

## The President's Foreword

Dear colleagues,

This is the last EACN Newsletter before the 2022 summer break. The last weeks have been very busy, and I wish you all restful vacations allowing you to recharge your energy. We will need this energy to continue working for our ecosystems and the automotive industry, and to boost our clusters and our network.

During an Extraordinary General Assembly, the Cluster Managers approved a modification of the EACN By-laws that introduced a liability paragraph. This was a pre-request of a cluster that is organised as a service of a municipality, and we hope that we can present this new member to you in September.

And finally, a very good news for the automotive industry: Even though the European Commission announced to fund only one Euroclusters project in the Mobility-Transport-Logistics sector, at least two have been selected for co-funding, both coordinated by and involving EACN members. You can discover the RESIST project in this newsletter, the second Euroclusters project will follow after the summer break.

Yours

**Bruno Grandjean**, President

## Cluster presentations

### Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH (WFG)

As a municipal business development company, the WFG advises, supports, and mediates competently in all matters related to the Heilbronn economic area. At WFG we always strive to develop new methods and new approaches. We connect partners from business, science, public authorities as well as institutions and create networks, which act as project initiators, drivers, and information platforms. The focus of our work is to support our existing companies and investors esp. in the Automotive, Metal and Plastics Industry.



*Patrick Dufour, CEO WFG Heilbronn*

We guide our companies competently in topics like the transformation in the manufacturing industry, the transformation in the automotive industry with its suppliers and service providers, as well as the technology focus on hydrogen. We offer assistance in the acquisition of subsidies, encourage technology transfer and mediate real estates for companies in the commercial and industrial areas of the cities and municipalities of the Heilbronn economic area.

WFG totals 120 members, and in 2023 we will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are looking forward to continuing supporting industries in all future matters through:

- ▲ Technology & knowledge transfer
- ▲ Seminars, workshops, networking events
- ▲ Consultancy in various fields (e.g., strategy development)
- ▲ Mediation of real estate
- ▲ Connecting companies with universities
- ▲ Analysing future trends and needs like future workforce, efficiency improvement, restructuring, new business models

In the Automotive sector we are working on several projects. One example is the project [EVOLUTE](#) (we strive for cLUster Excellence in the Automotive and Land Machine Industry) where WFG has the project lead (see [EACN Newsletter – May 2022](#)).

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### Autoklastr

Autoklastr is a Czech Automotive Cluster located in the Ostrava, Moravian-Silesian region which we call as a gateway to innovation in the CEE region near the Polish and Slovak border, where are located a lot of automotive industry suppliers and OEMs. We have 93 members (SME's, Large Companies, Universities, and High Schools).

We were established to support innovation and increase the competitiveness and export capacity of interconnected companies, entrepreneurs, and institutions operating in the Moravian-Silesian Region. It strives to build a common identity of companies in the cluster and wants to establish trust and positive attitudes towards the automotive industry and the entire region.

Activities of Autoklastr are managed within 3 thematic fields corresponding to the major challenges in the automotive industry: development of human potential, business relationships, and mutual R&D projects.



*Libor Dobeš, Managing Director*

Autoklastr is always looking for collaborations on a European scale, to host delegations on its territory, and to offer internationalization opportunities to its members. This happens currently with support of the European ClusterXchange program through the [EVOLUTE](#) project. Looking forward to seeing you at Cluster Conference in Prague!

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## Members' lounge

### Forum Tomorrow in Motion



The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Pôle Véhicule du Futur organised the cross-border forum Tomorrow in Motion on 14 – 15 June 2022 in Metz/France. More than 250 participants attended plenary sessions, round tables, B2B meetings, and benefitted from the exhibition, vehicle test drives, or company visits to [Ascometal](#), [CEA Tech](#), [FFLOR](#), [Institut Lafayette](#), [IRT M2P](#), [Le Met'](#), [ZF Lemforder](#). The forum aimed at opening up new prospects for the automotive industry in the Greater Region covering Wallonia (BE), Luxembourg (LU), Saarland (DE), Rhineland-Palatinate (DE), and parts of the Grand Est Region (FR).

Tomorrow in Motion was organised within the European Automotive Cluster Project that is co-funded by the INTERREG VA Greater Region programme of the European Union. The regional automotive industry suffers due to severe pressure caused by, e.g., decarbonisation, digitalization, electrification, requests for circular economy and recycling, or the need for training and new skills. [Review of the event](#)

### White Paper “Future Move”

Project partners also developed the White Paper/study [“FUTURE MOVE: A review of the main trends in the automotive sector at horizon 2030 in the Greater Region”](#) (Papadimitriou, Duysinx 2022) with insights on how the automotive industry can evolve at horizon 2030 and on next opportunities for the automotive industry as it is facing a complete transformation due to revolutions that will impact it broadly, radically, and profoundly. Even if the focus is on the Greater Region area, the insights may be of interest for other regions as well.

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### AVIA organises Smart Mobility Valencia 2022

On 14 September 2022, EACN member AVIA, Mobility Innovation VLC, and Startup Valencia organize the [Smart Mobility Valencia](#) conference and MatchMaking Event. Travel costs of visiting companies can be co-funded, participation in the international B2B event (MatchMaking) is free of charge, but [registration](#) is mandatory.

### CIAC: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Automotive Talent Show is just around the corner!

This year's Automotive Talent Show will take place on November 18, 2022, at the Circuit de Barcelona – Catalunya. It is a free event with the aim of bringing young talent closer to the automotive industry before entering it, so that students can explore the real challenges and opportunities of the automotive sector.

This event is a meeting point between students and companies. It arose when CIAC created the Talent Platform aiming at putting in contact young talents and automotive companies to discover projects and novelties of the sector before finalizing his studies.

Due to the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition, with more than 375 students and more than 70 companies, this year's Automotive Talent Show will have an international focus and will feature companies and students from all over Europe.

The event is held at the Circuit de Barcelona – Catalunya and has several spaces, such as a showroom of race teams from universities, a conference room, an exhibition, there will be an awards ceremony, music, raffles, food trucks, and above all a lot of networking.

## Why participate?

- ▲ If you are a company in the sector, you will be able to achieve greater visibility by having a presence in all the communication and dissemination materials of the event.
- ▲ You will help to promote the main meeting point between young talent in Catalonia and the automotive sector, and establish the profile of the company as a company committed to talent
- ▲ You will get in touch with the young talent that exists in Catalonia, and you will be able to create synergies with them directly.
- ▲ You will strengthen the reputation of your brand as a company committed to promoting talent in the automotive sector in Catalonia.

The event has free admission, but it is possible to collaborate as partner or sponsor.

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## EVS35 – Members of Cluster Electric Mobility South-West present their work in Norway

EVS35 took place on June 13-15, 2022 in Lillestrom near Oslo. Around 300 exhibitors from 30 countries and delegates from 70 different countries attended EVS this year. It was one of the first big international events for most of the members of Cluster Electric Mobility South-West.

During the three conference and trade fair days, the cluster members from industry and research presented their current results of their work. On the German pavilion, the Cluster Electric Mobility South-West showcased Baden-Württemberg's activities relating to battery electric vehicles and mobility concepts. With the project "AgiloDrive2", one of the cluster's lighthouse projects focusing on the agile production of electric traction motors was represented both with an exhibit of a hairpin stator and with a lecture session in the conference. In addition, many other contributions were made by cluster members in the scientific conference programme e. g. by Konzelmann GmbH, FKFS, Fraunhofer IAO, PTV Group, Esslingen University, Ulm University of Applied Sciences, Schuler Pressen GmbH and German Aerospace Center, Institute of Vehicle Concepts. More information:

<https://www.e-mobilbw.de/en/service/news-detail/evs35-cluster-members-present-their-work-in-norway>

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## SILESIA SMART SYSTEMS with the status of the European Digital Innovation Hub

"Go digital or go home" – the access to the range of services for SME companies and other Clients seeking the positive change, using Industry 4.0 technological innovations, has become ever more accessible!



We are happy to announce that Katowice Special Economic Zone (KSEZ), coordinator of Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing (SA&AM) Cluster, is the leader of DIH Silesia Smart Systems, which has received a positive evaluation by European Commission of its EDIH application. DIH Silesia Smart Systems will now become one of the European Digital Innovation Hubs, which have been invited to develop a prestigious network of European Digital Innovation Hubs.

Silesia Smart Systems is a consortium which facilitates the development of Polish companies by supporting those, who want to carry out digital transformation involving Industry 4.0 technologies or consider changing the business model and implementing smart products involving digital technologies. These activities are part of the KSEZ mission which has been pursued, among others, by Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, since 2018.

Silesia Smart Systems wishes to cooperate on international level with other DIHs. This would enable mutual learning, exchange of best practices as well business collaboration. We have signed memoranda of understanding with:

- ▲ DEDIHCATED BFC – EDIH led by EACN Member - **PVF**
- ▲ DIH 4 Global Automotive – EDIH led by EACN Member - **Mobinov**
- ▲ InnoVa – Innovation Video Analytics
- ▲ Umbria Digital Data
- ▲ Digital Innovation Hub Ostrava

Main areas of SILESIA SMART SYSTEMS specialization are: Automation and robotics (Computer Integrated Manufacturing), Cybersecurity and Additive technologies and new materials for 3D printing, where DIH offers trainings, consultancy and demonstration services as well as one-stop-shop - horizontal „soft measures”, including training and consulting, which prepare companies for the digital transformation process.

If you are an SME and would like to cooperate with us - soon you will be able to access our European Digital Innovation Hub services!

Further information: <https://www.silesiasmartsystems.pl/about-silesia-smart-systems-3891>

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## ReStartSMEs | Digitalisation training pathway

Digital transformation requires more than just technology. In fact, the most pivotal transformations happen when organizations take on the humans who are required to adapt and learn new ways of thinking and acting.

ReStartSMEs's training helps organizations prepare for Industry 5.0 by showing everyone involved how to make the most of today's technologies and generating innovative relationships between people, machines, and environment.



Explore free training on digitalization in an upcoming set of webinars for your small or medium-sized business.

This are some of the themes that will be covered:

- ▲ Challenges and Keys for a Successful Digital Transformation
- ▲ The path to AI in manufacturing
- ▲ Connecting data, AI and Blockchain in manufacturing
- ▲ Artificial Intelligence for Industry 5.0
- ▲ Cloud Technology for Industry 5.0

Please register [HERE](#) to get your calendar invitation and participation link before the event.

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## Project corner



## RESIST - Resilience through Sustainable processes and production for the European automotive Industry

Led by Pôle Véhicule du Futur, the RESIST project brings together 3 EACN member clusters and two clusters from manufacturing and from digital. The project targets the green and digital transition of SMEs as well as their increased resilience to crises. Steered by a One-Stop-Shop, SMEs from the automotive-transport-mobility and manufacturing ecosystems are supported with personalized and targeted services to succeed their green and digital transition. SMEs can access to co-funding for innovation projects, coaching & mentoring services, networking, training, and internationalisation services. They also get access to key information and studies such as future challenges, opportunities and benefits from greening and digitizing production, internationalisation needs; and they meet potential business partners from an alternative ecosystem.

Project partners: [Pôle Véhicule du Futur](#) (lead, FR), [CEAGA](#) (ES), [autoklastr](#) (CZ), [IDiA](#) (ES), [Business Upper Austria - OO Wirtschaftsagentur/Mechatronik-Cluster](#) (AT).

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## Other information

### New European Strategic Foresight Report

The European Commission has adopted the [2022 Strategic Foresight Report: twinning the green and digital transitions in the new geopolitical context](#). This report addresses in particular the technologies that will enable the transport and mobility sector to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

## Transport infrastructure: EU invests EUR 5.4 billion to support key projects across the continent

135 projects on transport infrastructure have been selected for CEF-transport funding in the calls that closed on 19 January 2022, for which 399 proposals were submitted. [Further information and list of selected projects](#)

## List of European project evaluators 2021/22

The European Commission published the [list of evaluators](#) for the period 2021 until march 2022 including their field of expertise.

## Agenda

 14 September 2022 | Valence (Espagne)/virtual **Smart Mobility Valencia Networking and MatchMaking Event** | organised by AVIA, Mobility Innovation VLC, and Startup Valencia | [Event information](#) – [MatchMaking Registration](#)

 20 – 22 September 2022 à Brno (Czech Republic)/online **Urban Mobility Days “Moving people and goods more sustainably”** | organised by European Commission DG MOVE and the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU | [Information](#)

 26 – 27 September 2022 | Prague (Czech Republic) **European Cluster Conference 2022** | organised by the Czech Ministry for Industry and Trade, European Commission DG GROW and ECCP | [Information and registration](#)

 28 – 29 September 2022 | Online **European R&I Days** | organised by the European Commission DG RTD | [Information and registration](#)

 18 – 22 October 2022 | Paris (France) **Paris Automotive Week** with  
- **Mondial de l’Auto** | [Information and registration](#)  
- **Equip’Auto 2022** | [Information and registration](#)  
- **Paris Automotive Summit** | [Information and registration](#)

 24 – 28 October 2022 | Bruxelles / online **European Hydrogen Week** | organised by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership | [Information](#)

 8 - 9 November 2022 | Montbéliard (France) **Forum Hydrogen Business for Climate** | co-organised by Pôle Véhicule du Futur | [Information and registration](#)

<https://hydrogenbusinessforclimate.com/en/>

 30 November 2022 | Esslingen (Germany) **Automotive Suppliers’ Day Baden-Württemberg 2022** | organised by e-mobil bw | [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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