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LABS

what is a lab?

Handbook for emerging labs

TCBL

a collaborative bottom-up network of laboratories and businesses

What is a Lab?

TCBL Labs are innovation labs all over Europe that focus on emerging technologies, social innovation and emerging futures in the textile and clothing field.

Labs have the aim of exploring the potential of new business ideas and concepts, encouraging their development in order to lead to business models.

The labs network was launched in 2016, lead by a starting group of 18 Business Labs, defining themselves through 3 concepts:

- **Design labs:** focus on research, experimentation and encouraging creativity
- **Making labs:** focus on the material production of textiles and clothing
- **Place labs:** are designed as a place for people with the focus on human interactions and labour

Labs find their homes inside existing organisations of many types, ranging from research centres to maker spaces, as well as in companies and in ateliers. Since Labs across Europe can be very different from each other as regards to activities and focus, they are not similar in set-up or research agenda, but in vision, goals and *principles*.

All Labs aim for alternatives for the current textile and clothing industry and explore different ways of working, designing and making in the context of this sector.

Want to become a Lab?

TCBL Labs believe in a set of values that define a common vision in order to collaborate, create interaction and... Our principles set the frame for lab's requirements:

Curiosity

Explorative, innovative character. Outcomes feed into new, replicable business models. Exploring new business models by reframing.

Viability

Economic sustainability of lab structure. Value creation to the community: public events, communication and awareness. Including monetary and non-monetary transactions.

Durability

Explore ways to reduce waste. Work with low-impact materials and processes. Work towards emotionally durable design.

Multiplicity

Open to both professional and non-professional competences. Gender equality and open opportunity structures. Exploration of un-met and un-expressed needs.

Openness

Open and freely accessible participation. Sharing knowledge, findings and networks. Interoperable and where possible open source technology and software.

Respect

Tools and processes that empower users. Restore the dignity, value and satisfaction of productive making activities. Fair and ethical operations.

Responsibility

Spaces and equipment in a safe and secure environment. Availability of support knowledge for processes, machinery, etc. Consultancy and follow-up to participants interested in business development.

TCBL Labs make the principles operational by

- * making the lab accessible to individuals
- * document the research projects, in order to make the expertise tangible and share the research agenda of the lab
- * organise events / meetups / workshops for the involved community
- * work towards sustainable and fair alternatives for the textile and clothing field
- * facilitate interaction with and within the network, exploring various forms of collaboration with businesses and advisors

How do I become a Lab?

If your lab operates in the textile and clothing field, working towards similar principles and the values above resonate with yours, sign up to be a TCBL Lab!

Are you wondering how other labs put these values into practise? Have a look at our platform labs.tcbl.eu There, you can find out more about events and projects of the Labs, get in touch with them and apply to become a TCBL Lab.

Simply create a user profile by signing up and then apply!

Because we are a collaborative bottom up network, we will evaluate your application as a collective. We advise you to select **3** different labs from different locations in Europe to evaluate your proposal.

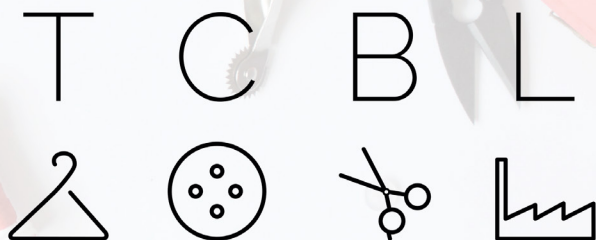
What does the TCBL network provide?

Operational, educational and technical advice from other laboratories, sharing how we work to find better ways to organise ourselves as a lab and as a network.

A yearly **conference** to get to know each other, to create new synergies and as a moment to share our stories, findings and ideas for the future.

Facilitate the connections between expertise, knowledge, activities and collaborations between labs and between labs and businesses.

Making yourself visible on the Labs platform, highlighting your expertise and previous collaborations, helps businesses to find you and approach you and make new connections and projects happen.

The logo consists of four large, black-outlined letters: 'T', 'C', 'B', and 'L'. Below each letter is a corresponding icon: a triangle with a curved line above it (representing a hanger), a circle with four dots inside (representing a button), a pair of scissors (representing cutting), and a sawtooth shape (representing a factory or production line).

T C B L

TEXTILE & CLOTHING BUSINESS LABS

the global movement transforming the clothes we wear



European
Commission

Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 646133



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