ADRIATIC – DANUBIAN TRANSNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR MECHATRONICS

We, the partner organizations of the project "Adriatic Danubian Clustering - ADC" (www.adcproject.eu), financed by the European Operational Programme South Eastern Europe 2007-2013 (hereinafter OP SEE) together with the undersigned stakeholders:

Well aware of the importance of clusters as geographic agglomerations (at local, regional or national level) of companies, suppliers, service providers and associated institutions in a particular field, linked by externalities and complementarities of various types;

Having regard to the general objective of ADC project aiming to create efficient transnational networks among the productive clusters of economic sectors of strategic importance for our Countries, Mechatronics being one of them;

Having regard to the Final Recommendations (September 2010) of the European Cluster Policy Group – (hereinafter ECPG) stressing the need to combine macro-economic policy response with a structural upgrading of competitiveness in line with the ambitions of the Europe 2020 strategy and the growing importance of clusters in the new global environment in which this strategy has to succeed;

Having particular regard to the call of ECPG for the commitment of European policymakers to the active support of the clusters potential to modernise and improve economic policies, starting from the key note of the international cooperation among clusters for the sake of developing emerging industries / services, of raising excellence of cluster organisations and of better matching public instruments and clusters governance (for instance by programming of Rural and Regional Development Funds);

Whereas the ADC project aims:

1. to achieve a transnational competitive cooperation between enterprises in order to overcome the lacking mutual knowledge of the possibilities of entrepreneurial cooperation, as far as access to innovation, human capital development, supply chain exchange, phase specialization and joint initiatives on global market are concerned;

2. to make more of manufacturing skills of SEE region and of place based implementation of multi-level governance for the capacity building of the attractiveness of Adriatic – Danube area as an integrated productive system with high competitiveness for international investors;
3. to foster the evolution of the ADC Sectoral Working Group on Mechatronics, based on local focus groups in the partners’ realms that are building new transnational connections among stakeholders and companies of existing and emerging clusters and/or company networks;

4. to establish a sustainable, transnational partnership shaping the new Adriatic Danube Mechatronics Cluster rallying manufacturing and service companies in the sub-sectors of robotics, agriculture machinery, automotive and amusement park.

5. all the statements above considered as integral part of the agreement thereof;

Agree on

**Art.1 – Mission of the Mechatronics transnational cluster network**

The establishment of the Adriatic Danube Mechatronics Cluster Network aims to fulfil the expectations and to match the interests for growth of Mechatronics clusters and company networks, their stakeholders and the companies therein by providing facilities to

- the establishment of new trading connections across the South Eastern European Countries;
- the visibility of the SEE clusters and emerging clusters landscape for sharing good practices in particular in the fields of improving quality standards and of enhancing sustainable production techniques;
- the accessibility and use of Knowledge Based Services (KBS);
- the promotion of SEE technology transfer systems for better sharing innovation sources & RTD results in the Mechatronics;
- the easing of import & export ties of standardized products between Internal Market, Accession Countries and Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) member in particular;
- the cross-sectoral match-making between potential partners of different specialisations, also for their cooperation in the global market;
- the joint participation in projects financed/co-financed by the EU and by other donors.
Art.2 – Principles of the transnational cooperation

By implementing its mission the Adriatic Danube Mechatronics Cluster is driven by three assumptions on the identity and justification of the transnational cooperation in the Mechatronics sector as follows:

- to improve know-how in the Mechatronics sector;
- to contribute to the integration of the supply chain;
- to encourage public in investment through public-private partnership.

Moreover Adriatic Danube Mechatronics (hereinafter ADM) promotes direct initiatives for education and awareness of the final consumers.

Art.3 - Specific objectives

For the fostering of SEE clustering of companies at transnational level the Adriatic Danube Mechatronics Cluster (ADM) cares in particular for:

- the transfer of know-how and the exchange of best practices;
- the provision of technical education & life-long learning on Mechatronics knowledge and quality for the standing development of the human capital in the sector also through facilities for staff exchange;
- to promote and develop the Intellectual Propriety Right (IPR) among the clusters and companies, safeguarding the inventors;
- to support the Centre of Innovation technology in order to strengthen the Mechatronics supply chain and also to enable greater contact between Centres of excellence in the SEE area;
- to enhance the role of the technical schools, contributing to greater technical knowledge development;
- the awareness of the importance of a standing innovation process and the functioning of proactive technology transfer systems;
- to foster a process of mutual trust among companies of the sector in order to strengthen the connections in the SEE area;
- the awareness of public decision makers towards green housing support policy based on common outlining of investment plans / public private partnership;
Art.4 – Management

The measures provided for in this Agreement are subject to a peer commitment for implementation by the signing ADC project partners and the signing stakeholders (cluster representatives, RTD – University - Innovation Centres, Chambers and other development actors, including financial institutions, Regional and Local Public Authorities) and companies willing to become owners of the process of Adriatic Danube Mechatronics Cluster Network.

The priority task of this partnership is to set up an effective and sustainable unit for the functioning of the network shaping the transnational dimension of ADM also after the project completion.

By doing this the partnership will care the sub-sectoral articulation of its activity for the productive specialities of robotics, agriculture machinery, automotive and amusement park. Moreover ADM management will implement an open door attitude for the possibility of joining by new members, emerging cluster leaders in particular, and for the extension of its coverage of Mechatronics industry related activities.

Networking with other international networks of relevance for ADM development and effectiveness is also welcome.

Bologna, 26th October 2011

Signature of Partners

Michele Pelloso
Director of the Industry and Crafts Department
Region of Veneto, Italy

Signature of Stakeholders and Companies

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Vicenza, Italy
Giorgio Costacurta  
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Bulgaria Economic Forum  
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Cluster Mechatronics and Automation

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Representative of  
Association of Business Cluster

Jointly for our common future!
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VISIOTECH Hungary Ltd.

Szőllősi Tamás
Director of
Körax Ltd (Robotics, food processing, special purpose machinery)

Juhász László
Director of
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Jointly for our common future!
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Errata:

Mr. Adrian Stoian is the Cluster Manager
of the ETREC Cluster from Romania

Mr. Silvano Bertini
Head of Economic Development Unit
Emilia Romagna Region

Regione Emilia-Romagna
DIREZIONE GENERALE ATTIVITA’
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SERV. POLITICHE DI SVILUPPO ECONOMICO, RICERCA INDUSTRIALE E INNOVAZIONE TECNOLOGICA
Il Responsabile
SILVANO BERTINI

To:

ADC Partnership

As Lead Partner of the project ADC, the Region of Veneto – Industry and Crafts Department – hereby declares the signing of the Partnership Agreement “Adriatic-Danubian Transnational Agreement for Mechatronics”. Nonetheless, the tasks of the Industry and Crafts Department are subject to the instructions given and measures taken by the Regional Government of the Region of Veneto. Therefore, the participation of this Regional Department in this Agreement will be carried out according to the directives that might be issued by the Regional Government.

Mr. Michele Peloso
Director of the Industry and Crafts Department

Direzione Industria e Artigianato