

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

EACN Partners are very active in collaborative projects co-funded by the European Commission. In this Newsletter, you will find information about the projects EVOLUTE, AMULET, or RECIPROCITY. All these projects aim at supporting our members, companies but also public authorities, to face the current challenges we all know. Most activities are open to actors from across Europe; thus have a look and share with potentially interested members.

As discussed during the General Assembly we want to make membership to EACN more visible. We thank our colleagues from CEAGA who developed some suggestions, and the Executive Board voted for the below version. You will get soon an image that you can add to your website and other publications.



On September 26 and 27, the European Commission organises the EU Cluster Conference 2022 that will take place physically in Prague. We will check the opportunity to contribute to the conference and to organise a special EACN session, e.g., about how European automotive clusters' actions support companies, and especially SMEs, and enhance competitiveness. In any case, we plan to meet in Prague and hope many of you can be there.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentations

NextMove

NextMove (ex-Mov'eo) is a French Automotive & Mobility cluster located in Paris region and Normandy, gathering 600+ members (SME's, Large Companies, Research Organisations, Universities, Technology Centres, other Ecosystem Actors). Our objective: Build the "Mobility Valley", a European and International reference of innovative and responsible mobility for the future.

Since it was created, NextMove has registered more than 500 R&I projects involving 1500 partners. Research activities are managed within four thematic

fields corresponding to the major challenges the automotive and mobility industry is facing:

- ▲ Safe, connected, and autonomous mobility
- ▲ Mobility with low environmental footprint
- ▲ New services and mobility solutions
- ▲ Industrial and operational excellence.



Marc Charlet, Managing Director

NextMove is always looking for inter-cluster collaborations on a European scale, to host delegations on its territory, and to offer internationalisation opportunities to its members.

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Working groups and services

Follow-up on working groups

EACN disposes about five working groups aiming at allowing the exchange and discussion of topics such as industry 4.0/digitalisation/industrial modernisation, supply chain, skills & competencies, mobility, or clean, connected, and autonomous vehicles. The last months have shown that some of the working groups have difficulties to mobilise sufficient participants as these activities are often 'add-on' activities to the daily business. Thus, the Executive Board decided to focus in the future on two future-oriented working groups: Mobility and Clean, connected, and autonomous vehicles.

OEM Disruption Information Service

Even though the service is operational, and that we see a huge added-value in it for our members, it turns out that getting valuable information sufficiently early is very difficult or even impossible, even with the close contacts clusters have with their OEMs and Tier-1. This leads to a situation where the corresponding website does almost never show information, reducing its attractiveness. It has therefore been decided to take the service of the website for external visitors.

Members' lounge

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West at Hannover Messe (May 30th – June 2nd, 2022)

We are looking forward to presenting the Cluster Electric Mobility South-West again this year at the joint Baden-Württemberg pavilion. In addition, companies, research institutions and project associations from Baden-Württemberg will also be represented. Intensify your existing business contacts and establish new cooperation and partnerships with relevant market players. The Baden-Württemberg Pavilion is the ideal starting and contact point for high potentials from industry, science, and politics. Overall, the joint pavilion reflects the entire range of "Energy Solutions": energy generation, energy storage and the broad field of new autonomous, connected, and electric mobility services. Come by and find out about new mobility solutions from Baden-Württemberg. We look forward to your visit. You will find us in Hall 12, Booth D15. <https://www.e-mobilbw.de/en/service/events>

Baden-Württemberg at 35th International Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS35)

From June 13th to 15th, 2022, the 35th International Electric Vehicle Symposium and Exhibition (EVS35) will take place in Lillestrøm/Oslo in Norway. Together with partners from industry, academia, and project initiatives, e-mobil BW and Cluster Electric Mobility are organising a Baden-Württemberg exhibition area at the German Pavilion (booth C02-08a). Use the opportunity to meet experts from the following companies, institutions, and projects: Baden-Württemberg International (BW_i), Check4Charge, EKPO Fuel Cell Technologies, Karlsruhe Institute of Technologies with ITIV Institut fuer Technik der Informationsverarbeitung and wbk Institute of Production Science, SAP. On June 14th, 2022, e-mobil BW and the Ministry of Transport BW invite all international partners to attend a Baden-Württemberg reception at the German Pavilion (starting at 04:30 p.m.) in presence of Baden-Württemberg's Minister of Transport Winfried Hermann.

<https://www.e-mobilbw.de/en/service/events>

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Project corner

EVOLUTE Kick-off Meeting in Heilbronn, Germany - 28 – 29th March 2022

The Project EVOLUTE, which is co-funded by the EU COSME-programme with 500,000 Euro, started its work in February 2022. At the end of March, all six cluster members from five different countries came together for a Face-to-Face Kick-off Meeting in Heilbronn, Germany. The event was hosted by the leader of the project DIALOG by Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH.



EVOLUTE stands for: wE strIve fOr cLUster Excellence in the Automotive and Land Machine Industry. The target of Cluster Excellence is to become highly efficient so-called "High Performance" Clusters to establish new services for the cluster members to support companies during the transformation of the industry. The consortium brings together six European cluster organisations: Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH (Germany – Coordinator), Asociacion Cluster de Automocion de Aragon (Spain), Cluster de la Maquinaria i dels Medis De Produccio Agricola de Catalunya (Spain), Automobilski Klaster Srbije (Serbia), COMET – Cluster Metalmeccanica Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy) and Moravskoslezsky Automobilovy Klastř (Czech Republic).



Participants of the EVOLUTE Kick-Off Meeting

At the Kick-off meeting all participants were working towards one common vision and strategy. Discussion topics were trends from the Automotive and Land Machine Industry, factors for the Cluster Performance Analysis as basis for the benchmarking and strategy. A learning workshop with an ESCA (European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis)-manager was also held. The members were visiting a local supplier for both the Automotive and Land Machine industry and could therefore gain some insights into local challenges.

The team is now focusing on the “Cluster Xchange”, which supports European industrial clusters and their members – especially SMEs – strengthening their strategic cross-regional collaboration activities by spending periods of time in a partner cluster (or SME/scaling-up support organisation member of a cluster) in another COSME participating country. Those short-term exchanges will be used to learn from counterparts, explore growth opportunities in new markets, take up new technologies, digitalization and green low-carbon solutions or invest in strategic interregional collaboration. The exchanges are funded through a lumpsum.

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Funding opportunity for the innovation of the European light weighting SMEs

The **Advanced Materials & Manufacturing United for LightwEight (AMULET)** project launched the [1st AMULET Open Call](#) on 12th April 2022. Project partner, including EACN member [autoklastr \(CZ\)](#), aim at supporting the creation of new value chains by fostering the penetration of advanced lightweight materials in industry. AMULET focuses on three advanced materials: light metal alloys, ceramic matrix composites, polymer-based composites, and their implementation in four sectors:



In the 1st call, AMULET will select up to 36 projects invited to a Jury Day, from which up to 26 will pass to the AMULET programme support services, and out of them, up to 7 will complete the full programme. Deadline for application: 30 June 2022.

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CEAGA: 1 M€ mobilized to support innovation and digitisation in companies

CEAGA Projects Office supports Galician companies in preparing and submitting projects to regional, national, and European calls for proposals. Recently, five projects related to cybersecurity, energy efficiency, maintenance 4.0, immersive training and additive manufacturing, bringing together 18 Galician

companies, got a total of 1M€ co-funding from the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. Congratulations to CEAGA colleagues for this successful work. [Further information.](#)



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Other information

Automotive Skills Alliance becomes a non-profit organisation

The Automotive Skills Alliance (ASA) organised a Partnership Meeting on 5 May 2022 and presented achievements and future steps.



Since January 2022, ASA is a legal non-profit organization with a Board of Directors (President and two Vice-presidents) and an ASA Advisory Board. The Board is supported by the ASA WG leaders, the daily work is ensured by the ASA Office. Creating the legal structure enables ASA to become full partner in EU-funded projects to steer and push its activities. The new organisation makes it necessary to shift the 90 partners to members, a membership fee helps paying daily activities and requested co-financing in, e.g., EU-Projects.

ASA aims at building a European-wide up-/reskilling alliance for the automotive (and mobility) sector with a strong focus on regional implementation. ASA is structured around four Working Groups: #1 Horizontal Issues, #2 Communication & Dissemination, #3 Skills Intelligence (with several subgroups), and #4 Regional Implementation. ASA develops and offers tools such as the ASA Learning Platform, the ASA EU-wide Database, an ASA Library, an ASA Academy, or the ASA Skills Intelligence platform.

EACN itself as well as the following EACN members are currently supporting ASA: EACN, AVIA, CAAR, CEAGA, CIAC, EAA, FACYL, Mobinov.

<https://automotive-skills-alliance.eu/>

Events

RECIPROCITY Project Events

The partners of the RECIPROCITY project organise two events potentially interesting for EACN clusters and their members:

- ▲ **Autonomous driving and acceptability: an impossible story?** Online webinar and Matchmaking, 23.05.2022, 15h00 – 18h00 CET. [Further information.](#)
- ▲ **RECIPROCITY - Paris' mission.** Paris, 22 – 24 June, [Further information.](#)

Feel free to share the information with your members.

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Automotive & Mobility Forum Southern and Eastern Europe: At the Cutting Edge of Innovations



The conference, organised by EACN member AC Bulgaria in Sofia on 1 – 3 June 2022, allows sharing best practices and in-depth case studies, exchanging knowledge and ideas, fostering new business relationships, and finding solutions for the automotive sector. Topics are: Innovation trends and technologies, digitalization of manufacturing processes, supply chain and logistics trends, sustainability, and many more. It includes site visits and a conference. Registration is free. [Information and registration](#)

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SEE Conference - Connect & Supply 2022



SEE Automotive Conference - Connect & Supply 2022, organised by EACN member AC Serbia takes place on 31 May and 1 June in Belgrade, Serbia. SEE automotive conference aims at connecting OEMs, Tier-1 & 2 companies, and relevant public institutions to support the development of the automotive industry in the SEE region. This conference brings together experts and business partners; and it allows learning about trends and producers plans in the area. B2B meetings will also

be organized to maximize business contacts. [Further information and registration](#)

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Agenda

▲ 23 May 2022, 15h00 – 18h00 CET | Online **Autonomous driving and acceptability: an impossible story?** Webinar and Matchmaking | organised by the RECIPROCITY Consortium | [Further 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](#)

▲ 22 – 24 June 2022 | Paris (France) **RECIPROCITY - Paris' mission.** | organised by the RECIPROCITY Consortium | [Further information](#)

🇪🇺 26 - 27 September 2022 | Prague (Czech Republic) **European Cluster Conference 2022 and Cluster Matchmaking** | organised by the Czech Ministry for Industry and Trade, European Commission DG GROW and ECCP | [Conference Website](#)

🇪🇺 28 - 29 September 2022 | Online **European Research and Innovation Days 2022 – Let's shape the future together** | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

▲ 30 November 2022 | Esslingen (Germany) **Automotive Suppliers' Day Baden-Württemberg 2022** | organised by e-mobil bw | [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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