

eurolab aisbl

European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories



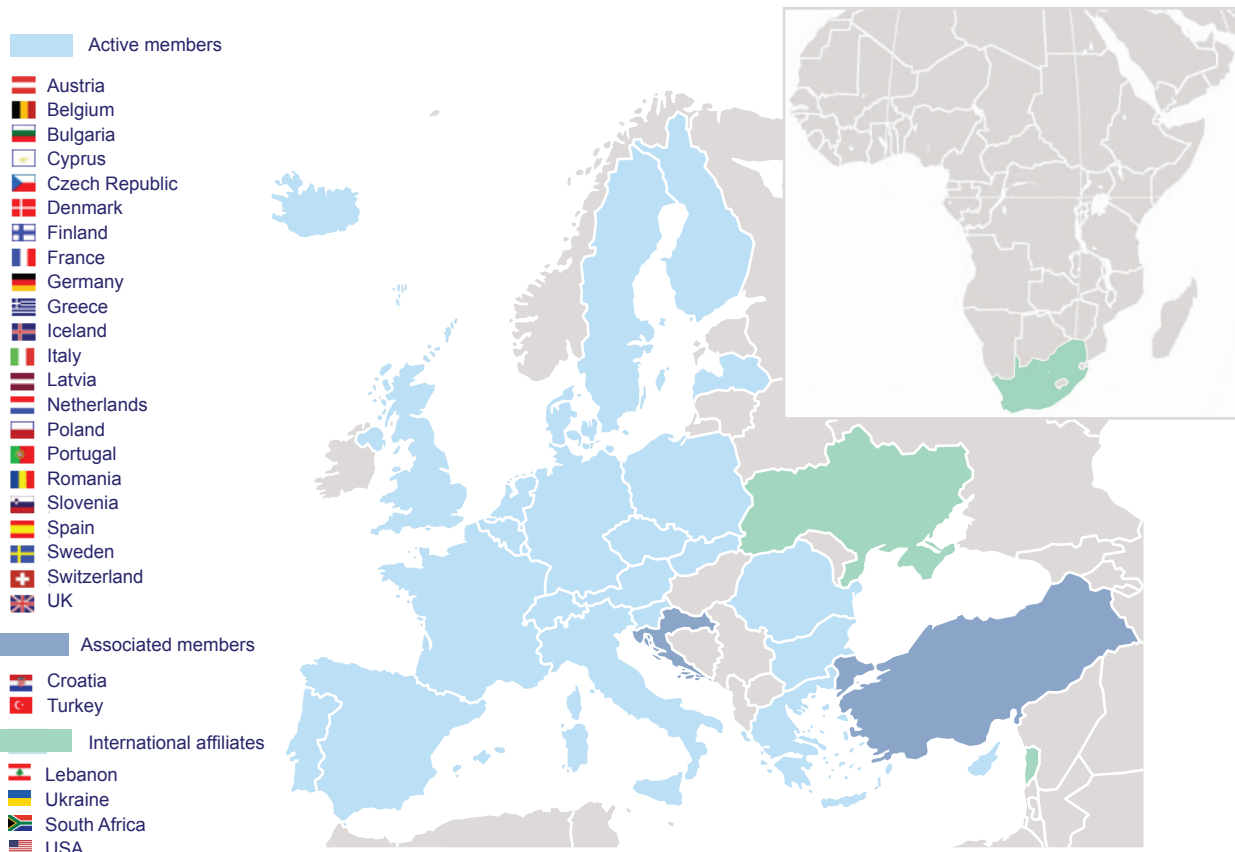
What is EUROLAB doing for the European Laboratory Community?

How my Laboratory can profit from such activities?

Modern Laboratories

do not operate in isolation.
There are many European and international influences, which will affect how they are run.

In the nineties, leaders of major multi-disciplinary laboratories created a European federation of national associations, grouping together accredited laboratories. This federation, named EUROLAB, represents and voices the opinion of measurement, testing and 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 this European community that EUROLAB represents by subscribing to its national association.



Membership of EUROLAB will bring many benefits to your laboratory and help it to thrive in the European and global business environment of the 21st century. These benefits include:

Being more powerful at the European level

• **Influencing the regulatory and business environment**

Over 75% of regulations in EU countries now originate from the EU, implementing Directives which impact on businesses. Accreditation, certification and conformity assessment in general likewise are now largely determined by European (and global) bodies. Small and medium sized businesses find it very difficult, if not impossible to influence these matters. Even large multinational companies often find it difficult to gain a hearing with the European Commission, European Parliament and other international organisations.

Nowadays EUROLAB represents testing, measurement and calibration laboratories in 24 European countries. It has proved very effective in influencing policy and regulation 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 works with EA and ILAC and played a major part in developing, inter alia, a sensible policy on cross border accreditation under the EU Regulation on Accreditation. It is currently engaged in influencing EU policies including those on conformity assessment and accreditation of notified bodies. EUROLAB cooperates with EURAMET and EURACHEM and has Memoranda of Understanding with CEOC International and EFNDT. It is a member of NCSLI in the USA. EUROLAB represents its members' interests in influencing the development of international standards through its engagement with ISO CASCO and CEN CLC TC 1 and their constituent working groups and was instrumental in the decision not to revise ISO 17025 at this time.

• **Membership of EUROLAB technical committees**

EUROLAB has numerous technical committees, which any experts from national EUROLAB members may join. The most active of these are the Technical Committee on Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration (TCQA) and the Joint Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification. EUROLAB members can directly influence EUROLAB actions and policies and obtain up to date intelligence on developments throughout Europe.

• **Access to EUROLAB**

Any member of a national association has direct access to EUROLAB and can raise issues at the National Members Meeting and General Assembly through their national delegates. Any member of a national association may also be invited and attend the General Assembly in which they can discuss issues and share experience with other European laboratories.

• **EUROLAB workshops, seminars and events**

Anyone from a EUROLAB member can attend EUROLAB workshops, seminars and events at significantly reduced cost. EUROLAB usually holds two major international workshops/seminars each year (Spring and Autumn) after the General Assembly and National Members' meeting. These seminars are a very good way of keeping abreast of developments within Europe that impact on laboratories operations and businesses.

• **Networking**

Membership of EUROLAB, active participation in technical committees and attendance at events is an excellent way of meeting colleagues from leading laboratories across Europe and key shapers of policies which affect laboratory business. It is a very good means of gaining business and operational intelligence whilst at the same time raising the profile and standing of your own laboratory within the European laboratory community.

• **Training**

EUROLAB has produced a number of 'cookbooks' on laboratory operations and procedures. They offer straightforward guidance and are excellent training materials for metrologists and laboratory practitioners at the start of their careers or for newly starting businesses. Attendance at EUROLAB workshops and seminars may also contribute to continuing professional development (CPD).

Being more powerful at the national level

- **Influencing the regulatory and business environment**

If over 75% of regulations in EU countries now originate from the EU, around 25% are still drafted and enforced by the national member states. It means that there is still a room for the national laboratory community to look at any text under preparation and collectively advocate reasonable practices, which do not impact too much on businesses and diverge from common practices over Europe. Particularly when the text refers to the implementation at the national level of regulations, rules and recommendations issued by European or international organizations. Large national or multinational companies having experience of working in a number of European countries could share their experience and interpretation based on a sound benchmarking.

Finally the national laboratory and conformity assessment communities will need to take care of their own regulatory environment in order that it should not be too detrimental for their activities in the “free” European market place. They will need to reject as far as possible any additional requirements that could be introduced in connection with overarching regulation, should it be European or international. Membership of your national Eurolab will help achieve this.

- **Be a partner of your national accreditation body**

The best way to get access to the most relevant information is to be a member of your national EUROLAB body and to actively participate in its activities. Nonetheless it cannot be sufficient and complete without closely collaborating with your national accreditation body. It must be considered much more as a partner than an authority strictly ruling on and running accreditation. Being a partner allows anybody involved in accreditation to anticipate and prevent, if and when duly justified, new or additional requirements that can negatively impact business.

The laboratories and conformity assessment bodies need broad and well-recognized accreditation of their business activities. Thus they need to contribute in a way to a high level of requirements, which reinforce customers’ confidence but do not induce too many useless constraints.

- **Networking**

Membership of a national EUROLAB association allows active participation in technical committees and events in which colleagues and experts from leading laboratories across Europe and policy makers participate. It is a very good opportunity of sharing experience and operational intelligence whilst at the same time benchmarking practices and technical issues.

EU: European Union

EURAMET: European Association of National Metrology Institutes

EURACHEM: a focus for analytical chemistry in Europe

CEOC Intl: International Confederation of Inspection and certification Organizations

EFNDT: European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing

NCSL Intl: “National Conference of Standards Laboratories” Intl

ISO CASCO: ISO’s policy development committee on conformity assessment

CEN CLC TC1: CEN-CENELEC’s Criteria for conformity assessment bodies

interested?

If you are interested in joining EUROLAB please contact the national EUROLAB member in your country.

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