

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

The first remains of EACN date back to 2016 when EACN was firstly launched by 8 clusters. Today, it is a strong and unique network of 26 automotive clusters across Europe.

Last week, **EACN Board members participated in the International Automotive Business Meeting (IABM)** co-organised by our member SA&AM in Jaworzno close to Katowice. This was a great opportunity to meet with all four Polish automotive clusters and to discuss with people from Polish companies and institutions, or to discover the prototype of the IZERA electric vehicle being produced in Jaworzno starting from 2026 (see p. 3).



Luk Palmen (SA&AM), Libor Dobeš (Autoklastr), Ewa Dudzic (SA&AM), Thomas Röhr (EACN), Bruno Grandjean (Pôle Véhicule du Futur, President of EACN), and Łukasz Górecki (SA&AM)

The second day in Katowice, the board discussed a strategy for EACN for the upcoming years. We want to make EACN an unparalleled cohesive network for all European automotive clusters that creates value for members through cooperation, best practice, insight, and exploiting synergies that make clusters more resilient and drive European competitiveness. We'll come back soon to all of you to discuss the complete strategy and the future actions we suggest.

Thank you to Łukasz from SA&AM and his team for welcoming and hosting us, it was a pleasant and informative stay.

And at last: On 7 May, **Maciej Ślęzak, Director of East Automotive Alliance, unexpectedly passed away**. We wish courage and strengths to his relatives and to our EAA colleagues. And on 16 May, **Jackie Sánchez-Molero Fernández took over the AVIA cluster management** from Elena Lluch. A warm welcome and we are looking forward to interesting collaboration. And good luck to Elena for her future career.

Enjoy discovering the rich outcomes from EACN members' daily work.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentation

East Automotive Alliance

East Automotive Alliance (EAA) is a cluster that gathers manufacturers of the automotive industry, business-related institutions, and universities mainly from Eastern Poland. The goals of the cluster are:

- ▶ to protect the interests of the automotive enterprises,
- ▶ to create conditions conducive to the development of the automotive industry in Poland and to promote knowledge in this field.

EAA is intended to integrate and cooperate with managers, scientists, and entrepreneurs.



Ryszard Jania, President of EAA

EAA is creator and coordinator of the PAMISZ and PAMISZ II projects (Podkarpackie Academy of Automotive Innovative Vocational Education), an ERASMUS+ project titled 'A model of cooperation between a vocational school and an industry's organization' and was partner in the EU Blueprint DRIVES project which created professions of the future adapted to the needs of the constantly developing automotive industry. EAA experts created and described the profession of Predictive Maintenance.

The cluster is member of EACN and the Automotive Skills Alliance (ASA) and operates the Tarnobrzeg Industrial and Technology Park since March 2020. EAA also engaged in a closer collaboration with the three other Polish automotive clusters during the International Automotive Business Meeting in early May this year.

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Members' lounge



It is with the deepest regret that we announce the untimely death of our colleague

Maciej Ślęzak

Director of East Automotive Alliance and Tarnobrzeg Industrial and Technology Park.

He died suddenly on May 7. Maciej has always devoted himself to his work with great dedication.

Always in our memory,
EAA Team

Virtual Speed-Match International Networking, 24-25.05.2023



On 24 and 25 May 2023, EACN member Eskisehir Chamber of Commerce organises its annual virtual Speed-Match International Networking Event bringing together actors from automotive, aviation, and railway industries. [Further information.](#)

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SEE Automotive, Belgrade, 30-31.05.2023



The "SEE Automotive Conference 2023" will be hosted by EACN member AC Serbia on 30 and 31 May in Belgrade. This year's conference topic is 'From "Connect & Supply" to "The New Mobility"'. [Further information and registration.](#)

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North East Automotive Expo: EACN members welcome

The SEE Automotive Conference 2023" will be hosted by EACN member AC Serbia on 30 and 31 May in Belgrade. This year's conference topic is 'From "Connect & Supply" to "The New Mobility"'. [Further information and registration.](#) This is the flagship event and industry highlight for companies operating within the region's automotive supply chain. It provides a great opportunity to hear about the North East and UK automotive sector, meet the excellent companies based in the region and see the technology that exists. Discover the 2022 edition [here.](#)

The NEAA would be keen to host EACN member clusters and their members and could offer exhibition space (at members rate as an offer to EACN members), meet the buyer meetings and additional activity around the event to make the visit more worthwhile. [Further information and registration.](#)

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CIAC: 'Risks and Opportunities of the automotive sector'

Interesting insights from a masterclass with Marcos Urarte, a consultant at Pharos, on the 'Risks and Opportunities of the automotive sector in Catalonia' also applicable to the rest of Europe. [Read more.](#)

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AVIA celebrates its first matching event on sustainable mobility.

On 8 May 2023 AVIA, together with Startup Valencia and Mobility Innovation Valencia, organized its first MatchMaking event to push collaboration between Start-ups and AVIA members in the field of sustainable mobility.

The event aimed at finding mentors and investors for startups, and at learning opportunities from established companies. It was also an opportunity for AVIA's members to learn from the agility and boldness of startups. In this way, they can cooperate in the development of sustainable and intelligent mobility. [Read full press release.](#)

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Strong visibility of the Cluster ESW at Hanover Trade Fair

At this year's Hannover Trade Fair, the Cluster Electric Mobility South-West was represented by 21 members at the Baden-Württemberg Pavilion. The cluster members took advantage of the fair to present their own innovative solutions and to network with national and international visitors and exhibitors. One highlight was the cluster members' meeting focused on batteries which was supported by the CELEST research platform with a networking reception. The Minister of Economic Affairs of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut MdL, opened the event with a welcoming speech and stressed the great importance of cooperation. The focus of the event was on current developments and trends in the field of battery technology. From new materials to challenges in production to the recycling of batteries, many issues were discussed with the participants. [Read more.](#)

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IABM 2023: Strengthens cooperation between automotive clusters

This year, the **EACN Board** was present at the **International Automotive Business Meeting (IABM)** – the key event for the automotive industry in Central and Eastern Europe. SA&AM Cluster as co-organizer had the privilege to host **Bruno Grandjean**, General Manager of Pôle Véhicule du Futur and President of EACN, **Thomas Röhr**, Secretary General, and **Libor Dobeš**, Cluster Manager at autoklastr and member of the EACN board.

The 6th IABM IZERA Edition took place on 9-10 May in Jaworzno, Poland. It gathered top automotive industry experts from Central and Eastern Europe and

international guests to share best industry practices, promote innovative ideas and solutions, and benchmark and network to build long-lasting industry.



Prototype of the IZERA EV to be produced by Electromobility Poland SA starting from 2023

Attendees could benefit from impact-driven panels where experts exchanged experiences on the following topics:

- ▲ Polish Electromobility Valley - perspectives for cooperation & competence building.
- ▲ Polish Hydrogen Economy - perspectives for the development of mobility based on hydrogen
- ▲ Autonomous vehicles - a 'vision' for the future
- ▲ Digital technologies for lean and agile automotive production organisation

The afternoon session included the Speed Business Mixer and the first day was concluded with an evening ceremony and Gala Dinner. During the ceremony the **four Polish automotive clusters**

- ▲ Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing (SA&AM),
- ▲ Polish Automotive Group (PGM),
- ▲ Eastern Automotive Alliance (WSM),
- ▲ Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster (DKM),

all being member of the EACN, signed an agreement to cooperate, support each other and take joint actions for the development of a strong and modern automotive industry in Poland.



Łukasz Górecki, SA&AM, introduces the cooperation agreement signature by the representatives of the four Polish automotive clusters SA&AM, EAA, PGM and DKM

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CEAGA: 7th edition of Business Factory Auto call launched

Business Factory Auto (BFA) is a vertical accelerator for **entrepreneurial projects in the automotive and mobility sectors**. The initiative is led by CEAGA and Stellantis, with the backing of the Xunta de Galicia, the Free Trade Zone Consortium of Vigo and the component suppliers of the Galician automotive sector. Its objective is to accelerate and consolidate specialised projects and to transform them into viable and scalable innovative companies that attract and retain talent; thereby contributing to strengthening the position of the sector and increasing its international projection. Entrepreneurs supported by BFA have access to workspace, financial support, training, mentors....

BFA launched its 7th edition to attract new innovative entrepreneurial projects. Deadline for applications is 28 June, both for the acceleration and the consolidation phases. [Further information about BFA and the call.](#)

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Congratulations to CAAR and SA&AM for the award of the Cluster Management Excellence Gold Label



The **Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Aragon (CAAR)** has been recognized with the Gold Label on cluster management excellence. This award by the European Cluster Excellence Initiative (ECEI) demonstrates a high level of professionalism and sophisticated cluster management. CAAR obtained the the Bronze Label in 2012, followed by the Silver Label in 2016, and now the Gold Label in April 2023 for the first time by scoring 86%.

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing (SA&AM) Cluster, coordinated by Katowice Special Economic Zone, has been awarded with the Gold Label for Cluster Management Excellence by the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) in May 2023. Łukasz Górecki: *“Receiving the European Gold Label and having the status of a Key National Cluster confirms the high level of professionalism and cluster management excellence of the SA&AM Cluster among the best clusters in Poland and Europe.”* SA&AM obtained the Bronze Label in 2018 and the Silver Label in 2020 before being awarded with the Gold Label in 2023.

Congratulations for this confirmation of excellent and high-quality work of EACN members.

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CAAR: Successful 6th edition of the Mobility Industrial Suppliers Meetings

Organized by CAAR and supported by EACN members CEAGA, FACYL, AVIA, and CIAC as well as by [GIRA](#) (Cantabria), [La Rioja AUTOMOTIVE Cluster](#) (La Rioja), and [ACAN](#) (Navarra), the event brought together 55 purchasing managers and 130 suppliers from automotive, mobility, and railway industry, which held more than 400 bilateral meetings in Zaragoza with the aim of identifying new business opportunities.

The event focused on solutions to future challenges and on the facilitation of both location of production in Spain and collaboration with European suppliers to avoid supply rises and to reduce CO2 emissions. The event included B2B meetings and a conference programme. [Event website](#). [Press release](#) (in Spanish).

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Project corner

EVOLUTE: Online workshop about Autonomous mobile robots”

On **24 May 2023 at 1:00 pm CET** the Evolute consortium organises an **online workshop** with Eng. Juan Carlos Dueñas, Plant Manager at Linde y Wiemann in Zaragoza, Spain on the topic of **“Autonomous mobile robots for movements of material in the automotive production - A practical implementation example”** with a focus on how to design system AMR’s (Digital twin and data of material flow), on industrial communications between AMR’s and humans, on AMR’s technologies, on challenges and barriers of the implementation, on users, maintenance and supplier of technology, and on data management. [Further information and registration.](#)

RESIST Eurocluster: Two Open calls for SMEs

Within the framework of the RESIST Eurocluster initiative- in which PVF, CEAGA and Autoklastr participate - two open calls addressed to European SMEs working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) ecosystem have just been launched:

	ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES 	FINANCIAL SUPPORT 
INNOVATION OPEN CALL DEADLINE TO APPLY: June 21, 2023	Innovation projects focused on any of the following challenges: (1) Digitalization through advanced technologies. (2) Greener production systems (3) Renewable energy innovations	Total budget: €800,000 to finance up to 20 projects (1) Individual Projects: €20,000/applicant (2) Consortium Projects: €30,000/applicant
NETWORKING OPEN CALL DEADLINE TO APPLY: December 20, 2024	(1) Marketing activities, including the attendance to exhibitions, conferences and forums. (2) Networking activities Participation in matchmaking events and meetings with potential customers or suppliers	Total budget: €15,000 to finance up to 45 FSTP schemes (1) Marketing activities: 250 €/person (2) Networking activities: 500 €/person

Apart from the innovation and networking open calls, other funding schemes will be launched in the future, so SMEs can benefit from coaching and mentoring services, advanced training activities and internationalisation support in third countries.

Innovation call: [Information and application](#)

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Networking call: [Information and application](#)

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EVOLUTE: ClusterXChange to Serbia

On **29-31 May 2023**, the consortium organises a **3 days ClusterXChange to Novi Sad and Belgrade in Serbia**. This will be the opportunity to participate in the "**SEE Automotive Conference Connect & Supply**". Participants will meet local and international companies during the conference and at B2B meetings and get insight about regional and global strategies of the automotive industry, electric mobility, green mobility strategies, and much more.

Small and medium-sized enterprises, research institutions, cluster organisations, and TechCenters receive a lump sum of up to EUR 280 ([EU funding criteria apply](#)). For further information and registration please contact info@evolute-project.eu and/or aleksandar.saranac@acserbia.org.rs.

EVOLUTE: ClusterXChange to Germany

And finally, the consortium organises on **27-29 June 2023** another **3 days ClusterXChange event to Heilbronn and Frankfurt in Germany with a focus on hydrogen**: Attendance of the Hydrogen Day on the first

day, of site visits to DLR & HALMOSI on the second day, and a visit of STELLANTIS Rüsselsheim (Frankfurt area) including a presentation of their hydrogen strategy and fuel cell electric vehicles. The networking lunch will take place at the Opel Villa.

Small and medium-sized enterprises, research institutions, cluster organisations, TechCenters receive a lump sum of up to EUR 415 ([EU funding criteria apply](#)). Please register [here](#) and tick the box: "Ich nehme teil". For further question please mail to evolute@wfgheilbronn.de.


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SURE5.0: Looking for service providers to support SMEs in their 5.0 projects

The EU-funded [SURE5.0 project](#) – in which CEAGA participate - is looking for experts that can assist SMEs from the MTA, aerospace & defence and electronics industrial ecosystems in their transition towards industry 5.0, so they can advance in their digital transformation process while becoming more human-centric, sustainable and resilient. The following services are required:

Smart factory services
Technologies including artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics, cloud computing, and the industrial Internet of things (IIoT). 

Environmental sustainability services
Implementation of circular processes that reuse, repurpose, and recycle resources, efficient usage of energy, limiting emissions by improving processes and preventing and managing the waste generated in an organization. 

Human-centricity services
Mass customization of products at different levels of manufacturing, product traceability along the entire supply chain / product lifecycle 

Industrial resilience services
Flexible and adaptable technologies, appropriate worker-skill sets, visibility and transparency throughout the supply chain and strategic readiness towards disruptions form the building blocks of resilient organizations. 

Companies with relevant know-how in any of these fields are welcome to join our Catalogue for Complementary service providers, registering in the following page: <https://sureproject.eu/register/>

Only those service providers included in this directory will be potential candidates to be hired by the SMEs funded under the SURE5.0 acceleration programmes, being allocated at least 60% of the total 50,000€ awarded to SMEs.

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Other information

Publication of a 'Supply chain analysis and material demand forecast in strategic technologies and sectors in the EU'

In March 2023, the European Commission published this foresight study elaborated by the [Joint Research Center](#). The study covers 15 technologies including Li-ion batteries, fuel cells, electrolysers, traction motors, additive manufacturing, or robotics. The study can be downloaded from [here](#).

Horizon Europe Working Programme 2023-24 for the Climate-Energy-Mobility cluster

The official version of the working programme for cluster 5 for the years 2023 and 2024 can be found [here](#).

Launch of the GREENET Partner Search Tool

The GREENET Partner Search Tool aims at bringing together organisations (Coordinators as well as partners) from across the world to collaborate on potential Horizon Europe projects. Areas of intervention include Industrial competitiveness in transport, Clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility, and Smart mobility. Meetings are organised via the website and during online events throughout the whole year (2023). Interested organisations can [register here](#).

Call for Applications for the selection of members of the Commission expert group on the Interim Evaluation of Horizon Europe

The European Commission published a call to select 15 acknowledged experts who will support the European Commission in the interim evaluation of the Horizon Europe programme. [Further information \(see tab 'Additional information'\)](#). Deadline for application is the 20 June 2023.

Mission Innovation Hydrogen Valley Platform

The mission of the [Hydrogen Valley Platform](#) is to create a global collaboration and go-to-platform for all information on large-scale hydrogen flagship projects (Hydrogen Valleys – H2Vs). It aims at helping current and future hydrogen developers to gather meaningful information from experienced peers and will promote collaboration among one another. [Replay of the webinar of 8 May 2023 to relaunch the platform](#).


Call for Applications: 2nd Cluster Booster Academy


This 2nd instalment offers Cluster Managers unparalleled opportunities for networking, professional development, and cluster innovation. The Academy is a **4-day event**, consisting of a **2-day online event** (06-07 June 2023) as well as a **2-day in person training session in Torino, Italy** (21-22 September 2023) in collaboration with the hosting [MESAP Innovation Cluster](#). **Deadline for application is the 24 May 2023**. [Further information and application](#).


Roland Berger reports on automotive industry production


RB published earlier this year two studies on [the current state of "Industry 4.0". What can other industries learn from leading automotive manufacturers?](#) and on [Future readiness in automotive production](#).


Agenda

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


 23 May 2023 | Online & Brussels (Belgium)
REPowerEU info day in the areas of energy, mobility, transport and Euratom | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)


 24 May 2023 | online
Zero emission urban road delivery vehicles market analysis and EIT Urban mobility Call for Proposals 2022-2024 | organised by the ENTRANCE project and EIT Urban Mobility | [Further information and registration](#)


 24 – 25 May 2023 | online
Virtual Speed-Match International Networking Event for automotive, aviation, and railway industries | organised by Eskisehir Chamber of Commerce | [Further information](#).


 30 May 2023 | Porto de Leixões (Portugal)
Hack4reSTART on Advanced manufacturing, Digital twins & Additive manufacturing | co-organised by MOBINOV | [Further information](#)

 30 May 2023 | online
Training event for Horizon Europe Cluster 5 applicants | organised by GREENET | [Further information and registration](#)


 30 – 31 May 2023 | Belgrade (Serbia)
SEE Automotive – Connect & Supply 2023 | organised by AC Serbia | [Further information](#)

 14 -15 June 2023 | Stuttgart (Germany)
ASA Stuttgart Study Visit | organised by the Automotive Skills Alliance | [Registration and agenda](#)

 20 – 22 September 2023 | Heraklion (Crete)
International Congress on Transportation Research | organised by and Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers | [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](#)

 17 – 18 October 2023 | Bruxelles (Belgium)
4th Future of Road Mobility Forum 2023 | organised by earpa | [Further information and registration](#)

 29 – 30 November 2023 | Leuven (Belgium)
Annual POLIS Conference 2023 | organised by POLIS | [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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Newsletter published on 22.05.2023