

## Fostering Knowledge Valorisation through Industry Collaboration

## The case of Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs)

Vision and Aims	<ul> <li>To stimulate the creation of qualified jobs that generate economic and social value in Portugal, including those oriented towards innovation, to increase the competitiveness of the productive and social fabric, with a particular focus on companies.</li> <li>To diversify, stimulate, and coordinate activities based on scientific knowledge; promoting processes of technological change and the creation of short and medium-term research and innovation agendas prompted by the identification of economic, social, or cultural needs and challenges.</li> <li>Promoting the creation of a critical mass to stimulate new centralities for R&amp;D activities throughout the national territory, including in less densely populated areas.</li> <li>To build collectives acting as facilitators in the co-creation of new knowledge and its dissemination throughout the territory, in partnership and networking with relevant actors in these territories.</li> </ul>
Target Audience	<ul> <li>Researchers/Post-Docs/Professors from the University.</li> <li>Ph.D. students from the University.</li> <li>Non-teaching staff.</li> <li>Industrial partners.</li> </ul>
Key Features	The Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs) are a State initiative under the Interface Programme, aimed at accelerating technology transfer processes and strengthening the links between science, economic activity, and society at large. CoLABs' main goal is to create skilled and scientific jobs in Portugal, both directly and indirectly, by implementing research and innovation agendas geared at creating economic and social value.
	NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA) has fully embraced this initiative by promoting and coordinating several applications to the attribution of the CoLAB seal. This includes co-designing research and innovation agendas aligned with market and societal demands, together with industrial partners and other stakeholders, such as technological Interface Centres, business associations, public administration agencies, and other societal partners.
	The seal is attributed by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation, the public entity responsible by attributing public funds to R&D+I initiatives, after a thorough selection process. It is up to the coordinators of the proposals to draft a compelling bid in terms of engaging industrial partners and other research institutes to deliver solutions addressing the most pressing societal needs. NOVA has already successfully coordinated four applications. Both the industrial and the academic parties enter the

association as associates.

So far, NOVA integrates 12 CoLABs (out of 41 existing in Portugal), being the main promoters of four of them [InnovPlantProtect, VoH.COLAB, TRIALS and, more recently, InnovGastronomy (under construction)]. In addition, AlmaScience is headquartered at Madan Parque/Campus of Caparica (one of NOVA's campus) to allow a future expansion in the emerging areas of flexible electronics and biomedical applications. These 12 CoLABs are actively working to find practical, innovative, and sustainable solutions in areas as diverse as agriculture, cybersecurity, food, health, sustainability, tourism, environment, circular economy and biorefineries.

For example, **InnovPlantProtect** develops innovative solutions to provide targeted protection for specific crops, which has already created 39 highly qualified jobs in Elvas, a small city in the far east of Portugal. This CoLAB is an initiative of NOVA University of Lisbon, led by ITQB NOVA in cooperation with other NOVA research units (from FCT NOVA and NOVA IMS), that gathers two large multinational companies (Bayer Crop Science and Syngenta Crop Protection) and other associates, including: the Municipality of Elvas, INIAV – Agricultural and Veterinary Research National Institute, Fertiprado, CEBAL – Alentejo's Agricultural and Food & Agriculture Biotechnology Centre, ANPOC – National Association of Proteaginous, Oleaginous and Cereals Producers, ANPROMIS – National Association of Maize and Sorghum Producers, Casa do Arroz – Interprofessional Rice Association and FNOP – National Federation of Fruit and Vegetable Producers' Organizations.

In turn, VoH.COLAB focuses on helping citizens and organisations to measure value in Health. It has been working alongside all healthcare sector stakeholders (providers, professionals, patients, citizens, pharma, etc.) to implement pilots in a real-life context, developing and assessing innovative methodologies and services to measure health outcomes, including those using digital monitoring technologies. Beyond NOVA, among its founding partners we find Vodafone, CUF and Fraunhofer, working together to accelerate the fundamental restructuring of healthcare delivery towards a paradigm shift to Value-Based Healthcare, in which citizens' engagement is essential.

Another example is **InnovGastronomy**, which is being established with the main goals of (i) identifying and valorising Portugal's Gastronomic Heritage, enabling its dissemination; (ii) improving and innovating the Gastronomic offering through scientific research on methodologies and ingredients; and (iii) catering to today's requirement of nutritional balance within gastronomy. To that end, the CoLAB will be supported by the Municipality of Oeiras and organizations such as the Portuguese Tourism Board, the Avillez group, the Portuguese National Nutrition association, as well as prominent food journalists who will all gain a vested interested through input, testing and piloting outputs of this initiative.

## Achievements & Learnings

- Being ahead of technological and scientific trends.
- Fostering a more effective transfer of knowledge from academia to industry by matching the needs of both parties.
- Collectively and effectively addressing pressing societal challenges.

Launch Date [& Duration]	2018 onward.
Partners/Sponsors	Several industrial partners and other research institutes.
<b>Further Information</b>	https://novainnovation.unl.pt/for-companies-non-profits/collaborative-
	laboratories/
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