

1st March 2018

## Press release

### Project DRIVES - Development and Research on Innovative Vocational Education Skills

#### Official launch with a recorded speech from Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska

Ostrava, Czech Republic - Today, the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Tomáš Hüner, and the Rector of the Technical University of Ostrava, Václav Snášel, opened the kick-off Conference ceremony of the project DRIVES, that brings together 24 European partners, from 11 EU countries. The speeches highlighted the need to address the challenges linked to digitalisation of the economy and the adaptation of the education of the workforce.

In a recorded message, the European Commissioner for internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, highlighted that DRIVES “results can inform policies not only at the EU but also regional and national level” and that the “initiative will only work if all relevant stakeholders along the automotive value chain take part, including at national and regional level across the EU”. Ms. Bieńkowska underlined that “connected and automated driving will change mobility as we know” leading to a fast path on industry transformations.

The Commissioner recalled that DRIVES, building on the recommendations from the GEAR2030 group, is one of the first six projects that were launched within Blueprint on Sector Skills – an initiative to overcome skills’ shortages in specific sectors. Moreover, “industry should take the driving seat”.

The Automotive and Mobility Industries’ Unit, at DG GROW, underlined the challenges faced by DRIVES in regard to the shortage of skills, due to the ageing workforce and the lack of attractiveness of the existing job roles to younger generations.

The European Commission estimates that by 2025 it will be necessary to fill more than 900.000 jobs in the automotive sector, about half of which will require high-level qualifications. Targeting this market need, DRIVES will implement the Blueprint objectives for the automotive sector, namely the delivery of human capital solutions to supply chain SMEs, through the establishment of an Automotive Sector Skills Alliance, covering all levels of the value chain (vehicle production, automotive suppliers and automotive sales and aftermarket services).

The project will run from 2018 to 2021, with a budget of 4 million euros, funded by the Erasmus + Sector Skills Alliance action.

#### Project Details

Co-funded by: Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under the agreement 591988-EPP-1-2017-1-CZ-EPPKA2-SSA-B.

Start Date: January 2018 to December 2021

Project Duration: 48 months