

## The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

2023 started strong with our annual General Assembly. 24 out of 26 clusters have been present, and this is a very strong commitment for our network. Thank you very much. After two years of regular and intensive cooperation, the moment came to reelect the Executive Board members as this is stated in our By-laws. With now 26 members, the future Executive Board will have nine members, the eight former members as well as Lyubomir Stanislavov, CEO and member of the board of the Automotive Cluster Bulgaria. Welcome on board. The members will soon meet to elect the next President. We will keep you updated.

I also want to welcome Clust'ER Meccatronica e motoristica from Italy and Aut'Os, the Automotive network from the Osnabrück region in Germany, who joined us in the last weeks.

Yours

**Bruno Grandjean**, President

## Cluster presentations

### Aut'OS: Automotive-network in the Osnabrueck region

In the entire region – from Steinfurt to the Weser-Ems area – many companies have settled that are active as manufacturers, suppliers, or service providers in the automotive industry: between the two locations of the original equipment manufacturer in Bremen (Daimler) and Osnabrück (Volkswagen), various highly specialized companies have grown, which are among the top companies in the supplier industry. Above all, ZF Friedrichshafen AG with its multi-divisional location around the Dümmer (Dielingen), BOGE Elastmetall GmbH in Damme, Kesseböhmer GmbH & Co. KG in Bad Essen, Titgemeyer GmbH & Co. KG in Osnabrück and Salzgitter Automotive Engineering GmbH & Co. KG and SD Automotive



GmbH in Georgsmarienhütte. The WELP Group, a manufacturer of special protection vehicles, is also located in the district of Osnabrück.

Not to forget the machine and tool manufacturers, engineering companies and service providers, such as EngRoTec GmbH & Co. KG, CCE b:digital GmbH & Co. KG, DEdok and the Cabrio Center Osnabrück, CTE GmbH, Nxt Gen GmbH, Vinyas Mechanical Engineering, RLE International and M PLAN GmbH in the region of Osnabrück.

The Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences also has a high level of expertise in the automotive sector with the Competence Centers for Electronics and Drive Technology (KEA) and the Competence Center for Lightweight Construction, Drive Technology and Durability (LAB).

The first vehicles were manufactured in the Klages wagon factory as early as 1874. In 1901 Karmann took over the production of Klages. In 1955, what is probably the best-known Osnabrück vehicle, the VW Karmann Ghia Type 14, rolled off the assembly line. Back in 2009 Karmann were sold to Volkswagen (VW), nowadays VW Osnabrück is producing the VW T-Roc (Cabriolet), Porsche Cayman and Boxster.

The automotive region is supported by the economic development agencies of the city of Osnabrück (WFO), the district of Osnabrück (WIGOS) and the district of Steinfurt (WEST).

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Participants of the Aut'OS General Assembly 2022

## EACN General Assembly 2023

The EACN General Assembly 2023 took place on 24 January. 24 clusters have been present and highlighted the strong commitment for the network.

With FACYL from Spain, Clust'ER Mech from Italy, and Aut'OS from Germany, the network grew to 26 members covering 13 European countries.

During the General Assembly, the following members have been re-elected to the Executive Board for the period 2023-2024:

- ▲ Paul Butler (NEAA, UK)
- ▲ Alberto Cominges (CEAGA, ES)
- ▲ Libor Dobeš (Autoklastr, CZ)
- ▲ Łukasz Górecki (SA&AM, PL)
- ▲ Bruno Grandjean (PVF, FR / president)
- ▲ Elena Lluch (AVIA, ES)
- ▲ Fernando Machado (Mobinov, PT)
- ▲ Josep Nadal (CIAC, ES)
- ▲ Lyubomir Stanislavov (BG)

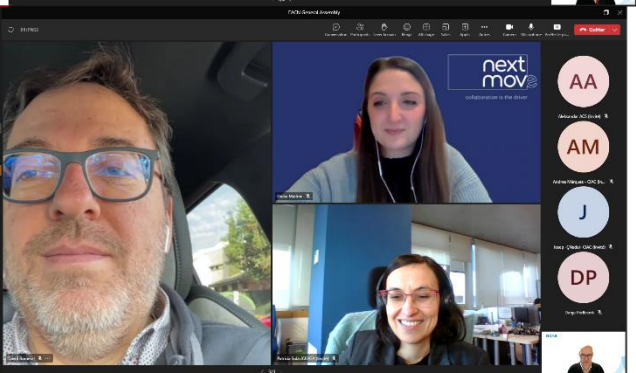
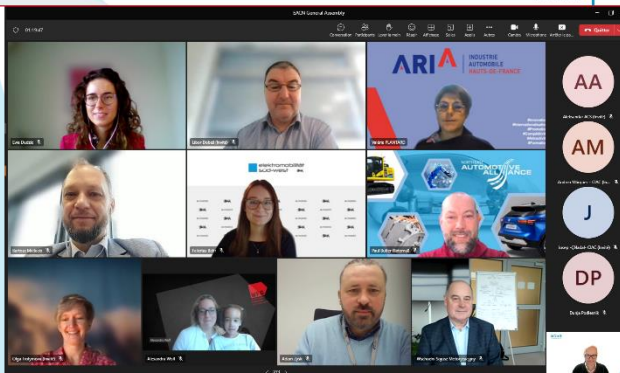
The Executive Board members will soon elect the president for the next two years.

2022 has been a busy year for all of us, especially because of additional challenges for the members due to supply chain disruptions, to missing components and raw materials, or to exploding prices. EACN gave the possibility to discuss these problems as well as others with pairs across Europe, looking for different approaches that could be useful in the own context and supporting each other. EACN activities in 2023 included, e.g.,

- ▲ Six Newsletter
- ▲ Eight Coffee Breaks
- ▲ Solidarity actions with the Ukrainian colleagues
- ▲ Support to ongoing projects with EU co-funding
- ▲ Participations in cluster events
- ▲ A first physical meeting during the European Cluster Conference in Prague with a high visibility for EACN
- ▲ One online presentation of EACN in an international conference
- ▲ Support to member events

And we are particularly proud that EACN clusters are leading three new projects with EU co-funding that started in 2022, of which two are Eurocluster projects in the Mobility-Transport-Automotive ecosystem:

- ▲ **EVOLUTE** with EACN partners WFG Heilbronn (coordinator, Germany), CAAR (Spain), AC Serbia (Serbia), and Autoklastr (Czech Republic) | co-funding: COSME programme |
- ▲ **RESIST** with EACN partners Pôle Véhicule du Futur (coordinator, France), CEAGA (Spain), Autoklastr (Czech Republic) | Co-funding: SMP Euroclusters programme |
- ▲ **E-BOOST** with EACN partners CAAR (coordinator, Spain) and CARA (techn. coordinator, France) | co-funding: SMP Euroclusters programme |



## Members' lounge

### Cluster Electric Mobility South-West

#### ***Get to know Cluster Electric Mobility South-West – A new film***

The Cluster Electric Mobility South-West, coordinated by the State Agency for New Mobility Solutions and Automotive Baden-Württemberg e-mobil BW, stands for innovative, electric, and digital mobility solutions of the future. Together with partners from industry and research the cluster shapes the climate-friendly and sustainable mobility of the future.

A new film provides an overview of the cluster's four key topics - production, energy, vehicles, and digitisation - and shows how industry and research in

Baden-Württemberg and with international partners are working together. [See the film](#)

#### ***International exchange for cluster members***

The Cluster Electric Mobility South-West welcomed a group of French member companies from the partner network Pôle SCS end of November 2022. The meeting aimed at facilitating an initial exchange between the members and at identifying opportunities for cooperation. The three-days programme highlighted cooperation opportunities and provided insights around the topics of high-performance computing, virtual reality, automated and connected driving, and testing infrastructure. The mission was supported by the ClusterXchange programme which is financed by the European Union. [More information](#)

If you are interested in a similar joint activity, please feel free to contact: [felicitas.behr@e-mobilbw.de](mailto:felicitas.behr@e-mobilbw.de)

#### ***Project network "Model Charging and Hydrogen Filling Station for Trucks BW"***

The aim of the project network "Model Charging and Hydrogen Filling Station for Trucks BW – PiLaTes" is the planning, construction, and operation of a model filling station for high-performance fast charging as well as for the gaseous and liquid refuelling of hydrogen for battery-electric and fuel cell trucks at a suitable location in Baden-Württemberg. In addition, questions regarding the subsequent nationwide expansion of infrastructure for climate-friendly trucks in Baden-Württemberg are to be answered. [More information](#)

### **North East Automotive Alliance Annual Awards 2023 & North East Automotive Expo 2023**

Continuing our mission to celebrate and champion automotive excellence, the [North East Automotive Alliance Annual Awards](#) will return in 2023, with the

winners to be announced at the dinner on Thursday 23rd March at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham.

The [North East Automotive Alliance's \(NEAA\) flagship Expo](#), an industry highlight for companies operating within the region's automotive supply chain, will take place for an eighth year on Thursday 28 September 2023 at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland.

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## Project corner

### **The Eurocluster RESIST invites SMEs to collaborate in its ranking of mobility trends**

Within the framework of the Eurocluster RESIST, a ranking of the mobility trends with the greatest impact on SMEs in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) industrial ecosystem is being carried out. Companies can collaborate with the project by filling out [this form](#). The results will be presented during a Webinar in cooperation with the European Cluster Alliance ECA on Thursday 9 February 2023 ([Registration form](#)).



Participate in our ranking on  
**MOBILITY TRENDS**

[ACCESS TO THE FORM](#)



Cofunded by the European Union

On the other hand, RESIST keeps its [One-stop shop](#) open to collect all the needs of SMEs that want to advance in their Twin Transition and increase their resilience in crisis situations.

Companies participating in RESIST activities will get access to key information and studies, such as future challenges, opportunities and benefits from greening and digitizing production, internationalization needs and meetings with potential business partners from alternative ecosystems.

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### **SURE5.0 project: Open call to help SMEs in their digital and green transition**

The EU-funded [SURE5.0 project](#) has just launched its first Acceleration Programme addressed to SMEs in

need of adopting technologies or services for their 5.0 transition. Eligible candidates are just SMEs established in the European Union or Horizon Europe Associated Countries working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive; Aerospace and Defence; and Electronics industrial ecosystems. The main objective of this programme is to help these SMEs to advance in their digital transformation process, while becoming more human-centric, sustainable and resilient.

Applying to the call, selected SMEs could benefit from:

- ▲ Individual 5.0 assessments and tailored services from partners.
- ▲ €50,000 of equity-free funding to implement their 5.0 transition plan.

The support will be provided in two sequential phases:

- ▲ Phase 1 – assess and recommend: where companies will receive individual assessments and recommendations to design a possible 5.0 roadmap. Moreover, SMEs will be helped by the consortium partners with tailored services.
- ▲ Phase 2 – business transformation and resilience: SMEs will receive funding to implement their 5.0 transition plan, with the help of experts included in the SURE5.0 Catalogue of Complementary

Service Providers. Additionally, partners will keep on providing further tailored services.

SMEs can check how to apply to the call on the [SURE5.0 project website](#), the application period will be open until March 1, 2023.

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## Upcoming CLUSTERXCHANGES in the EVOLUTE project

The [EVOLUTE project](#) is pleased to announce events scheduled for 2023 to help our member companies and other cluster organisations to create new opportunities for exchange, forming new collaborations, starting new projects and profiting from knowledge transfer including best practice sharing:

The mentioned events will take place as a “**Cluster Xchange**”, which supports European industrial clusters and their members – and more particularly SMEs that are members of a cluster – to strengthen their strategic cross-regional collaboration activities by spending periods of time in a partner cluster in another COSME participating country. Those short-term exchanges (3

When	Where	Event	Further information
29 – 31 March	Bologna, Italy	<b>MECSPE-Fair</b> - Italy's leading manufacturing industry fair B2B exhibition with best suppliers of technologies, machines and processing	<a href="https://www.mecspe.com/it/">https://www.mecspe.com/it/</a>
11 May	Zaragoza, Spain	<b>CAAR suppliers meetings</b> – B2B event for the Automotive industry	<a href="https://caarsuppliersmeetings.com/">https://caarsuppliersmeetings.com/</a>
30 May – 01 June	Belgrade, Serbia	<b>SEE Automotive - Connect &amp; Supply</b> Connecting OEM manufacturers, TIER1&2 companies & public institutions.	<a href="https://www.seeautomotive.com/">https://www.seeautomotive.com/</a>
6 – 8 June	Bilbao, Spain	<b>SUBCONTRATACION 2023</b> - International exhibition of manufacturing processes and equipment (for SMEs subcontractors)	<a href="https://bilbaoexhibitionentre.com/eventos/subcontratacion-2023/">https://bilbaoexhibitionentre.com/eventos/subcontratacion-2023/</a>
27 – 29 June	Heilbronn, Germany	<b>HYDROGEN DAY 2023</b> – Updates on hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and showcase the latest advances in research, projects, and products	<a href="https://wfgheilbronn.de/wasserstoff.html">https://wfgheilbronn.de/wasserstoff.html</a>
5 – 7 September	Munich, Germany	<b>IAA MOBILITY</b> - Conference for connected and autonomous mobility, digital solutions and sustainable and circular mobility	<a href="https://www.iaa-mobility.com/de">https://www.iaa-mobility.com/de</a>
20 – 22 September	Heilbronn, Germany	<b>25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WIRTSCHAFTSFÖRDERUNG RAUM HEILBRONN GMBH</b> competently advising, supporting and mediating in all matters relating to the Heilbronn economic area for 25 years	<a href="https://wfgheilbronn.de/">https://wfgheilbronn.de/</a>
10 – 11 October	Madrid, Spain	<b>AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING MEETINGS</b> Matchmaking event for the Automotive Supply Chain	<a href="https://www.spain.automotivemeetings.com/">https://www.spain.automotivemeetings.com/</a>
November	Ostrava, Czech Republic	<b>BUSINESS SUMMIT</b> - for startups from CEE regions with around 500+ participants. Organized by the Moravian Silesian Innovation Centrum	
14 – 16 November	Hannover, Germany	<b>AGRITECHNICA</b> – Home of farming pioneers	<a href="https://www.agritechnica.com/de/">https://www.agritechnica.com/de/</a>

EVOLUTE Event calendar 2022

days) 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. All events will include networking activities to explore collaborative business opportunities and synergies. **The exchanges are funded through a lumpsum, depending on the visiting country with up to 450 EUR for a 3-day-visit.**

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## Join the RECIPROCITY Mobility Mission in Linz (Austria) |

The [RECIPROCITY](#) project will host a Mobility Mission in Linz (Austria) on 28-31 March 2023. A mobility mission is a visit by experts to lighthouse cities to see innovative mobility solutions first-hand and learn about their implementation. They enable follower cities to learn from the experience of these pilot projects and transfer this knowledge to their own projects.

Mobility Mission Linz is all about new mobility services and solutions as well as autonomous driving and testing. [Further information and registration](#)

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## Other information

### Clean Hydrogen Partnership launched call for proposals 2023

The [Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#) launched on 17 January 2023 the call for proposals 2023. A total budget of € 195 million will be available for projects supporting the creation of clean hydrogen technologies. 26 topics are addressed in the fields of Renewable Hydrogen Production, Hydrogen Storage and Distribution, Transport, Heat and Power, Cross-cutting, Hydrogen Valleys, and Strategic Research challenge. [Call page](#)


### Public consultation about the European R&I programmes 2014-2027

The European Commission conducts the largest public consultation ever held on the past, present and future of the European research and innovation programmes 2014-2027. Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the consultation remains open until 23 February 2023. [Further information and access to consultation](#)


### Open stakeholder consultation for DUT Call 2023


The [DUT](#) scoping for the Driving Urban Transitions call 2023 has started with the goal to identify the most relevant and pressing call priorities for the three Transition Pathways: Positive Energy Districts, 15-minute City, and Circular Urban Economies. The consultation will be open until 6 February 2023. [Access to survey](#) | [DUT Roadmap](#)


## Agenda


 7-8 February 2023 | Brussels (Belgium)


**ECS (Electronic Components and Systems) Brokerage Event** | jointly by AENEAS, EPoSS, Inside | [Further information](#)


 9 February 2023 | 09h30 – 11h00 | online  
Webinar “New trends in Mobility. Challenges, Concerns and Impact on SMEs” | organised by RESIST Eurocluster and European Cluster Alliance | [Registration](#)


 14-16 February 2023 | Brussels (Belgium)  
**Road Transport Research Results Conference** | organised by ERTRAC, EGVIafor2Zero, CCAM Association & the European Commission | [Further information](#)


 22 February 2023 | Online | 08h30-09h30 CET  
**EU Clusters Talk on “Cluster perspectives for a resilient and sustainable ecosystem”** | organised by the ECCP | [Registration](#) | [Overview about EU Cluster talks](#)

 8 March 2023 | Online | 08h30-09h30 CET  
**EU Clusters Talk on “Euroclusters”** | organised by the ECCP | [Registration](#)

 15 March 2023 | Stockholm (Sweden)  
**Europe, let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum with focus on launching the second call for project proposals** | organised by Interreg Europe | [Further information](#)

 17 – 21 April 2023 | Hannover (Germany)  
**Hannover Fair 2023** | [Information](#)

 22 – 24 May 2023 | Lisbon (Portugal)  
**15<sup>th</sup> ITS European Congress** | organised by ERTICO ITS Europe and Lisboa Câmara Municipal Métropole | [Information](#)

 28 September 2023 | Beacon on Light (UK)  
**North East Automotive Alliance's (NEAA) flagship Expo** | organised by NEAA | [Further information](#)

 3 – 4 October 2023 | Belfort (France)  
**Hydrogen Business for Climate** | co-organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur | [Further 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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