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Programme co-funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

ACSEE
AUTOCLUSTERS
Automotive network for innovation

The international cooperative network of educational and research institution with subcontractors and other bodies active in Automotive Industry

Project Partners:

Automobilový klaster - západné Slovensko

Slovenská technická univerzita v Bratislave
Materiálovotechnologická fakulta v Trnave

COMUNIMPRESE SOCIETA' CONSORTILE
A RESPONSABILITA' LIMITATA

Universitatea Tehnică "Gheorghe Asachi" din Iaşi

Nyugat-Pannon Regionális Fejlesztési Zrt.

Technical University of Gabrovo

Associazione CREATE-NET

Gospodarsko interesno združenje ACS,
Slovenski avtomobilski grozd

Automobilski klaster Srbija –
Fond za podršku konkurentnosti proizvođača
autodelova i autoopreme

Hrvatska udruga poslodavaca

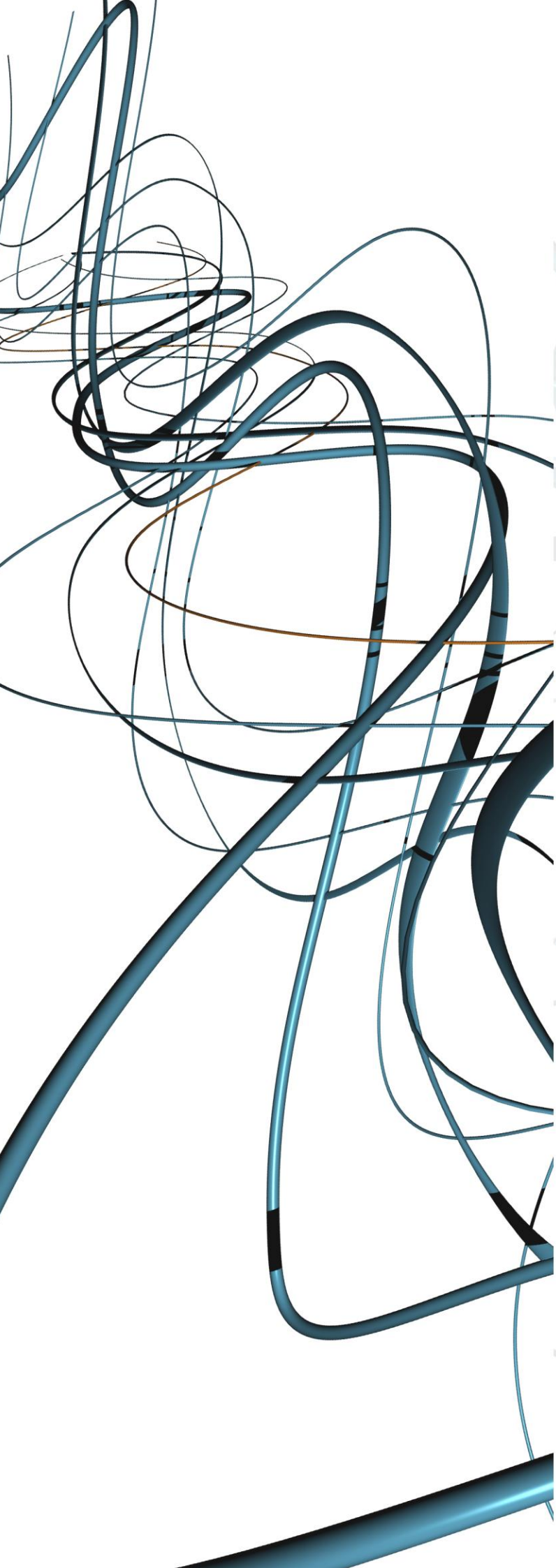
Automotive Cluster Vienna Region - VIENNA REGION
Wirtschaft.Raum.Entwicklung.GmbH

www.autoclusters.eu

SUMMARY

The Project brings together Universities, R&D institutions, SME support facilities from EU-15, NMS as well as IPA to prepare and create the first automotive network in SEE. 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 SEE region, particularly the same across the whole EU territory.

During the project activities which should promote automotive industry and increase the cooperation between universities and SME's will be realized as well – one permanent exchange program carried out. The project will summarize earned experienced and know-how to the Common Methodology which will be elaborated close to the project closure to help in other regions and different industries in second level clustering focused on innovation.



TIMING

The automotive industry is becoming one of the most important industries in South Eastern Europe. The quick development of new OEM's together with previously established traditional car producers is an impulse for rapid development for sub-contracting industries in the region. At the same time the industry is facing one of the biggest crises in its history, when the increase of innovative capacities becoming one of the key factors for future sustainable development.

Clustering in automotive industry is at a great level in comparison to some other industries in the SEE region. The clusters identify the issues in innovative capacities and in the innovation cycle, by identifying which project to address by proposing specific second level clustering activities based on the long time experience in auto industry of some partners and capacities of others. Activities are based on the partner's experience in previous projects in auto-industry and clustering

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 SEE.

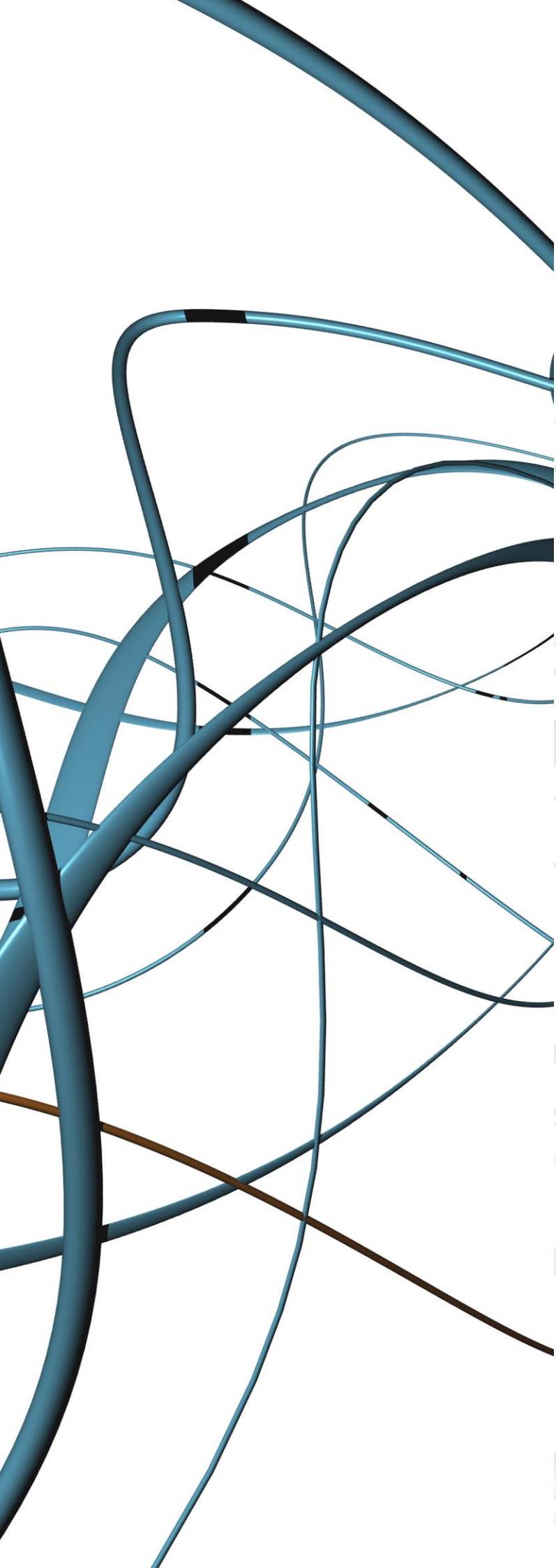
PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

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

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- Speed up the usage of NMS potential (as well as candidate's countries, potential candidate and neighbouring countries
- Identify the conditions for more efficient technology transfer as well as to prove the concept by pilot project implementations
- Promote automotive industry to universities and in other R&D institutions
- Increase competitiveness between institutions in SEE region to focus on and contribute in finding of solutions for global problems in Industry
- Create conditions for networking in finding solutions for global problems in Industry
- Identify available opportunities for further development of cooperation through community or national programs and other funding sources.



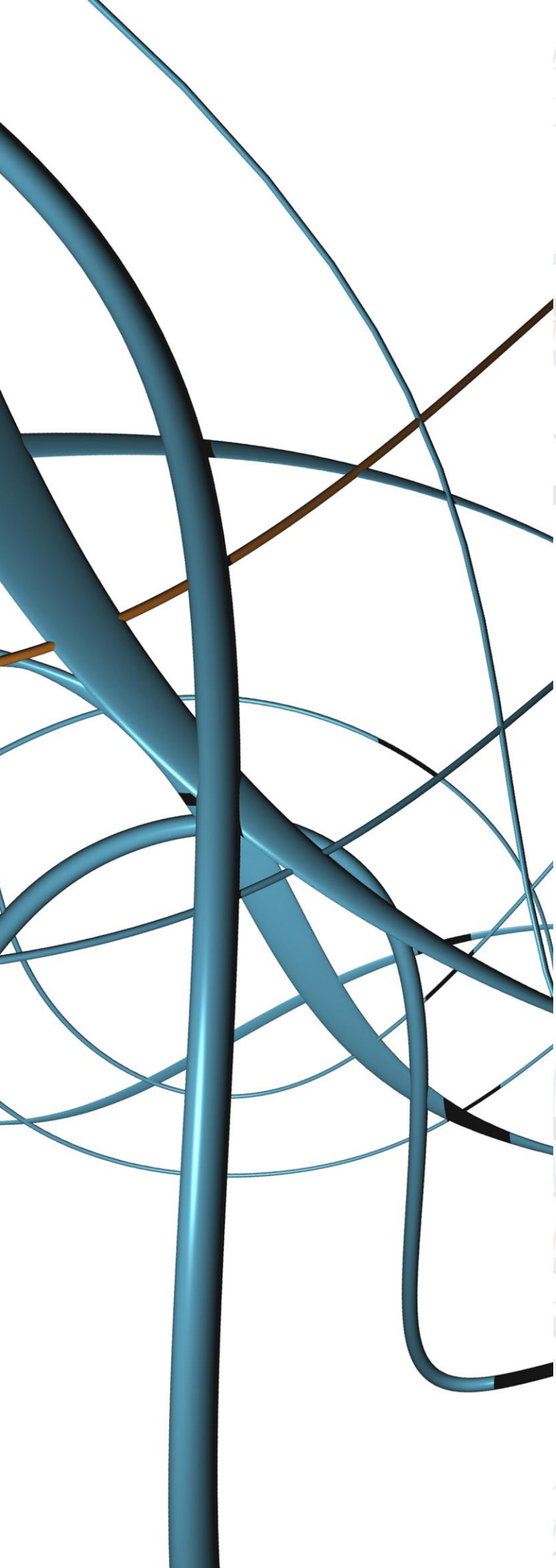
EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- 1 permanent cooperative network in SEE automotive industry. The sustainability of the network should be ensured by private or public source, which will be more deeply analyzed during the project
- 1 permanent exchange program as part of the activities of the cooperative network
- Realization of 3 small pilot projects from the list will be financed by the project to prove the concept
- Preparation of 3 proposals of the FP7 for other 3 projects from the list will be realized during the project
- 3 studies and 1 methodology will be researched and elaborated during the project, the results have to offer the possibility to be adopted in different industries as well as regions

As other results and outputs with highly positive impact on the innovation capacities and innovation circle we should mention – 10 exchange study visits (with 200 participants), 10 exhibitions at universities (with 3000 visitors), 1 exchange experience seminar (with invitation of other relevant stakeholders), and 2 educational seminars in each region.

CONTRIBUTION

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.



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.

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.