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Human-centric robotics in manufacturing: SMARTHANDLE Joins Forces with AGILEHAND, MASTERLY, and HARTU in online workshop

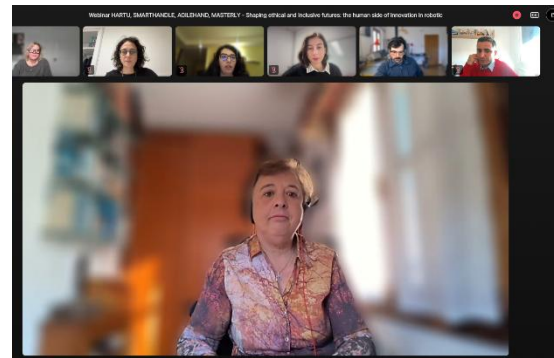


On 19/2 four pioneering Horizon Europe projects, **SMARTHANDLE**, **AGILEHAND**, **MASTERLY**, and **HARTU**, joined forces for a collaborative online workshop exploring the role of humans in the automation of the manufacturing sector. With automation technologies evolving rapidly, the event centered on how to ethically and inclusively integrate AI and robotics in industrial

environments while prioritizing human experience, social acceptance, and safe collaboration.

A unified approach to human-robot collaboration

The joint webinar opened with **SMARTHANDLE**, showcasing its advancements in reconfigurable robotic handling solutions designed for smart and resilient production lines. Emphasis was placed on how these solutions not only enhance flexibility and performance, but also improve worker safety and reduce exposure to physically demanding tasks.



The session continued with insights from **AGILEHAND**, **MASTERLY**, and **HARTU**, each presenting complementary innovations and perspectives:

- How can we design collaborative robots that adapt to diverse worker needs?
- What does ethical AI integration look like in practice?



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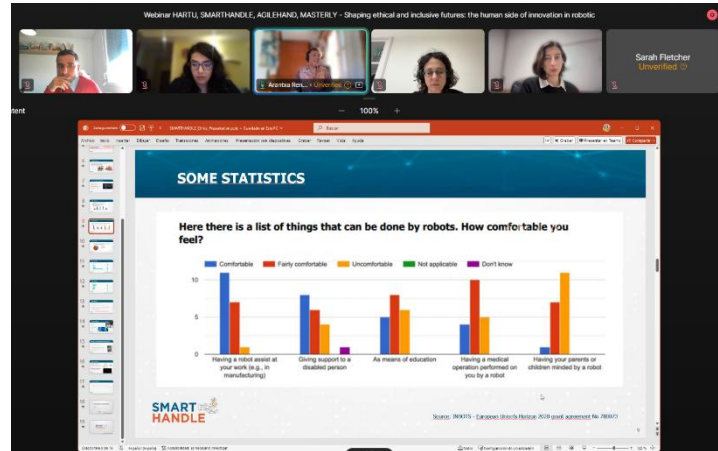
- How can user-centered design principles promote widespread adoption?

These and other pressing questions formed the basis of a rich and thought-provoking dialogue.

Interactive dialogue and cross-project synergies

The event featured **interactive Q&A sessions**, enabling participants from academia, industry, and research to engage directly with the project teams. Attendees explored **collaboration opportunities**, shared concerns and ideas, and highlighted the need for **interdisciplinary dialogue** when shaping the factories of the future.

By placing the human at the center of technological progress, the four projects collectively underscored a shared commitment to **socially responsible innovation** in robotics and AI.



Watch the recording on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WD4OVIprDI>

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