



Laboratories
for Transborder
Cooperation
Network

Terms LTC Sarea 2025

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

Opportunity and motivation for LTC Sarea support

The first LTCs completed the four-year period of support provided by the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU) and the University of Bordeaux (UBx) in 2021, having demonstrated great progress in terms of scientific excellence and internationalisation potential. The support of the universities has been essential, because without that initial boost we would not have a network of five consolidated laboratories today. This four-year support was particularly aimed at strengthening collaboration ties within the framework of each LTC in the Basque Country-New Aquitaine Euroregion area.

Thanks to the support of the Deputy Ministry for Universities and Research of the Basque Government’s Department for Education, the LTC Sarea programme was designed and launched in 2021. This year has been a year of transition for the existing Laboratories to become part of a network together with the other LTCs. The new programme has boosted the larger common LTC project and helped it to reach an international dimension and positioning that transcends the cross-border context (Basque Country - New Aquitaine). LTC Sarea provides a unique opportunity to increase the number of research teams with varied and complementary profiles, thanks to the possibility of incorporating proposals for work with undergraduate and postgraduate students, first-rate pre-doctoral students and, especially, post-doctoral staff capable of complementing and diversifying the lines of research. The aim is twofold: to foster an exponential and international launch of LTCs in terms of number and scope in the coming years; and to generate opportunities for students and researchers who want to carry out stays by rotating round different groups and laboratories.

In addition, LTC Sarea is further strengthening these cross-border cooperation laboratories in the regional context of the Basque Country and New Aquitaine, by launching initiatives aimed at connecting with industry and sharing their results with the general public.

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** 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 2025 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 nine 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 2025 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 actions aligned with LTC Sarea INNOVA.

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.