

The President's Foreword

A very warm welcome to Tampere Automotive Cluster from Finland as 27th member; EACN now also covers 14 European countries. Discover our new member just after this foreword. With Tampere Automotive Cluster, EACN now also has a link to the far north of Europe. I'm sure that Tampere Automotive Cluster will bring real added value to our network.

The last two months have also been the opportunity to launch to groups, a meeting for Cluster Managers to discuss and exchange about cluster management related topics, and a regularly scheduled meeting of the EU/International Affairs responsible. Both groups will contribute to creating synergies between clusters, to developing new projects, and to sharpening potential EACN support.

The Executive Board also decided about the next General Assembly that will take place on Tuesday 23 January 2024 from 09h00 to 11h00 CET. Please already save the date! Further information will follow soon.

We also plan an EACN physical meeting during the next European Cluster Conference on 07-08 May 2024 in Brussels.

And now, as 2023 comes to an end, all that remains for me is to wish you a wonderful Advent season and all the best for you, your cluster, and your families.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Cluster presentations

Tampere Automotive Cluster

The Tampere Automotive Cluster brings together more than 130 high-tech companies, academia, and research institutes as one of the top automotive hubs in Finland.

The cluster boosts international collaboration and creates new opportunities for business, partnerships, and investments. It is coordinated by Business Tampere, the economic development agency of the Tampere region.



Ari Lylynoja, Cluster Manager of Tampere Automotive Cluster

Tampere is the fastest growing and the most attractive region in Finland with a strong heritage in mobile machine building, ICT product building and advanced technology research. It is home to many international R&D&I centres and the leader in industrial AI. Our autonomous driving testing area offers companies, equipment and sensor manufacturers, automotive operators, and researchers a central location for testing and developing automated mobility solutions in the middle of one of Tampere's fastest growing districts.

The members of Tampere Automotive Cluster develop intelligent solutions for the international automotive OEMs and Tier-x technology suppliers. The members provide products, services, and top expertise in the fields of, e.g., digital cockpit, autonomous driving, ADAS, automotive software, connected car, data analytics and AI, embedded cyber security, imaging and camera technologies, electronics and sensors, EV charging systems, and more.

The Cluster's main activities include:

- ▶ Arranging networking, partner scouting and matchmaking events & overseas company visits
- ▶ Collaborating with international automotive and mobility clusters
- ▶ Finding new opportunities for business, collaboration, partnerships, and joint R&D&I initiatives

We are extremely happy to join EACN and we are looking forward to further cooperation with you!

Contact:

Ari Lylynoja, Cluster Manager

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Inside EACN

First meeting of responsible for European/International Affairs

On 31 October, EU/International Affairs responsible from CARA, PGM, automotive BG, Mobinov, CESW, and AVIA met for the first time. Objective: Strengthen cooperation through personal contacts and exchanges and create synergies for future missions.

Participants presented their EU/international activities and discussed about potential joint actions. This question will be deepened at the next meeting on 28 November.

If you are interested in joining the group, please send a mail to sg@eacn-initiative.eu.

Foreign Direct Investments in the automotive SMEs

EACN had been invited to contribute its expertise to an OECD-EU Foresight Workshop about Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in automotive SMEs.




Martin Wermelinger (OECD), Marco Bianchini (Moderator, OECD), and Elena Kostadinova (DG Regio)

The workshop aimed at gathering ideas and feedback of participants in the fields of:

- ▲ The Greening of the automotive industry
- ▲ Towards automated, connected, and autonomous vehicles
- ▲ Value chains of the Future

About thirty participants discovered the intermediary results of a study done by the OECD as well as the point of views of Stellantis, CLEPA, UCL, and the Estonian Investment Agency. Participants then split into three groups to discuss different scenarios in one of the above fields.

The different contributions will be considered for the draft version of a new OECD report to be published in spring 2024.

A summary as well as shared documents can be downloaded  [here](#).

Contact:

Thomas Röhr, EACN Secretary General

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Cluster news

New catalogue of innovative capabilities of the Valencian industry published

The Automotive and Mobility Cluster from Valencian Community (AVIA) and Mobility Innovation Valencia have been working on a new edition of the catalogue of innovative capabilities in smart and sustainable mobility.

It contains almost 50 technological capabilities of Valencian entities in the sector, as well as a description of each of them and the contact information with the entity that offers it.

If you are looking for partners for innovation projects or want to discover new products and services that will shape the mobility of the future, [access the catalogue](#).

Contact:

César Calabuig, Innovation and Project Responsible

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Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Aragon celebrates its 15th anniversary

More than 400 guests, including company managers, professionals in the automotive sector and representatives of public and private organizations related to the activity, attended the V edition of the 'Automotive and Mobility Night' in Zaragoza (Spain). This Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Aragon (CAAR) initiative has established itself as a benchmark meeting that recognizes the excellence of this collective and its importance in the Aragonese economy, employing 26,000 people, billing 11,000 million euros per year and creating a third of all the Aragonese exports.



Participants at the anniversary ceremony

The companies Convezar, CEFA, Mindual, Gestamp and Elena Latorre as general manager of Mann Hummel, were awarded in the V edition of the Automotive and Mobility Night. Francisco J. Riberas, executive president of Gestamp and president of Sernauto, received the CAAR XV Anniversary Special Award.

The event became a special edition for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of CAAR. During this time the number of partners has increased reaching more than 120 companies, and the cluster has developed more than 500 projects in the areas of Innovation, Business and Training. Its immediate future is led by its new Strategic Plan 2024-2027, which will be focused on the analysis of the entire mobility value chain within Aragon to seek new collaboration and business projects. This document will be proposed once the main objectives of the previous text (2020-2023) have

been met, acting as a beacon for the automotive industry in Aragon to successfully anticipate the new global challenges posed by the mobility environment.

Contact :

Arancha Ezquerra, Communication CAAR

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Members' lounge

UAR co-organiser of the EIT Manufacturing Day in Ukraine

On 30 November 2023, EIT Manufacturing, the Ukrainian Cluster Alliance, and the Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster organise an EIT Manufacturing Day at [Eurocar](#), a car assembling plant, which is located just at the border with Hungary and Slovakia.

After achieving the status of an EU candidate country and the signature of the Single Market Programme, this is an opportunity to unfold cooperation opportunities with Ukrainian organisations eligible for EU projects. Participate in developing human-centric, resilient, and sustainable manufacturing in Ukraine and explore innovation ecosystems in this field.

Keynote speakers from Europe and Ukraine will share their thoughts about the future of Manufacturing in Ukraine and beyond. You will meet representatives of the innovative manufacturing ecosystem in Ukraine and can play an active role in their integration into European ecosystem. [Expression of interest](#) / [Further information](#)

VIP transfers from Kosice and Budapest airport are organised to ensure participants security.

Contact:

Olga Trofymova, Cluster Manager

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North East Automotive Expo a great success

The North East Automotive Expo, coordinated by North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), attracted over 700 visitors and 110 exhibitors, at the Beacon of Light, Sunderland at the end of September. On the programme: an exhibition, discussions, Meet the Buyer and more. Next North East Automotive Expo will take place on 26 September 2024 at the Beacon of Light.

[Further information](#)

Contact:

Laura Gage, Marketing and PR Manager

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Project corner

Second Acceleration Programme launched by SURE5.0 to support SMEs to become more human-centric, sustainable, and resilient

The EU-funded SURE5.0, with CEAGA as partner, project launched its 2nd Acceleration Programme. This is a new opportunity for SMEs in need of adopting technologies or services to digitally transform their production processes and turn them more human-centric, sustainable and resilient.

Eligible candidates are SMEs established in the European Union or EU Associated Countries working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive; Aerospace and Defence; and Electronics industrial ecosystems.

The support will be provided in two sequential phases, with the following benefits:

Phase 1 – Assess & Recommend



Individual assessment and recommendations for roadmap design



Investment Readiness (IR) Support
(IR level and recommendations)



Training activities
(Compulsory module on industry 5.0)



Social innovation and human-centricity
(Guide for social innovators and training on business modelling)



Community of Practice Alliance
(LinkedIn group to foster exchange and experience on Industry 5.0 practices)

Phase 2 – Business Transform. & Resilience (Just for phase 1 beneficiaries)



Equity – free funding up to EUR 50K
(at least 60% used to hire supporting experts from our **Catalogue of service providers**)



Investment Readiness (IR) Support
(Support on business modelling, planning, financial assessment, funds scouting, etc.).



Training activities (on-demand)
(Technological and innovation modules)



Social innovation and human-centricity
(Session on Social Innovation Tournament and other similar funding opportunities)



Advanced technological services
(individual assessment and proof-of-concept testing)

The phase 1 Open call is opened since last 28th of July with three available cut-off dates. More than 30

companies have already submitted their application to the 1st cut-off and the second application period is now available until the 3rd of January. All information about the Acceleration Programme 2 can be found on the [SURE5.0 website](#).

Contact:



Patricia Solá, European projects

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Second RESIST Innovation Open Call launched

The Eurocluster RESIST launched the 2nd innovation open call with financial support of up to €30,000 for SMEs. Within the framework of the RESIST Eurocluster initiative – in which PVF, CEAGA and Autoklastr participate – the second innovation open call addressed to European SMEs working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) ecosystem have just been launched:

 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	 FINANCIAL SUPPORT
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 (1) Individual Projects: €20,000/applicant (2) Consortium Projects: €30,000/applicant

Resist Innovation Open Call (Deadline: 12.12.2023)

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

Contact innovation call:

Auriane Agard, European project manager

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Contact other Resist topics:

✉ info@resisteurocluster.eu

Joint final conference of STARS and ReStartSMEs projects

On September 26, 2023, the joint final event of the two COSME projects STARS and ReStartSMEs was held, bringing together over 170 attendees, including EU institutions, cluster organizations, and SME representatives. Hosted at the prestigious Committee of the Regions (CoR).



Participants of the STARS and ReStartSMEs joint final event

The agenda featured in-depth presentations highlighting **key findings** and **lessons learned** from the successful “STARS” and “ReStartSMEs” projects.

Contact:

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Other information

European Cluster Conference 2024: Call for Ideas

The organizing committee of the European Cluster Conference 2024 to be held on 7-8 May in Brussels, is looking for ideas. Goal: Make the cluster community actively contribute to the programme by submitting ideas through [this survey](#) (attention, deadline: 24.11.2023). [Further information and application](#)

Call for Applications: 3rd Cluster Booster Academy

The Academy is a **5-day event**, consisting of a **3-day online event** (23-25 January 2024 in the mornings) as well as a **2-day in person training session in Sofia, Bulgaria** (11-12 March 2024) **in collaboration with** our venue host, **EACN member [Automotive Cluster Bulgaria](#)**. [Further information and application](#).

If you have any questions regarding the Booster Academy, EACN president Bruno Grandjean and UAR cluster Manager Olga Trofymova already participated and can give you valuable hints.


Enabling Smart and Green Logistics

CINEA published a new brochure presenting a snapshot of a selection of EU-funded freight transport and logistics projects - supported under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. [Further information and download](#)

Clean Hydrogen Partnership ‘Programme review report 2023’ published


The Programme Review Report describes activities and results of the Clean Hydrogen JU as well as very briefly funded projects in the pillars 1 (Production), 2 (Storage and Distribution), 3 (End Uses – Transport), 4 (End Uses - Clean Heat and Power), 5 (Cross-Cutting Issues), 6 (Hydrogen Valleys) and 7 (Supply Chains). [Download](#)

Agenda

 **POLIS** 29 – 30 November 2023 | Leuven (Belgium)

Annual POLIS Conference 2023 | organised by POLIS | [Further information](#)

30 November 2023 | Uzhgorod region in Ukraine
Manufacturing Day Ukraine | organised by EIT Manufacturing & Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster | [Further information](#)

 23-25 January | online & 11-12 March 2024 | Sofia (Bulgaria)
3rd Cluster Booster Academy | organised by ECCP and AC Bulgaria | [Further information and application](#)


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

 13 – 15 February 2024 | Valencia (Spain)
eMobility Expo World Congress | [Further information](#)

 2 - 5 April 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
Connecting Europe Days 2024 | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)

 7 – 8 May 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
European Cluster Conference 2024 | organised by the European Commission & ECCP | Further information to come

Legal notice

Links preceded by the  symbol have a limited access for employees from EACN clusters and their members.

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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