

The President's Foreword

Dear all,

This May stood in the focus of the European Cluster Conference in Brussels, where many of us attended. We had many interesting discussions, learnt about cluster policies, and could even contribute our ideas for future policies. EACN directly contributed to the success of the conference, with two round tables and a surprise presentation to a high-level group of directors from the European

One of the European Commission's findings was that they "also need to reinforce collaboration between clusters from different regions across Europe to build and reinforce value chains within the EU which can withstand external shocks and ensure our industrial competitiveness globally.". The automotive sector, with EACN, is one of the forerunners and exemplary models to other ecosystems.

And the moment in Brussels was also a great opportunity to strengthen our EACN family. On Monday evening, more than 25 persons had a lot of fun and enjoyed being together, discussing, laughing.

We are looking forward to the next European Cluster Conference and hope that we'll find other opportunities to meet.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Inside EACN

EU Cluster Conference 2024: EACN activities and contributions

The conference gathered nearly 700 participants, including representatives from cluster organisations, policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and a total of 56 speakers around the following main topics

- ▲ the role of clusters in building EU competitiveness
- ▲ pan-European value chains
- ▲ the green and digital transition
- ▲ skills, funding and technology

EACN has been identified by the European Commission as a model of cluster collaboration for other industrial ecosystems. Thus, EACN has been invited, for the second time after Prague, to share its insights with the cluster community. Both days have been rhythmised by presentations, bilateral exchanges, and matchmaking sessions, with many interesting meetups and discussions... and first concrete results with requests for membership!

How did EACN concretely contribute to the conference:

- ▲ EACN President Bruno Grandjean shared the EACN point of view on the topic '**Driving the Green Transition: Fostering Sustainable Innovation in the Automotive and Industrial Sectors**'



EACN Colleagues at the European Cluster Conference



EACN booth



Round table on Metacusters

- Thomas Röhr, Secretary General EACN, was one of the panellists in the **Metacusters: Building new or reshaping existing value chains** parallel session.
- Presentation of advantages of cluster collaboration to a High-level Group** composed of 12 Director Generals of the ministries of economy, industry, competitiveness, or Single Market from 7 European countries. This presentation by EACN Secretary General Thomas Röhr was part of a session of short pitches: What are clusters? Importance of cluster policies. Cluster achievements on regional level. Cluster achievements on national level. Benefits from cluster collaboration.

EACN had also a booth on the exhibitions floor we used as meeting point during the two conference days.

One further highlight was the EACN networking diner on Monday evening, where 25 colleagues from 16 member clusters met. This was a great opportunity to strengthen the links between the members of the EACN family.

[ECCP overall feedback on ECC 2024.](#)

Contact:

Thomas Röhr, EACN Secretary General

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Session 2 – part 1: Strategy Talks

Bruno GRANDJEAN / EACN

Driving the Green Transition: Fostering Sustainable Innovation in the Automotive and Industrial Sectors.
3 levels of green transition:
Production, Products, Uses.



Intervention of Bruno Grandjean



Networking diner

EACN present at EU Cluster Talk

In preparation to the European Cluster Conference, EACN was invited to participate in the **EU Clusters Talk “Innovation through integration: How to create and engage a meta-cluster”** organised on 24 April by ECCP on behalf of the European Commission.

Speakers included Marek Przeor (Team Leader Cluster Policy, DG GROW, European Commission), Eric Koch (Head of Sector for I3, EISMEA, European Commission), Erasmia Dupenloup (Chairwomen, Silicon Europe), Giovanni Scaramuzza (Project Manager, EXO Ricerca), Montse Daban (President, Council of European BioRegions (CEBR)), and Thomas Röhr, Secretary General EACN.



Further information about the EU Cluster talk can be found [here](#).

Cluster presentation

VAMOS – Autonomous Mobility in Smart Spaces

VAMOS Ecosystem is an innovation cluster that focuses on autonomous mobility in smart spaces. It brings together companies that jointly collaborate, compete, and create solutions based on smart spaces technologies, electrification, and autonomous smart mobility for the global market.



Tuulia Haveri, Ecosystem leader

VAMOS seeks to connect relevant technology and service providers with end users, value ecosystems, and OEM providers from various vertical industries. We aim to bring practical solutions for moving people and things with better experience and efficiency.

VAMOS joined EACN in January this year, and we enjoyed meeting colleagues from across Europe during the European Cluster Conference.

Read more about VAMOS <https://vamosecosystem.fi/>

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Members' lounge

AC Bulgaria organises the Automotive Forum Bulgaria 2024

Automotive Forum Bulgaria 2024

Battery, Innovation & AI



Organised on 11 – 13 June 2024 in Sofia (Bulgaria), the forum will bring together more than 200 industry leaders, experts, and visionaries from around the world, as well as Bulgarian and European government representatives. It will offer a platform to engage in insightful discussions, exchange valuable knowledge, and foster new business collaborations.

The topics are batteries, Automotive innovation and Electric Mobility in Bulgaria, and Automotive Software and AI. [Further information and registration](#)

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Regensburg's first real laboratory for mobility is launched

Artificial intelligence and digitalisation are set to play a greater role in Regensburg's streetscape in the future. In order to bring corresponding projects from theory into practice, a so-called real laboratory has now been opened at Galgenberg with the "R_Lab Mobility" project. The project is being funded as part of REGENSBURG_NEXT and will run until the end of 2026.

The Cluster Mobility & Logistics manages the R_Lab Galgenberg with the aim to test smart city applications under real conditions together with science and industry. Regensburg is part of Germany's largest smart city funding programme "Model Projects Smart Cities", making it one of 73 "experimental locations" for integrated urban development.

AVL Software and Functions GmbH is launching one of the first application projects: The "Environmental Sensor Box" is intended to lay the foundation for the collection and evaluation of data that can be used for future adaptive mobility concepts.

All data collected in the R_Lab Mobility will be stored centrally and made available to project participants for research and development purposes. To this end, Stadtwerk.Regensburg is in charge of developing an initial prototype of a data hub for mobility data.

[Further information \(in German\)](#)

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Mobility and Industry Suppliers Meetings 2024: industry collaboration and innovation in Zaragoza

The 7th edition of the Mobility and Industry Suppliers Meetings (MISM), organized on 16 May 2024 by CAAR, and supported by the other Spanish automotive clusters CEAGA, CIAC, FaCyL, AVIA and those from Cantabria, La Rioja, and Navarra, have reached new heights with over 300 attendants, of which 15% came from abroad. Five out of the six major automobile manufacturers in Spain were also present.

MISM offered round tables with speakers from Stellantis, Renault Group, and Seat/Cupra, as well as more than 400 bilateral Matchmaking meetings.



MISM Opening Round Table with Pablo Méndez (Renault Group); Andrés Quirós (SEAT S.A), and Jorge Recasens (Stellantis)

The event's primary objective is to enhance the competitiveness of companies within the sector by promoting supply chain development within the community and addressing challenges related to supply chain management, localizing increased production in Spain, and fostering collaboration with European suppliers. Simultaneously, MISM serves as a platform for expanding companies' supplier portfolios and staying abreast of the latest technologies and products offered by the Spanish value chain.

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47 SMEs attend MISM2024 thanks to the E-BOOST Eurocluster project

Thanks to the European E-BOOST project, a score of foreign companies working in the electromobility sector have attended the 'Mobility and Industry Suppliers Meetings' 2024.

E-BOOST launched a funding call with an allocation of 1,500 euros per beneficiary SME to attend MISM 2024 for two days. The day after MISM, co-funded participants benefitted from visits to automotive companies which are partners of CAAR, such as Fersa Bearings, Converzar, Inymon, and Mk Kitz Hispania.

The next Mobility OpenCall will support companies aiming at participating in the InnoTrans Fair on 24 – 27 September 2024. [Further information](#)

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CEAGA presents its new Strategic Plan

More than 140 executives from the Galician automotive and mobility ecosystem participated in the CEAGA Assembly, held last April in Vigo (Galicia).

As part of the event, CEAGA's new strategic plan was presented, the fifth Competitiveness Plan for the Galician Automotive and Mobility Ecosystem (named PCAM 2030). More than 130 companies from the Cluster participated in its preparation with the aim of addressing the needs of the sector over the next four years in key areas such as electrification, mobility, energy and sustainability, among others.

The Assembly also included speeches by the director of Stellantis Vigo, Ignacio Bueno, and the president of CEAGA, Patricia Moreira, who highlighted the great importance of Galician industry and requested support to continue facing the challenges of the future. The event was closed by the President of the Galician Regional Government, Alfonso Rueda, accompanied by the Regional Minister of Economy, Industry and Innovation, María Jesús Lorenzana.

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"Future Skills for the Battery Industry" Workshop by e-mobil BW GmbH

The demand for specialists in the field of battery technology is currently high. As the automotive industry shifts towards electric propulsion, new components are required, and different skills are expected from the workforce. In this interactive workshop, attendants will gain valuable insights into the required skills along the battery value chain and learn about the training measures needed for professionals in battery technology. They will also discover how professionals can acquire necessary knowledge and skills in the field of battery technology and what training measures are needed to support this.

It is also a great opportunity to engage in discussions and connect with experts from the e-mobil BW network from research, industry, and education.

The workshop is organized on 19 June 2024 14h00 – 16h30 CET as part of the Battery Show Europe, Stuttgart.

Attending the workshop is free but registration is required. [Further information and registration.](#)

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Save the date: WFG Heilbronn to organise Clusters Meet Regions in November 2024



EACN member WFG Heilbronn will organise a Clusters Meet Regions event on 13 and 14 November 2024. Further information to be communicated soon.

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Project corner

SURE5.0 Webinar “Digital Twins and AI: The new Frontiers for the Manufacturing Industry”

Prepare to witness the future of manufacturing and logistics unfold before your eyes with the SURE5.0 upcoming webinar: “Digital Twin and AI: the new frontiers for the manufacturing industry”.



Scheduled for Monday 17 June at 15:00 CEST, this virtual event promises a deep dive into the transformative technologies shaping tomorrow's factories. It will feature the best practices of the companies ams OSRAM, Fraunhofer IPT and Evestel. [Register here.](#)

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BRIDGESMEs project: New Open Call for Tech-Savvy SMEs & Start-Ups

The BRIDGESMEs project, co-funded by the European Commission, launched an open call to select tech-savvy SMEs & start-ups that will benefit from the project's activities and services. The main objective is to foster alliances between tech-savvy SMEs and pilot SMEs (tech adopters) to generate business opportunities and innovative solutions.

Applicants must provide solutions for one or more of the BRIDGESMEs targeted five sectors: (1) Mobility, Transport & Automotive; (2) Aerospace & Defence; (3) Electronics; (4) Cultural & Creative Industries; and (5) Tourism. The beneficiary companies will have access to different support services during their participation in the project: investment readiness support, participation in hackathons and matchmaking events, business support services, training and mentoring services, access to funding, participation in diffusion activities, etc.

What do we offer

A dedicated support package for the selected tech-savvy SMEs will include the following benefits:



[Further information and application](#) (Deadline: 28 June, 17:00h CET)

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Other information

Capacity Building Strand 2b (I3-2023-CAP2b)

The next cut-off of the I3 - Capacity Building Strand 2b call is on the 14 November 2024 (17:00 CET). Strand 2b seeks to help innovation in less innovative regions and the partnership must be coordinated by such a region.

[Further information](#)

The next calls 1/2A are expected to open soon with a deadline in December 2024.

Transition Pathway for the EU Mobility Industrial Ecosystem

After the publication of the transition pathway document for the mobility sector, the European Commission launched a call for pledges that will contribute to the transition pathway with concrete actions. Pledges shall include

- ▲ a concrete action fitting with the future-oriented strategies, values, and objectives of the submitting organisation
- ▲ a measurable target.
- ▲ a clear timeframe, ideally with intermediate milestones.

Actions that already started in the past and is still meant to deliver results in the future are also eligible. Examples of pledges from the textile ecosystem can be found [here](#).

[Further information and access to the questionnaire.](#)

2Zero published new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

On March 1, 2024, the European partnership entitled “Towards zero-emission road transport” (2ZERO) unveiled its new Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). [Further information](#)

ECCP: Opportunity to share insights on green transition practices

ECCP is developing new content to support the uptake of sustainable practices and technologies, therefore, they are collecting needs, challenges, and good practices from cluster organizations across Europe. For this purpose, ECCP is looking for cluster managers for a short virtual (or written) interview with the following questions:

- ▲ What experiences have you had related to sustainability/the green transition? Have you as a cluster already taken steps to help your members?
- ▲ Do you experience barriers or challenges in supporting the integration of sustainable practices into your cluster?
- ▲ In what areas would you need further support? What would help you move forward?

Interested? Get in touch with anna.kronvall@prognos.com or vera.wechner@prognos.com.


Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) adopted

The Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) has been adopted on 27 May 2024. *It puts the EU on track to strengthen its domestic manufacturing capacities of key clean technologies* and creates a unified and predictable business environment for the clean tech manufacturing sector. [Full press release and NZIA download](#)

Corporate sustainability due diligence: Council gives its final approval


The Council has formally adopted the corporate sustainability due diligence directive. The directive introduces obligations for large companies regarding adverse impacts of their activities on human rights and environmental protection; it also lays down the liabilities linked to these obligations. The rules concern not only the companies' operations, but also the activities of their subsidiaries, and those of their business partners along the companies' chain of activities. [Further information](#)


Agenda


 11 – 13 June 2024 | Sofia (Bulgaria)
Automotive Forum Bulgaria 2024 | organised by AC Bulgaria | [Further information and registration](#)


SURE5.0 17 June, 15:00 CEST | Online
SURE5.0 webinar: “Digital Twin and AI: the new


frontiers for the manufacturing industry” | Organised by the SURE5.0 project | [Further information and registration](#)


 17 – 18 June 2024 | Brussels and online
Hydrogen Valleys Days | co-organised by the [Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#) and the European Commission | [Further information](#)


 18 - 20 June 2024 | Stuttgart (Germany)
The Battery Show Europe | Conference & Exposition | [Further information](#)

 19 June 2024 | Stuttgart (Germany)
Workshop "Future Skills for the Battery Industry" | Side event to Battery Show Europe | organised by CESW/e-mobil | [Further information and registration](#)

 2 July 2024 | Rennes (France)
Forum Mobilités Transitions | organised by ID4Mobility | free entries possible via EACN | [Further information](#)


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

 1 – 2 October 2024 | Montbéliard (France)
Hydrogen Business For Climate | co-organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur | [Further information and registration](#)


 1 – 3 October 2024 | Strasbourg (France)
European Mobility Expo | organised by GIE Objective transport public | [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](#)

 13 - 14 November 2024 | Heilbronn (Germany)
Clusters meet Regions in Heilbronn | co-organised by WFG Heilbronn | Further information to come



Legal notice

Links preceded by the  are also available on the EACN website with a limited access to 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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