



NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS – A GLOBAL APPROACH”

An interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach lies at the heart of the New European Bauhaus, aiming at shaping a both sustainable and inclusive future. It is thus closely connected to the European Green Deal, the Union’s central climate policy initiative with the goal of making the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

We welcome the NEB’s fundamentally cross-sectoral perspective which particularly acknowledges and strengthens the transformative role of arts and culture. As drivers and enablers of change they can substantially contribute to challenging perceptions and habits, shaping and founding discourses, new sustainable practices and to reinforce the resilience of societies.

Architects, designers, researchers, artists and cultural practitioners in Europe and around the globe are already developing and implementing ideas and concepts in response to the climate change, engaging with their respective communities. It is this spirit of mutual learning and exchange that we consider as crucial for sustainable development. With its initial bottom-up co-design process, the New European Bauhaus can particularly tap this potential.

The New European Bauhaus is yet a predominantly European, if not Eurocentric project. It features international voices, i.a. in its High Level Roundtable, but does not systemically extend its reach to a global level.

Climate change as a global challenge

The climate crisis is a global challenge of a dimension hitherto unknown. At the same time, it is also a crisis that shows the global injustice of climate change. Countries that are least responsible for climate change are yet affected most by its consequences. The Covid-19 pandemic has, in many cases, further aggravated this situation, threatening existing economic and social structures, cultural heritage and cultural diversity and the resilience of communities and societies.

The New European Bauhaus initiative has been drafted against this background of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis. While we are rethinking existing structures and practices with the aim of building a more sustainable future, we deem it crucial to acknowledge that to many communities around the world, climate change already today poses a real life threat to existence. On the level of climate change, developments in Europe cannot be separated from developments outside of Europe – they are closely entangled. **For us, it is thus an urgent necessity to fully involve stakeholders from non-European countries in this timely and highly important initiative.**

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Innovation through international creative cooperation

Strong networks, working relations and joint projects between researchers, cultural and creative professionals on the trans-local and international level are a reality. Europe is part of the world, as is the European cultural and creative sector with its trans-local, globally connected networks, audiences and markets. To take this reality of global connections into account and support trans-local exchange, co-creation and learning between the scene in Europe and outside is of vital importance for a thriving and innovative European cultural and creative sector.

During the pandemic, we have witnessed severe disruptions in international cooperation. Exchange and mobility came to a halt, the European Union and its member states turned inward. Yet in times where, in many countries worldwide and in the European Union, we see a reinforcement of nationalistic discourses and shrinking spaces for civil society, we particularly need to strengthen an understanding between people by tapping into the soft power potential of cultural relations.

We, as a cultural institute with a global outreach, respectively a university with a strong European and international network, experience daily how important it is to work on both levels: developing ideas and approaches in the local contexts while at the same time fostering trans-local connections - **as it is exactly through cooperation of strong local actors based on mutual learning and reciprocity that the innovative and transformative power of creative engagement can unfold.**

Mutual learning, reciprocity and cross-border, cross-sectoral co-creation

While the Covid-19 pandemic has been and still is a major threat for the survival of many cultural and creative institutions, particularly the CCSI have proven their ability to adapt, to tackle the pandemic with flexibility and innovative approaches. This ability for crisis resilience is a much needed skill for a future-proof society. The CCSI have a lot to offer when it comes to international and cross-sectoral cooperation and human-centered innovation. They substantially contribute to shaping our path towards a more sustainable future, be it economically, ecologically or socially. The crisis has also been a starting point for many CCSI stakeholders to reconsider their own structures and practices.

There is no “one size fits all”-solution – we need to take local contexts, needs and conditionalities into account. We suggest to substantially reinforce the international dimension of the New European Bauhaus by

- involving non-European stakeholders and practices in a systematic way in all phases of the initiative;
- recognizing the interconnectedness of different parts of the world - historically and presently

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- establishing formats and global platforms for mutual learning, team-teaching and reciprocal exchange
- extending funding opportunities to non-European actors
- support international cooperation in the NEB framework on a level playing field
- ensure a key role for culture in fair international cooperation

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