

## EACN Newsletter - May 2021

### The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to send you this second EACN Newsletter with many useful information from members for members. Many clusters contributed and shared information about, e.g., projects and passed or upcoming events.

The Newsletter now contains two new sections: On suggestion of Bartosz Mielecki from PGM we introduced the “**Cluster presentation**” section allowing us to briefly present one or two member clusters in this newsletter. And we start with our two new members, the **Cluster de Automoción de Aragón (CAAR)** situated in Zaragoza (Spain), and the **Dolnośląski Klaster Motoryzacyjny DKM** (Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster) based in Legnica (Poland). And to bring more added value to our members, we also added a “**Project opportunities**” section where clusters and cluster members can ask for business and/or R&D partners.

The focus of this newsletter is on the kick-off meetings of the five **EACN Working Groups**. Each WG elected a responsible person or team and decided on first actions, that are rapidly presented. If you want to join a WG, please contact the SG and the responsible person.

We also opened an [EACN LinkedIn profile](#) where we also share information about interesting European actions as well as (English) posts from EACN members. Please follow the page and forward posts or invite people that might be interested in following the EACN profile to increase our visibility.

You can send information for the next EACN Newsletter to the Secretary General.

We wish you informative reading. Sincerely  
Bruno Grandjean, President

### Cluster presentations

#### Cluster de Automoción de Aragón (CAAR)

The Automotive Cluster of Aragón (CAAR) is the referring entity of the automotive sector in the



Region of Aragón. It is made up of industries dedicated to the manufacture of automotive vehicles, components, as well as other companies directly related to its value chain.

CAAR has 100 members: 90 companies in the automotive sector and 10 autonomic organisms related to research, training, and internationalization. With an aggregate turnover of more than 9,000 million euros and more than 20,000 employees, it responds to the concentration of industries in the sector in Aragón that started during the 80's with the allocation of a General Motors manufacturing plant. The sector represents more than 8%GDP of the region, 1/3 of the exports, 30% of the industrial employment, and in 2019 invested more than 350M€ in R+D.

The objectives of CAAR include promoting cooperation and collaboration in projects between Aragón's automotive companies that optimize the efficiency of their operations, promote R+D and encourage the use of new technologies, as well as improve the management and training of human resources and the competitiveness of their companies.



*David Romeral, Managing Director*

CAAR offers its wide range of services through 4 departments:

- Business Development: promoting our members at domestic and international levels through trade fairs, B2B meetings and trade missions.
- Innovation: improvement of industrial processes through Industry 4.0 and digitalization as well as development of new products for electromobility.
- Training and Human Resources: with our own training program (Caar Academy) we are reducing the gap between the official training offer (university, VET) and the companies' needs.

Subsidies and Grant Management: we look for funding programs (regional, national, and European) that can help our members accelerate their innovation programs.

Contact: **David Romeral**, Managing Director,  
✉ [David.Romeral@caaragon.com](mailto:David.Romeral@caaragon.com)  
[Website](#) | [ECCP Profile](#)

### **Dolnośląski Klaster Motoryzacyjny (Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster, DKM)**

The Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster was established by a consortium agreement on 18.12.2014. The objective of the creation of the Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster is to increase the innovative potential of companies from the automotive industry operating in the Legnica Special Economic Zone S.A.,



*Adam Zysk, Manager for Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster*

the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" and the entire South-Western Poland Region by providing common access to modern technologies, educational base and supporting knowledge, experience, and technology transfer.

As a cluster we offer

- establishing contacts with companies from the automotive industry, universities, and other specialist companies we cooperate with,
- assistance in raising funds for the implementation of projects, obtaining partners for projects,
- creating consortiums of companies for large projects and consortiums of companies and research institutes/universities for R&D projects,
- promotion of the Cluster's offer and the offer of its members,
- free trainings,

Currently DKM structure associates 50 companies and organizations. We invite you to contact us.

Contact: **Adam Zysk**, Managing Director,  
✉ [zysk@lsse.eu](mailto:zysk@lsse.eu) | [Website](#)

### **Working group results**

In the last two month, all five working groups started their work with a kick-off meeting where a responsible person or team has been chosen as well as first concrete actions.

Clusters that are not participating at any working group yet are invited to contact the SG and the WG responsible.

### **EACN WG I4.0 Meeting (15.03.2021)**

Resp.: **Paul Butler**, NEAA

Registered clusters: NextMove, UAC, SA&AM, Mobinov, CEAGA, PGM, NEAA, CIAC, Autoklastr, DKM, CAAR

First planned actions: establish a benchmark of regional and national strategies, agree on a SMEs benchmarking tool, and share best practices from EACN clusters.

Next WG Meeting: To be defined

### EACN WG SCM Meeting (26.03.2021)

Resp.: **Patricia Solà**, CEAGA, with support of **Bartosz Mielecki**, PGM

Registered clusters: PGM, PVF, UAS, CEAGA, NEAA, CIAC, AVIA, DKM

First planned actions: collect data on regional initiatives, gather best practices, and share information about companies with interesting supply chain projects. A template is being finalised.

Next WG meeting: 02.06.2021, 10h00 – 12h00 CET

### EACN WG Skills & Competencies Meeting

Resp.: **Patrick Dufour**, WFG Heilbronn

Registered clusters: NextMove, UAS, WFG Heilbronn, SA&AM, PGM, EAA, CAAR, DKM, CARA

First planned actions: Create a template and gather information about existing regional and national initiatives on skills and competencies, and good practices from companies.

Next WG Meeting: 26.05.2021, 10h00 – 12h00 CET

### EACN WG Mobility Meeting (19.03.2021)

Resp.: Aleksandar Šaranac

Registered clusters: PGM, UAS, PVF, NextMove, AC Serbia, DKM, CARA

First planned actions: define the “mobility” scope for EACN, set up a process for gathering study/project results.

Next WG Meeting: 21.05.2021, 10h00 – 12h00 CET

### EACN WG Clean, Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Meeting (13.04.2021)

Resp.: **Vincent Le Meau**, NextMove, and **Martin Schunkert**, WFG Heilbronn

Registered clusters: PVF, SA&AM, NextMove, WFG Heilbronn, PGM, NEAA, autoklastr, CARA, Mobinov, DKM, CARA

First planned action: Every cluster prepares an overview of local/regional Hydrogen initiatives/projects to be presented during the next meeting.

Next WG Meeting: 10.06.2021, 09h00 – 11h00 CET

## Project corner

### Boost4BSO - Boosting CE Business Support Organizations capacities for I4.0 scale up support

Digitization has a significant impact as a driver of innovation, but also as a threat to employment in traditional manufacturing. Many Central European manufacturing companies are urgently looking for guidance and support in the transformation towards Industry 4.0.



Digitization remains also a challenge for Business Support Organisations (BSO) that daily work for micro-, small- and medium-sized companies. They crucially need to develop their own competences and create appropriate support offers. The Interreg CE Boost4BSO project targets BSO that want to learn about issues, good practices and tools enabling effective support for SMEs at various levels of Industry 4.0 transformation.

Boost4BSO Project aims at enabling CE BSO to provide effective and efficient support services for local companies in I4.0 transformation. Eight consortium partners, including Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, from 6 countries are cooperating in the project.

Boost4BSO combines an innovative systemic approach of co-developing I4.0-related BSO capacities and SME competences for a comprehensive package of BSO support services, adaptable to different levels of SME maturity, and demonstrates a novel downstream mechanism reaching out for wide BSO networks. This should ensure efficiency and effectiveness in BSO covering all key aspects and tools of Industry 4.0. Boost4BSO capitalizes on already developed building methodologies and product/service innovation approaches of the Interreg CE core projects [InnoPeer AVM](#) and [Things+](#).

Snowball mechanisms: The Boost4BSO project is being implemented in stages. In the first phase, Project Partners built their own abilities and competences based on the instruments and resources they already have and created an innovative BSO competence pack and implementation toolbox. In the second phase, the focus was on creating a mechanism for sustainable downstreaming of knowledge from Project Partner BSOs to further CE BSOs analogous to a

snowball effect. Accordingly, the capacity building programme was first internally piloted, and then, after integrating the learnt lessons, rolled-out to external BSO and further interested intermediaries.

Four online training sessions, which were joined by EACN members such as Polish Automotive Group and Ukrainian Automotive Cluster, covered the following topics:

- I4.0 opportunity assessment
- understanding I4.0 technology implementations
- understanding I4.0 business implementations
- design of I4.0 transformation roadmap

The final stage will be the implementation of pilots with the participation of SMEs. The best BSOs will be awarded. The presented project design allows multiplying and extending the impact of the project and the developed solutions among BSO.

#### About the Boost4BSO Project:

- Project duration: 04/2020-04/2022
- Budget: 972.160 €, co-funding: 793.470 €
- Co-funded by the Interreg Central Europe programme, priority 1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive.

Contact: **Ewa Dudzic-Widera**, Project Manager,  
✉ [edudzic@silesia-automotive.pl](mailto:edudzic@silesia-automotive.pl) | [Project website](#)

### Podkarpackie Automotive Academy – Innovative Vocational Education

EACN member East Automotive Alliance (PL) launches the 2nd edition of the Podkarpackie Automotive Academy – Innovative Vocational Education Project. The project was implemented under a co-financing agreement between Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Voivodeship Labor Office Rzeszów, and East Automotive Alliance Association. It runs from May 2021 to September 2022.

The project aims at increasing the employment of vocational schools' graduates by improving the quality of vocational education and diversifying the offer of schools in the Automotive sector. The main tasks are:

- modification of curricula for the training of mechanic, mechatronics, automation, IT, and programmer technicians, and of pedagogic concepts to meet labour market requirements (teamwork, bilateral meetings); set up of mutual visits in workplaces or in schools, "Open school doors", patron classes;

- Teacher placements;
- Placements for students of the modernized field of study;
- Placements for additional two professions – logistics and economic technicians;
- Equipping the workshop in schools.

250 students and 32 teachers from 4 vocational schools participate in the project, placements are organized by EAA member companies.

Contact: **Kinga Szczepaniak**, ✉ [biuro@eaa-wsm.pl](mailto:biuro@eaa-wsm.pl)

## Partner opportunities

In April 2021, the European Parliament members finally adopted the new European research and innovation programme Horizon Europe. It succeeds to the Horizon 2020 programme and has an overall budget of €95.5 billion, including €5.4 billion from the EU's Next GenerationEU recovery plan. Horizon Europe is organised as shown in the below graph:



(Source: Horizon Europe presentation at European Cluster Alliance morning session)

For automotive cluster members main interesting areas are the Pillar II: Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry & Space) and Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy & Mobility). The current circulating draft programmes are more or less definite. The final work programmes will probably be published in June, with deadlines starting in September. It is now time to prepare proposals for the first Horizon Europe calls and build suitable international consortia.

Starting with the next newsletter, this section aims at listing business and research partner opportunities and bring an added value service to clusters and their members.

## Members' corner

### Ukrainian Cluster Week 2021: Creation of favorable conditions for doing business in the Ukrainian automotive industry

Press release 28.04.2021 | Kiev, Ukraine

[Ukrainian Cluster Week](#) is a conference of industrial and high-tech clusters of the Eastern Partnership countries, Eastern Europe and Ukraine, which aims to establish strong partnerships between clusters and cluster members. This year's event was held online on April 26-28. The program included presentations by more than 20 leading experts from 10 countries, panel discussions and B2B meetings of partners.

The main topics of discussion were "Cluster policy in the EU and Eastern Partnership countries", "digitalization of industrial SMEs" and "development of industrial ecosystems". The conference was attended by industrial and high-tech clusters, representatives of states and other policy makers at the national and regional levels, business support and development organizations, innovation agencies, scientific and educational institutions. It is good to know that despite the coronavirus crisis, new clusters are being actively created in Ukraine, including the "Ukrainian automotive and mobility cluster", which was represented by the organization's manager Olga Trofymova.

"Ukrainian automotive and mobility cluster" is a platform that unites manufacturers, suppliers, service provider, educational institutions, research institutes, associations, and government agencies. The cluster was created by leading manufacturers of components for the automotive industry. The Ukrainian automotive and mobility cluster is part of the European Automotive Cluster Network EACN, which brings together the most important cluster initiatives in European countries. Currently, the network includes more than 1,500 partner companies and research institutes, with more than 35,000 experts in the automotive industry.

The Ukrainian automotive and mobility cluster has four main strategic goals:

- Create favorable conditions for doing business in the Ukrainian automotive industry
- Promote production localization in Ukraine

- Support Industry 4.0 and Digitalization
- Support R&D, Industry innovation and new business models

"The cluster's mission is to be a reliable partner for European automobile brands and create a positive image of the automotive industry. We strive to develop our industry and be heard at the European level," says Olga Trofymova, the manager of the Ukrainian automotive and mobility cluster.

Contact: **Olga Trofymova**, Cluster Manager,  
✉ [olgotok@gmail.com](mailto:olgotok@gmail.com) | [Website](#)

## Further information

### Publication postponed for European Call on eDIH

The official publication of the call has been postponed as EU internal discussions about funding is still ongoing. New expected publication in early June. Submission deadline will probably remain.

A survey within EACN members highlighted the huge interest in this call, as 9 clusters from 7 countries answered. Most reported eDIH proposals are led by the EACN member cluster. All results have been shared with the respondents enabling them building strategic eDIH partnerships and strengthening their proposals.

### Publication postponed for first Horizon Europe calls for proposals


The publication of the calls for proposals of the WP 2021-2022, initially planned on April 15<sup>th</sup>, has been postponed and will probably happen early June. Submission deadlines are expected to remain in September and October.

## Agenda

 01 June 2021 | Online


**Automotive TechDays 2021** | by CARA

[Information](#) | Please contact [Jean-Baptiste Hahn](#)  
for your personal invitation

 2 June 2016 | 16h00 – 17h00 ECT | online

**Automotive Skills Alliance WG3 (Skills**

**Intelligence) Meeting** | [✉ info@skills-alliance.eu](mailto:info@skills-alliance.eu)

 24 June 2021 | 10:30 - 12:00 CET

**Hydrogen Business For Climate Webinar**


**“NEW SKILLS”** | by Pôle Véhicule du Futur

[Information and registration](#)

 29 – 30 September | Belfort

**Hydrogen Business For Climate Conference** | co-  
organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur

[Information and registration](#)

 29 September – 01 October 2021 | Lyon

**Battery event 2021** | co-organised by CARA

[Information](#)

 16 – 21 November 2021 | Lyon

**SOLUTRANS - Global hub for heavy & light  
commercial vehicles** | co-organised by CARA

[Information](#)

## Legal notice

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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