
PORTUGUESE CoLABs

- a new form of **partnership with industry and society for market-driven innovation and skilled jobs creation** -

by

Professor Dr.-Ing. José L. Encarnação

Technische Universität Darmstadt, Professor (emer.)

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Director (ret.)

as

**Chairman – “International Evaluation Committee
for the CoLABs”**

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What is a CoLAB? (1)

A CoLAB is a private, non-profit association or a private company, specially created for this purpose or preexisting, that integrates, for example, higher education institutions through its institutes and research units, associated and state laboratories, intermediate and interface institutions, companies, business associations, public institutions and other relevant partners such as social or cultural institutions, incorporated in one independent legal entity, the CoLAB.

The main objective of the CoLABs is to create skilled jobs and economic and social value, by promoting employment through the development of knowledge-based activities, based on the implementation of medium-term research and innovation agendas.

What is a CoLAB? (2)

The **CoLABs complement and reinforce the current landscape of R&D units and Associate Labs in Portugal**, aiming at stimulating the active participation of the scientific/academic, business and public communities in the **analysis and solution of large scale and complex problems**, generally multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and multi-institutional.

R&D issues to be analysed by CoLABs are identified by the coordination of business, social and cultural interventions with a view to **mobilize skilled employment** in the **implementation of effective solutions with socio-economic impact**.

What is a CoLAB? (3) - summary

A consortium of participating entities (including the mandatory involvement of at least one company and one research unit) integrated into one single legal entity to work together:

- **to solve complex, large scale problems** of international relevance and with an effective social impact and economic added-value in Portugal;
- **to develop synergies and multi-/interdisciplinary activities** in the scientific community in Portugal;
- **to create innovative economic value;** and
- **to create additional high-quality jobs** (not only Ph.D.'s and Post-Docs)

Main institutional guidelines:

- **Topic driven** (internationally relevant theme)
- **Mandatory participation of:**
 - **Market oriented institutions - company (business; social; cultural);**
 - **Higher education institution, through its research unit financed by FCT**
- **Guarantee for continuity of market involvement**
(though co-ownership of CoLAB)
- **Guarantee of generation of additional high-quality, skilled jobs**
(Potential target: 1 internal job for each 3 jobs created in the market)
- **Clear ownership rules for results**
- **Existence of deployment strategy**

Legal forms of CoLABs

- **Independent legal entity**
- **At least one business partner and one research unit as participating entities**
- **Form: non-profit association or company**
- **1 CoLAB = 1 legal entity**

Examples for the dimension and complexity of CoLABs-type problems (1)

To give an idea for the **types of complex, large-scale problems** the “CoLABs Initiative” is going after, here a **short list of examples**:

- **Biomedicine and new forms of therapies (Cancer; cardio; ...);**
- **Nuclear technologies for medicine;**
- **Agro precision and smart farming for vineyards and for wine;**
- **Fisheries and smart farming for aquaculture;**
- **Creation of added-value for natural products;**
- **Creation of added-value for the cultural heritage and creative industries;**
- **Labour dynamics and new forms of social assistance;**
- **Space: production and applications of micro and nano satellites;**
- **Digitalisation: advanced manufacturing; Internet of Things (IoT); IT-Platforms for the Smart Service World;**
- **Advanced ICT: new forms of computing; machine learning; artificial intelligence (AI);**
- **Electro mobility and urban systems (“smart cities”);**
- **Advanced, low-carbon cements;**
- **Risk management and fire prevention;**
- **etc., etc., etc.**

Examples for the dimension and complexity of CoLABs-type problems (2)

This list is **only a list of samples** and does not mean or imply in any way that this is a “Call for proposals” special for these areas.

Proposals for CoLABs may include but are not restricted to these areas.

A stepwise approach towards the successful implementation of CoLABs:

1. **“CoLAB Label”, to be awarded by FCT upon evaluation:**
 - Submission of **proposals** to develop and bootstrap a CoLAB

2. **Co-funding of “labeled” CoLABs, upon evaluation:**
 - Call for proposals, under structural funding mechanisms (PT 2020)

Submission of proposal to get the Label “CoLAB” (step 1 of phase 1)

The proposal should include:

- Description of the **“idea” with strategic vision and motivation**;
- Brief description of the **state of the art in science and technology** related to the “idea”;
- **Complexity, challenges and dimension** of the problems to be solved; **goals in mind**;
- **Relevance and impact** of the problems to be addressed;
- Research agenda and first **action plan** for an implementation of the work to be done and estimated plan for job creation;
- **Provide evidence of the ability of the consortium to implement the action plan**;
- Estimation of **critical mass needed** to access and solve the implied problems;
- **Expected Innovation (s); expected results.**

Open submission process

The process of **submission** of proposals is a **continuous process**, **always open for new submissions**.

After five years the CoLAB label award will be reviewed.

For further, additional information see **FCT portal: www.fct.pt**