





**Who and what are EUROLAB ?**

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### Retrospect 1990

In 1990 EUROLAB was founded in Brussels as a European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The main driving force in those days was the establishment of the European Single Market by EU and EFTA.


Some consequences:

- application of the New Approach in the European legislation,
- establishment of accreditation bodies in the member states.



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### EUROLAB aisbl in 2011




**24 active members:**

AUSTROLAB (Austria)	LATLAB (Latvia)
BELAB (Belgium)	EUROLAB-Netherlands
BULLAB (Bulgaria)	EUROLAB-Norway
CYPRUSLAB (Cyprus)	POLLAB (Poland)
EUROLAB-CZ (Czech Republic)	Relacore (Portugal)
EUROLAB-Danmark	EUROLAB-España
EUROLAB-Finland	EUROLAB-Sweden
EUROLAB-France	EUROLAB-GH (Switzerland)
EUROLAB-Germany	SK-LAB (Slovakia)
HELLASLAB (Greece)	SILAB (Slovenia)
EUROLAB-Iceland	EUROLAB-UK (BMTA)
ALPI (EUROLAB-Italy)	
EUROLAB-Romania	

**13 International Affiliates**  
e.g. EUROLAB-Labanon

**3 associated members:**  
TURKLAB (Turkey)  
NLA (South Africa)  
NCSL International  
JRC-IRMM, etc.

A new member




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### EUROLAB key objectives

- Representation by formulating and voicing the opinion of laboratories regarding economic, political and technical issues
- Co-ordination by interfacing with organisations having activities of interest to the laboratory community
- Action by providing adequate means for the exchange of information and experience
- Promotion of cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements are adjusted to the actual needs

Reconfirmed and detailed in the EUROLAB Strategy 2009 - 2013



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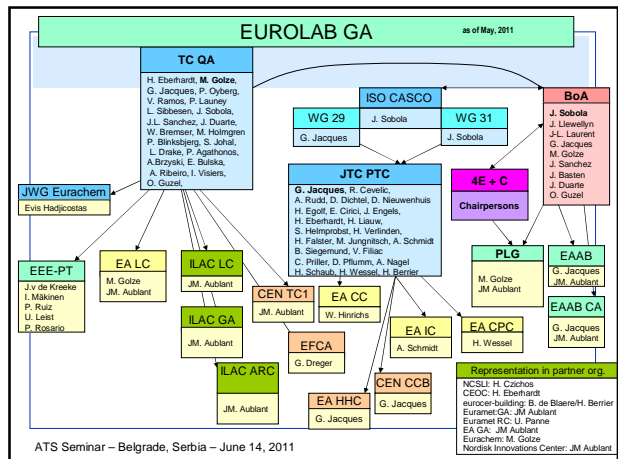
### EUROLAB: The new Strategy 2009 - 2013

The EUROLAB Strategy 2009-2013\* has been drafted and finally approved in March 2009

\* Downloadable from the website




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## EUROLAB and Joint Committees

- **TC QA** : EUROLAB Technical Committee for Quality Assurance in Testing and Calibration
- **JTC PTC**: EUROLAB / CEOC Joint Technical Committee on Product Testing and Certification
- **PLG**: Permanent Liaison Group *between* CEOC, EA, EURACHEM, EURAMET and EUROLAB
- **EEE/PT**: Joint EA / EURACHEM / EUROLAB Working Group on Proficiency Testing

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## Participation within EA and ILAC



- General Assembly (EA GA)
- Advisory Board (EAAB)
- Horizontal Harmonisation Committee (EA HHC)
- Laboratory Committee (EA LC)
- Inspection Committee (EA IC)
- Certification Committee (EA CC)

General Assembly  
Laboratory Committee (LC)  
Arrangement Committee (ARC)

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## Relation with accreditation bodies

Through its strong involvement in the accreditation committees EUROLAB strives to

- represent the interests of the accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs),
- contribute to suitable and harmonised accreditation procedures,
- create a basis of confidence between accreditors and accredited bodies.

These efforts need to be complemented by similar/mirror activities and cooperation at the national levels.

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## Relation with accreditation bodies



Not a policeman



but a partner



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## Standardisation



Status as in A liaison to ISO/ CASCO

Ongoing work e.g.

- Revision of ISO/IEC 17020 (inspection)
- ISO/IEC 17065 (product certification)



European Committee for Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation  
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

Member in CEN/CLC TC 1

Ongoing work e.g.

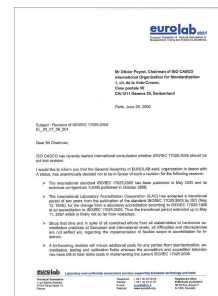
- Status of conformity assessment standards as European harmonised standards?

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## Standardisation

EUROLAB aisbl and its national members successfully advocated keeping **ISO/IEC 17025** unrevised for an additional 5 years by addressing relevant justification to ISO/CASCO and the national standardisation bodies.



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## Co-operation with EURACHEM



EURACHEM is an organisation that strives to establish a system for the International traceability of chemical measurements and to promote good analytical practices. EUROLAB and EURACHEM cooperate e.g. by developing joint guidance documents or by organising joint events.

In some European countries the national member organisations of both federations have even merged, e.g. in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden. This is an effective way to share resources.

See Kyriacos Tsimillis's presentation



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## EUROLAB Cook Book



In recent years, EUROLAB has intensively discussed on its added value for its members with the following results:

- “Hands-on guidance for the day-to-day work of laboratories” was identified as a helpful tool.
- Thus the TC QA, EUROLAB's Technical Committee for Quality Assurance, started to develop a series of short guidance documents, the so-called EUROLAB “Cook Book”.
- It contains a set of informal EUROLAB documents intended to aid laboratories in their effort to comply with requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.
- They are based on experience and extensive discussion in the EUROLAB TCQA and are published on the EUROLAB website ([www.eurolab.org](http://www.eurolab.org)), but they are not in any way formally endorsed.



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## EUROLAB Workshops on flexible scopes

After the 1<sup>st</sup> EUROLAB Workshop on accreditation with flexible scope in Borås in 2006, a 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop was organised in November 2009 which took place in Prague.

The proceedings including the 9 presentations are available from the EUROLAB website:

[www.eurolab.org](http://www.eurolab.org)



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## Scope of accreditation

The scope of accreditation of a conformity assessment body (CAB) defines its area of activity for which its competence was assessed by an accreditation body. The scope is usually expressed by a set of parameters, e.g. for a testing laboratory typically by:

Testing field	e.g. environmental or mechanical testing
Type of test	e.g. mass spectrometry, hardness testing
Test object or product	e.g. soil, water, polymers, petroleum products
Test parameter	e.g. content of contaminants, shore hardness, calorific value
Reference to testing standard	
Internal method reference	



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## Flexible scopes

The flexibility connected with “flexible scopes” is restricted. Generally the principle holds that the introduction of **new measurement principles** not covered before by accreditation is beyond the limits. Consequently flexibility is limited to some of the scope parameters.

- Concerning test object, matrix, sample
  - e.g. extension to other products within a product area
- Concerning parameters, analytes
  - e.g. extension from Cd to other trace elements in food
- Concerning the method
  - e.g. use of other standardised methods based on the same measurement principles,
- Concerning the performance of the method
  - e.g. change of measurement range or uncertainty.



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## EUROLAB inquiry on flexible scopes

The inquiry was performed by means of a questionnaire which contained 19 questions and had been developed by the TCQA.

It was sent out to the national EUROLAB organisations with the request to complete one questionnaire per country. The answer should reflect the situation in the country and the position of the respective EUROLAB member.



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The inquiry started in the summer of 2009 and the last questionnaire was received in February 2010.

Finally all (but one) active and associated EUROLAB members have responded.

EUROLAB asocij members:  
■ Response received

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### Is accreditation with flexible scope granted by the NAB?

Legend:  
■ yes  
■ no

Countries in which accreditation with flexible scope is not yet granted:  
Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Romania and Turkey.

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### Satisfaction of the laboratory community

Legend:  
■ satisfied  
■ relatively satisfied  
■ relatively dissatisfied  
■ dissatisfied

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### Applicability of flexible accreditation

Field	yes	no	with some restrictions
5: research (21)	14	2	5
4: product certification (22)	10	3	9
3: inspection (20)	9	4	7
2: calibration (20)	9	3	8
1: testing (22)	16	0	6

Legend:  
■ yes  
■ no  
■ with some restrictions

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### The main reason for applying for a flexible scope

... is to be able of responding promptly to new market and customers' needs. This is particularly important in areas where accreditation is required, e.g.

- food analysis,
- environmental analysis,
- occupational health.

In the case of "accidents", e.g.

- the so called antifreeze scandal,
- the mad cow disease,
- volcanic ash clouds,

laboratories must be able to react immediately and adequately to new analytical needs.

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### The way forward

The discussion on flexible scopes initiated by EUROLAB and supported by other stakeholder organisations for various technical fields was a strong impetus for EA to (re)consider the concept, its applicability and a harmonised implementation. This process is ongoing.

**Alternative:**  
In some areas, e.g. concerning notification of CABs a reasonable "broad" scope might be a suitable alternative also providing the necessary flexibility to react to market needs.

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## SERB-LAB ? EUROLAB-SERBIA ?



What need to be established to represent testing and calibration laboratories in Serbia ?

What and when could be granted an associated membership of EUROLAB aisbl ?

Who could represent this associated member in the EUROLAB structures ?



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## Serbian lab association's vision and mission

### Vision

Representing conformity assessment bodies, testing and calibration laboratories at national and international level, supporting to increase sectorial knowledge as an overarching organization.

### Mission

Establishing working groups for exchanging national and international sectorial information, information networks, improve relations with Eurolab organizations, increase the number of members and represent the Conformity Assessment Bodies and Laboratories at all platforms.

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## Activities, educational and training programmes

Any national lab association can organize series of events providing information, education and training for its national laboratory community.

It can translate and disseminate any EUROLAB document to its membership.

It can set up its national website where national, European and international relevant information for its membership could be uploaded.

Finally it can ask EUROLAB secretariat and representatives for any supportive actions or information it may need.

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## Conclusions

"No single laboratory, country or region can maintain a testing and measurement system isolated from the rest of the world. All parties are increasingly dependent on international co-operation, co-ordination and recognition, and they need to present a common, transparent and customer oriented approach."

EUROLAB strategy 2009-2013

Therefore we need **national** and **international** organisations to represent the laboratories and their interests.

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Thank you for your attention!



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