project: designing from scratch a modern hardware/software contraption to quickly capture the cards, for example using a scanner with a feeder along with software to recognize the punched positions.

** What else are we going to do?

As in past years, joining the restoration group isn't essential!

There are spaces that can be used for seminars, so bring your talk and maybe someone will be willing to listen to you.

Finally, Friday evening is open to audiovisual improvisations and experimentation - anyone who wants to can join the jam!

** ...to sum it up,

Please add your presence to this table to help us organize everything.

LOGISTICS AND FAQS:

*** *When is it happening?*
from Friday, July 25 to Sunday, July 27, 2025

*** *How do we get there?*
the former CUD is located here: https://www.openstreetmap.org/way/259888162
By car: exit at Rende (formerly "Cosenza Nord") from the SA-RC highway.
By train: the nearest station (~2km) is Castiglione Cosentino.
By plane: destination is Lamezia (SUF airport) and then regional bus to
Cosenza/Rende or city bus to Lamezia Terme Centrale (station) and then train.

*** *Where do we sleep?*
For a number of reasons you can't sleep on site, so announce your presence by
writing to: museum (at) verdebinario (dot) org and we will try to help you find an
accommodation compatible with your budget ...or make do on your own, the city is
not expensive.

*** *What about eating?*
We are not equipped to cook and run a kitchen.
a small refreshment area has been set up to support daily life, and there are several
supermarkets, groceries, bars and trattorias nearby, all quite cheap... but there will
be some convivial moments ;-)

*** *Can I wash myself up?*
We have hot water available in two bathrooms with showers!

*** *Can I come a few days early/stay a few days longer?*
Of course you can! Let us know a little in advance so we can arrange to do things
together.

*** *Can I ditch you for a while and go sightseeing in the surrounding area?*
Yes! The place is conveniently located to allow those who want to combine the
meeting with excursions to the sea or mountains.

*** *Can I bring animals with me?*

Animals are welcome: just take care of them yourself and be sure not to hurt others' sensibility.

*** *Accessibility*
The building is completely accessible to people with limited mobility. There's also the option of a "timeout" zone for neurodiverse people.

*** *Can I bring young children with me?*
There will be a dedicated area for children and an area for breastfeeding and nursery.

*** *Can I smoke?*
No smoke allowed inside the building, no matter if normal cigarettes or electronic ones. There are outdoor areas for smokers.

*** *I didn't quite understand what's being done.*
Don't worry, come anyway, we'll have fun.