



cecimo

Where manufacturing begins

CECIMO PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

METALS – the MachinE Tool Alliance for Skills A new initiative by CECIMO

Brussels, 6 January 2016 - The new initiative METALS - MachinE Tool Alliance for Skills is being set in motion by CECIMO, the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. METALS aims at providing machine tool builders with the sought-after applied skills they need in line with disruptive technologies in the advanced manufacturing sector. METALS is a three-year project inaugurated under the EU's Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliance initiative, designed to promote education-industry partnerships at European-level within a specific sector of the economy.

New manufacturing technologies generate business opportunities for machine tool builders, but the development of new skills is not commonly supported by vocational education and training (VET) programmes. Therefore, finding a workforce with the right practical competences remains a challenge for many machine tool builders in Europe. Under this light, CECIMO's German (VDW), Italian (UCIMU) and Spanish (AFM) national associations have developed METALS to improve the relevance of VET in the machine tool industry by bringing together industry representatives, VET providers and regulatory bodies from the three countries. The Alliance first analyses emerging technologies in the sector and builds a skills panorama highlighting the future skills needed by European machine tool builders. In the second phase, the Alliance will design a sector-wide curriculum and gather relevant learning materials which will be available through an e-learning platform for the European machine tool workforce. Metal additive manufacturing, a disruptive technology, will be under the spotlight of METALS.

By bringing together partners from education and industry across Europe, METALS is expected to improve the sector's labour market intelligence. It will provide policy-makers with the sectorial insights they need to design policies and programmes boosting the competitiveness of European machine tool companies and the employability of its workforce. Throughout the initiative, the consortium will also organize skills workshops in Germany, Spain and Italy with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

The European machine tool industry, composed of over 80% of SMEs, is challenged by the increasing complexity and cost of training programmes caused by breakthrough technologies generated by actors beyond the machine tool industry. "The upcoming machine tool workforce should be trained on new applications, like metal additive manufacturing, to support the global technological leadership of the European machine tool industry. With METALS, our sector has made use of the framework provided by the EU's Sector Skills Alliance initiative to develop new channels to influence the curriculum delivered in Europe and to supply the industry with the skills actually needed with a long-term strategy" says Filip Geerts, CECIMO Director General. It is especially important for European machine tool companies to build a good skills' supply considering that, according to forecasts, the global machine tool consumption is set to grow from the current level of 60 billion euro to 80 billion euro over the next five years, and the market for additive manufacturing is expected to quadruple by 2022. (Source: Roland Berger Strategy Consultants)

The European Commission recognizes the advanced manufacturing industry as a sector with skills imbalances. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, METALS develops an education-industry partnership coordinated by CECIMO and involving:

- Germany: VDW Youth Foundation (www.vdw-nachwuchsstiftung.de) , University of Bremen (www.uni-bremen.de) and Detmold Government (www.bezreg-detmold.nrw.de)
- Italy: UCIMU (www.ucimu.it), AFOL Metropolitana (www.cittametropolitana.mi.it/afolmilano/) and ECOLE (www.myecole.it)
- Spain: AFM (www.afm.es), IMH – the Machine Tools Institute (www.imh.eus), IVAC-EEI (www.ivac-eei.eus) and TKNKA (www.tknika.eus)

About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. We bring together 15 national Associations of machine tool builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe*, over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 98% of the total machine tool production in Europe and about one third worldwide. It accounts for almost 150,000 employees and a turnover of nearly €23 billion in 2014. About 80% of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas two thirds of it is exported outside Europe*. For more information visit www.cecimo.eu *Europe = EU + EFTA + Turkey

#

For media enquiries, contact:

Filip Geerts, Director General of CECIMO
Tel +32 2 502 70 90 / Fax +32 2 502 60 82
filip.geerts@cecimo.eu