

The President's Foreword

Dear all,

This is the last EACN newsletter before the summer break where, I hope, you can all recharge in company of your families and friends.

The situation of the European automotive industry remains difficult, meaning that the work we are doing, as individual clusters or as a network, are important and necessary. To improve cluster excellence and allow clusters to discover best practices from others, we launched the Cluster Excellence Meetings in June. This is a series of monthly meetings where dedicated cluster management topics are addressed.

EACN Clusters also engage on European level, the Clusters meet Regions events in Heilbronn and Rzeszów in the last months, and the one in Regensburg in November are one example, the participation in projects with European co-funding are another one. Exciting new projects have been selected with grant agreement preparations ongoing, and you will discover them in one of the next newsletters.

And we are also invited to European events such as, in June, to the Automotive Regions Alliance conference in Strasbourg. EACN and the Automotive Skills Alliance have been the only external participants, and this was the possibility to share the EACN point of view on the automotive industry.

I hope you'll find many interesting information in this newsletter and wish you all restful vacations.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

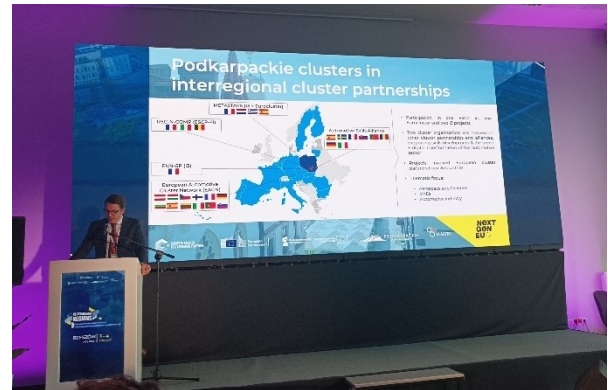
Insight EACN

"Cluster Meets Regions" in Rzeszów

EACN Member East Automotive Alliance co-organised the [Clusters meet Regions event in Rzeszów](#) on 3-4 June 2025. The event focused on automotive and aerospace and gathered more than 100 participants.

Ryszard Jania, President of EAA, participated in the round table 'The role of clusters in accelerating the economic development of the region and the country' and Patrick Dufour, Transformotive, in the one addressing 'Industry transformation towards a zero-carbon Economy'. EACN Secretary General Thomas Röhr had the honour to co-moderate together with Łukasz Bis from the Sokołów Małopolski Municipality the pitching session where 7 clusters presented their offers and needs.

EACN has also been mentioned by Dr. Jan-Philippe Cramer, ECCP team member/Prognos, in his [ECCP input paper on Podkarpackie](#).



Dr. Jan-Philippe Cramer presenting the results of the ECCP input paper on Podkarpackie

The event was also a great opportunity to discover the Subcarpathian Region in Eastern Poland, including [Tarnobrzeg](#) where EAA is located, [Sandomierz](#), long time one of the most important urban centres of the Poland and royal city of the Polish Crown from the High Middle Ages to the 19th century.



EACN participants with the 'EAA car' made only with parts produced by EAA companies

A great thanks to the hosts from EAA for these discoveries and to the ECCP for the invitation to participate in the Clusters meet Regions meeting in Rzeszów.

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EACN invited to the Automotive Regions Alliance meeting in Strasbourg

The Automotive Regions Alliance (ARA) is a political network of regions committed to the successful transition of the European automotive and supply industry. The Alliance is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions.

On 17 June, the ARA hosted a high-level conference on the topic 'Automotive transition' in Strasbourg, during the European Parliament's plenary session, to reinforce the role of regions in shaping the sector's future. Regional leaders and members of the European Parliament gathered to advance the implementation of the Action Plan for the European Automotive Industry and to evaluate the progress made since the Plan's adoption.



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EACN President Bruno Grandjean in Strasbourg at the Automotive Regions Alliance conference

Only the Automotive Skills Alliance and EACN have been invited to join the conference as external participants. This was thus a great opportunity to present EACN to the regional leaders and to underline important aspects for the automotive transition from an EACN point of view as stated in the [EACN Joint answer to the 'Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the Automotive Industry'](#) which has been submitted to the public consultation during the preparation phase of the action plan. [Further information on the ARA conference.](#)

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Key indicator survey

This spring, EACN launched a large cluster indicator survey to gather information and key figures from its member clusters.



Clusters having participated in the survey (07.2025)

The data highlight the strengths of the network. The 20 clusters who participated in the survey represent more than 3.100 members, of which 61% are SMEs. The data also help identifying clusters excelling in specific services, EU project participations and other fields. Thanks to all those who already answered. The survey is still accessible for clusters who want to join.

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New: Cluster Excellence Meetings

EACN launched a series of Cluster Excellence Meetings addressing best practices of cluster management. These meetings target EACN cluster manager. Participants discover actions and reasonings on specific topics as input for internal discussions, reflexions and strategies.

The first meeting in June focused on **'Commercial services'** with input presentations from Tanja Mohorič, Cluster Manager at GIZ AC Slovenia, and from David Romeral, Cluster Manager at CAAR. GIZ ACS has a 30% share of income from such services, e.g., through the mutualisation of studies, legal advice... for members, David Romeral guided the participants through a process to identify potential services for clusters.

The second meeting addressed the question of **'EU Projects'**. Bruno Amaro presented the Mobinov approach with 11 running collaboration projects of which nine are co-funded by European programmes (Interreg, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+). These projects are structured around the categories "Qualification", "Entrepreneurship and innovation", "Digital Transition", "Decarbonisation", and "Internationalisation". Patrick Dufour, Cluster Manager at Transformative, insisted on the importance that project results must benefit to members when engaging in European projects. He also highlighted some advice, such as the regular exchanges with the project officers, delivering work and engagement that others trust you as coordinators, the need for common project building and others.

The next Cluster Excellence Meeting is scheduled for September and will address **'Events (co-)organised by clusters'**, their benefits and challenges.

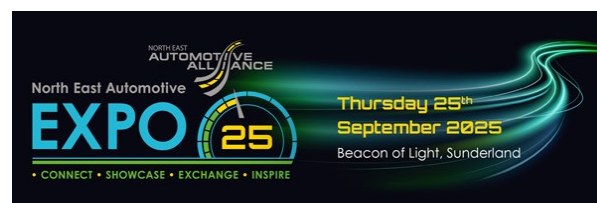
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Upcoming events by EACN members

NEAA Expo 2025 returns as business wins drive momentum | 25.09.2025 | Sunderland (UK)



The flagship [North East Automotive Expo 2025](#) returns in September with growing evidence that exhibitors are winning major contracts as a direct result of attending. The Expo, on Thursday 25 September, at the Beacon of Light, Sunderland, brings together companies from

across the entire supply chain, including pioneering original equipment manufacturers, Tier One suppliers, SMEs and specialist service providers. The Expo continues to evolve and is a key event for driving business development, strengthening supply chain relationships and showcasing the region's expertise. Read more [here](#).

Forge key connections at the Expo's Meet the Buyer, now open for Expressions of Interest: Interested parties can book meetings with Nissan, Komatsu UK, Unipres (UK), AESC UK, Magna Exteriors Sunderland, Elring Klinger GB, Nifco UK, Highly Marelli, Faltec Europe, Marelli and AV Dawson / Port of Middlesbrough. To be considered for a pre-bookable 20-minute meeting with these industry buyers, you must [complete an Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) before 8 August 2025, which will be reviewed by the participating buyers.

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REMINDER : CEE Automotive Transition 2025 | 18.09.2025 | Budapest (Hungary)



ZONE Cluster organises the CEE Automotive Transition 2025 Conference in Budapest on 18 September. The official agenda is now available. Key themes include:

- ⚡ Future-proofing competitiveness through innovation in times of global volatility
- ⚡ Europe's auto industry at a crossroads – pain points and pathways forward
- ⚡ Autonomous driving as a potential breakthrough for CEE players
- ⚡ Dual-use technologies emerging at the intersection of automotive, aerospace, and defense
- ⚡ Synchronizing battery production and EV infrastructure to overcome electrification bottlenecks

For further information see [EACN Newsletter May 2025](#) or the [event website](#).

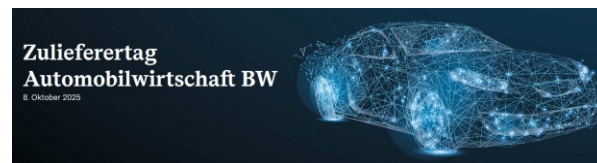
EACN clusters and their members can benefit from a 50% discount on the classic pass.

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REMINDER: Automotive Supplier's Day 2025 | 08.10.2025 | Esslingen (Germany)



e-mobil BW and the Cluster ESW are organising again the [Automotive Suppliers' Day Baden-Württemberg](#) on 8 October 2025. This year, Automotive Suppliers' Day is all about digital technology solutions and software applications - as key drivers for future competitiveness - showing groundbreaking innovations in research and development as well as market opportunities and support services for suppliers. Focus lies on the transformation towards **software-defined manufacturing and vehicles**, as well as **highly developed software-driven platforms**.

Suppliers and particularly SMEs from Baden-Württemberg demonstrate how they are successfully implementing software-based solutions for electromobility using practical cooperation projects. To strengthen their own competitive position, it is becoming increasingly important to find partners and establish **collaborations at international and especially European level**, therefore EACN clusters and their members and research institutes are very much welcomed at Automotive Suppliers' Day! Participation is free of charge, the full [programme is here](#).

For further information, please consult the [EACN Newsletter May 2025](#) or the event website.

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Members' lounge

Congratulations: Polish Automotive Group awarded SILVER Label

The **Polish Automotive Group (PGM)** has successfully completed the ESCA evaluation process and has been awarded the **SILVER Label of Cluster Management Excellence**, valid until July 2027.

The assessment confirms the continued development of the organisation and its alignment with good practices in cluster management. PGM is the largest cluster of automotive suppliers in Poland, bringing together over 50 manufacturing companies.

The award process was coordinated by the PGM team with the support of its member companies. Bartosz Mielecki, PGM Cluster Manager: "I am proud because I have been developing PGM from the very beginning.

Every moment like winning the SILVER Label makes me very happy.

However, the greatest satisfaction is given by other "certificates" – the informal ones. When I hear from the presidents and managers of member companies that what we do at PGM really helps them. That thanks to our work they gain new customers, optimize costs, create new products, implement innovations, establish cooperation with other PGM members, ... These are the real measures of the sense of action. And this certificate? In a way, it is also about this."

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Automotive Cluster Bulgaria – 13 Years of Dynamic Journey of Innovation in the Automotive Industry

On 10 July 2025, Automotive Cluster Bulgaria (ACB) celebrated its 13th anniversary.

Since its establishment in 2012, ACB has come a long way, building a broad international network of partners united by the vision of industrial development and technological progress.



Arch. Lyubomir Stanislavov, CEO of Automotive Cluster Bulgaria during the birthday ceremony

Arch. Lyubomir Stanislavov, Executive Director of Automotive Cluster Bulgaria: "We extend our gratitude to all our like-minded partners with whom we have worked over the years to develop the sector into a worthy partner and active player on the European stage. We will continue to foster meaningful synergy between industry, science, and the public sector to overcome challenges and unlock new horizons for the development of the automotive industry". And to add: "We are entering a new era of industrial transformation, in which Bulgarian companies should be not just contractors, but innovators and strategic partners in the global automotive ecosystem. Therefore, we will continue to focus our efforts on the key challenges the sector faces - both at national and

international level. Our goal is to help companies respond adequately to the dynamic processes of digitalization and transition to a sustainable future".

After 13 years in which the cluster consistently affirmed its mission to support the competitiveness and sustainable development of the automotive sector in Bulgaria. In the dynamic environment influenced by technological progress, socio-economic trends and strategic investments, ACB remains actively engaged in increasing the innovation capacity of companies in the sector.

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Polish Automotive Clusters join forces under the FPKM initiative

In 2025, the four leading Polish automotive clusters – **Polska Grupa Motoryzacyjna (PGM)**, **Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing (SA&AM)**, **East Automotive Alliance (EAA)**, and **Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster (DKM)** – launched a new informal cooperation platform called **FPKM – Forum Polskich Kłastrów Motoryzacyjnych**.

The aim is to strengthen joint representation at national and EU level, share knowledge and best practices, and initiate joint projects for the benefit of Poland's automotive supply chain.

In May 2025, the Forum held a joint meeting with the Ministry of Development and Technology, discussing topics such as:

- ▶ the role of clusters in shaping future industrial and cluster policies,
- ▶ the idea of a sectoral industrial contract for the automotive industry,
- ▶ the update of National Smart Specialisations to reflect current challenges.



The four Polish automotive cluster managers at the Polish Ministry of Development and Technology

PGM also hosted a best practice workshop and a study visit to Łukasiewicz-PIMOT, where participants

explored research infrastructure in crash tests, battery durability and electromagnetic compatibility.

The next steps of the Forum include:

- ▲ co-organising policy roundtables and matchmaking events,
- ▲ developing joint positions on strategic topics (e.g. skills, green transformation, trade),
- ▲ engaging in international partnerships.

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PGM helps automotive suppliers access the defence sector

The Polish Automotive Group (PGM) is actively supporting its members in reaching new clients in the **defence industry**. Many Polish automotive suppliers have technologies and competencies suitable for dual-use applications in military vehicles, infrastructure, and equipment.



PGM Members at ROSOMAL wheeled armoured personnel carriers factory

PGM has already organised two joint stands at MSPO in Kielce – the largest defence fair in Central and Eastern Europe – and will return in September 2025 with over a dozen member companies. In recent years, PGM has:

- ▲ facilitated direct meetings with leading Polish and foreign defence contractors,
- ▲ presented member companies to military vehicle and equipment manufacturers,
- ▲ held roundtables with public administration, including the Ministry of Defence, and participated in a session of the Polish Parliament's Economic Committee focused on cooperation between the defence sector and domestic industry.

These activities reflect the objectives set out in PGM's new strategy, where resilience has been defined as one

of the cluster's key cross-cutting priorities – including diversification of markets and increasing members' engagement in critical sectors such as defence.

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Cluster Electric Mobility South-West present at EVS38 and the Battery Show Europe

Baden-Württemberg at EVS38 (in Gothenburg, Sweden)

From 15 – 18 June 2025, Baden-Württemberg showcased its innovation potential at the world's largest **electric mobility conference 38th International Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS38) in Gothenburg, Sweden**. Transport Minister Winfried Hermann represented the state politically, while the Cluster Electric Mobility South-West (coordinated by e-mobil BW) highlighted Baden-Württemberg's economic and innovation landscape. e-mobil BW also took the stage in the scientific sessions on "Regional Policies" and "The Value Chain and Software Defined Vehicles," presenting key insights on qualification strategies and the growing importance of software in the automotive sector. The European project [Voltage](#) – in which the Cluster is involved alongside Mobinov and other leading European networks – also made a strong impression with multiple contributions throughout the program, including stage presentations, thematic sessions, and a shared exhibition booth.

Recap – Battery Show Europe 2025 (in Stuttgart, Germany)

The **Battery Show Europe 2025** took place in Stuttgart from 3 – 5 June 2025. The **regions of the 4 Motors for Europe** – the alliance of Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia, Lombardy and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes – took the Battery Show as an opportunity to organise their own networking event. As a cluster partner of the Cluster Electric Mobility South-West, we have met in an inspiring atmosphere with innovators, industry leaders and political decision-makers who are driving the future of sustainable mobility and battery technologies across Europe.

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North East Automotive Alliance engaged for better skilled workforce

MADE NE: A crucial initiative for the future of North East Advanced Manufacturing

MADE NE (Manufacturing, Automation, Digitalisation, Electrification North East) is a landmark investment, ensuring the region has the skilled workforce and innovative capabilities to thrive in the rapidly evolving electric vehicle market. A collaborative effort involving key players such as Nissan, AESC, Vantec Europe, Education Partnership North East, New College Durham, Newcastle University and the NEAA, MADE NE will create world-leading training facilities over two sites within the International Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Site (IAMSS) in Sunderland – part of the North East investment zone supported by Sunderland City Council and the North East Combined Authority. The NEAA caught up with Craig Jennings, newly appointed CEO of MADE NE to hear more about how these plans are shaping. Read more [here](#).

The North East Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) June 2025 Progress Report is published

The NEAA has released the June 2025 Progress Report on the delivery of the North East Local Skills Improvement Plan (NELSIP), originally launched in June 2023. The report provides a detailed update on the region's progress in addressing key technical skills priorities across County Durham, Sunderland, Gateshead, and South Tyneside. It highlights significant achievements, including the UKSPF-funded Training for Growth Pilot - Sunderland, supporting the recruitment of 31 new apprentices. Read more [here](#).

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Using the Dual Relevance Matrix for effective sustainability reporting

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance reporting of companies is becoming increasingly important. GIZ ACS therefore organised a consultation for member companies with experts from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. Using concrete examples allowed highlighting ways and methods for effective sustainability reporting.

The Dual Relevance Matrix, already used by some Slovenian companies, helps them to identify their impact on the environment, society and governance, and which trends and developments are affecting their business.



Participants at the ESG reporting consultation

In the process of using the matrix, companies need to get the right information from their employees, customers, suppliers, local environment, etc., in order to make the right strategic choices later on. The process also needs to identify the financial impacts of ESG measures and which segments the company needs to invest in. Often, the quality of ESG reporting also determines the opinion of auditors and, consequently, the approval of loans.

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EAA at the Metapanel “Networking Cooperation in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship”

On July 27, East Automotive Alliance (EAA) participated in the Metapanel “Networking Cooperation in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship,” organized by the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The event summarized the pilot project “Support for Networking Cooperation among Stakeholders of the Podkarpackie Innovation System,” which included EAA and several other organizations.

The project is an excellent example of collaboration between regional government and cluster organizations. It supports both clusters' statutory activities and the Marshal's Office in implementing public policy. One of the key cluster events at the time was the international ‘Clusters meet Regions’ congress where Pawel Wais, Director of the Regional Development Department, recognised the EAA's involvement in the project.

With such support, clusters can plan activities for the long term and are able to fulfill their missions on a larger scale. The project fully met expectations, and its continuation was announced for 2025–2027, with a focus on cross-sectoral cooperation and innovation promotion. A call for proposals is planned for Q3 2025.

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Mission GREMO with results for the Slovenian automotive industry

In 2022, the Slovenian automotive industry, under the auspices of ACS (Slovenian Automotive Cluster), presented a joint initiative for digital and green transformation named Mission GREMO. After three years of implementing joint projects, representatives from companies informed the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Robert Golob, and representatives of the relevant ministries about the results achieved so far in the implementation of joint projects, and discussed the next steps in realizing the goals of Mission GREMO by 2030.

A significant result has been the understanding of Slovenian policy that automotive and mobility companies urgently need transformation to strengthen their competitiveness, and that a joint effort from industry, science, and the state is crucial for achieving higher competitiveness. Companies already recognize numerous advantages of the collaboration. With many joint projects, concrete solutions that support the implementation of the strategic goals of the GREMO Mission can already be presented. Solutions are expanding to include internationalization and addressing other business challenges in the automotive industry.

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CEAGA organises a new workshop on business resilience to boost the competitiveness of automotive and mobility companies

Top-level professionals from companies in the Galician automotive and mobility industry met at a workshop organised by CEAGA (Galician automotive and mobility Cluster) to anticipate and respond effectively to the challenges of the environment, strengthening their competitiveness through strategic analysis and the intelligent use of legal and financial resources.

The “Business Resilience” workshop, given by the leading consultancy firm Deloitte, dealt with topics of great interest for the competitiveness of companies in the sector, such as the importance of financial planning; intelligent funding; and legal and financial keys for managing complex situations. In addition, a successful case of business refinancing was analysed.

The last part of the day, which was opened by the President of CEAGA, Patricia Moreira, focused on a structured group work dynamic so that the companies could share their problems and needs in the financial field. The objectives were: to work together, share

knowledge, identify common strategies and convey the position and needs of the cluster to the Galician government.

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Project corner

DRIVE2TRANSFORM Expert Group launched

The [Drive2Transform project](#) aims at helping the automotive industry to master the



Drive2Transform

transformative shift driven by climate change, disruptive technologies, and global competition. The project develops a cross-regional strategy and deploys an open transformation platform for the automotive sector. As one further step, four expert groups on Electrification, Autonomous Driving, Connectivity, and Platform Economy started their work and the dialogue across Europe.

The consortium also organizes the **Automotive Transformation Conference** on 23 – 24.10.2025 in Bruneck/Italy. Find the full programme and a registration link [here](#).

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Hack2BRIDGE heads to Austria and France with two new hackathons focused on the electronics and aerospace & defense ecosystems



Within the framework of the European project [BRIDGESMeS](#), supported by the European Commission, a series of hackathons is being organised to connect companies, startups, students, and other professionals and develop solutions to real industry challenges. Registration is now open for two of these hackathons:



▲ Hack2BRIDGE Austria (October 6-7, 2025):

Focused on the **Electronics ecosystem**

Hosted by Silicon Alps Cluster

Pitch the solutions at EBSCON 2025

Registration open until 26 September 2025:

<https://bridgesmes.eu/hack2bridge/austria>

▲ Hack2BRIDGE France (October 3-4, 2025):

Focused on the **Aerospace & Defense ecosystem**

Hosted by Aerospace Valley, Arts et Métiers

Bordeaux-Talence School, and Bordeaux Technowest

Registration open until 26 September 2025:

<https://bridgesmes.eu/hack2bridge/france>

Hack2BRIDGE is an entrepreneurship ideation competition within the BRIDGESMEs project. It brings together pilot and tech-savvy SMEs and startups to spark collaboration and drive digital transformation. Participants will develop and pitch business ideas tailored to real industry challenges, fostering strategic partnerships and strengthening local innovation ecosystems.

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Future Ready - a new SA&AM project on Industry Transformation and Future Competencies

SA&AM Cluster secured funding for the development of its activities within the framework of a new Polish funded project titled "Future Ready - Transformation of Industry through Innovation and New Competencies". The project will start in October 2025 and last 39 months used to implement innovative services to support the transformation of companies.

The approved project budget is more than PLN 2.75 million (env. 650 k€). The project is another step toward implementing the ambitious objectives of the SA&AM Cluster Development Strategy for 2025-2030, aimed at supporting innovation, digitization and human resource development in industry.

Three new services - a response to the real needs of companies:

▲ **Best-Cost-Company** - a service supporting the identification of technological and process gaps in enterprises. Based on the best-cost-company model and using digital tools, companies will be able to diagnose areas that need improvement and develop an optimization action plan.

▲ **HR Industry** - a comprehensive audit of personal processes, taking into account changes resulting from digitization, demographics and new work models.

▲ **Competencies of the Future** - a program for the development of soft and creative competencies, such as critical thinking, cooperation and adaptation skills, which are key in the context of Industry 4.0 and environmental transformation.

The project primarily targets members of the SA&AM Cluster, both large companies and SMEs, but will also be available to organizations from outside the cluster, which are looking for comprehensive transformation support and are interested in joining our community.

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Strengthening the development of automotive suppliers in the Western Balkans

GIZ ACS launched a new project to support automotive suppliers in the Western Balkans. The project is coordinated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and led by the GIZ ACS project office. The project is funded by the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, and Sports of Slovenia.



UNIDO project participants

The UNIDO project provides international development assistance to regional automotive suppliers in the Western Balkans to promote an industrial transformation programme and integration into European automotive value chains. The project will offer support for connecting suppliers and buyers and facilitate the establishment and development of specific business partnerships between local component manufacturers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and partner automotive clusters. It will involve Slovenian and international experts who will provide training in skills for beneficiaries operating in the automotive supply chain production sector. The establishment of regional cooperation among contractors, ensuring quality, and compliance verification is planned. In addition, it will also organize training sessions, workshops, and conferences to transfer knowledge and experiences.

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Project news from Mobinov

SCAIRA Project – 4th Consortium Meeting & 2nd Call Closed

On July 1st and 2nd, the SCAIRA consortium met in person in Rochefort, France, to discuss the project's progress. The agenda included capacity-building sessions, technical visits, and strategic planning. MOBINOV publicly presented the study "Territorial and Industrial Challenges in the Automotive and Aeronautic Sectors", one of the project's strategic deliverables, which analyses the main challenges faced by these sectors at the European level. The meeting reinforced the commitment to innovation and industrial cooperation in the SUDOE area.

The video of this presentation will be available soon. Stay tuned to MOBINOV's and the SCAIRA project's social media channels!

In parallel, the second call of the SCAIRA project, out of a total of three, has now closed and is currently in the evaluation phase. This edition featured the participation of three Portuguese companies, out of a total of 15, and aimed to support disruptive ideas aligned with predefined challenges through a six-month acceleration program offering free access to mentoring, specialized services, and international networking. The challenges were launched by Renault Group Spain, Horse Aveiro, and Airbus, in the areas of clean technologies, AI, digitalization, and renewable energies. The third and final call is expected to launch in the 4th quarter of 2025.

SCAIRA is an Interreg SUDOE project with a three-year duration, aiming to empower and accelerate startups in rural areas. [Find more about this project.](#)

Project TRIREME Workshop

European automotive regions have joined forces to tackle the challenges of future mobility and skills. The TRIREME workshop, promoted by the Automotive Skills Alliance, brought together representatives from Spain, Germany, France, and Italy. Topics discussed included digital and soft skills, new mobility models, and the balance between innovation and regulation. This cooperation aims to prepare regions for a transforming automotive sector.

TRIREME is a 4-year project focused on upskilling and reskilling for the automotive sector. [Find more here.](#)

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Other information

The European Commission adopts budget for the 2028-34 Multiannual Financial Framework

On 16 July 2025, the Commission presented its proposal for an ambitious and dynamic Multiannual Financial Framework ("MFF") to date amounting to almost EUR 2 trillion (or 1.26% of the EU's gross national income on average between 2028 and 2034).

A **new European Competitiveness Fund** will invest in strategic technologies, to benefit the entire Single Market. The Fund will simplify and accelerate EU funding and catalyse private and public investment with focus on clean transition and decarbonization; digital transition; health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy; and defence, and space.

In close connection with the European Competitiveness Fund, the renowned **EU research framework, with its flagship Horizon Europe worth EUR 175 billion**, will continue to fund world-class innovation.

The decision on the future long-term EU budget and revenue system will be discussed by Member States in the Council, acting by unanimity, with the consent of the European Parliament for the MFF. [Read more.](#)

Horizon Europe work programme 2026-27 published

The 2026-27 work programmes is out. All parts can be found [here](#).

Draft proposals by the European Commission for the regulations of the FP10 and the new European Competitiveness Fund starting in 2028 leaked

Draft regulations on Horizon Europe (FP10) and on the European Competition Fund (ECF) have been leaked recently. FP10 and ECF aims at One Innovation Pipeline, with FP10 keeping upstream R&I momentum (like Horizon Europe's Pillar 2), while ECF is pulling results to market. The funding logic is now mainly based on lump sums. Thematic clusters are replaced by the strategic areas Clean Transition & Decarbonisation; Health, Bioeconomy & Biotech; Digital Leadership; and Resilience, Defence & Space (same for FP10 & ECF).

Plus cross-cutting themes (e.g. democracy, New European Bauhaus).

Read the full FP10 draft proposal [here](#), and the ECF draft proposal [here](#).

Proposal for an Automotive Partnership in the next European budget

ERTRAC, CCAM Association and EARPA developed a [joint proposal](#) offer to set up, in the next European budget, a large-scale automotive partnership to enhance the competitiveness, technological sovereignty, innovation power and sustainability of the European automotive sector.

16 new Eurocluster Projects to Boost Europe's Green and Digital Future!

The results are in! Under the Euroclusters initiative, 16 pioneering projects (have been selected, backed by a total EU budget of €42 million.

- ▲ Strand 1 focuses on net-zero technologies and critical raw materials.
- ▲ Strand 2 supports innovation in other strategic value chains.

These projects aim to reinforce strategic autonomy, support the green and digital transitions, and strengthen EU industrial resilience. Project will kick off on 1 October 2025.

DUT Call 2025 - A funding opportunity for climate neutral and resilient cities

The Driving Urban Transition Partnership (DUT) published the Call 2025 opening on 1 September. The call seeks innovative projects that accelerate the transition to climate neutral and resilient cities. It focuses on three key thematic areas, the Transition Pathways: 15-minute City, Circular Urban Economies and Positive Energy Districts. An [online Info-Day](#) is scheduled on 9 September from 10h00 – 13h00. [Further information on the call.](#)


ASA to propose an Automotive and Mobility Ecosystem Academy


The Automotive Skills Alliance proposes the recognition and support of the Automotive and Mobility Ecosystem Academy (AMEA) as a pilot industry-wide EU Skills Academy, as outlined in the European Commission's Union of Skills. AMEA is envisioned as a single, one-stop shop gateway for all industry stakeholders, education providers, social partners, Member States, regions, and regional players - a virtual "academy of academies" that connects existing initiatives to work faster and more effectively together. It offers a collaborative platform and "smart yellow pages" for training offers, skills intelligence, and joint solutions. [Read more.](#)

Agenda


 16–17 September 2025 | Brussels (Belgium) & online
European Research & Innovation (R&I) Days 2025: Together, towards a Research and Innovation Union | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)


17 – 19 September 2025 | Antwerp (Belgium)
European Transport Conference 2025 | organised by the Association for European Transport | [Further information and registration](#)


 18 September 2025 | Budapest (Hungary)
CEE Forum for the Automotive Transition | organised by Zone Cluster | [Registration](#)


 30 Sept. – 02 Oct. 2025 | Vilnius (Lithuania)
UrbanMobility Days 2025 | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)


 03 - 04 October 2025 | Talence (France)
Hack2BRIDGE Aerospace & Defense Hackathon | organised by the BRIDGESMEs project consortium | [Further information and application](#)

 06 - 07 October 2025 | Graz (Austria)
Hack2BRIDGE Electronics Hackathon | organised by the BRIDGESMEs project consortium | [Further information and application](#)


 08 October 2025 | Esslingen (Germany)
Automotive Supplier's Day 2025 | organised by e-mobil and Cluster Electric Mobility South-West | [Further information and registration](#)

 23-24 October 2025 | Bruneck (Italy)
Automotive Transformation Conference | organised by the Drive2Transformation consortium | [Further information](#)

 26-27 November 2025 | Regensburg (Germany)
Clusters Meet Regions Regensburg | organised by ECCP and Cluster Logistics & Mobility | [Further information](#)

 04 December 2025 | Belfort (France)
Forum Hydrogen Business For Climate: Safe & Scale - Secure and accelerate | co-organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur | [Further information and registration](#)

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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