



## *D1.8 – ESG membership*

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### **Abstract**

The ECARE deliverable D1.8 – ESG Membership provides an updated account of the ECARE Stakeholder Group, an essential component of the ECARE project funded by Clean Aviation. This document details the evolution of the ESG, including its expanded membership to 44 organizations across 18 countries, activities undertaken in 2023–2024, and plans for post-project continuity. The deliverable highlights key events, such as regular meetings, webinars, and participation in major aerospace forums, as well as the development and testing of the ECARE Digital Platform. It also outlines strategies to maintain collaboration and leverage project outcomes, like the working group synergies of the EACP. This working group was established to continue the collaboration with ESG members, for example in the form of facilitate access to RDI funding for cluster members.

### **Keywords**

ECARE Stakeholder Group, Synergies, Working Group, EACP, Clusters, R&D Funding



## Information Table

<b>Contract Number</b>	101101970
<b>Project Acronym</b>	ECARE
<b>Project Title</b>	European Clean Aviation Regional Ecosystems
<b>Call</b>	HORIZON-JU-Clean-Aviation-2022-01
<b>Topic</b>	HORIZON-JU-CLEAN-AVIATION-2022-01-CSA-01
<b>Type of Action</b>	HORIZON-JU-CSA
<b>Service</b>	CAJU
<b>Start date of project</b>	First day of the month following the entry into force date
<b>Duration</b>	24 months
<b>Project Coordinator</b>	AV
<b>Deliverable Number</b>	D1.2
<b>Deliverable Title</b>	ESG membership
<b>Version</b>	#1
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Responsible Partner (organization)</b>	Hamburg Aviation
<b>Deliverable Type</b>	Document
<b>Contractual Date of Delivery</b>	31.12.2024
<b>Actual Date of Delivery</b>	20.12.2024
<b>Dissemination Level</b>	PU

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The project is supported by the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking and its members.

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## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1 MEMBERS OF THE ECARE STAKEHOLDER GROUP</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1 PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS	12
<b>2 ACTIVITIES OF THE ECARE STAKEHOLDER GROUP</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1 ACTIVITIES IN 2023	19
2.2 ACTIVITIES IN 2024	20
<b>3 CONTINUITY OF ECARE STAKEHOLDER GROUP</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>APPENDIX A - ESG INFO POSTER</b>	<b>25</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1: List of ECARE Stakeholder Group members .....	10
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## List of Figures

Figure 1: Map with location of ECARE Stakeholder Group and consortium members .....	8
Figure 2: List of ESG members with logos.....	9
Figure 3: ESG working group on the EDP.....	23

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>EACP</b>	European Aerospace Cluster Partnership
<b>EDP</b>	ECARE Digital Platform
<b>ESG</b>	ECARE Stakeholder Group
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MoS</b>	Memorandum of Synergies
<b>RIS3</b>	Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation
<b>SME</b>	Small- and medium-sized enterprises

Additionally, see the acronyms of ESG members in the detailed members list on page 12-18.

## Introduction

**The ECARE project, funded by Clean Aviation (CA), has the primary objective of clarifying the landscape of the regional and national innovation roadmaps and the funding opportunities for aeronautical stakeholders in order to create synergies between the parties.** The aim is to enable the European aeronautical industry to achieve the ambitious targets of the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking (CAJU) programme while maximising public funding impact and efficiency. As a response to these requirements, the ECARE project will develop and disseminate the methodologies to create synergy mechanisms which are applicable to all EU aeronautical regions. These methodologies are initially designed and tested on a pilot scale, involving four major regions of the European aeronautical industry, namely Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine in France, Campania in Italy and Hamburg in Germany.

**The ECARE Stakeholder Group (ESG) was created to support the development of the ECARE project.** Hamburg Aviation led the management and expansion of the ESG, a responsibility outlined in Task 1.2 of Work Package 1. As the operator of the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP), Hamburg Aviation continues to promote the project and possible involvement of the ESG within the EACP community.

**The objectives of the ECARE Stakeholder Group** were to contribute to ECARE developments through major consultations and to ensure a potential replicability of ECARE results to other European aeronautics regions and countries. To achieve this goal, the consortium focussed on involving stakeholders representing different countries and regions within Europe.

**The ECARE deliverable D1.8 is “ESG membership” within work package 1** is an updated version of the deliverable D1.2 “Interim ESG membership” which was published in December 2023. The updated version includes the description of additional members, activities in 2024 and information about the continuity of the ESG.

## 1 Members of the ECARE Stakeholder Group

By the end of 2024, the ECARE Stakeholder Group has 44 members from 18 countries. All members will be presented in this chapter. The ESG is composed by three types of members: European aerospace clusters, national/regional funding bodies, and other aeronautical key stakeholders, such as national aeronautical research centres and aeronautics business support networks. Figure 1 visualizes the location of all ESG members with the green dots representing ECARE consortium members. Figure 2 visualizes all the ESG members and their logos.



Figure 1: Map with location of ECARE Stakeholder Group and consortium members





Figure 2: List of ESG members with logos

Table 1 lists all ECARE Stakeholder Group members with the organization name, their country and the type of organization.

*Table 1: List of ECARE Stakeholder Group members*

N°	Name	Country	Type of organization
1	AGORIA FLAG- Flemish Aerospace Group	Belgium	Cluster
2	Skywin	Belgium	Cluster
3	Czech Aerospace Cluster	Czech Republic	Cluster
4	Estonian Aviation Cluster	Estonia	Cluster
5	ASTech Paris	France	Cluster
6	Enterprise Europe Network - CCI Occitanie / SWEEN-France	France	Network
7	Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region	France	Funder
8	GIFAS	France	Network
9	SAFE Cluster	France	Cluster
10	DLR Institute of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul	Germany	Research Institution
11	DLR Projektträger Luftfahrtforschung (PT-LF)	Germany	Funder
12	Enterprise Europe Network - Tutech Innovation	Germany	Network
13	German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action	Germany	Funder
14	Ministry for Economy and Innovation, Hamburg	Germany	Funder
15	Niedersachsen Aviation	Germany	Cluster
16	Campania Region	Italy	Funder
17	Enterprise Europe Network - Unioncamere Campania	Italy	Network
18	Italian Ministry of Universities and Research	Italy	Funder
19	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)	Italy	Research agency
20	Netherlands Aerospace Group (NAG)	Netherlands	Cluster
21	AED Cluster Portugal	Portugal	Cluster
22	Castilla y León, General Director of Industry in the government	Spain	Funder
23	HEGAN - Basque Aerospace Cluster	Spain	Cluster
24	Plataforma Tecnológica Aeroespacial Española (PAE)	Spain	Network
25	ACA - Aerospace Cluster Association	Turkey	Cluster
26	Andalucia Aerospace	Spain	Cluster

27	Midlands Aerospace Alliance	United Kingdom	Cluster
28	CDTI - Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial	Spain	Funder
29	Piemonte Aerospace Cluster	Italy	Cluster
30	Nouvelle Aquitaine Region	France	Funder
31	The Shannon Airport Group	Ireland	Cluster
32	National Technical University of Athens	Greece	University
33	AERA - Aragonian Aerospace Cluster	Spain	Cluster
34	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs / Aviation in Transition	Netherlands	Funder
35	Research Council of Lithuania	Lithuania	Research Institution
36	Federal Ministry Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Technology and Innovation Austria	Austria	Funder
37	INCAS - National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli"	Romania	Research Institution
38	CEiiA – Centre of Engineering and Product Development Portugal	Portugal	Research Institution
39	FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency	Austria	Research Agency
40	The Icelandic Centre for Research – RANNIS	Iceland	Research Institution
41	NLR - Royal Netherlands Aerospace Centre	Netherlands	Research Institution
42	NAE - Normandie AeroEspace	France	Cluster
43	CASTRA - Cluster Aerospace Technologies, Research and Applications	Bulgaria	Cluster
44	Corporación Tecnología de Andalucía	Spain	Cluster

## 1.1 Presentation of members

In the following section, each ESG member will be briefly presented to establish an overview of the composition, scope and knowledge represented by the group. Links to the websites of the members are available by clicking on the name of the organization. Also, all the ESG members are presented and mapped on the ECARE website at this [link](#).

### 1 - AGORIA FLAG - Flemish Aerospace Group

AGORIA FLAG - Flemish Aerospace Group is a cluster representing the region of Flanders in the north of Belgium. The cluster caters for its 76 members' interests on a political level; facilitating networking between members and developing business opportunities by organizing attendance at major business events.<sup>1</sup>

### 2 - Skywin – Aerospace Cluster of Wallonia

Skywin is a cluster representing the region of Wallonia in Belgium. It is an association of companies, research organisations and training centres engaged in public-private partnerships and in the implementation of innovative collaborative projects. The cluster has 147 members in the aviation, space, drone and defence industries.<sup>2</sup>

### 3 - Czech Aerospace Cluster

Czech Aerospace Cluster is an association of Czech aviation companies and educational institutions which operates mainly in the southeast of the Moravian region and has its headquarters in Kunovice. The cluster has more than 60 members including industrial companies, and universities.<sup>3</sup>

### 4 - Estonian Aviation Cluster

Estonian Aviation Cluster represents the aviation industry in Estonia. Since 2019, the non-profit organization is gathering all actors across the value chain and interrelated sectors (For example logistics) to become an innovation hotspot for aviation. The cluster has 23 members.<sup>4</sup>

### 5 - ASTech Paris

ASTech Paris is a cluster based in the Paris region in France. It represents 317 members within the Aeronautics, Space and Defence Industries. The cluster aims to support research and innovation in the Paris region, for example by offering SMEs new opportunities for innovation.

### 6 - Entreprise Europe Network - CCI Occitanie / SWEEN-France

The Enterprise Europe Network is a network for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) launched by the European Commission. The network consists of different member organizations, which offer services to their local stakeholders.<sup>5</sup> The chamber of commerce of the region Occitanie is the local EEN contact point for the region.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://www.agoria.be/en/themes/businessgroups/aerospace-manned-unmanned/agoria-flag-flemish-aerospace-group/about-agoria-flag>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.skywin.be/en#no-back>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.czech-aerospace.cz/en/o-nas.htm>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/estonian-aviation-cluster-eac.html>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>5</sup> <https://een.ec.europa.eu/about-enterprise-europe-network>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>6</sup><https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points/fr/chambre-de-commerce-et-dindustrie-de-region-nouvelle-aquitaine>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

## 7 - GIFAS

GIFAS is an organization which represents the French Aerospace Sector. It acts as a representative of its 456 members to national, European and international bodies. GIFAS cooperates with the Civil Aviation Research Council (CORAC) to support national funding programs in France.<sup>7</sup>

## 8 - Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region

The Occitanie region is a major player in the aerospace sector, hosting 885 organizations and nearly 100,000 employees. It stands out with the presence of three renowned aircraft manufacturers—Airbus, ATR, and Daher—along with world-class equipment manufacturers such as Latécoère, Airbus Atlantic, Safran, Thalès, Collins Aerospace, Figeac Aero, and others. The region boasts an integrated supply chain. Smart and sustainable mobility takes center stage in its Regional Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3).

## 9 - SAFE Cluster

SAFE Cluster is based in Aix-en-Provence in the South of France and is active in South Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and Auvergne Rhône Alpes (AURA) regions. The SAFE cluster's activities are mainly focused on aerial work, to the exclusion of commercial aviation, which generates very little activity in the southern region. SAFE Cluster represents 300 members.<sup>8</sup>

## 10 - DLR Institute of Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul

As part of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), the DLR Institute, Repair and Overhaul is based in Hamburg-Finkenwerder. It mainly researches the optimization and (partial) automation of maintenance processes, innovative diagnostic, maintenance and modification technologies and their modular linking. The Institute regularly participates in research projects funded by national or European funding programs.<sup>9</sup>

## 11 - DLR Projektträger Luftfahrtforschung (PT-LF)

As an organizational unit of the German Aerospace Center, the Project Management Agency for Aeronautics Research (PT-LF) supports the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) in the implementation of the national civil aviation research programme of the Federal Government (LuFo) as well as the states of Bavaria, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg and Lower Saxony, which supplement the federal programme with their own funding programmes.<sup>10</sup>

## 12 - Enterprise Europe Network - Tutech Innovation

Tutech Innovation, the privately organized subsidiary of the Hamburg University of Technology and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, together with its sister company Hamburg Innovation, connects all of Hamburg's public universities and numerous research institutions in the metropolitan region. Together with other partners, Tutech also acts as the local contact point for the Enterprise Europe Network in Hamburg.<sup>11</sup>

## 13 - German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

The German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action participates in the ECARE Stakeholder Group with a representative of the department Aerospace Policy. The ministry funds a variety of funding

<sup>7</sup> <https://gifas.fr/en/le-gifas/presentation/nos-missions>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/safe-cluster.html>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.dlr.de/mo/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-12390/21600\\_read-49527/](https://www.dlr.de/mo/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-12390/21600_read-49527/), last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dlr.de/pt-lf/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>11</sup> <https://tutech.de/en/enterprise-europe-network/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

programs in the aviation and space industry, the most popular program being ‘Lufo’, which was launched in 1995.<sup>12</sup>

#### **14 - Ministry for Economy and Innovation, Hamburg**

Hamburg is the 3rd largest aviation site in the world with a qualified workforce of over 40,000 and more than 300 companies and institutions. Presence of world leading companies such as Airbus, Lufthansa Technik, Diehl Aviation, Premium Aerotec or Zodiac Aerospace are combined with a resilient supply chain of SMEs and innovative start-ups. The Ministry for Economy and Innovation represents the City of Hamburg as a regional funding body. In 2021, it introduced the funding program ‘GATE: Green Aviation Technologies’.

#### **15 - Niedersachsen Aviation**

Niedersachsen Aviation is a cluster promoting the aviation and aerospace industries in Northern Germany, specifically the federal state of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen). The cluster has more than 300 members, with a main industry focus on aero structures and lightweight solutions.<sup>13</sup>

#### **16 - Campania Region**

More than 200 organisations are active in the aeronautical sector in the Campania region in south-west Italy, including large companies such as Leonardo, MBDA, ALA, or ATITECH and more than 130 SMEs. The industry provides more than 13.000 direct jobs and 26.000 indirect jobs. The RIS3 of Campania, as far as the aeronautical sector is concerned, focusses on multidisciplinary concurring engineering, innovative vehicle configurations, hybrid/electrical propulsion, new air mobility, smart manufacturing and environmentally friendly aeronautical technologies.

#### **17 - Enterprise Europe Network - Unioncamere Campania**

Unioncamere Campania, regional Union of Chambers of Commerce, represents the four chambers of Commerce of Irpinia Sannio, Caserta, Napoli and Salerno in the Campania region. It also acts as the local contact point for the Enterprise Europe Network in the region.<sup>14</sup>

#### **18 - Italian Ministry of Universities and Research**

The Italian Ministry for Universities and Research is the funding agency in Italy at state level. It is in charge to prepare and to submit the National Research Programme (PNR – Piano Nazionale della Ricerca) proposal to the Government and to directly manage it.<sup>15</sup>

#### **19 - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)**

The ENEA is an Italian public body aimed at research and technological innovation, supporting companies, associations, territories, central and local administrations. Two of the agency’s topics in focus are Climate and the Environment, as well as New Technologies.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Dossier/aerospace-policy.html>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/niedersachsen-aviation.html>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.unioncamere.campania.it/content/campania-union-chambers?language=en>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.chistera.eu/mur>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.enea.it/en/enea-agency.html>, last accessed 6th of December 2023



## 20 - Netherlands Aerospace Group (NAG)

The NAG is a trade association that supports the Dutch Aerospace and Airport Development sector. The cluster has more than 100 members in Airport Development & Infrastructure, Aircraft Manufacturing and Aircraft Maintenance.<sup>17</sup>

## 21 - AED Cluster Portugal

AED is the Portuguese Cluster for the Aeronautics, Space and Defence Industries, representing more than 125 members. The cluster operates within its four main focus blocks: Funding and Regulatory; People and Competences; Innovation and Value and Markets and Opportunities.<sup>18</sup>

## 22 - Castilla y León region

The region of Castilla y León in the northwest of Spain is represented in the ECARE Stakeholder Group by the general director of Industry, Commerce and Employment of the regional government. With the Clean Sky 2 program, the region had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place.<sup>19</sup>

## 23 - HEGAN - Basque Aerospace Cluster

HEGAN is an association that groups together the Aeronautics and Space sector in the Basque region in the north of Spain. The cluster aims to drive joint roadmaps and facilitate cooperative projects, while representing more than 50 members.<sup>20</sup>

## 24 - Plataforma Tecnológica Aeroespacial Española (PAE)

PAE is a platform for Aerospace Technology in Spain, which serves as a forum for relevant stakeholders to collaborate and innovate. It also supports the definition of a Strategic Agenda for Spanish Aerospace Research and acts as an advisory body.<sup>21</sup>

## 25 - ACA - Aerospace Cluster Association

ACA is a nationally open cluster that has 73 members from different cities in Turkey. The cluster establishes cooperation with domestic and international projects, offers trainings and contributes to SME growth in the Aerospace and Defence industries.<sup>22</sup>

## 26 – Andalucía Aerospace

Andalucía Aerospace is the aerospace and defense business cluster of Andalusia in Spain, dedicated to advancing the interests of the region's aerospace and defense sector. Representing a network of over 100 companies, its mission is to foster growth and drive development on both national and international fronts.<sup>23</sup>

## 27 - Midlands Aerospace Alliance

The Midlands region in the United Kingdom is home to a large aerospace sector specialised in the design and production of aero-engines and advanced systems that support aircraft operations. The Midlands

<sup>17</sup> <https://nag.aero/nag/about-nag/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.aedportugal.pt/en/about/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.clean-aviation.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/Clean%20Sky%20Region%20Brochure\\_2018.pdf](https://www.clean-aviation.eu/sites/default/files/2021-10/Clean%20Sky%20Region%20Brochure_2018.pdf), p.15, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/hegan-basque-aerospace-cluster.html>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>21</sup> <https://plataforma-aeroespacial.es/pae/nueva-etapa/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.hukd.org.tr/?lang=en>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

<sup>23</sup> <https://andaluciaaerospace.com/en/the-cluster/>, last accessed 12th of December 2024

Aerospace Alliance (MAA) as a cluster which represents over 300 members from global companies to supply chain specialists.<sup>24</sup>

## 28 - CDTI - Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial

The CDTI-E.P.E. is a Public Business Entity under the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities, dedicated to fostering innovation and technological development in Spanish companies. It manages the Aeronautical Technology Programme (PTA), a funding program within the State Programme to Catalyse Innovation and Business Leadership.<sup>25</sup>

## 29 - Piemonte Aerospace Cluster (DAP)

The Piedmont Aerospace Cluster, established in 2019, is a non-profit association dedicated to enhancing the competitiveness of the aerospace industry in Piedmont, Italy. With around 100 members, including local businesses, public authorities, and academic institutions, the Cluster serves as a hub for regional development and technological advancement.<sup>26</sup>

## 30 - Nouvelle Aquitaine Region

Nouvelle-Aquitaine, located in southwestern France, has a strong aerospace sector, with companies like Dassault Aviation, Safran, and Thales, along with a network of SMEs and research institutions. Key cities like Bordeaux contribute to a diverse aerospace ecosystem that supports advancements in aeronautics and space.<sup>27</sup>

## 31 - The Shannon Airport Group

The Shannon Airport Group contributes to economic growth in Ireland and the Mid-West through its aviation and property activities, supporting businesses. Shannon Airport serves as a key national asset, providing essential air connectivity that supports economic development across Ireland. The Group also manages an aviation cluster with over 80 companies.<sup>28</sup>

## 32 - National Technical University of Athens

The School of Mechanical Engineering at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) in Greece offers a comprehensive understanding of aerospace dynamics and subsystems. Aerospace dynamics involves studying the behaviour of aerospace vehicles under various physical forces, focusing on stability, control, and flight performance. The members of the faculty conduct extensive research in these fields.<sup>29</sup>

## 33 - Aragonian Aerospace Cluster (AERA)

AERA is the aerospace cluster for Aragon, Spain, established in 2007 to enhance the competitiveness of its members in the global aerospace industry. The cluster focuses on fostering innovation, collaboration, and access to new markets, supporting 39 companies, 5 research institutes, and 2 public authorities in the region.<sup>30</sup>

## 34 - Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs / Aviation in Transition

The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs is funding the Aviation in Transition program. It is an eight-year collaborative program between the Dutch government and the aviation sector, focused on advancing

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.midlandsaerospace.org.uk/maa>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.cdti.es/en/ayudas/aeronautical-technology-programme-pta>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.distrettoaerospazialepiemonte.com/en/about-us/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>27</sup> <https://ecare-digital-platform.eu/stakeholders/region-nouvelle-aquitaine>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.snnairportgroup.ie/economic-impact/#>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.mech.ntua.gr/en/sections/tmk-ae>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.eacp-aero.eu/members/aera-aragonian-aerospace-cluster.html>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024



sustainability in aviation. The initiative aims for climate-neutral flying by 2050 through the development of energy-efficient technologies, lighter materials, and carbon-neutral propulsion systems like hydrogen.<sup>31</sup>

### 35 - Research Council of Lithuania

The Research Council of Lithuania is a policy-implementing institution that advises the government on research, studies, and experimental development. Its mission is to shape and support an effective research and innovation system in Lithuania, addressing societal needs and global challenges through competitive funding and strategic organizational instruments.<sup>32</sup>

### 36 - Federal Ministry Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Technology and Innovation Austria (BMK)

The BMK funds the Take Off program, which is Austria's central tool for implementing the FTI Strategy for Aviation 2040+. Established in 2002, the program has facilitated over €450 million in investments by the BMK to advance Austrian aviation technologies.<sup>33</sup>

### 37 - National Institute for Aerospace Research "Elie Carafoli" (INCAS)

INCAS is Romania's premier research institute in aerospace sciences with expertise in aerospace engineering, flow physics, and applied aerodynamics. With state-of-the-art technology and strategic infrastructure, INCAS has contributed to major national aeronautical projects in both civil and military domains. It also plays a key role in shaping EU R&D policies under the FlightPath 2050 vision and Horizon Europe program.<sup>34</sup>

### 38 - Centre of Engineering and Product Development Portugal (CEiiA)

CEiiA is a Portuguese engineering and product development center focused on designing and industrializing sustainable technologies, products, and services. Its Aeronautics unit is developing a new generation of aircraft and flying systems, working with leading global aerospace companies on advanced product development programs.<sup>35</sup>

### 39 - Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is Austria's national funding body for industrial research and development, established in 2004. Focused on enhancing Austria's position as a global hub for research and innovation, the FFG has supported over 60,000 entities through more than 65,000 projects, fostering innovation in science and research.<sup>36</sup>

### 40 - The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS)

Rannis is responsible for managing international cooperation programs and national funds in research and innovation in Iceland. It coordinates Iceland's participation in European programs, including Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and oversees the National Contact Points for the program, while promoting these initiatives within Iceland.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>31</sup> <https://luchtvaartintransitie.nl/en/about-us/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>32</sup> <https://lmt.lrv.lt/en/about-the-research-council/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/innovation/FTI-Themen/Weltraum-undLuftfahrttechnologien/luftfahrttechnologie/takeoff.html>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.incas.ro/about-incas/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.ceiia.com/aeronautics>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.ffg.at/en/content/ueber-uns>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>37</sup> <https://en.rannis.is/funding/research>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

#### 41 - Royal Netherlands Aerospace Centre (NLR)

NLR is a leading aerospace research organization in the Netherlands and one of the country's major technological institutes, specializing in aviation and space travel. It conducts applied research and develops technology in these fields, working on national and international research contracts with both government and industry partners.<sup>38</sup>

#### 42 - Normandie AeroEspace (NAE)

NAE is a network dedicated to the aerospace, defense, and security industries in Normandie, France. It consists of large industrial groups, airports, military bases, SMEs, research labs, and educational institutions. NAE aims to ensure that the aerospace, defense, and security sectors play a significant role in shaping future technological and industrial advancements.<sup>39</sup>

#### 43 - Cluster Aerospace Technologies, Research and Applications (CASTRA)

CASTRA is an industry-driven, non-governmental organization consisting of technology-focused SMEs, academic and research institutions, and other professional NGOs in Bulgaria. The cluster is dedicated to developing technologies, products, and services within the aerospace sector, with a focus on advancing innovation in the aerospace and space domains in the country.<sup>40</sup>

#### 44 - Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía (CTA)

CTA is a multi-sector innovation cluster in Andalusia, Spain, with a focus on both national and international activities. It helps over 182 member companies, administrations, and universities develop R&D&I strategies, guiding them from identifying needs to project formulation and securing partners and funding.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.nlr.org/about-us/mission-and-vision/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.nae.fr/en/about-nae/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>40</sup> <https://castra.org/about-us/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.corporaciontecnologica.com/en/what-is-cta/>, last accessed 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2024

## 2 Activities of the ECARE Stakeholder Group

The ESG has the key objective to consistently update its members on project progress and seeking group input on results. To fulfil this goal, a dedicated online meeting was scheduled every two to three months in 2023 and 2024, open to all ESG members and parties interested in joining. The following chapters detail the activities organised for the participation of the ESG. In addition to regular activities and one-on-one interactions with potential participants, the consortium actively participated in events aimed to both draw in new participants to the ESG and effectively disseminate information about the project.

Another initiative was the development of an informative poster designed to streamline communication. The poster visualizes crucial details about the ESG, such as its purpose, eligibility criteria and benefits of participation. The poster served as an effective tool for introducing the ESG whenever the consortium receives inquiries. It is included in Appendix A for reference.

### 2.1 Activities in 2023

The inaugural meeting was convened on December 2, 2022, before the project official started in January 2023. Its purpose was to introduce the project to interested entities and unveil the concept of the ECARE Stakeholder Group. Alongside the six consortium members, 13 external participants actively engaged in the meeting.

The second ESG meeting occurred on June 1, 2023. This session aimed to introduce the new project coordinator of ECARE, Benjamin Lopez, and manager of the ECARE Stakeholder Group, Maybrit Brooksnieder, while also presenting the project's progress over its initial five months. Discussions also centred on the purpose and organization of the ESG, leading to the decision to conduct online meetings every two to three months, with regular emails as the preferred communication channel. The meeting drew participation from 14 external attendees.

The third ESG meeting, held on September 14, 2023, featured a total of 23 external participants. Its primary focus was to provide insight into the first two deliverables of the project, generating keen interest. Additionally, members were invited to participate in the upcoming Transnational Workshop scheduled for November 2023. The workshop's agenda was presented, and discussions during the meeting generated feedback on the organization of the workshop.

Concluding the year, the final meeting took place on December 14, 2023. This session with 22 participants included a recap of the Transnational Workshop, particularly beneficial for ESG members unable to attend in person. Another key agenda item involved informing ESG members about their options for increased project involvement, a topic gaining significance for the upcoming year in 2024.

A notable event for dissemination was the Paris Air Show, held from June 16th to 22nd 2023 in Le Bourget, France. Recognized as the world's largest air show, this trade fair provided a valuable platform for connecting with representatives from diverse European regions and clusters. Two consortium members, Hamburg Aviation and Aerospace Valley, engaged with a wide range of interested entities, effectively presenting the project and the ESG to the public.

Another significant event was the General Assembly of the EACP held in Limerick, Ireland, from November 8th to 9th 2023. The EACP, representing 45 European clusters across 18 countries, spans the entire aerospace value chain in Europe. A substantial number of EACP members attended the General Assembly, offering a prime opportunity to discuss the ECARE project with European clusters and collect further valuable input from non-ESG clusters. Moreover, the event served as a platform to individually approach specific clusters, resulting in successful additions to the ESG.

## 2.2 Activities in 2024

The first activity of 2024 was a webinar on the ECARE Digital Platform (EDP), held on February 29th with 19 external participants. During the webinar, the concept and current status of the EDP were presented, along with an introduction to the preliminary data collection process. ESG members were encouraged to submit data ahead of the EDP's official launch. This request was shared with all ESG members following the meeting, with the data collection phase remaining open until May 3rd.

The next meeting occurred on April 24th, 2024, with 20 external participants. This meeting focused on the synergy mechanisms proposed by ECARE, followed by an update on the EDP's progress. Additionally, the AREANA project was presented by two consortium members who are also ESG members. Potential collaboration opportunities between the two projects were discussed.

At the end of May, ESG members were granted exclusive access to the EDP to begin the testing phase. They were invited to create accounts, upload data, and test the platform's functionalities, providing valuable feedback to the consortium. On June 13th, 2024, another webinar was conducted to demonstrate the user experience on the EDP and emphasize the significance of the testing phase. This webinar was attended by 18 participants.

From June 5th to 6th, 2024, Hamburg Aviation participated in the ILA Airshow in Berlin, Germany. This event provided an opportunity to hold in-person meetings with ESG members to discuss the project and promote the EDP testing phase.

The subsequent online meeting was held on September 19th with 21 external participants. Prior to the meeting, a draft of the handbook was shared with ESG members for feedback. An online survey was also launched, allowing members to evaluate the proposed synergies in the handbook. Participants were asked two questions for each synergy: their general support for it and the likelihood of its implementation in their region or country. During the meeting, the survey was discussed, and break-out sessions enabled participants to exchange ideas. In total, 16 participants from 11 countries responded to the survey.

On October 24th, a meeting with 17 external participants was held to announce that the EDP was now accessible to everyone. The consortium highlighted the platform's new functionalities, and ESG members were encouraged to promote the EDP within their communities. To foster engagement, a Slido questionnaire was launched to explore the future of the ESG. Participants were asked about their interest in continuing ESG meetings, the content they would like to address, and the synergies or actions related to ECARE they'd like to work on in 2025. The questionnaire prompted active participation, and the results were positive, supporting the continuation of the ESG in 2025.

As in the previous year, the consortium members Aerospace Valley, Campania Aerospace District, and Hamburg Aviation participated in the EACP General Assembly from November 20th to 21st in Aix-en-Provence. Hamburg Aviation presented the results and current status of the ECARE project, while Aerospace Valley introduced the idea of a new EACP working group to further develop synergies. This proposal was approved by a majority vote of the EACP clusters in attendance.

Following the General Assembly, an online meeting took place on November 28th with 24 external participants. The memorandum of synergy with EEN was presented, with a focus on the sustainability of the EDP. Additionally, the concept for the new EACP working group on synergies was shared, and plans for the group's continuation in 2025 and beyond were discussed, along with the signing of a Memorandum of Synergy to formalize collaborations.

Finally, ESG members were invited to a joint info session on synergies and networks, co-organized by the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking, SESAR Joint Undertaking, and the ECARE consortium. This event served as the final public activity of the project, attracting more than 50 participants, including several ESG members.

### 3 Continuity of ECARE Stakeholder Group

After the official conclusion of the project, ESG members will continue collaborating in various ways. As outlined in the previous chapter, the consortium members Aerospace Valley, Campania Aerospace District, and Hamburg Aviation have established a new Working Group, Synergies, within the EACP. **With 19 EACP clusters already participating as ESG members, the new EACP Working Group is well-positioned for sustained and active engagement.**

#### *Objectives of the EACP Synergies Working Group*

The primary aim of the EACP Synergies Working Group is to enhance the competitiveness of its members by addressing challenges in sustainable aviation through collaboration and innovation. Building upon the results (ECARE implementation pathway to synergies, ECARE synergies, etc...) and tools (ECARE taxonomy, ECARE Digital Platform, etc...) developed during the ECARE project, the group will:

- **Facilitate Access to RDI Funding:** Help members identify and secure funding opportunities for research, development, and innovation.
- **Promote Partnerships:** Strengthen connections between SMEs and large corporations to encourage mutually beneficial collaborations.
- **Enhance EU-wide Collaboration:** Foster stronger cooperation across research, industry, and public sectors throughout Europe.
- **Support Regional Smart Specialization Strategies (S3):** Align efforts with regional S3 objectives to maximize local and regional impacts.
- **Connect Clusters and Funding Organizations:** Build bridges between clusters and financial bodies to streamline funding and partnership efforts.

#### *Organizational Framework of the EACP Synergies Working Group*

The working group will operate according to the following structure:

- **Regular Meetings:** Virtual meetings will be held every 6–8 weeks among interested EACP members.
- **Bi-annual Collaboration Meetings:** Broader virtual meetings, including ESG and EACP members, will maintain collaboration among clusters, funding bodies, and research institutions.
- **Annual Physical Assembly:** An in-person meeting will showcase progress across EACP working groups. ESG members not affiliated with EACP but involved in specific actions may also be invited.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Annual KPIs, such as the number of new innovation projects or joint calls for expressions of interest, will be defined to track progress.
- **Task Forces:** Action-oriented teams will be established, consisting of motivated EACP and ESG members, to work on specific objectives.

#### *Commitments of ESG Members*

All ESG members have signed the ESG charter, committing “to disseminate the ECARE project results within their network at the end of the projects lifetime”. As agreed during recent ESG meetings, members will focus on the following areas:

- **Promotion and Implementation of Synergies:** ESG members will identify and leverage synergies proposed by ECARE to enhance the scope and impact of their activities.
- **Promotion of the ECARE Digital Platform:** Promote the EDP among aviation stakeholders to facilitate access to funding opportunities, funded projects, and other critical information.
- **Data Integration and Updates:** Contribute to keeping the EDP up-to-date with relevant data, such as new regional, national, and European funding opportunities and funded projects.

### ***Encouragement for Ongoing Engagement***

ESG members are encouraged to actively use the ECARE Digital Platform (EDP), engage with the ECARE synergies, and leverage the working group functionalities to foster continuous idea exchange and partnership development. To support this objective, a dedicated working group has been established on the EDP, where all ESG members have been integrated. This platform will serve as a centralized space for launching discussions on specific topics, sharing relevant documents, and facilitating collaboration. Additionally, all planned meetings for 2025 and 2026 have been outlined, ensuring clear and structured opportunities for engagement.

These initiatives are designed to ensure the long-term sustainability and relevance of ECARE's outcomes, reinforcing innovation and collaboration across Europe's aviation ecosystem and contributing to the advancement of sustainable aviation.

The screenshot displays the 'ECARE Stakeholders Group' interface, specifically the 'ESG private workgroup' section. It includes a description of the group's purpose, its main objectives (promoting collaboration, identifying synergies, etc.), and further collaborations with other groups like EEN and EACP. Below this, there are sections for 'Discussion topics' (listing 'ECARE synergies' and 'ECARE Digital Platform'), 'Documents' (listing 'D4.1: Handbook for synergies'), and 'Events' (listing 'ESG & EACP 2nd Joint meeting' and 'ESG & EACP 1st joint meeting').

*Figure 3: ESG working group on the EDP*



## Conclusion

The ECARE project has successfully established a robust framework for collaboration among European aeronautical stakeholders, fostering synergies to advance clean aviation objectives. The ECARE Stakeholder Group (ESG) has played a pivotal role in driving this initiative, providing a diverse and inclusive platform for dialogue and innovation. By engaging representatives from clusters, funding bodies, and research institutions across Europe, the project has strengthened its capacity to address the challenges of sustainable aviation.

Through a series of consultations, meetings, and dissemination activities, the ESG has contributed to significant progress, including the development of the ECARE Digital Platform (EDP) and the formulation of actionable synergies. The active involvement of ESG members has not only enriched the project outcomes but also laid the groundwork for continued collaboration.

As ECARE transitions beyond its project timeline, the initiatives undertaken will ensure sustainability. The establishment of the Synergies Working Group within the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP) will enable the integration of ECARE's tools and methodologies into future projects, while bi-annual online meetings and the use of the EDP platform will maintain engagement with broader ESG members.

The ECARE project exemplifies how collective effort and innovation can pave the way for a cleaner, more efficient European aviation industry. The achievements of this initiative serve as a testament to the power of collaboration and provide a strong foundation for continued progress toward the ambitious goals of the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking.



## Appendix A - ESG info poster




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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

ECARE aims at clarifying the existing landscape of regional/national innovation roadmaps and funding opportunities for aeronautical stakeholders. It will also create complementarities and synergies between them to enable the European aeronautical industry achieve the ambitious targets of the CA JU Programme while maximising public funding impact and efficiency.

The ECARE project will develop and disseminate methodologies to create synergy mechanisms applicable to all EU aeronautical regions. These methodologies will be designed and tested in a Pilot involving four major regions of the European aeronautical industry, namely Occitanie and Nouvelle-Aquitaine in France, Hamburg in Germany and Campania in Italy. Over the course of the project, the methodologies will be improved, adapted and tested against the realities of these four regions, turning ECARE into a mature operational guidance project for CA JU and other European regions and countries.

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### ECARE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (ESG)

#### WHAT is the goal of the ESG?

1. Ensure replicability of ECARE results to other European aeronautics regions and countries
2. Reach scalability by including as many European regions and countries as possible
3. Support ECARE through consultation at various stages in the project
4. Include different perspectives

#### WHO can become member?

1. Public Authorities
2. Cluster Organisations
3. Business networks
4. Other relevant organisations and regions



#### WHY should you join?

1. Opportunity to actively participate in ECARE
2. Gain visibility through presentation on the ECARE digital platform
3. Access to ECARE methodology with the option to replicate results in your region
4. Contacts to funding authorities, regions and clusters with similar interests

#### HOW can you participate?

1. Sign the ESG charter to become official member
2. Join online meetings every two months to stay updated
3. Other options of participation, e.g. in workshops

**If you are interested in becoming a member,  
please contact Maybrit Brooksnieder  
(Maybrit.Brooksnieder@hamburg-aviation.com)**

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#### THE TEAM



#### CONNECT WITH US

101101970 01.01.2023 24 months

Aerospace Valley

<https://www.ecare-project.eu>

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The project is supported by the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking and its members.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.


