

EACN Newsletter - July 2021

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

This third EACN Newsletter again contains many interesting information, thank you all for your input.

EACN is growing! The Executive Board validated on 13 July the application of ACS Automotive Cluster of Slovenia (GIZ ACS), and we warmly welcome our new partner. Besides GIZ ACS, it is this time up to Polish Automotive Group PGM (Poland) and to CARA European Cluster for Mobility (France) to present themselves. We will continue these presentations in the next newsletters to give you ideas for cooperation. This is particularly interesting with regard to the just published official work programmes for the Horizon Europe. The links to the work programmes are in the 'Further information' section at the end of this Newsletter.

During the last Executive Board Meeting on 13 June, we had the opportunity to discuss about past and future actions of EACN. The main point was CEAGA's suggestion and proposal to modernise the logo as follows:



EB Members unanimously adopted the proposition, the new logo shall be used for all new communication issues in the future.

We are particularly happy that two consortia with EACN members have got funding in the 2021 COSME call on Cluster Excellence. Projects will open opportunities for cluster staff and SMEs to exchange and mutually learn from each other. You can find the presentation of the EVOLUTE project in this newsletter.

Contact has also been made with further European automotive clusters in Germany, Slovenia, Austria, the Netherlands, and other countries. First exchanges took place with some of them. Hopefully, during the summer break, some of them decide to join the network.

We wish you a restful and healthy summer break.

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentations

ACS Automotive Cluster of Slovenia (GIZ ACS)

This year ACS, Automotive cluster of Slovenia, celebrates 20 years of operation and constant development and growth.

In 2001 the cluster was established at the initiative of the Ministry for economy by the 15 most prominent suppliers to the automotive industry, today we are bringing together over 100 companies. The core of the membership is still automotive industry, which with more than 30.000 employees represents approximately 10% of Slovenian GDP and over 20% of Slovenian Export.

Within the membership a little less than 50% are micro and small companies, 20% medium enterprises, 20% big companies and the rest are research and educational institutions. With strong tradition in the electrical and metal processing industries, members with more than 80% of exports are strongly involved in European supply chains, many of them as established niche suppliers.



Tanja Mohorič, Managing Director

As association, ACS supports members at their development with different activities. We pay as much attention as possible to the networking since we believe that the best ideas are developed in open discussion and that our mission is in establishing environment that supports and encourages dialog among different players.

Besides that we organize our work with members into different working groups in the fields of green mobility, connected and autonomous driving, digital transformation and knowledge and education.

Of course, we support our members with their promotion within Slovenia and at their potential business partners. The important part of our activities is dedicated to connecting members in the field of research, development, and innovation. In the near future, we would like to initiate an in-depth discussion between companies and educational institutions on the necessary transformation of the automotive industry and the related requirements for the development of new competencies and knowledge.

Important role of ACS is also the communication of the needs, plans and goals of Slovenian automotive industry towards Slovenian government.

In EACN, we are looking forward to cooperating and collaborating in projects and the different working groups.

Contact: **Dunja Podlesnik**, Head of project office,
dunja.podlesnik@acs-giz.si
[Website](#) | [ECCP Profile](#)

Polish Automotive Group Cluster (PGM)

The Polish Automotive Group (PGM) was established in November 2016 and is the first nationwide association in Poland that brings together only Polish manufacturers of automotive parts and accessories.



Bartosz Mielecki, Managing Director

PGM associates about 50 suppliers of parts and components for the automotive industry, and 3 research and development units. In total, it is over 8,000 employees and a turnover of approximately 786 million euros.

In 2019 PGM was awarded with the status of the National Key Cluster, which means that it is one of several such organizations in Poland, that have a key impact on the economy. In PGM we have created unique conditions for the development of Polish, innovative automotive entrepreneurship. Our main focus is to integrate and stimulate growth of this community. We are organising gatherings in the factories, facilitating their business cooperation, organising trainings for them, supporting their R&D projects, and stimulating their transformation to Industry 4.0. We are trying to make the best use out of

their synergies and scale effect. We are also representing the interests of Polish automotive manufacturers before the public administration. We maintain effective relations with local governments, public, non-governmental and business-related institutions.

Contact: **Bartosz Mielecki**, Managing Director,
[✉ bartosz.mielecki@pgm.org.pl](mailto:bartosz.mielecki@pgm.org.pl)
[Website](#) | [ECCP Profile](#)

CARA, European Cluster for Mobility Solutions

CARA, European Cluster for mobility solutions, French cluster based in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, comprises



230 members, including manufacturers, transport operators, universities, research, and education centres. CARA also represents the PFA Automotive Industry and Mobilities.

Aiming to be the leading French cluster in Europe, CARA supports the transformation of passengers and goods transport systems and works on 6 sectors: industrial vehicles, automotive, cable transportation, river transportation, active mobility, rail transportation.

From the drawing board through to market launch, CARA implements collective actions: research and innovation projects, pilots in real life situation, and measures for the economic and industrial development of its members.



Marc Gohlke, CEO

Our services to our members include

- Strategic Intelligence
- Project guidance and support
- Networking
- Brainstorming
- Communication and promotion
- Expertise
- Training and skills

To represent our members' interests, we developed our connections through close partnerships with [etp-ALICE](#), [Four Motors for Europe](#), [Polis](#) and of course EACN. Through the [French Automotive and Mobility Network](#), our common Brussels representation with the PFA and the other automotive clusters, we take up positions ahead of

Horizon Europe work programmes publication on 4 public-private partnerships: 2ZERO, CCAM, Made In Europe, BEPA.

An example of one of our European projects: CARA is member of the European project [AWARD](#) aiming to develop and operate safe autonomous transportation systems (ATS) in a wide range of real-life logistic use cases in a variety of different scenarios.

Contact: **Marc Gohlke**, CEO, ✉ marc.gohlke@cara.eu
[Website](#) | [ECCP Profile](#)

Working group results

In the last two month, all five working groups started their work with a kick-off meeting where a responsible person or team has been chosen as well as first concrete actions.

Clusters that are not participating at any working group yet are invited to contact the SG and the WG responsible.

WG SCM

The WG met last in early June. A **catalogue of best practices on supply chain management**, generally projects implemented in the past, has been developed, and clusters belonging to the WG shared their projects. **Other EACN members** have been informed by email about this document and **are welcomed to contribute** to it too.

A Microsoft Teams group has been created allowing sharing impressions, making consultations, or uploading documents of interest in a very open participative way.

The next steps consist in thinking about regional priorities, needs or challenges to be faced in the near term, and in identifying topics of interest for future collaboration. This analysis will be commented in the next meeting or directly through the Teams group.

Contact: [Patricia Solà](#), CEAGA, with support of [Bartosz Mielecki](#), PGM

WG Mobility

The WG Mobility met twice in the past two months. The WG scope had been defined, the focus shall lay on automotive related issues in four categories: 'Politics/strategy', 'Products', 'Environment', and 'Projects and initiatives'.

A data sheet using Google forms had also been developed to **gather information about studies and documents and facilitate access to them** for all EACN members. It can be used by all WGs. Complete a data sheet by following this [Document and study data sheet \(Google\)](#) link.

WG members decided to develop a **benchmark of deployment strategies for electric charging infrastructures** in different European countries. A template is in preparation, and presentations are planned between October and December covering all countries with EACN members. You will be contacted for your country.

Contact: [Aleksandar Šaranac](#), AC Serbia

EACN WG Clean, Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

The WG CCAV met on 10 June, and clusters NextMove, PVF, NEAA, WFG, and autoklastr, presented national and regional hydrogen mobility initiatives. Other clusters will do the same in autumn.

Contact: [Vincent Le Meau](#), NextMove, and [Martin Schunkert](#), WFG Heilbronn

Project corner

Discover the first successful Cluster for Excellence project submitted by EACN members to the COS-CLUSTER-2020-3-03 call earlier this year:

EVOLUTE: wE striVe fOr cLUster Excellence

EVOLUTE stands for “wE striVe fOr cLUster Excellence” in the Automotive and Land Machine Industry. The project will be jointly conducted by the four EACN clusters **AC Serbia** (Serbia), **Autoklastr** (Czech Republic), **CAAR** (Spain), and **WFG Raum Heilbronn/DIALOG** (Germany) as well as the two clusters COMET (Italy) and FEMAC (Spain).



The EVOLUTE consortium

Submitted earlier this year under the leadership of the Heilbronn Business Development Agency (WFG Raum Heilbronn/DIALOG), the EVOLUTE proposal has now been approved within the "COS-CLUSTER-2020-3-03" call. The project will get a co-funding from the COSME programme of the European Union and officially start in February 2022.

EVOLUTE aims at building high performance clusters in the Automotive and Land Machinery Industry. Existing industry-relevant data will be analysed, future outcome will be discussed with (industry-) partners to gain comprehensive knowledge to underline strategic decisions.

The results are intended to sustainably raise the clusters to a new level of quality and to help their members and employees to be prepared for future challenges (e.g. disruptive developments, digital & green transformation, challenges due to Covid-19) through new offers and services. With more than 270 individual activities planned, cluster companies will be given the opportunity to engage, train and participate in cross-border projects.

Contact: [Dr. Patrick Dufour](#), Metall/KunststoffDIALOG c/o Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn

Partner opportunities

CARA participates in the [eDIH Minasmart](#), the consortium is looking for collaboration partners to find and offer cross-European services.

Members' lounge

Review on SEE Automotive – Connect & Supply conference, 08-09 Jun 2021



The seventh "[SEE Automotive Conference - Connect & Supply 2021](#)", the **biggest automotive conference in the wider region of South-East Europe**, was held on Jun 08-09, 2021. The conference was organized online and hosted and by the [Serbian Automotive Cluster](#).

During the conference, more than 200 high-level persons participated from more than 100 companies, mainly from the SEE/CEE region. The main conference panels were:

1. OEM Panel: Strategies and Demands for the Future - Insights from OEM Players
2. Supplier Panel: Successfully Connect and Supply in SEE
3. Innovative Support Programs, Trends and Technologies for a New Automotive Era



Igor Vijatov introducing the SEE 2021

Conference speakers and panelists came from top OEM and TIER1&2 suppliers like: PFA Plateforme Automobile (French Automotive Cluster) / Groupe Renault, Adecco Group, FORD Motor Company, BROSE Group Serbia, ROBERT BOSCH SRL, CONTINENTAL Automotive Serbia, LEONI Wiring System, 3D grupa, IFC - International Finance Corporation, Achilles Information Ltd ... During both conference days, online B2B meetings were organized.

The main message from the conference is that SEE region has a huge potential for automotive industry developing.

More about the conference you can find on the video: <https://youtu.be/-bEYfrX700k>.

Contact: [Igor Vijatov](#)/[Alexander Saranac](#), AC Serbia

New governance at Cluster Pôle Véhicule du Futur: Bruno Grandjean succeeds to Brigitte Ducruet-Bernard as General Manager

Brigitte Ducruet-Bernard, Managing Director of Pôle Véhicule du Futur, leaves the cluster at the end of July and goes into well-deserved retirement. She was responsible for the management and the development of PVF since its creation in 2005. Today, the cluster is an established and accepted partner for industry, academia, and public authorities. PVF is also cooperating on national and European level with clusters from different sectors and participates in collaborative projects. During her period at the head of the cluster, the number of members grew up to 500; and 243 funded projects with a total budget of more than 850 M€ have been initiated and accompanied. The team grew to 22 people in 2021.

Starting from 1 August, **Bruno Grandjean**, President of EACN, will officially become General Manager at Pôle Véhicule du Futur.



Brigitte Ducruet-Bernard surrounded by her successor Bruno Grandjean (left) and all former and current presidents (from left to right): Arnold Tramaille (2005-2009), Denis Rezé (2013-2019), Marc Becker (since 2019), and Georges Lammoglia (2010-2013)

Contact: [Bruno Grandjean](#), PVF

AWARD – Scaling autonomous logistics

The [AWARD project](#), cofounded by the H2020 programme of the European



Union, aims at enabling an overall **autonomous logistic chain** through safe and efficient **connected and automated** heavy-duty vehicles in **real logistics operations**. The projects focus on (1) Autonomous Driving System architecture, (2) the deployment in real-life logistics operations, and (3) a fleet management system. The project brings together 29 partners from 12 countries of which EACN member CARA. Consortium members just published two scientific papers:

- 1) Towards a Comprehensive Understanding of Stakeholder Requirements for Automated Road Transport Logistics,
- 2) Challenges for Future Automated Logistics Fleet Interactions.

Contact: [Jean-Baptiste Hahn](#), CARA | [AWARD website](#)

Heilbronn-Franken region applies again for millions in funding for hydrogen projects after successful hydrogen funding decision.

EACN member Heilbronn Business Development Agency (WFG/DIALOG) took the lead in submitting the "H2-Impuls" **funding application** on 17 May. This means that 26 partners are applying for millions in funding from the "Green Hydrogen Model Region" programme of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of the Environment.



Among the 26 partners for the funding application "H2 Impuls" are many companies, such as AUDI AG, the city of Heilbronn as well as the district administration and municipalities from the districts of Heilbronn and Schwäbisch Hall. Among the 19 projects is, for example, an energy centre with fuel cell and H2 storage for a day-care centre, further mobility initiatives with hydrogen buses, projects to reduce the CO2 production of companies by using H2.

The funding is available for one or more regions that produce and use green hydrogen locally, for example in transport, industry and building heating. According to the Ministry of the Environment, a total of up to 35 million euros is available for this purpose. A decision is expected this summer.

Even if it does not work out, the WFG will stay on the topic of hydrogen. Other funding programmes are also being considered. Most recently, the Heilbronn-Franken region won the RegioWIN 2030 funding competition with three projects, one of which was in the field of hydrogen with the title "Hydrogen Hub". A test infrastructure for hydrogen components such as fuel cells is being created at the DLR site (German Aerospace Center) in Lampoldhausen.

Contact: [Dr. Patrick Dufour](#), Metall/KunststoffDIALOG c/o Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn

CEAGA launches the 6th edition of the Business Factory Auto

The registration period for innovative projects interested in participating at the 6th edition of the **Business Factory Auto (BFA)** is open until the 22nd of September. All information can be found [here](#).

The Business Factory Auto (BFA) is an entrepreneurship initiative managed by the Galician Automotive Cluster (CEAGA) with the support of the Galician government, the Free Trade Zone Consortium of Vigo (CZJV) and Stellantis. Its objective is to accelerate and consolidate automotive projects and transform them into viable and scalable innovative companies that attract and retain talent, contributing to strengthening the position of the sector and increasing its international projection.

The selected applicants could benefit from financial support (up to 375,000€ per project), workspace, mentoring, training, networking, and direct access to the Galician automotive sector, provided that they have or set-up a company in Galicia.

The BFA has been awarded with important recognitions both at national and international level, [e.g., at the 1st edition of the "National Mobility Award" on 5 May in Madrid](#). Past editions of the BFA allowed the creation of 53 new companies in Galicia, 450 qualified jobs and €82 million of joint turnover.

Contact: [Patricia Solà](#), CEAGA

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster received PLN 3.3 million (0.75 M€) of funding for the digitization of the Cluster and the implementation of new services.

The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development awarded the Katowice Special Economic Zone S.A., coordinator of the Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster, a co-financing for the development of SA&AM Cluster's capabilities and competence and the implementation of new innovative services. The total investments amount exceeds PLN 6.5 million (EUR 1.5 million), and the total co-financing exceeds PLN 3.3 million (EUR 0.75 million).

The new services are the response to the dynamic changes in the automotive industry and advanced technologies. They are addressed at both, cluster companies and enterprises outside the Cluster, which face the challenge to undergo the economic transformation, in the context of new requirements in the automotive sector, business models in value chains and production technologies.

The activities carried out under this project will also contribute to the development of the European Digital Innovation Hub - Silesia Smart Systems, a dedicated initiative of the SA&AM Cluster Coordinator, supporting the digital transformation of companies in Poland.

Contact: [Łukasz Górecki](#), SA&AM Cluster Manager

Further information


Horizon Europe Work Programmes officially launched


The first work programmes of the Horizon Europe programme have been officially published on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#), among them the general [Introduction](#), the work programmes for Cluster 4: [Digital, Industry & Space](#) and Cluster 5: [Climate, Energy & Mobility](#) as well as the [General annexes](#).


Future of Talent in the Automotive Mobility Industry


In March 2021, the ADECCO Group released a white book on the expected re- and upskilling needs on workforce in the automotive industry in the next years. You can download the report here: [ADECCO](#)


Agenda

 13 – 15 September | Online conference
European Transport Conference 2021
[Information and registration](#)

 16 – 22 September | Towns and cities worldwide
European Mobility Week
[Information and registration by towns & cities](#)

 29 – 30 September | Belfort (FR)
Hydrogen Business For Climate Conference | co-organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur
[Information and registration](#)

 29 September – 01 October 2021 | Lyon (FR)
Battery event 2021 | co-organised by CARA
[Information](#)

 16 – 21 November 2021 | Lyon (FR)
SOLUTRANS - Global hub for heavy & light commercial vehicles | co-organised by CARA
[Information](#)

Legal notice

This is the internal newsletter of EACN. Input comes from the Executive Board members, the Secretary General as well as from EACN cluster members.

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