

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

On 24 February, the unthinkable became reality: A war started in Europe and brings everyday pain, death, and destruction to the Ukrainian people and the country.

The values of our network are based on peaceful cooperation and sharing, and we call from the bottom of our hearts for the return of peace and freedom in Ukraine.

Our thoughts are with our colleague Olga Trofymova from the Ukrainian Automotive Cluster and her family, and in a larger way with all people in Ukraine. Fortunately, she could leave her hometown Kharkiv before the heavy bombings and is now safe.

On top of two years of Covid pandemic, missing semiconductors and rarefying raw materials, this war leads to additional challenges through exploding energy costs and broken supply chains. We, clusters,

must now increase our efforts and support our companies in mastering all these challenges, in Ukraine as well as in the rest of Europe. First joint actions are already discussed on national and EACN level, immediate and practical solutions are now necessary. We also need to discuss with companies on how we can support the resurgence of the Ukrainian automotive industry once the situation calmed.

There will be also a strong need and increased pressure on companies to proceed to rapid digital and green transitions to minimise dependency on fossil fuels and to strengthen industrial resilience in Europe.

There will be a lot of work for us on top of our routine missions. Let's roll up our sleeves!

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President



Solidarity with our colleagues from Ukraine

The members of the European Automotive Cluster Network wish to express their solidarity with the colleagues and their families from the Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster and ecosystem, with those who stayed, and with those who had to flee their hometowns and even their beloved country, to escape war and death.

In the present dramatic circumstances, we give them our full support.

The values of our network are based on peaceful cooperation and sharing, and we call from the bottom of our hearts for the return of peace and freedom in Ukraine.

Mulhouse, 08 March 2022

Declaration posted on LinkedIn, ECCP, and EACN Website on 08/03/2022

Needs of the Ukrainian Automotive Industry

On 7 March, Olga Trofymova participated in an online exchange organised by our Spanish colleagues for their members. This was the opportunity to underline the different needs and support actions for the Ukrainian automotive industry. There is less urgent need for humanitarian help as this is coming from all over the world.



Olga Trofymova, Cluster Manager

The following suggestions have been made:

The most urgent step is seen in the preparation of the future development and renovation of Ukraine and its industry.

A start could be made through the consideration of the Zakarpattja region as localisation for new plants or for relocated plants and equipments from Russia, Belarus, or other Ukrainian regions. The [Eurocar assembling plant](#) (Skoda VW licensed production) is already implemented in the [Solomonovo Industrial Park](#) close to the Hungarian and Slovakian borders ([see location on Google Maps](#)). They also organise a [humanitarian logistic hub](#). Companies could move their plants to the Zakarpattja region that disposes of an important logistic hub with direct access to both neighbouring countries: Hungary and Slovakia. An English video about the automotive industry in the Zakarpattja region can be found [here](#).

And finally, European companies could support still functioning Ukrainian companies with materials and spare parts as humanitarian support to ensure that production and employments can be maintained.

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Some actions from EACN and its members

The **Spanish Automotive Cluster Association**, including **AVIA, CAAR, CEAGA, and CIAC**, launched a survey on the impact of the war on their companies as well as a set of discussion events with their members to discuss and set up support actions. EACN joined the survey and asked EACN member clusters to **conduct a similar survey** in their respective ecosystems to get a pan-European insight on the situation. Other clusters, e.g., **Autoklastr** or **ARIA Haut-de-France**, already did own surveys.

The **European Cluster Collaboration Platform** set up the [ECCP Clusters' Support to Ukraine discussion forum](#). The platform includes three groups: Needs; Offers; Logistics & Coordination. It aims "at enhancing the ability of European industry to contribute to the delivery of humanitarian aid for Ukraine and at supporting Ukrainian refugees in MS countries." **Olga Trofymova** from the Ukrainian Automotive Cluster is coordinator of the platform on behalf of the Ukrainian clusters.

The first **EACN Coffee Break** addresses the topic "War in Ukraine: EACN clusters and their support to companies". It will take place on Wednesday 23 March from 13:00 to 14:00 and can be joined [through this link](#). Registration is not necessary.

Cluster presentations

FACYL

FACYL – Automotive Cluster from Castilla y León

FACYL is the Automotive Cluster from the Spanish region Castilla y León. It brings together 80 members representing almost all the turnover of the automotive industry in the region and a wide range of companies across the whole value chain. Amongst its partners there are OEMs located in Castilla y León: manufacturers of automotive components and systems, providers of integral industrial production services, auxiliary service companies, engineering firms, start-ups, universities, and technological centres, all specializing in this sector. Almost 43% of its members are SMEs.

The general objective of FACYL is to contribute to the strengthening of the regional sector. The cluster develops actions aimed at improving the competitiveness of its members by implementing initiatives to promote technological changes and

anticipate market challenges, including sharing strategies, exchanging good practices, sponsoring initiatives in cooperation, promoting training actions and dissemination of relevant events and activities.



Ana Núñez Nava, Cluster Manager

In 2021 the cluster launched its new roadmap, 2021-2024 FACYL Strategic Plan, based on 6 main axes:

- ▲ Innovation
- ▲ Digital Transformation
- ▲ Efficiency
- ▲ Sustainability
- ▲ Business Development
- ▲ Communication & Visibility

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AC Serbia

Serbian Automotive Cluster - AC Serbia network includes Serbian companies and institutions that are producing automotive parts and components, respectively providing services in the automotive sector. AC Serbia was founded in 2010 by 10 suppliers, today it brings together 55 members. Cluster members mainly produce metal, plastic, and rubber parts, but lately more and more companies from the IT sector, active in the development of software for the automotive industry, are joining the cluster.

AC Serbia main goals are:

- ▲ Extending connections between Serbian and European automotive industry,
- ▲ Increasing the competitiveness of the members,
- ▲ Supporting companies to be part of international supply chains of European car producers,

- ▲ Improving the economic situation within the whole automotive supplier sector in Serbia

AC Serbia main activities are Marketing, Education and Consulting, Communication and Cooperation, Digitalisation and Industry 4.0, Export support, Research and Development, Quality Management Certification, and Lobbying.



Igor Vijatov, Cluster Manager

AC Serbia participates in domestic and EU projects, such as, currently, the EVOLUTE Project co-funded by the European Union as part of the Cluster excellence programme in cooperation with EACN members Autoklastr and CAAR, and other partners. AC Serbia is also leader of the EACN Mobility workgroup.

AC Serbia traditionally organizes the largest conference on the automotive industry in the SEE region, the next [SEE Conference](#) will be held on 31.05-01.06.2022 in Belgrade.

Members' lounge

Paul Butler: Seven successful years at the NEAA



Paul Butler, CEO

Congratulations to Paul Butler for 7 years successfully leading the North East Automotive Alliance NEAA.

After 10 years at the North East of England Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC), he took the challenge and opportunity to launch the NEAA in March 2015. Today, the NEAA is an industry led and membership-based cluster to support the sustainable economic growth and competitiveness of the British North East automotive sector. It is the largest automotive cluster in the UK and is widely recognised as an exemplar cluster. Find the full interview with Paul Butler about the NEAA's achievements on the [NEAA Website](#).

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, Poland: International Automotive Business Meeting

5-6 April 2022, Sosnowiec, Poland



The [International Automotive Business Meeting \(IABM\)](#) is organized by Katowice Special Economic Zone, Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Poland.

Top automotive industry experts and professionals from Central and Eastern Europe, and international guests meet in Sosnowiec/Poland to share best industry practices, promote innovative ideas and solutions, benchmark, and network to build long-lasting industry relationships. IABM includes, e.g.,

- ▲ VIP BUYER: a programme allowing networking with car manufacturers and selected Tier 1 and Tier 2,
- ▲ SBM: speed-networking opportunities in Networking Groups, 2 minutes to present a company,
- ▲ an elegant dinner in the Sielecki Castel,
- ▲ Espresso with IABM: stimulating on-camera interviews to discuss innovation & sustainability in the automotive industry, electric mobility and hydrogen.

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Eskişehir Chamber of Commerce – Automotive Cluster, Turkey: Speed-Match 2022 International Networking Event

27 – 28 April 2022 | Online



Eskişehir Chamber of Industry and Enterprise Europe Network organise the **Speed-Match 2022 International Networking Event**. The event focus on the aviation, railway, and automotive sectors to ensure cross-sector networking and business initiation. Participation to this online event is free.

The event is supported by the [European Aerospace Cluster Partnership EACP](#), by EACN, and by the [European Railway Clusters Initiative ERCI](#).

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AC Bulgaria: Automotive & Mobility Forum 2022

1 – 3 June 2022 | Sofia, Bulgaria



AC Bulgaria is main partner of the Automotive & Mobility Forum 2022 Southern and Eastern Europe. Targeted topics are, e.g., the automotive industry transformation in SEE, Innovation trends and technologies, digitalisation of manufacturing processes and increasing production efficiency, sustainability, or supply chain and logistics trends.

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Update of Competence Guide “Experts for New Mobility Solutions in Baden-Württemberg”

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West and Cluster Fuel Cell BW have published an updated version of their competence guide. It offers valuable insights into both cluster initiatives and provides support in the search for suitable cooperation partners | [Download the guide](#)

Meet Cluster Electric Mobility South-West at Hannover Messe 2022

30 May – 2 June 2022 | Hannover, Germany

Together with more than 30 exhibitors from industry, universities, research institutes, and innovation networks, e-mobil BW and Cluster Electric Mobility South-West will participate at the Baden-Württemberg Pavilion in hall 12. Meet us in hall 12, booth D12 to learn more about future mobility solutions from Baden-Württemberg. | [Further information](#)

Project corner

MOBINOV: Successful cooperation in European projects

Erasmus+ Project ‘PROTOTYPE’

The Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union is co-funding the “PROTOTYPE” project. This project aims at assisting automotive companies producing new “emerging value” from the evolution of the automotive ecosystem while keeping current workers employed. PROTOTYPE contributes to the requalification of workers, focusing on raising awareness for lifelong learning.

PROTOTYPE implements activities such as:

- ▲ Reintegrate workers regarding lifelong learning and personal growth
- ▲ Development of skills for workers to be proactive at work, allowing the continuous transition to future profiles of functions/job
- ▲ Development of the ability, by the training entities, to implement a continuous attractive offer.
- ▲ Creating, by the clusters, companies and training entities, favourable conditions for workers’ lifelong learning.

Project partners are IP – International GmbH (Germany), INP Grenoble and CIMES – Competitiveness Cluster (France), Roscioli Development srl (Italy), ATEC – Associação de Formação para a Indústria and

MOBINOV (Portugal), Camera di Commercio Italo Tedesca, Ilmiofuturo srl and IAM S.c.a.r.l. (Italy).

ReStartSMEs - Strategic Alliances for economy recovery through technology convergence in manufacturing SMEs

The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) is co-funding the ReStartSMEs project. This project aims at supporting traditional manufacturing SMEs to adapt to changed value-chains and demand by accompanying them in the adoption of new technologies towards the realization of Industry 5.0 concepts. The focus is on four sub-sectors of manufacturing: Machinery and equipment; Automotive, mechanicals and heavy machines; Food products and Textile. To reach its goals, the project operates on five main lines of actions:

- ▲ Enabling the transnational exchange and mutual learning between traditional manufacturing SMEs;
- ▲ Upskilling and reskilling SMEs’ workforce to adapt to new value chains and a changed competitive environment;
- ▲ Understanding the needs of single SMEs and defining an individual pathway for technology transformation;
- ▲ Creating opportunity for exchange between Strategic Alliances of traditional SMEs and tech-savvy SMEs;
- ▲ Raising awareness and building a sustainable community of all key actors involved in the process.

The project consortium consists of the following partners: bwcon (Germany), Torino Wireless (Italy), Funding Box (Poland), IMEC (Belgium), EURECAT (Spain), **Mobinov** (Portugal), CLUSTERO (Romania), and LINPRA (Lithuania).

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West: AgiloDrive2: Agile Production System for Electric Traction Motors

Electric traction motors are essential for hybrid and all-electric powertrains and must be produced with the highest quality and power density at low costs. Within Cluster Electric Mobility South-West, partners from industry and research have recently launched the AgiloDrive2 project on agile production systems for electric traction motors. The project will be funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy with 16.4 million euros at a total project volume of 33.7 million euros over the next three years | [Further information](#)

Partner research

Successful EU application with project partners from ID4Car

Out of 7 Horizon Europe projects labelled in 2021 by ID4Car, 3 have been selected by the European Commission! 43% success rate is not enough? And yet in the field of European projects, it is very good!

One project with several ID4Car members (IMT Atlantique, FLEXIMODAL, Nantes Métropole, and ID4Car as well as our colleagues from the CARA cluster) was ranked 2nd out of 23 proposals. We are delighted to see that the quality of the projects in which our members participated is at the level expected by the European Commission in terms of IMPACT, EXCELLENCE, QUALITY and EFFECTIVENESS of the proposed scheme.

To continue in this direction, we have worked on our support for this type of project by including exchanges with experts before the application is submitted to further strengthen the value proposition of the applications.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you are looking for French partners to complete your consortium, or to start building one together with our members.

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Agenda

🇪🇺 29 – 30 March 2022 | Brussels (Belgium)
Results from road transport research in H2020 projects - #H2020RTR21 | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

🇵🇱 5 – 6 April 2022 | Sosnowiec (Poland)
International Automotive Business Meeting | co-organised by Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster. | [Information and registration](#)

🌐 27 – 28 April 2022 | Online
Speed-Match 2022 International Networking Event | Organised by Eskişehir Chamber of Industry and Enterprise Europe Network | [Information](#)

🇫🇷 30 May – 1 June 2022 | Toulouse (France)
14th ITS European Congress | organised by ERTICO ITS Europe and Toulouse Métropole | [Information](#)

🇩🇪 30 May – 2 June 2022 | Hannover (Germany)
Hannover Messe 2022 | [Information](#)

🇷🇸 31 May – 1 June 2022 | Belgrade (Serbia)
SEE Conference | organised by AC Serbia | [Information and registration](#)

🇵🇵 1 – 3 June 2022 | Sofia (Bulgaria)
Automotive & Mobility Forum Southern and Eastern Europe: At the Cutting Edge of Innovations | co-organised by AC Bulgaria | [Information and registration](#)

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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