INTERVIEW WITH MEP CARLOS ZORRINHO  
(S&D Group, Portugal - Member of the Industry, Research & Energy Committee)

PD: Can you tell us in a nutshell, and in your view, what are [and/or have been during the current mandate] ITRE’s Committee most relevant proposals regarding the disruption of traditional industries, namely the automotive one?

CZ: I think that Governance of the Energy Union Regulation, in which I was the S&D shadow rapporteur will be the key for change because without the technological and societal disruption in the transport sector and in the traditional industries, the national and European targets in energy and climate will not be achieved. I underline also the priority given to the technological disruption linked with environmental issues in some European programmes like Horizon Europe or Connecting European Facility 2021-2027.

PD: DRIVES is analysing the automotive industry’s workforce challenges. In your opinion, what are the indispensable skills for the next decade(s)?

The technological revolution needs to be driven by ethics and centred on the human being in its implementation. The key skills we need are linked to the ability to develop and realize a new vision of a viable society. We also need the skills to create and operate the new-networked production processes.

PD: The MFF’s 2021-2027 negotiations are ongoing. What kind of support can the EU industry expect to uplift its employers’ skills?

CZ: The main programmes included in the MFF 2021-2027 should be compatible with the goals of the Paris Agreement. This means that the EU industry will have the necessary support to change systems and processes and develop the necessary skills.

PD: What are the 2-3 songs that you must have in your playlist on a long car journey?

CZ: Tubular Bells (Mike Oldfield), Shadows (The Original), Alma Mater (Rodrigo Leão).
DRIVES and LinkedIn forge a research partnership

The DRIVES project and LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional network, have joined forces to shed light on the evolution of job roles and skills requirements within the EU’s automotive industry. LinkedIn will use insights drawn from its professional network by leveraging LinkedIn’s Economic Graph to generate a detailed picture of the specific characteristics of the EU’s automotive industry workforce, looking at career experiences and specific skills.

EUROPEAN UNION NEWS ON MOBILITY AND SKILLS

The “Education and training monitor”, the EU’s report to analyse the state of play of national education and training systems, was released on the 16 October 2018. Link here.


The future of Vocational Training - The tri-partite Advisory Committee on Vocational Training (ACVT) adopted unanimously on 3 December an opinion on the future of vocational education and training post-2020. The ACVT opinion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DRIVES’ Partnership Meeting - 23 to 24 January 2019 - Milan, Italy
- EU Industry Days 2019 - 05 to 06 February 2019 - Brussels, Belgium
- AI Summit: Innovation & Governance 2019 - 18 to 19 March 2019 - Brussels, Belgium
- 19th International Automobile Recycling Congress IARC - 20 to 22 March 2019, Vienna, Austria
WORK PACKAGE UPDATES

WP1 - Project Management
Continues to manage and steer the DRIVES project, maintaining its focus on serving as a framework for strategic cooperation between stakeholders in the sector, such as businesses, trade unions, research, education and training institutions, public authorities. One of the last project meetings was hosted by Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation.

WP2 - Sectoral Intelligence and Roadmapping
Elaborated a broader approach to the project as a backbone of the first version of the sectoral intelligence with the essential elements that will need to be included. A questionnaire has been engineered and proposed to the partners, with the aim of receiving stakeholders’ feedback regarding the automotive sector. The next step of WP2 consists in analysing and normalising the replies to the questionnaire and preparing the first release of the sectoral intelligence report.

WP3 - Skills Framework
WP3 is in charge of establishing a pool of emerging skills following skills definition norms and a registration and self-assessment services in ECQA. Moreover, an online campus and a European Certification Services will be set up. On October 24th WP3 face-to-face meeting with all project partners took place at the University of Twente, Enschede, to give a status update, discuss upcoming tasks and as a starting point a brainstorm and workshop about emerging job roles and skills was carried out.

WP4 - Skills Transferability
In WP4 the focus is set further on the OASQF framework and the definition of requirements for skills bricks classification. Currently, besides the detailing of the technical implementation, the work on a sustainability framework is being carried out, namely the additional partners’ certification.

WP5 - Apprenticeship Marketplace
WP5 strived to develop the DRIVES’ response to the crucial area of enhancing the EU automotive sector’s apprenticeship model. This included: shaping of a research report, led by Semta and TU Graz, to grow our understanding of EU apprenticeship marketplace. Gestamp and Mondragon have been planning the creation of a dynamic apprentices’ network that will allow peers to come together to discuss their experiences. VSB-TUO has been reviewing different approaches to facilitating apprenticeship mobility.

WP6 - Wider Visibility and Exploitation
WP6 continued to manage and stir DRIVES’ communication and dissemination activities, e.g., highlighting the presence of WPs’ representatives in relevant forums. It also pursued one of its core objectives - of reaching out relevant EU policy-makers -, having participated, on behalf of the project, in the European Parliament of Enterprises, held in Brussels, where 736 European business-makers and more than 10 high-level EU policy makers were present. This newsletter is also part of that goal.