MASOC
Association of Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking Industries of Latvia
/Metalworking Cluster

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Executive Director

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MASOC – Association of Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking Industries of Latvia

• Established in 1994 as informative and consultative centre for the specified industrial sector
• Voluntary, membership based organisation
• Unites about 160 members – companies, related service providers and knowledge institutions
• Members from all regions of Latvia
• Implements activities typical for sector associations and cluster organisations
• Since 2009 – recognised as one of the priority clusters in Latvia as part of National Cluster programmes. Recent project with ERDF support 2016-2020.
• Objective – development of international competitiveness of the member companies and sector in general
MASOC – composition of the cluster

- Design and prototyping
- Testing and certification
- Specialised services
- Education
- METALS
- METAL PRODUCTS
- MACHINERY
- ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
- TRANSPORT VEHICLES
- Materials suppliers
- Materials recovery
- Suppliers of equipment
- Research
Main activities of the cluster

- Networking / Co-operation
- Education & HR development
- Marketing / Export promotion
- International co-operation
- Productivity & efficiency
- Information
Key activities – marketing and export promotion

- Joint stands at international exhibitions and trade fairs (Germany, Finland, Sweden, Norway, UK, Russia)
- Outgoing and incoming trade missions
Key activities – R&D and development of new products

- Competence Centre Project
  - Support to development of new products and technologies / industrial R&D
  - 15 ongoing research projects

3 main areas of research

- Advanced manufacturing technologies
- New materials
- Transport technologies
Key activities – efficiency and productivity improvement

**Topics**
- Energy efficiency
- Digitalisation / Industry 4.0
- Process management
- New technologies

**Activities**
- Information exchange
- Seminars
- Study visits
- Pilot projects
Key activities – education and HR development

- Early education
- Professional orientation
- Vocational preparation and training
- Studies
- Human resource development professional further training
Key activities - TehnoBuss

- Mobile demo laboratory equipped with modern technologies – CNC machines, FESTO automatisation, 3D printer, multimedia, welding equipment, etc;
- Visiting schools and giving lectures to schoolchildren (mainly 7-9 grade)
- Operating since September 2015
- Project developed in co-operation with Nordmetall, Germany
- Since beginning, more than 180 schools visited, lectures attended by 19 000 schoolchildren

Main objective – To raise interest in technology and engineering sciences and to attract young people to choose technical education
Key activities – networking and cooperation

- Monthly meetings
  - Held in some of the member company
  - Exchange of information and good practice
  - Focus on some particular topic
  - Networking and building trust

- Two day strategy seminars
  - Discussion on strategic issues
  - Informal discussion and networking

- Web based information exchange
  IT system and database on available technologies and competences
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