

PRESS RELEASE

CONVERGING concludes four-year journey with key lessons for human-centric manufacturing

After four years of research, development and industrial validation, the Horizon Europe CONVERGING project is approaching its completion, bringing together lessons from its work on smart, reconfigurable and human-centric manufacturing.

Since September 2022, 16 partners from Europe and Asia have collaborated to develop and validate production systems combining people, collaborative robots, autonomous systems, AI and data across four industrial contexts: automotive, aeronautics, white goods and additive manufacturing.

Beyond its technological developments and pilot demonstrations, the project has highlighted several lessons for the future of manufacturing:

- Automation must adapt to real production environments.
- Technologies need to be connected through open, modular systems and reliable data flows.
- Industrial operators should be involved from the beginning of technology development.
- Safety, usability and productivity need to be addressed together.
- Skills development should advance alongside automation.
- Cross-border and cross-sector collaboration is essential for overcoming technical and regulatory challenges.

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These lessons reflect a central message emerging from the project: human-centric manufacturing is not achieved simply by introducing more automation, but by designing technologies around the people, processes and environments in which they operate.

As CONVERGING reaches its conclusion, its partners aim to carry these principles forward into future research, industrial applications and collaborations. The project may be ending, but the knowledge, partnerships and conversations it created will continue to contribute to the development of more flexible, intelligent and human-centric manufacturing.



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