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## In the second phase, the implementation of international ECOS4IN project continued as planned

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Implementation of ECOS4IN international project (Cross-border Ecosystem for Industry 4.0) with 7 partners started in April 2019 and will be completed in March 2022.

In the 2nd phase, we had to focus on preparation of ecosystem model. We had to start with definition of knowledge ecosystem as an approach to knowledge management which claims to foster the dynamic evolution of knowledge interactions between entities to improve decision-making and innovation through improved evolutionary networks of collaboration.

We have applied this approach to specific situation of Industry 4.0 ecosystem and our model is divided into six main parts:

- 1. Shared infrastructures** divided according the technological areas (IoT, cybersecurity, robotics, etc.), involving research, testing, educational and also promotional centres. Specific role play the sections focused on separated branches digitisation (digitisation as KET, key enabling technology).
- 2. Connecting activities, conferences, seminars,** etc., their task is to connect the critical mass of people, working in the area with the potential users and with other stakeholders (in quadruple helix framework).
- 3. Intermediators** – organisations enabling the introduction and networking, innovation agencies and especially Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) specified by the European Commission.
- 4. Knowledge agents** (knowledge providers), i.e. Universities, research centres, schools and companies with good skilled staff and experts. The task of intermediators is to establish the expert database of separated branches and functions (design, introduction, training, etc.)
- 5. Financial tools** cover the needs of companies for new solutions development (equity financing, R and D grants), and the area of introducing the digitisation in companies (digitisation vouchers, soft loans).
- 6. Labour market tools** – introduction if Industry 4.0 will have the basic impact on labour force. The increase of demand on specialised positions is expected, these will be shared by several companies, also the need of soft knowledge development (communication, meetings) and also the necessity of retraining of work force providing the routine operations till now for new working areas.

This model will be discussed by project expert group in next project period.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> international Partner Meeting in Krakow

From 3<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December ECOS4IN 2<sup>nd</sup> international meeting was held in Krakow organized by MARR, the Polish Partner with the participation of all project partners. In the meeting, the Lead Partner (LP) summarized all the activities implemented so far and Partners discussed the forthcoming activities. University of Venice Partner provided a detailed presentation summarising the main statistical data and comparison between Partners regions in various, industry 4.0 related indicators.

The fruitful meeting finished with conclusions, remarks and discussion.



## News and events

### ECOS4IN project at Austrian I4 Summit

ECOS4IN project was introduced to stakeholders from the Austrian I4.0 Community at the Austrian I4.0 Summit. Participants had the chance to learn about the project by visiting the ECOS4IN table. Learnings were shared with the Interreg CE project 4steps, whose main objective is to support the successful implementation of smart specialization strategies and to apply Industry 4.0 to all the industrial sectors.



### ECOS4IN Project at the Forum Maschinenbau

The 150 participants of the Mechanical Engineering Forum at the STIWA Group in Attnang-Puchheim, Austria, at the end of January were fascinated by top-class lectures. The focus was on the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robot Technology and its effects on automation. Part of the event also was a showroom, where participants could inform themselves about the ECOS4IN project and its aims for example.

### Project Meeting and Study Visits, Linz, March 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - postponed

Business Upper Austria prepared a very interesting partner meeting and study tour in Linz by mid-March, to which industry 4.0 experts from the partner regions were invited. Unfortunately, due to the corona virus outbreak in Europe, the event had to be postponed to the end of May.

For more information follow us.  
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The project is funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Program ([www.interreg-central.eu](http://www.interreg-central.eu)) and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.