

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

The European Cluster Conference in September in Prague was a great moment. It was good to finally meet each other physically, and to discuss about the automotive industry or about cluster work. EACN was well visible during the conference, with a roll-up on the Autoklastr booth, thank you for hosting EACN, and several official interventions. EACN has been identified by the EC as a model to be replicated in other industrial ecosystems. That highlights again the importance of fruitful inter-cluster collaboration. I really regret that I couldn't make it personally to Prague due to a Covid infection I just caught the weekend before the conference.

The next months are going to be busy for all of us: The European Commission started (pre-)publishing the work programme 2023-24 of the Horizon Europe programme (see other topics and agenda). But I'm sure you will master the challenge to support your members to make their applications, as well as your own, successful.

The Executive Board fixed the date for the next General Assembly to the 24 January 2023 (09h00 – 11h00 CET). We will get in touch with you for further details.

And finally, as this is the last newsletter in 2022, I wish you all a Happy Holidays, and a good, prosperous, and healthy new year.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentations

Automotive Cluster Bulgaria

Automotive Cluster Bulgaria represents the interests of one of the fastest growing economic branches in Bulgaria - the automotive industry and the production of cars and components for them. Founded in 2012, the cluster brings together many of the more than 250 car manufacturers in the country, which produce components for almost every well-known car brand. The main goals of Automotive Cluster Bulgaria are related to the support of the automobile companies in our country, as well as to the attraction of automobile manufacturers and leading international suppliers of automobile components in Bulgaria.

ACB works in close co-operation with the Bulgarian authorities, educational institutions and universities, professional organizations, financial consultants, funds, European programs, consultants and other specialists and organizations. We use the experience gained with our members to welcome new vendors, to support



arch. Lyubomir Stanislavov, CEO & Member of Board



start-up of a new manufacturers' businesses as quick and easy as possible.

In the past we have successfully attracted and supported the investment of Bosch Engineering Center in Sofia, Next e.GO's electric vehicle factory, Akwel's upcoming plant in the town of Pleven, among many others.

The international projects in which Automotive Cluster Bulgaria participates are related to the development of the automotive industry on the continent and on a global scale, focusing on autonomous technologies, electric and hydrogen mobility, Industry 4.0, inter-cluster partnership and digitalisation of production.

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CEAGA - Galician Automotive Cluster



Alberto Cominges, Cluster Manager

CEAGA is a cluster organization that represents the automotive and mobility value chain of Galicia (Spain). Our vision is to place the sector in a position of competitiveness and sustainability leader in a global level, contributing to the progress and quality of life of our region. With this objective, CEAGA promotes high-impact cooperative projects to improve the

competitiveness of the Galician automotive and mobility ecosystem.

CEAGA currently brings together a complete ecosystem of collaborative innovation, made up of more than 200 companies. Its members include the Stellantis Vigo Center, an automotive technology center and a whole network of component manufacturers and service providers. In addition, we have contributed to creating 64 new startups through the Business Factory Auto accelerator, which we have promoted since 2016. Through our Strategic Plan, we have defined the actions to be carried out so that companies achieve their objectives of competitiveness, industrial excellence, digital transformation and sustainability. These actions are framed in ten functional areas:

- ▲ Leadership and culture
- ▲ Internationalization and customer development
- ▲ Innovation and product development / New mobility
- ▲ People
- ▲ Industry 4.0, competitiveness and productive excellence
- ▲ Competitiveness and logistics excellence
- ▲ Competitiveness and purchases excellence
- ▲ Open innovation and entrepreneurship

- ▲ Sustainability and energy
- ▲ Communication, industry networking and institutional relationships

CEAGA's cooperative model has always been characterized by maintaining relationships and collaborating, on specific projects, with different institutions and clusters. We have extensive experience participating in regional, national and European projects on logistics (Co-Gistics, Aeolix), mobility (MOBAE), training and new professional profiles (FIT4FoF), industrial modernization (EACN), green and digital transition (SURE5.0, Eurocluster RESIST) or energy efficiency (eBridge, FLEXIndustries). In addition, we are an active part of the main automotive and mobility collaboration networks (CEEG, ECCP, EACN, Automotive Skills Alliance, etc.). Over the years, CEAGA has become a reference cluster in Spain and Europe in the implementation of collaborative projects and in the promotion of innovation, entrepreneurship, talent management and digitization.

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High visibility for EACN at the European Cluster Conference 2022



On 26 and 27 September, the Czech Ministry for Industry and Trade under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission organised the European Cluster Conference 2022 (ECC2022) in Prague. Most EACN members were represented during the event, and, thus, it was a great opportunity to meet for the first time physically, to discuss together, and to get to know each other much better than this is possible online.



The conference location O2 Universe



First physical EACN meeting during the ECC2022 in Prague in front of the Autoklastr booth

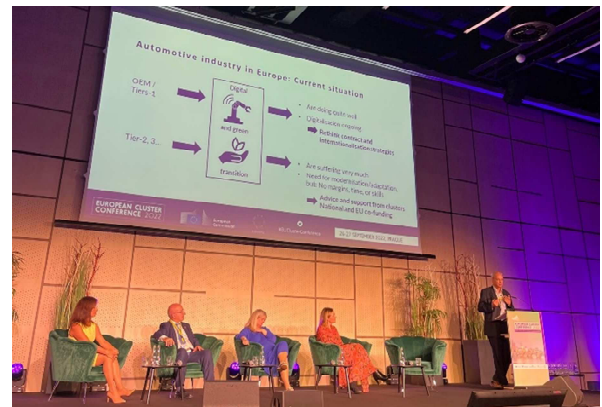
EACN highlights during the conference have been

- ▲ Several MatchMaking meetings with clusters potentially interested in joining EACN.
- ▲ The presentation of the network and its actions during the ECCP side event of European Cluster Associations and Networks. Our colleague Olga Trofymova from the Ukrainian Automotive Cluster also introduced the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance during this event.
- ▲ The participation in the 2nd Panel session: “Future-proofing the Single Market: co-creation of actions to consolidate its resilience, green and digital transitions” with the possibility to reach a large public with insights from the automotive industry.
- ▲ Several official and unofficial project or project team meetings (EVOLUTE project, REMOBILISE project, RESIST project)

ECC 2022 has been a great opportunity to show the performance and results obtained by our network. EACN has been identified by the European Commission as a model for other industrial ecosystems.

And the city of Prague was also worth the trip!

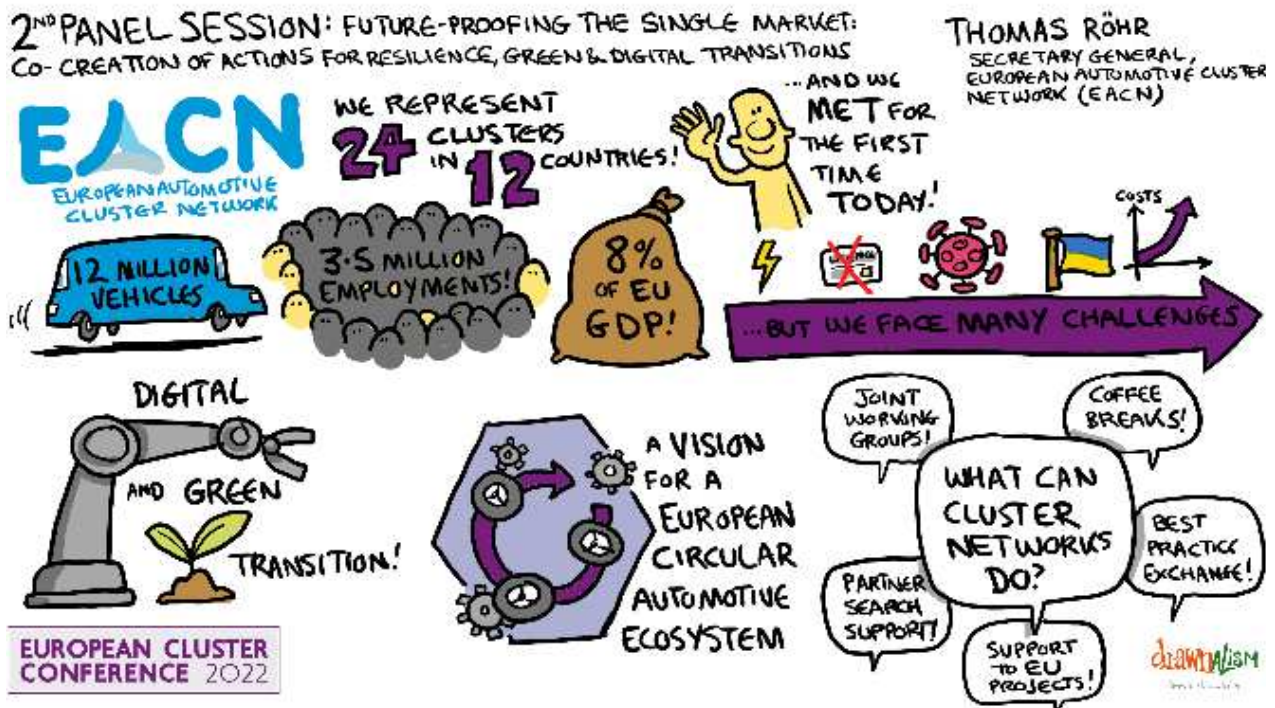
- ▲ [EU Cluster Conference at a glance on ECCP](#)
- ▲ [ECC22 – Highlights glimpse](#)
- ▲ [EU Cluster Conference official photo gallery](#)



The panelists of the 2nd panel session: Antonio Novo (ECA), Ulla Engelmann (EC DG GROW Industrial Forum, Alliances & Clusters), Sandra Sundbäck (Paper Province, Sweden), and Thomas Röhr (EACN)



Interesting discussion about transition pathways towards a more resilient, greener, and more digital industry (@ www.mistfoto.cz)



Summary of the presentation held during the panel session
 (@ www.drawnalism.com)

Ukrainian Cluster Alliance calls for support Ukraine to reinstall critical energy infrastructures

Since several weeks, Ukraine is facing massive Russian attacks against their energy and other critical infrastructures, aiming at letting the Ukrainian population without energy, water, or heating in the arriving winter. For example, more than 50% of the energy infrastructure has been destroyed or damaged.

To avoid a complete collapse of the energy system, Ukraine urgently needs support in form of energy equipment and spare parts to repair or replace damaged ones and to avoid a massive energy crisis.

The Ukrainian Cluster Alliance UCA therefore calls on all European clusters to help find possible equipment from member companies.

For any details and coordination actions, please address to the head of WG 'Cluster response to Energy crisis' ✉ [Anatoliy Dolynnyy](mailto:Anatoliy.Dolynnyy) or the head of UCA ✉ [Alexandre Yurchak](mailto:Alexandre.Yurchak),
[UCA Call for support](#) | [List of needed equipment](#)

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Members' lounge

NEAA to deliver employer-led local skills plan south of the Tyne

NEAA is to deliver an employer-led, Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), across Durham, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland as one of 38 across the UK. LSIPs will provide an agreed set of actionable priorities that employers, providers and stakeholders in a local area can get behind to drive change. The aim is to forge a stronger and more dynamic partnership between employers and further education providers that will enable provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets. Read the [full press release](#).

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AVIA becomes an automotive and mobility cluster

AVIA wants to confirm its engagement to an automotive sector that is subject to many challenges with regard to new mobilities as well as industrial transformation. To become more attractive for electric vehicles suppliers, biofuels manufacturers and generators, battery manufacturers among other to defend their interest, AVIA decided to renew its visual

image with a new name: The Automotive Cluster Region of Valencia became the Automotive and Mobility Cluster Region of Valencia. The logo also got modernized and now considers the new name.



According to AVIA's president, Mónica Alegre, "in almost 20 years that our organization has existed, we have not changed our image ever, but we had progressed our strategy on several occasions. [...] With every change we are having nowadays, we realized that, if we want show our mission towards sustainable mobility, we also had to illustrate that change with a new image."

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Castilla y León Government and FaCyl Cluster present 'Polo de la Automoción'



'Polo de la Automoción – Castilla y León Moving Ecosystem' is a sector-specific brand developed by FaCyl with the support of the Regional Economic and Finance Ministry of Castilla y León. The brand aims at showing the strength and power of the automotive industry in Castilla y León, within a global, highly competitive environment. It reflects the long-standing values both the automotive industry and the region share. One target is to put Castilla y León in value as a leading region in the automotive industry and to make the region a meeting point, a new industry hotspot for automotive investment.

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MOBINOV – Automotive Cluster of Portugal awarded with the Silver Label for Cluster Excellence

Our congratulations to the EACN member MOBINOV who successfully achieved the Silver Label for Cluster Excellence. This ECEI award confirms the successful implementation of improvement processes that were

initiated following the achievement of the Bronze Label in 2020.



MOBINOV's Silver label certificate

SA&AM – The digital economy in automotive – upcoming technologies at the background of global trends (8 December, online)

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, EACN, Business Finland, Flanders Investment & Trade, and Agoria's Automotive Technology Club organise an international online event focusing on important issues impacting the automotive sector:

- ▲ Is artificial intelligence finally breaking through in automotive production processes?
- ▲ What does artificial intelligence imply for the decentralisation of decision-making processes?
- ▲ How digital technologies can contribute to fulfilling government and client's sustainability requirements?

This online event is a prelude for a face-2-face event planned for 2023 in Silesia, it will cover practical cases based on the experiences of renown technology suppliers. The meeting addresses automotive OEM's as well as parts, system and Industry 4.0 technology suppliers looking for international partnerships. Registration via mail to [Luk Palmen](mailto: Luk.Palmen) by **21.11.2022**.

Contact and registration by mail to:

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Project corner

DECARBOMILE: Green last-mile logistics for urban goods distribution

Gathering 31 partners from 10 countries, of which EACN members ID4CAR and CARA, DECARBOMILE aims at triggering an unprecedented improvement of the green last mile logistics in Europe. Partners will develop improved delivery methods, tools and methodologies, and implement them across Europe and demonstrate them in four living labs in Logrono (ES), Nantes (FR), Hamburg (DE), and Istanbul (TR). The four satellites Tallinn (EE), Getafe (ES), Ghent (BE), and Sarajevo (BA) will be small scale test and study beds DECARBOMILE will rely on developed methodologies to implement the new solutions and delivery methods in collaboration with all relevant local stakeholders, based on their needs and behaviours. The relation with and between stakeholders will be facilitated by the creation of a collaborative urban consolidation logistics framework that will include a digital platform, methodologies for collaboration, and ICT and IoT tools. The delivery methods will be strongly improved with urban consolidation centres, micro urban consolidation centres including smart lockers, innovations on cargo bikes and how they can be used with load pooling for instance, electric barge and more. The goal is to use and improve existing solutions and allow their interoperability and modularity to improve their efficiency and use their complementarity.



The project is co-funded under the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Commission, project duration 09.2022 to 08.2026.

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Lean40SG – The digital Kaizen

The [LEAN40SG](#) project aims at improving the results of  **Lean40SG** vocational education and training by developing an innovative digital educational methodology in a new concept called Lean 4.0. The methodology is based on serious games simulation, oriented to real experiences, and integrates continuous lean improvement and Industry 4.0 systems; it has been validated by companies and vocational training centres. One of the final outcomes is an application for learning LEAN processes and modern elements in Industry 4.0 that will be available for download on Google Play in December 2022. The so-called gamification of vocational training is a trend that will set the direction in the coming years. Education should entertain students and, above all, engage them and encourage them to continue their education. The project got a co-funding of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, the project run from September 2020 to November 2022.

EACN members CAAR (ES, coordinator) and Autoklastr (CZ) participated together with the companies [Aitiip](#) (ES), [Atec](#) (PT), and [TastyAir](#) (CZ) in the project. Erasmus+ projects are both beneficial for the development of the clusters and have unquestionable benefits for the cluster members. E.g., the Czech start-up TastyAir from Moravian-Silesian Region participated for the first time in a European project. It was previously dedicated to the development of mobile games now specializes in virtual and augmented reality applications for industry. And Autoklastr could further improve its competencies in the fields of digitalization and green transformation.



Fig1. Station in the tablet application of the game LEAN40SG, where a student assembles his component from Lego pieces according to a manual, monitors the stock level, and orders transport to the next station, where another student is already playing. The goal is to assemble as many cars as possible in the given time in 4 rounds where elements of lean methods are introduced, and virtual helpers are added in the form of industry 4.0 elements such as collaborative robots or 3d printers, predictive maintenance, and others.

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CEAGA wins six new innovative projects to boost the competitiveness of the automotive sector

All six projects that CEAGA submitted to the last national call for aid to Innovative Business Groups (AEIs) have been approved by the Spanish Ministry of Industry. The projects are coordinated by CEAGA and bring together 24 companies and five entities from the Galician mobility ecosystem. The six projects are: A4ZERO DEFECTS, AUTOPAPERLESS, FLEX-AUTO, DATA LOGISTICS, SANTI Parte II, and ECOMOB. [Further information](#)

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Polish Automotive Group – Trade mission to USA as part of the REC-N-COMP project

On October 17-21, 2022, representatives of 5 clusters and 4 companies from Italy, France, Belgium, and Poland participated in the first trade mission of the REC-N-COMP project that led the delegates to Los Angeles / Anaheim in California (USA) to support internationalisation of European SMEs.

For all participants of the mission, participation in this exhibition was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the technologies of production and application of composites in the automotive, textile and furniture industries, and to make interesting acquaintances. Participants were the partners Next Technology Tecnotessile (IT), Polish Automotive Group (PL), Techtera (FR), Legno Arredo Casa FVG (IT), Flanders Make (BE), and the companies DRP Group (PL), Manifattura Maiano (IT), Polyloop (FR), and Econcore (BE).

The REC-N-COMP project, co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union, aims at developing and commercializing technologies to produce recycled composites, using - as input materials - waste from the automotive, clothing and furniture sectors. As a result, recycled composites will find specific applications in the automotive and furniture sectors as part of the Circular Economy. The partnership supports the internationalisation of the value chain of recycled composites for SMEs in three selected markets: USA, Japan and Singapore. [Project website](#)

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Other information

Publication of the Erasmus+ Call for Proposals

On 23 November, the European Commission published the call for proposals 2023 or the Erasmus+ programme. [Further information](#)

Erasmus+: Capacity building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET) Infoday

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organises an online info session on 7 December 2022 focusing on the policy background and application procedure for the Capacity Building in VET 2023 call for proposals under Erasmus+ Key Action 2. [Further information and registration](#)

JRC Publication: Towards a green & digital future (including transport & mobility)

This study examines how the green and digital transitions can be successful with a focus on five of the most greenhouse gas emitting sectors: 1) agriculture, 2) buildings and construction, 3) energy, 4) energy-intensive industries, and 5) transport and mobility. The report derives key requirements for the success of the European Union's green and digital transitions. [Further information and download](#)

Work programme 2023-24 Infodays

The European Commission announced their intention to publish the Work programme 2023-24 on 28 November 2022. Infoday and brokerage events are announced for 12-14 December (cluster 4) and 15-16 December (cluster 5). See agenda.

Prepublication of WP 2023-24 “Digital, Industry and Space”

The European Commission pre-published chapter 7 of the Work programme 2023-24 concerning the cluster 4 “Digital, Industry, and Space” with the following destinations:

- ▲ Destination 1: Climate neutral, Circular and Digitised Production (4 call topics)
- ▲ Destination 2: Increased Autonomy in Key Strategic Value Chains for Resilient Industry (4 call topics)
- ▲ Destination 3: World-leading Data and Computing Technologies (2 call topics)
- ▲ Destination 4: Digital & Emerging Technologies for Competitiveness and Fit for the Green Deal (4 call topics)

- Destination 5: Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructures, Services, Applications and Data (2 call topics)
- Destination 6: A human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies (3 call topics)

The official publication shall follow soon, this pre-programme already allows preparing project proposals for the calls. [Download of the pre-programme](#)

Partnerships for Horizon Europe: Smart City projects

Are you interested in Horizon Europe calls related to smart cities and related topics such as mobility, safety, security, energy, smart communities? Are you building a consortium to present a proposal or searching for partners?

EACN members Mobinov and NextMove together with many other clusters organise an online event to meet companies, research centres, universities, cities, and other entities interested in presenting proposals to the Horizon Europe 2023 calls. The event consists in 3 half-day presentation sessions and 3 weeks for organizing online meetings, following this agenda:

- November 23rd
- November 28th
- December 2nd

Participants can select available slots to organise one-to-one meetings from 24 November to 13 December. The event is free of charge, but registration and profile activation are mandatory. [Register and know more here](#)

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Transition pathway for mobility

The European Commission organises on 28 November a co-creation round table on transition pathway for mobility. [Information and registration](#)

Agenda

- 23 November – 13 December | Online
Partnerships for Horizon Europe: smart cities projects | organised by Italian Technology Cluster for Smart Communities, EEN and other clusters | [Information and registration](#)
- 28 November, 09h30 – 16h30 | Brussels (Belgium)
Co-creation roundtable event on the 'Mobility transition pathway' | organised by the European Commission | [Information and registration](#)

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

7 December | online
Erasmus+: Capacity building in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET) info session | organised by EACEA | [Information and registration](#)

8 December 2022, 09h30-12h00 | Online
The digital economy in automotive – upcoming technologies at the background of global trends | organised by SA&AM and partners with the support of EACN | Application for participation (name, e-mail, company) by mail to lpalmen@silesia-automotive.pl by **21.11.2022**.

12-14 December 2022 | Online
Infodays Cluster 4: Industry, Space, and Digital, calls 2023 | organised by the European Commission | [Information and registration](#), as well as information about the related brokerage events.

15-16 December 2022 | Online
Infodays and Brokerage Event Cluster 5: Climate, Energy, and Mobility, calls 2023 | organised by the European Commission | [Information and registration, brokerage event](#)

7-8 February 2023 | Brussels (Belgium)
ECS (Electronic Components and Systems) Brokerage Event | jointly by AENEAS, EPoSS, Inside | [Further information](#)

24 January 2023, 09h00 – 11h00 | Online
EACN Annual General Assembly | further information is following later

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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