



Laboratories
for Transborder
Cooperation
Network

Call for proposals LTC Sarea 2026

NETWORK OF LABORATORIES FOR TRANS-BORDER COOPERATION “LTC Sarea”

Opportunity and motivation for LTC Sarea support

The Basque Country and New Aquitaine host internationally recognised research capabilities yet addressing today's scientific and societal challenges requires stronger cross-border integration, critical mass and long-term collaborative structures. Since their creation, the Cross-border Cooperation Laboratories (LTCs) have demonstrated that sustained collaboration between complementary research groups generates scientific excellence, attracts international talent and strengthens the capacity to compete for European funding. Building on this successful experience, LTC Sarea has evolved into a strategic platform that connects consolidated laboratories within a common framework, enabling them to jointly address emerging research challenges while reinforcing the international positioning of the Basque innovation ecosystem.

Supporting LTC Sarea in 2026 represents an opportunity to accelerate the next stage of development of the network by fostering new interdisciplinary collaborations, expanding participation to additional research groups and early-career researchers, and strengthening links with industry and society. The programme will promote the co-creation of ambitious research agendas, facilitate researcher mobility and talent development, and stimulate knowledge transfer and innovation through targeted collaborative initiatives. By providing coordinated strategic support and competitive funding, LTC Sarea will reinforce the long-term sustainability of the laboratories, increase their capacity to secure international research projects, and maximise their scientific, economic and societal impact in alignment with the Basque Country's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy and broader European research priorities.

Objectives within the framework of LTC Sarea

There is still a wider scope to connect with and have a greater impact on the region, by supporting new initiatives aimed at achieving more specific objectives:

- LTC Sarea aspires to promote a **structured and coordinated LTC network**, generating a stable framework to carry out research projects within the NA-BC-N Euroregion.
- LTC Sarea seeks to **maximise the impact of LTCs in the RIS3 and RIS4** of the regions that form part of it. To this end, a series of actions will be implemented to maximise the connection with the region.
- LTC Sarea is a step forward in the structuring of a **sustainable transnational community of researchers** in which international collaboration environments are fostered through LTCs.

The aim is not only to collaborate more with international research groups, but also to consolidate the relationships that are being forged in order to establish quality connections that will last over time and allow long-term joint projects to be built up.

Two main areas of action can be identified:

- The universities and entities connected with the ENLIGHT alliance, which means that LTC Sarea can have preferential partners that it is already working with in a stable and trustworthy institutional framework.
- Other universities and research and innovation centres that are strategic for the network.

As in previous years, the LTC Sarea 2026 program maintains the LTC Sarea Innova initiatives that could include, among others, the following lines of work:

- Attracting research talent from an early age (bachelor's, master's and pre-doctoral students).
- Measuring and managing the impact generated through the LTC and LTC Incubators.
- Encouraging scientific-technological transfer and entrepreneurship.
- Improving intergenerational and gender balance in the teams and, especially in the leadership positions of the projects and initiatives that are worked on within the framework of each LTC and LTC Incubator.

Map of the ENLIGHT alliance of ten EU universities.

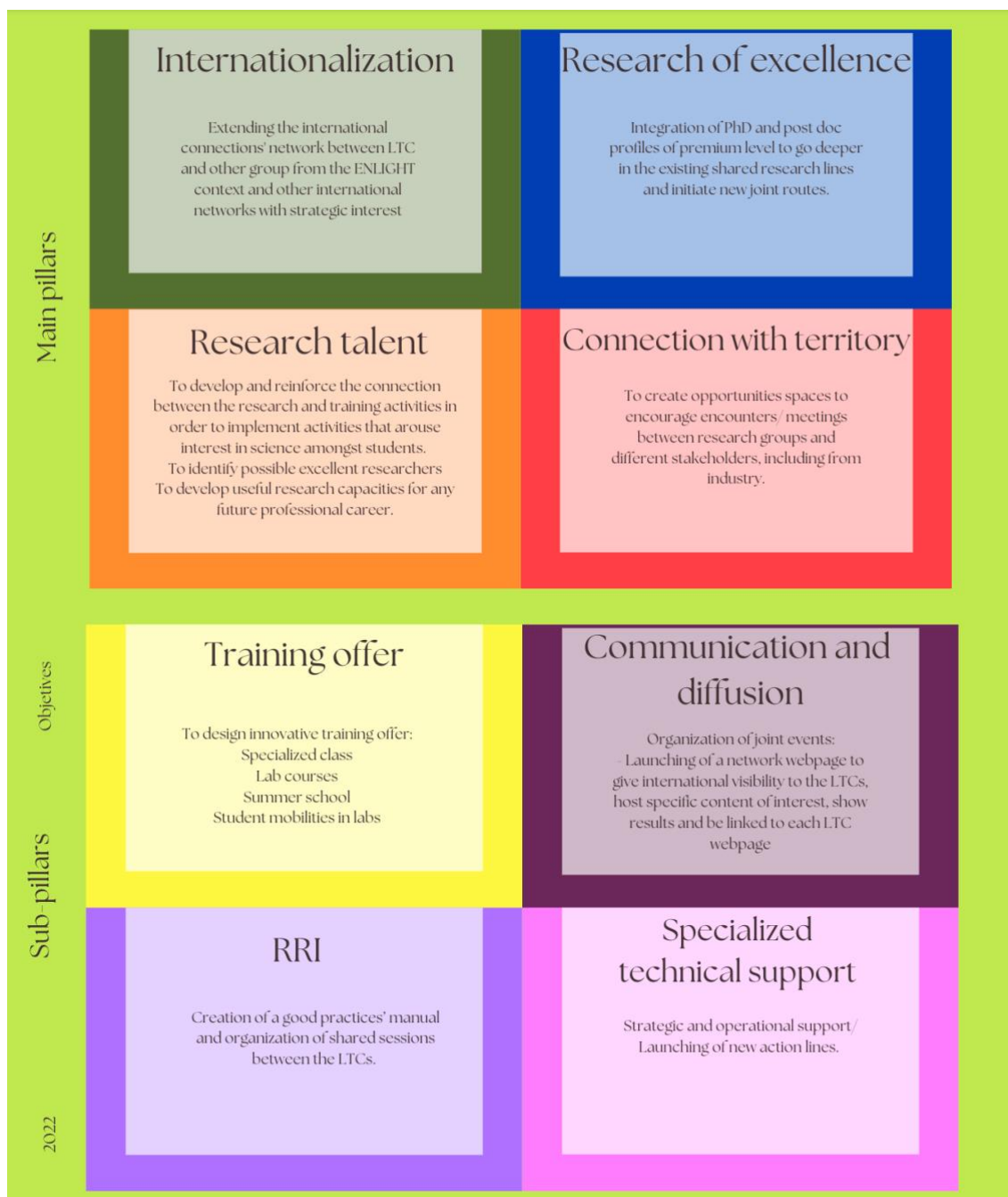


In order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary to build new pathways to generate opportunities for learning, research and transfer. These opportunities will generate results in the medium and long term thanks to various lines of action, for example:

- LTC Sarea is built on the basis of laboratories without walls, which will continue to have the flexibility and openness necessary for research talent to flow freely. With this in mind, we will work on formulas for the **mobility of researchers**, who will be able to go on **long research stays** (2 or 3 months) and make the most of shared equipment and other resources.
- Innovative training formulas will also be activated to encourage the **promotion of research talent** from the early stages of specialised higher education (Master's students or even undergraduate students) by offering **mobility stays, lab courses, workshops** and **summer courses** aimed at getting them interested in research and initiating the development of research skills.
- The development of key cross-cutting capabilities for the science of the future will be fostered, based on the pillars of the **Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)** approach.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The LTC Network (LTC Sarea) will promote activities around four main areas of action and four sub-areas that facilitate the achievement of the objectives described:



BUDGET

The budget of the LTC network this year 2026 will be allocated mainly to support actions aimed at consolidating the international positioning of the LTC network, expanding the field of international connections, deepening the anchorage with the territory and eventually launching innovative actions aiming to explore synergies with other LTCs, adding new research and innovation action lines or testing novel higher education programmes.

To this end, Euskampus Fundazioa will channel the budget towards existing and future LTCs by assessing the proposals submitted using the following templates:

- [LTC Sarea template](#) for existing LTCs
- [LTC Incubator template](#) for research groups with a shared research programme that would like to present an LTC project in the future.

Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will be entities to which the groups and researchers affiliated to the LTC or, where appropriate, LTC conversion project (LTC incubator) belong.

The LTC Incubator grant can only be applied for twice.