

## CALL for Laboratories for Transborder Cooperation- LTC

Since 2015, within the framework of the Euro-regional campus created by the University of Bordeaux (UB) and the University of the Basque Country – Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU), together with their partners, various Laboratories for Transborder Cooperation (LTCs) have been developed. The aim is to promote scientific collaboration and higher education in a specific field, facilitate the mobility of people, the sharing of resources and infrastructure, and attract young talent.

There are currently nine LTCs in operation in the fields of physical chemistry, engineering, mathematics, sustainable cement manufacturing, neuroscience, photonics, ecotoxicology, applied biology, and pharmacology.

### 1. Definition: what are LTCs?

A LTC is a lab without walls whose aims are:

- To provide a framework to carry out research projects in a specific field with the objective to increase the added-value of scientific outputs as well as the visibility of our joint research at the EU and international level,
- To act as an incubator for larger projects with a view to attract external funding (notably EU funding),
- To create a sustainable transnational community of researchers, thus involving students, PhDs, junior and senior researchers,
- To attract research talent from an early age (undergraduate, master's and, pre-doctoral students) and develop joint training programs, especially at the master's level.
- To promote scientific and technological entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer.
- To design and offer joint training programs.

The LTC comes as a significant step in the recognition of an already existing partnership. Project coordinators should therefore provide evidence to demonstrate the anteriority and solidity of the partnership.

It is also expected that LTCs shall not cover too wide a scientific perimeter, but rather focus on a specific research and training project in a given scientific area.

A LTC is coordinated by two PIs, one from the University of the Basque Country- Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (EHU), one from Université de Bordeaux (UB).

Each year, a single LTC is selected to receive direct support from both universities (EHU and UB) for four years.

### 2. Common process to the establishment of a new LTC and allocation means

#### 2.1 Financial support

The financial support to LTCs is as follows:

- Funding for the everyday operation of the LTC (travels, stipends for students, organizational costs for workshops, summer schools, etc.) for a maximum amount of 10K€ per year (5K€ per university).
- EHU commits to fund a doctoral researcher under cotutelle per LTC over the period of the agreement (this means a doctoral contract for four years with EHU).

- UB commits to fund a postdoc researcher per LTC over the period of the agreement (this means a postdoc for two years, under a postdoc contract with UB).
- Access to other funding opportunities through local programs (doctoral scholarships, visiting scholars, etc.).

Funding will not be renewable. After the four-year agreement completion, the LTC could maintain the LTC recognition/label, but without any further commitment of funding by EHU and UB. After this time, it is expected that the LTC have been able to leverage their own funding for running costs and temporal hiring of predocs and postdocs.

## 2.2 Participants in the selection and evaluation process

### Université de Bordeaux (UB):

- Vice-president of Research
- Other VP and department directors appointed by UB governing team

### EHU - TECNALIA - DIPIC:

- Vice-president of Research / Scientific development
- Other VP and department directors appointed by EHU governing team

## 2.3 Process to select new LTCs

The Call for LTCs is managed by Euskampus Fundazioa: publication of the call, reception of proposals and evaluation.

1. The PIs submit an application, using a common application form. This form also includes an estimated budget for the running of the LTC.
2. The application is evaluated by an external committee according to a set of criteria. The list of criteria is as follows:

- **Track record of the collaboration** – period of the collaboration, how and why it started, main achievements during the collaboration in terms of common projects, publications, patents, contacts, PhD theses under cotutelle/co-supervision, connection to other partners, main outcomes, etc.;

- **Quality of the scientific proposal** – detailed presentation of the scientific project including objectives of the project (in terms of research, training including training at the doctoral level, innovation and industrial collaborations), activities that the LTC will carry out as well as a detailed plan for the first year of the project, possible theses, opportunities for post-docs, dashboard of indicators for follow-up and assessment (after 2 years / after 4 years: external funding obtained, co-tutelles, seminars, workshops, summer schools, joint publications, etc. ), etc.;

- **CV of PIs** (excellence of the PIs);

- **Critical mass, size and complementarity of the teams** involved in the project - researchers involved in the project on both sides as well as opportunities for other teams, researchers to join in the future;

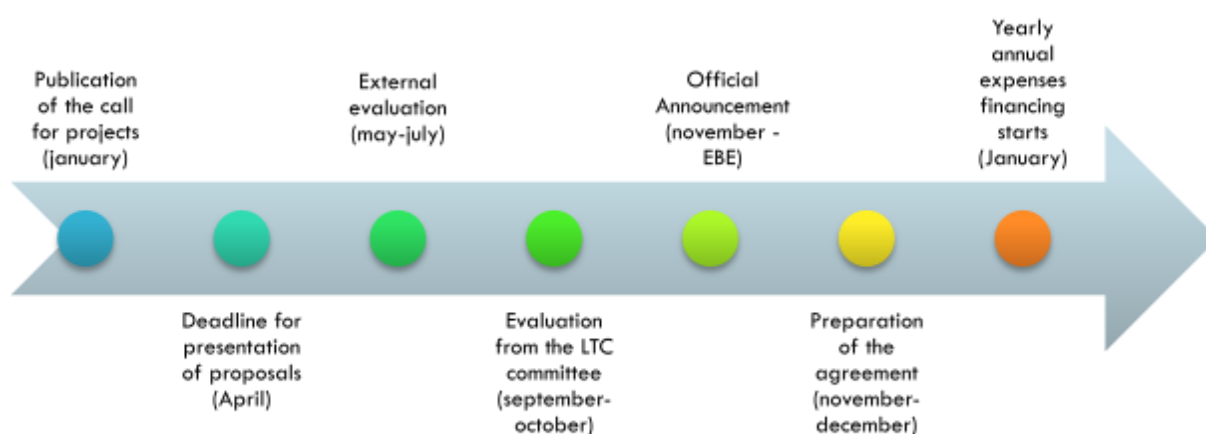
complementarity of the teams, balance between senior researchers and junior researchers, gender balance, opportunities for PhDs and post-docs, etc.;

- **Connection with the regional ecosystem and potential for international outreach** - connections with the industry and local stakeholders as well as potential opportunities at the European and international level (existing networks, new funding opportunities, etc.).

Euskampus Fundazioa will request an external evaluation from an independent scientific evaluation agency. The costs of this evaluation process will be paid by Euskampus Fundazioa.

3. Once the results of the external evaluation have been received, a committee made up of 1-2 people from EHU, 1-2 people from UB, and 1-2 people from Euskampus Fundazioa will select the corresponding LTC for each year.

The creation of each LTC will be announced during the annual “Euskampus Bordeaux Eguna” event held around October/November each year. Funds for running costs will be allocated to both teams from January (year n+1).



## 2.4 Process to request funding for a PhD / post-doc

Access to funding for a PhD or post-doc position will require additional applications: for PhD, it will follow the template provided by EHU; for Post-docs, it will follow the template provided by UB. Each new application will be evaluated according to the internal rules of each university. In the case of PhDs, once the LTC is recognized, it will be the LTC PIs who will make the decision on candidates following EHU's template and rules.

## 3. Follow-up of LTC activities

The PIs submit a yearly activity and financial report (see proposed model in appendix). The steering committee meets yearly for all LTCs before or during the “Euskampus Bordeaux Eguna” and discusses the activity report as well as future planning (including budgetary issues). Potential requests for PhD and/or post- doc positions can be submitted there.