

SLOVAK CLUSTER MATCHMAKING ROADSHOW

Prosperity through Cooperation

PROFILES OF CLUSTERS BY COUNTRIES



SLOVAKIA

Automotive cluster – West Slovakia



The Automotive cluster – West Slovakia was founded in 2007 with the aim to increase competitiveness of the automotive related companies operating in the Slovakia. The main goal of the cluster is to create a prestigious and modern base for automotive industry in Slovakia, to offer better human resources, environment and management, to improve transfer of technological and innovation processes and to generate new and strong sub-suppliers' networks. The Automotive Cluster - Western Slovakia has currently 49 members.

The cluster also brings innovations especially into the area of technology, incentives into the field of cost reduction, corporate management, as well as marketing and education.

The cluster internationalizes its activities and market through an intensive cooperation with foreign partners from the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Germany, and Italy. The cluster is a leader of a few international projects funded by the EU. The Automotive Cluster - Western Slovakia has set up and implemented an innovative training programme "Innovative and flexible manager", in KIA Motors Corporation.



Contact:

Roman Bíro
Executive Manager
Hlavná 5
917 01 Trnava
Slovak Republic
Cell phone: +421910 777 887
E-mail: biro@autoklaster.sk
www.autoklaster.sk

Cluster AT+R



The Cluster AT+R was founded in 2010 by highly innovative enterprises. The main goal of the cluster is to enhance efficiency and competitiveness of industrial firms via utilization of science. Automation, robotics, mechatronics, new materials, and technologies are the main focus of the cluster. The founders are highly respected innovative firms, universities, and private research organizations. The cluster has currently 10 active members. Moreover, the Cluster AT+R is an active member of international organizations such as the EUROP, EUnited Robotics, EFFRA-MANUFUTURE EU. The cluster internationalizes its activities through the participation in an EU co-funded project.



Contact:

Jaromír Jezný
Chairman of Board of Directors
Južná trieda 95
041 24 Košice
Slovak Republic
Cell phone: +421 903 638 656
E-mail: jezny@clusteratr.sk
www.clusteratr.sk

1st Slovak Engineering Cluster



The 1st Slovak Engineering Cluster was established in 2008 by enterprises, a university, and high schools operating within a region. The cluster has currently 22 members. The cluster vision is to build regionally available high tech infrastructure and skilled human resources for innovation in the engineering sector such as construction machinery, automotive, forestry, and agriculture. The cluster is active in consulting, marketing, international cooperation, and also education. The cluster is a partner of an EU funded project.



Contact:

Ladislav Bódi
Executive Manager
Areál PPS
962 12 Detva
Slovak Republic
Cell phone: +421 905 889 565
E-mail : ladislav.bodi@1ssk.sk
www.1ssk.sk

IT VALLEY



The goal of the association is to build a Centre of Excellence of Information and Communication Technologies in the region of Eastern Slovakia as well as to make social and economic environment more attractive, especially for young people. At the same time, the cluster aims to contribute to building an information and knowledge based society in the east of the Slovak Republic, create a communication platform between the public administration, business sector, and educational institutions that will lead to the acceleration of the development of the IT industry in the region.



Contact:
Miriam Brašková
Activity Co-ordinator
Košice IT Valley
Letná 9, Košice
04 001
Slovakia
Cell phone: 00421 948 818 150
E-mail: miriam.braskova@tuke.sk
www.kosiceitvalley.sk



CZECH REPUBLIC

ATOMEX4ENERGY



The Cluster ATOMEX4ENERGY associates leading Czech manufacturing companies experienced in the manufacturing and delivery of power generation equipment, from classical power generation and from renewable to nuclear power plants. The Cluster has also rich past experience with delivering advanced products and technologies for power generation, including nuclear power generation for VVER 440 as well as VVER 1000 such as primary circuit auxiliary systems, radioactive media processing systems, emergency systems, radioactive waste processing, radioactive waste repository or radioactive waste final processing and primary circuit auxiliary systems. Furthermore, the cluster helps innovating companies in the field of power generation equipment. It also cooperates with both Czech and foreign research and business organizations in order to be able to provide value-added supplies for large industrial investment projects.



Contact:
Frantisek Kulovany, jr.
Associated Project Manager
ATOMEX4ENERGY
Černošská 1930
256 01 Benešov, Czech Republic
Cell phone: 00420603447654
E-mail: frantisek.kulovany.jr@baest.cz
www.atomex.cz

Hradecký IT klastr



The HIT cluster is an interest association of legal persons. It operates in the sectors of information and communication technologies ("ICT") and cooperates with high schools, secondary schools and non-profit organizations dealing with these technologies.

The Cluster member companies provide their customers with a wide range of services from information technology: design and delivery of infrastructure for communication and information technologies as well as from industrial automation, provision of connectivity, implementation of large information systems, creation of websites, geographic information systems, custom software development, business intelligence, and training and consultancy in the field of ICT.

Through the corporation the cluster strives to ensure increased competitiveness and innovation to its members. To reach this goal, the cluster together with the cluster member companies and other partners realize joint projects. The HIT cluster has created two centres of applied research and experimental development – the ICT centre for research and technology and the Centre for development of ICT by businesses. Among other activities of the cluster and its members are joint projects in the preparation and recruitment in ICT and marketing. The HIT cluster is actively involved in professional training in ICT, both in the area of the preparation of school curricula, as well as in the preparation of lifelong learning for professionals. The Hradecký IT cluster plans to prevent the outflow of brains from the region and to promote the expansion of job opportunities in member firms using its active labour market policy. At present, the cluster works on the creation of a system of active marketing in the field of human resources in order to increase the interest of the young to study information technologies and other related fields.



Contact:

Bořek Málek
Executive Manager
Hradecký IT klastr
nám. Svobody 331
500 02 Hradec Králové
Czech Republic
Cell phone: +420 602 124 242
E-mail: borek.malek@hitklastr.cz
www.hitklastr.cz

Plastikářský klastr



The plastics cluster was established in February 2006. The Cluster runs a communication forum for the cluster members from the field of plastics. It has also set up an effective network of plastic product manufacturers to take advantage of selected services and products as a necessary prerequisite for the increase of performance and competitiveness of the cluster members.

Moreover, the Cluster has carried out variety of educational activities for those interested to work in the plastics industry (e.g. the accreditation of the bachelor programme "Technology of Polymers"), common purchase, benchmarking of the productivity of the Cluster's members, R&D activities as well as internationalization.



Contact:

David Hausner
Project Manager
Plastikářský klastr
Vavrečkova 5262
760 01, Zlín
Czech Republic
Cell phone: +420 774 505 344
E-mail: slobodianova@plastr.cz
www.plastr.cz

The Cluster OMNIPACK



The Cluster OMNIPACK was established in 2005 and has currently 55 members. It is an association of small and medium entrepreneurs who belong to the packaging industry and other related branches of business. The Cluster cooperates with five universities and R&D companies. The mission of the cluster is to encourage competitiveness, innovativeness, and the development of packaging industry in the Czech Republic. Main priorities of the cluster are the promotion of the Hradec Králové, Pardubice and Vysočina regions as a leading Czech centre for packaging excellence as well as the OMNIPACK as a leading brand offering comprehensive packaging and logistics services. Moreover, it supports innovation in the packaging industry through stronger linkages between research organizations and the industry. The Cluster also increases international competitiveness of its members together with the development of social and business activities that strengthen connections between the cluster members.

To fulfil the main goals, the OMNIPACK provides tailored infrastructure like common testing and development centre with special technologies for the development of new packaging and for the design of fixation as well as the equipment which measures mechanical strain acting to the packaging and the product inside of the packaging. Finally, the Cluster supports transfer of innovation into successful practice.



Contact:

Petra Šišková
Executive Manager
The Cluster OMNIPACK
Husova 114
551 01 Jaroměř, Czech Republic
Cell phone: +420 603 770 762
E-mail: petra.siskova@klastromnipack.cz
www.klastromnipack.cz



HUNGARY

AIPA Regional Industry Development Cluster



The AIPA Regional Industry Development Cluster (AIPA Ltd.) is a not for profit, public benefit company. It was founded by the city of Kecskemét, the Kecskemét College, the Venture Development Foundation (Bács-Kiskun County), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bács-Kiskun County), and the National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers.

Thanks to the Daimler investment in the region, formerly dominated by agriculture, the Mercedes factory was established here. Thus the main aim of the cluster is to help to maintain and develop the automotive industry which will make the region more attractive to further potential investors (automotive industry, R&D). The extensive development of the automotive industry and its members serves two causes. On one hand, it opens the door for Hungarian-owned SMEs to be part of supplier chains of the Daimler's. On the other hand, it enhances the embedding of the factory by providing high added value services. As a result of this intense regional politics, the developing Hungarian-owned companies get a wide range of business opportunities which will create more and more workplaces.

That is why the cluster strives to create such a social and economic environment which will minimize the chances of relocating the Daimler-Benz factory only due to a cost-cutting reason. The Cluster is also active in the creation of a strategic plan for the automotive industry suppliers in the region.



Contact:

Tibor Sárkány
Cluster manager
AIPA Regional Industry Development Cluster
Kecskemét Homokszem u. 3.
ZIP/Postal Code 6000
Hungary
Cell phone: +3676514771
E-mail: sarkany.tibor@aipa.hu
www.aipa.hu

Vértes-Duna Automotive Cluster



The VDJ Cluster has been founded in May 2011 by 16 automotive companies, R&D institutions and intermediary organizations. Its core goal is to strengthen the spatial cooperation of the automotive industry, to grow their market potential, and to strengthen its members' national and international relations as well as to implement joint investments.

The Cluster is open for all potential cooperating bodies that can contribute to the achievement of goals of a common interest.



Contact:
Szépvölgyi Ákos
Executive Manager
Vértes-Duna Járőmőipari Klaszter
Székesfehérvár, Seregélyesi út 113
H-8000
Hungary
Cell phone: +3622514111
E-mail: szepvol@kdriu.hu
www.vdj-klaszter.hu

South West Hungarian Engineering Cluster

The South West Hungarian Engineering Cluster was founded in March 2011 with the aim to cooperate, enhance innovative activity, develop training courses, establish professional relations with other branches and clusters, as well as to gain funds.

At present, the cluster consists of 18 members from the South-West Hungarian region. Owing to the financial help of the European Regional Development Fund, a 2-year long project began at the beginning of 2012 in order to support the cluster's operation and to develop innovative services. The management agency of the cluster is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Pécs-Baranya.



Contact:
Melinda Szűcs
Cluster Manager
South West Hungarian Engineering Cluster
Majorossy I. u. 36., Pécs, Hungary
ZIP/Postal Code: 7625
State: Baranya
Cell phone: +36 72 507 149
E-mail: mszucs@pbkik.hu
www.ddgk.hu

3P Cluster for the Plastics, Packaging, Printing Industry



3P Cluster for the Plastics, Packaging, Printing Industry was formed in 2007. The cluster consists of 24 companies, 3 higher education institutions with 1300 employees altogether. The most important objective of the 3P Cluster is to establish co-operation between the members utilizing the principle „partnership in competition” in order to achieve successful market operation. This is served by disclosing suppliers’, sub-contractors’, technological, and selling opportunities for the members, and their possible joint utilization. Furthermore, improving business environment, generating innovation programmes, assisting technology and product improvement, and strengthening all those services which improve enterprise culture, and facilitate competitiveness of the members.

Interdisciplinary task undertaking has an outstanding role between the three branches of the cluster – plastic industry, packaging technology, printing industry. A common development objective is the harmonization of technological and production overlapping, and joint product development between the three fields. The cluster draws special attention to research-development, innovation, using environment-friendly materials, elaborating and producing material and energy-saving technologies and products.

The labour organization of the cluster is AIPA GmbH., which carries out the operative task necessary for the continuous operation of the cluster.

Contact:

Ádám Balog
Kecskemét, Homokszem Str. 3-5
ZIP/Postal Code:6000
Hungary
Cell phone: +36/76/514-772
E-mail: adam.balog@kunplast.hu
www.3pklaszter.hu

**ITALY**

MESAP- MEchatronics and Systems for Advanced Production



The MESAP is one of 12 innovation clusters sponsored by Regione Piemonte under the Regional Programme ERDF 2007-2013. The number of participants is about 170 subjects, comprehending SMEs, large companies and research centres. The MESAP is involved in Mechatronics and Systems for Advanced Production such as manufacturing processes and tools for industrial production, integrating traditional mechanics with electronics and ICT.

Due to integration of a large number of different and complementary subjects, MESAP's goals are knowledge development and transfer from research centers to companies, transfer and spread of sectorial competences into new application fields as well as strengthening and enlarging manufacturing local supply chains to allow the MESAP members to reinforce their presence inside international markets, in fields of future strategic manufacturing.

**Contact:**

Dario Scapaticci
Technical Project Manager
MESAP
Via Fanti 17
10128 Torino
Italy
Phone: +39 011 5718216
E-mail: mesap@ui.torino.it
www.mesapiemonte.it

ICT Innovation Pole



The ICT Innovation Pole was created in 2009 by the Piedmont Regional Government as a group of independent companies and research organizations focusing on information & communication technologies (ICT).

Today, the ICT Pole is a network of excellence coordinated by the Torino Wireless Foundation as a managing authority. It counts 150 members: 140 companies and 10 authorities and research centres.

The ICT Pole is an opportunity available to companies to develop the best synergies useful for their growth. In particular, the ICT Pole assists companies in the development of abilities to project and skills, encourages the emergence of new industrial partnerships, offers opportunities to meet in light of partnerships, provides marketing and promotion services, promotes the network in Italy as well as abroad, and works in the European context to seize the best opportunities available in the Community.

Financing R&D Projects development is one of the main activities of the ICT Pole, which involves all its members in bringing together new ideas, technologies and skills, enabling the best synergies and mainly investment in human capital. Funds are provided by the Piedmont Government in force on POR FESR 2007-2013, a multi-year programme financing projects of research and innovation (process and product), feasibility studies and services. Two annual plans of activities presented

so far by the ICT Pole include 40 R&D projects that generate a value on the territory equal to 17.6 million €, placing the ICT Pole to the top of the regional Poles in terms of its capacity to attract resources.



Contact:

Gianmarco Piola
Head of ICT Innovation Pole
Via Morosini 19
10128 Torino
Italy
Phone: +39 335 1988694 / +39 011 19501480
E-mail: gianmarco.piola@torinowireless.it
www.poloinnovazioneict.org



POLAND

AVIATION VALLEY



The Aviation Valley is located in the southeastern Poland, famous for its aerospace industry (70 years of history in the aircraft industry) and pilot training centers. This region has a heavy concentration of aerospace industry (90% of Polish aerospace industry output), scientific research centers, investor friendly environment as well as educational and training facilities (University of Technology with a strong Aerospace Engineering Faculty). The exceptional highlights that the Aviation Valley offers are as follows: cost effective work force and production costs, over 23,000 experienced and dedicated employees, and centrally located international airport. These are only some of the many benefits which speak clearly on behalf of Aviation Valley. The Aviation Valley Association was started on April 11, 2003, as a non-profit organization, as a means to furthering the rapid development and growth of the aerospace industry in the southeastern Poland. This historic decision was conceived by a group of leading aeronautic producers, suppliers, and businessmen. The Aviation Valley Association currently represents over 90 companies within the region, with several others in the process of applying for membership.



Contact:

Jolanta Skrzybowska
Assistant Manager
Aviation Valley Association
Ul. Szopena 51
35-959 Rzeszów
Podkarpackie Voivodeship
Poland
Phone: +48 17 850 19 35
E-mail: jolanta.skrzybowska@dolinalotnicza.pl
www.dolinalotnicza.pl

Eastern Poland IT Companies Cluster

KLASTERit

The Eastern Poland IT Companies Cluster associates persons and entities which contribute to the development of the Polish IT sector. The main task of the cluster is the consolidate companies from the sector and support their co-operation. The cluster also supports the implementation of joint investment enterprises, business cooperation, exchange of experiences, and conducts IT and promotion campaigns. The goals of the cluster include the increase of competitiveness of companies and improvement of the co-operation with Institutes of higher education and administration. A close cooperation with IT companies within the Eastern IT Cluster makes it possible to optimally use the potential of the cluster members.



Contact:

Materna Wojciech
Chair of klasterit.pl
Klasterit.pl
Rejtana 1/8
35-327 Rzeszów
Poland
Phone: +48 602 62 08 41
E-mail: prezes@informatykapodkarpacka.pl
www.klasterit.pl

Poligen

KPTS Poligen

The plastics processing cluster POLIGEN was created as an initiative of three organizations operating in the Podkarpacie region i.e. Rzeszów University of Technology, MARMA Polskie Folie Sp.z o.o. company, and business support institutions – companies such as INNpuls Sp. Z o.o. The aim of the cluster is to create an effective innovation system supporting the cooperation of its partners in increasing competitiveness, implementing product, organization and process innovation, development of balanced technologies and development of human capital. The POLIGEN supports close cooperation of the industry with the research sector, through the implementation of joint projects and initiating individual cooperation. Cluster competencies: representing entities from the plastics processing sector and from the Southeastern region, creating an effective innovation system, supporting cooperation of three key sectors – industry, science, and business environment.

Contact:

Paweł Wacnik
Chairman
Poligen
ul. Hetmańska 40a
35-045 Rzeszów
Podkarpackie Voivodeship
Poland
Phone: +48 609 503 450
E-mail: pwacnik@innpuls.pl
<http://www.poligen.pl>



Subcarpathian Renewable Energy Cluster



The beginnings of the Subcarpathian Renewable Energy Cluster go back to the Regional Innovation Strategy of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship which initiated the establishment of Subcarpathian Renewable Energy Cluster (PKEO). PKEO's actions aim to create a representation of interests of entrepreneurs, investors, R&D units as well as other entities working for the development of environmentally friendly power industry based on renewable energy sources. Cluster competencies: creating networks of cooperation between the representatives of Rzeszów universities, business support institutions, administration, entrepreneurs from renewable energy sector, stimulating the development of new technologies together with analytical and scientific base, of innovative products and solutions, supporting actions related to sustainable use of renewable energy sources taking advantage of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship potential, creating joint products employing innovative solutions developed with the participation of R&D units of partner universities.



Contact:

Magdalena Gajewska-Wójcik
Association Secretary
Subcarpathian Renewable Energy Cluster
ul. Pigońia 8
35-959 Rzeszów
Poland
Podkarpackie Voivodeship
Phone: [+48 17 7173300](tel:+48177173300), [+48 533234322](tel:+48533234322)
E-mail: biuro@klasteroze.org
www.klasteroze.org



SLOVENIA

TCS – Toolmakers Cluster of Slovenia



The TCS is one of the leading Slovene clusters oriented on the development and application of modern production technologies. 17 companies, mainly SMEs, are the members of the TCS operating in tool and die industries, metal processing, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering sectors. Another 28 institutions also joined the cluster – faculties, training and R&D institutions as well as IT and management consulting companies. Target markets of the TCS are the EU automotive, aerospace, and IT industry. The TCS is organized as a network of virtual dynamic organizations with C-TCS Institute as a centre. It is a part of numerous Slovene and international R&D networks. The TCS is a member of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform and the National Centre of Clusters and Technology Networks of Slovenia (NCCTN). Moreover, the cluster is a partner of a technological platform Manufacture.si, which is associated with the EU technological platform Manufacture. Another partner of the TCS is the LENS Living Lab which is a human and knowledge-centric global virtual organization.

The main tasks of TCS comprise of the presentation and support of the development of regional SMEs operating in manufacturing (mainly producers of advanced machines and of the equipment for EU automotive industry); the search and support of collaborative research project initiatives on the EU, regional, and national levels; the coordination of the LENS Living Lab manufacturing domain; the coordination of approved joint research and development projects, as well as conducting of surveys and analysis together with the provision of outsourced experts from the TCS. Except of these the TCS also organizes networking in line with the needs of different collaborative projects, supports other industrial RTD projects and programmes as well as promotes and supports international collaboration.

The TCS and its members have successfully participated in EU and other international projects within the EU programmes – the 6th Framework Programme, 7th Programme, CORNET, ERA-NET, EUREKA, ERASME, EUROSTARS etc. Within these projects, the TCS has performed R&D and dissemination activities in Slovenia, participating EU countries, and EU candidate countries in the Western Balkan.



Contact:

Brane Semolič, PhD
President of the Experts Council
TCS-Toolmakers Cluster of Slovenia
Kidričeva ulica 25
ZIP/Postal Code: 3000
Slovenia
Phone: +386 40 821 280
E-mail: brane.semoli@siol.net
www.toolscluster.net

GIZ Grozd Plasttehnika



The Slovenian plasttechnics cluster (GIZ Grozd Plasttehnika) was established in 2002 and has around 150 members. The Slovenian Plasttechnics cluster as an R&D institution founded the Technology center POLI-EKO to run innovative research and development and to enable practical education for students on the Polymer Technology College. In the cluster, the most important companies and accompanying institutions from the plastics industry are united. At present, the cluster is becoming an important European part of the global offer of high-demanding products/services of plasttechnics and integral solutions (idea, development, production) for the most demanding purchasers. The cluster companies master the most up-to-date technologies from the field of plastics remodelling, tool making, and construction, CAE, laser and tool technologies. They also develop plastic products and offer different services. The Slovenian plastic cluster supports training and partnership in the product design, tool making, and production. The purpose of the cooperation within the cluster is to increase competition through a common developmental and marketing activities and exchange of knowledge and information. So far, the GIZ has already organises 10-15 trainings and workshops yearly. Moreover, the Slovenian Plasttechnics Cluster has been involved in 16 European projects in the last 7 years (directly or as a subcontractor).



Contact:

Janez Navodnik

Director

GIZ Grozd Plasttehnika

Kidričeva 25

SI-3000 Celje

Slovenia

Phone: 00386 3 425 84 00

E-mail: Navodnik@giz-grozd-plasttehnika.si

www.giz-grozd-plasttehnika.si