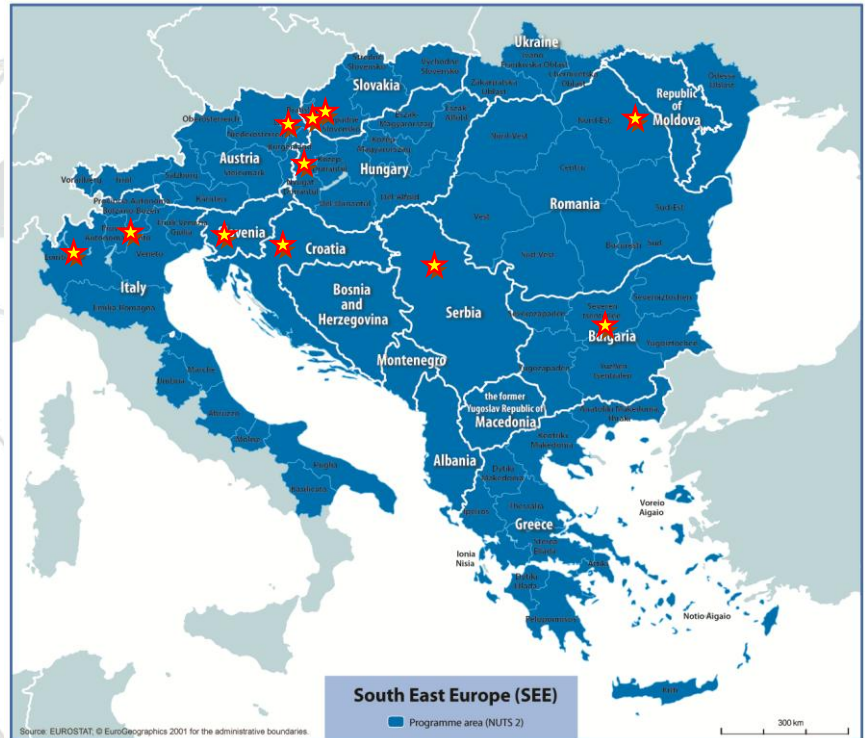


- Automobilový klaster - západné Slovensko (Slovakia)
- Comuniprese Societa' Consortile a Responsabilita' Limitata (Italy)
- Universitatea Tehnică "Gheorghe Asachi" din Iași (Romania)
- Nyugat-Pannon Regionális Fejlesztési Zrt. (Hungary)
- Technical University of Gabrovo (Bulgaria)
- Associazione CREATE-NET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

AUTOCLUSTERS Newsletter



Project "Autoclusters" is getting to its final and most important phase – we are about to propose an application under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007-2013).

The Autoclusters project connects universities, research institutes, SMEs and it is funded under the "Southeast Europe" program. It is a joint initiative between organizations from Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria.

The project aims to develop a sustainable network in the automotive industry among the Southeastern European countries. The idea is to create a technological and research network associated with automobile companies. It will allow network members to share their efforts to create modern electric vehicles and to design the infrastructure for their use.

Project meetings in Croatia

Autoclusters partnership have met to discuss the gained successes and to plan the future activities in Croatian town Šibenik. After partners from Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania the Hrvatski Automobilski klaster hosted the **7th Autoclusters project meeting.**

The meeting on the one hand aimed on the exchange of the information between Project Partners with the participation of other relevant stakeholders, interest groups and beneficiaries, and on the other hand to discuss all project related issues, such as management and coordination tasks, project activities and decisions on the ongoing and future Working Packages and also further steps on implementation of small ICPP projects.



The project Autoclusters successfully finished all the activities in the work package 4 – „Innovative trends and main challenges in Automotive” and the presentation of its results took place on the meeting.

The fruitful discussions with the contribution of the experts were part of the presentations of the proposals for an application under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (2007-2013) and of the Small project as a part of the WP6.

The activities of the meeting also included Exchange study visit for AUTOCLUSTERS partners and their external experts at **University of Split - Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Split and AD plastik d.d. Solin (Split)**



AUTOCLUSTERS

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.

For more information visit www.autoclusters.eu

AUTOCLUSTERS

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.



Student competition on

“Innovation in the automotive sector”



The automotive network for Innovation in south east Europe (ACSEE) has launched two student competitions with the aim of highlighting projects from students and reward inventive European Research and Innovation ideas in the automotive field.

Main aim of the project is to bring together Universities, R&D institutions, SME support facilities from EU-15, NMS as well as IPA in order to prepare and create the first automotive network in South East Europe. That is why we are trying to boost creative activity of the students and researchers and to offer a possibility to present their innovative work.

Ph.D. COMPETITION 2011 is a competition for postgraduate students in a Ph.D. programme. The competition gives the students an opportunity to showcase their work to experts within the field of Innovation in the automotive sector. Please refer to each country web site for possible scope specifications.

Please follow information about submission, prizes and rules on

<http://community.eai.eu/sib-gw/autoclusters-PHD-competition>

Master Students COMPETITION 2011 is a competition for students in a Master programme. The competition gives the students an opportunity to showcase their work to experts within the field of Innovation in the automotive sector. Please refer to each country web site for possible scope specifications.

Please follow information about submission, prizes and rules on

<http://community.eai.eu/sib-gw/autoclusters-master-competition>

Deadlines:

Paper-Poster submission deadline: **30 Sept 2011**

Notification date finalists and winners: **11 October 2011**

For further details check our website www.autoclusters.eu or

<http://community.eai.eu/sib-gw/students-competitions-on-Innovation-in-the-automotive-sector>

The Contactless charging in Nürnberg

From 17th to 19th May 2011 two TU Gabrovo representatives of the project **Autoclusters** attended the international conference PCIM 2011 in Nürnberg. The topic of the contributed publication was **“Battery Charging station for electro mobiles with inverters with energy dosing”**.

The purpose of the visit was to present the idea of contactless charging of Electro Vehicles (EV). Moreover, contacts with companies, R&D centres and experts were pursued with the aim of establishing new partners for the project’s seventh framework program (FP7).

The “Contactless charging of electric cars” is a fundamental idea and this is proven by the conducted analysis in WP6 of the project “Autoclusters”. The technical specifications of this idea were determined by research and development work at TU Gabrovo in the last two years. The R&D results and a part of the WP6 analysis results were summarized in a paper „Battery Charging station for electromobiles with inverters with energy dosing”.

During the conference meetings with the following companies were arranged: Ferroxcube NL; Tridelta, Ger; FEEM, It; CEFEM,FR; Kolektor, SLO; Renault, FR; Himag, UK.

We are looking forward to their responses regarding cooperation in the WP7 of the “Autoclusters” project.



International Exhibition
& Conference for
**POWER ELECTRONICS
INTELLIGENT MOTION
POWER QUALITY**
17 – 19 May 2011
Exhibition Centre Nuremberg

Power Conversion Intelligent Motion 2011

This event took place in Nuremberg, Germany – a meeting point of the industry’s key international players and an excellent environment for presentation of the newest trends and state-of-the-art solutions to challenging problems.

PCIM (Power Conversion Intelligent Motion) is Europe’s main meeting point for experts in power electronics, intelligent motion & power quality. More concretely, PCIM offers products and services in the following fields:

- Power Semiconductors
- Passive Components
- Magnetic-and Core Materials
- Thermal Management
- Sensors
- ASICS
- Micro-Controller
- Servo-Technology/ Actuators
- DSPs, Microprocessors
- Power Supplies, UPS

For more information related to the European PCIM conference and exhibition please visit: www.PCIM.com.



Geneva MotorShow

The International Geneva Motor Show (French: Salon International de l'Auto) is an annual auto show held in March in the Swiss city of Geneva. The show is hosted at the Geneva Palexpo, a convention centre located next to the Geneva Cointrin International Airport. The Salon is organised by the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, and is considered an important major international auto show.

First held in 1905, the Salon has hosted almost all major internal combustion engine models in the history of the automobile, along with benzene- and steam-powered cars from the beginning of the century. Exotic supercars often steal the spotlight during their debuts at the show. Prototypes, new equipment, technical breakthroughs, international partnerships, as well as political and social debates, have been announced at the exhibition. The show is regarded as a level playing field for the world's automakers, aided by the fact Switzerland lacks an auto industry of its own.

E-mobility in Geneva

Project team of West-Pannon Regional Development Company and TU Gabrovo visited the International **Motor Show in Geneva** with the aim to identify and collect the latest knowledge about e-mobility directly from OEMs and suppliers. Geneva Motor Show is one the most important events related to car industry all over the world.



The show every year serves with the very latest innovations in the field of automotive components, such as chassis systems, braking technologies, steering controls, engine components, auxiliaries, materials, suspension, communications, sensors, electrical and electronics components, and intelligent vehicle technologies. Over 20 exhibitors, including major auto-makers, engineering firms and scientific institutes, presented the latest energy efficiency tools over the 3000-square-meters pavilion. More than 40 models using electricity as main driving force were exposed all around the showcase complex, some of them were production cars like Nissan Leaf and other just concepts cars, for example VW Bulli.

The exhibition was very important for the dissemination of the project. In many stands of the motor show we informed the representatives of car companies about Autoclusters project and its goals by presenting our „best-practices“ brochures and materials.

Moreover an electric car called Micron sponsored by a French investor was also introduced in the Motor Show of Geneva providing an excellent facility for networking and promoting the outputs and results of AUTOCLUSTERS project in their stand. Both project teams collected very useful experiences that we can share in our region, can use during the implementation of Autoclusters project and built the FP7 proposals



The NoAE Innovation Competition 2011 in Romania



A new competition in the automotive is available starting this year for the enthusiasts of the field. NoAE (Network of Automotive Excellence) Innovation Contest provides the framework for all those interested to express their ideas. Already present in 23 European countries, the competition was expanded this year in Romania where is held under the patronage of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business.

Registration is free and can be done on the site www.noae.com until 31 October 2011. The 30 original ideas related to Powertrain and Electrification, Communication and Mobility, Materials and Production and Interior Design will be awarded prizes and winning entries and products will be exhibited at the Innovation Project Champions Arena in Dusseldorf on International Project Day programmed on April 2012.

According to organizers, the first month of enrollment, most interest seems to come from Germany, Romania, Denmark, the United States and Canada.

Who may participate?

Innovators, researchers, freelancers, company founders, companies, research facilities and institutes are called to bring innovative contributions regarding the four topic clusters.

For more details about the NoAE Innovations Contest, visit the www.noae.ro website or call the NoAE Romania support number: 037 539 6623



AUTOCLUSTERS

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.

AUTOCLUSTERS



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.

Volkswagen Slovakia has produced more than 2,5 million cars

Over twenty years of its operation in Slovakia Volkswagen have produced more than 2,5 million cars. Moreover, it could also produced five millions transmissions and 200 millions components.

From 1991 until the end of 2010, the company invested 1.7 billion Euros in Slovakia. In the next five years, Volkswagen plans to invest another billion Euros into new production technologies, expansion of car production at Bratislava's factory and components in Martin's factory. In the first year of operation worked in Volkswagen in Bratislava 112 employees. At present they are directly in the company more than seven thousand.



Volkswagen Slovakia started serial production of the Passat Variant in February 1992. Later were added Golf, Bora, Polo. Production of SUV started production model Volkswagen Touareg and Porsche Cayenne body in 2002, which in 2005 added the Audi Q7. Into the portfolio of Bratislava's factory belonged to the SEAT Ibiza and Skoda Octavia. In 2010, Bratislava's factory began the race as the first among the then 61 Volkswagen plants in series production hybrid vehicle Volkswagen Touareg Hybrid. Volkswagen opened its plant in Martin, where 400 people since 2000, manufactures components for transmissions and chassis. Demand on the Russian market forced the automotive group in 2004 to open a factory in Košice. Metropolis in the East company is preparing vehicles for the Russian and Ukrainian market.

More at <http://spravy.pravda.sk>

New Engine: The engine is produced by one minute



New Engine of Kia in Žilina is planning to launch the full line in these days. After the summer there would be to produce about 700 engines a day. It is the only complete engine production in Slovakia. Carmaker in the new engine just tests and adjusts the production lines. It adopted for more than two hundred employees

on it. Others could join after the start of full operation in the second half of the year. "Now we make daily about 1300 engine, when a new engine will go fully, it will be around two thousand," said spokesman Dušan Dvořák.

Logistics conquers the lost positions

Economy and logistics live in symbiosis. The crisis of the 2009 showed line of work the downsides of business. Fortunately it did not last long. Turnovers grown again to companies and courage to invest return too. Some old deficiencies in the Slovak market - low profits, low margins and late payment of invoices, particularly the smaller and weaker members of the supply chain - remain. This industry, which is paid rather than collected, and where is growing need for expensive loan refinancing, it hinders increase the speed. And unstablens of orders particularly in companies trading with the cyclical automakers, metallurgists and chemists will always be a threat.



The crisis has brought more expediency into the companies, it set cost structures newly and it discovered reserves that together with new forms of business management to better prepared them for volatile times in the functioning of the global world. The Slovak economy has started to copy a global growth trend thanks to

German expansion, which receives most of Sino-Asian dynamics. China, as a major economic engine in the world and of logistics too, begins to set the tempo. Slovak and global logistics reports a gradual return to pre-crisis level, which manifests itself in addition investment and also in acquisition activity of companies from the branch.

Union bid us saving tires

The European Commission wants to dictate the use of saving tires to EU members, which in this case save fuel.

Since next year will have automakers and retailers to indicate the tires with labels, similar to the labelled electrical appliances - with arrows from green to red in the energy intensity of classes, from A to G.

The Commission wants to promote the sale of better tires with less resistance, according to calculations by experts reduce consumption by ten percent. This is part of plan to reduce oil consumption and greenhouse gas CO2 emissions. Also the environment will relieve of four million tons of emissions annually.



Audi said to eye engine output expansion in Hungary

Audi is exploring a possible expansion of engine manufacturing capacity at its Hungarian plant in the western town of Gyor, business daily Vilaggazdasag reported on 1st August.

Citing Peter Lore, Audi's communications director in Hungary, the paper said this was a possibility being considered due to very good market prospects, which could create further new jobs on top of an ongoing expansion of the factory.

The Gyor plant assembled 938,903 engines in the first half, up 7.1 percent of the same period of last year, Audi said on its Web site. The number of cars rolled out had increased by 14.2 percent in that period to 24,542 units, it said.

Audi, a luxury brand of Volkswagen AG would hire 2,100 new workers in Hungary as it expands the plant.

The carmaker said last year it would invest about 900 million euros (\$1.30 billion) to lift local production to 125,000 vehicles a year once the expanded plant begins full production from 2013.

Brussels proposes new fuel tax, diesel fuel and coal have become more expensive

The European Commission presented a proposal for taxation of energy fuels, which should bring into the EU economy more fairness and tilt it towards a more protective effect on the environment.

The proposal comes to the fore the environmental impact of the use of fuels, which belongs between priorities strategy for Europe 2020.

Energy taxation applies to a period longer than how long Europe 2020 takes. The first phase of changes should take place in 2013, since the energy resources will be taxed according to sectors and under the new formula. Discussion between Member States raises in particular new philosophy of taxation of fuel. Increase the final price waits for diesel fuel, which the Commission gives reasons that fuels should be taxed according to how much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere resulting from burning them. According to the Commission would not have diesel fuel cost less than gasoline, as is in the case in the overwhelming majority of member states. It would also be taxing to focus on coal, which the conversion of energy also means an increased burden on the environment.

Previous Directive of 2003 longer does not reflect the full context of the current direction of EU policy - for example, does not offer incentives to use alternative energy sources, does not respect energy efficiency raw materials - so the Commission decided to change the perspective on the whole concept of fuel tax. The Commission proposal must be approved by Parliament and the Member States of the EU Council.



Project for entrepreneurship training of Romanian SME managers in automotive sector

The project Entrepreneurship spirit - the factor to increase the performance of managers of SMEs in the automotive sector was launched in February 2011 by EDU-EXEC company - a leader in management development - in partnership with the Association of Automotive Manufacturers and Importers (APIA).

The project (code POSDRU/92/3.1/S/48614), is funded by the European Social Fund, Sectoral Operational Programme for Development of Human Resources 2007 - 2013, Priority 3 "Increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises" Key Area of Intervention 3.1 Promoting entrepreneurial culture.

The project objective is to promote entrepreneurial culture in the target group of 480 managers working in SMEs in the automotive sector to respond as effectively to market requirements in the context of changes generated by the economic crisis.

A second objective is to disseminate successful international practices for business development to 50 top managers of SMEs operating in the automotive sector.



Following discussions between representatives of APIA and automotive companies to assess training needs, seven programs were identified that aim development of key competences to increasing performance in this sector: management, leadership, finance, human resources, marketing, sales and negotiation.



Contact:

**Automobilový klaster
– západné Slovensko**

Hlavná 5,
917 01 Trnava
Slovakia

All information at
www.autoclusters.eu



Project Autoclusters is co-funded from South-East Europe programme and European Union (www.southeast-europe.net).