



# Newsletter #2

## Period 2

### 2026

“Driving Europe’s Future  
of Smart Mobility”

## Welcome to SMARTAUTO!

The SMARTAUTO project aims to bridge the gap between European regions in terms of the development and use of autonomous vehicles.

## GOALS

SMARTAUTO helps regions harness the benefits of automated transport, improving mobility, sustainability and safety for all.

## HOW TO REACH?

- Connecting partners
- Share best practice
- Transfer knowledge
- Promote innovation



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## 2nd IPLE at ZalaZone, in Hungary

The second Interregional Policy Learning Event (IPLE) took place on 25–26 March 2026 at ZalaZONE in Zalaegerszeg, Hungary. The SMARTAUTO project meeting and study tour were organised by the STRIA – South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency.

Participants gained a comprehensive overview of the future of rural transport, with a strong focus on the opportunities offered by automated driving and digitalisation. The presentations highlighted how these innovative solutions can be integrated into existing public transport systems, supported by real-life examples and emerging services.

In addition, attendees learned about the latest research and development results, AI-based vehicle technologies, as well as practical experiences in testing and approving automated systems in Europe—shedding light on both the opportunities and challenges of implementation. Perhaps the most anticipated part of the program was the presentation of the ZalaZONE project and following that, a visit to it.

The one and a half day event provided an insight into the automated driving technologies available in rural areas, illustrating the obstacles and opportunities for their wider deployment.



Source: zalazone.hu

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## SMARTAUTO represented at the Europe, let's cooperate! forum

SMARTAUTO took part in the 12th edition of Europe, Let's cooperate! interregional cooperation forum. The event took place on 16-17 April 2026 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Europe, let's cooperate!" is Interreg Europe's flagship annual event, bringing together policymakers, experts and regional stakeholders from across the continent. It focuses on sharing knowledge, exchanging good practices and strengthening cooperation. The event highlights programme achievements, exchange of experiences and the Policy Learning Platform. Its goal is to support better, more effective regional policies across Europe.

### Main topics:

- interregional cooperation - achievements and results
- benefit of the Policy Learning Platform
- study visits and good practices of regional development policies
- network with people interested in interregional cooperation from all across Europe

The participants explored the programme's key achievements and the impact of the Policy Learning Platform. Inspiring discussions highlighted how collaboration across regions drives smarter policies and real change across Europe.

The Smartauto project was represented at the event by University of Aveiro, BIT Center and STRIA.



Source: Interreg Europe Facebook Page



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# News

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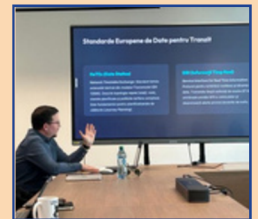
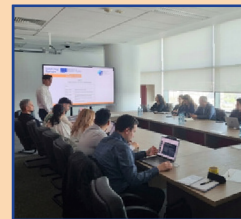
## Regional stakeholder meetings overview – Semester 2

The meetings addressed several key topics related to the development of automated mobility and smart urban systems. Discussions explored future perspectives on smart cities and automation. Participants also examined smart mobility solutions, focusing on the opportunities and challenges associated with automation in transport.

The meetings outlined a shared vision for the future of automated driving and identified concrete actions needed to support its effective implementation.

### Working Together for Smarter Mobility

- 15.04. 2026 RSGM – Bucharest, Romania
- 15.04. 2026 RSGM – Magdeburg, Germany
- 29.04. 2026 RSGM – Pécs, Hungary
- 05.05. 2026 RSGM – Águeda, Portugal



### Discover more about SMARTAUTO!

How to connect regions to accelerate innovation in autonomous transport.

**Visit our website!**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/smartauto>



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