

## EMPOWERING EU BUSINESSES BY INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF ADHESIVE BONDING TECHNOLOGY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS

The AdTech project will create a European Harmonized Training to support the industries that depend on the availability of these professionals to better leverage the technology

Adhesive usage is growing rapidly in Europe, as it represents a strong competitive advantage for companies and industries able to muster the knowledge, competencies and techniques needed to better leverage it, at a juncture where there is a growing need for EU businesses to become more competitive through talent and innovation.

The objective of the AdTech project is to contribute to a wider adoption of this technology by delivering a European qualification standard for professionals that use this technology encompassing, in its inception, the three professional profiles - European Adhesive Bonder (EAB), Specialist (EAS) and Engineer (EAE) – that represent the foundation of the harmonized qualification system developed by EWF since its beginning in 1992.



*Figure 1 - Adhesives were used to join body panels over a larger area to make significant improvements to body rigidity*

Adhesive bonding and sealant technologies have a large worldwide diffusion in many industrial sectors, such as the ones of aerospace, automotive, shipping and railway. The increasing popularity of this technology is related to the great benefits associated with its usage, compared to welding or mechanical fastening process: lower heat input, prevention of contact corrosion and, what is more important, the possibility to join very thin sheets and dissimilar materials (i.e metals to polymer).

The AdTech project will support the achievement of the European Union's targets and the objectives set forth by the Erasmus + Programme by increasing the labour market relevance of VET and reducing skills mismatches and shortages as well, showcasing the relevance of further need-oriented skills development.

Seven partners constitute the consortium. UPORTO will act as Project Coordinator, in direct contact with the National Agency from Portugal. EWF is the European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting, with a Training and Qualification network covering 32 member countries that will be essential in the implementation and dissemination of AdTech results. Four of the partners are the national institutes with expertise in joining technologies, of Portugal (ISQ), Slovenia (IZV), Austria (SZA) and Spain (CESOL), which have strong knowledge and expertise in training and qualification at a sector-based level. The sixth partner is Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials, part of the Fraunhofer Society, a German research organization with 67 institutes spread throughout Germany and in several European Countries, each focusing on different fields of applied science, which has already trained over 6,000 professionals.