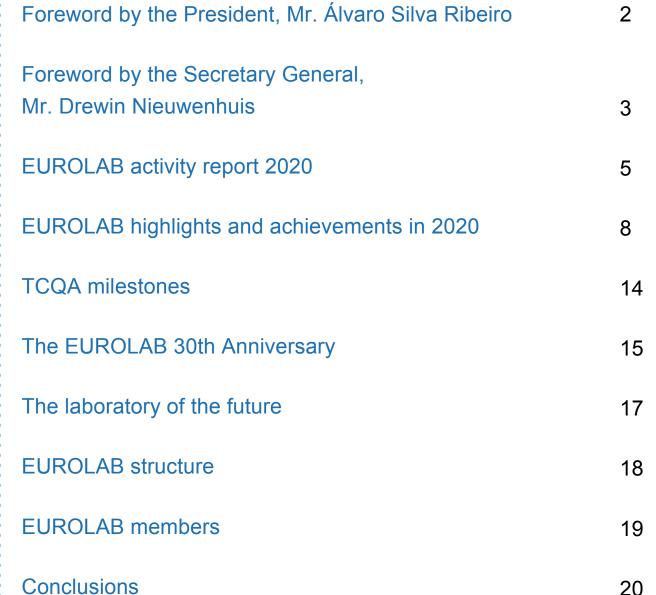


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1. FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT MR. ÁLVARO SILVA RIBEIRO

EUROLAB celebrates 30 years - looking back and facing the future

The celebration of a milestone is often a time of reflection on what has been achieved, what is intended for the future and where EUROLAB stands in this moment, at its 30th anniversary.

The 27th of April, 1990, was certainly a very different time, marked by political, economic and social realities that emerged from the Cold War and where the idea of the single market in Europe flourished, projecting a new vision for the organization of a society. In the three decades that followed, great changes occurred, as expected, and globalization has become a reality; the economy has had its cycles, geopolitics has been determining new balances and technologies, and information has become essential for business and social life.

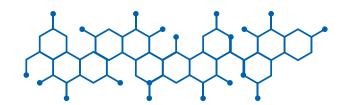
What was EUROLAB's role in this process?

Since its origins, EUROLAB has played an important role in the development of the European network of laboratories and in the recognition of its competence and added value. The creation of national laboratory associations in many of the European countries had an impact in several ways, stimulating partnerships and cooperation, valuing accreditation and supporting essential technical training and capacity building in the 1990s, and giving a voice to a community of public and private entities. It was key to develop the perception of quality by European citizens and consumers.

EUROLAB represents today more than 9.000 laboratories in more than 20 countries, with an estimated association of more than 150.000 experts and practitioners, the laboratory sector being one of the activities that requires more qualified professionals, advanced technology, management methods following high quality standards and with an increasing relevance in aspects such as safety and quality of life. The importance of its action is reflected in the high level of international cooperation with key stakeholders, in its capacity to produce reference documents that support the activity of many laboratories and accreditation bodies worldwide, and in its cooperation with governance, with regulatory authorities and with industry and trade.

What can we expect for the future?

EUROLAB is currently undergoing a phase of change and adaptation due to the ongoing technological evolution, accelerated by the circumstances created by the pandemic. After a year of great uncertainty, it can be said that EUROLAB is preparing the future in view of the great challenges that lie ahead. The change is revealed in different aspects, marked by the digital transition and by the sense of European policy that influences economic activity in a decisive way, strongly centered on Europe's climate neutrality and which is part of the global green deal approach.





EUROLAB is in a process of evolution at different levels, namely, to develop its network using the new digital communication platforms, to promote capacity building and new laboratory skills in emerging technological areas and new trends (IoT, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, 3D modeling, 5G communication, robotics, virtual reality and many others), monitor the adaptation and the impact of robotization on the job market, and position laboratories in the international scene by maintaining cooperation with the various stakeholders. In this context, the application of management and quality systems, as well as accreditation and conformity assessment, as key elements of the culture and business of the laboratories, remain as a highly important activity.

A final word to congratulate all who had the original idea and were able to build EUROLAB as a major partner of laboratories and stakeholders, by providing the knowledge and expertise to support this community facing the new challenges of technology and communication.

Greetings from the EUROLAB team and stay safe.

Álvaro Ribeiro, EUROLAB President

2. FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. DREWIN NIEUWEHNUIS

Dear Readers.

The past year has been filled with enormous changes to our way of life and our work methodologies. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on social limitations at all levels, we have been forced to adapt to a new, and in some way unprecedented, business and operational environment: of particular note was the need for many of us to work from home, to take better care of our collective health and to make good use of all the digital tools that we have at our disposal in order to continue our activities to the best of our capabilities.

The increased reliance on tele-working practices – such as online videoconferencing systems, cloud environments, collaboration platforms etc. – was not something completely unknown before 2020; but this year has marked, due to these unforeseen circumstances, a realization of the immense possibilities offered by these tools. New and innovative digital applications, e.g. remote assessments and shared online work environments, while not previously unheard of, are now for all intents and purposes parts of our daily lives, and they will most likely be in the near future.



While the full opportunities offered by the technological innovations are yet to be discovered, there are currently a lot of efforts going toward taking advantage of them to the fullest: remote inspection offers labs a safe and effective way of performing a wide range of activities, while the issues of A.I., cybersecurity and the digital transformation are being fully explored in a variety of webinars and conferences all over the world, not to mention the broad policy and accreditation developments that will mark the following years in various States across the world.

In 2020, EUROLAB celebrated its 30th Anniversary remotely, by avoiding direct contacts and gatherings and limiting to the distribution of virtual greetings and of a virtual message by our President, Mr. Álvaro Silva Ribeiro. This does not mean, however, that EUROLAB has delayed its activities. In fact, this has been a year of fervent work, with six Board meetings, two TCQA meetings and webinars, joint cooperations with key stakeholders, involvement in policy development at the EU level and remote meetings, that have touched on a lot of current issues and have helped moving forward EUROLAB's agenda in lots of ways. You will find further details in this annual report.

In 2021, EUROLAB will focus on new priority areas that fully reflect the current trends in the world of metrology, accreditation and the laboratories' activities. In this sense, the lab of the future will remain especially central in our actions and views, as we help our members navigate through these uncertain times and toward a future of new possibilities. We will continue representing the voice of laboratories worldwide and help coordinating our efforts to ensure that we will come out of this pandemic stronger together and fully prepared for what the future holds.

I wish you all a safe and healthy 2021, with my friendly greetings.

Drewin Nieuwenhuis, EUROLAB Secretary General





3. EUROLAB ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

EUROLAB is the European Federation of National Associations, grouping together 26 National Association of accredited laboratories, composed of 19 Active Members, 3 Associated Members, 1 Observer Member and 3 International Affiliates from Europe and beyond.

It represents and voices the opinions of measurement, testingand analytical laboratories regarding economic, political and technical issues having a direct impact on laboratories' activities both on the European scene and worldwide. Any laboratory may join and become a member of the European community that EUROLAB represents by subscribing to its National Association.

EUROLAB has proved very effective in influencing policies and regulations at the European level. Its voice on behalf of the measurement and testing laboratory community in Europe is one which is heard and respected. It is currently engaged in influencing EU policies including those on conformity assessment and accreditation of notified bodies. EUROLAB cooperates with EURACHEM (A focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe) and UILI (The Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants) and has Memoranda of Understanding with EFNDT (European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing) and EURAMET (European Association of National Metrology Institutes). EUROLAB is an associated member of TIC Council - the international association representing independent testing, inspection and certification companies. EUROLAB represents its members' interests in influencing the development of international standards and accreditation rules through its engagement with ISO, ILAC and EA and their constituent working groups.

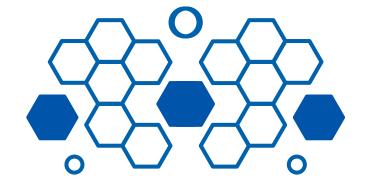


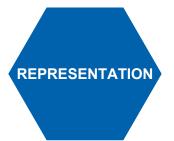
EUROLAB members are divided in four categories, based on different requirements depending on the profile of the applicant; all of them must be constituted under the laws and regulations of their country of origin:

- Active members: one legal not-for-profit entity per member of the EU or the EFTA, which must have demonstrated its
 representative character concerning public or private measurement, testing and analytical laboratories within its national
 community;
- Associated members: one legal not-for-profit entity per country from countries eligible for membership to the European Union or EFTA, or which country is a participating member of the European Neighbourhood Policy, which must have demonstrated its representative character concerning public or private measurement, testing and analytical laboratories within its national community;
- Observer members: legal entities or associations or groups of organisations not eligible for active or associated membership, with an interest in measurement, testing and analytical activities;
- International affiliate members: legal entities or associations or groups of organisations constituted under the laws and regulations of their country of origin not eligible for active or associated membership, with an interest in measurement, testing and analytical activities.



EUROLAB OBJECTIVES





By formulating and voicing the opinion of European laboratories regarding political and technical issues having a direct impact on their activity, both on the European scene and worldwide.



By interfacing with all
European organisations
having activities of interest
to the laboratory
community, and striving to
avoid duplication of efforts
and activities.



By providing adequate
means for exchange of
information and
experience, such as the
publication of our Position
Papers, Technical
Reports, Newsletter,
Webinars, Seminars, and
Working Groups etc.



Of cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements should be adjusted to actual needs.





In order to be a recognized stakeholder and to be actively involved in EU-related matters and increase its visibility on the EU scene, it was important to be located in Brussels. Since 2011, EUROLAB's secretariat and official address were moved to CEOC's (now the TIC Council's) premises in Brussels, given that the two associations had already been working together successfully for several years (joint events, position papers and committees) and that many overlaps of daily work could be identified.

The EUROLAB General Secretariat in Brussels firstly provides a platform for our members to discuss their issues of concern and to exchange information and viewpoints, and, secondly acts as a facilitator of members' interests to the EU institutions. The General Secretariat supports also the Technical Committees which provide expert input on key legislative or standardisation initiatives.

Services provided by the EUROLAB Secretariat:

- Representation in the EU Institutions
- · Representation at conferences
- · Monitoring selected EU legislation
- Monitoring of ISO, EA, ILAC and IAF work
- · Organising meetings / events
- Publication of quarterly newsletter / position papers
- Participation in European Projects

EUROLAB priority areas of focus for 2021:

- · Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- · Food legislation
- Metrology and Calibration
- Accreditation
- · Trade and Mutual Recognition
- · Sustainability/Green Deal
- The lab of the future developments
 & Digital Transition
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- · Pandemic resilience of the TIC Sector



SECRETARY GENERAL

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Zeynep Yildizeli

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If you wish to find out more about EUROLAB activities, our members and the developments in the laboratory community please contact us: info@eurolab.com





4. EUROLAB HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

INTRODUCTION

Despite the necessary changes in our work practices, the shift to a completely new work-from-home environment and the lack of in-person occasions and meetings due to the COVID-19 crisis that marked 2020, EUROLAB has continued actively working on represting the laboratory community and developing new initiatives and activities with a number of key actions:

- · we have increased our reachout towards notable stakeholders such as the European Commission;
- we have further developed cooperation with notable organizations such as EURAMET, IMEKO, NCSLI and TIC Council;
- we have been ready to help guiding members through the pandemic by keeping them updated about noteworthy ongoing projects that can be of interest to them;
- we have published newsbriefings and informative content, modernized our website and increased our presence on our LinkedIn page to provide even more useful coverage of what is happening in the laboratory world.
- we have worked to support our members, the EUROLAB Board and the Technical Committee on Quality Assurance with an increased number of meetings and video-conferencing calls to compensate for the impossibility of face-to-face meetings.

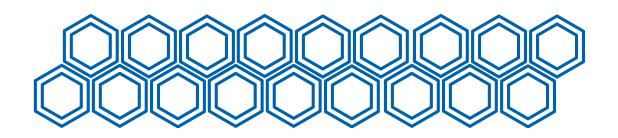
In this section, you will find a complete summary of all our outstanding activities and notable achievements for 2020.

THE NEW EUROLAB WEBSITE AND UPDATES TO THE LINKEDIN PAGE

The new EUROLAB website, that was in development during 2019, was finalized and launched in 2020, being characterized by a full suite of useful features, which allow an easier and friendly user navigation for our members.

Following the inauguration of this new platform, the website has received positive comments by members and visitors, who appreciated its streamlined design and its new features.

The EUROLAB LinkedIn page has also seen a new surge in activity in coordination with increased efforts on the website. A content strategy that involves coordination between the two tools and an increase in posts, notices and publications, has also been proposed and partially developed during 2020 with already good results.





TCQA ACTIVITIES

In 2020, the Technical Committee for Quality Assurance (TCQA) had an active and fruitful start of 2020 with various meetings, key actions and strategic planning. Several follow-up actions have been issued in order to streamline and adapt the workflow of TCQA to the current times that impose exclusively virtual meetings and proceedings.

These actions include revisions and updates to several EUROLAB technical documents and CookBooks, feedbacks on the initiatives of the European Commission, interactions with the EUROLAB members on the current issues of laboratories and productive cooperation with TIC Council on the complex topics of modern laboratory work.

You will find more details in the specific section of this report dedicated to TCQA.

THE CASP 2021 PROJECT

During early 2020, EUROLAB was contacted by Ernst & Young, a multinational professional services network, on behalf of the European Commission. The subject was, specifically, the 2021 edition of the yearly <u>CASP project - Coordinated activities for the safety of products in the EU/EEA/EFTA countries</u>, a large-scale project on product safety supported by the European Commission.

With CASP 2021, the European Commission enables Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) of EU/EEA/EFTA countries to cooperate across borders by financing joint testing campaigns for five selected product categories, which for CASP 2021 are:

- 1. Toys from non-EU web shops
- 2. Electric Toys
- 3. Reclined cradles, baby swings, baby walkers
- 4. E-cigarettes and accessories
- 5. Personal protective equipment (helmets for bicycles, motor cycles, high visibility accessories with LED)

EUROLAB was identified by EY as an important member of the product testing ecosystem, and following an approval by the Board Members is cooperating actively with CASP for dissemination and support.







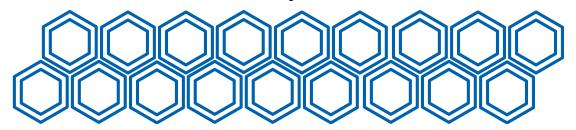
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2020, EUROLAB has stepped up its cooperation plans with relevant international actors: we have received an invitation to become a stakeholder of MathMet (the European Metrology Research Network for Mathematics and Statistics), to which we have followed with a letter of support for this partnership, signed by our President Mr. Álvaro Ribeiro.

Furthermore, we have increased our efforts in partnership with IMEKO, an international federation of representative organizations in the field of measurement: our President will be, as well, part of the IMEKO Technical Committee 11 - Measurement in Testing, Inspection and Certification, alongside Mr. Mladen Jakovčić from the Croatian Metrology Society. And finally, we are happy to report that in 2020 EUROLAB has signed a renewed Contract of Services with TIC Council and became an Associated Member, after a very fruitful and productive meeting that was held on the 5th of February, 2020, in Brussels. All the parties involved look forward to continuing their successful cooperation and joint activities for the coming years.



From left to right: Mr. Drewin Nieuwenhuis, EUROLAB Secretary General; Mrs. Hanane Taidi, TIC Council Director-General; Laura Martin, EUROLAB International Affairs Manager; Mr. Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, EUROLAB President







EUROLAB PUBLISHED ITS POSITION PAPER ON AI IN CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

In thanking the EC for the release of a white paper on artificial intelligence, in which risks and opportunities of AI are clearly highlighted, EUROLAB developed and publish a position paper that aims to further expand on the role of AI in conformity assessment.

This position paper is short and focused. It aims to address the question on how to deal with AI in the context of conformity assessment. It voices EUROLAB's position on the role AI can play in accredited conformity assessment.

This paper clearly points out that AI requires certified calibration against standards, in order to be able to judge the quality of its deductive or reasoning performance. In case such AI-standards do not yet exist, their provisioning should build upon the quality infrastructure that has proven its value in Europe. EUROLAB advises to appoint a European working group made up of manufacturers, software developers, conformity assessment bodies, and research and development institutions.

It concludes that - while AI is a tool that will (and already does) enhance and improve the service of conformity assessment - it should never replace conformity assessment by an accredited CAB.

Find the position paper here.





EUROLAB HAS RELEASED A SPECIAL BRIEFING, FOCUSED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE TOPIC OF THE LABORATORY OF THE FUTURE

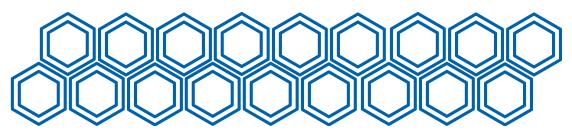
As new technologies and innovations are being introduced at a steady pace, it is of vital importance to constantly stay informed about the latest developments in the laboratory field and the changing landscapes that these can bring to the table.

EUROLAB released a special issue focused on the growing value and significance of connected devices, A.I. and automated robots - among other things - to laboratories and to their work.

Thanks to the contributions of ALPI and EUROLAB France regarding this topic, this special newsbriefing can help you stay up-to-date with the newest evolutions in cutting-edge laboratory technology, and the changes they will bring in the near future.

You can read the briefing here.







EUROLAB LATEST NEWS AND ACTIONS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC DURING 2020

As support for its members and key stakeholders, EUROLAB has created a news webpage dedicated to the latest news and updates with relation to the current COVID-19 situation. EUROLAB is continuously monitoring this subject and informing its members on the latest developments.

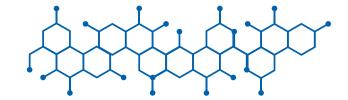
Testing is playing a critical role during these difficult times and EUROLAB members and national labs are heavily involved in supporting the identification and prevention of the virus spread.

Joining forces with TIC Council, EUROLAB Members have contributed to the efforts regarding the continued operations of independent testing, inspection, and certification (TIC) services during the COVID-19 health crisis, through a letter addressed to the European Commission and national authorities.

This letter was meant to draw the attention to the essential role played by the TIC sector in certifying that medical devices and personal protective equipment can be put on the market and the support our sector has provided to keeping international supply chains for essential products safe for employees and for citizens across the continent.

In this special time where we value safety for all, the TIC sector is a crucial actor in contributing to the fight against COVID-19, and drew the attention with this letter to the importance of maintaining free and fair conditions for TIC industries to operate where and when necessary, in order to continue supporting European citizens and minimising the impact of the crisis on European economies.

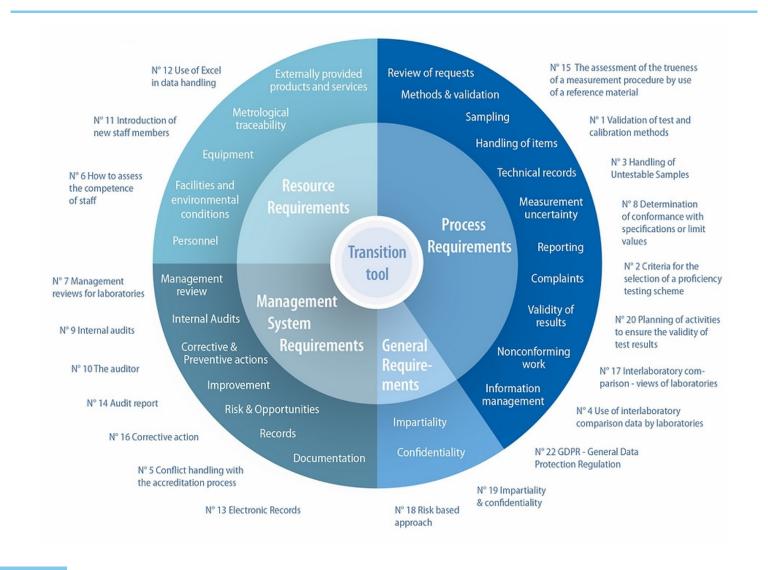




5. TCQA MILESTONES

Find here a list of achievements and milestones that have characterized the work of a revitalized Technical Committee for Quality Assurance during 2020 and the first part of 2021:

- A new work model for TCQA was discussed and approved. This improved model will also take full advantage of the possibilities offered by the new M365 environment for EUROLAB, which is currently under development;
- Several different CookBooks were revisioned and updated, keeping into account the changed landscape of the laboratory world since their original publication especially in the case of the older CookBooks. One notable example is CookBook N. 18 on Risk-Based Approach, which was revisioned following the very good work of the Working Group on Risk Analysis and which will be published this April;
- A survey on the issues and conflicts related to the transition to the new version of ISO/IEC 17025 was distributed among
 the national members in order to gather more information on this complex issue; the members have followed up with
 some useful and detailed feedback that will undoubtedly be very useful for future initiatives on this topic;
- The committee has provided an answer in alignment with TIC Council to the European Commission's request for comments to the new revision of the EU Blue Guide;
- Two new Working Groups on decision rules and on risk analysis have started their activity in 2021, alongside a new Horizontal Task Force inside TIC Council focused on remote assessments.





6. THE EUROLAB 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Since its creation in 1990, EUROLAB has been working tirelessly in pursuing the objectives shared by its pioneers. From the very first steps taken in the context of technical harmonization in Western Europe during the 1990s, to the current challenges presented by an interconnected and globalized world, EUROLAB has spent the last 30 years representing the testing laboratories and developing a trustworthy interface with officials and technical organisations relevant for their activities.

The path followed by EUROLAB has not always been an easy one: since the original signing of the EUROLAB Memorandum of Understanding in Brussels on Friday 27 April 1990, following the emanation of "The Single European Act" in 1987 (the first major amendment of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community), EUROLAB has had to face several challenges related to the large number of laboratories of the time, their diversity and the non-existence of comprehensive national associations. For this very reason, Alan Bryden (EUROLAB President from 1990 to 1994), together with its peers, designed EUROLAB to be, in its own words:

«The crucible to develop common views, share experience and make the voice of laboratories heard and influent with public authorities, the private sector and the accreditation community».

Thus, EUROLAB was, from the very beginning, set up to constitute a network of representative national associations of private and public laboratories, at the same time promoting, during the years that followed, the creation of new national associations with names that often directly referred to EUROLAB.

«Over time, EUROLAB has built up a relevant international position, being member of many organizations, participating actively in activities of technical and scientific nature and contributing effectively to the development of knowledge and technical competence [...]. Today, the international economic and political context demands a strong capacity of organizations to be able to act in a pragmatic way, promoting dialogue and cooperation, while defending the legitimate interests of their activity, in this case the Laboratory community. EUROLAB is aware of this reality and of the related challenges, knowing that the success of its action will depend on the mobilization that it can have of the national Associations and their members, pillars of its strength.»

(Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, current President of EUROLAB)

The year 2020 was marked by the extraordinary circumstances associated with the pandemic that changed radically our lives and made us once again understand the importance that testing plays in our society while the laboratory community is a key player assuring the implementation of conformity assessment for the safety and quality of products and services. Despite the challenging year, EUROLAB celebrated it 30th Anniversary virtually, with the EUROLAB President, addressing all the members and the laboratory community with a virtual message which can be found on the <u>EUROLAB Website page</u> dedicated to the 30th Anniversary.

EUROLAB IN PICTURES





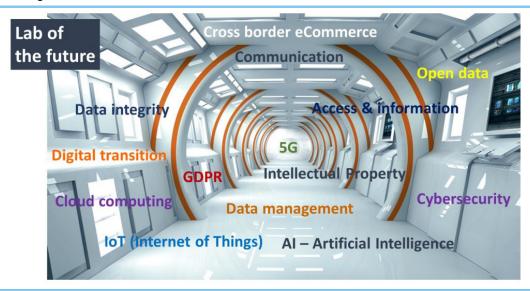
7. THE LABORATORY OF THE FUTURE

Nowadays, the laboratory of the future is driven by the fast changing new technologies and by the high demands of customers. Future laboratories will probably change completely in appearance from those we have nowadays. New technologies such as 3D printing, robotics, high-tech devices or cloud computing will bring big transformations to the lab of the future, which will be completely paperless.

Moreover, the laboratory could become interconnected with simple long-distance access given to workers, who could support each other remotely in real time. The lab of the future will be focused on reducing emissions, physical waste as well as optimising storage, energy and human resources. All of this will be done thanks to the rapid pace of technological advancement, which will determine the reshuffling of the future laboratories, which we already see happening.

The current policy topics that are relevant for the lab of the future are:

- · Digital single market
- · Artificial intelligence
- · Internet-of-things
- 5G communication
- · Data management
- Cybersecurity
- · Quantum computation & communication
- · Machine Learning



On Tuesday, October 27th 2020, EUROLAB jointly with TIC Council hosted a virtual webinar entitled 'The Lab of the future and the future of Labs', dedicated to explore the changes that laboratories are currently facing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the technological developments that are exponentially changing the landscape.

As new technologies and rapidly-developing innovations are being introduced at a steady pace, it is of vital importance for laboratories to constantly stay informed about the latest transformations in the sector, the new perspectives that these will bring, and how laboratories can adapt and thrive in this new environment.

The webinar has, in particular, covered specific topics such as: remote audits, new norms and standards and their implementation, current and future challenges and opportunities for laboratories. It also focused on bringing together various relevant actors from laboratory associations, accreditation organizations as well as private stakeholders, in order to cover a wide range of perspectives and to explore ideas for adapting to a rapidly changing world.

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8. EUROLAB STRUCTURE



PRESIDENT Álvaro Silva Ribeiro, RELACRE



VICE-PRESIDENT

Kurt Ziegler, EUROLAB Germany



VICE-PRESIDENT
Paolo Moscatti, ALPI



BOARD MEMBER

Jean-Luc Laurent, EUROLAB France



BOARD MEMBER Ewa Bulska, POLLAB



TREASURERBernd Kroon, Fenelab



BOARD MEMBER

Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz, EUROLAB-CZ



BOARD MEMBERPericles Agathonos, HellasLab



BOARD MEMBER

José Luis Sanchez Alvarez-Campana, CEIS



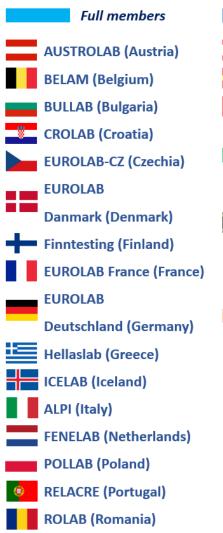
BOARD ADVISOR/TCQA CHAIR *Irache Visiers, EUROLAB Spain*



REPRESENTATIVE OF ASSOCIATED MEMBERS Ömer Güzel, TURKLAB



9. EUROLAB MEMBERS



FELAB (Spain)

EUROLAB Sverige (Sweden)

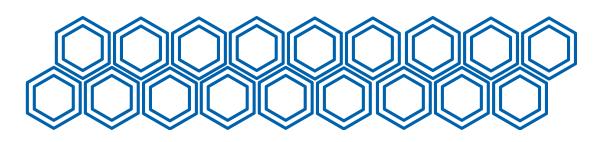
EUROLAB CH (Switzerland)



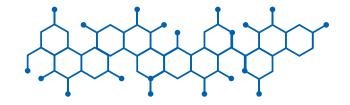
Observer members

HMD (Croatia)









Laboratories are facing the economic and social impact created by the pandemic together with the growing changes related with digitalization, new technologies and new policies. Laboratories, however, are resilient and they are already establishing the drivers for the future, transforming challenges into opportunities and developing strategies to create added value for the international trade and for the confidence of consumers and citizens, EUROLAB President Álvaro Silva Ribeiro.

EUROLAB will continue representing the interests of the laboratory community and contribute to the development of the laboratory of the future, promoting, and helping laboratories in the use of new technologies, adapting to these times of transition.

2021 is a year of change for EUROLAB structure as well, as a change in the presidency is being expected in the General Assembly taking place remotely on 27 April 2021. EUROLAB is grateful to its Presidency ad Board Members for all the valuable contributions and fruitful cooperation, while we look towards an existing future, with new ideas and new approaches.

As a challenging year has ended, EUROLAB would like to express all the gratitude for the kind support and cooperation to all its members and stakeholders while looking forward to continue a successful dialogue and contribution to working together in promoting and enhancing the role and importance of the laboratory community to the safety and quality of life.

On behalf of the entire EUROLAB community we wish you all the best, stay healthy and safe!



• EUROLAB CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY! •



