

The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, 2023 is the European Year of Skills. Building on the work done in the Automotive Skills Alliance and also in the context of the Automotive Regions Alliance and "Route 35" kick-off discussions between Commissioner Breton and stakeholders on 15 December 2022, Commissioners Thierry Breton (Internal Market) and Nicolas Schmit (Jobs and Social Rights) invited me as President of the European Automotive Cluster Network together with other stakeholders to a meeting on 5 June in Brussels to discuss the upskilling/reskilling challenges in the automotive sector in order to ensure a just transition across the ecosystem.



Participants of the discussion with Commissioners Schmit and Breton on 5 June 2023

This was a perfect occasion for me to highlight the overall shortage of skilled workers in the automotive industry. Commissioners Schmit and Breton acknowledged in their conclusion that we must work on attractiveness, as this is a very important issue, and also that we have to work on the entire ecosystem, and not only on skills related to batteries.

This invitation is an illustration of the fact that, together, we can carry more weight and have our voices heard better than each one separately. EACN is your network, let us make it grow together!

To further strengthen our cooperation and the attractiveness of our network, we plan to organise one or two physical meetings per year, connected to events of general interest. To start, we want to invite all EACN member clusters to come to the Forum Hydrogen Business for Climate, organised by PVF and its partners on 3 and 4 October in Belfort (France). You will find some more information on page 2.

And to finish this foreword: Happy and restful vacations to all of you. We'll see us back full of energy after the summer break.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentation

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing Cluster

The Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing (SA&AM) Cluster is an initiative coordinated by Katowice Special Economic Zone, the best economic zone in Europe, with an aim to support automotive and advanced manufacturing companies.

As part of the Cluster's activities, companies build relationships with the business, scientific and educational environment and develop their competencies through the exchange of experiences, good practices, knowledge sharing and joint problem solving.



Łukasz Górecki, Cluster Manager

Today, SA&AM cluster brings together over 200 members, including:

- ▶ more than 130 manufacturers of cars, components, and parts - Polish branches of multinationals and Polish enterprises cooperating with multinationals in Poland and abroad within global supply chains.
- ▶ more than 50 suppliers of advanced industrial technologies - suppliers and integrators closely cooperating with the automotive sector and actively engaged in delivering new technologies to other industries.
- ▶ over 20 of research and scientific institutes and business support organizations - institutions cooperating with enterprises on a daily basis in R&D services, innovation and education.

During the year, the cluster organises lots of different initiatives aimed at developing relations and building competencies. Thematic workshops, trainings, business meetings, joint trips to trade fairs and trade missions in Poland and abroad are only part of the cluster's activities.

Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing is among the top clusters in Poland and also in Europe. SA&AM has the status of a Key National Cluster (top recognition for clusters in Poland) and ESCA Gold European Cluster Management Excellence Label. Last but not least, SA&AM is proud to be a member of the EACN:)

Contact: Łukasz Górecki, Director

✉ lgorecki@silesia-automotive.pl | 

Members' lounge

Jackie Sánchez-Molero following Elena Lluch at the head of AVIA



Jackie Sánchez-Molero, cluster manager at AVIA since May

Jackie is the new director of AVIA, since last May. She replaces Elena Lluch, who has started in a new position. Jackie is an engineer and has directed Mobility Innovation Valencia, the innovation area of AVIA, for the last two years. She has a long professional career, especially related to innovation and international projects. In this new stage in AVIA's management, her intention is to expand the cluster's activities related to smart and sustainable mobility and to collaborate with European companies and entities to achieve it.

Jackie also replaces Elena in the EACN Executive Board. A warm welcome in EACN.

Contact:

Jackie Sánchez-Molero, Cluster Manager

✉ jackie@avia.com.es

Mobinov: Carlos Gonçalves succeeds to Fernando Machado

Beginning of June, Carlos Gonçalves took the reins of the Portuguese automotive cluster Mobinov.

Carlos started working in the automotive sector in 2015 where he gained valuable experience in various

Portuguese automotive companies. During this time, he developed a deep understanding of the automotive industry's operations and dynamics. These early experiences provided him with a solid foundation and an extensive knowledge base. In October 2022, Carlos joined Mobinov as Project Leader for National and International Projects. After the departure of Fernando Machado, he holds the position of interim General Manager since 1st of June.



Carlos Gonçalves, new Mobinov interim Cluster Manager since June

Carlos also joins the Executive Board where he takes over the seat from Fernando. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Contact:

Carlos Gonçalves, interim Cluster Manager

✉ carlos.goncalves@mobinov.pt

Let's meet!



PVF and its partners invite all EACN member clusters to join at the [Forum Hydrogen Business for Climate](#) on 3 and 4 October 2023 in Belfort/France. Each member cluster will get **ONE FREE ENTRY** to the forum with its 10 plenary sessions, 7 workshops, its exhibition, in-situ visits...



The day after the Forum, an EACN internal workshop is planned to discuss topics of common interest. Further information will follow.

EACN in cooperation with the **EVOLUTE** consortium (with partners in Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Serbia and Spain) is **working on a ClusterXChange H2 Mission to Belfort/France!** If the mission is accepted by the European Commission, a **financial support of 450 € becomes possible for clusters and SMEs** (eligibility criteria below).

Eligibility criteria for a CXC Mission to Belfort

- ▲ SMEs from a COSME participating country **outside of France** that are cluster members (SME definition per EU: [SME definition \(europa.eu\)](#))
- ▲ A cluster or similar business network organisation;
- ▲ A scaling-up support organisation (technology centre, research institute, fab-lab, resource-efficiency service provider, [digital] innovation hub, creative hub, incubator and accelerator) that is a cluster member
- ▲ The participant needs to be **18 years of age or above**
- ▲ participants must have their **'permanent residence'**, as defined by the scheme, in an **EU Member State outside of France**
- ▲ participants must stay the full three days of the mission!

An individual eligibility check will be done for each interested institution/person.

Please inform us as soon as possible (preferentially until early September) if you or one of your companies are interested in joining the Forum/the H2 mission by sending an e-mail to sg@eacn-initiative.eu.

Let's meet and strengthen our cooperation!

Contact:

Thomas Röhr, EACN Secretary General

✉ sg@eacn-initiative.eu

1st I.D. Innovation - Digitization Day in the Hauts-de-France region

On 20 June 2023, Toyota Motor Manufacturing France and ARIA Hauts-de-France invited automotive industry players to come together and explore the latest

innovations and trends in the digitalization of the industry.

What is I.D. Day?

- ▲ A half-day event dedicated to the automotive industry;
- ▲ An exhibition with 34 digitalization solution providers;
- ▲ A cycle of 2 conferences, 1 round table and 1 pitch session.



Participants discussing with solution providers

The 80 participants, together with staff from Toyota Motor Manufacturing France and Toyota Motor Europe, discussed and discovered the shown solutions during the event held at the Onnaing production site.

Contact:

Christophe DUCROO, Communication responsible

✉ cducroo@ariahdf.fr

Happy 10th anniversary CIAC



10th anniversary celebration of CIAC

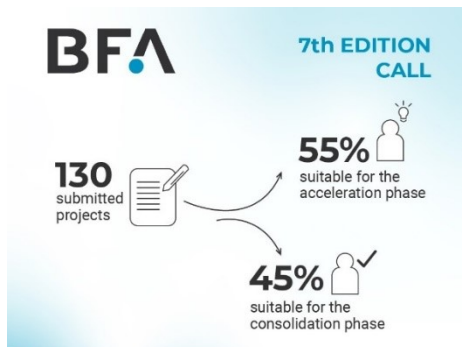
During the automotive meeting on 29 June, CIAC celebrated its 10th anniversary with more than 300 attendees from the automotive industry. CIAC has worked all this time to become a benchmark, both nationally and at European level, which focuses its efforts on helping companies to develop collaborative and transversal projects to create the foundations of the future that go through a sustainable and connected mobility. [Discover the full press release.](#)

Contact:

Patricia Molina Sánchez, Communication

✉ comunicacio@ciac.cat

High participation in the 7th call for the automotive and mobility accelerator Business Factory Auto



The automotive and mobility accelerator Business Factory Auto (BFA), promoted by the regional government of Galicia (Spain), the Free Trade Zone Consortium of Vigo, the Galician Automotive and Mobility Cluster (CEAGA) and Stellantis, has received 130 applications to its 7th edition call. In this edition, numerous regional and national projects have been presented, as well as from other international countries such as Germany, Argentina, South Korea, USA, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Ukraine.

BFA is an initiative born in 2016 to accelerate and consolidate specialised projects in the mobility and automotive industry 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.

Contact:

Rosa Monteagudo, BFA Manager

[✉ rosa.monteagudo@ceaga.com](mailto:rosa.monteagudo@ceaga.com)

Project corner

EVOLUTE Project News

Evolute Networking Call



The next EVOLUTE Networking call is scheduled on 24 July from 13h00-14h00 CET with Alexandra Höllwarth, Co-Founder and Senior Consultant at Cocowork UG.



The topic for this call is "Skills shortage in the Automotive Industry: How to discover new potentials by avoiding unconscious bias". Clusters, SME's, start-ups, research institutes, innovation & technology centers etc. are encouraged to take part and contribute to a cross-border exchange! [Further information and registration](#)

Contact:

Alexandra Wolf, EVOLUTE Coordinator

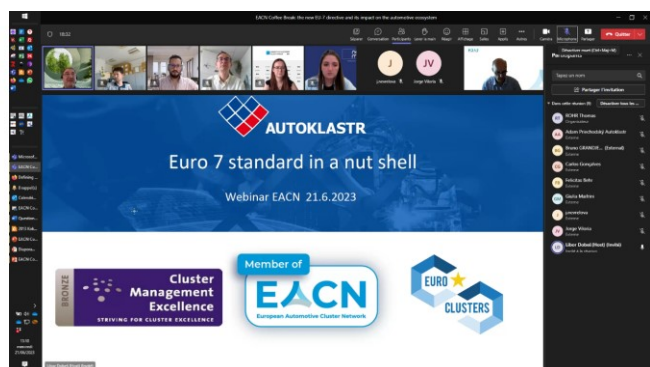
[✉ wolf@wfgheilbronn.de](mailto:wolf@wfgheilbronn.de)

EACN Coffee Break June 2023: Focus on the impact of Euro7 on the European automotive industry



Euro7: Which impact on the automotive industry?

Introduction by Libor Dobeš, Cluster Manager at autoklastr (CZ)



The EACN Coffee Break in June had been the opportunity to discover the impact of the panned EURO7 standard on future cars. Libor Dobeš, Cluster Manager at autoklastr presented in an exhaustive manner existing standards, impact on future cars with

regard to limits of pollutants or of fuel evaporation, of sensor lifetimes, of EV, of braking systems, of tyres... The full presentation can be downloaded from the EACN website ([Services => Document download](#): login necessary to get access!)

EVOLUTE CXC Meeting Heilbronn on Hydrogen

EVOLUTE project lead-partner WFG welcomed seven visiting organizations, as well as cluster organizations, from Italy, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic and UK during a 3-day-ClusterXchange which took place in Heilbronn and Frankfurt (Germany) from 27 – 29 June. The 3-day mission aimed at understanding the hydrogen opportunities that this new technology offers in the automotive field.



Participants of the EVOLUTE CXC Heilbronn mission

The mission started at the local Hydrogen Day where participants discovered solutions and practical applications to meet the current challenges using green hydrogen and exchanged ideas and perspectives with regional companies. A site visit to [iinovis](#) to see a hydrogen test bench and exchange thoughts with the local company was another highlight of the day. Thanks to the evening hike, hosts could taste typical wines and delicacies immersed in the peaceful nature surrounding of Heilbronn’s hills.

On the second day, participants had the unique opportunity to visit the German Aerospace Centre [DLR Lampoldshausen](#) which conducts research and development activities in the fields of aeronautics, space, energy, transport, security and digitalization. This was followed by a site visit to [Halmosi](#), a local company producing special machine and plant equipment for manufacturers of mechanical components and process engineering systems. The evening was spent at a networking BBQ.

The last day was dedicated to a Stellantis-Opel visit in Rüsselsheim. The visit included the uncovering of their adopted hydrogen strategy and an exclusive peek at its production system.

This business mission created the opportunity for knowledge exchange and strengthening the link between companies and clusters. Thanks to everyone who joined the exchange, Evolute partners are looking forward to the next one!









Contact:
Alexandra Wolf, Project Manager
[✉ wolf@wfgheilbronn.de](mailto:wolf@wfgheilbronn.de)

Two RESIST Open Calls



RESIST Internationalisation Open Call with up to 2,000 euros per SME

The RESIST Eurocluster (PVF, CEAGA, Autoklastr) launched its Internationalisation Open Call targeting European Mobility, Transport and Automotive SMEs.

 Eligible activities outside the European Union	 Financial support
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Attend conferences, trade-fairs or exhibitions in a target market  Attend in-person trainings / internationalisation events  Participate in in-person matchmaking events  Bilateral meetings with potential customers or suppliers (B2B, B2C, C2C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  up to 15 FSTP schemes  2,000 €/person

Internationalisation Open Call:
Deadline for application: 20 December 2024

It's mandatory that the financed activities are organized outside the EU. Activities taking place in Mexico, the United States of America, Canada, China, North Africa (especially Morocco), and the United Kingdom will be encouraged.

All information about this Open Call as well as the application form can be found [here](#).

Contact Internationalisation Open Call:
Álvaro Lombardo, Project Manager
[✉ alvaro.lombardo@idia.es](mailto:alvaro.lombardo@idia.es)

Open Call for Expression of Interest for experts in green and digital transition

The RESIST Eurocluster launches a Call for Expression of Interest to experts in the field of digitalization and/or green transformation who have experience in supporting SMEs in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) sector and the related production ecosystem. The experts should enable SMEs to identify their potential and support them in implementing the necessary measures to take advantage of opportunities in the areas of digitalization, green economy, and sustainability. [Further information](#).

Contacts:
Aurianne Agard, RESIST coordinator
[✉ aa@vehiculedefutur.com](mailto:aa@vehiculedefutur.com)
Georg Alber, Project Manager, Mechatronic Cluster
[✉ georg.alber@biz-up.at](mailto:georg.alber@biz-up.at)

ReStartSME: Is your manufacturing SME ready for the future?

The ReStartSME project offers the opportunity for companies to obtain a free roadmap to satisfy sustainability requirements. The roadmaps will consider economic, environmental and regulatory aspects, and they will be created by independent experts until September.



An individualized roadmap can help addressing technical requirements and strengthen resilience. Digital transformation plays a crucial role, both economically and environmentally, by using modern technologies and optimizing operations, companies can increase competitiveness while achieving sustainable goals. Intelligent systems and automation allows improving use of resources and achieving energy savings, or opens opportunities in green technologies and renewable energies.

The roadmap will also address the new Supply Chain Act and the EU's Corporate Social Responsibility Directive (CSRD) necessitating sustainability along the entire supply chain. [More information](#)

Contact:

Tânia Godinho, Marketing Manager

✉ tania.godinho@mobinov.pt

REC-N-COMP mission to Japan with focus on composites based on recycled materials

As part of the REC-N-COMP project, the Polish Automotive Group (PGM) participated in a trade mission to Japan from 15-19 May. The mission involved the participation of five clusters and six companies, including two members of PGM. The purpose of the mission was to establish new business contacts and explore opportunities in the field of composites based on recycled materials.



Representatives from TC3, a company specializing in lightweight multilayer composites production, and MAGNETIX Lamination, a company offering textile bonding services, along with a representative from the Polish Automotive Group, took part in the mission. The delegation had the opportunity to visit Japanese companies and attend the Multi-Functional Materials Week trade fair in Osaka.

The trade fair focused on innovative recycled materials, particularly plastics and composites. It provided a significant platform for networking with experts from around the world and facilitated the exchange of knowledge in the field. The mission to Japan was a valuable opportunity for companies involved in

recycled composites to expand their international presence and establish fruitful collaborations.

The REC-N-COMP project, funded by the European Commission under the COSME programme, aims at supporting the internationalization of European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the automotive, textile, and furniture sectors.

Contact:

Paweł Orzechowski, Project Manager

✉ pawel.orzechowski@pgm.org.pl

1st Eurocluster POLREC Newsletter published

The [first newsletter](#) of the Eurocluster POLREC – Supporting a green and resilient Europe through POLYmer RECYcling – with participation of EACN member WFG – has been published.

Contact:

Alexandra Wolf, Project Manager

✉ wolf@wfgheilbronn.de

Other information

CEF Transport Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility Call for Proposals

The aim of the call for proposals is to support the deployment of alternative fuel supply infrastructure, contributing to the decarbonisation of transport along the TEN-T network. Deadline: 19.09.2023. [Further information](#)

The future of the car

Over the past 20 years, the automotive sector has navigated a wave of disruptions; in the next decade, changes will come faster than ever—and with greater force and impact. Discover a series of 10 McKinsey insights on different automotive related topics. [Read more](#)

Horizon dashboard for lump sum evaluations

The European Commission has published a dashboard for lump sum evaluations. Even if intended for experts involved in the evaluation of lump sum proposals, the dashboard can give valuable hints to project proposal developers. [Further information](#)

Horizon Europe implementation: Key data for 2021-2022

Document from the European Commission describing key figures from the Horizon Europe implementation in 2021-2022. [Discover the document](#)

Research for members for DG GROW's "Motor Vehicles Emissions Group"

DG GROW is launching a call for applications to select new members for the "motor vehicles emissions group" set up by the Commission to provide advice on legislative and policy proposals concerning motor vehicle emissions and alternative propulsion systems. Interested entities can write to the dedicated address GROW-C4-meetings@ec.europa.eu to obtain further information and submit applications.

Become expert for Horizon Europe

The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is currently inviting experts from the fields of climate, energy and transport to register to the European Commission expert's database. [Further information](#)

ITS European Congress 2023: Post-Congress Report and Book of Abstracts

An "ITS Lisbon Post-Congress Report", showcasing comprehensive coverage of the five key topics that took centre stage at the Congress, has been released, and the Book of Abstracts can now be ordered. [Further information](#)

The European Cluster Alliance launches its Clusters4eDIH workgroup

In 2023, the **European Commission initiated the High-Level Working Group on eDIH**, paving the way for four dedicated teams to delineate 'Networking Guidelines' across the spheres of 'Test before Invest', 'Skills and Training', 'Support to Find Investment', and 'Innovation Ecosystem and Networking'. ECA converges a group of clusters managers coordinating successful eDIHs, visionaries, digital pioneers, and innovative thinkers all aimed towards the singular goal of leveraging the power of clusters to fuel Europe's Digital Transformation.


The **launch event for the Clusters4eDIH workgroup**, with a keen focus on clusters' status and contributions to the European Digital Innovation Hubs (eDIH) is **scheduled for 5 September at 12:00 PM (CET)**. This event will create a cluster's space for exploration, engagement, and the exchange of ideas that will shape the digital future of Europe. Clusters' insights, knowledge, and commitment to digital progress are invaluable and people involved in eDIH are invited to join the event. [Registration](#)


Guide to EU Funding - 2023 edition

This 'Guide to EU funding' produced by the European Parliamentary Research Service provides easily accessible information on the full range of EU funding sources, conveniently grouped by area of action.



[Download](#)


Agenda


 24 July 2023 | 13h00 – 14h00 CET | online
Skills shortage in the Automotive Industry: How to discover new potentials by avoiding unconscious bias | organised by EVOLUTE Project | [Information and registration](#)


 5 – 8 September 2023 | Munich (Germany)
IAA MOBILITY 2023: Experience Connected Mobility | organised by Verband der Automobilindustrie e. V. (VDA) | [Information and registration](#)


 16 – 22 September 2023
European Mobility Week, applications for local authorities | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)


  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](#)


 28 – 29 septembre 2023 | Regensburg (Germany)
RECIPROCITY Final Event | organised by the Reciprocity consortium | [Further information and registration](#)


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


 4 – 6 October 2023 | Seville (Spain)
Urban Mobility Days 2023 | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)

 11 – 12 October 2023 | online
Info day on Horizon Europe Cluster 4 'Digital, Industry and Space' (WP 2023-2024) | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

 17 October 2023 | online
Info day on Horizon Europe Cluster 5 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' (WP 2023-2024) | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

 18 October 2023 | online
Brokerage Event Horizon Europe Cluster 5 'Climate, Energy and Mobility' (WP 2023-2024) | organised by GREENET | [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](#)

 5 - 7 February 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
“Results from Road Transport Research” conference | organised by 2ZERO, CCAM, ERTRAC and the European Commission | [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.

EACN contacts:

-  [Bruno Grandjean](#), President
 -  [Thomas Röhr](#), Secretary General
- ☎ +33 6 47 38 02 00

www.eacn-initiative.eu |  | 

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