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NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

Applicants guide on the
possibilities of joining the New
European Bauhaus initiative

NEEB

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is an initiative of the European Commission. Its aim is to support and accelerate the green transition of settlements and regions, i.e. the fight against climate change, in such a way that it brings perceptible and tangible positive changes at local level and ultimately improves people's quality of life.

Putting the ideas of NEB into practice is also extremely important in cross-border cooperation programmes: sustainable developments are needed in border regions that build on the value-added use of local characteristics and are accepted and supported by the local community.

The aim of this publication is therefore to help participants in cross-border cooperation programmes to plan and implement projects that are in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative, accept its core values and follow its working principles.

Therefore, this publication provides answers to the following questions:

- WHAT? What is NEB?
- WHAT KIND? What values does a NEB project follow?
- HOW? How to plan a NEB project?
- WHERE? Where is NEB located in the EU's policy environment?
- FROM WHAT? What can a NEB project be financed from?
- WITH WHO? Who can you cooperate with in implementing a NEB project?

At the end of this guide, you can find [good practices](#) that make the sometimes abstract concepts clearer and more perceptive. In addition, a [checklist](#) will assist you in assessing the extent to which your own initiative meets the expectations and values of NEB.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the New European Bauhaus Initiative: you will learn about the original Bauhaus idea and gain insight into the history, concept, goals and thematic focus of the New European Bauhaus



„The New European Bauhaus is a project of hope to explore how we live better together after the pandemic. It is about matching sustainability with style, to bring the European Green Deal closer to people's minds and homes. We need all creative minds: designers, artists, scientists, architects and citizens, to make the New European Bauhaus a success.”

Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission President

The Bauhaus is the most important school and movement for architecture and applied arts in the first half of the 20th century. The design style and approach, widespread worldwide is still influential, and places the function, the purpose of a particular building or object at the centre of architecture and applied art.

The Bauhaus was initiated by the German architect Walter Gropius (Berlin, 1883 - Boston, 1969). He founded a school of architecture and design called Bauhaus in Weimar in 1919, where he taught, along with other prominent artists, the innovative ways and possibilities of using modern materials.

The Bauhaus idea intended to build bridges between industry and art so that form and function would be in complete harmony. This aspiration was later combined with an increasing sensitivity to social problems: the goal was to create a culture of architecture and objects that articulated and satisfied the needs of modern society.

Bauhaus School's building in Weimar



Bauhaus School's building in Dessau



fotó: bauhaus-dessau.de/en/buildings/unesco-world-cultural-heritage.html

Did you know?

The Bauhaus School buildings in Dessau and Weimar are protected monuments and are on the list of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. The world heritage status also applies to the Bauhaus as an institution, given that the movement had great influence on the entire modernism of the 20th century. Social aspects also played a role in its conceptual thinking, as did all aspects of housing and lifestyle. Thus, the Bauhaus was therefore not only a milestone in architecture and art, but also largely determined the thinking of the twentieth century.

The New European Bauhaus initiative, inspired by the original Bauhaus idea, aims to combine sustainability, functionality and aesthetics. It aims to bring together citizens and experts, art and science, theory and practice to create a more livable future.

Main milestones of the initiative:



Today, the NEB provides a framework of objectives and funding at EU level. Member States must take the NEB into account when drawing up their socio-economic and territorial strategies and thus also when planning the 2021-2027 cross-border cooperation programmes.

The overarching goal of NEB is to support the EU's green transition and climate neutrality goals formulated in the European Green Deal.

Recognising that the large-scale, long-term climate policy target system is difficult for the population to understand and that the interventions can sometimes even seem alienating, NEB also aims to make green transformation efforts visible, human-centred and tangible for citizens. Its aim is to connect the development goals of sustainable innovation, technology and economy with the everyday lives and living spaces of European citizens in order to bring about positive changes that can be felt at the local level and ultimately improve the quality of life of European citizens.

The NEB addresses complex societal problems and challenges in an interdisciplinary way by bridging the worlds of science, technology, art and culture. One of its central elements is the co-creation process, i.e. the cooperation of citizens, experts, businesses, institutions, public authorities and state actors in planning a more sustainable future.

Change requires a transformation of physical spaces and lifestyles, a reshaping of the environment that enables innovation, and the diffusion of new meanings.

Did you know?

In the concept of the European Green Deal, the European Commission has set the goal of making Europe a climate-neutral continent by 2050. To this end, the member states undertook to reduce emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels by 2030. The agreement contains goals and interventions related to sustainable transport, economic development based on the production of clean technologies and products, pollution-free energy production, building energy development and more decisive global climate policy action.

The need for long-term, life-cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

- Fostering the transformation of industrial ecosystems in a spirit of circularity (more sustainable practices)
- Transforming the elements of certain value chains, developing and applying new processes, materials, nature-based solutions, products or business models
- Developing methods, tools or guidance facilitating the (self-) assessment of circularity performance
- Knowledge transfer, education, training

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Reconnecting with nature

- Bringing individuals and communities closer to nature
- Regenerating natural ecosystems and preventing loss of biodiversity
- Applying nature-based solutions and materials
- Strengthening a feeling or an experience of being part of nature
- Considering design-for-all principles
- Bringing quality of experience benefits
- Education, awareness raising

NATURE

PRIORITIZE

Prioritising the places and people that need it the most

- Addressing the needs of territories, communities and individuals that need particular attention because of special characteristics
- Physical transformation and regeneration of territories and places to be accessible for all
- Developing new ways of bringing various communities and/or various functions together
- Education, training, awareness raising

TOGETHERNESS

Regaining a sense of belonging

- Physical transformation of places according to local historical heritage and traditions, cultural and artistic dynamics and styles
- Building community
- Celebrating diversity
- Developing products, processes or business models built on local culture, traditions, knowhow, craft and contemporary diversity and creativity
- Education (methodologies, toolkits, programmes), awareness raising



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

The Bauhaus is the most important design school and movement of the first half of the 20th century, which places function at the centre of architecture and applied art. It works with new materials and techniques and is also characterised by its sensitivity to social problems: its goal is to create an architectural and material culture that articulates and satisfies the needs of modern society.

Inspired by the original Bauhaus idea, the New European Bauhaus initiative (NEB) supports the green transformation and climate neutrality as set out in the European Green Deal in a way that is visible, perceptible, human-centred and understandable to citizens. The NEB connects the development goals of sustainable innovation, technology and economy with the everyday lives and living spaces of European citizens in order to bring about positive changes that can be felt at the local level and ultimately improve people's quality of life.

The NEB addresses complex societal problems and challenges in an interdisciplinary and cross-scientific way, involving all relevant stakeholders in a co-creation process.

Change requires a transformation of physical spaces and lifestyles, a reshaping of the environment that enables innovation, and the diffusion of new meanings.

The 4 thematic axes of NEB:

- NATURE: reconnecting with nature
- TOGETHERNESS: regaining a sense of belonging
- PRIORITISE: prioritising the places and people that need it most; and
- CIRCULAR ECONOMY: the need for long-term, life-cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem.

The NEB provides a framework of objectives and funding at EU level that is also observed by Member States.

CHAPTER 2

THE CORE VALUES OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

What makes an initiative a NEB project?

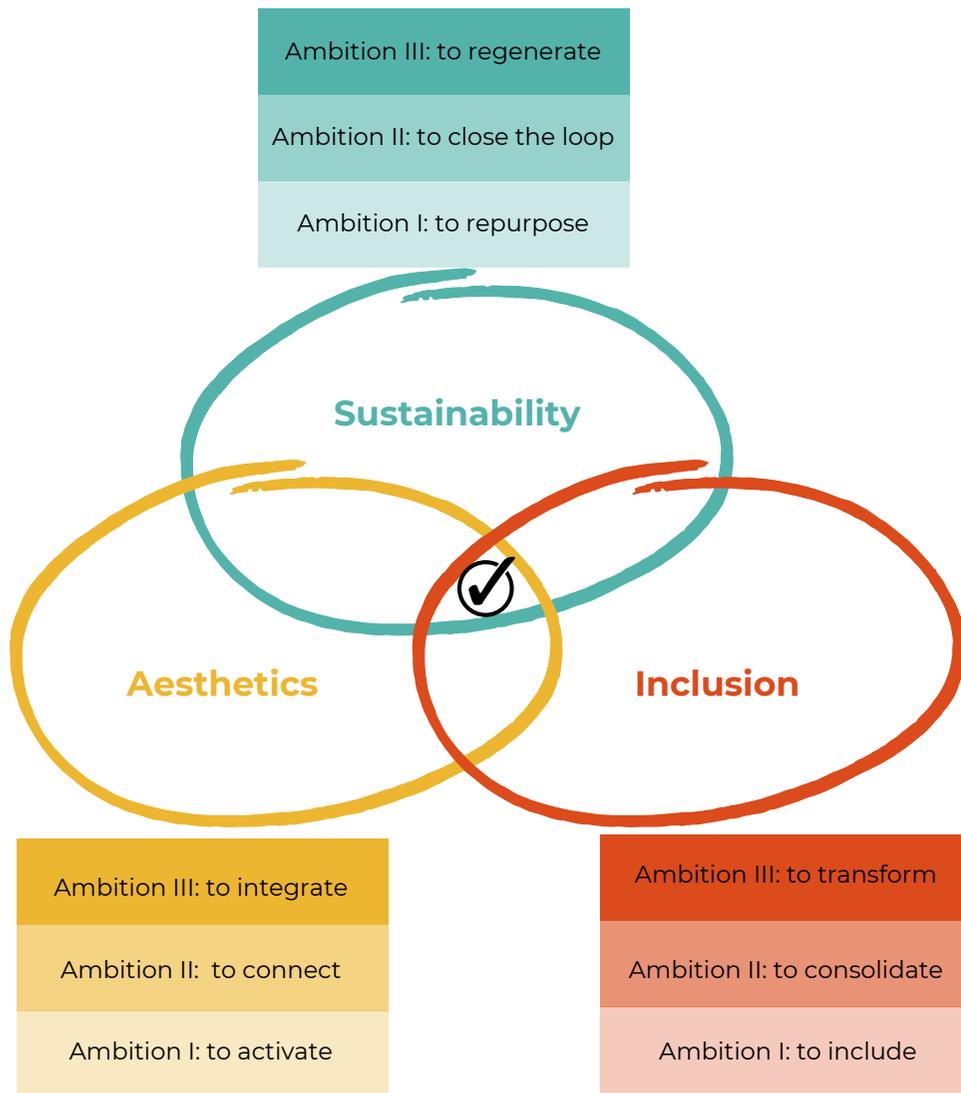
This chapter introduces the aspects of NEB's three core values, i.e. sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics, illustrating them with good practices.



„With the New European Bauhaus our ambition is to develop an innovative framework to support, facilitate and accelerate the green transformation by combining sustainability and aesthetics. By being a bridge between the world of art and culture on one side and the world of science and technology on the other, we will make sure to involve society as a whole: our artists, our students, our architects, our engineers, our academia, our innovators. It will kick-off a systemic change.”

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

THE CORE VALUES OF NEB



 The three values are inseparable, they must be met together for NEB compliance!

The pursuit of all three values has three ambition levels (showing increasing commitment): these levels build on each other, but even the fulfilment of level I ensures NEB compliance.

Beauty will save the world
picture: blog-espritdesign.com



La fábrika detodalavida
picture: openheritage.eu/practices/



Xifré's Rooftop
picture: urbannext.net



In the spirit of sustainability, a NEB project seeks to repurpose in order to reduce environmental impacts and prioritizes durability, adaptability and recyclability when selecting products, services, and raw materials (ambition I). A deeper commitment is seen if the project aims to close the loop, i.e. to ensure circularity within the entire product life cycle and in the whole (industrial) system to achieve zero emissions (ambition II). An exemplary project strives for renewal, has the ability to reconnect with nature, and has a positive impact on its environment (ambition III).

WHAT MAKES A PROJECT SUSTAINABLE?

Ambition I: to repurpose

- ✔ It is aware of the impact the project has on the environment
- ✔ It strives for reducing its ecological footprint
- ✔ It minimizes the use of resources, materials and energies
- ✔ It favours sustainable, natural materials, renewable energy sources
- ✔ It prioritizes durability, adaptability, recyclability and seeks to extend products' lifetime (repair, re-use, reduce, upgrade, renew)

Ambition II: to close the loop

- ✔ It reduces linear processes or transform them into circular processes (within the whole life cycle from raw material procurement to the recycling of waste) in order to be pollution-free
- ✔ It takes into account the whole product life cycle – while it actively involves and works together with all relevant actors in the cycle
- ✔ It examines the indirect impacts across space and time and trade-offs between different sustainability measures

Ambition III: to regenerate

- ✔ It gives back more than it takes
- ✔ It is aware of the complete ecosystem it acts in
- ✔ It increases biodiversity, encourages the restoration or expansion of nature
- ✔ It has a vision on societal change (change of behaviour, paradigm shift)

Did you know?

3R of waste management: Reduce (reducing purchases and waste production); Reuse (extending the life of a given product with a new function); Recycle (e.g. plastic waste processing). 6R: + Rethink (changing the approach already at the planning stage); Refuse (saying no to unnecessary items); Replace (striving for the regeneration of natural systems)

Dam Click pe Romania, Romania



The project collects used computers to give them a second life: the refurbished devices are donated to schools and non-profit organisations. Awareness raising campaigns are also carried out.

What makes it sustainable?

reducing the amount of electronic waste by collecting discarded computers * refurbishing and reuse computers (extending their lifespan) * shaping attitudes about climate change and the circular economy * promoting recycling models * social aspect: refurbishment is carried out by disadvantaged workers in the accredited workshop of the project owner; computers are given to organizations working with disadvantaged children and people to support the acquisition of basic digital skills. [Source](#)



Zero Waste House, Slovenia

The project is a renovation concept of a 130-year-old building in the spirit of circularity, which aims to minimise demolition and construction waste - with the goal that at least 80% of the building's materials can be reused. It combines today's energy standards with the aesthetics of the architectural heritage.

What makes it sustainable?

passive house design features (e.g. triple-glazed windows, natural wood wool insulation) * categorization of demolition materials * reuse and recycling of materials (e.g. reclaimed bricks and stones for various purposes such as interior walls, exterior decoration, outdoor shed and fence; interior plaster sourced from the clay found on the property) * use of natural materials woptimal heating (heat pump, solar, woodstove) and cooling (no AC) options * rainwater harvesting system * green roof, green wall * garden, solar greenhouse with aquaponics system * composting. [Source](#)



Xifré's rooftop, Spain

A rooftop garden was created on top of a landmark building complex in Barcelona in order to enhance urban biodiversity and community building while preserving the built heritage.

What makes it sustainable?

creating a new green space in a densely built urban environment * transforming an abandoned and degraded area into a Mediterranean garden with aromatic scents for an energizing and relaxing effect * ponds, insect hotels, bird nesting structures, 50 plant species (>10 thousand plants) - contribution to the regeneration of local ecosystems * ballasted multilayer technical solution: it is not attached to the roof structure, so it does not damage it * circularity and self-sufficiency: solar panels, rainwater gathering systems, green manure and composting * impacts: water retention, mitigation of air pollution and heat island effect, reduction of heating and cooling energy consumption, noise reduction. [Source](#)

In the spirit of togetherness, a NEB project takes an open and non-discriminatory approach that ensures equality, accessibility and affordability and prioritises the needs of less represented individuals, groups and communities (Ambition I). A deeper commitment is demonstrated if the project implements the principle of inclusion and open access to services through formal, structural mechanisms (Ambition II). An exemplary and replicable project has the potential to create social value and influence worldviews, paradigms and social behaviours (Ambition III).

WHAT MAKES A PROJECT INCLUSIVE?

Ambition I: to include

- ✔ It ensures accessibility (physical, cognitive, psychological, etc.) for everyone
- ✔ It provides affordability
- ✔ It is non-discrimination (it ensures equal treatment regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability, age or sexual orientation)
- ✔ It favours and supports less represented individuals, groups and communities

Ambition II: to consolidate

- ✔ It protects the principle of equal treatment and social justice
- ✔ It secures equal opportunities with formal, structural mechanisms (e.g. funding instruments, business models, regulation and other institutionalized processes)
- ✔ It encourages dialogue between cultures and different social groups
- ✔ It helps to overcome segregation between different social groups

Ambition III: to transform

- ✔ It builds on solidarity and cooperation, raises awareness of discrimination and injustice
- ✔ It inspires new ways of living together
- ✔ Exemplary and replicable
- ✔ Able to break obsolete social models, influence worldviews, paradigms and social behaviours
- ✔ It is based on common social values and creates social value

PopUP Răspiu, Romania

In the frame of the project, a mobile inclusive playground was created where disabled and non-disabled children can play together, thus raising awareness of the need for an inclusive society from an early age.

What makes it inclusive?

inclusive playground - disabled and non-disabled children play together * multi-sensory techniques to promote cognition, motor abilities and social interactions, stimulation of muscle and bone growth with mechanical activities * awareness raising from childhood * exploring the needs of target groups by involving children from special schools, e.g. focus groups, "playdates" and on-site observation - incorporating experiences into the development (playing difficulties, usability of playground facilities, interaction). [Source](#)

2nd place

Odyssea Academy, Greece

The education centre, set up in an abandoned warehouse, offers personalised vocational and life management training (e.g. chef, hotel clerk, salesperson, CNC turner, barista, carpenter, IT specialist, etc.) for vulnerable people, combined with job placement services.

What makes it inclusive?

support for the professional integration of disadvantaged people (e.g. migrants, marginalized women, low-income youth) wpromotion of employment (free training, employment services), business start-up support * joint project development – the refurbishment of the centre was carried out with the help of residents and target group members * close cooperation with local social groups , with schools, local government, businesses * strengthening dialogue between cultures. [Source](#)

Home4Less, Belgium

The aim of the project is to create quality temporary accommodation for the homeless by converting vacant properties with a modular (i.e. easily dismantled and rebuilt) structure approach (studio flats with community spaces) and by providing social services.

What makes it inclusive?

creating high-quality temporary homes by utilizing vacant properties until the final housing solution * helping the integration of homeless people (support services, e.g. training, community-cultural programs, legal aid service) * taking into account the needs of the target group during planning (through the involvement of experts and social workers) * involving residents in the design of the apartments, furnishing - strengthening the sense of own home, assuming responsibility * extensive cooperation between experts, architects, social workers, construction companies, volunteers. [Source](#)

A NEB project is made beautiful through the co-creation process, the integration of art and culture, gaining experiences beyond functionality and the provision of a sense of quality. A beautiful project (re)activates local values and contributes to the physical and mental well-being of those involved (Ambition I). By connecting different places and people and offering a meaningful community experience, it promotes the development of a sense of belonging (Ambition II). As a result of the joint creation process, the exemplary project creates new, lasting cultural and social values and has lasting impact on the lifestyle, habits and co-existence of the participants (Ambition III).

WHAT MAKES A PROJECT BEAUTIFUL?

Ambition I: to activate

- ✔ Beyond physical needs, it also considers the users' senses, emotions and comfort aspects
- ✔ It (re)activates regional/local characteristics, cultural, social and natural values and prioritizes local materials and skills
- ✔ It creates unique experience
- ✔ It promotes awareness of place and local heritage
- ✔ It creates own aesthetics (e.g. in terms of composition, colours or materials)

Ambition II: to connect

- ✔ It promotes meaningful social dialogue and collective experience
- ✔ It connects different places and people, thereby strengthening the sense of belonging
- ✔ It encourages openness and mutual care
- ✔ It gives opportunities to learn about new ideas, places or people
- ✔ It is interactive and provides opportunities to explore

Ambition III: to integrate

- ✔ It enables creation; the joint redefinition and reinvention of places, lifestyles, customs and communities
- ✔ It creates new cultural and social values, creates and integrates new habits
- ✔ It is characterized by a long-term way of thinking: it considers the future needs of users
- ✔ It has a positive lasting impact on the lives of the participants and those affected

Beauty will save the world, France

L'Atelier Emmaüs is a French social enterprise that gives carpentry work to unemployed and disadvantaged residents. They sell designer items made from recycled materials.

What makes it beautiful?

inclusion of disadvantaged people from children to the elderly as part of the fight against exclusion * 30-day customer-oriented preparatory training (with the help of professionals) * providing a meaningful opportunity to spend time * joint creative process, tangible results * taking into account the individual abilities and ideas * participation of contemporary designers * unique, mostly made from recycled materials creating handcrafted contemporary design productsw creating value * promoting social interaction. [Source](#)

NEB-award

Topoló – The Village as House, Italy

The aim of the concept, inspired by local residents, is to create public spaces and functions on vacant plots and places in the village: instead of converting houses according to individual needs, some of the larger, unused buildings in the village give space to new functions (e.g. library, community workshop, kitchen), promoting community building.

What makes it beautiful?

community building, creating a strong sense of community * sharing of tools, knowledge, areas * reuse of vacant areas as common rooms and spaces instead of new construction - maintaining the morphology of the village, preserving its traditional architecture and buildings * improving the quality of life * active involvement of the community in taking care of the village. [Source](#)

NEB-award

LaFábrica detodalavida, Spain

By repurposing an old abandoned cement factory, a community cultural space was created: a summer cinema festival, a fruit and vegetable garden, a recording studio, a workshop of reused materials, cultural programmes, training, etc.

What makes it beautiful?

preservation of an industrial landmark * grassroots community initiative with crowdfunding * collective artistic and architectural work * greening of industrial areas, soil regeneration by planting a Mediterranean garden, vegetable garden * community building, community-cultural programs * support of the creative process (community workshop, creative programs) * embracing contemporary art (e.g. digital record studio for young musicians) * promotion of sustainable architecture and material use. [Source](#)



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

The three core values of the New European Bauhaus are sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics. The three values are inseparable, they must be met together for NEB compliance!

A sustainable NEB project

- strives for repurposing in order to reduce environmental impacts, prioritizes durability, adaptability and recyclability when selecting products, services, and raw materials (Ambition I);
- ensures circularity within the entire life cycle and system (Ambition II); and
- is able to reconnect with nature (Ambition III).

An inclusive (common) NEB project

- follows an open and non-discriminatory approach (Ambition I);
- secures equality, accessibility and affordability and prioritizes the needs of less-represented individuals, groups and communities through formal, structural mechanisms (Ambition II); and
- has the potential to create social value and influence worldviews, paradigms and social behaviours (Ambition III).

A beautiful NEB project

- (re)activates local values and contributes to the physical and mental well-being of those concerned (Ambition I),
- by offering a meaningful social experience, it promotes the development of a sense of belonging (Ambition II); and
- as a result of the co-creation process, it creates new, lasting cultural and social values, and has a long-term impact on the lifestyle, habits, and coexistence of the participants (Ambition III).

TASK

Evaluate your project according to the values presented: does it fit and, if so, to what extent does the project meet NEB's values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics? Think about how the fit can be established, and what interventions could be used to increase the level of commitment! Use the [checklist](#) at the end of the booklet!

CHAPTER 3

WORKING PRINCIPLES OF THE NEB

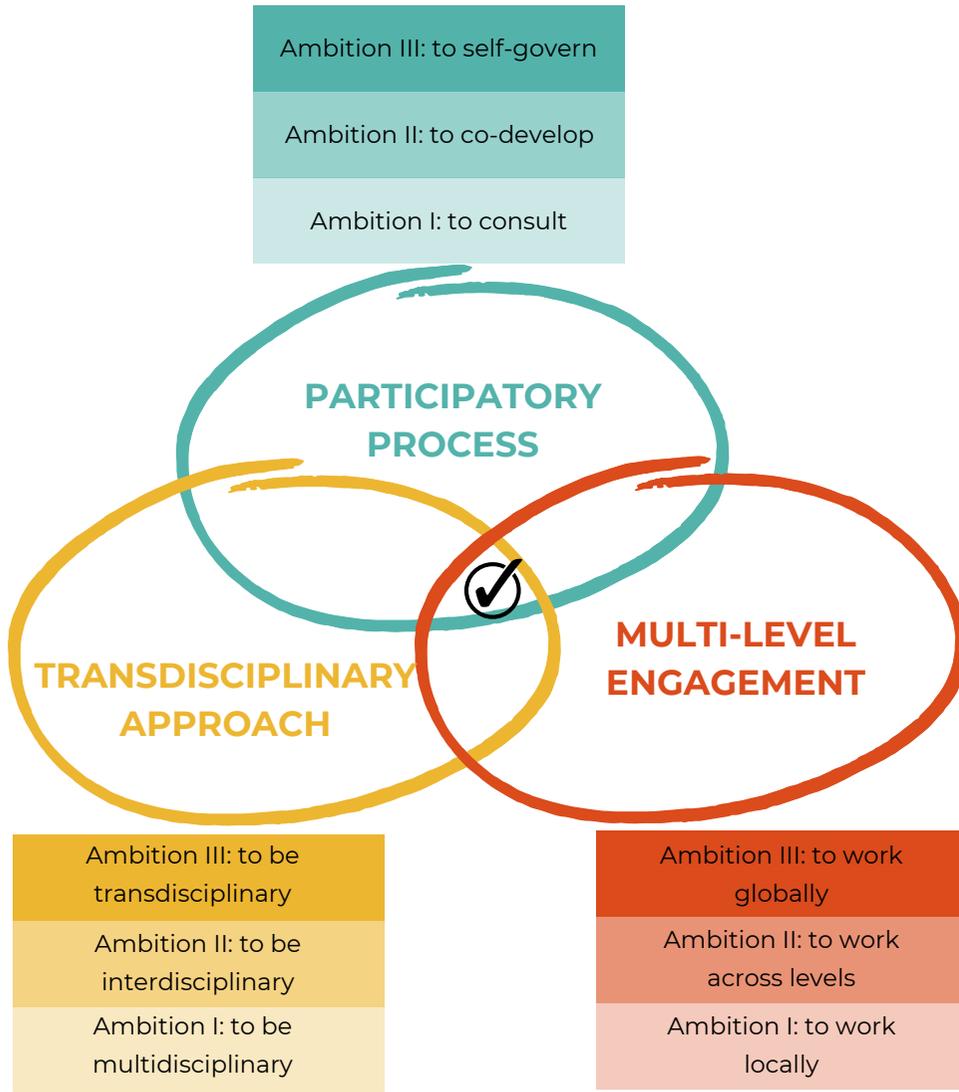
How does an initiative become a NEB project?

This chapter introduces the aspects of NEB's three working principles, i.e. participatory process, multi-level engagement and transdisciplinary approach, illustrating them with good practices.

„Through its transdisciplinary and participatory approach, the New European Bauhaus reinforces the role of local and regional communities, industries, innovators and creative minds that work together to improve our quality of life. Cohesion policy will transform new ideas into action at the local level.”

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

THE WORKING PRINCIPLES OF NEB



 The three working principles are inseparable, they must be met together for NEB compliance!

The pursuit of all three working principles has three ambition levels (showing increasing commitment): these levels build on each other, but even the fulfilment of level I ensures NEB compliance.



Gleis21
picture: gleis21.wien



Hals
picture: hals.be



Arkki's creative education
picture: arkki.com

A NEB project involves the communities affected by it in the planning, decision-making and implementation phases. It informs the stakeholders about the project, it consults, the results of which are incorporated into decision-making (Ambition I). It engages stakeholders as key partners in defining the framework and objectives of the development; its goal is joint planning and co-development (Ambition II). It endows local communities with the necessary competences for decision-making and self-governance; hands over the management and operation of the project to the community, preparing them to implement their own future initiatives (Ambition III).

HOW CAN PARTICIPATORY PROCESS BE SECURED?

Ambition I: to consult

- ✔ Knowledge of stakeholders
- ✔ Continuous information of the stakeholders through established communication channels
- ✔ Consultation, the results of which are incorporated into decision-making
- ✔ Providing the stakeholders with the opportunity to contribute to the planning, decision-making and implementation of the project

Ambition II: to co-develop

- ✔ Ensuring dynamic information flow and two-sided information exchange with stakeholders
- ✔ Collaborative development of emerging ideas with interested partners
- ✔ Incorporating inputs from stakeholders into the project planning, co-development process
- ✔ Involvement of stakeholders in decision-making
- ✔ Addressing and involving previously neglected stakeholders

Ambition III: to self-govern

- ✔ Ensuring the opportunity for negotiation and cooperation at all stages of the project's lifecycle (incl. planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation)
- ✔ Involvement of stakeholders in planning process, ensuring representation in decision-making
- ✔ Encouragement and support of bottom-up initiatives beyond project implementation
- ✔ Providing opportunities for interested parties to assume (legal) responsibility
- ✔ Empowering the community to take over the project's management



R-Urban Bagneux, France

The aim of the R-Urban project is to regenerate underutilised urban land in deprived neighbourhood by creating community gardens and processing food grown onsite.

The project was initiated by the NGO Agrocité Hub, in cooperation with the city of Bagneux and local organizations, involving users in the process of community production and food preparation. Recyclab Hub, specialized in environmentally friendly production, has also joined the cooperation: it has complemented the existing activities with a workshop made of recycled materials, in order to reach a wider audience for reuse/recycling initiatives, DIY and recycling workshops. [Source](#)



AYR - the sustainability platform, Portugal

AYR is a special mobile app for travel planning that calculates the amount of CO2 emissions of a given trip, or the available savings when choosing sustainable means of transport. It assigns monetary value to the savings and converts it into virtual tokens which can be exchanged for green services or goods of partner organisations participating in the program.

The system is based on the close cooperation and participation of the project owner, users and green service providers. Through AYR, all users can track their personal contribution to reducing the city's CO2 emissions, thereby bringing climate neutrality goals closer to people's everyday lives. By aggregating the data, the platform also helps local governments in transport policy, climate-conscious decision-making and strategic planning. [Source](#)



Gleis 21, Austria

The project implements a new way of community living: in addition to apartments providing individual living space, it includes community spaces (e.g. community kitchen, music room, library, sauna, workshop, fitness room, roof terrace) and builds on inclusive services, e.g. neighbourhood services, solidarity fund, apartments reserved for refugees.

Future residents were involved throughout the entire process via community planning events and workshops (e.g. selection of the functions of community spaces; equipment workshops). They now collectively own, operate and manage this co-housing project. All tasks that arise in the house are processed in seven thematic working groups: they make decisions and act in a self-organized manner within their areas of competence defined by the management committee made up of residents. Several developments were implemented with the help of crowdfunding. [Source](#)

A NEB project ensures the involvement of a wide range of interested parties. It establishes an effective exchange of information at the local level (horizontally) with relevant partners (Ambition I). It also vertically connects stakeholders working on similar goals at different levels, ensuring the dissemination of knowledge across sectors (Ambition II). It reaches impacts beyond its original scale, framework and dimension, combining a place-based approach with systemic thinking within the whole ecosystem, bridging the global and local dimensions and taking their interactions (Ambition III).

HOW CAN MULTI-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT BE SECURED?

Ambition I: to work locally

- ✔ Connecting informal networks and/or formal institutions horizontally (at local level)
- ✔ Interacting with local networks and communities
- ✔ Transforming and developing local living conditions and living environment
- ✔ Applying place-based solutions and approaches

Ambition II: to work across levels

- ✔ Connecting informal networks and/or formal institutions operating at different levels vertically (e.g. connecting local community with regional authorities or national research centres)
- ✔ Considering a higher territorial scale (e.g. cooperation of a given school with a national network of schools; urban-level effects of local developments)
- ✔ Having an influence and impact at higher levels and across different scales

Ambition III: to work globally

- ✔ Connecting networks and/or (intergovernmental) institutions working towards similar goals for the entire ecosystem
- ✔ Striving for global impact
- ✔ Considering the impact of local effects on the entire ecosystem

Genius Loki, Lithuania

Genius Loci is an interactive digital mapping tool used by citizens of a district of a Lithuanian city to record, present and protect local landmarks, natural assets, people and their stories.

The interactive maps were developed by the Kaunas University of Technology (a Memory map, a Present map and a Nature map) and the input was uploaded by more than 1000 residents from a dataset. The tool was created with the aim of raising awareness of urban authorities about local values, contributing to more sustainable urban development decisions acceptable by the residents, and creating the conditions for more active participation in democratic processes. [Source](#)

Hal5, Belgium

Hal5 is a multifunctional facility created in the building of an old abandoned railway station providing affordable space and services for local projects, events, social enterprises and residents (restaurant with bar, packaging-free shop, event spaces, parkour rooms, spaces for social organizations, coffee roaster, bakery, urban agricultural and ecological garden, radio station).

The project was initiated by a group of local residents. The development and construction of the area leased from the city government was carried out by the residents, businesses and volunteers of the area with the help of community financing (400,000 EUR). The Hal5civil organization and the city government have also joined the initiative, so the project is based on active civic involvement and also involves formal actors. [Source](#)

NEB Lab: NEB goes South

The community-led NEB Lab project connects six Southern European countries (France, Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Croatia) that join forces to rethink and improve education through architecture.

The project aims to solve the environmental, social and economic problems of the Southern European region, which is highly exposed to the effects of climate change, through collaborative thinking and co-creation events, e.g. workshops to test ideas among students; educational activities to promote curriculum changes, research to explore strategies and solutions that lead to a more sustainable environment. The project involves several academic institutions to ensure multidisciplinary, enrich discussion and increase opportunities for productive collaboration. [Source](#)

A NEB project combines culture, art, technology, innovation, sciences and perspectives for a better future. It uses necessary know-how and experience from several disciplines to solve a specific problem within one field of knowledge, with a multidisciplinary approach. (Ambition I). In an interdisciplinary approach, it integrates several disciplines, by harmonizing different concepts and methods, it creates new concepts and new theories to solve a shared problem (Ambition II). It integrates professional and informal knowledge (e.g. local traditional knowledge, cultural norms, values), and through its transdisciplinary approach, it encourages solutions that can be applied in many disciplines and fields of knowledge (Ambition III).

HOW CAN TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH BE SECURED?

Ambition I: to be multidisciplinary

- ✔ Cooperating with other disciplines and fields of expertise
- ✔ Defining common problems and sharing them with various stakeholders
- ✔ Involving different educational backgrounds
- ✔ Bridging small (e.g. urban planning and architecture) and large distance (e.g. biology and art) disciplines

Ambition II: to be interdisciplinary

- ✔ Solving shared problems integrating several disciplines or fields of knowledge
- ✔ Intensive communication between knowledge areas and disciplines
- ✔ Creating new knowledge
- ✔ Integrating results

Ambition III: to be transdisciplinary (beyond-disciplinary)

- ✔ Involving formal and informal knowledge partners in the knowledge creation
- ✔ Giving equal value to formal and informal knowledge
- ✔ Defining a shared goal and achieving it collectively, based on cooperation
- ✔ Designing and operating collaborative processes that help merging different areas of knowledge

Did you know?

Nature-based solutions (NbS) is an approach and a set of criteria: the power and sophistication of nature are used to transform environmental, social and economic challenges into opportunities for innovation. NbS includes developments that are inspired, supported or modelled by nature.

FOLK concept, Poland

The aim of the project is to convert and extend an old granary into a public space, while preserving the typical features of the site's rural architectural style. The transformation envisages the creation of a social and educational space that will enable learning and trying out craft and creative activities in the form of ceramic workshops.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a sustainable renovation concept for the characteristically decorated folk buildings of the region, which preserves their original form and details, but allows for new uses. The project aims to solve the problem of preserving the rural built heritage in cooperation between the fields of architecture, design, folk crafts, and the integration of architecture and urban planning, as well as folk and applied arts. [Source](#)

Biophotovoltaics for nature and people, Spain

Biophotovoltaic (BPV) is a renewable energy source that leverages the natural life cycle of plants to produce electricity. The aim of the project is to create a prototype of innovative "green areas" integrating BPV, which increases local biodiversity in urban environments.

The project aims to provide a solution to the expansion of sustainable urban green spaces with an innovative solution (BPV - which enables the utilization of energy from the normal functioning of plants), combining environmental health, plant biology, sustainability, energy production, urban planning and - by involving local residents and encouraging their active role - community building. [Source](#)

Arkki's Learning Via Participation Model, Finland

Arkki is a creative education model that teaches children aged 4-19 creative thinking and innovative skills through architecture and design.

Arkki's hands-on learning model combines science and arts education and supports the development of different skills and competences to acquire lifelong learning skills. The project builds on the knowledge of the target group, enables children to participate in the urban planning process and involves them in the development of child-friendly urban ideas. In doing so, Arkki cooperates with both local authorities and international organisations such as UNICEF. [Source](#)



Developing a NEB project requires a participatory process, multi-level engagement and transdisciplinary approach. These three working principles are inseparable, but even the fulfilment of Ambition I ensures NEB compliance.

A participatory NEB project:

- Informing stakeholders about the project, incorporating the results of the consultation into decision-making (Ambition I);
- Engaging stakeholders as key partners, implementing joint planning and co-development (Ambition II); and
- By endowing the local community with the necessary competences, transferring the management of the project to the community (Ambition III)

A multi-level NEB project:

- Implementing effective information exchange at local level (Ambition I);
- Connecting stakeholders who work to achieve similar goals at different levels also vertically (Ambition II); and
- Reaching impacts beyond the initial scale, own framework and dimension; bridging global and local dimensions and taking their interactions into account (Ambition III).

A transdisciplinary NEB project:

- Involving the necessary knowledge and results from several fields of expertise to solve a problem within one field of knowledge (Ambition I);
- Integrating several disciplines and fields of expertise to solve a shared problem (Ambition II);
- Integrating both formal and informal knowledge and promoting solutions that can be applied in many scientific fields and knowledge areas (Ambition III).

TASK

Evaluate your project according to the working principles presented! Does the project ensure the participation of stakeholders in both planning and implementation? Does it involve a wide range of stakeholders? Does it ensure a diversity of knowledge areas? Think about how the fit can be established, and what interventions could be used to increase the level of commitment! Use the [checklist](#) at the end of the booklet!

CHAPTER 4

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK OF THE NEB

Where is the NEB located in the EU framework system? From what sources and in what kind of cooperation can a NEB project be implemented?

This chapter briefly reviews the NEB-related EU's policy environment and financing possibilities, as well as presents the NEB cooperations.

„Community is at the core of the New European Bauhaus initiative. Since April 2022 all types of entities (non-profit, for-profit, public authorities) can join the initiative. NEB partners are committed to acting as promoters and key interlocutors for the New European Bauhaus initiative. Partner organisations come from all Member States and reach millions of people. In the first week of January, we welcomed our 600th partner to the NEB community.”

Alicja Herbowska, Acting Head of Unit for the NEB at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

By using an integrated approach across disciplines and sectors, the NEB aims to optimise policy impact and promote synergies. For this reason, the NEB draws on a broad EU policy context.

Knowledge of the relevant framework is useful for project owners due to the examination and presentation of policy alignment. Thematic policy frameworks:



- The New Industrial Strategy for Europe



- The Cohesion Policy
- The long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas



- The New European Agenda for Culture
- The European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage



- The European Education Area
- The Education for Environmental Sustainability
- The European Skills Agenda 2030



- Horizon Europe
- European Innovation Agenda



- The Renovation Wave
- The Circular Economy Action Plan
- The EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030,
- The EU Forest Strategy
- The European Climate Pact
- The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy



- The Strategies for a Union of equality
- The European Pillar of Social Rights
- The EU Strategy on the rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee



- The 2030 Digital Compass
- The Digital Europe Programme
- The Data Governance Act
- The AI package

NEB-related projects are not funded by a specific EU programme, but by mobilising the existing financial framework (2021-2027) financial framework of several programmes.

- Certain programmes support the implementation of NEB projects through dedicated calls for tenders (announced specifically for the implementation of NEB projects).
- The second group of calls for proposals contributes to the initiative by including the New European Bauhaus as a priority or additional element (but is not exclusively focused on it).

Discover what support opportunities these programmes offer for your NEB initiative!



In addition, the Commission encourages the Member States to ensure the implementation of NEB projects within the financial support of local, regional and national funds and neighbourhood programs, including also cross-border cooperation programmes!

NEB is also included in cross-border cooperation programmes, typically as a complementary horizontal objective.



European Commission

NEB initiative is launched and coordinated by the European Commission.

Joint Research Centre

The Joint Research Centre is the Commission's scientific and knowledge centre, providing independent scientific advisory services and professional support to EU policies.

High-level roundtable

Among the members of the high-level roundtable are advanced thinkers and practitioners in their fields, who work as community ambassadors for the NEB initiative.

NEB Partners

The official partners of the NEB community are non-profit networks, associations and organizations that are committed to promoting the NEB and professional dialogue.

NEB Friends

As NEB friends, for-profit companies and public bodies can also join the cooperation if they want to support local communities, are ready to promote the NEB and participate in the dialogue.

National Contact Points

The task of the national contact points is to promote the NEB in a given country and to coordinate efforts to implement the initiative at national level. In addition, they act as liaison between EU institutions, other member states and national stakeholders.

NEB LAB

NEB LAB, created by the NEB community and its expert team, is the knowledge centre of the New European Bauhaus community. Its purpose is to stimulate common thinking on the one hand, and to generate specific projects enhancing the NEB initiative on the other.

The NEB builds on a wide-ranging partnership, which cooperation, in addition to the policy and decision-making level, may also include non-profit organisations, companies or even individuals engaged in the promotion of NEB and professional dialogue.

Where can you find more help?

- Visit the NEB official [website](#)
- Explore the [NEB Dashboard](#), the dynamic interactive map of NEB projects and key actors in and beyond Europe:
- Read the [NEB Compass](#) publication
- Contact the NEB [National Contact Point](#) in your country

What can you be active in?

- As a non-profit organisation, join the cooperation as an official partner (via tender procedure)
- As a for-profit company or as a state or local governmental body, join the initiative in the status of NEB friend (also via tender procedure)
- Participate as a partner in NEB LAB projects led by the NEB community or the Commission
- Generate a community NEB LAB project
- Apply for funding to implement your own NEB project
- Apply for the annual NEB Prize with your already implemented project or project concept
- Participate in the annual NEB Festival
- Join other NEB events, programs and promotional campaigns
- Join other European level initiatives inspired by the NEB

„These projects give a lot of hope for our fight against climate change and the European Green Deal. The nominees and winners of the New European Bauhaus Prize show that change is not only possible, but already happening all over our European Union, in all sectors of our economy. I am delighted to see how the New European Bauhaus initiative is growing with so many contributions, talents, skills, innovation and diversity from all over Europe.”

Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission President



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

- The NEB builds on a broad EU policy context: it is closely linked to the European Green Deal, regional and thematic policies (e.g. culture, education, digitalisation, research and innovation, business development).
- NEB-related projects are not funded by a dedicated EU programme, but by mobilising the existing financial framework (2021-2027) of several programmes. For example, the Horizon Europe, LIFE, Creative Europe or Erasmus+ programmes, among others, provide targeted financial support for the implementation of NEB projects.
- In addition to these dedicated application opportunities, many calls for proposals include the New European Bauhaus as a priority or as an additional element, possibly as a horizontal principle. The latter also include the Interreg cross-border cooperation programmes.
- NEB is coordinated by the European Commission. An important partner is the Joint Research Centre, which provides scientific advisory services and professional support for EU policies.
- The driving force behind the initiative is the NEB community. The NEB builds on a wide-ranging partnership whose cooperation includes not only the policy and decision-making level but also non-profit organisations, companies or even individuals engaged in promoting the NEB and professional dialogue.
- NEB LAB, launched by the NEB community and its team of experts, is the knowledge centre of the New European Bauhaus community. Its aim is to stimulate collective thinking on the one hand and to develop specific NEB projects on the other.
- Several publications, platforms and events (e.g. NEB Compass, NEB platform, NEB Festival) support a deeper understanding of the initiative as well as community building and project generation efforts.

TASK

Visit the NEB's [official website](#), where you can find more information about the initiative and discover other inspiring examples!

CHAPTER 5

GOOD PRACTICES

What does a really good NEB project look like?

This chapter presents some inspiring examples of NEB projects that implement value-added cultural heritage development, revitalisation of natural areas, recycling and cultural community building.

„The amazing level of participation in the New European Bauhaus Awards and the New European Bauhaus Rising Stars shows the incredible amount and quality of great ideas and talents that need to be spurred to make our regions, cities and villages more sustainable, beautiful and inclusive places to live. The prizes will also serve as an inspiration for others to create, innovate and disseminate better living conditions for all. The future is now.“

Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE



Ireland

Constructed in 1966, the Ballymun Boiler House was a pioneering civic heating scheme, the largest of its kind in Ireland and the United Kingdom. After the area's redevelopment in later years, including the demolition of the surrounding complex of 3,000 apartments (supplied by the boiler house with heating and water), the Boiler House also lost its function. However, rather than dismantling the iconic structure, in 2014 the city council made the decision to repurpose and preserve it. Together with the local social enterprise, the Rediscovery Centre and Ballymun Regeneration Ltd. the council aimed to create a model eco-centre which serves as a "3D textbook" for sustainable architecture, green construction, and innovative sustainability practices, with tangible elements on display for visitors (as part of a functioning facility). Today, the Rediscovery Centre occupies the space, offering educational and research opportunities focused on sustainability, circular economy, waste management, and green construction. The building can be visited on organized tours. It is home to four waste reuse and recycling social enterprises that provide eco-friendly services and products on site (fashion items, furniture, bicycles and paints). An eco-shop and a cafe selling fair trade products, and also event organization helps the facility's financial sustainability. [Source](http://www.wiserlife.eu/about/photo-gallery-and-videos)



picture: [wiserlife.eu/about/photo-gallery-and-videos](http://www.wiserlife.eu/about/photo-gallery-and-videos)

What makes it sustainable?

passive house design (natural ventilation, optimising orientation for solar gain) * alternative, renewable and sustainable energy use * A2 building energy classification * renovation with recycled, natural materials (e.g. hempcrete, wool insulation, recycled paints and furnishings) * green roofs and walls * rainwater harvesting, use of grey water in toilets, at green walls * composting toilets, local waste management * local composting of food waste * smart building monitoring system * outdoor green areas that encourage biodiversity, kitchen garden (the products are used in the café) * '3D textbook' experiential learning space * research, educational programs, awareness raising events * inclusion of recycling social enterprises

What makes it inclusive?

opportunities offered to local businesses and research groups (e.g. testing possibilities of new environmental protection technologies developed) * programs offered to the local community, schools (education, workshops) * inclusion and operation of social enterprises – sustainable products and services provided on site, continuous operation * other dissemination activities, e.g. information boards, online interfaces (website, social media), newsletters, events, etc.

What makes it beautiful?

safeguarding an iconic industrial facility – preserving a famous landmark building of the city and a piece of the historical era marked by it for the posterity * preservation and reuse of the original building structure and materials as much as possible * community building, community programs

Participatory process

A call for tender was issued for the remodelling of the building. The plans were designed by a local architectural firm in cooperation with several other local companies. The building currently houses four recycling social enterprises (that have already been involved in the implementation, e.g. by providing recycled paint and furniture). The operation of the centre is based on the active participation of local businesses, research groups and residents. The Eco-store also offers a wide range of recycled products from the surrounding area.

Multi-level engagement

In order to reuse the building, the city council, a local NGO and the city development company joined forces. The four social enterprises greatly contribute to the continuous operation of the facility. They provide research and testing opportunities to local research groups and businesses.

Transdisciplinary approach

The project is based on a broad collaboration of parties interested in recycling and circular economy.

REGENERATION OF BEACH DUNE SYSTEMS



Spain

In the Barcelona area, on the coast of a densely populated area, a 42 km stretch of beach is under severe pressure due to its logistic, urban and touristic value: this stretch of coast includes coastal dunes, which are protected habitats. Nevertheless, there has been a loss of biodiversity due to unsustainable use (reduction of habitats) and the adverse effects of climate change (e.g. spread of invasive plants and degradation of beaches due to extreme storms). The aim of the project initiated by the Barcelona Metropolitan Region, a supramunicipal government body was therefore to protect and regenerate the beach dunes as natural habitats and improve their biodiversity by using nature-based solutions that encourage the population to participate and help them reconnect with nature. They also worked to develop equal access to beaches, safety and quality of service. Actions implemented since 2014: protection of the dune area using sticks and ropes (spanning over a length of more than 25 km), reinforcement of the dune fronts by moving sand, measures to remove invasive plants, regeneration of the missing dune sections, cleaning of the dune areas, removal of anthropogenic objects, enrichment of the soil with organic material and plant remains, planting of more than 15.000 specimens of native plants, use of driftwood to create biodiversity refuges, construction and renovation of boardwalks along the dunes, installation of information boards about the ecosystem, installation of bicycle racks, creation of signposted boardwalks and paved areas, leading down to the water and allowing access for people with reduced mobility, installing buoys, developing service infrastructure (first aid stations, toilets and changing rooms, showers and foot washing stations, children's playgrounds and sports areas outside the most natural areas). [Source](https://2022.prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/application/regeneration-beach-dune-systems)



picture: 2022.prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/application/regeneration-beach-dune-systems

What makes it sustainable?

restoration of protected habitats, contribution to increasing biodiversity * mitigation of negative environmental effects (e.g. storm damage) * environmental utilization of waste caused by storms * continuous monitoring (coastal dynamics, topobathymetric models, orthophotography, monthly measurements of beach width, biodiversity indicators, etc.) wcleaning and maintenance of the area using only manual tools and methods * elaborating a biodiversity improvement plan for metropolitan parks and beaches * shaping attitudes, promoting the reconnection of residents with nature, improving environmental awareness

What makes it inclusive?

involving the public through education, civic participation, promotion and dissemination initiatives * making the time spent on metropolitan beaches safer, more comfortable, inclusive and healthier * accessibility features (providing access for wheelchair users, buoys for assisted bathing, information boards, barrier-free washrooms, changing rooms) wdissemination activities

What makes it beautiful?

regeneration of the dune areas that largely determine the landscape * saving natural values, replanting and presenting native plants * creating and placing natural and aesthetic features (e.g. driftwood biodiversity shelters, wooden paths) wlocal community involvement, activation, meeting their needs (equal access, quality infrastructure)

Participatory process

Active citizen engagement has been an integral part of the project since its inception: public research programmes (e.g. observing and monitoring the biodiversity of dune areas; carrying out a biodiversity census of flora and fauna guided by experts), participation-based projects (e.g. dune plantings and public campaigns to remove invasive species) and awareness-raising, dissemination programmes have been organised attracting nearly 30,000 participants since 2016.

Multi-level engagement

8 municipalities around Barcelona joined forces with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area supramunicipal government body to regenerate the coastline. Operation is ensured with the involvement of the beach service, the city councils, civil organizations, educational centres and institutions, as well as residents.

Transdisciplinary approach

The project harmonises the development of the coastline as a nature reserve with recreational and tourism use. The project owner cooperated with experts and scientific institutions (e.g. Metropolitan Butterfly Observatory - butterfly census, Fauna Viewer project - recording data of observed fauna). The involvement of the public in the project ensures the integration of knowledge beyond science.

REPLAY – RETHINKING AND RECYCLING TOYS



Portugal

In Portugal, over 30 million toys end up in landfills or incinerators every year. The complexity of the toy's composite materials (usually made of plastic, metal, electronic components, batteries, cardboard, rubber, fabric and other mixed materials) makes them difficult to recycle and repair, or promotional gifts of low-quality plastic materials have a significant negative impact on the environment as waste. The REPLAY, spearheaded by Zero Waste Lab and Precious Plastic Portugal, seeks to reduce the amount of this waste by advocating community-based circular networks. Within this framework, used, bored, discarded toys and souvenirs are collected and sorted and, depending on their condition, either donated or repaired, or the materials are creatively recycled as toys or other commodities (e.g. rubber boots). Precious Plastic Portugal recycling laboratories operate in 6 cities (Évora, Lisboa, Cascais, Porto and Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo). In addition, 44 collection points were set up in 11 cities throughout Portugal and cooperation with 120 partners is underway to achieve the project's social goal. The toy boxes placed in playgrounds promote the exchange of toys. In addition to promoting environmental awareness and the co-creation of innovative solutions, the project encourages network building by mobilising different members of society, including families, associations, students, businesses, the creative community, the scientific community and municipalities. [Source](#)



picture: plasticreplay.pt/transformation.php

What makes it sustainable?

collecting discarded toys, souvenirs, and promotional gifts * developing sustainable technological solutions for the creative transformation of plastic in toys - promoting the circularity of plastics and other materials in toys * shaping attitudes, involving residents, schools, businesses and public actors (e.g. design competitions, toy exchanges at playground points) * forming an attitude to reduce waste production * waste utilization (rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle), prioritizing reparability to increase product lifespan * developing a permanent and sustainable system

What makes it inclusive?

active involvement of the population (selecting and collecting bored toys) through community campaigns and volunteer programs * donating toys in good condition to underprivileged children * toy exchange points on playgrounds wcommunity building through joint action; community interaction and cohesion at the local level * Replay sponsors and Replay settlements programs

What makes it beautiful?

increasing the lifespan of toys by repairing * recycling waste as creative design products or new toys * involving the community in the design and creation process, joint creation * introducing children to materials, their life cycle and the complexity of making toys

Participatory process

The active involvement of the population as volunteers and in collecting toys is the basis for the success of the project - several campaigns were launched for this purpose. Eco-design competitions were launched among students of art faculties at two universities to develop innovative design concepts for toys made of recycled plastic (the winner was selected by a jury of 263 children and experts). REPLAY aims to initiate a dialogue about toys and their quality: to stimulate public debate, several discussion forums were organised in 2021 with the participation of various stakeholders (experts, politicians, craftsmen and activists).

Multi-level engagement

The project has set up toy collection centres in 11 cities across the country and creative labs are being run in 5 locations to explore the possibilities of plastic recycling. The project owner aims to develop an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for toys in Portugal.

Transdisciplinary approach

The project involves specialists from different fields (e.g. design, applied arts, architecture, urban planning, social affairs), educational and scientific institutions (universities), municipalities, businesses and local residents to ensure transdisciplinarity.

ESSERI URBANI, ITALY – AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE CONTEMPORARY ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN FESTIVAL



Italy

The Esseri Urbani festival, initiated by the U'Jùse Association, presents the works of emerging artists to the public through free outdoor exhibitions (photo exhibitions, installations, performances, etc.). The aim of the programme series is to showcase natural and cultural heritage by redefining the forms, identity and functions of public spaces: the city's streets are not only places of passage, but also places of encounter. The festival thus serves as a forum for debate and a common platform for thinking about the urban, architectural, historical and sociological aspects of these spaces. The festival's slogan, "the other face of art", also indicates that the organisers want to use contemporary artistic creation as means of promoting urban regeneration and social integration. The programme strives to make natural and cultural heritage the engine for sustainable growth, which can be achieved by strengthening local cultural and community forces and integrating them into tourism services. Therefore, they focus on issues such as access to culture, respect for nature, social inclusion, and youth employment. The first Esseri Urbani festival, "Zootopia", took place in the streets of Locorotondo in 2019 and placed natural values at the heart of artistic creation. The 2021 programme, "Heterotopia", focused on the perception of and interaction with space. In 2022, the festival "Spores" in Noci was organised along the three values of NEB: sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics. Each event is tailored to local characteristics and aims to promote access to culture and sustainable tourism. They also place great emphasis on accessibility and inclusion, for example by providing multimedia content accessible through QR codes and sign language interpretation. Micro-events and satellite initiatives provide opportunities for the local community and visitors to actively participate, such as collaborative art processes, craft workshops, guided cultural heritage discovery walks and more. [Source](#)

What makes it sustainable?

encouraging sustainable tourism * minimizing environmental impact (e.g. minimizing waste production, using recycled materials, employing digital technologies) * taking local characteristics and specialties into account * emphasizing environmental sustainability as a key topic * awareness-raising

What makes it inclusive?

interactive - artistic co-creation processes, possibility of involving local communities * reaching a wide audience, community building * special attention to accessibility and barrier-free access - free street art exhibitions, programs; technological solutions, such as QR codes for accessible content, info and audio guides, booking options for calendar events; sign language interpretation at performances * supporting amateur initiative

What makes it beautiful?

contemporary art exhibitions, lectures * valorisation of local characteristics, values * presentation, preservation and transmission of built and intellectual cultural heritage * collaborative artistic creation processes, involvement of local communities (e.g. workshops, co-creation, guided walks, discussions, seminars)

Participatory process

Social and economic actors are involved in planning process. Particular attention is paid to involving residents and visitors, especially children, teenagers, and guests with disabilities in the programmes (interactivity).

Multi-level engagement

The organising association involves artists, local businesses and communities in the programme (through interactive programmes and embracing amateur initiatives) - bringing together local communities, landscapes, artists and architecture.

Transdisciplinary approach

The project is built on connecting culture, art, and gentle tourism based on local values.



picture: 2021.prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/lv/node/267493



DOES MY PROJECT FIT THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE NEB?

The following checklist can help you consider how well your project initiative aligns with the values and principles of NEB, where there may be shortcomings or areas for improvement.

If the answer is "not at all", the project does not meet the values and principles of NEB. If the answer is "partly", the project aligns with NEB, but there is room for further development.

	Evaluation questions	Fulfilled	Partly	Not at all
1.	I actively involve stakeholders and target groups in the planning of the project - not only do I listen to them, but I also incorporate their opinions and ideas into the concept			
2.	My project heavily relies on local characteristics, traditions, abilities, and materials - my goal is to activate local knowledge and heritage within the project.			
3.	My project is open and barrier-free to everyone (accessible and affordable).			
4.	My project creates an attractive, high-quality experience for users, providing comfortable usability and physical, mental, and emotional fulfilment			
5.	My project contributes to community building and strengthens the sense of belonging among people from different backgrounds by building relationships.			
6.	My project is interactive, relying on the active participation of users during operation with providing opportunities for involvement in decision-making.			
7.	Local civil organizations, businesses, and residents play a determining role in operating and maintaining the project.			
8.	My project has a positive impact on users' thinking, lifestyles, personal development, and self-fulfillment.			
9.	I am aware of my project's concrete environmental impacts during development, implementation, operation, and afterwards.			
10.	My project has a positive impact on the environment, it actively contributes to the preservation and increase of biodiversity.			

	Evaluation questions	Fulfilled	Partly	Not at all
11.	I fully consider the principles of the circular economy in implementing and operating the project: I choose long-lasting, natural, recycled, or upcycled materials, I recycle waste, and have a waste management plan.			
12.	I apply nature-based solutions and use renewable energy sources. I give back more to nature than I take.			
13.	My project contributes greatly to the awareness and environmental consciousness of stakeholders.			
14.	My project pays great attention to the integration of disadvantaged individuals and favours these groups.			
15.	My project pays great attention to the integration of disadvantaged individuals and favours these groups.			
16.	My project contributes to attitude formation in the field of social inclusion and justice, and promotes a change in long-term thinking.			
17.	My project also takes into account the needs of those who cannot directly represent their interests.			
18.	I collaborate with relevant formal and informal actors and stakeholders, at least on a local level, to solve local problems.			
19.	During the preparation and implementation of the project, I also consider the information from other disciplines and knowledge areas related to the topic, and there is active cooperation between them to achieve common goals.			
20.	The project aims to solve an important common problem for multiple stakeholders and interested parties at the local level or even at higher territorial levels or globally.			

- [Official website of NEB](#)
- [NEB Compass](#)
- [NEB Progress Report](#)
- [NEB Lab](#)
- [European Parliament resolution of 14 September 2022 on the new European Bauhaus \(2021/2255\(INI\)\)](#)
- [Beautiful, Sustainable, Together – New European Bauhaus; Communication of the European Commission 15.09.2021 \(COM\(2021\) 573\)](#)
- [Davos Baukultur Quality System](#)

Did you know?

According to NEB principles, the quality of the built environment is key to creating a sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic future. The Davos Baukultur Qualification System proposes a multidimensional approach to define the holistic concept of Baukultur quality: high-quality building culture includes places, locations (including interiors, buildings, urban structure, part of a village or city, region, infrastructure, public spaces, green areas, cultural landscapes as well), which focus on social needs and sustainable use, while preserving their historical characteristics.