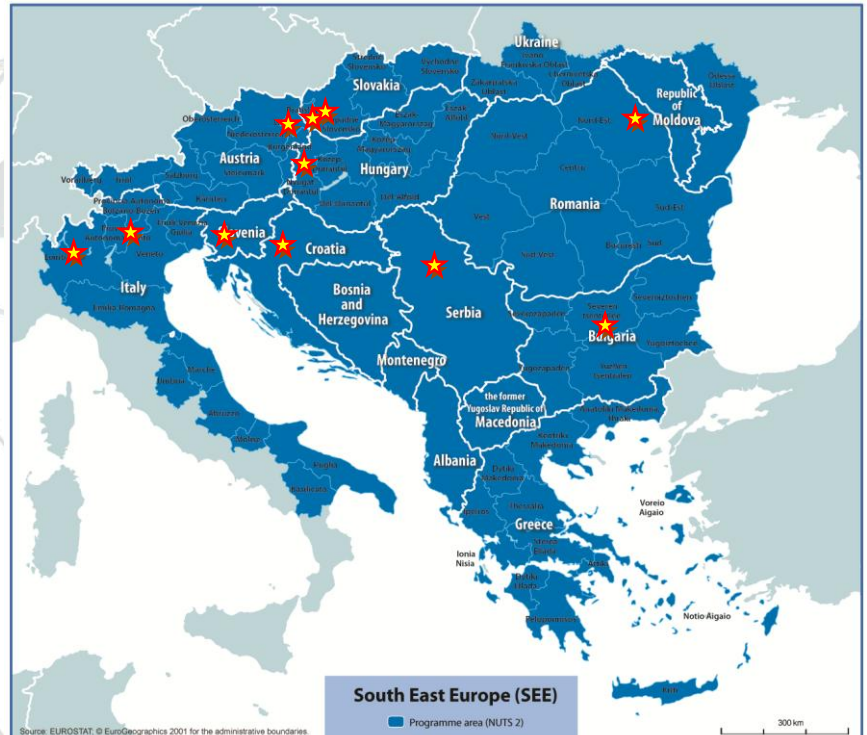


- Automobilový klaster -
západné Slovensko
(Slovakia)
- Comuniprese Societa'
Consortile a Responsabilita'
Limitata
(Italy)
- Universitatea Tehnică
"Gheorghe Asachi" din Iași
(Romania)
- Nyugat-Pannon Regionális
Fejlesztési Zrt.
(Hungary)
- Technical University of
Gabrovo
(Bulgaria)
- Associazione CREATE-NET
(Italy)
- Slovenská technická
univerzita v Bratislave,
Materiálovotechnologická
Fakulta v Trnave
(Slovakia)
- Gospodarsko interesno
združenje ACS, Slovenski
avtomobilski grozd
(Slovenia)
- Hrvatska udruga
poslodavaca
(Croatia)
- Automobilski klaster Srbija –
Fond za podršku
konkurentnosti proizvođača
autodelova i autoopreme
(Serbia)
- Automotive Cluster Vienna
Region – VIENNA REGION
Wirtschaft.Raum.Entwicklun
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(Austria)

AUTOCLUSTERS Newsletter



The project's aim is to develop the network of existing SME facilities together with R&D or universities in automotive industry. The purpose of the project is to realize second level clustering activities with objectives to increase innovation capacities, increase effectiveness of technology transfer – improve the innovation circle in automotive industry, and through the project clearly address the global objectives – facilitating innovation, knowledge economy and information society.

The contribution into improving the attractiveness of the region should be taken in account as well. The invitation of the partners from EU-15, NMS and IPA countries together with proposed activities including intensive cooperation and knowledge-exchange is a clear contribution to EU cohesion policy by diminishing the gap between participating regions.

Project meeting in Győr

Project partners were meeting each other in next meeting on 18.-19.2010 that was held in Győr, Hungary. Meeting was focused on dissemination of [Study of European Union Policies and Business Strategies on the Development of the Automotive Industry in South East Europe](#) and [Best practices summary](#) which are the results of work package 3. External experts in the field of innovations, development, same as policy makers. One of the main idea was to show and disseminate the best practices in partnering region to improve the possibility of transferring the ideas of best practices into other regions with same initials issues.



Together with external experts were partners visiting Széchenyi István University where they saw the educational process of students and university cooperation with AUDI production plant which is situated also in Győr. University showed high standard of students' education process. Students are motivated for engineering industry through the possibility of gathering experience in modern laboratories with CAX technologies, material analyses, etc.



In this meeting the Autoclusters Network protocol of collaboration was introduced.

It is the first sustainable network in automotive industry in SEE region with specific focus on innovation activities by cooperation between R&D, Automotive clusters and Universities.

All information on www.autoclusters.eu

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It is an international cooperative network of educational and research institutions with subcontractors and other bodies active in automotive industry.

The second level clustering activities proposed by the project are strictly oriented on the activities, which are improving the innovation capacities in the region and improve technology and know-how transfer – improving the innovation circle.

The project in the first stage analyses the cluster's development and best practices across the regions as well as creating the connection with other existing European activities in the automotive clustering. The project focuses highly towards producing concrete results and addresses the main challenges that are particularly specific for South-East Europe region.

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AIMS

There are three main issues we would like this project to focus on:

- Requirements for implementations of new technologies, particularly according to new European strategies and policies
- Innovation capacities - Lack of labour on the market mainly in the area of highly qualified workforce for automotive industry
- Innovation circle - Lack in cooperation between R&D (universities), SME's and car (part producers)

In the case of NMS (New Member States), candidate countries, potential candidate countries and neighbouring countries there is still cooperation between industries and universities at lower level, an issue which is negatively affecting the sustainable development of the automotive industry in South-East Europe.

South East Europe – Regional News

Volkswagen Up! Goes Into Slovakia Production in 2011

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia - Volkswagen has announced that its New Small Family lineup of small cars with the bracing moniker of Up! will go into production in its Bratislava, Slovakia, facility starting in 2011.



The Up!, Space Up! and Space Up! Blue will be produced alongside VW's more expensive Touareg, Audi Q7, Porsche Cayenne and Skoda Octavia models already

being manufactured in Slovakia. The total amount of investment in the project is estimated at the equivalent of \$560.5 million. According to Slovak media, the production capacity of the Bratislava plant will be increased to 400,000 vehicles a year after the New Small Family production line is put in operation.

"The launch of production which is scheduled for 2011 will add 1,500 new jobs to 7,800 jobs already at the plant," Volkswagen chief executive Andreas Tostmann said. He also said some 7,000 indirect jobs, more than half of which will be in Slovakia, will be created by VW's investment in the project.

Volkswagen initiated car production in Slovakia in 1991, and last year produced more than 188,000 vehicles there. This was a marked decline from 2007 figures, when the plant produced 249,000 vehicles.



Full article at www.autoclusters.eu

(Source: <http://www.autoexpress.co.uk>, <http://www.insideline.com>)

UK Fund is going to invest BGN 100 mil. in Electric Car Plant in Bulgaria

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov during his two-day, February 2010, official visit in to the UK has announced that British investment fund "Quorus Ventures", in collaboration with British company "Zero Carbon Technology" is going to set up an electric car factory in Bulgaria's town Stara Zagora.

The fund is going to invest about BGN 100 M in this production and it was currently making prototypes of the electric cars in Germany.



The investment will be made in several stages. First, up to one year, production of family four-seat ZVC-4 electric cars in Stara Zagora will start. They will have the capacity to reach maximum speed of 110 km/h and run up to 300 km for one single recharge of the battery. The second stage: production of micro and larger sixty-seat buses for public transport will be launched. "Zero Carbon Technology" has developed a sports car, ZCV-2, and its production is being considered as well.

Full article at www.autoclusters.eu

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PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

The project is built up on experience from previous activities in Automotive industry (NEAC, Automotive Clusters, Belcar, TCAS, I-CAR-O) and in line with EU policies, especially in clustering and automotive industry. The framework's project aims to:

- Create the first sustainable network in automotive industry in SEE region with specific focus on innovation activities
- Create partnerships which consist of institutions from New Member States, non-EU members as well as well experienced institutions from EU-15
- Invite in the network not just clusters and other SME supporting facilities but directly also R&D institutions and universities
- Improve innovative capability by realizing studies of innovation capacities, exhibition in universities and dissemination outputs of our activities, exchange studies and networking activities
- Prove the concept by realizing the project samples and by generating of the proposals to FP7

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INNOVATIVE CHARACTER

The projects main contribution is to increase innovation capacities and innovation circle in the automotive industry in SEE. As project output, the project intends to establish the first permanent network in the automotive sector in the SEE region.

The method of dissemination of the project's outputs includes the creation of the first web-based interactive database describing innovation capacities across the SEE.

The project would like to contribute towards cooperation between researchers, SMEs and car producers by finding the new innovative ways of cooperation. As the project result the 3 joint innovative pilot projects will be realized. The project as a result proposes the preparation of 3 proposals for the FP7 as well as focusing on the promotion of other non-funded projects identified by working groups which will help them to find other financial sources. All the methods used in the project will be described in the project's common methodology.

Fiat completes initial investment for the joint venture with Serbia

German automotive cable manufacturer Leoni has started the production in its factory in Prokuplje in central Serbia. 120 workers will be involved in this initial production, and the first quantity of produced cables will be delivered to a BMW factory in Germany. This first group of employees completed company training in Slovakia, where an additional 170 workers are being trained at the moment.

Leoni plans to employ 500 workers prior to March, 2010 as well as an additional 2,000 workers within the next three years. Leoni entered the Serbian market by purchasing part of Fiat last year for RSD 58 million. In addition to SIEPA, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning also helped bring Leoni to Serbia by appropriating RSD 30 million decontaminating the land occupied by the factory.

Source: www.autoclusters.eu, www.siepa.gov.rs

Lombardy Region founds Automotive Cluster POLI-AUTO

Lombardy Regional (Italy) founds for the development of the Regional Automotive Cluster POLI-AUTO. Lombardy Region has officially endorsed the networking activities undertaken by the Promoting Committee of Poliauto (www.poli-auto.org), whose Leader is the Politecnico of Milan, with Comunimpresa playing the role of Technical Advisor. These activities were aimed at the building of a Regional Automotive Cluster. The project involves major companies like Brembo, Pirelli, Mercedes Same and the most innovative Research Center in Italy called "Kilometro Rosso" in Bergamo. In January 2010, Lombardy Region published the second call of the Regional Program DRIADE in order to support the aggregates projects of innovation, to activate within the "production systems selected" of the previous call. The call objective is the founding of innovation projects, carried out by aggregate of at least 5 company consistent with the following requirement:

- at least 60% by companies that joined the production system POLI-AUTO;
- at least one company that is included in the field of business service;
- Set up of the absolute majority of SMEs in the manufacturing sector.....

Full article at www.autoclusters.eu

Future of electromobiles in Austria

More than 200 ACVR partners and friends from all parts of economics and science were meeting in TECHbase Vienna on January 25th - and made this year's event of the Automotive Cluster using much innovative power and positive energy to the most successful event ever. The probably most difficult year in the history of automotive manufacturing lies behind us. The fact, that economy rises up slowly again and that entrepreneurs are looking forward to the future, is impressively underlined by the exquisite number of participants of this year's kickoff event of the Automotive Cluster Vienna Region.

The direction is clear, innovations and alternative propulsion resound through the land, and this special networking-event was affected by a positive atmosphere of departure and a great success, on this point everyone agreed. As every year it was an fantastic evening full of interesting as well as critical speeches, thrilling

discussions, fascinating insights and - last but not least - reams of talks with good old or precious new friends in our cluster, which is pillared



by Wiener Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds (WWFF; Viennese economy-supporting funds) and Niederösterreichs Wirtschaftsagentur (ecoplus, Lower Austrias economic agency).

The final highlight was the presentation of the first [Austrian Electro mobility brochure](#) that summarized the actual status of research and development on that field.

Full article at www.autoclusters.eu

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IMPACT

Innovation activities in the automotive industry should be generally considered as activities with positive impact on environmental sustainability.

This concrete project defines 4 major areas where joint innovative pilot projects and proposals will be selected. Finally 3 of them will be realized and for 3 others the proposals for FP7 will be prepared.

One of the most important areas with positive impact on environmental sustainability is "Green technology" but, the pilot projects or proposals from areas "Plastics and non-metal materials" and "Technology and electronics" will contribute to this EU policy as well.

New Electronic Toll System Started in Slovakia

Slovakia - The Slovak Republic changes the system of charging the road infrastructure from highway stickers to the electronic toll collection system. The new electronic tolling system put into operation at midnight on 1st January 2010.



The change applies to motor vehicles with the total weight over 3.5 tons, vehicle trains with the total weight over 3.5 tons determined for the transportation of

goods, motor vehicles enabling the transportation of more than nine persons including a driver. New charges apply to specified sections of highways, expressways and the 1st class roads.

The new tolling system does not touch vehicles up to 3,5 tons. As usually, all motor vehicles up to 3,5 tons driving on paid roads in Slovakia have to bear a highway vignette. Vignettes in the Slovak Republic are available on border crossings, at selected petrol stations and some of Post offices.

All motor vehicles subjects to the new toll payment liability must be equipped with a special on-board unit. Registration into the new electronic tolling system is mandatory. The liability of registration applies to the owners and operators of motor vehicles.

The operator of road tolling system SkyToll a.s. has opened new contact centres throughout Slovakia, including certain petrol stations and all border crossings.

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