

ASA Study Visit Timisoara, Romania

Participating organisations:

Facilitator	InterTradeCard (ITC) on behalf of Automotive Skills Alliance (ASA)	Contributing Project Partners	Politehnica University Timisoara, Continental Automotive Timisoara, APTE, Transilvania IT Cluster
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Geographical scope:

Regional, Romanian, European

Target group(s)

Technicians, students and the business community from partners' networks/public.

Summary/short description:

The focus of the **ASA Study Visit in Timisoara (West Region of Romania)** is on European initiatives for workforce development in the automotive and clean tech sectors, to explore upskilling and innovation in the automotive and mobility sector. The Commission fully recognises, through the [“Union of Skills”](#), the primary role of **Member States** in this matter, but some actions also call for the involvement of **regions**. It also calls to action and urges the European Parliament, European Council, the Council and social partners to endorse the Union of Skills and actively contribute to its initiatives, enumerating [7 actions](#) to be key deliverables that require action at EU, national, regional and local levels. This study visit is organized in the frame of FLAMENCO and its defined structure in the Automotive Skills Alliance as a long-term re-curring task force, previously organizing study visits to Grand Est: [Regional Skills Experts Discuss the Future of Automotive Skills in Grand Est : AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS ALLIANCE](#) and to Stuttgart Region: [Stuttgart Study Visit – an opportunity for rich discussions within the European Year of Skills : AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS ALLIANCE](#).

Objectives:

- Promoting workforce up/reskilling in the automotive sector through collaboration between academia, industry, and European initiatives.
- Presenting current European projects and training initiatives (like AMEA, TRIREME, PIECE, and InnoEnergy) that address skills gaps in the automotive and clean tech industries.
- Sharing best practices from major players such as Continental Automotive and Hella on education, training, and innovation.
- Encouraging dialogue and debate on future workforce needs and how to prepare talent for a rapidly evolving industry.
- Facilitating networking and partnerships among ASA members and regional stakeholders.

Methodology:

The event (Study visit) connects stakeholders to address skills gaps and promote competitiveness in automotive mobility. Day 1 includes a forum on European training initiatives like TRIREME and PIECE, while Day 2 features site visits to Continental Automotive Timisoara, including a tour and meetings with the Continental Automotive Engineering Academy and Hella Timisoara Plant.

Here are the key takeaways:

- **Workforce Development Priority:** Upskilling/reskilling is critical for addressing labour gaps in the evolving automotive sector, particularly in green and digital technologies.
- **Industry-Academia Collaboration:** Partnerships between companies (e.g., Continental, Hella) and institutions (e.g., Politehnica University) are essential for aligning training with industry needs.
- **European Initiatives:** Projects like TRIREME (training programs), PIECE (battery-industry digital tools), and InnoEnergy (clean-tech skills) highlight EU-wide efforts to future-proof the workforce.
- **Practical Exposure:** Site visits to automotive plants demonstrate real-world applications of training programs and innovation in action.
- **Networking Hub:** The event connects stakeholders (industry leaders, educators, students, business community) to share best practices and drive sector-wide competitiveness.

As a conclusion, collaborative training, guided by EU projects and hands-on learning, is key to preparing the automotive workforce for future challenges. And, ASA is taking its role for that, as a large partnership under the Pact for Skills.

Activities:

Main Objectives of the event:

- Explore workforce upskilling and reskilling in the automotive sector.
- Foster collaboration between industry and academia.
- Present and discuss European training initiatives and projects.

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Day 1: Mobility Automotive Forum (12 May), venue: Politehnica University Timisoara

Key Sessions:

- Opening with top leaders from ASA, the university and industry.
- Workshop on addressing skills and labour gaps, featuring:
 - ASA priorities and new training academies
 - European projects (TRIREME, PIECE, InnoEnergy Skills Institute)
 - Continental Automotive's training programs

Day 2: Study Visits (13 May), site visits at Continental Automotive Timisoara (including Engineering Academy) and Hella Timisoara Plant. Opportunity for direct exchange with company representatives and insight into real-world training environments.

Challenges and risks:

The biggest challenge is the very short time to organise the event and consequently inform potential participants.

Results:

- Connects key stakeholders in automotive skills development.
- Showcases best practices and innovative training solutions.
- Provides hands-on exposure to leading automotive companies in Romania.
- The event brings together 17 representatives of different European and Romanian organisations (ASA members), at the date of writing this document and is expected to have more than 40 representatives of the Romanian business community in Timisoara.
- This event is a unique networking opportunity, learning about cutting-edge workforce training, and seeing successful industry-academia partnerships in action.

Financial support:

No direct support, but part of the Flamenco activities.

Replication and Sustainability:

The event is attractive, especially because participants could interact with specialists of autonomous cars, visit 2 (two) important 1st-tier automotive plants.

The event could be replicated locally by the stakeholders (businesses, regional agencies, university) to initiate/relaunch an automotive cluster, as one of the objectives of the event is to put together, at the same table, ASA members and local stakeholders for future projects, by facilitating networking and partnerships.

ASA- Automotive Skills Alliance

In setting up the event, ASA (through ITC) was the facilitator between all the stakeholders and supporting partners (Politehnica University of Timisoara and Continental Automotive Timisoara) and also the contact with the participants.

Further Reading and Acknowledgements:

Without the main contribution of the Politehnica University Timisoara and Continental Automotive Timisoara, the event wouldn't have been possible.

The registration link and the Agenda of the event were available on the link: <https://automotive-skills-alliance.eu/event-registration-02/>