

The President's Foreword

Dear all,

Please find enclosed EACN's March newsletter with many interesting contributions from our members, including:

- ▲ Introduction of our new member Cluster Logistics & Mobility
- ▲ A successful ClusterXChange experience between PGM and CAAR
- ▲ Results and OpenCalls (deadline: 01/04!) from the two Eurocluster projects RESIST and e-BOOST
- ▲ And many more.

One of the highlights of the year is coming soon: The physical get together of EACN members during the **European Cluster Conference 2024** in Brussels in May. As of today, already 17 out of our 30 clusters will be represented with 27 participants, and several others also announced their venue! We'll already meet on Monday afternoon and have diner together. **Prepare for a great moment!**

Yours

Bruno Grandjean, President

Inside EACN

EACN at EU Cluster Conference 2024



ECC24 will again be a place to meet pairs from EACN and other clusters and cluster networks. Already more than 390 participants have registered, including 27 participants from 17 EACN clusters. EACN will be present with a booth at the EU Cluster Conference 2024 which members can use as meeting point.

On Monday 6/5 afternoon, EACN plans a networking event where all participants can join, get to know each other, and start the discussions. On the evening, a joint diner is planned (at your own expense). Detailed information are shared when available.

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EACN supports The Forum Mobilités Transitions



The Forum Mobilités Transitions, organised by EACN member ID4Mobility on 2 July 2024 in Rennes/France, offers conferences, workshops and solution pitches organized around environmental, technological, societal, digital, and industrial trends in terrestrial mobility. The programme offers concrete cases and exploratory suggestions for a sustainable future, that presented by and discusses with companies, researchers, politics, and other institutions.

Through the cooperation, EACN disposes of 20 free entries to the forum. If you or one of your companies are interested in participating, please contact EACN Secretary General. [Event website](#)

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Cluster presentations

Cluster Logistics & Mobility

The Cluster Mobility & Logistics, based in Regensburg (Germany/Bavaria), is a technology cluster with around 100 members and serves to drive innovation and technological progress. We bring together companies, research institutions, administration and politics in Regensburg, Bavaria, and support the development of innovative projects. A special feature of the cluster is the interdisciplinary composition of its partners and members from the fields of mobility and logistics. Science and research are an essential part of this.



Uwe Pfeil, Cluster Manager at Cluster Logistics & Mobility

As a technology cluster, our primary goal is to develop projects that we promote and drive forward through the networking of our network partners. The Cluster Mobility & Logistics focuses on the following topics:

- ▲ - Vehicles & Infrastructure
- ▲ - Sustainable Mobility
- ▲ - Data & Networking
- ▲ - Production Logistics
- ▲ - Intralogistics
- ▲ - Transport Logistics

The Cluster Mobility & Logistics has been involved in international projects such as RECIPROCITY, RECIPE4MOBILITY, REMOBILISE and DRIVE2TRANSFORM for more than 10 years, thereby supporting regional companies in international networking. The cluster also operates 3 Living Labs as innovation platforms for its members: EMIL (electric bus), EMILIA (autonomous minibus) and R-LAB Mobility (digital test field for urban mobility).

The Cluster Mobility & Logistics joined EACN in January 2024.

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Members' lounge

AC Bulgaria hosted the 3rd in-person training of the Cluster Booster Academy

On 11-12 March 2024, AC Bulgaria welcomed 45 cluster employees from all over Europe at the in-person training of the 3rd Cluster Booster Academy. The two-day event was organised by the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and took place for the first time in Bulgaria. Through collaborative training, discussions, and matchmaking sessions, the participants had the opportunity to enhance their practical skills and knowledge, to exchange ideas on implementing efficient tools and strategies for sustainable future of the clusters, as well as to explore potential synergies.



Lubomir Stanislavov, CEO, presenting innovative projects of AC Bulgaria during the 3rd Cluster Booster Academy

Within the event, AC Bulgaria presented the development of the automotive industry in Bulgaria and showcased innovative projects and success stories of Bulgarian automotive companies.

AC Bulgaria will continue to support innovations and collaborations and to encourage the implementation of projects and initiatives unlocking new opportunities for the clusters, empowering sustainable growth of the European cluster ecosystem.

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Bartosz Mielecki, PGM: Successful ClusterXChange at CAAR in Spain

In January 2024, Bartosz Mielecki, cluster manager of the Polish Automotive Group, visited the Spanish CAAR cluster. Both clusters got to know each other thanks to their membership in EACN. The meeting was of a working nature, it can be called job shadowing. 3 full days in Zaragoza were full of meetings and conversations between the managing director of PGM and the CAAR team and selected members of the CAAR cluster. The aim of the visit was peer learning on how the other cluster operates, exchange experiences and identify areas in which both automotive clusters could undertake joint initiatives in the future.



Bartosz Mielecki, PGM cluster manager, and David Romeral, CAAR cluster manager (2nd and 3rd from left), with the rest of the CAAR team

The topics discussed included both management and programme issues: strategy, governance, finance, promotion and marketing, business development, training, European projects, subsidies, and innovation. Meetings with cluster members – INYMON and the Aragon Institute of Technology ITA – allowed learning about the functioning of the cluster from a perspective of its active members.



The CAAR premises in Zaragoza

The results of the visit include the planned participation of a group of PGM cluster members at the [MISM matchmaking conference](#), organized by the CAAR Cluster in May this year and plans for joint participation in European projects. Also important are the countless smaller inspirations, ideas for improvements and new initiatives in both clusters. A very rich experience worth to be considered by all cluster managers!

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AC Slovenia at Hydrogen Open 2024 in Budapest

Can hydrogen become the fuel of the future? This was the question discussed at [Hydrogen Open 2024](#) in January in Budapest, where the team of ACS Automotive Cluster of Slovenia met around 200 experts, business representatives, developers and investors to explore new solutions for hydrogen technologies, energy and the use of this promising energy source in transport and mobility.



The team of ACS Automotive Cluster of Slovenia at Hydrogen Open:

Dr. Zsolt Hajnalka – Project Support Economist of ZONE, Rok Ban – Strategic Project Coordinator, Tanja Mohorič, Director, Erik Blatnik – PR Coordinator, and Hunor Kelemen – CEO of Electrobus Europe

Participants agreed that hydrogen has great potential as a fuel of the future. The challenges remain in the production, storage and transport of this energy, and

the price that is currently still too high for hydrogen to be used on a large scale for mobility purposes.

In this area, Slovenia aims to become a regional hub for the development of hydrogen technologies for cars, trucks, and work vehicles through international cooperation. Due to the number of international guests and company representatives, ACS also used the conference to network and connect with new international business partners on joint development projects.

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Make technical professions more attractive to young people

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana (FSUL), Slovenia, organised a round table with experts to find answers on how to make physics and mathematics as relevant as possible to young people in real-life situations for later careers in technical professions. Tanja Mohorič, Director of ACS Automotive Cluster of Slovenia, took part in the expert debate. She pointed out that there is a battle for technical staff on the labour market, where demand far outstrips supply. As a result, Slovenia is slowly but steadily losing competitiveness in the field of services and high added value products. Thus, there is a huge need to make technical professions more attractive to young people... same as in many other countries across Europe.

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Meet Cluster Electric Mobility South West

Two opportunities are upcoming to meet the Cluster:

During the **Battery Show Europe Stuttgart** from 18-20 June:

- ▲ at the joint booth of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes/Four Motors for Europe.
- ▲ for a workshop in English on the topic „Future Skills in the battery sector“ (registration will follow) on 19 June 14h00-16h30/
- ▲ Possibility to meet the cluster's members through a guided tour through the exhibition.

On the [Baden-Württemberg Pavilion Hall 12, Booth D15](#) at the **Hannover Trade Fair** from 22-26 April/

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CIAC with a strong focus on cybersecurity

Cybersecurity becomes more and more important also for companies, and especially SMEs in the automotive value chain. Following Sergio Alcaraz, President of CIAC, [‘Cybersecurity is an unavoidable priority for Spanish companies’](#). That’s why [CIAC signed an agreement with INCIBE to promote the topic](#) and presented, with the colleagues from FaCyL, [advances in automation and cybersecurity from DOGA and Keyland](#) at the Foro de Excelencia 4.0.

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Kick-Off meeting for the second phase of the Automotive Decarbonization Roadmap project

On March 14, MOBINOV held the kick-off meeting for the second phase of the Automotive Decarbonization Roadmap Project. Following in the footsteps of the first year of the project, in this second year, 10 more companies in the Portuguese automotive sector will be able to have their carbon footprint diagnosed, completely free. Find out more about the project here: [Roteiro para a Descarbonização do Setor Automóvel - MOBINOV](#)

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Polish Automotive Clusters Get Together

In 2023, the four Polish automotive clusters and EACN members [East Automotive Alliance \(EAA\)](#), the [Polish Automotive Group PGM](#), the [Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing \(SA&AM\)](#) and the [Lower Silesian Automotive Cluster \(DKM\)](#) [SA&AM](#) signed a letter of intent aiming at intensifying their cooperation. The **1st Polish Automotive Clusters Forum** is a first tangible result! It took place on 18-19 March in the East Automotive Alliance premises.



Participants at the Polish Automotive Clusters Forum

The clusters could welcome representatives from the Podkarpackie Marshal Office, the regional government body responsible for the regional development, and discuss issues related to clusters’ support and their role in helping to create and to implement effective instruments for economic development. The icing on the cake was a workshop dedicated to the situation on the automotive market, ways to establish closer and more sustainable cooperation between clusters and regional authorities, as well as ideas for future joint projects.

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Ukrainian Automotive and Mobility Cluster’s mission to Japan


Members of UAMC have chosen Japan as one of the three priority markets. With the support of the USAID Competitive Economy Programme in Ukraine (USAID CEP), six Ukrainian companies visited the country and the [Smart Manufacturing Summit](#) by Global Industrie in Aichi/Japan as part of the UAMC Export Alliance project.



Olga Trofymova, cluster manager at UAMC, in Japan

This was a great opportunity to meet Japanese customers, to exhibit Ukrainian products and solutions, and to held more than 100 business negotiations.

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Project corner

RESIST Green and Digital Best Practice Report

The RESIST project consortium released a report about implemented green and digital projects from the automotive and other companies. [Download the report](#)

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e-BOOST project launched OpenCall to join the Mobility and Industry Suppliers Meetings in Zaragoza

The Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Aragón CAAR organises the seventh edition of '[Mobility and Industry Suppliers Meetings MISM](#)' (MISM) on 16-17 May in Zaragoza.



Roundtable at MISM 2023

The [E-Boost OpenCall](#) allows interested (non-Spanish) SMEs from the electric mobility industry to get financial support when participating in the event. Applicants can also visit leading companies from the automotive sector close to Stellantis facilities in Zaragoza province. MISM brings together purchasing managers and suppliers from automotive, mobility, and railway industries. **Deadline for applications: 01/04/2024 17h30 CET.** [OpenCall Information](#).

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Mobinov to start three new European projects:

The **SCAIRA project** is a three-year project funded by the Interreg Sudoe Programme. Thirteen partners from Portugal, France, and Spain, including EACN member CIAC, incubators and companies, SCAIRA aim at developing an innovative apprenticeship programme to boost startups in rural areas, focusing on the green transition of the Automotive and Aerospace industries.

MOBINOV is also partner of the two new Erasmus+ projects **TRIREME** and **VOLTAGE**. Whereas TRIREME focuses on the digitalization, sustainability, circular economy and resilience of the automotive value chain, VOLTAGE promotes innovation through strategic European partnerships, prioritizing vocational education in the context of the green and digital transition.

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Business Factory Auto & Mobility

Led by CEAGA and Stellantis, with the backing of the Galician government (Xunta de Galicia) and other partners, [Business Factory Auto & Mobility](#) at supporting entrepreneurs' innovative ideas and the consolidation of projects in this industry. 80 new companies have already been created within the BFA with more than 700 jobs in Galicia during 2024. Projects related to the digital transformation and the vehicle of the future are supported. Interested entrepreneurs can [apply to the 8th edition](#) until 30 April 2024.

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Four projects with FACYL coordination or participation

Automotive and Mobility Cluster of Castile and Leon (FACYL) coordinates and participates in four projects with national funding by Programme of Support for Innovative Business Groups (AEIs) of the Spanish Ministry of industry, trade and tourism and Next Generation EU funds:

E-Car Additive FOAMs project: LASER metal additive manufacturing, especially in advanced alloys, open opportunities for the optimisation of EV components regarding decreasing weight, increasing battery range, or improving cooling systems. The project's objective is to investigate MICROFOAMS, an innovative alternative in the range of Powder Bed Fusion Laser (PBF) metal matrix additive manufacturing technology. The consortium is made up by FACYL (coordinator), Aenium Engineering, Lingotes Especiales, Novadep NDT Systems.

XRWorMs phase 2: In the 1st phase, a functional and scalable lab-level prototype had been developed to enable the integration of existing Digital Twin platforms with the use of XR technologies, allowing obtaining more accessible and easily understandable data. In XRWorMs Phase 2, partners create a prototype machine alert system based on wearable devices integrated with XR visualisation and guidance systems, including the implementation of an additional layer of cybersecurity

in IIoT communications. This project brings together FACYL (coordinator), Augmented Reality Software (ARsoft), and Industrias Maxi.

DETECTA PHASE 2: This project is a further development of the idea of establishing a Digital Twin model that replicates "black box" systems and employs monitoring and artificial intelligence techniques to provide fast and efficient responses to the most complex risks and threats in IT/OT and supply chain (SCM) environments. The second phase of this project focus on the development of machine learning and deep learning algorithms and solutions that incorporate more information and address more real-world problems. This project is coordinated by the Spanish Cybersecurity Innovation Cluster and the consortium is made up by FACYL, Industrias Maxi, Elliot Cloud and FUNDITEC.

ASFALTO 3.0: The development of this project aims to digitalise and automatize the process of manufacturing and laying agglomerate asphalt to contribute to the sustainability and preparation of the road for the upcoming introduction of the connected electric vehicle. The main objective of the project is the research of sensors for the digital control of the production, distribution, and application of asphalt as well as the sensorisation of the asphalt once it is in place in order to be prepared for the arrival of the connected vehicle. This project is coordinated by Cluster Habitat Eficiente (AEICE) and the consortium is made up by FACYL, COLLOSA, COTESA, ICCL, MAHOCI, SAN GREGORIO, TECOPY and TEKHNE.

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Other information

EU Transition Pathway for the EU Mobility Industrial Ecosystem published

The European Commission officially published the report "The Transition Pathway for the European Mobility Industrial Ecosystem". The report looks at automotive, waterborne, railway, and cycling value chains and presents actions for each value chain in 6 building blocks: Sustainable competitiveness (7 topics), Social dimension (3 topics), Skills (1 topic), R&I and Technological Solutions (5 topics), Infrastructure (4 topics), and Investment and Funding (1 topic). Each topic includes several potential actions. The process continues with a co-implementation phase involving where interested stakeholders can present pledges.

 [Download the report](#)

Interreg Europe 3eme open call

Interreg Europe published its 3rd OpenCall open from **20 March to 7 June 2024**. Q&A sessions are organised on 5 April, 26 April, 17 Mai, and 31 May. [Further information and terms of conditions](#)

"We Need to Play More Jazz Together"



An interesting article on the ECCP by Björn Arvidsson, Managing Director at Stuns Life Sciences, about necessary collaboration across sectoral borders to boost innovation and go further. [Read the article](#)

EU's 2024 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report

Mid-February the European Commission published its first update report about the European single market and its competitiveness structured along nine competitiveness drivers and the related Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) developed in the 2023 edition of the report. [Download the report](#)

BATT4EU: Europe's new strategy on battery innovation published

BATT4EU has published a new Strategy for Research and Innovation recommending the battery research and innovation priorities for which public funding should be allocated in the most effective and efficient way. [Further information and download](#)


"Sustainable global supply chains in times of geopolitical crises" report published


The Annual Report 2023 of the [Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains](#) highlights ways in which geopolitical and geoeconomic developments in recent years are shaping and influencing current debates and policy processes around global supply chains. With focus on textile, raw materials, and on the impact of international sanctions. [Download the report](#)

Agenda


-  2 - 5 April 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
Connecting Europe Days 2024 | organised by the European Commission | [Further information](#)
-  10-12 April 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
DUT Conference 2024 - Driving Urban Transitions through Joint Action | organised by DUT Partnership | [Further information and registration](#)
-  15 – 18 April 2024 | Dublin (Ireland)
Transport Research Arena (TRA): Advancing Sustainable and Inclusive Mobility | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)
-  16 April | Brussels (Belgium)
Advanced Manufacturing Industry Conference. Solutions for a Green and Competitive Tomorrow | organised by the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)
-  18 – 19 April 2024 | Dublin (Ireland)
3rd Interactive Symposium on Research & Innovation for Connected and Automated Driving in Europe | organised by EUCAD in conjunction with TRA | [Further information and registration](#)
-  7 – 8 May 2024 | Brussels (Belgium)
European Cluster Conference 2024 | organised by the European Commission & ECCP | [Further information to come](#)
-  16 May 2024 | Vilnius (Lithuania)
Baltic Automotive Industry Forum 2024 | co-organised by Baltic Automotive Components Cluster | [Further information and registration](#)
-  22 – 24 May 2024 | Leipzig (Germany)
ITF 2024 Annual Summit on Greening Transport: Keeping Focus in Times of Crisis | co-organised by International Transport Forum ITF and the European Commission | [Further information and registration](#)
-  18 - 20 June 2024 | Stuttgart (Germany)
The Battery Show Europe | Conference & Exposition | [Further information](#)
-  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 – 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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