

## **“AUTOCLUSTERS, THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE NETWORK OF EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTION WITH SUBCONTRACTORS AND OTHER BODIES ACTIVE IN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY”**

### SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The project aims to develop International network of researches, universities and clusters in Automotive industry, through the analysis, educational and training activities, cooperative activities and joint research project generation.

The project shall deal with some key weakness identified in regions across SEE territory as well as across whole European Union

- Improve effective cooperation between R&D, education and private institutions in automotive industry
- Develop strategies and partnerships to increase amount of highly qualified workforce in SEE region
- Improve the degree and intensity of transnational cooperation as well as to promote pilot joint research & development projects

### MAIN PROBLEMS OR CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED

Automotive clusters are very well established SME-support facilities oriented to support SME's – the subcontractors of the car producers. The automotive industry is one of the most important segments of the European economy with high impact on the economical and social development of regions covered by project partners. The automotive industry is challenged by new issues which are important not to underestimate:

- Requirements for implementations of new technologies, particularly according to new European strategies and policies
- Lack on labor market mainly in the area of highly qualified workforce
- Lack of information and know-how how to cooperate effectively with R&D institution as well as in application of R&D results in production

The solution for mentioned challenges is mainly in functional and effective cooperation between SME's and universities and R&D bodies. Unfortunately this cooperation in SEE territory is not very well develop and function. Obviously there are the number of reasons at both sides, mainly it's understanding of needs, experience, know-how how to create and develop functional and effective cooperation.

#### MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The project main objective is to create and develop functional international cooperation network in between subcontractors in automotive industry and different research, technology, educational and innovation facilities to tackle the biggest issues and challenges of automotive industry. To be able to achieve results intensive cooperation of project partner is required. To increase usability of project in long time perspective the Methodology for cooperation will be develop. As proving of concept concrete cooperation activities will be realized.

The sub-objectives of the Autoclusters project are:

- Analysis of the situation in cooperation between subcontractors , universities and other R&D institutions
- Identification of best practice in the different aspects of cooperation
- Promotion of automotive industry at universities and in other R&D or innovative institutions
- Realization of pilot cooperative projects
- Identification of the available ways for the further development of cooperation, through Research, Development & Innovation programmes or national programs.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES

Project activities are structured in 6 phases.

1. Study of business co-operation strategies, cluster development in the Automotive industry and co-operation with R&D in each the partner areas, and in other relevant countries. Identification of best practices.
2. Definition of the a common methodology for effective and successful network creation and development.
3. Study on the main challenges and innovation trends in Automotive industry which has to be tackle in cooperation with R&D and universities
4. Technological missions and study visits. University and business researchers and managers will be brought together to prepare co-operation initiatives. A "Regions of Knowledge" proposal under VII FP will be considered.
5. Creation of working groups responding to the main challenges and to generate cooperative R&D projects and realizing educational conferences and workshops.
6. Dissemination and promotion activities of automotive industry

## MAIN EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

The main expected outputs are:

- 2 Exchange of experiences seminars,
- 1 Dissemination of Common Methodology Conference,
- 2 educational seminar in each region,
- 10 exchange study visits,
- 10 technological missions,
- 1 Final Conference,
- 10 exhibitions at Universities,
- 10 Working groups,
- Reports on pilot projects, Informational website about Automotive industry, Final document for dissemination of results
- 6 newsletters

The main expected results are:

- Elaboration of Study of business strategies and clusters development, Common methodology and Study on the main trends and cooperation with R&D
- 5 pilot R&D cooperative project with business application
- 500 researchers, managers and university staff participate in exchange study visit
- 100 participants on educational seminars in each region
- 5 co-operation proposals under VII FP will be prepared
- 50 000 visits of web site
- 3000 visitors at exhibitions at Universities
- 200 representatives from non-participating regions in the Final Conference

## TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH

Project intends to promote concrete and effective transnational co-operation between industrial clusters, R&D or universities, to jointly address some of the main challenges face by the industry and to adapt to the innovation trends. Although Automotive industry is highly competitive, co-operation initiatives are frequent, in order to develop basic automotive technologies, which are then adapted by companies to their products and production processes. SEE is becoming one of the main areas for automotive industry in Europe, and there is a strong potential for research-industry co-operation in the area. The project has a medium level of intensity of cooperation, in order to foster transnational co-operation activities and to create effective and functional co-operation networks between companies and research and innovation centers, using the instrument of the thematic working groups.

Other activities as studies, conferences, study visits, exhibitions as well as the elaboration of a common methodology for cluster development.

#### RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT TO THE PROGRAMME'S STRATEGY

The project aims to develop network of existing SME support facilities together with R&D, universities and other innovative bodies active in automotive industry.

The purpose of project activities are mainly focused on the supporting of technology transfer, increasing access of the relevant information for SME's in automotive industry and promoting the skills and knowledge necessary for realize innovations in automotive industry, which is fully consistent with purpose of the area of intervention 1.2. of programme.

#### SYNERGIES WITH OTHER EU FUNDED PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES, POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

The Project intends to contribute to of the main objectives of the revised Lisbon agenda's objectives: "Knowledge and innovation for growth" and "Creating more and better jobs". The cluster policy has becoming one of the main instruments of industrial policy both at National and European level. Knowledge driven clusters is one of the main working lines within the "Regions of Knowledge" strand of the 7th Framework Programme, and it is also addressed by the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). Different initiatives on Cluster cooperation and development have been funded by 6th FP (Europe Innova) and the PRO INNO Europe initiative (cluster policy INNO-Nets), among others. Europe Innova has identified 2 transnational associations on automotive industry. The partners in this project will establish close co-operation with these initiatives.

#### PARTNERSHIP

- AUTOMOTIVE CLUSTER-WEST SLOVAKIA SLOVAKIA
- AC SERBIA-AUTOMOTIVE CLUSTER SERBIA
- VIENNA REGION WIRTSCHAFT.RAUM.ENTWICKLUNG.GMBH AUSTRIA
- GIZ ACS-AUTOMOTIVE CLUSTER OF SLOVENIA SLOVENIA
- TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY – GABROVO BULGARIA
- CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND TELECOMUNICATION
- EXPERIMENTATION FOR NETWORKED COMMUNITIES ITALY
- CROATIAN AUTOMOTIVE CLUSTER CROATIA
- PANAC - PANNON AUTOMOTIVE CLUSTER HUNGARY
- COMUNIMPRESE SCARL ITALY
- "GHEORGE ASACHI "TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF IASI,BD.D. ROMANIA