

NEAC - Network of European Automotive Competence

Programme zone / Zone de programme:

West / Ouest

Type / Type

Network / Réseau

Topic / Thème

Other appropriate subjects / Autres sujets appropriés

Problem description / Description du problème ciblé par le projet

In an increasingly global and competitive market, the automotive industry faces an ongoing battle to adapt its technology to changing needs. This applies to suppliers as well as to system and vehicle producers.

Regional SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises) belonging to the auto-supply chain have looked for ways to overcome these challenges. For many regions, the establishment of clusters focusing on specific fields of competence have proven to be a useful tool, providing an interface between regional development strategies and key economic players. Until now these efforts have been mostly region specific. There has been little in the way of an interregional strategy at the European level which could help European automotive regions to work together to increase their global competitiveness.

Overall objective / Objectif général de l'opération

The project intends to provide a platform to help automotive regions understand the competences and excellence of their own supply base within the context of the EU. By creating joint approaches and instruments, NEAC wants to improve regional and European competitiveness of the automotive supply industry.

Expected results / Résultats attendus

The partnership brings together local and regional actors in a network which is recognised as a stakeholder at the European level. NEAC is creating a standard methodology which all the partners can use to self-monitor their own competences and competitiveness. The NEAC framework enables regions to work together to have a full understanding of the diversity and distribution of automotive competence.

Furthermore, NEAC encourages the joint development of new tools and new approaches. The network keeps beneficiaries informed and raises awareness of the potential of European automotive regions. For the regions themselves, being part of a network allows them better access to European programmes, improved knowledge of regional support policies and the opportunity to influence the next generation of EU Structural Fund programmes.

Lead partner / Partenaire principal	Contact person / Personne à contacter	Duration / Durée
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		Total budget / Budget total: 1.725.000 €
		ERDF contribution / Contribution FEDER: 995.000 €
		Norwegian contribution / Contribution des fonds norvégiens: 0 €



Partnership / Partenaires

Name of Institution, Town /Titre de l'institution, Ville	Country / Pays	Region / Région	Contact information / Détails de contact
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Activities / achievements so far

NEAC started in Jan 05 and completed Dec 07 and it has achieved specific results and strategy recommendations for the European Automotive Sector. The three content related components have been completed. By mid 2006 component 2 'Competence Assessment' was completed and by 30th. June 2007 component 3 'Competitiveness Assessment' was finished. The results of C2 and C3 have been the input indicators for component 4 'Competitiveness Agendas'. Component 4 was finalised on target in Nov 07. NEAC has drawn conclusions, formulated recommendations, strategy and policies which will enhance the strength and competitiveness of the automotive supply base in Europe. A system has been developed to assure the sustainability of the results of C4. In this system also the need to find solutions for 'future skills' and 'alternative fuels', two hot issues for the automotive industry, are included. All partners have recognised the value in participating in the project and that this is a 1st step towards future collaboration through the pan-European network, EASN. The need for collaboration has been recognised, not only by the NEAC partners but also by the other identified automotive related EU projects (Belcar, TCAS, Automotive Regions and ICARO). The work towards EASN has started and in the future, the partners will work within this framework on collaborative initiatives. Even though NEAC has completed its planned activity, through the final report and the website, which will be maintained in 2008, the link between NEAC and EASN will be elaborated and strengthened. The results of the final report will be used as a foundation for developing on-going activity to support the NEAC partners, other EASN project partners and those regions not involved so far.

More information:

www.neac.eu.com



Creation date / Date de création: 17/09/2009

Source / Source: www.interreg3c.net

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