

The President's Foreword

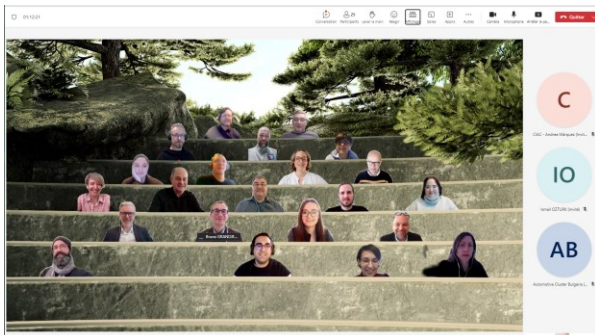
This new year, the 4th year since the official creation of EACN in January 2021, already started very busy for our network: An Executive Board Meeting, meetings from the Cluster Managers and the EU Affaires responsible, and the Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assemblies. The latter have been attended by 27 persons representing 25 clusters; they were also an opportunity to reflect on what happened in the past year and what will come in 2024.

In the last two month four new clusters joined, EACN now brings together 30 clusters from 14 European countries:

- ▲ Tampere Automotive Cluster, Tampere, Finland
- ▲ AC Styria Mobilitätscluster, Raaba-Grambach, Austria
- ▲ VAMOS Ecosystem of DIMECC, Tampere, Finland,
- ▲ Cluster Mobility & Logistics, Regensburg, Germany

They will present themselves in the next newsletter.

2023 was also rich in activities: We defined our strategy 2023/27 during a workshop in Katowice, hosted by our member Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing cluster. We had many exchanges and discussions, and we participated in a round table with the EU commissioners Schmit and Breton about Skills in the automotive industry and in an OECD/EU Foresight Workshop on Foreign Direct Investments. Let's continue generating synergies for clusters, boosting cluster excellence, and initiating new collaborative projects.



Participants of the General Assembly

As usual you can find many interesting information from our network in this newsletter. And as a premiere an overview of future funding opportunities for SMEs coming from the e-Boost, greenSME, Resist, and SURE5.0 projects. This is a first concrete outcome of the recently initiated EU Affaires responsible meeting.

Happy reading.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Let's meet at the EU Cluster Conference 2024



EACN plans additional activities to strengthen relationship between members. Programme to be published on 1 February 2024. [Further information.](#)

Members' lounge

Ukrainian Automotive and Mobilty Cluster co-organiser of the 1st EIT Manufacturing Day Ukraine

On 30 November 2023, EIT Manufacturing organised the first EIT Manufacturing event in Ukraine in cooperation with EACN member Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster and Ukrainian Cluster Alliance. "The best support is to do business with us." This was emphasised again and again at Manufacturing Day Ukraine at the Eurocar plant in Solomonovo industrial park in the Transcarpathian region. [Event résumé & recording.](#)



Participants of the 1st EIT Manufacturing Day Ukraine in the Eurocar car assembling plant (© EIT Manufacturing)

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CIAC becomes founding member of MOVEM, the Catalan mobility sector cooperation

MOVEM has been created by the main Catalan mobility sector clusters, EACN member Clúster de la Indústria d'Automoció de Catalunya (CIAC), In-move (Rail Grup), Light Mobility Cluster, Clúster Digital, Clúster de

l'Energia Eficient de Catalunya (CEEC), and Clúster de Materials Avançats de Catalunya (Clúster MAV), as well as other institutions. MOVEM got support of the Government of Catalonia. Its objectives and actions are based on 3 fundamental axes:

- ▲ Obtain synergies through intersectoral technological collaboration and throughout the value chain.
- ▲ Promote the exchange of knowledge for the application of innovations and new developments.
- ▲ Achieve climate neutrality goals, parallel to increasing business competitiveness and improving people's well-being.

CIAC President Sergio Alcaraz also presides MOVEM. Read the full [press communication](#).

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East Automotive Alliance and Polish Automotive Group awarded during the 12th MotoSolutions Forum

On November 23-24, East Automotive Alliance and Polish Automotive Group took part in 'MotoSolutions', a conference and trade fair organized for the 12th time. The event offered presentations and panel discussions about the current situation and the future of the automotive industry to participants. The automotive trade fair was the opportunity to present the EAA Cluster and their offers to and of the members, with Euro24, Superior Industries Production Poland and Gumat, representatives at the cluster's stand.



MotoSolutions award winners with Ryszard Jania, EAA (left) and Bartosz Mielecki, PGM (2nd left)

During the forum, EAA President Ryszard Jania received EAA's Award for Cooperation, and Bartosz Mielecki the Award for their contribution to shaping the future of the Polish automotive industry and creating conditions favourable to its development for Polish Automotive Group.

EAA Member SURET distinguished in the USA with the 2023 GO Global Awards.

The Go Global Awards is a prestigious initiative of the International Trade Council, with the main idea to promote and honour enterprises from around the world. During the ceremonial gala in November 2023 SURET triumphed in the "Engineering" category, competing against 34 other companies. The company was one of only two Polish firms invited to the finals in Rhode Island and one of the few representing Central and Eastern Europe. The award was received by SURET's CEO, Sebastian Michael Gawron.

Congratulations to SURET whose operations now span 23 countries across four continents. The company employs 650 people and offers specialized services and support for manufacturing firms – including relocations and installations of machinery, or even entire factories, as well as leasing of staff resources for production operations.

CEAGA launches 5 new projects with the participation of more than 20 companies in the automotive sector

CEAGA has launched five new innovative projects together with 22 companies and four entities of the mobility and automotive ecosystem. In total, nearly 3 million euros will be mobilised with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Industry. The projects will help boost digitisation and the implementation of new technologies in the sector's value chain. They will explore technologies such as artificial vision, energy efficiency or Big Data.

The projects promoted are Autopaperless II, Data Logistics II, Digifact, GoFlexEnergy and IA4ZeroDefects II. In addition, the Cluster collaborates in three other projects promoted by the Digital Innovation Hub Industrial de Galicia (DIHGIGAL) and other national automotive clusters: Ecomob, Digibat and Fab_Aditiva_Sostenible II.



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Image by Heiko Behn from Pixabay

Cascade and other funding opportunities

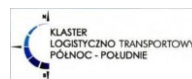
Project objective(s)

Support European electromobility SMEs with a range of dedicated services to strengthen their resilience, green and digital transformation, and internationalisation.

Most of the services are available through cascade funding activities with more than 10 Open Calls and more than 1M€ available. This EU funded project is implemented by 6 partners from 6 EU countries.



Project partners



Funding



Co-funded by the European Union

Contact and information

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Cascade funding and innovation support opportunities

- ▲ Open from **01/02/2024 to 01/04/2024**:
 - [Mobility Lump Sum to Mobility and Suppliers Meeting \(MISM\) Mission Open Call](#): 15k€ per beneficiaries, [Mission agenda](#)
 - [Innovation Support services Open Call](#): Up to 20k€ according to
 - [Products & Services Development \(bottom-up\) Open Call](#): Up to 40k€ per beneficiaries
 - [Products & Services Development \(Industrial Battery Value Chain\) Open Call](#): Up to 40k€ per beneficiaries
- ▲ Open from **01/04/2024 to 31/05/2024**
 - [Products & Services Development \(Towards 0 emission transport\) Open Call](#): Up to 40k€ per beneficiaries
- ▲ Applicants can't cumulate more than 60K€. All applications must be submitted, when available, [here](#)

Other funding opportunities

- ▲ not available yet

Examples

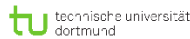
- ▲ not publicly available yet.

Project objective(s)

greenSME aims to strengthen manufacturing SMEs' capacity to adopt advanced technologies and social innovation for sustainability through a sustainability assessment tool, an action plan, and financial support to foster projects between manufacturing SMEs and Sustainability and Technology Providers.



Project partners



Funding



Co-funded by the European Union



Contact and information

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Type of funding

Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP) – grants to SMEs.

Previous call funding conditions: greenSME provides up to EUR 35 000 per project:

- ▲ Sustainability and Technology Provider(s) (max 2) – EUR 25 000
- ▲ Manufacturing SME – EUR 10 000

Main conditions

Conditions will be documented in [Guide for Applicants](#). So far entities had to meet following eligibility conditions:

- ▲ must be SMEs established in one of the eligible countries
- ▲ cannot be under liquidation or in difficulty or be excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding
- ▲ manufacturing company should have a NACE code classified under the category C.

Target group

Manufacturing SMEs – **paired with one or two** – registered in our HUB that have completed our free Self-Assessment Tool and created an Action Plan with our experts.

Sustainability and Technology Providers who have been accredited by the greenSME project.

Deadline(s)

Manufacturing SMEs can enter the [greenSME pathway for SMEs](#) instantly.

Sustainability and Technology Providers can take part in the [Expression of Interest for Providers](#) instantly, the upcoming cut-out dates are 31 March and 31 May 2024.

Consortia: The 2nd open call will be published in May 2024.

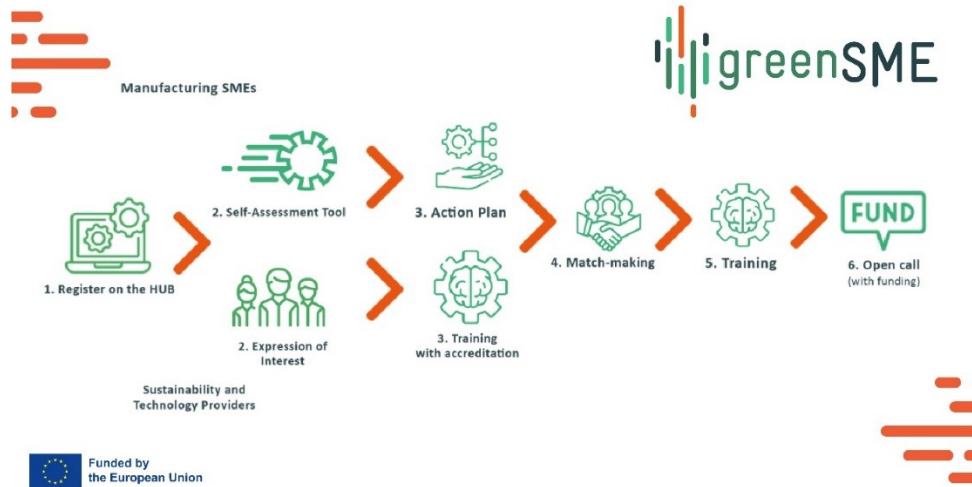
Examples

Cascade funding is provided by the greenSMEhub Coordinator Tekniker.

Current beneficiaries: 21 consortia (manufacturing SME + Sustainability/Technology Provider) are beneficiaries of the first open call. These consortia have been undertaking pilot projects implementing sustainability actions plans in manufacturing. Pilot Projects have started in December 2023 and will be sustained for 6 months.

More information on the profile of beneficiaries and projects can be found [here](#).

greenSME approach



Funded by the European Union

Project objective(s)

Supporting SMEs from the Mobility, Transport and Automotive ecosystem in developing more sustainable solution in close cooperation with manufacturing and digital SMEs. Raising awareness and preparing employees towards digitalisation, green engineering, and circularity in the manufacturing industry. Open the manufacturing market to those SMEs that need to realign their business.



Project partners



Co-funded by the European Union



Contact and information

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Funding opportunities in 2024

- ▲ [Networking open call](#): to participate in European activities
- ▲ [Internationalisation open call](#): to participate in activities outside Europe
- ▲ [Training open call](#): to participate in online and in-person training
- ▲ [Coaching & Mentoring open call](#): to hire mentoring and coaching services

	NETWORKING OPEN CALL	INTERNATIONALISATION OPEN CALL	TRAINING OPEN CALL	COACHING & MENTORING OPEN CALL
MAXIMUM FUNDING PER SME	≤ €500	≤ €2,000	≤ €750	≤ €7,500
TOTAL BUDGET	€15,000	€30,000	€15,000	€190,000
ELEGIBLE COSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration fees Transportation costs Accommodation costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration fees Transportation costs Accommodation costs 	Training registration fees. Excluding accommodation and travel costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment services Feasibility services
DEADLINE	20th December 2024	20th December 2024	30th November 2024	1st November 2024

Project objective(s)

The SURE5.0 project aims at supporting European SMEs working on the mobility, transport & automotive, aerospace and electronics ecosystems, to adopt technologies or services to digitally transform their production processes and make them more human-centred, sustainable, and resilient.

SURE5.0

Project partners



Funding

 Co-funded by the European Union



Contact and information

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Funding opportunities in 2024

SURE5.0 Acceleration Programme 2: This programme provides support to SMEs in two phases through different tailored services and funding, based on their specific technological, business and personnel needs (**Deadline: 28 February 2024**):

- ▲ Funding: €50,000/SME Equity-free funding to implement a transition plan
- ▲ Total budget: €2.6 Million
- ▲ Target group: European SMEs working on the mobility, transport & automotive, aerospace and electronics ecosystems
- ▲ [Further information](#)
- ▲ Next Q&A sessions on [24 January 2024](#) and on [21 February 2024](#)

Members' lounge (cont.)

Polish Automotive Group partner of Automotive CEE Day in Poland

For the 2nd time PGM is partner of the Automotive CEE Day on 18 – 19 April in Opole (Poland). The 9th Automotive CEE Day (ACD 2024) is organised by AutomotiveSuppliers.pl and is the largest automotive industry buying meeting in this part of Europe.

In 2023, 600 attendees representing over 420 companies from 13 countries participated in the event.

Benefits of attending Automotive CEE Day include:

- ▲ significant saving of time and money - the opportunity to meet at one time potential manufacturing and/or non-manufacturing suppliers,
- ▲ schedule meetings through an online B2B MatchMaking platform in advance.,

- ▲ 20-minute speed meetings allow an initial assessment of whether it is possible to proceed to the next stage of talks with a given company.

Automotive CEE Day (www.automotiveceeday.eu) is also an opportunity to participate in the exhibition with 80 booths, to promote cooperative services offered more widely, as well as to build brand awareness among the automotive industry's key players. One of the stands will be organized by PGM Cluster, and event participants will have the opportunity to visit a joint exhibition of approximately 5 cluster member companies.

If you are interested in attending the event, please do not hesitate to contact AutomotiveSuppliers.pl.

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The Galician Automotive and Mobility Sector works on its new strategic plan

More than 100 leaders of the Galician Automotive and Mobility Sector participated in the working session of the new strategic plan for the sector, called "Competitiveness Plan for the Galician Automotive and Mobility Ecosystem. Vision 2030 (PCAM)".

The new PCAM 2030 will integrate the contributions of all the links in the value chain: SMEs, large component companies, manufacturers, service and technological solutions companies, start-ups, new mobility companies, etc. The new projects will be framed within the areas that have been identified as key for the coming years: innovation, people, mobility, impact of electrification, reactivation of the sector, industrial competitiveness, supply chain, sustainability and new regulations and energy.

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Project corner

REMOBILISE | Final Event

MOBINOV recently wrapped up its participation in the [REMOBILISE project](#)'s final event in Amsterdam, organized by RAI Vereniging. Grateful for the opportunity, we engaged in two days of enlightening guided tours, inspirational presentations, and insightful discussions surrounding sustainable urban mobility solutions.

We extend our appreciation to RAI Vereniging for their exceptional event organization and express gratitude to all project partners for their active role in advancing innovative mobility solutions within the REMOBILISE project. Launched officially in February 2022, this 24-month initiative focuses on elevating cluster management excellence and forging strategic connections across Europe's mobility sector. This project is a follow-up to the previous Recipe4Mobility project, in which MOBINOV also participated.

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Other information

Horizon Europe's Cluster 5 Calls 2023-24 launched

The European Commission has launched new calls for projects under [Horizon Europe's Work Programme for 2023-2024](#) Cluster 5 – which groups together topics on Climate Action, Energy and Mobility. A total of €310.05 million in EU funding is available under these calls for energy and mobility topics in the areas.

- ▲ Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition (HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-01, 5 topics)
- ▲ Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use (HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-01, 3 topics)
- ▲ Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes (HORIZON-CL5-2024-D5-01, 18 topics)

Deadline for submission: 18 April 2024. [Further information and access to calls](#)

United Kingdom now Horizon Europe associated partner

Since 1 January 2024, the United Kingdom is an associated country to Horizon Europe, allowing its researchers to participate projects on the same terms as researchers from other associated countries and to have access to Horizon Europe funding. The UK will contribute around €2.43 billion per year on average to the EU budget for its participation in Horizon Europe. [Further information](#)

Negotiation on the association of Canada to Horizon Europe finalised

In November 2023, EU and Canada announced the conclusion negotiations regarding Canada's association with Pillar II of Horizon Europe. The signing of the association agreement could take place in 2024 and allow Canadian researchers and organizations participating in the actions of Pillar II of Horizon Europe under the same conditions as those of the States members of the European Union. [Further information](#)

Erasmus+ Call 2024 published

The Erasmus+ call 2024 has been published. The Lot 1 'Alliances for Innovation' aims at forming Alliances for Education and Enterprises to face skills shortages in the EU. Consortia of at least 4 EU Member States or third countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme, involving a minimum of 8 applicants (>= 3 labour market actors, >= 3 VET or HEIs) can apply. The maximum EU grant per project is 1 M€ (2-years project) or 1,5 M€ (3-years project). Deadline for application is 7 March 2024. [Further information](#)

Clean Hydrogen Partnership call for proposals 2024

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership launched its 2024 call for proposals. Deadline for submissions is the 18 April 2024. A total of 20 topics are available in 6 different domains. [Further information](#)

Greenet Stakeholder Directory for Cluster 5

The Stakeholder Directory of the transport NCP network Greenet is a tool to enable potential applicants to Horizon Europe to identify the roles of the different

organisations that may be relevant to Horizon Europe Cluster 5 projects. [Further information and access.](#)

Two interesting upcoming EU Cluster Talks

Sustainably from A to B: Transition Pathway for Mobility, 7 February 2024

Presentation of the status and content of the “Transition Pathway for Mobility” under preparation by the EC in a co-creation process. [Further information and registration](#)

Support programmes and funding schemes: Cluster policies in the EU, 21 February 2024

Showcase and discuss cluster policies in different EU countries. [Further information and registration](#)

CCAM taxonomy proposal

A taxonomy tool has been created within the FAME project to establish a standardized and harmonised classification system from CCAM-related terms, enhancing the comparability, complementarity, and expansion of research, development, and testing in the realm of CCAM-enabled solutions and services. Another CCAM taxonomy developed by the SINFONICA project is being finalised. [Access the taxonomies](#)

ACEA Vision for the EU Automotive Industry

The European Automotive Industry (ACEA) has launched a joint Manifesto with a vision for the EU automotive industry: support sustainability, highly skilled jobs, safe and reliable transport, competitiveness, and affordable mobility for all. [Further information and download](#)

Agenda

SURE5.0 24 January 2024 | Online | 12h00 – 13h00 CET
SURE5.0 Open Call 2 Q&A session (V5) | organised by the SURE5.0 consortium | [Further information and registration](#)

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

7 February 2024 | Online | 8:30 – 9:45 CET
EU Clusters Talk “Sustainably from A to B: Transition Pathway for Mobility” | organised by ECCP | [Further information and registration](#)


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

21 February 2024 | Online | 8:30 – 9:45 CET
EU Clusters Talk “Support programmes and funding schemes: Cluster policies in the EU” | organised by ECCP | [Further information and registration](#)

SURE5.0 21 February 2024 | Online | 12h00 – 13h00 CET
SURE5.0 Open Call 2 Q&A session (V6) | organised by the SURE5.0 consortium | [Further information and registration](#)

18-21 March 2024 | Bruxelles (Belgium)
R&I Week 2024 (40 years anniversary) | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)


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

 10-12 April 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
DUT Conference 2024 - Driving Urban Transitions through Joint Action | organised by DUT Partnership | [Further information and registration](#)

 15 – 18 April 2024 | Dublin (Ireland)
TRA 2024 “Transport transitions: Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility” | organised by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)

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


21 – 22 May 2023 | Belgrade (Serbia)
SEE Automotive – Connect & Supply 2024 | organised by AC Serbia | [Further information](#)

 17-22 September 2024 | Hanover (Germany)
IAA Transportation | [Further information](#)

8 - 9 October 2024 | Stuttgart (Germany)
hy-fcell International Expo and Conference | co-organised by e-Mobil/Cluster Electric Mobility South-West | [Further information](#)



10. Oktober 2024 | Stuttgart (Germany)
Automotive Suppliers' Day Baden-Württemberg | co-organised by e-Mobil/Cluster Electric Mobility South-West | [Further information](#)


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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