

The President's Foreword

Dear all,

Since the last newsletter, our clusters have been again active and successful, sign of a living cluster ecosystem.

This cluster ecosystem will gather on 2 – 4 November in Dublin at the EU Cluster Conference 2026, together with the SME Assembly, as just announced by the ECCP in its April newsletter. We will update you when new information is released. Last time in Brussels has been a great opportunity to meet, let's connect again in Dublin.

A second important moment was the release of the proposal for the Industrial Acceleration Act (IAA) by the European Commission on 4 March 2026. This act aims at strengthening European manufacturing industry through streamlined permit granting processes, the introduction of 'Made in EU' conditions in public procurement, requirements to large Foreign Direct Investments, and the creation of Industrial Acceleration Areas. Two public consultations are still open, have your say, as EACN plans to do.

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Upcoming events from and with EACN Members

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West at the Battery Show Europe in Stuttgart | 9-11 June 2026

Battery Show Europe 2026 is taking place once again in Stuttgart, from **June 9-11, 2026**. We will be present with an own Pavillion (**Hall 1 | Booth A-26**) with 12 network partners from Baden-Württemberg presenting their battery solutions. Join the official reception for our national and international partners (June 9, at 5 pm, booth A-26 in Hall 1) and free guided tours (June 10 & 11).

Feel free to get in touch with Konstantin Kolasa (Konstantin.kolasa@e-mobilbw.de) in case you plan to attend the battery show !

13th Hydrogen Day in Hardthausen (Germany) | 24 June 2026

This expert conference targets current developments in the hydrogen sector through panel discussions and an exhibition. The event is a good opportunity to connect with companies from the hydrogen industry to network and exchange ideas, and to explore new approaches. Participation in the event is **free of charge, but prior registration is mandatory**.

The conference will be held **in German**. If you are interested in attending from abroad, please contact **Alexandra Wolf**, Head of Energy & Sustainability [✉ wolf@wfg.de](mailto:wolf@wfg.de)

Save the Date: CEE Automotive Transition Forum 2026 | 17 September 2026

The automotive industry has entered a decisive phase where the focus is no longer just understanding change, but acting on it with speed, clarity, and coordination. Set to take place on **17 September 2026 in Budapest**, Hungary, the CEE Automotive Transition Forum 2026 will address "Europe's Automotive Reset: Competitiveness, Energy and Intelligence in a New Industrial Era".

Held during European Mobility Week, this event acts as a high-level strategic platform where policy, industry, and technology meet. Unlike a standard industry conference, it is designed as a decision-maker platform prioritizing execution and alignment over noise. The forum will bring together OEMs, Tier 1-2 suppliers, policymakers, and investors to explore Central and Eastern Europe's evolving role as a critical execution region for industrial transformation. Key strategic pillars of the event include CEE competitiveness, energy as a core factor, workforce skills revolution, and new business models.



Registration and Contact Information: As this is an early announcement, full registration conditions and updates will be shared soon. To stay informed, express your early interest, or inquire about joining the lineup of distinguished speakers, please connect with the organizers. Website: [automotivetransition.com](https://www.automotivetransition.com), Email: dialogue@automotivetransition.com

Save the Date: Drive2Transform - Automotive Transformation Conference #2 Linz (Austria) | 22 – 23 September 2026

The conference aims at exploring how manufacturing companies can navigate the shift towards electric, autonomous, and connected vehicles as well as mobility platforms? And what does this transformation

mean in the context of global competition, supply chain instability and increasing energy costs?

The two-day conference includes an **EEN B2B matchmaking session**, an **innovation expo**, guided visits to leading companies in Upper Austria's mobility ecosystem, and expert talks on best practices and transformation strategies from across Europe. [Further information.](#)

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Save-the-Date: Automotive Supplier's Day Baden-Württemberg | 21 October 2026

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West invites interested actors to join the annual Automotive Supplier's Day with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Trade and Tourism Baden-Württemberg, taking place **October 21, 2026, in Esslingen, Germany.**

How can the automotive supply industry remain viable for the future? This year's Automotive Suppliers' Day will address this question in the context of global challenges and demanding operating conditions. The focus will be on how suppliers can balance quality and efficiency and use innovation strategically as a key differentiator to secure their long-term competitiveness. We are already looking forward to you: [Registration mandatory \(free of charge\)!](#)

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Members' lounge

Regional Development Committee of the Podkarpackie Regional Assembly hosted by EAA

On April 9, the off-site meeting of the Regional Development Committee of the Podkarpackie Regional Assembly took place at the Tarnobrzeg Industrial and Technology Park, an important event for East Automotive Alliance who co-organised it as operator of the Tarnobrzeg Industrial and Technology Park.

The event brought together representatives of key regional institutions, including the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, the Town Hall of Tarnobrzeg, and the Tarnobrzeg Regional Development Agency and created an excellent opportunity for exchanging knowledge and experiences related to economic development and innovation.



Participants of the Regional Development Committee

During the session, participants discussed the potential of the automotive sector in the region, as well as the future directions of the Regional Innovation Strategy.

Thanks to the courtesy of the Committee Chairwoman, Ms. Kamila Piech, we also had the opportunity to present the "Bridge&Shift" project — an initiative supporting the transformation of automotive regions towards modern, smart, sustainable, and greener mobility solutions.

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Cluster ESW receives ECEI GOLD Label again

Cluster Electric Mobility South-West has been awarded by ESCA with the ECEI Gold Label for the fourth time in the cluster's history. This underlines not only excellence in Cluster Management but also an excellent cluster community that is well prepared for an innovative and electric-driven future of mobility.



Hannover Messe 2026: The CESW cluster team receives the ECEI Gold Label from the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA)

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Portugal Positioned as a Strategic Player in the Future of European Mobility



Participations of the round table on the Future of the European Automotive Industry

At the Annual Conference of the Automotive Cluster of Serbia, Miguel Araújo, Managing Director of MOBINOVA, highlighted the major transformation reshaping the European automotive industry, driven by geopolitics, technological innovation, sustainability, and the need for more resilient value chains. In this evolving landscape, Portugal is emerging as a strategic player, supported by a strong industrial foundation and growing technological capabilities. The country is increasingly well positioned to innovate, create value, and respond to the challenges of future mobility. The future of Europe's automotive industry will be shaped by those who can combine industrial ambition, innovation, and international cooperation.

Find out more [here](#)

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SRIP AC Slovenia+ News

GREMO Development Conference: Change is not a Punishment

Change is with us at every turn. It is part of our lives. Those who fail to adapt to them seriously risk losing their competitive edge. These are, in short, the main takeaways from the GREMO Development Conference, where the cluster SRIP ACS+, its members and management expert Dr. Nadya Zhexembayeva concluded that change is not a punishment.

In her inspiring speeches, Dr. Nadya Zhexembayeva emphasizes that both individuals and companies must constantly change and adapt due to constant change. She calls this process reinvention. In today's world, this is particularly important, as it involves not just change, but a fundamental shift in the way we think and operate.



Participants listening to Dr. Nadya Zhexembayeva

Dr. Zhexembayeva therefore stresses that we must be able to anticipate what will happen in a timely manner, identify emerging megatrends, and take action as soon as we detect disruption.

Establishment of a Working Group on Artificial Intelligence



Participants of the inaugural working group meeting

SRIP ACS+ identified that competitiveness of Slovenian automotive companies passes through the systematical integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into all areas of business operations for companies and institutions. SRIP ACS's members therefore established an AI Working Group to exchange best practices and identify areas of activity of common interest. The working group will connect experts with the cluster's members and monitor developments, identify common challenges and opportunities, organize activities, and establish projects.

The inaugural meeting was a first opportunity to present AI usages, ranging from improving quality in production processes, optimizing raw material consumption, digital twins, and humanoid robots to administrative tasks, text writing, patent applications, and software. They also agreed on the need to establish regular group meetings to share both best and worst practices among companies, thereby generating new ideas, and to organize workshops—or the so-called AI Academy—with external experts to foster the best possible understanding of this field.

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e-mobil BW (incl. Cluster Electric Mobility South-West) becomes a partner of the Automotive Skills Alliance

e-mobil BW is set to expand its activities in the areas of skills development and workforce training to a European level. Therefore, the State Agency joined the Automotive Skills Alliance (ASA) that supports stakeholders from industry, education and politics in addressing the changing skills requirements of the automotive and mobility sector. By joining ASA, e-mobil BW is expanding its involvement in initiatives under the European Skills Agenda and building on existing collaborations within the international network.

[Further information](#)

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Autonomous Logistics Project demonstrates the North East's Leadership in Connected and Automated Mobility



The North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), alongside the Port of Tyne, Oxa, and a consortium of leading industry and academic partners, has successfully delivered the P-CAL (Port-Connected and Automated Logistics) project, marking a major milestone in the region's journey to become a global leader in Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM).

P-CAL was designed to push the boundaries of autonomous logistics by deploying and validating a fully autonomous terminal tractor within a live port environment. Building on the North East's earlier 5G CAL and V-CAL initiatives, the project moved autonomous technology from proof-of-concept trials into a complex, safety-critical, real-world operational setting. Read the full [press release](#)

Project corner

RESIST Eurocluster to launch two open calls for SMEs

Within the framework of the RESIST Eurocluster - in which the EACN members Autoklastr, CEAGA, PGM, PVF and UAMC participate - two innovation open calls addressed to European SMEs working in the Mobility, Transport and Automotive (MTA) ecosystem have just been launched, with a total budget of €1.6 Million.

Up to 20 innovation projects will be selected in each of these calls, so their involved SMEs can receive:

- ▲ Funding for the implementation of their projects in a 9-months period
- ▲ Complementary services such as technical support, access to experts, training courses, internationalization opportunities in third countries.

	PRODUCT INNOVATION OPEN CALL	PROCESS INNOVATION OPEN CALL
OBJECTIVE	Development of new or significantly improved products/services with the aim of improving environmental performance, lowering carbon emissions, increasing resource efficiency and/or reducing dependencies on critical raw materials.	Redefinition of manufacturing or industrial processes carrying out improvements in current operations and/or incorporating new methods or systems to be more digital, green and resilient.
SCOPE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Net-Zero Manufacturing & Ind. Decarbonisation 2. Circular Critical Raw Materials & Resource Efficiency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Digital Mobility & Smart Industrial Systems 4. Resilient Mobility Value Chains
FUNDING CONDITIONS	<p>90% of total eligible costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual projects (1 SME) Max. €20,000/SME • Collaborative projects (2-3 SMEs) * Max. €30,000/SME <p>*From different NUTS2 regions</p>	

Interested SMEs can **submit their innovation projects following this [link](#)**. **Deadline for the 2026 application process is the 13th of July 2026 17:00 Brussels time.**

Don't forget to attend our Matchmaking event in Mulhouse (4th June). Participation is free but [registration is mandatory](#)

Organized in hybrid format, it's aimed to provide you more detailed information about our open calls and help you to find potential partners or experts to support your projects. Further information: info@resistecluster.eu.

SCAIRA and MOBINOV strengthen Innovation and Entrepreneurship at SIM Conference 2026

MOBINOV attended the SIM Conference 2026 representing the SCAIRA - Interreg SUDOE project, reinforcing its commitment to innovation and European entrepreneurship. Throughout the two-day event, startups supported by the project, such as NextGen and Planta Smart Homes, showcased

innovative and sustainable solutions to investors and international partners. Participation in SIM 2026 provided valuable opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and the development of new collaborations. The event highlighted the importance of international cooperation in strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and enhancing startups competitiveness. These were two dynamic days marked by innovation, strategic connections, and new growth opportunities.

Find out more about this project here: <https://interreg-sudoe.eu/en/proyecto-interreg/scaira/>

IH MIE Open Call for Hydrogen Mobility Solutions

The Interregional Hydrogen Mobility Initiative for Europe (IH-MIE) aims to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty mobility and logistics solutions, reducing regional innovation gaps and advancing technologies from TRL 6 to TRL 9.

In June, an Open Call with a global budget of €1.8 million will be launched, designed to support 7 pilot companies facing predefined technical challenges. A total of 30 startups will be selected to co-develop solutions for these projects, with €800,000 of the budget mandatorily allocated to SMEs in Less Developed Regions (LDRs). Eligible activities for funding encompass integration, prototyping, piloting, and demonstrations in operational environments, alongside validation testing, certification, and safety engineering (HAZOP, HAZID, and FMEA). The budget also covers hydrogen refuelling station (HRS) integration, storage containment and durability testing, go-to-market strategies, sustainability analyses (LCA/LCC), material acquisition, and specialized subcontracting. All funded actions must contribute directly to TRL progression and the structural reinforcement of the mobility value chain. Find out more about the IH MIE project [here](#).

Contact:

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Other information



**02-04 November 2026:
SME Assembly & EU Cluster
Conference | Dublin (Ireland)**

Announced in the ECCP Newsletter April 2026, the EU Cluster Conference and the SME Assembly are organised as one big event on 2 to 4 November 2026 in Dublin (Ireland). **Save the date**, further information to come.

EU Business Hub: Business mission to Japan and South Korea. Opportunities for interested SMEs and Start-ups



Eurochambres, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, invites EU SMEs and start-ups active in green and low-carbon technologies, **digital solutions**, and healthcare and medical equipment sectors to join the [EU Business Hub – Japan and the Republic of Korea](#):

- ▲ [EU Business Hub @ Korea Electronics Show 2026](#), from 12-16 October 2026 to Seoul (application deadline: 12 June 2026).
- ▲ [EU Business Hub @ Semicon Japan 2026](#), from 7 – 11 December 2026 to Tokyo (application deadline: 11 September 2026).

Financial support includes Hotel accommodation, additional customised services (e.g. translation, printing, legal advice, booth decoration), coverage of exhibitor fees, business matchmaking, market intelligence including sectoral briefings providing valuable insights on market structure and potential opportunities, cultural and linguistic support such as briefings on doing business in South Korea and support for interpretation and translation.

For further information please contact Ana Sofia PEREZ (perez@eurochambres.eu)

Public consultation on the EU Industrial Accelerator Act | 1st deadlines: 31 May 2026

The purpose of this initiative is to increase manufacturing share of GDP from 14.3% (2024) to above 20 % (2035) through actions targeting energy-intensive industries and industrial key sectors, including automotive. The IAA is built around four pillars:


- ▲ Enabling conditions for industrial production and decarbonisation: Single access points and streamlined permit granting for selected industries
- ▲ Strengthening the Union's strategic industrial value chains: Made in EU, including suggested rules for automotive, public procurement
- ▲ Foreign investment contribution
- ▲ Industrial Manufacturing Acceleration Areas

Two public consultations are currently open, one by the [European Commission](#) (Deadline: 18 June) and one by [Christophe Grudler](#), MEP, from the European Parliament (Deadline: 31 May).


Agenda

BATTERY 9 – 11 June 2026 | Stuttgart (Germany)


Battery Show Europe | [Further information](#)

 24 June 2026 | Hardthausen (Germany)


13th Hydrogen Day | co-organised by WFG | [Further information and registration](#)

 17 September 2026 | Budapest (Hungary)

CEE Automotive Transition Forum 2026 | organised by ZONE Cluster | [Further information](#)

 22 – 23 September 2026 | Linz (Austria)


Automotive Transformation Conference #2 | organised by the Drive2Transform consortium | [Further information](#)

 24 September 2026 | Beacon of Light (United Kingdom)

North East Automotive Expo 2026 | Organised by NEAA | [Further information](#)


21 October 2026 | Esslingen (Germany)

Automotive Supplier's Day Baden-Württemberg | co-organised by e-Mobil bw/Cluster Electric Mobility South-West | Information and Registration (free)

 02 – 04 November 2026 | Dublin (Ireland)

SME & Clusters Assembly 2026 (SME Assembly & EU Cluster Conference) | organised by European Commission and ECCP | Save the date

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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