



**DRIVES**

Development and Research on Innovative Vocational Education Skills

@Project Drives' Quarterly Newsletter

## Interview with Mr. Nicolae Bădălău, Minister of Economy in the Romanian Government



### 1. Can you tell us in a nutshell, what does the Romanian Presidency wish to accomplish within its mandate regarding the automotive industry?

*During the Presidency of Romania to the EU Council, the Ministry of Economy's priorities focus on the Internal Market and Industry, sectors of major relevance in the current European economic and social context.*

*Regarding the industry, it is important to maintain a strong industrial base in the EU that would ensure the creation of new jobs and could take advantage of the opportunities of digitization, innovation, decarbonisation, circular economy, areas that are decisive for the future of industry and, as a consequence, for the competitiveness of the European economy.*

*The importance of the automotive sector, in terms of its share in EU GDP, direct and indirect jobs created, the multiplier effect in the economy for both upstream and downstream industries for the EU's competitiveness is widely acknowledged. At the same time, through complex supply chains across the EU, it is the most integrated industrial sector.*

*Considering the dynamics of the automotive sector in the context of digitization, environmental and mobility policies, I would like to wish a lot of success to the EU funded DRIVES project. I wouldn't go any further without expressing my appreciation for some of the European Commission's initiatives. I mean the following ones:*

- *Supporting the acquisition of new skills for employees in the automotive industry and assessing social transition management options for automation in the road sector.*
- *The Inclusion, in February 2019, of the project "Linked, Clean and Autonomous Vehicles" in the 6 Strategic Value Chains requiring coordinated actions and investments from industry and public authorities in several Member States.*
- *The Battery Alliance, which fostered promising results in 2018, to develop battery production in Europe.*

### 2. In your perspective, what are EU's automotive industry main strengths to reap the benefits of clean energy transition, autonomous driving, among other opportunities?

*The European automotive industry is nowadays one of the most technologically-advanced and best performing in the world. In a such competitive industry, that can only mean one thing: strong R&D. Given the current challenges we face in terms of environment protection, foreign oil dependency and road safety, I strongly believe that, with the support of the EU through funding and expertise sharing, the European automotive industry will prevail again as a result of the focus on powertrain electrification, internal combustion engine enhancement, alternative fuels development and driver assistance systems.*

*In EU, we are all supporting the production of clean vehicles for the future. On the other hand, the European automotive industry has firmly committed to this transformation process, providing technological solutions and paying particular attention to compliance with the objectives of EU environmental policy.*

*Measures have been taken so far to reduce emissions by creating low-consumption engines, along with increasing the technical performances of new cars and developing hybrid and electric cars.*

*These technological developments have been reached thanks to considerable investments in R&D and innovation.*

*I believe that manufacturers can deliver adequate solutions to meet the new challenges, but in this respect, it is necessary to support through appropriate cross-sectorial regulations and measures such as incentives for fleet renewal, smart mobility solutions, the development of charging infrastructure for electric cars as well as alternative fuel supply infrastructure that will help achieve the goals the automotive industry has set for itself. In doing so, we need to make sure that new vehicles are affordable to as many users as possible.*

*I firmly believe that we must not lose sight of the fact that the citizen must remain a priority in our focus.*

*It is together that we must act in the way that, in a future that I want as close as possible, low-carbon mobility would stop being a privilege for high-income citizens.*

### **3. DRIVES is analysing the automotive industry's workforce challenges. In your view, what are the indispensable skills for the next decade(s)?**

*The Romanian automotive industry has not been spared, over time, by the troubles the entire European automotive sector has faced. And these challenges are far from over. Motorized electrification, connectivity, autonomous technology, and digitization throughout the production chain will certainly bring fundamental changes to how the entire ecosystem of the automotive industry works.*

*What will happen in the next 10-15 years, especially as regards the current level of employment in the automotive industry? This is the question, which I strongly believe is valid, for both Romania and for the whole of Europe.*

*It involves major investments, including qualification/retraining of the workforce, and requires the adaptation of the legislative framework to consider potential consumer concerns. It is clear that in the future, digital competences are central, and I am convinced that they will also be the focal point of the transformation of the labor market in this sector.*

### **4. What are the 2-3 songs that you must have in your playlist on a long car journey?**

*The music The Minister of Economy enjoys behind the wheel is mostly Greek, Italian or classical, depending on the mood.*

## **What we've been working on**



### **DRIVES' online survey has been officially launched!**

This is the cornerstone of DRIVES' assessment of the Automotive sector's problems, expectations and needs. Its aim is to provide first-hand information of the analysis of drivers of change, identified emerging job roles and skills, analysis of skills gaps to be able to prepare tailor-made training offers to tackle forthcoming defies of the sector. To know more about our initiative, check our [webinar](#). To participate on our [survey](#), visit our questionnaire web page until the April 15th.

### **A skills framework to create 30 new job roles**

Part of our work is to create job roles including training material, exercises, exams and official certificates recognized by the Project DRIVES framework. As a basis for this, a DRIVES template was developed and provided to describe skills sets and job roles in accordance with ECQA and ESCO, which brings coherence and transferability with other descriptions within the EU. Moreover, already identified emerging new job roles were reviewed and matched with existing knowledge and training material provided by all respective DRIVES partners. The upcoming tasks are to describe and fill these job roles with life.



### **Skills transferability matter:**

The elaboration and alignment of DRIVES and ESCO will enable a European-wide recognition of different available certificates. This supports the main aim of the DRIVES platform, to act as European-wide broker platform for skill training and empowering the partner certification frameworks.

Our **first Apprenticeship Forum** was held during the Project's meeting in Milan at the end of January. The forum provided an opportunity for our partners and local employers and apprentices to exchange ideas about some of the key issues relating to the EU automotive sector's apprenticeship marketplace.

## New road safety rules

The European Union (EU) institutions have reached a provisional agreement on the 26 th of March 2019 on the General Safety Regulation. The agreement awaits its final approval by the European Parliament and Council and will become mandatory in 2022.

This regulation is a part of the Europe on the Move package and was launched in May 2018.

*“It will introduce mandatory safety rules for (see full list [here](#)):*

- 1. Cars, vans, trucks and buses:** warning of driver drowsiness and distraction (e.g. smartphone use while driving), intelligent speed assistance, reversing safety with camera or sensors, and data recorder in case of an accident ('black box').
- 2. Cars and vans:** lane-keeping assistance, advanced emergency braking, and crash-test improved safety belts.
- 3. Trucks and buses:** specific requirements to improve the direct vision of bus and truck drivers and to remove blind spots, and systems at the front and side of the vehicle to detect and warn of vulnerable road users, especially when making turns.”

## Cedefop skills forecast findings in new country reports

On the 12 th of March 2019, Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, launched its [country reports](#) that summarises the 2018. They present the future trends on jobs and skills across EU Member States until 2030.

## Dieselgate: what was achieved so far?

In 2015, during the emissions test, we learned that some European car manufacturers were conducting deceiving practices. Defeat devices which recognise that the car is being tested and changed the car's behaviour to reduce emissions were using during the test. On the road, the cars emit more than the evaluation concluded.

Since this episode a series of new measures were launched and will enter into force in the upcoming years, those are: new approval rules, better emissions test, consumer protection and road safety. The Commission will continue to work with the European Parliament on this matter.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**From School to Work – The Role of Chambers: A joint European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) and Czech Chamber of Commerce event**

Prague, Czech Republic  
20-21 May 2019

**Autonomous Vehicles Summit**

Bratislava, Slovakia  
30-31 May 2019

**Conference on quality in education and training**

Bucharest, Romania  
4-5 June 2019

**Conference Adults up skilling and reskilling – balancing the labour market**

Bucharest, Romania  
6-7 June 2019

**Chemistry meets Industry and Society**

Salerno, Italy  
28-30 August 2019

**IRC2019**

London, UK  
3-5 September 2019

**EuroAsiaSPI**

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK  
18-20 September 2019

**Connected Mobility Summit 2019**

Brussels, Belgium  
9 October 2019

## For more information on our project:

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