

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

Mobility gets into the focus of EACN member clusters, at least in Spain. With AVIA and CAAR, to clusters moved from automotive to automotive and mobility clusters to open to further members but particularly to address mobility in a larger way than just through vehicles. Let's see who's next?

The upcoming months are full of conferences and events that will be opportunities to meet between EACN members. Let us know when you meet each other and what ideas came out of your exchanges. We are looking forward to your news.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentation

Clust'ER MECH

Clust-ER MECH is a cluster organization that brings together the Mechatronics and Motoristics sectors in the Emilia-Romagna Region, known for their longstanding tradition in Motorsport and Mechanical Engineering. Situated in the heart of the famed Motor Valley, Clust-ER MECH comprises over 130 members including public and private bodies, SMEs, research centres, universities, and training institutions. The organization's mission is to promote the sharing of skills, ideas, and competencies to enhance regional competitiveness in these sectors.



Federico Capucci, Cluster Manager Clust-ER MECH

To achieve its goals, Clust-ER MECH operates through eight thematic working groups, or Value Chains (VCs), which include Automation and Robotics, Advanced Materials, Digital and Advanced Manufacturing, Sustainable and Connected Mobility, Mobile Electrification Systems, Aerospace and Aeronautics, and Fluid power. With the participation of more than 473 spokespersons, these VCs cover a broad range of

topics and facilitate the exchange of the latest R&D trends among members, enterprises, and research and development labs.

As an active member of the regional innovation ecosystem coordinated by ART-ER, Clust-ER MECH reflects Emilia-Romagna's strong involvement in the European and international panorama. The organization participates in various European projects such as AMULET and GEMSTONE, and supports companies and RTOs in collaborating internationally. Through its collaborative environment, Clust-ER MECH fosters innovation and promotes the growth of the Mechatronics and Motoristics sectors in the Emilia-Romagna Region and beyond.

Clust-ER MECH joined EACN in December 2022.

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Members' lounge

Automotive & Battery Forum 2023, co-organised by Automotive Cluster Bulgaria



Automotive Cluster Bulgaria, together with Kinstellar and Invest Bulgaria Agency, organizes the **Automotive & Battery Forum 2023 that will take place on 25 – 27 April in the Grand Hotel Sofia (Bulgaria)**. The international conference will bring together over 150 of the world's top automotive leaders and experts with the opportunity to share best practices, collaborate, and create new business partnerships.

This year's conference will delve into the latest breakthroughs in electric vehicle batteries and energy storage systems, the decarbonization of the sector, the role of automotive software and the "software-defined" car, digital transformation in manufacturing, and the importance of cyber security.

Registration: <https://lnkd.in/dk9yZreG>

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“International Cluster Managers Meeting” at the Hannover Industry Fair organised by e-mobil BW

The annual Hannover Industry Fair provides an important platform for international exchange and networking. In 2023, more than 40 exhibitors from Baden-Württemberg, including Cluster Electric Mobility South-West and Cluster Fuel Cell BW, will present innovative products and solutions for future mobility at the Baden-Württemberg Pavilion in hall 12 (booth D15).



On **Tuesday, 18th April 2023 from 10:30-13:00**, e-mobil BW would like to invite all managers of its international partner clusters and innovation networks to an “International Cluster Managers Meeting” at the Hannover Industry Fair. During the meeting, participants will have the opportunity to present their organisations in short pitch presentations and network with representatives of international innovation clusters and networks.

Preliminary agenda:

- ▲ 10:30: Welcome and introduction by e-mobil BW
- ▲ 10:45: Pitch presentations by participating clusters and networks
- ▲ 12:15: Networking and snacks
- ▲ 13:00: End of event

[Registration](#) mandatory (prior to 24 March 2023).

e-mobil BW will provide a complimentary one-day trade fair ticket for all participants of the International Cluster Managers Meeting. More information on this trade fair ticket, will follow after your registration for the meeting.

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AVIA celebrates 20th anniversary in a period of transformation of the automotive sector towards sustainable mobility

AVIA began its journey in 2003 with seven member companies and began its professionalization in 2006. After a moderate initial growth, the organisation gradually increased its membership to reach 120 associates from the entire value chain of sustainable vehicle production in the Region of Valencia. Born as a business association, AVIA became a regional Cluster in 2007 when it incorporated universities and research institutions.

"The Cluster has been able to adapt to the needs of its members and to different situations we have faced. From the 2008 crisis, which was a turning point for the sector, to the recent pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine. The 2008 crisis made suppliers realize the need to diversify into markets, clients, and products. Thanks to this, the sector in the Region of Valencia has been able to withstand other difficult situations. Moreover, this diversification allows us, today, to be convinced that the Valencian sector can tackle the electrification and decarbonization changes demanded by society. We've done it before, and we'll do it again," says Mónica Alegre, current President of AVIA since 2018.

For AVIA's President, the current challenges for the sector involve "an appropriate transformation towards sustainable mobility and decarbonization that doesn't penalize companies and allows maintaining all jobs. [...] The Valencian automotive sector has innovation and reinvention capabilities, but we need to know what's expected of us."

AVIA's recent transformation into a Mobility Cluster responds to the sector's evolution towards a new paradigm of mobility use and consumption. To help automotive companies in this transformation, AVIA launched the Mobility Innovation Valencia in 2017, a tool that is in direct contact with sector companies and the mobility ecosystem to detect opportunities that help companies in this transition.



During these years, AVIA has defended and represented the interests of the Valencian automotive industry, placing special emphasis on improving the companies' productivity to maintain the competitiveness of the territory. To achieve this objective, it has led projects that have resulted in the continuous improvement of its members, from the implementation of Lean Manufacturing to current projects related to sustainable mobility such as 5GLogic or DETEBAT VE.

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Bruno Grandjean, animator of a round table at the Forum Rhin-Meuse in Bruxelles



On 12 April 2023, Bruno Grandjean, General Manager of Pôle Véhicule du Futur and President of EACN, animates a round table on the event "Mobility in Europe: Which solutions to a sustainable and borderless transport?" on the topic "Car and rail industries: what future for the « Made in Europe »?" The event is organised by the French Region Grand-Est and the Land Baden-Württemberg. [Further information and registration](#)

Spanish Automotive clusters met to analyse the future of the sector in Spain and Europe

On 7 March 2023, Spanish automotive clusters CIAC, AVIA, La Rioja AUTOMOTIVE Cluster, CAAR, FaCyL, and CEAGA met at the conference "Empowering the Spanish Automotive Industry: A Reborn Year!" to make an **overview of the future** of the sector as detailed as possible, specifically in the **European and Spanish markets** in relation to the rest of the world markets. The data will be provided by the consulting firm **S&P Global**, with whom the clusters already agree to access the various databases on combustion and electric powertrain, new car launches, raw material prices, and other basic data such as production, sales, and inflation. [Discover the results.](#)

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CAAR becomes the Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Aragon

In February 2023, the Aragonese cluster included 'mobility' in its name as an answer to the transformation process the automotive industry is today undergoing. With this new approach, the cluster is open to all existing and future mobility systems and to all the companies that may be related to them. [Read more \(in Spanish\).](#)



Participants of the CAAR General Assembly 2023

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Networking cocktail organised by French Automotive and Mobility Network during RTR Conference

On 14 February, parallel to the RTR conference, FAMN (the French Automotive and Mobility Network), joint representation of the French Plateforme automobile (PFA) and the 4 French automotive clusters and EACN members CARA, ID4MOBILITY, NextMove and Pôle Véhicule du Futur, organised a networking cocktail to strengthen the links between the French innovation players.



About 30 people participated in this event which was the opportunity for the 4 automotive clusters to meet Brussels stakeholders and innovation players, particularly in the automotive and mobility sectors.

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International Automotive Business Meeting IZERA Edition, Jaworzno, Poland

On 9 – 10 May 2023
Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster co-organises the 6th IABM in Jaworzno,



Poland. IABM is an innovative automotive event where automotive industry experts and professionals from Central and Eastern Europe, and international guests come together to share best industry practices, promote innovative ideas and solutions, and benchmark and network to build long-lasting industry relationships. [Further information](#)

P.S.: This year, EACN Executive Board members meet in parallel to IABM on 10 May for the EACN Strategy Workshop.

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EU Clusters Talks: Mobility - Cluster perspectives for a resilient and sustainable ecosystem



The review of the EU Clusters Talk with EACN contribution is available [here](#).

AC Serbia awarded with the Bronze Label

Congratulation to EACN member Serbian Automotive Cluster - AC Serbia for this great achievement. Thanks to the high quality of cluster work and the collaborative support performed under the EVOLUTE project, AC Serbia has been awarded the Bronze Cluster Excellence Label in January 2023.



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SEE Conference 2023, Belgrad



Serbian Automotive Cluster – AC Serbia organizes the 9th "SEE Automotive – Connect&Supply" on 30-31.05.2023 in Belgrad/Serbia. The aim of SEE automotive conference is to connect OEMs, Tier 1 & 2, and relevant public institutions to further support the development of automotive industry in the SEE region.

[Further information](#)

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Project corner

CAAR hosted the partners of the E-BOOST and the EVOLUTE projects

In January 2023 CAAR hosted 10 European clusters from the e-BOOST and EVOLUTE projects to address the future of mobility in its transition towards sustainability and digitization. Both projects seek to move towards clean mobility, the decarbonisation of transport and the reduction of emissions.

In the E-BOOST project, mobility, automotive, logistics and rail clusters from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland cooperate towards a European electromobility ecosystem. The 1.4 M€ budget includes a cascade funding system of 700,000 euros for SMEs and start-ups in the field of mobility products and services.



E-BOOST and EVOLUTE Partners at work

The Evolute project aims at helping companies and their staff to be prepared for future challenges the sector is facing through new products and service staff, and the promotion of innovation. This consortium brings together clusters from Germany, Serbia, Italy,

the Czech Republic, and Spain and has a budget of 600,000 €.

The joint meeting was the opportunity to strengthen collaboration ties and create common strategies when it comes to addressing the future of mobility.

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East Automotive Alliance

East Automotive Alliance received a €60.000 grant for the project 'A model of cooperation between a vocational school and an industry's organization' that is funded under the Erasmus+ 2022 Call 'KA210-VET – Small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training'. The project aims at systematizing the principles of student apprenticeships and placements in workplaces as well as adapting the curricula to the needs of automotive industry. The project is carried out in cooperation with EACN member [autoklastr](#) (Czech Republic), [Zespół Szkół Technicznych im. Tadeusza Kosciuszki w Lezajsku](#) (Poland), [Střední škola a Vyšší odborná škola, Kopřivnice](#), (Czech Republic), [Superior Industries Production Poland Sp. z o. o.](#) and [TATRA Trucks a.s.](#) (Poland).

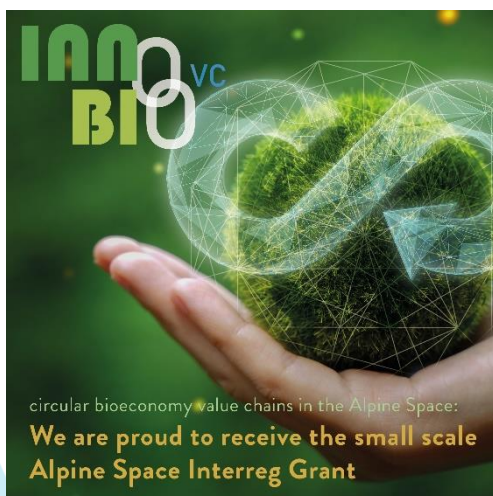
Congratulations to the project consortium.

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WFG Heilbronn lead partner of the Interreg Alpine Space project INNOBIOVC



Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn together with [Business Upper Austria](#) (Austria), [Anteja ECG](#) (Slovenia), [Lombardy Green Chemistry Association](#) (Italy), and [Chemie-Cluster Bayern GmbH](#) (Germany) get awarded

with a funding from the Interreg Alpine-Space programme for the project "INNOVATION EXPRESS FOR CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY VALUE CHAINS – INNOBIOVC". The project is one of the two out of 27 funded Small-Scale Projects of the second cut-off 2022.

The project puts the focus on the adaption and roll out of two developed Interreg project solutions: the Innovation Express Call Scheme (IECS) of ARDIA-Net and the Value Chain Generator of AlLinkBioEco. The rollout will happen in a transnational network of 6 Alpine Regions and 5 countries. The goal is to roll out an improved IECS with the focus on cross regional value chains, key resources and sectors in agriculture, food and beverages, chemistry, polymers and energy. The inclusion of a Sustainability Assessment Tool will allow to measure the impact of regional and corporate investments in the circular bioeconomy and enable transnational financing of co-developed circular products.

Congratulations to the project partners.

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REMOBILISE | Porto cluster mission

On 10 – 12 May the [REMOBILISE](#) project organises the REMOBILISE Porto cluster mission in Porto (Portugal). The event targets city representatives from across Europe and offers a unique opportunity to gain knowledge about the local ecosystem and the implementation of new mobility solutions. During this event, the attendees will have the chance to learn from mobility experts and share their experiences with one another, ultimately enabling them to develop new strategies to tackle mobility challenges in their respective cities. [Further information.](#)

Hack4reSTART

The Hack4reSTART are an innovative event format bringing together traditional European manufacturing SMEs with technology providers that can offer solutions for the digital transformation and for transitioning to Industry 5.0. The Hack4reSTART focus on stimulation of innovation and collaborations among traditional and tech-savvy SMEs. The next Hack4reSTART are coming soon:

- ▲ April/May, Romania
Topics: Digitalisation; Green Manufacturing
- ▲ 30 May, Portugal:
Topics: Advanced manufacturing; Digital twins; Additive manufacturing.

[Further information and registration.](#)

ReStartSMEs Training Programme on Industry 4.0 and 5.0

Digital transformation requires more than just the implementing of technological solutions. The most revolutionary transformations happen when organizations take on the human resources needed to adapt to this transition and learn new ways of thinking and acting. To this end, the ReStartSMEs project training programme shows everyone involved how to make the most of current technologies and generate innovative relationships between people, machines, and the ecosystem. [Find more here.](#)

Other information

Automotive Skills Alliance WG1 Meeting agenda

ASA WG1 – HORIZONTAL ISSUES covers different overarching issues that influence the skills agenda in the Automotive Ecosystem, such as, e.g., attractiveness, apprenticeships, or funding.

- ▲ 04.04.: [Transition pathways](#)
- ▲ 25.04.: [Funding opportunities & Attractiveness of the sector 2nd part](#)
- ▲ 16.05. [Dedicated study related to the topic of apprenticeships & Apprenticeships 1st part](#)
- ▲ 27.06.: [COM initiative – „2023 as a year of skills“ & Apprenticeships 2nd part](#)

Presentations from the workshop “Towards an EU Roadmap for Hydrogen Valleys” now available.

The presentations from the workshop “Towards an EU Roadmap for Hydrogen Valleys”, which was organised by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership, the European Hydrogen Valleys Partnership, and the Northern Netherlands region on 28.02.-01.03.2023 [can be found here.](#)

Common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding

The European Commission published a new guide with Dos and Don'ts to help preparing a high-quality proposal. [Read more.](#)

Investor event for beneficiaries of EU-funded R&I projects in energy, transport and Euratom

Research and innovation results from EU-funded projects can help to solve or greatly reduce the

challenges caused by the energy crisis. On **Tuesday afternoon, 23 May 2023**, the European Commission, in cooperation with Business Angels Europe, will organise a pitching event where companies in the areas of energy, transport, mobility and Euratom can present mature and exploitable results from their EU projects to a panel of business investors. [Information and registration.](#)

Abstract Submissions for Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2024 are open!

TRA is a major transport conference that covers all transport modes and discusses all aspects of mobility. **TRA2024 will take place on 15-18.04.2023** in Dublin. Themes are Inclusive Mobility, Sustainable Mobility of People & Goods, Collaborative Digitalisation, and Efficient & Resilient Systems. [Further information.](#)

New 2023 SME Fund: €60 million to protect intellectual property of EU SMEs

In January, the European Commission and the European Union Intellectual Property Office launched a new 2023 EU SME Fund, which offers intellectual property vouchers for EU-based SMEs.


The new EU SME Fund, with its budget of €60.1 million, will offer the following services


- ▲ reimburse 90% of the fees charged by EU countries for IP Scan services,
- ▲ reimburse 75% of the fees charged by intellectual property offices for trademark and design registration,
- ▲ reimburse 50 % of the fees charged by the World Intellectual Property Office for obtaining international trademark and design protection.

The action will be implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office through calls for proposals. The applications will be examined and evaluated based on a first comes first served criterion. [Read more.](#)


Agenda

 03 – 04 April 2023 | Brussels (Belgium) & online **European Conference on Connected and Automated Driving** | organised by PPP Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility & the FAME project | [Further information and registration](#)


 05 April 2023 | online **EU Clusters Talks: Raw Materials and Circular Economy** | organised by ECCP and ECA | [Registration](#)

 12 April 2023 | Brussels (Belgium) **RHINE-MEUSE FORUM „Mobility in Europe: Which**


solutions to a sustainable and borderless transport” | organised by Grand-Est and Land Baden-Württemberg | [Further information and registration](#)

 15 – 18 April 2023 | Dublin (Ireland)


Transport Research Arena (TRA) | co-organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

 17 – 21 April 2023 | Hannover (Germany)


Hannover Fair 2023 | [Information](#)

 25-27 April 2023 | Sofia (Bulgaria)


Automotive & Battery Forum 2023 | organised by AC Bulgaria | [Further information and registration](#)

 April/May 2023 | Romania (tbc)


Hack4reSTART on Digitalisation & Green Manufacturing | co-organised by MOBINOV | [Further information](#)

 9 – 10 May 2023 | Jaworzno (Poland)


International Automotive Business Meeting IZERA Edition | co-organised by SA&AM | [Further information](#)

 10 – 12 May 2023 | Porto (Portugal)


REMOBILISE Porto cluster mission | co-organised by MOBINOV | [Further information](#)

 22 – 24 May 2023 | Lisbon (Portugal)


15th ITS European Congress | organised by ERTICO ITS Europe and Lisboa Câmara Municipal Métropole | [Information](#)

 30 May 2023 | Porto de Leixões (Portugal)


Hack4reSTART on Advanced manufacturing, Digital twins & Additive manufacturing | co-organised by MOBINOV | [Further information](#)

 30 – 31 May 2023 | Belgrade (Serbia)

SEE Automotive – Connect & Supply 2023 | organised by AC Serbia | [Further 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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