



EARASHI

REDEFINING MANUFACTURING: SHOWCASING EU-FUNDED INITIATIVES IN AGILE PRODUCTION

Key Takeaways

The conference on "**Redefining Manufacturing: Showcasing EU-Funded Initiatives in Agile Production**" aimed to discuss the relevance of the EU-funded projects to the current transformation of the manufacturing industry. The conference covered a range of topics, notably exploring the latest advancements in agile production and robotics technologies. Particular emphasis was placed on the role of third-party funding coming from large projects under programs such as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe in catalysing the development of innovative manufacturing solutions.

Gabriele Favaro, CECIMO's Technical and Digital Officer, who moderated the event, kickstarted with a brief introduction on the importance of EU-funded projects in agile production, highlighting challenges and future prospects in the field of robotics and Industrial IoT.

Success Stories

Director of Innovation at Aldakin Group, Ibai Inziarte shared best practices by showcasing the work of Aldakin Group. He explained how the Group made a strategic decision to develop additional applications to complement the offer for machine tool manufacturers. Mr Inziarte underlined that the main hurdles were revolved around technical and economic risks. To overcome these challenges, the team began to look for additional funding opportunities and turned to European funding support. This search led them to the TRINITY Robotics project. The project and its cascade funding presented an opportunity, especially for a smaller group venturing onto the global stage, given the feasible budget and consortium's composition, differently from larger Horizon2020 projects. Ultimately, Aldakin's efforts culminated in a successful application and subsequent funding opportunity. Nowadays, thanks to the experience coming from the Trinity project, the Group is part of several larger projects and Mr. Inziarte explained how the first experience was fundamental to build expertise and become familiar with the European funding framework, allowing them to aim at participating in further projects.

Timothée Habra, Vice-President of Engineering at PickIt3D, shared their success story, explaining the importance of third-party funding for PickIt 3D through the TRINITY Robotics project. PickIt3D has received funding for integration of a versatile gripper with the PickIt 3D vision platform and specific shaft handling software. Mr Habra highlighted the invaluable support and guidance provided by the TRINITY consortium throughout the project. This support has not only enabled the company to enhance its capabilities, but has also facilitated its expansion into more than 40 countries and the establishment of offices around the world.

Panel Discussion

The **panel discussion** provided valuable insights into the promising field of agile production, highlighting its potential to increase productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in Europe - all while prioritising a human-centred approach.

Isabelle Dor, Project Manager at CEA and EARASHI Coordinator emphasised the critical role of collaboration among project partners within the EARASHI project and similar initiatives. She underlined that successful project management depends on robust collaboration within the consortium and stressed the importance of building trust and working effectively with partners. Ms Dor also highlighted the importance of international partnerships in sharing global information and knowledge to promote circularity and eco-design principles.

Apostolis Papavasileiou, Senior Researcher at Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation and former TRINITY partner highlighted the pressing challenges faced by manufacturing companies and the growing need for agile production and innovation. He emphasised the crucial role of the EU-funded projects in delivering innovative solutions through robotic technologies and digital opportunities, particularly in close collaboration with human operators in the production line. Mr Papavasileiou highlighted the novelty of cascade funding and its distribution, which allows a wider range of SMEs and start-ups to access the funding.

Chris Decubber, Service Provider for EFFRA, complemented the discussion by focusing on the innovative approach to funding distribution, in particular cascade funding, and the unique opportunities it provides for SMEs and startups. He noted that cascade funding opens doors to integrate technologies into projects with the support and collaboration of the consortium. Mr Decubber also discussed the key achievements of EU-funded projects in agile manufacturing, emphasising the importance of demonstrators as key components. He also highlighted the diverse range of technologies being brought together, including the implementation of digital twins and the future prospect of investing several resources on the development and improvement of the European Digital Innovation Hubs.

The panel discussion provided insights into the challenges, achievements and benefits of EU-funded projects from the perspective of both the beneficiaries and the consortium.