TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 **OPENING WORDS**

6 **INTRODUCTION**

10 **DAY 1 - WE BEGIN HERE:**
LIFE, SPACES AND THE FUTURES WE BUILD TOGETHER

14 **DAY 2 - DELIVERING A RESILIENT AND REGENERATIVE EUROPE:**
THE HOUSE OF DEMOCRACY

38 **DAY 3 - BEAUTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE, TOGETHER:**
HOW TO SCALE UP CHANGE

50 **DAY 4 - GOING CIRCULAR TO MOVE FORWARD:**
A GLANCE INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

72 **DAY 5 - A SPACE FOR OURSELVES:**
REDISCOVERING COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE CONVENTIONAL

83 **WHAT DOES THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS MEAN TO YOU?**

90 **PROGRAMME**

96 **SATELLITE EVENTS**

97 **FAIR EXHIBITORS**

98 **FEST PARTICIPANTS**

OPENING WORDS

Europe has always been a continent of builders – those who built the cathedrals that took generations to complete, the railways and bridges connecting our countries, and, of course, our own European Union.

It is a Union that is aspiring to be the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family; to feel safe and grow old with dignity; to be innovative and daring; and to sow respect and harvest community. Our buildings, therefore, have always been more than stones or steel: they embody our culture, values and way of life.

But as the world around us changes, we also must change our approach.

Geopolitical shocks are shaking our economies. Extreme weather events are the new normal due to climate change. Extremists within and outside our Union are challenging our democracies. But this does not mean that we should stop building; it means we must build differently. More sustainable. More resilient. Better connected.

SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL

This is what the New European Bauhaus is all about. It is a shared effort to tackle the issues that matter most to our people today – from affordable housing to industry, from infrastructure to the clean transition, and democracy itself. And we are doing so in a way that is sustainable, inclusive and beautiful because these are the values that have long made Europe special.

The New European Bauhaus started six years ago and has become a movement that spans more than 700 projects and 2,000 organisations, with millions of people – from Europe to Brazil to Japan – taking part. Our Parliament and Member States are fully engaged in this journey, while in May, the Council of the European Union formally adopted the Recommendation on the New European Bauhaus. The commitment is there – and so, too, is the creativity.

This creativity was on display at this year's Festival of the New European Bauhaus. Building materials created from agricultural waste. Civic spaces reimagined to bring communities together. Neighbourhoods that are cleaner, cooler and more accessible.

The movement's projects show that inclusiveness and competitiveness go together, that clean means cool and that people drive lasting change. Through these projects, the New European Bauhaus is building a more sustainable, liveable and democratic Europe.

AN OLIVE PIT, CIRCULARITY AND COMPETITIVENESS

Sustainability is the baseline for everything we do through the New European Bauhaus. It is a big topic, but I want to start small – with an olive pit.

Two-thirds of the world's olive oil come from the European Union. But to make oil, only 20% of the olive is used. The rest – pulp, skin, pits – becomes waste.

Two years ago, a group of Cypriot entrepreneurs brought their idea to a New European Bauhaus hackathon in Nicosia. They wanted to turn discarded pits into sustainable design materials – tabletops and other commercial products. Cyprus produces about 20,000 tonnes of olives for oil each year. The innovative project Pit-board today reduces waste and creates new revenues for communities across the island by creating beautiful, durable tables for everyday use.

Pit-board also shows a shift in how we can build – making new out of old, turning waste into value.

Such projects are crucial because it is the circular economy that will help power our clean transition.

Presently, the construction sector generates more than 35% of the European Union's waste, and up to 12% of total national greenhouse gas emissions. Circular buildings can make a huge difference for communities, nature and our climate.

We also know that today, sustainability and competitiveness go together. As global demand for clean technologies and materials grows, staying at the forefront of that curve will give our businesses a competitive edge. This is also a matter of economic independence. The more we recycle, the less we import and depend on vulnerable supply chains. It is for all these reasons and more that we will adopt the Circular Economy Act later this year. This will create a single European market for high-quality recycled materials – to grow supply and strengthen demand. Our New European Bauhaus projects show circularity is already a present reality. But we can make it the new normal so that we waste less, create more and develop more value at home.

Great innovations, however, start with people with a vision and the right skills. This is why we put the New European Bauhaus Academy at the heart of this project. As part of our increased investment, over the next two years, we will commit an additional €50m to the Academy towards skills-building, research, experimentation and supporting start-ups, SMEs and creative practitioners.

Several of our Member States already have New European Bauhaus Academy hubs. In May we launched our first international hub in Ukraine, where we are supporting new skills, jobs and industry so that Ukrainians can build back their country stronger than ever amid the destruction. The New European Bauhaus will be at Ukraine's side every step of the way.

BUILDING BETTER TO TACKLE THE HOUSING CRISIS

When we started the New European Bauhaus, we knew that the true test would be whether people could feel the difference in their daily lives including in their homes.



A home is more than four walls and a roof. It is the foundation on which people build their lives and families. It is important for their health, jobs, and sense of belonging. And when people put down roots, entire communities flourish alongside them.

The housing crisis is one of the most urgent challenges facing Europeans today and our solution is not just to build more, but to build better: homes that are affordable, sustainable and genuinely liveable.

Amsterdam's Kleiburg flat complex is a wonderful example of this approach. This modernist icon from the 1970s fell into dereliction. Instead of demolishing it, the local community launched a project to restore it. Each future occupant helped to complete their own apartment. By empowering residents, the project reduced delays and costs. The result was housing made not only affordable, but quickly, well-functioning and fit for purpose.

We need more of these projects.

I encourage Member States to take full advantage of the New European Bauhaus funding still available in our current budget, particularly when it comes to housing, so that we can deliver at the necessary scale. We are also launching the Catalogue of Blueprints for Affordable and Resilient Homes – a tool for architects, real estate companies and local authorities to build better, faster and where it is most needed.

More than 100 years ago, in 1925, when the legendary Bauhaus opened its doors in Dessau, it was a moment of promise – and of fragility. We all know what was lost in the years that followed and how quickly democracy can fracture. This lesson is especially important and pressing today. As polarisation and distrust grow, and some feel disconnected, we need stronger public spaces where citizens can come together and engage. And this is why participation is the cornerstone of our Bauhaus approach. Because when people act together, they build trust and stronger communities make stronger democracies.

Change starts always at the local level. From something as small as an olive pit, or perhaps a new tree in the square. But taken together, our projects add up to something much greater.

Many thanks to you, your creativity and your imagination - and long live Europe.

URSULA VON DER LEYEN
European Commission President

This text is a lightly condensed and edited version of President von der Leyen's opening address delivered on 9 June.

INTRODUCTION

The third edition of the Festival of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) took place from 9 to 13 June at the Art & History Museum in Brussels' Parc du Cinquantenaire. NEB community members and policymakers came together with architects, engineers, designers, business representatives, scientists, and other experts for five days of debates, presentations, music, workshops and performances.

Under the 2026 theme, "Life. Spaces. Buildings", the Festival showcased examples of community-led solutions and approaches to creating better homes and neighbourhoods throughout Europe and beyond. Through a series of events, it illustrated how people are working to bring about change and drive Europe's clean and circular transition forward.

Discussions focused in particular on affordable housing and democratic engagement, showing how communities, investors, innovators, and architects can work together to make sustainable, inclusive, and resilient living a reality.

The NEB was launched by the European Commission in 2020. It brings together different groups of actors around a common goal: to transform neighbourhoods across Europe into sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful places where community participation and innovation thrive. Since its launch, the NEB has evolved into a vibrant movement with more than 2 000 NEB community members across the European Union and beyond.

Almost €1.4 billion has been allocated to NEB projects for 2021–2027, with most of the funding coming from cohesion policy and the Horizon Europe programme.

Today, the NEB is a growing movement of communities and changemakers that come together every two years at the Festival of the New European Bauhaus to share progress, showcase best practices and celebrate achievements.

This year's Festival was a moment of both celebration and an opportunity to scale up the NEB, enabling it to build on the know-how and innovations developed over the past six years.

The event was made up of a high level conference (Forum) and an exhibition of projects and prototypes (Fair), as well as cultural performances (Fest), hands on workshops, and guided tours in Brussels neighbourhoods. The programme also featured 178 satellite events in 28 countries; as well as film screenings at the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, a Brussels arts and culture institution, which began a week before the central five-day Festival.

The 2026 Festival welcomed around 4 000 on-site visitors from 85 countries, with about 1 500 more joining online.



"WE MUST BUILD DIFFERENTLY. MORE SUSTAINABLE. MORE RESILIENT. BETTER CONNECTED."

Ursula von der Leyen,
European Commission President



DAY 1

WE BEGIN HERE:

LIFE, SPACES AND THE FUTURES WE BUILD TOGETHER

9 June 2026




ESTIVAL of the
NEW EUROPEAN
BAUHAUS





DAY 1 — 9 JUNE 2026

The main part of the Festival opened in Brussels on the evening of 9 June under the title, "We begin here: life, spaces and the futures we build together".

At the opening ceremony, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke about vital questions such as how to reduce the cost of housing in Europe, improve democratic participation, and drive forward the clean transition, stressing that they can only be answered by working with and for people.

"That is what the New European Bauhaus is all about," she said, setting the theme for the week-long programme, which framed citizens as key to responding to challenges and solutions addressed by the NEB.

"As the world around us is changing, we also have to change our approach," the Commission President told the audience. "Geopolitical shocks are shaking our economies. Extreme weather events are the new normal of climate change. Extremists within and outside our Union are challenging our democracies. This does not mean we should stop building – it means we must build differently. More sustainable. More resilient. Better connected."

European Council President António Costa, who also gave an address at the opening event, said, "The lack of affordable housing is at the core of people's disillusionment with democratic institutions."

In a message that echoed throughout the five days, he told the audience, "We count on the collective inspiration, imagination and creativity of all the New European Bauhaus communities and projects."

Speakers at the opening ceremony described the NEB as a unique movement connecting many different areas rather than treating each in isolation.

"The New European Bauhaus is a remarkable achievement because it connects areas that are too often treated separately – climate policy, culture, design, architecture, innovation, education, industry, social inclusion and, most importantly, democratic participation," said Nela Riehl, Member of the European Parliament and chair of the Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education.

The evening also gave audiences a preview of the week's rich cultural programme. Musicians from the Jazz Sailor Quintet presented a "marine journey", inviting people to reconnect with the environment, while two other groups highlighted the NEB's emphasis on inclusivity. A choir from Chorale Equinox, a non-profit which provides children from disadvantaged backgrounds or with disabilities access to music in Belgium and Burundi, gave a performance, as did singers from Le Chant des Signes who perform using different forms of artistic expression, including voice and sign language.

DAY 2

DELIVERING A RESILIENT AND REGENERATIVE EUROPE:

THE HOUSE OF DEMOCRACY

10 June 2026



DAY 2 **10 JUNE 2026**

The second day of the event was themed, "Delivering a resilient and regenerative Europe: the house of democracy". Discussions focused on how Europe can address environmental, social and competitiveness challenges through the NEB values of sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusiveness, and by working with citizens. Debates explored affordable housing, circular construction, how renovating heritage spaces can help meet housing needs and how digital tools shape civic participation.

"By putting people and communities at the centre of housing policies, and by encouraging innovation in the construction sector, the New European Bauhaus can help us build homes that are sustainable and genuinely liveable," noted Dan Jørgensen, European Commissioner for Energy and Housing, in a comment given on the Festival sidelines.

"[The NEB] has been an amazing journey that we in the Parliament want to back up," MEP Christian Ehler, who is on the Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, said in speech.

The Parliament wants to see money spent on housing needs taking account of NEB criteria, he said. "The Parliament is willing to mainstream NEB along the spending schemes of the European budget. The NEB has to live in more than one place."

Throughout the day, guided tours around Brussels gave visitors the opportunity to explore various NEB approaches to renovating and repurposing existing spaces. For instance, a tour of Peterbos, a social housing complex in the Brussels neighbourhood of Anderlecht, introduced visitors to a unique project that created community spaces and extended residents' apartments by adding "winter gardens" while prioritising regular consultations with the community and avoiding displacement during the refurbishment.

Workshops, music, dance, sculpture, installation art, and Fair exhibitors enabled visitors to explore artistic and community approaches to resilient living.

In the evening, the networking event, NEB Innovation Arena: Where Values Meet Venture, gave participants the chance to hear about the climate-conscious start-ups that are reimagining how to build better. A showcase of live pitches put participants in the role of investors and asked them to engage with project founders before a vote was held to decide which venture best applied NEB values.





INTRODUCTION WITH MIKEL LANDABASO

SPEAKER:

MIKEL LANDABASO
Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy, Joint Research Centre

Watch the speech.

The New European Bauhaus is an exercise in democratic renewal rooted in the places where people live their daily lives, said Mikel Landabaso in his introduction to the second day of the Festival. He argued that Europe's future will be shaped not by technocratic solutions alone, but by citizens working together to improve their communities.

Landabaso highlighted the diversity of disciplines – designers, architects, community leaders, students and practitioners – represented at the Festival as a reflection of the original Bauhaus spirit, where creativity, artisanship, industry knowledge and technology come together. That diversity, he suggested, is essential to addressing the complex challenges facing Europe today.

From climate change and resilience to social cohesion and affordable housing, Europe is confronted with what Landabaso described as "wicked problems" that cannot be solved by any single sector or profession. These challenges require multidisciplinary collaboration and what he called "place-based innovation" – solutions developed with and by local communities.

"The clean transition must be – can only be – human, beautiful, democratic, and rooted in places," he said.

Landabaso described the NEB as "an act of rebellion" against the idea that Europe's future can be determined solely through economics and regulation. Its purpose is to translate values into practical action, encouraging communities to experiment and develop solutions that improve everyday life.

"Neighbourhoods are the right scale for European renewal," Landabaso argued.

They are the places where people live, learn, work and connect, and where belonging, identity and daily life come together. They are where European values become tangible, he said.

Landabaso positioned the NEB as an expression of a distinctly European social market model built on sustainability, inclusion and beauty. These principles, he argued, are not competing objectives but mutually reinforcing foundations for a fair transition that improves quality of life across regions, generations and social backgrounds.

Looking ahead, Landabaso also reflected on the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). In a rapidly changing technological landscape, he argued that the qualities most needed to shape Europe's future remain fundamentally human: imagination, empathy, judgement and participation.

The NEB, he concluded, offers a framework for bringing those qualities together through collective action, ensuring that Europe's transition remains democratic, human-centred and grounded in the places people call home.

"NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE THE RIGHT SCALE FOR EUROPEAN RENEWAL."

Mikel Landabaso

BUILDING EUROPE'S FUTURE: TRANSFORMING THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR FOR A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

SPEAKERS:

ANNA HERINGER
Architect and Founder of Studio Anna Heringer

CARMEN DIAZ CANABAL
Chief People and Sustainability Officer at Holcim

RASMUS NORDQVIST
Member of European Parliament, The Greens/EFA

MODERATOR:

GRETA TRESSERRA
International consultant on carbon-neutral and resilient cities

Watch the discussion.



This session brought together design, industry and policy perspectives to explore the challenges and opportunities of mainstreaming low-carbon and circular solutions in construction, and to reflect on the true cost of unsustainable buildings.

Anna Heringer opened the conversation by asserting how natural building materials offer some of the gentlest, lowest-impact ways to build and are a widely accessible solution. In her view, the real obstacle when it comes to their uptake is economic. At present, what is good for the planet often conflicts with what is profitable and regulated and that logic must be reversed, she argued.

Building with natural materials such as mud is often not aligned with current building regulations, taxonomy or even current education systems. Local, bio-based materials, as well as human labour and artisanship, also carry high costs in Europe. Conversely, materials like cement, she argued, are too cheap and therefore overused.

We do not have a tool to levy the true cost of materials, Heringer explained.

"We don't include the costs [materials] have on the environment, the carbon emissions, how easy they are to repair, or how easily they can be returned to the ground," she said.

But given that the economy is human made, this can be changed, she argued.

MEP Rasmus Nordqvist responded by saying the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – which puts a price on carbon emitted by imported goods from certain carbon-intensive sectors, such as cement – is one tool that helps address this issue, but it faces opposition from many politicians.

"We have a lot of tools in the box. We need to dare to use them," he said, referring to existing policies and instruments to mainstream low-carbon and circular technologies.

Those tools include the upcoming Circular Economy Act, which aims to increase the supply and demand of high-quality recycled and secondary raw materials, as well as the decisive role public authorities can play in shaping better construction practices through public procurement. Architects, Nordqvist posited, should be asked to work on buildings "that can be changed ... from housing to offices, to a museum, to schools."

He argued that building for longevity, and factoring in future renovation, reuse, and disassembly could incentivise the use of sustainable building materials and help justify the expense.

Carmen Díaz Canabal of the Swiss-based building materials company Holcim pointed out the scale of the problem in the housing sector, saying, "Today, 1.6 billion people lack adequate housing." In Europe alone, "75% of the buildings are energy inefficient."

From her perspective, the solutions lie not just in selecting certain materials over others but in bringing together actors from across the value chain to create more sustainable housing that can be enjoyed by future generations.

Canabal argued that land remains the costliest dimension in achieving affordable, "durable" housing. She, however, agreed that a building's lifecycle cost must be considered, and said that adaptability, reusability and recyclability are crucial considerations in fully calculating costs. Holcim, for its part, aims for half its sales to come from low-carbon products in the near term, she said.

The panel offered an open conversation in which, despite their differing viewpoints, the three speakers underscored the importance of dialogue and collaboration across the building sector.

MAKING USE OF WHAT WE HAVE: RETHINKING VACANT AND UNDERUSED SPACES

SPEAKERS:

EVA DE BRUYN
Architect and Partner at 51N4E

WERNER MÖLLER
Representative and Lead at Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

VERONIKA VALK-SISKA
Head of Housing Policy at the Estonian Ministry of Climate

MODERATOR:

SORCHA BRID EDWARDS
Secretary General of Housing Europe

Watch the discussion.







Renovating heritage buildings is a way of creating affordable housing that people are proud to live in and which can foster an anchoring sense of "place identity", according to panellists in a discussion on the reuse of older structures.

Veronika Valk-Siska from the Estonian Ministry of Climate explained how Estonia could benefit from an NEB approach towards its many Soviet-era buildings to help address a housing shortage. A platform connecting vacant heritage structures with capital and policy tools could help deliver sustainable, equitable housing. She gave the example of Põhjala tehas, a former rubber and metalworks in the capital, Tallinn, that was transformed into a 100 000-square-metre mixed-use space. She said the redevelopment used 60% less embodied carbon than an equivalent new construction would have produced.

"The best affordable housing does not look affordable," said Valk-Siska, who is also currently serving as a National Contact Point for New European Bauhaus projects in Estonia. "It looks like a place where people are proud to be and to call a home."

She added that, in Estonia, "heritage conversion achieves this by default."

Architect Eva De Bruyn described how local authorities often demolish public buildings, fearing the high cost of renovation, particularly to meet energy-efficiency requirements.

"We are all together in front of this challenge to make more energy-efficient buildings," she explained. "But if we don't have local policy that makes it easier to reuse the existing [building stock] than to demolish and to build new, it will not happen."

Authorities and lessors must be convinced of the benefits of reuse as well as the added value, including cultural advantages, she explained. "If you only look at the numbers, it might be different," she said. To do this, and shape informed, realistic and financially viable strategies from the outset, projects must "involve architects, engineers, designers much earlier in the process, instead of only at the end," she said.

Werner Möller, a representative of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, described how vacant buildings present further considerations when they are situated in shrinking areas facing an oversupply of legacy architecture relative to the local population. "[These are] the locations where industry has moved away ... or where the jobs have left or entrepreneurship is not so strong," he said.

This means planning work must go beyond repurposing vacant structures to engage with local communities across generations to shape change, strengthen connectivity and mobility and ensure "compact city" living so that services are close to homes.

In their closing statements, the speakers shared EU-level ideas to increase the reuse of old buildings. Valk-Siska suggested a European vacant building strategy – a "use it or lose it" mechanism – and a "heritage to housing fund" with a mandatory 30% affordable-housing quota. She also called for making design quality a "non-negotiable NEB standard" for EU-funded projects.

Möller said cultural transformation must be front and centre in the conversation on ecological, social and economic transformation. He gave the example of making bureaucratic paperwork accessible, particularly for communities on the ground. De Bruyn, meanwhile, said local authorities who own vast numbers of empty buildings could be encouraged to develop a culture of reuse through policy tools that value not just energetic goals but social, cultural and ecological ones too.

"THE BEST AFFORDABLE HOUSING DOES NOT LOOK AFFORDABLE. IT LOOKS LIKE A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO BE AND TO CALL A HOME."

Eva De Bruyn

RESILIENT BY DESIGN: CUTTING CARBON, CUTTING COSTS

SPEAKERS:

MARTIN SKEA
Co-founder and CEO of ToGather Homes

FLEMING VOETMANN
Vice President of Public Affairs and Regulatory Affairs at VELUX

JAN WURM
Professor at KU Leuven and EU Engagement Lead at Arup

MILA DUNCHEVA
Global Business Project Manager at Stora Enso

MODERATOR:

ANNELIES BECK
Moderator, interviewer and presenter

Watch the discussion.

Creating affordable, resilient and sustainable buildings does not require trade-offs between climate action and economic realities, panellists argued. These should be pursued together rather than being treated as competing priorities. Europe, meanwhile, already has many of the tools, technologies and materials needed to reduce emissions, improve quality of life and lower costs. The priority now is to scale up proven solutions and accelerate their adoption.

The discussion opened by exploring how the New European Bauhaus principles can be translated into practical solutions for the built environment.

Martin Skea warned that the shortage of affordable housing is becoming a threat to social cohesion and democratic stability, while highlighting the potential of industrialised construction and digital technologies to deliver high-quality homes more efficiently.

Mila Duncheva argued that a whole-life carbon perspective - meaning that all emissions from a building's construction and use through to demolition are considered - demonstrates how lower costs and lower carbon can reinforce one another. Prefabrication, resource efficiency and renewable materials can reduce waste, increase productivity and deliver more predictable outcomes.

"Affordability and reducing carbon can go hand in hand and actually enhance and accelerate each other," she said.

The panellists also highlighted the importance of renovation. Fleming Voetmann pointed to evidence showing that many Europeans continue to live in unhealthy buildings affected by poor ventilation or insulation, overheating or damp. Renovating existing buildings offers opportunities to improve health and wellbeing while reducing emissions. He cited examples demonstrating how existing materials can be reused and how low-carbon buildings can be delivered using technologies already available today.

Circularity emerged as another key theme. Jan Wurm showcased research exploring how waste streams can be transformed into new building materials. His work on bio-based insulation produced from paper waste and fungi illustrated how innovation can simultaneously reduce carbon emissions, lower costs and make better use of resources that would otherwise be discarded.

Looking ahead, the panellists called for a shift from simply cutting costs and carbon towards creating wider value. Regenerative bio-based materials, for example, can store carbon while supporting healthier soils and ecosystems. Sustainable forestry practices, combined with circular approaches to wood products, could benefit both natural and built environments.

They suggested that industrialised construction could make better use of existing European capacity, while new financing models could help promising companies working on sustainable building become established. Community land trusts were also highlighted as a way of ensuring the long-term affordability of housing.

Ultimately the panel showed how, with many of the approaches towards a more sustainable built environment already in existence, the challenge is increasingly one of scale: creating the demand, investment, regulatory conditions and cross-sector collaboration needed to move successful solutions from prototypes and individual projects into mainstream practice.

As Voetmann noted, "We have the technology, we have the knowledge. The question that we collectively need to ask ourselves is how do we do it much faster?"

"AFFORDABILITY AND REDUCING CARBON CAN GO HAND IN HAND AND ACTUALLY ENHANCE AND ACCELERATE EACH OTHER."

Mila Duncheva





CONVERSATION WITH JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM

SPEAKER:

JOHAN ROCKSTRÖM
Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam and Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

MODERATOR:

ANNELIES BECK
Moderator, interviewer and presenter

Watch the conversation.

"SUSTAINABILITY IS NO LONGER A SACRIFICE TOWARDS A LESS DESIRABLE FUTURE. IT'S ACTUALLY THE PATH TO SUCCESS."

Johan Rockström

Seven of the nine planetary boundaries that regulate the stability of the Earth have already been pushed beyond their safe operating space, increasing the risk of irreversible environmental change, Johan Rockström said in a conversation at the Festival.

The most recent findings show that climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater depletion, land-system change, nutrient pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus, ocean acidification and chemical contamination have all exceeded safe levels, according to the planetary boundaries framework.

The consequences of this extend far beyond environmental concerns. Rising temperatures are already increasing the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, with cities particularly vulnerable because of the urban heat island effect, Rockström pointed out.

He warned of the growing risks of crossing Earth's "planetary boundaries", saying that humanity is approaching critical tipping points in several systems. He added, however, that solutions exist to bring many of these systems back within manageable limits.

Accelerating change will require stronger standards, sustainability criteria and regulation that, he argued, far from restricting economic development, encourage innovation and reward better environmental performance.

The built environment has a critical role to play in addressing these challenges.

Construction and buildings account for a significant share of global greenhouse gas emissions, while also contributing to pressures on land, water and biodiversity. Progress is being made through circular approaches, low-carbon materials and more efficient building practices, but these solutions remain limited.

"Sustainability is no longer a sacrifice towards a less desirable future," Rockström said. "It's actually the path to success."

Entrenched economic models, powerful vested interests, and the perception that environmental problems are distant or future concerns continue to create inertia, even as climate impacts are increasingly felt in communities today.

Despite the scale of the challenge, Rockström remained cautiously optimistic, arguing that it is still possible to bring some Earth systems back to a safe operating space by taking quicker action on sustainable energy, food production and the built environment.

"The best we can offer today is a transition back to a manageable planet," he said.



FROM FEEDS TO STREETS: SOCIAL MEDIA, DEMOCRACY AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITIES

SPEAKERS:

LÉA ROGLIANO-AUBRY
Head of the Citizen Engagement Hub at FARI-AI for the Common Good Institute

LUCA BUSSOLINO
Partner, Head of Strategy & Innovation, CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati

MICHELA MAGAS
Former NEB HLRT Member, Founder and CEO of MTF Labs, Director of Industry Commons

MODERATOR:

RAUL JUSTE LORES
Writer, "Sao Paulo nas Alturas" channel

Watch the discussion.

Social media, AI and digital technologies are reshaping how people engage with each other, participate in public life and make decisions about the future of their communities. Digital innovation can strengthen civic participation, panellists at the Festival asserted, but only if it remains transparent, inclusive and rooted in human needs.

A central theme of the panel was the tension between the opportunities offered by digital tools and the risks posed by algorithms, bias and online polarisation.

Panellists stressed that technology is not neutral. Moreover, the values embedded in data, algorithms and digital platforms influence how societies function and how decisions are made.

Michela Magas said AI systems risk reinforcing social assumptions and inequalities if they are developed without diverse perspectives and public involvement. She said technology should be shaped through collaboration between communities, researchers, industry representatives and policymakers.

Citizens, according to the speakers, should be involved not only as users of technology but as active participants in its design and governance.

Léa Rogliano-Aubry described initiatives that help citizens explore the digital infrastructure around them, encouraging informed discussion about data, AI and the public good. Such approaches, she explained, help build trust and create opportunities for meaningful participation.

Yet in an increasingly digital world, people physically coming together and public spaces remain essential when it comes to making decisions about the future of our societies.

Luca Bussolino noted that while social media can help spread ideas, connect communities and support collaboration across distances, democratic debate ultimately depends on people coming together and sharing experiences and ideas.

"Technology must bring people together, not pull them apart," he said, arguing that digital tools should help create opportunities for dialogue and collective action rather than reinforce echo chambers and social fragmentation.

Digital tools can help people imagine alternative futures, share knowledge and contribute to decision-making, but lasting trust is built through dialogue, participation and lived experience.

"Technology is a wonderful excuse to unite people and make them talk and imagine the future," Rogliano-Aubry said.



CONCLUDING PERSPECTIVES WITH COMMISSIONER EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA

SPEAKER:

EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA
European Commissioner for Start-ups, Research and Innovation

Watch the speech.



Commissioner Zaharieva opened her speech by reflecting on the substantial impact that the original Bauhaus movement had in her home country of Bulgaria.

"When we speak of Bauhaus, many think of Dessau or Berlin, but these ideas did not stop at borders," she told attendees during the day's closing address. "Bulgarian architects … trained in German schools and brought those ideas home."

Although many pre-war Bauhaus buildings were lost following the Soviet era, she said examples of this architecture were still visible in Bulgarian cities such as Sofia, Plovdiv and Varna. The Commissioner gave the example of the Varna Beach building by architect Stefan Venedikt Popov, who had studied in Munich.

"The building has curved corners, large balconies and a classic functionalist aesthetic," she said. "Importantly, it was among the first to include an elevator. This seems like a detail today, but crowds came in 1933 just to try it, and the elevator is still operational."

The movement, she said, was not only about aesthetics, "but also function and industrial progress."

Just as "innovation was crucial to make this combination work," so too is it important for the New European Bauhaus.

"Today, the challenge is sustainability but, once again, we need innovation to address it, and to combine it with beauty, industrial competitiveness and our values," said the Commissioner.

She said the EU was funding projects that address "the most fundamental realities of our citizens: their houses, their neighbourhoods, the parks, the schools where our children learn and play". European innovators were doing crucial work in areas such as circular construction materials, waste upcycling, clean energy, urban mobility and sustainable fashion, she added.

The Commissioner highlighted the annual funding of €120 million from 2025 to 2027 provided by the NEB Facility under Horizon Europe to support NEB research and innovation in these areas.

The NEB Facility, she said, would also help build up the NEB Academy as a core infrastructure for knowledge, innovation and skills development, supporting the transformation of the construction ecosystem. Together with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), it would help ensure that innovations are deployed and reach citizens. In her speech, she highlighted other NEB initiatives, such as Ocean Lab, and described their work as "incubators for ideas and actions at European scale that connect our communities to our environment."

THE FAIR

The Fair ran for three days in Brussels, from 10 to 12 June. Nearly 80 exhibitors from across the EU and beyond came together at the Fair to showcase innovative concepts and prototypes transforming Europe. The projects on show were designed to rethink neighbourhoods and communities in line with NEB values and included examples of new biomaterials, novel architectural designs, sustainable and circular construction practices, more inclusive living approaches for older or marginalised members of society and citizen participation in the transformation of cities. At the centre of the exhibition space was the NEB Academy Piazza, an information and workshop area where visitors could learn how to develop NEB projects.

The Fair's NEB-aligned projects also pave the way for thinking and approaches that are ready to be scaled up.

Fair visitors discovered how Aalborg East in Denmark is transforming a neglected district into an inclusive and sustainable community. They saw how AHA – Affordable housing for all in Hungary is turning vacant public buildings into social housing and vibrant cultural spaces in a way that aims to counter stigma associated with public housing. They learned how Bauhaus of the Seas Sails in Portugal is reinterpreting Lisbon's azulejo tiles through biomaterials such as oyster shells and seaweed-based pigments, and how Magbago in Bosnia and Herzegovina makes slow, smart fashion by turning rose petal and lotus waste into textiles. Meanwhile, in Cyprus, Pit-board is converting discarded olive pits into high-quality, sustainable furniture, promoting circular economy practices, supporting local communities and empowering olive producers.

The complete list of Fair exhibitors can be viewed on page 93.




A Seat of Cells


Post Flood Community


THE FESTIVAL of the NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS
Life. Spaces. Buildings.
FAIR


ACADEMY PIAZZA
ACADEMY PIAZZA
THE FESTIVAL of the NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS
THE FESTIVAL of the NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

THE FEST

About 40 diverse performances, workshops, and installations at the Festival gave visitors a chance to explore artistic, communal and practical interpretations of NEB values. Artists and performers explored relationships with cultural heritage, the boundaries between humans and nature and how people can reconnect as members of the same community.

Visitors enjoyed performances that explored migration, dance inspired by a deaf flamenco dancer and AI music conveyed through a feminist lens. Workshops, meanwhile, allowed people to partake in different activities ranging from making lampshades from dried flowers to designing inclusive spaces for neurodivergent people and exploring the body through movement. Installation art could be found throughout the venue, including inflatable plastic heads inspired by folk theatre in Hong Kong, created by French–Chinese artistic duo Benoit+Bo, and a hanging work featuring 1 000 paper cranes.

The complete list of Fest participants can be viewed on page 98.

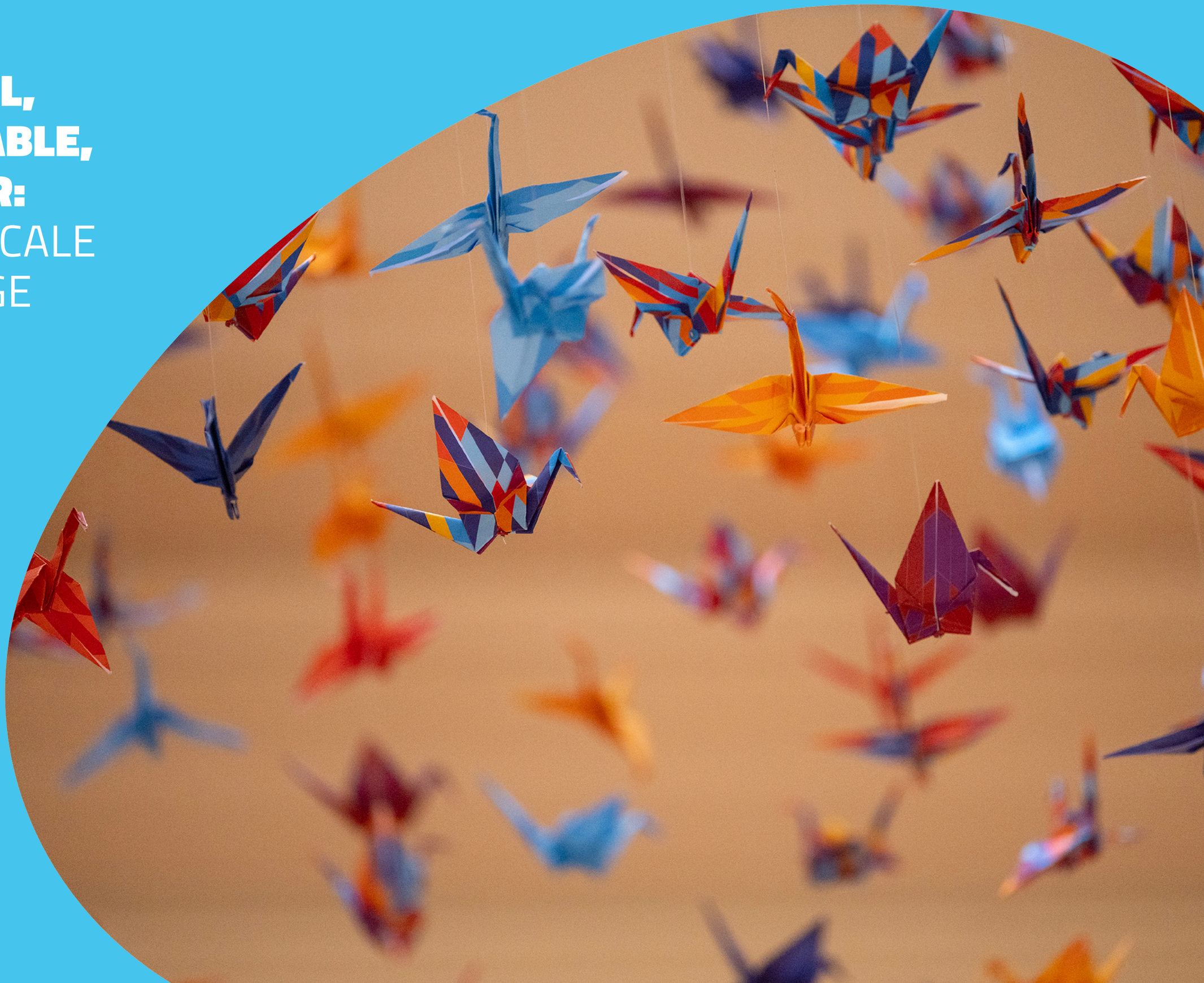



Coletivo Gira
Portugal
THE FESTIVAL of the NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS



DAY 3
BEAUTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE, TOGETHER:
HOW TO SCALE UP CHANGE

11 June 2026



DAY 3 **11 JUNE 2026**

Day three of the Festival was themed, "Beautiful, sustainable, together: how to scale up change," and discussions explored how to build on the success of NEB projects since 2020. The third instalment of the Festival of the New European Bauhaus brought a new phase of knowledge-sharing, and the day's panels examined successful NEB approaches and how to adapt them and scale up their impact. Discussions, for instance, considered how clear recognition of projects that meet high sustainability, social and architectural standards can create consumer demand for NEB projects that improve quality of life, as well as the crucial role of the private sector in expanding NEB-aligned approaches and products.

Speakers argued how scaling up projects that foster a better built environment are crucial for people's wellbeing and for human rights, as well as the importance of adapting to local, specific realities and investment challenges. Many explored the entrepreneurship and innovation behind community-driven solutions that can create new markets and approaches. In one session, for instance, panellists delved into the strategic reconstruction taking place in Ukraine and revealed how private investment was unlocked through crowdfunding. This enabled people to co-own a converted Soviet factory hosting business, educational and social projects and was a clear example of how NEB projects can contribute to wellbeing, long-term resilience, and a strong sense of community at a time of war and ongoing challenges.



INTRODUCTION WITH RAFFAELE FITTO

SPEAKER:

RAFFAELE FITTO
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Cohesion and Reforms

Watch the address.

Europeans need a vision for the future that inspires hope and confidence in these challenging times, and the New European Bauhaus is an expression of this hope, said Raffaele Fitto during day three's opening session.

The movement echoes Robert Schuman's pronouncement in 1950, at the founding of the European Union, that Europe would not be built all at once, but step by step through a series of achievements, Fitto explained.

"This is also the essence of the New European Bauhaus, not only imagining the future, but building it brick by brick, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, community by community," he said.

In his role as Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms, Fitto said he had seen first-hand how the NEB was based around European values of solidarity and cooperation including at the grassroots level.

"What is most remarkable to me is not the scale, nor the scope," he said. "What is most remarkable is the commitment and the mobilisation of local people, mayors, architects, artists, citizens, and businesses.

"Heritage industrial spaces reimagined, abandoned buildings becoming hubs for innovation and creative sectors. A place to test flexible spaces and new materials. A place that blends heritage preservation, green infrastructure and social inclusion."

There were already many examples showing that the NEB works, he said, and now there was a "window of opportunity" to build on this following the mid-term review of the EU cohesion policy, which aims to reduce social, economic and territorial disparities.

This review "has given Member States the chance to reprogramme funds," he said. "We must respond to new challenges, including the energy crisis and housing shortages."

He pointed out that €3.3 billion had been mobilised for affordable and sustainable housing, representing "a significant opportunity to scale up" NEB delivery, and urged Member States to "make the most of this opportunity".

Fitto also highlighted the need to encourage private investment in sustainable construction and large-scale projects, while asserting that the energy and innovation of people and organisations operating at the local level are the "secret" to the NEB's success.

"The New European Bauhaus is here to stay," he said.

"THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS IS HERE TO STAY."

Raffaele Fitto

HOW TO SCALE UP CHANGE

SPEAKER:

ANACLÁUDIA MARINHEIRO CENTENO ROSSBACH
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat

Watch the speech.

Cities are increasingly where the consequences of climate change, housing shortages and social inequality are most visible. They are also where solutions can emerge, according to the UN's Anacláudia Rossbach.

In her speech, Rossbach said that urban areas are uniquely positioned to bring people, institutions and communities together to address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Reflecting on the contribution of the NEB to global urban development, Rossbach highlighted three principles she believes can help drive lasting transformation.

The first is placing people and quality of life at the centre of development. Housing, she said, is not simply about buildings but about human rights, wellbeing and equal access. Ensuring that everyone has access to affordable and adequate housing is an increasing challenge.

The second principle is co-creation. Rossbach said that cities are places where communities can come together to shape their future, making local participation and collective action essential for successful urban transformation. Innovation often emerges at city level where local authorities, residents and community organisations are closest to the challenges.

The third principle is connections between beauty, sustainability and inclusion. Rossbach said that addressing housing shortages and climate pressures does not mean abandoning quality, culture or public life. Long-term urban transformation should improve both living conditions and people's sense of belonging.



Looking beyond Europe, Rossbach noted that these principles align closely with UN initiatives such as the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. She pointed to growing efforts by cities around the world to address homelessness, climate resilience, migration and housing affordability through innovative local approaches.

Scaling up these solutions requires more than successful projects. Better knowledge and data, supportive policy frameworks and systemic reform are all needed to enable change. Local initiatives can show what works, but lasting impact depends on turning experience into changes in governance, financing and urban planning systems.

Rossbach argued that although principles and experiences can be transferred across borders and cities, effective solutions must be adapted to local realities.

"There is no such thing as a replicable best practice," she said. "Each context is different."

STRATEGIC RECONSTRUCTION IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY: LESSONS FROM UKRAINE

SPEAKERS:

RŪTA LEITANAITĖ
Architect and curator at the Architects Association of Lithuania and the Architects' Council of Europe

OKSANA ARKHYPCHUK
Head of Promtech – Promprylad Foundation

DARIUS SKUSEVIČIUS
Ambassador-at-large for the coordination of Ukraine's recovery and construction, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

TETYANA OLIYNYK
Senior Advisor on Culture at Partnership Fund for Resilient Ukraine

Watch the discussion.

The panel explored how Ukraine's ongoing reconstruction could address immediate needs while building more resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities, offering lessons for new approaches to participation, governance and recovery.

A strong example of how to rebuild during an emergency, according to Darius Skusevičius, are the schools being constructed with underground bomb-resistant shelters where lessons can be taught even during an attack.

The schools have "dual-purpose underground shelters fully used for schooling, not only for hiding," explained Skusevičius during the panel discussion. These are also an example of how the EU is supporting "not only repairs of electricity grids, which are essential, but also social infrastructure", Skusevičius noted, adding that he calls it the "diplomacy of hope."

This matters, he added, because "if there is no hospital, no school, no kindergarten, there will be no life there."

Oksana Arkhypchuk gave the example of the Promprylad innovation centre, where she runs a training project. The centre, a former Soviet factory transformed into a hub for office spaces, a school and coffee shops, is "a ready-to-use blueprint for the whole [of] Ukraine", Arkhypchuk said.

Promprylad was funded by individual donations and went on to win a 2025 New European Bauhaus Prize. "Over 1 800 co-investors came to create this space from Ukraine and from all over the globe," Arkhypchuk told conference attendees. "I truly believe this is a unique model of equity, crowdfunding and fundraising and people who are becoming co-owners of the change."

The discussion also challenged the idea of resilience as an unlimited resource, instead framing it as something that requires nurturing through social cohesion. Panellists described how well-designed spaces can support this by bringing together people and providing dignity, normalcy and psychological safety, even in times of war, and how the Promprylad project is a successful example of this dynamic.

The conversation also touched on broader themes of capacity-building and local participation.

Architect Rūta Leitanaitė described how Ukraine needed to build on the number of people working in the cultural sector, with many individuals having left it to fight in the war following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Investment is needed in skills, professional networks and local expertise, particularly when it comes to cultural heritage. She also underscored the importance of not relying on imported ready-made solutions, but on building networks between experts, enabling Ukrainians to play a meaningful role in shaping their future environment.

Amongst the key takeaways from the panel was the recognition that strategic reconstruction cannot wait for the war to end. Planning should happen now, speakers said, and reconstruction must empower local communities and economies by combining approaches to adaptable, resilience-supporting infrastructure with Ukrainian know-how.

Neither quality nor beauty should be sacrificed during times of war, as both these attributes foster well-being and long-term resilience, the audience heard.

Ukraine's experience, panellists conveyed, is an important lesson in how rebuilding can strengthen communities, preserve identity, support local economies and safeguard against future shocks.







SHIFTING LENSES FOR TRANSFORMATION

SPEAKER:

ALESSANDRA GARIBOLDI
President of Culture Action Europe and Senior Transformation Manager, EIT Culture and Creativity

This workshop, led by EIT Culture and Creativity, invited participants to consider how reflective and people-centred approaches can help communities and organisations create the conditions for lasting, inclusive and sustainable change. It emphasised transformation as being based on relationships, experimentation and continuous learning.

"Projects create a sparkle of innovation but struggle to become structural," Gariboldi explained.

Drawing on research from New European Bauhaus Lighthouse projects and other demonstrators, Gariboldi presented the "NEB systemic narratives" framework for understanding how transformation happens in practice. The research identified different implementation dimensions required for successful transformation.

The "anchoring" dimension refers to the importance of embedding actions within policy to create lasting legacies, whether through new governance models or funding structures or ways of working that continue beyond the life of a project. "Collaboration" recognises that the NEB relies on diverse actors working together across disciplines, sectors, and communities, creating continuity and strengthening collective action. "Learning" ensures that knowledge generated through projects can be shared, adapted and transferred to others, and "creating value" refers to how innovative initiatives can move beyond isolated experiments to influence wider systems and practices.

"PROJECTS CREATE A SPARKLE OF INNOVATION BUT STRUGGLE TO BECOME STRUCTURAL."
Alessandra Gariboldi

Participants were then asked to pair up to discuss one of the dimensions based on their experiences. They were encouraged to debate enabling factors for transformation including trust, active listening, imagination and the ability to hold space for dialogue throughout a process. These elements, Gariboldi explained, require time, facilitation, skills and a willingness to engage with different perspectives.



INTRODUCTION WITH ENRICO GIOVANNINI

SPEAKER:

ENRICO GIOVANNINI
Professor, economist and former Minister of Infrastructure and Mobility and former Minister of Labour and Social Policies in Italy

Watch his talk.

Wellbeing, rather than economic growth alone, should be the measure of success for sustainable development, according to Enrico Giovannini.

Drawing on decades of work measuring wellbeing, resilience and sustainable development, Giovannini highlighted growing evidence linking the design of homes, public spaces and urban environments to individual wellbeing and quality of life. He described how the design of cities can influence different aspects of life such as social interaction, mobility, health, happiness and community cohesion.

Giovannini discussed efforts in Italy to make sustainability part of infrastructure and urban development policies, including investments in housing regeneration, sustainable mobility and the quality of living environments. These Italian initiatives aimed not only to reduce emissions but also to create more inclusive communities, strengthen social connections and improve everyday life.

For Giovannini, this reflects a broader shift in how progress should be understood. Economic growth, competitiveness and innovation remain important but should be tools for achieving wider social and environmental objectives rather being ends in themselves.

"We have to focus on people's wellbeing and the planet's wellbeing," he said, arguing that governance, technology and economic development should serve those goals, and pointing to ongoing work by the European Commission and the United Nations to measure sustainable and inclusive wellbeing.

Giovannini said that Europe performs strongly on measures linked to quality of life, sustainability and social wellbeing. Preserving and strengthening these achievements requires maintaining a commitment to the values that underpin the European project.

The built environment plays a crucial role here due to the impact cities, neighbourhoods and public spaces can have on quality of life, society and trust in democracy, according to the economist.

Giovannini argued that better-designed cities can ultimately strengthen what he called "institutional sustainability", creating places that improve wellbeing while fostering inclusion, participation and confidence in public institutions.



"WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S WELLBEING AND THE PLANET'S WELLBEING."

Enrico Giovannini

INVESTING IN WHAT TRULY MATTERS: SCALING UP THE NEB MARKET FOR COMPETITIVE SOLUTIONS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SPEAKERS:

KIKA ZDZIARSKA
PhD researcher at Ghent University

CHRISTINE LEMAITRE
CEO of the German Sustainable Building Council

MARCOS ROS SEMPERE
Member of the European Parliament, S&D

DIRK PAELINCK
Chairman of the European PropTech Association

Watch the discussion.

Examining what it would take to mainstream the New European Bauhaus and mobilise investment in a built environment that combines sustainability, inclusion and quality, panellists explored the role that standards and market demand could play in scaling solutions.

Kika Zdziarska opened the discussion by questioning what it means to "scale" the NEB. Given Europe's diversity, she argued, successful solutions must avoid being replicated in different contexts. The NEB must be "very demanding" about projects meeting its values, while allowing for local interpretations, a collaborative approach and transparent decision-making, she said.

Zdziarska, a researcher on the Horizon Europe and NEB project WoodStock, which seeks to advance sustainable wood use in construction, highlighted how choices around materials, affordability, standardisation and local identity inevitably involve trade-offs. In her view, transparency about these trade-offs and accountability are a crucial part of meeting high standards.

The speakers also discussed how clear recognition of projects that meet high sustainability standards, as well as architectural and social criteria, is needed to increase the consumer and private-sector demand for NEB-aligned projects.

MEP Marcos Ros Sempere told attendees: "If citizens perceive that New European Bauhaus ... is improving their quality of life, they will ask the private market to produce with New European Bauhaus criteria." This "NEB added value" would show that a project promotes the movement's core values of sustainability, beauty and inclusiveness.

"It's a question of creating synergies between public authorities and the private sector," added Ros Sempere, who was the rapporteur of a 2022 European Parliament report on the New European Bauhaus that supported the creation of a label based on NEB criteria.

Christine Lemaitre, head of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB), conveyed how her organisation already runs a scheme which has certified more than 14 000 projects.

"What you described sounded like the DGNB system, a system developed by the market for the market, a holistic system that looks on ecological quality, economic quality, social quality and the process quality," she said.

Lemaitre argued that it would make more sense to draw from available tools, rather than create new ones. She called for better alignment between instruments and requirements to reduce market complexity while maintaining high ambitions.

Dirk Paelinck, founder and chairman of the European PropTech Association, also underlined the need for equipping professionals with the right skills and private-sector involvement in the scale-up of the NEB. "In the end, it needs to come from the private market," he said.

Providing insight into the investment gap in the clean transition, he argued that investment in construction innovation remained disproportionately low in relation to the sector's environmental impact, partly due to cautious investor attitudes. The example highlighted a wider challenge: transforming promising technologies and projects into investable propositions capable of attracting private capital and achieving market scale.

The discussion revealed that scaling the NEB will require an ecosystem that connects public policy with private investment, gives professionals the right skills, builds on existing standards and preserves space for local adaptation.



AMAZON HABITAT: VERNACULAR TECHNOLOGIES FOR A CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE FUTURE?

SPEAKERS:

LUIS GUEDES
Amazonian architect and co-founder of Guá Arquitetura

RAUL JUSTE LORES
Writer and creator of the "São Paulo nas Alturas" channel

Watch the discussion

"THE MAIN GOAL IS TO DO THINGS THAT CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF COMMUNITIES."

Luis Guedes

Climate adaptation does not necessarily require new, high-tech solutions. In many places, solutions can be found in knowledge and practices that have been developed, tested and used by local and Indigenous communities over generations.

In a conversation with journalist Raul Juste Lores, architect Luis Guedes drew on his work in the Brazilian Amazon to describe how Amazonian building traditions offer valuable lessons for creating more sustainable and resilient ways of living.

He told an audience how riverside and Indigenous communities have long adapted to floods, heat and environmental change through construction methods closely connected to local ecosystems. Using locally sourced materials and traditional techniques, these communities have developed buildings that work with nature rather than against it, while minimising environmental impacts.

Guedes highlighted the knowledge of Amazonian carpenters and craftspeople, whose expertise has often been overlooked despite its relevance in addressing today's climate challenges. Through research and design initiatives, he is working to document and share these practices while creating new opportunities for local communities. The objective is not simply to preserve traditional knowledge, but to demonstrate how it can contribute to contemporary solutions for sustainable construction, climate adaptation and local economic development.

"The main goal is to do things that can change the lives of communities," he said.

The discussion challenged development models that replace local identities and building traditions with standardised approaches imported from elsewhere.

Lores warned against the growing tendency for cities around the world to replicate the same models of development without considering local conditions, culture or climate.

He emphasised the importance of sharing alternative approaches, such as those being researched and shared by Guedes, and ensuring that successful local skills and techniques receive greater visibility and awareness.





SATELLITE EVENTS

One hundred and seventy-eight physical and hybrid Satellite Events took the Festival of the New European Bauhaus beyond the central site in Brussels' Parc du Cinquantenaire. In Belgium, events were held elsewhere around the capital city and in Ghent.

Apart from Belgium, Satellite Events took place in 27 other countries. Events were staged across Europe, from eastern Sweden, where EURAU 26 LATITUDES hosted panels and installations as part of its work shaping the debate on architectural research in practice, to Malta, where ArkiPjazza considered how to merge Maltese identity with sustainable, innovative architecture. RE-CODING VILLAGES in Italy presented work being carried out in two historic villages. These living labs are exploring how so-called left-behind places can benefit from better governance to turn abandoned areas into common spaces for care, services and community life.

Beyond the EU, the Festival's Satellite Event programme featured an environmental regeneration project in Serbia, a time capsule of local nature in the UK, and a climate innovation challenge in Ukraine. In Turkey, video games and AI were used to revitalise neglected public spaces along the historic Silk Road.

DAY 4
GOING CIRCULAR TO MOVE FORWARD:
A GLANCE INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

12 June 2026



DAY 4 **12 JUNE 2026**

Under the title “Going circular to move forward: a glance into the next chapter of the New European Bauhaus,” day four of the Festival reflected on lessons shared during the event and considered how to build on these. Panel topics deepened the discussion on scaling up successful NEB projects and prototypes, sharing professional skills and knowledge, and the best practices seen in sectors as diverse as water conservation, urban planning and fashion.

Participants heard how projects developed through the NEB movement illustrate what a circular economy looks like in practice. They also learned about the role of the NEB Academy in building capacity and participation around NEB initiatives, including helping to spread circular construction methods in the EU and beyond.

The first ever NEB Prizes trophy was also unveiled. Following a public vote, Luca Ambrosi from Italy, with his entry titled Aurora, was announced as the winner of the trophy design competition. His design will be awarded to prize winners at the NEB awards ceremony in October.



KEYNOTE SPEECH: EAMON RYAN

SPEAKER:

EAMON RYAN
Chair of the European Commission's Housing Advisory Board, High-Level Advocate for the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and former Minister for Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport in the Irish government from 2020 to 2024

Watch the speech.

Eamon Ryan described Europe's housing affordability crisis as an increasingly urgent intergenerational challenge, particularly for younger Europeans. While increasing the supply of housing remains essential, he emphasised that quantity alone is not enough. Housing policies must also focus on quality, community and the wider environment in which people live.

Affordable housing should be judged not only by the price of a home, but by its overall lifetime costs and contribution to quality of life, he argued.

"The cost of your home is also determined by how much it costs to run it, what your heating bills are, how long you have to commute and the impact on your health," he explained.

From this perspective, affordability and sustainability are mutually reinforcing goals rather than competing priorities, according to Ryan. He explained that improving homes, neighbourhoods and local environments can enhance quality of life and contribute to wider sustainability goals.

He also emphasised the importance of designing appealing neighbourhoods that foster community, connection and belonging. A home, he suggested, should not be understood simply as four walls, but as part of a wider social and physical environment that supports people's lives.

If you can create a sense of pride and connection to a local place, that is one of the key ways of building community, Ryan said.

Creating such places requires a shift away from car-dominated planning towards people-centred urban design. Prioritising pedestrians, cycling and public transport creates safer streets, greener public spaces and more attractive neighbourhoods, he explained.

Delivering these changes, he added, requires local political leadership, community participation and a shared commitment to improving quality of life.



NEB ACADEMY: HOW THE NEB LEARNS, TESTS AND SCALES

SPEAKERS:

ANDREJA KUTNAR
Professor at the University of Primorska

MANUEL GÖTZENDÖRFER
Managing Director, BEFIVE at UnternehmerTUM GmbH

AMBRA TROTTO
Director of Transformation and NEB at EIT Culture and Creativity

MODERATOR:

MARINE CORNELIS
Co-Chair of NEB Facility Expert Group

Watch the discussion

As the New European Bauhaus movement gathers momentum, the NEB Academy aims to widen participation and build capacity for initiatives by sharing skills and knowledge.

The NEB Academy enables project implementers to work together and contribute to building the movement's infrastructure, explained Andreja Kutnar, coordinator of the NEB Academy Alliance. The Alliance, an EU-funded project, was tasked in 2023 with establishing the Academy, which is now working to connect skills, knowledge and innovation.

"We invite [project teams] to our events, to our trainings," she said. "We are talking about NEB and other activities within the NEB Academy Alliance at different roundtable discussions, workshops that are organised, and that's how, slowly, it's going to spread."

Experience from the Academy's various hubs has shown that training must accommodate different languages, professional realities and national contexts. Bringing people into the fold also requires making learning attainable alongside work and creating incentives for employers to support training.

A key challenge is ensuring the NEB Academy reaches beyond academia, according to Manuel Götzendörfer from the Munich-based startup hub UnternehmerTUM. "I think it's really important to join forces with ... industry, with industry associations, also with the bigger companies because the small companies are their customers," he said, explaining that in this way the Academy and industry pursue "the same ideas [of] how the future should look".

From this perspective, the NEB Academy must use the right language to reach SMEs, because people communicate with a professor from a university "in a completely different way compared to a business owner of a small company," he added.

Innovative solutions are more likely to scale when they respond to genuine market needs, strengthen competitiveness and can be integrated into existing processes, Götzendörfer explained. The NEB Academy could help match knowledge and solutions with the actors who need them.

Ambra Trotto, from the EIT Culture and Creativity, said the public sector has an important role to play in the transformative practices of the NEB by facilitating wider participation. Systemic transformation is a societal challenge that needs to be tackled, she said.

"And the public sector can take ownership in orchestrating and curating this process of transformation," Trotto explained. "Being a European agency, we can also support in this exchange of practices on a transnational level."

Overall, the speakers discussed the NEB Academy as a platform connecting knowledge, skills and innovation in a continuous learning cycle. One key message was that taking the NEB Academy to the next level will require more than transferring technical knowledge. It will require creating the networks, capabilities and spaces for experimentation that allow people to learn from one another, translate knowledge into practice and turn successful ideas into lasting change.



NEB ACADEMY WORLDWIDE: BUILDING SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ALLIANCES FOR A REGENERATIVE FUTURE

SPEAKERS:

ANDREJ HORVAT
Deputy Programme Director, U-LEAD with Europe programme

YOSHIYUKI KAWAZOE
Architect and Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo

LUIS GUEDES
Amazonian architect and Co-Founder of Guá Arquitetura

FRAN ERAZO
Director of Culturans

MODERATOR:

RÉKA MATHEIDESZ
NEB Facility Expert Group

Watch the discussion.

The panel discussed how circular construction methods are being spread beyond Europe, offering a conversation between the EU and other regions.

Japanese architect Yoshiyuki Kawazoe highlighted the enduring cultural exchange between his country and Europe, citing the example of how Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh was influenced by Japanese artists such as Utagawa Hiroshige.

"The meeting of Europe and Japan [is] always creating something, so I'm very happy to be involved [in] this project of [the] New European Bauhaus," he told attendees. "Now I'm starting the preparation to start up New European Bauhaus in Japan."

Brazilian architect Luis Guedes told his fellow panellists that the arrival of Europeans had historically reshaped Brazil and the Amazon. Today, however, he said, he believed "we can do it differently", with an NEB-type approach playing a major transformative role in his region, where people, environment, and culture are respected.

In doing so, he said that people in the Amazon today have much to teach the world about living sustainably. "I assure you that the message that [the] Amazon can bring to the world is a message that the world now needs," he said. "What I am trying to do … is try to build bridges between ancestral knowledge and … contemporary architecture."

Drawing on his work in Mexico, Fran Erazo explained how his urban-planning NGO, Culturans, was helping to incorporate citizens' perspectives into urban design. "We do it by this concept of creative citizens," he said. "Our main idea is that anyone, regardless of expertise, is able to envision possible solutions for their environments."

Andrej Horvat, Deputy Programme Director of the U-LEAD with Europe programme, an EU-funded project to drive sustainable recovery in Ukraine, brought the discussion to the NEB's role in nurturing grassroots design in the country.

In May, a NEB Academy hub was launched in Ukraine to provide local architects, communities, and authorities with expertise, as well as to help support sustainable and inclusive reconstruction in the war-torn country.

"It's very much a bottom-up approach, starting with the municipal level," explained Horvat. "New European Bauhaus as an initiative was very prominent and very welcome in Ukraine from the very beginning."

"IT'S VERY MUCH A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH, STARTING WITH THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL. NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS AS AN INITIATIVE WAS VERY PROMINENT AND VERY WELCOME IN UKRAINE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING."

Andrej Horvat



HOW EU CITIES ARE BRINGING THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS TO LIFE

SPEAKERS:

RANJA VAN ASBROEK
City of Mechelen; WATSUPS project

GRETE HELLEMANS
City of Mechelen; WATSUPS project

MANON PROISY
Métropole Européenne de Lille; Time2Adapt project

ELENI KEFALLINOU
Communication officer, European Urban Initiative

DAMIANO RAVERA
Senior consultant, Ramboll

The workshop introduced participants to two projects funded by the European Urban Initiative (EUI), which is helping to implement the New European Bauhaus on the ground by supporting innovative actions that improve urban development, quality of life and other aspects of city life. The EUI is also a platform for sharing experience, peer learning, and successful urban models across Europe.

In Mechelen, the WATSUPS project is transforming the relationship between residents and the city's river through a combination of biodiversity restoration, public space, cultural heritage and water-based recreation. The project focuses on a green–blue ecological corridor, public swimming areas and leisure spaces, all designed to reconnect people with water and nature while boosting health and wellbeing.

"The positive impact of green spaces on health is really important in a dense city," said project manager Ranja Van Asbroek.

Community participation is central to the process. Through a citizen assembly and a wide range of participatory activities, residents helped shape the project from the outset. Mechelen also introduced an innovative "voice of nature" approach, asking participants to consider the needs of plants, animals, and ecosystems alongside those of people.



In Lille, the Time2Adapt project is responding to rising temperatures and increasingly frequent heatwaves by creating a network of climate-resilient public spaces. The project identifies and maps cool, shady places across the metropolitan area and opens existing sites, such as schoolyards, museums and cemeteries, outside their usual opening hours during periods of extreme heat. It also works with residents to co-design public spaces.

"We used time-based policies which, for example, take into consideration opening hours," said Manon Proisy.

Participation, again, plays a key role, with co-creation activities helping residents identify local needs and shape solutions. Artwork is being used as a visual marker to guide people towards cool spaces, underlining the aesthetic dimension of the NEB.

By combining climate-adaptation activities, innovative ideas and participation, both projects illustrated how embedding NEB principles in meaningful urban transformation depends on involving communities, adapting solutions to local contexts, and integrating environmental, social and cultural objectives.

CLOSING SPEECH FROM COMMISSIONER JESSIKA ROSWALL

SPEAKER:

JESSIKA ROSWALL
European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy

Watch the speech.

Rebuilding and renovating homes in line with New European Bauhaus values can help address overlapping climate and housing crises, strengthen democracy and contribute to building a circular economy in Europe, Commissioner Roswall said.

"Housing is the foundation of our neighbourhoods, an expression of our culture, and the cornerstone of our democratic societies," she explained. "Yet today, for millions of Europeans, this foundation is cracking as climate change tightens its grip through floods, wildfires, droughts and water scarcity. Our communities face not only a housing crisis but a social and environmental one as well."

There is now an opportunity to rethink how homes and neighbourhoods are designed and built, and the NEB shows that "sustainability and affordability go hand in hand."

"When we create homes that are energy and water efficient, climate-adapted, and community-centred, we do more than cut carbon emissions. We reduce long-term costs for families, we cut waste, we ease the burden on public services. We improve wellbeing," the Commissioner said.

"Sustainability, inclusion, and beauty are not competing ideals," she explained. "They are reinforcing ones."

In her closing address, Commissioner Roswall returned to points made by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the opening ceremony about the importance of the circular economy.

"The link between the circular economy and the New European Bauhaus could clearly be seen in projects showcased at the Festival," she said.

The commissioner thanked Festival participants for discussing how to renovate and build housing with bio-based, circular and innovative materials, as well as how investment, entrepreneurship and innovation can scale up sustainable solutions and create new markets.

Only 1% of materials from building demolitions are currently reused. "The potential [for circularity] is enormous," the Commissioner said. "The New European Bauhaus, together with the Circular Economy Act due later this year, will help us to maximise this potential."

She concluded by saying she hoped that everyone who had attended the Festival had learned to "see the potential for a creative, inclusive and innovative new world.

"A world that is more sustainable, more circular, and more comfortable for everyone."



"SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUSION, AND BEAUTY ARE NOT COMPETING IDEALS. THEY ARE REINFORCING ONES."

Jessica Roswall

TEKNOLOGY BEYOND MODERNISM: ANCESTRAL WATER INTELLIGENCE FOR A POST-CARBON PLANET

SPEAKER:

JULIA WATSON
Co-Founder of the Lo—TEK Institute and Co-Director of the Lo—TEK Office for Intercultural Urbanism

Watch the talk.

Addressing climate change requires more than new technology. It requires rethinking humanity's relationship with nature and recognising that some of the most effective solutions may already exist in knowledge developed and refined over generations. Indigenous and "place-based" approaches, according to designer, academic, author and activist, Julia Watson, offer powerful lessons for creating regenerative and climate-adaptive communities.

Drawing on her research into ancestral technologies and water management systems, Watson challenged the idea that innovation is inherently modern or industrial. Many traditional systems, she said, are designed to work with natural processes rather than control them, creating resilient landscapes that support biodiversity, food production, water management and community wellbeing at the same time.

"What if the models already exist, and what if the technologies capable of shaping our post-carbon futures are pre-industrial, place-based systems?" she asked.

Watson described examples from around the world where Indigenous communities have developed sophisticated approaches to living with water, adapting to environmental change and managing natural resources sustainably. These systems have often been dismissed as primitive or outdated, despite demonstrating remarkable resilience over centuries.

Her work seeks to bring together ancestral knowledge and contemporary design, science and technology to create new forms of infrastructure. From agricultural systems in Mexico and water-sensitive urban planning in China to coastal restoration projects and the production of nature-based materials, Watson highlighted how traditional ecological intelligence is being combined with modern tools to address contemporary challenges.

A recurring theme was the importance of seeing humans as part of nature rather than separate from it. She argued that many Indigenous cultures understand the relationship between communities and ecosystems as one of reciprocity and care, an approach that contrasts with development models based on extraction and control.

The challenge is not simply to preserve traditional knowledge, but to learn from it.

Lasting transformation depends on recognising local cultures, ecological conditions and community expertise as valuable sources of innovation. As cities continue to grow and climate pressures increase, ancestral knowledge offers practical insights into how human settlements can become more adaptive and resilient.



PANEL DISCUSSION, PROVIDING WRAP UP REFLECTIONS AND STRATEGIC INSIGHTS TO CONCLUDE THE FORUM

SPEAKERS:

JAN WURM
Professor of Regenerative Design at the Faculty of Architecture at KU Leuven and EU Engagement Lead for Buildings at Arup

RŪTA LEITANAITĖ
Architect and curator, Architects Association of Lithuania, and the Architects' Council of Europe

MARINE CORNELIS
Co-Chair of the NEB Facility Expert Group

SEUNGHO PARK-LEE
Associate Professor in the Department of Design at Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea

MODERATOR:

RUTH REICHSTEIN
Cabinet Member of the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

Watch the discussion.

As the New European Bauhaus moves to the next phase, this panel explored what the NEB can do to be bigger, better and bolder in the coming years.

The NEB's core strength is that it helps turn shared values into action by bringing together people and disciplines that would not usually work together. Reflecting on this quality, and the Forum discussions, panellists highlighted the Festival's role in creating a common language around sustainability, inclusion and beauty, while fostering dialogue across sectors, professions and communities.

Jan Wurm described the Festival as an important space for having the difficult but necessary conversations amongst academics, business experts, policymakers and local community representatives. He pointed to discussions on decarbonising the construction sector as examples of how stakeholders with very different perspectives can engage in respectful and constructive exchanges. Rather than defending fixed positions, participants sought common ground and explored how collaboration could accelerate change.

Several speakers reiterated the central role of architecture, design, and art in NEB panel discussions – not simply as finished products, but as a way of asking how societies wish to live together, according to the panellists.

Panellists also reflected on the role of the NEB as a community, and how it contributes to places beyond the European Union. Rūta Leitanaitė underscored how communities in Ukraine, the "land of innovation", as she put it, are benefiting immensely by learning from NEB projects.

Seungho Park-Lee described the NEB as one of the few initiatives driven primarily by values rather than performance indicators, with a shared language that is well suited to interpretation and adaption across different cultural contexts. Speakers agreed that being part of the NEB community, where others speak the same language, is both validating and energising.

Marine Cornelis emphasised the importance of coherence, courage and stewardship in nurturing a long-term movement capable of creating lasting change.

For Cornelis, the panels reflected a coherent understanding of the NEB's values, courage in terms of the NEB's forward-looking vision – much like the festival venue itself, which was shaped by a long-term view, according to her – and a commitment to connecting with nature and the environment, alongside community stewardship.

Looking ahead, speakers called for more experimentation and greater visibility for local initiatives, but also better connections with large scale transformations. Leitanaitė strongly advocated for small projects, arguing that they make NEB principles tangible and accessible to communities while demonstrating that meaningful change is possible everywhere.

"Ideas are contagious. Small projects spread words and ideas much faster and better," Park-Lee agreed.

Wurm advocated connecting "crazy ideas" stemming from small initiatives with major projects, overcoming the tendency of larger building undertakings to do "business as usual", and embracing what he called "asymmetric partnerships" to nurture trust for collaborative, large-scale transformation.

The discussion concluded with a shared conviction that building relationships of trust, respectful dialogue, experimentation and collaboration remain essential for translating NEB values into lasting transformation.

For the next edition of the Festival, Cornelis suggested continuing conversations on topics such as water resilience and a focus on the role of time. Leitanaitė suggested "home" as the next focus, while Wurm said the theme he would like to see take centre stage is "building different at scale".



GUIDED TOURS

The Festival's guided tours took visitors to sites in Brussels where the New European Bauhaus had been put into practice. Decarbonisation, the circular economy, and co-created renovations were on display at various sites, including the ZIN tower in the north of Brussels, which was transformed into an energy-neutral complex, and the Peterbos social-housing project in Brussels.

Festival attendees could also visit the headquarters of local circular economy pioneer, Rotor DC, to see how it sources salvaged construction materials, including from heritage sites, to give them a second life for building and renovation projects.

Sections of the Art & History Museum were also opened for six guided tours from 10 to 12 June.









THE FILM FESTIVAL

Thirteen films from around the world were chosen to be part of the Festival, showcasing NEB values of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusiveness on the screen in the Art Deco cultural venue Bozar. The cinema programme opened on 2 June with Copan, a film exploring the iconic modernist building in the centre of São Paulo, Brazil, that is often described as "a city within a building".

Filmmaker Carine Wallauer was there to discuss her film. She also explained her decision to feature the workers who keep the building humming and yet are typically overlooked by the filmmakers, journalists and cultural experts who visit architect Oscar Niemeyer's famous construction. It is, she told the audience, less a film about the building and more about the people who inhabit it – a shared space "with people that you do not choose" – and in this way a microcosm of society and the negotiations around difference, participation and co-existence.

The film was accompanied by comments from Brazil's Ambassador to the European Union, Pedro Miguel da Costa e Silva.

The other films screened at Bozar, which ranged from an overview of the Bauhaus movement to the animated story of a cat in a flooded world, were:

BAUHAUS SPIRIT: 100 YEARS OF BAUHAUS
2025 (Niels Bolbrinker, Thomas Tielsch)
A celebration of the centenary of the German art school whose fusion of utopianism and functionalism had an enormous influence on modern life.

DANCE + CITY
2025 (various filmmakers)
Nine sequences blending contemporary dance with architecture across five countries: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, France and Ukraine. It explores how the physical structures interact with the fluidity of the human body.

FLOW
2024 (Gints Zilbalodis)
A cat and other animals navigate the challenges and dangers of a world that seems to be ending.

HISTORIAS DEL BUEN VALLE
2025 (José Luis Guerín)
The son of Catalan workers, who has been growing flowers for nearly 90 years, is joined by newcomers in a poetic form of resistance against conflicts shaping the contemporary world.

L'INCONNU DE LA GRANDE ARCHE
2025 (Stéphane Demoustier)
The fascinating and true story behind one of the most ambitious architectural projects of the 20th century: the Grands Projets, commissioned by President François Mitterrand with the aim of redesigning Paris.

MOI AUSSI, JE REGARDE
(2024; Ingel Vaikla)
An experimental documentary that portrays the Unité d'habitation building in Marseille by telling the stories of its female inhabitants.

OUT OF THE PICTURE
(2025; An. Ash Smolar)
A search to show why and how women were pushed aside from the major spheres of architecture, and the means and forms of solidarity they develop to reclaim their visibility.

PENSER L'INCERTITUDE
2024 (Christian Barani)
The portrait of a new generation, revealing shared values and the hopes it carries by travelling through landscapes, crossing construction sites and visiting buildings.

PONYO
2008 (Hayao Miyazaki)
The story of Ponyo, a goldfish-like creature who escapes the sea and befriends a five-year-old boy named Sōsuke, after she is washed ashore while trapped in a glass jar.

PORCELAIN WAR
2024 (Slava Leontyev, Brendan Bellomo)
In the chaos and destruction of the brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine, three artists defiantly find inspiration and beauty as they defend their culture and country.

SOTTO LE NUVOLE
2025 (Gianfranco Rosi)
Crossing the region between Mount Vesuvius and the coast, both above and below ground, the documentary maker draws a black and white portrait of Naples and its surroundings.

VISAGES VILLAGES
2017 (Agnès Varda, JR)
A filmmaker and a street artists use a custom-built photo booth truck to take pictures of locals, transforming their portraits into giant murals to honour ordinary people.

WISHFUL FILMING
2025 (Sarah Vanagt)
The filmmaker wanders through Brussels and encounters Polish, Iranian, Brazilian, Belgian, and Moroccan workers, who slip secret wishes into the columns, walls and floors of construction sites.




THE FESTIVAL of the
NEW EUROPEAN
BAUHAUS
Life. Spaces. Buildings.

DAY 5
A SPACE FOR OURSELVES:
REDISCOVERING COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE CONVENTIONAL

13 June, 2026



DAY 5 **13 JUNE 2026**

The final day of the Festival invited families to enjoy a day in the park and around the corridors of the museum as well as to enjoy various activities and performances. There were workshops for children, ranging from an art class to a talk from swimmers Chloé Léger Witvoet and Matthieu Witvoet, who recounted their attempt to swim the Atlantic. They are the founders of Swim for Change, an initiative focused on raising awareness about ocean protection. Further afield in Brussels, the Festival continued to offer film screenings and guided tours throughout the day.

In the evening, visitors could choose between a screening of L'Inconnu De La Grande Arche, Irene de la Rosa's Antoñita (a solo dance performance inspired by legendary flamenco dancer La Singla who became deaf soon after birth), I Patagarri (a band whose music took them from busking on the streets of Milan to the finals of Italy's The X Factor) or Mielotxin (formed in 2004 to modernise the folk music of the historical region of Navarre in Spain).








Patagarri
Italy
BAUHAUS


Spain


BAUHAUS
Life. Spaces. Buildings.
PROGRAMME DU FEST
WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE
O CANTO DA BALEIA BY COLLECTIVE MOSAICO (PT)
MY DREAM HOME BY ORFEO ART AND SAMU SOCIAL (BE)
HÁRÚZ BY FRITSCH COMPANY (ES)
L'UN SANS L'AUTRE BY FRITSCH COMPANY (ES)
COLETIVO GIRA (PT)
THE BOONDOCKS (EE)
FRIDAY, 12 JUNE
THURSDAY, 11 JUNE
WE WHO DO NOT BELONG BY SOKO JENA (ZW/DE)
EL CREADOR BY ANSTATUANTO (ES)
HOLDING SPACE, BECOMING VOICE BY OSKAR BOLDRE BY EIT CULTURE & CREATIVITY (IT)
COMMON GROUND BY MOVEO DANCE COMPANY (MT)
ANTROPOLOOPS (ES)
ICONITO (SK)
SATURDAY, 13 JUNE
INHABITING A SHIP BY TEATRO TOCCO (BE)
A SONIC OASIS (NL)
HEROINE BY PANOS MALACTOS (CY)
MERCREDI 10 JUIN
O CANTO DA BALEIA BY COLLECTIVE MOSAICO (PT)
MY DREAM HOME BY ORFEO ART AND SAMU SOCIAL (BE)
HÁRÚZ BY FRITSCH COMPANY (ES)
L'UN SANS L'AUTRE BY FRITSCH COMPANY (ES)
COLETIVO GIRA (PT)
THE BOONDOCKS (EE)
VENDREDI 12 JUIN
DANCE IT OUT BY MELANIA DC (NL)
TOUCH BY DANUBE DANCE ALLIANCE (SI/HR)
SIRI, DON'T DIE BY BURNICOM (CZ)
TUNING ECOLOGIES (DE)
SMILING REQUIRED BY BURNICOM (CZ)
ERYKAH (BE)
AAA - ALL AREAS ACCESS (IT/UK)
MARIA ARNAL PERFORMS AMA (ES)
JEUDI 11 JUIN
WE WHO DO NOT BELONG BY SOKO JENA (ZW/DE)
EL CREADOR BY ANSTATUANTO
HOLDING SPACE, BECOMI
BOLDRE BY EIT CULTURE
COMMON GROUND BY
DANCE COMPANY (MT)
ANTROPOLOOPS (ES)
ICONITO (SK)
SAMEDI 13
INHABITING A SH
A SONIC OASIS (NL)
HEROINE BY PANOS
3:RMA (SI)
ANTOÑITA
I PATAGARRI
MIELOTXIN



WHAT DOES THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS MEAN TO YOU?





"Bauhaus is such a big name. As architecture students, at first we joked about this being called the New European Bauhaus. But it gave us a general framework for architecture, for living in Europe, with a focus on sustainability and inclusivity."

ISAURA LOOTENS

A mo(nu)ment for Europe
Student, University of Ghent, Belgium

"We challenged students to rethink architecture and waste, to create functional objects that we think are beautiful and really are affordable. We tried to follow the values of beauty, affordability, and low impact. NEB was a good match."

LAURA ORFALI SORIA

MyChair
Researcher, KU Leuven, Belgium

"NEB is a place where we can share new approaches and new ideas. A new vision of operating in society. NEB is not just innovative, it's also inclusive and collaborative."

ZOFIA KULIGOWSKA

Collective care in digital settings
Artist and researcher, Academy of Art in Szczecin, Poland

"It's very important to make cities inclusive and democratic. I am providing a framework for people to understand AI output and to know how it is becoming a special force in the city."

INGRID CAMPO RUIZ

EQUBUILD
Researcher, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

"NEB is principles that people should follow. We are talking about the NEB Academy in Ukraine, and all its principles are very helpful to us: democracy, circularity, inclusivity. This is a mission all people should follow. It's a big hope."

KHRYSTYNA SHMAHOLA

Circular Lab Ukraine
Project Assistant, NGO Rethink, Ukraine

"NEB means we are doing it all together. Getting different people from different countries together for one purpose. And creating sustainable, beautiful products that cross communities."

KATERYNA PYLYPCHUK

Rebuild Green 2030
Business scaling strategist, Modulina, Ukraine



MYCHAIR



KYUSHU



MAGBAGO



IMASUS



COLLECTIVE CARE IN DIGITAL SETTINGS



CITIZENS FORUM

"NEB is an idea we can share, an idea of values. It's very exciting. In Japan we know a lot about sustainability, innovation, the circular economy and circular design – but we want to open up more to what other countries are doing."

VASILE VALENTINA MARIA
Director, Kyushu, Japan

"NEB means I am in the right place and I'm doing great things. We have the same values as NEB: sustainability, the circular economy and aesthetics."

TAMARA DJURIC TEODOROVIC
CEO and Co-founder, Magbago Doo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

"We are progressing so fast as a society, but we don't always know how to use the tools we have. We want to create a way of working in groups that is burn out-proof."

ALEKSANDRA PIENKOOZ
Collective care in digital settings
Artist, Poland

"The fashion market is very closed; we wanted to focus on co-creation. We have to rethink business models."

GUILLERMO ORDUÑA
IMASUS
Co-founder, MUNKUN, Spain

"NEB is explicitly aligned with our values. The whole idea of our project is to bring communities together while building sustainability. We all need to change, and NEB values should become the default values. We should all be NEB by default."

YAGMUR FELLAHOGLU
Co-founder, Pit-board, Cyprus

"NEB is about combining beauty, sustainability and innovation. It's about life. It's about participation and being part of the community."

EVANGELIA LIA BEKTASIADOU
Citizens' Forum
Architect, Joint Research Centre, Brussels

TO SHAPE THE FUTURE TOGETHER, WE NEED...
POUR CONSTRUIRE L AVENIR ENSEMBLE, NOUS AVONS BESOIN DE...
OM DE TOEKOMST SAMEN VORM TE GEVEN, HEBBEN WE NOOD AAN...



PROGRAMME

FAIR · FEST · FORUM · WORKSHOPS · NETWORKING · FILM SCREENINGS · FAMILY AND KIDS · GUIDED TOURS IN BRUSSELS

TUESDAY, 02 JUNE

19:00	Copan (2025)

TUESDAY, 09 JUNE

17:45–18:00	The Jazz Sailor Quintent (BE) – Music
18:00–19:30	Opening ceremony featuring official speeches from President Ursula von der Leyen and President António Costa, setting the stage for the days ahead
18:00–18:05	Chorale Equinox (BE) – music
19:05–19:10	Le Chant des Signes (BE) – music

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE

ALL DAY	Throughout the day, nearly 80 exhibitors from across the EU and beyond are showcasing innovative projects
ALL DAY	Happy Heads – inflatable sculptures
ALL DAY	Happy Heads: collective imagination between Asia and Europe – photo and mask exhibition
10:00–10:10	Introduction with Mikel Landabaso
10:00–18:30	Infinite Cloud by Jay Khamtay Garnier, Philippe Leblanc and Michael David (BE) – installation
10:00–18:30	Golden Rectangles E-Chain by Philippe Leblanc (BE) – installation
10:10–10:15	Live connection with Affordable Housing Forum (Czechia)
10:15–10:20	Live connection with Living Memories - in the footsteps of life, inhabiting tomorrow (Belgium)
10:20–11:00	Building Europe's future: transforming the construction sector for a climate-neutral, circular and competitive economy
11:05–11:55	Making use of what we have: rethinking vacant and underused spaces
12:00–12:50	Resilient by design: cutting carbon, cutting costs
12:30–14:45	Repurposing industrial heritage in Molenbeek
12:30–13:15	Guided tours at the Art & History Museum/Masterpieces
12:30–14:30	Social housing transformation at Peterbos, Anderlecht
12:30–14:30	Conversation with Johan Rockström
13:00–14:00	WElab Mexico
13:00–14:00	Never Never School
13:00–14:00	Sufficiency is about 'Doing the Right Things!' Creating beautiful, sustainable, inclusive and low-impact spaces. The case of the Citizens' Forum, JRC-Geel
13:00–14:00	NEB Chapters in action
13:00–14:00	Unlocking funding for small NEB projects: the NEB Funding Hub
13:00–14:00	NEB goes South
13:30–17:30	NeuroDiver Comfort Space LAB (PL) – workshop
13:30–17:30	Bauplay (ES) – workshop
13:30–17:30	Web of Care (IT) – workshop
13:30–14:30	O Canto da Baleia by Collective Mosaico (PT) – theatre
14:00–16:00	All about beauty
14:00–16:00	Art, naturally!
14:15–15:15	The architecture school for kids developed through industry-academia collaboration
14:15–15:15	Designing with underutilised wood: NEB values in practice, WoodStock and TIMBERHAUS
14:15–15:15	New European Bauhaus knowledge management platform: self-assessment method, tool, and practical applications
14:15–15:15	GEOSTEM
14:15–15:15	NEB NCP Work: challenges, practices and future directions
14:30–14:50	Conversation with Francesca Bria and Rehana Schwinniger-Ladak
14:45–15:30	My Dream Home by Orfeo Art and Samu Social (BE) – Workshop
14:55–15:05	Introduction with Christian Ehler
15:10–15:55	From feeds to streets: social media, democracy and the future of our cities
15:45–16:05	Hárúz by Fritsch Company (ES) – Dance
16:00–17:00	From research to reality: evidence-based design for inclusive and nature-positive spaces
16:20–16:40	Keynote speech: culture-led urban transformation, partnership-driven change
16:45–17:35	Future-proofing democracy: resilience, participation and citizen agency
17:05–17:15	Concluding perspectives with Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva
17:15–18:45	NEB Innovation Arena: where values meet venture
17:50–18:10	L'un Sans L'autre by Fritsch Company (ES) – dance
18:35–19:35	Coletivo Gira (PT) – music
19:00	Historias del buen valle (2025)
20:00–21:00	The Boondocks (EE) – music

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE

ALL DAY	Throughout the day, nearly 80 exhibitors from across the EU and beyond are showcasing innovative projects
ALL DAY	Happy Heads – inflatable sculptures
ALL DAY	Happy Heads: collective imagination between Asia and Europe – photo and mask exhibition
10:00–10:10	Introduction with Raffaele Fitto
10:00–18:30	Infinite Cloud by Jay Khamtay Garnier, Philippe Leblanc and Michael David (BE) – installation
10:00–18:30	Golden Rectangles E-Chain by Philippe Leblanc (BE) – installation
10:10–10:15	Live connection with CITE – the new alliance for mid-sized cities shaping Europe's future (Sweden)
10:10–10:15	Live connection with RE-CODING VILLAGES – turning vacancy into community (ITALY)
10:20–10:40	How to scale up change
10:45–11:35	From participation to self-sufficiency: designing democratic, climate-ready communities
11:40–12:30	Strategic reconstruction in times of emergency: lessons from Ukraine
12:30–14:15	ZIN: adaptive reuse and decarbonisation in Brussels North

12:30–13:15	Guided tours at the Art & History Museum/The Americas	
12:35–13:30	Open heritage: accessibility, innovation and the future of cultural institutions	
13:00–14:00	Growing Futures: It starts with place. From local stories to systemic change - how can places drive Europe's transformation?	
13:00–14:00	Bauhaus of the Seas Sails	
13:00–14:00	BAUHAUS4EU – a European University for resilient, sustainable, inclusive and beautiful regions	
13:00–14:00	NEB Stewardship Lab	
13:00–14:00	New European Bauhaus Academy Alliance	
13:00–14:00	Shifting lenses for transformation	
13:00–15:00	Social housing transformation at Peterbos, Anderlecht	
13:30–17:30	Sustainable creative workshop by EZARAS Studio (LT) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Climate Service by Manuela Pauk (HR) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Inhabited Dance by Ana Povoas (BE) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Listening inwards, together by Helena Fernández-Cavada (SE) – workshop	
13:30–14:00	We Who Do Not Belong by SoKo Jena (ZW/DE) – dance	
13:30–14:15	Guided tours at the Art & History Museum/The Americas	
14:15–15:00	Nature at work: regenerative design for people and planet	
14:15–15:15	Circular Lab Ukraine	
14:15–15:15	Ignite-NEB: Co-creation Lab	
14:15–15:15	NEB-LAB Eco²-schools.eu (Eco²-schools as New European Bauhaus LABs)	
14:15–15:15	Co-creating the future of living heritage, regenerative materials and inclusive cities	
14:15–15:15	Growing Futures through Urban Cultivation	
14:15–15:15	Contribute to NEB Junction's knowledge matrix	
14:30–14:50	Introduction with Enrico Giovannini	
14:55–15:45	Investing in what truly matters: scaling up the NEB market for competitive solutions in the built environment	
15:05–15:30	Amazon habitat: vernacular technologies for a climate-adaptive future?	
15:45–16:10	El Creador by Anstatuanto (ES) – dance	
15:50–16:40	Growing the future: investing in affordable, desirable bio-based solutions	
17:00–18:30	Enhancing built environment resilience with cutting-edge solutions	
17:45–18:10	Common Ground by Moveo Dance Company (MT) – dance	
18:40–19:30	Felix DJ (BE) - music	
19:00	Sotto le nuvole (2025)	
19:45–21:00	ICONITO (SK) – music	

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE

ALL DAY	Throughout the day, nearly 80 exhibitors from across the EU and beyond are showcasing innovative projects	
ALL DAY	Happy Heads – inflatable sculptures	
ALL DAY	Happy Heads: collective imagination between Asia and Europe – photo and mask exhibition	
10:00–10:10	Introduction with Audrey Henry	
10:00–18:30	Infinite Cloud by Jay Khamtay Garnier, Philippe Leblanc and Michael David (BE) – Installation	

10:00–18:30	Golden Rectangles E-Chain by Philippe Leblanc (BE) – installation	
10:10–10:20	Live connection with RZZ Satellite (Germany)	
10:20–10:30	Live connection with Tides of the City (Austria)	
10:30–10:45	Keynote speech: Eamon Ryan	
10:50–11:40	Clean transition for and through culture	
11:45–12:35	NEB Academy: how the NEB learns, tests and scales	
12:30–14:00	Circular economy in construction at Rotor DC	
12:30–13:15	Guided tours at the Art & History Museum/Belgian Art Nouveau and Art Deco	
12:40–13:30	NEB Academy worldwide: building skills, knowledge and alliances for a regenerative future	
13:00–14:00	From waste to wearable stories: circular fashion and living heritage	
13:00–14:00	Building the NEB from the LIFE programme: six successful stories	
13:00–14:00	Cultuur&Campus Putselaan	
13:00–14:00	NaturArchy: Towards a Natural Contract | Book Launch	
13:00–14:00	NEB Junction	
13:00–14:00	Imagineering sustainable fashion	
13:30–14:30	Dance it out! by Melania DC (NL) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Threads of the New Bauhaus by Mariana Piñar Castellano (ES) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Sustainable Creative Workshop by EZARAS Studio (LT) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Climate Service by Manuela Pauk (HR) – workshop	
13:30–17:00	Inhabited Dance by Ana Povoas (BE) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	TALKAOKE by The People Speak (UK)	
13:30–14:15	Guided tours at the Art & History Museum/Belgian Art Nouveau and Art Deco	
14:15–15:15	Resilience action plan for the Santa Maria Watershed	
14:15–15:15	How NEB are you? From object to neighbourhood to policy – a meet-up for designers, policymakers and everyone in between	
14:15–15:15	Creative Glass Serbia – glass lab	
14:15–15:15	The Manual of Public Spaces in the Brussels Capital Region	
14:15–15:15	How EU cities are bringing the New European Bauhaus to life	
14:15–15:15	NEB Lighthouses: mapping impact across systems and places	
14:30–14:45	Closing speech from Commissioner Jessika Roswall	
14:45–14:55	Awards ceremony: trophy competition for young designers	
14:45–15:05	Touch by Danube Dance Alliance (SI/HR) – dance	
15:00–15:45	From algorithm to artisan: crafting new lifestyles for a circular future	
15:20–15:40	Siri, don't die by BURKICOM (CZ) – dance	
15:50–16:20	TEKnology beyond modernism: ancestral water intelligence for a post-carbon planet	
15:55–17:15	An archipelago of ateliers: how European AI factories can power the New European Bauhaus	
16:25–17:10	Designing with water: building resilient and beautiful cities	
17:15–17:45	Waves of change: a journey towards collective care	
17:30–18:15	Tuning Ecologies (DE) – music	
17:50–18:45	Panel discussion, providing wrap up reflections and strategic insights to conclude the Forum followed by vistors' favourite FAIR awards	
18:30–18:45	Smiling required by BURKICOM (CZ) – dance	

18:45–20:00	Erykah (BE) – music	
19:00–19:30	AAA - All Areas Access (IT/UK) – music	
19:00	Out of the Picture (2025)	
19:45–21:00	Maria Arnal performs AMA (ES) – music	
19:00	Out of the Picture (2025)	

SATURDAY, 13 JUNE

ALL DAY	Happy Heads – inflatable sculptures	
ALL DAY	Happy Heads: collective imagination between Asia and Europe – photo and mask exhibition	
10:00–12:00	All about beauty	
10:00–12:00	Art, naturally!	
10:00–13:00	My walking is my dancing – Slow Walk performance created by Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker – workshop	
10:00–18:30	Infinite Cloud by Jay Khamtay Garnier, Philippe Leblanc and Michael David (BE) – installation	
10:00–18:30	Golden Rectangles E-Chain by Philippe Leblanc (BE) – installation	
12:00–13:00	The story behind the Atlantic Swim	
12:30–14:00	Activating vacant spaces: pali-pali and Le Grand Hospice	
13:30–17:30	Sustainable Creative Workshop by EZARAS Studio (LT) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Climate Service by Manuela Pauk (HR) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Threads of the New Bauhaus by Mariana Piñar Castellano (ES) – workshop	
13:30–17:30	Inhabited Dance by Ana Povoas (BE) – workshop	
13:30–14:30	Inhabiting a ship by Teatro Tocco (BE) – theatre	
13:30–17:30	TALKAOKE by The People Speak (UK)	
14:00	Flow (2024)	
14:45–15:20	A SONIC OASIS (NL) – music	
15:35–15:55	Heroine by Panos Malactos (CY) – dance	
16:10–17:10	3:rma (SI) – music	
16:30	Visages Villages (2017)	
17:25–17:45	ANTOÑITA by Irene de la Rosa (ES) – dance	
18:15–19:15	I Patagarri (IT) – music	
19:00	L'Inconnu De La Grande Arche (2025)	
19:45–21:00	Mielotxin (ES) – music	

SUNDAY, 14 JUNE

11:00	Bauhaus Spirit: 100 Years of Bauhaus (2018)	
14:00	Ponyo	
16:30	Moi aussi, je regarde (2024) and Wishful Filming (2025)	
19:00	Porcelain War (2024)	



SATELLITE EVENTS

ALBANIA

Bike Fest Tirana

AUSTRIA

Vienna's green shift: vision, practice, transformation

Architekturtage 2026 – Festival für Baukultur und Ingenieurtechnik (closing event)

Co-create linz: sustainable, accessible and liveable

SALONPARCOURS #31

Tides of the city

Living otherwise: students design futures

Zwischen den Stühlen

BELGIUM

Level(s) webinar: using existing building more wisely for people and the planet

Sustainability forum for emerging practices

Life first! A one-day learning journey

EUROPEAN GARDEN at EEB4

Living memories- in the footsteps of life, inhabiting tomorrow

Visualising the new European Bauhaus – live visual storytelling

Cultural heritage as a resource for energy-efficient and inclusive renovation & affordable housing policies

Future-proofing cities

Democratic landscapes of water: transforming green spaces through participation, art and care

Hybrid construction as a solution to mitigate climate and housing crises

Open innovation processes for the new European Bauhaus: from participation to impact

The New European Bauhaus and housing inequality: towards fair, inclusive and climate-resilient housing in Europe

Matter in practice

Breakfast seminar on how to shape sustainable, inclusive and beautiful places with and for the citizens

Affordable. Beautiful. Possible – raising the standard of the built environment through Slovakia's architectural policy

From NEB values to reality – lessons from EU-funded projects and applied landscape architecture projects

Walking tour of community land trust Brussels projects and networking with European CLTs

Solar integration for heritage buildings: a path to decarbonisation

Futura cinema

Saturday in the Marais in WIELS

VOICE: the power of artist-led interventions for a sustainable Europe

InGreen City Awards 2026

Delivering affordable and climate-resilient housing for all

CREAconnect

From cognitive waste to collective intelligence: exploring open-source tools for urban and industrial transitions

Affordable housing as a mechanism to include single women in beautiful and sustainable communities

Artisanal intelligence

Strengthening NEB governance: the local pathway towards NEB chapter

Arboreal dreams: the breathing city. Reimagining Magdalena Abakanowicz's vision

How can art, design and technology shape transdisciplinary research

New European Bauhaus values and the peri-urban

NEB as a game changer: rethinking affordable living and housing policies through the lens of NEB

Sharing best practices from Stockholm to Leuven, Ghent and Paris to engage architects and urban practitioners in circular urban economy and NEB values

Inside De Krook. Discover more than a library: an inspiration hub for knowledge, culture and innovation

Open ALTERLIER

Fluid futures – art, science & communities rethinking water

DIGISET Forum: where AI, design and social economy meet for the new European Bauhaus

The materials matter summit: from innovation to collective practice

CROATIA

Art historian as author

NEB goes south: the BIP ONAC cycle in Zagreb

– learning from territories and democratising pedagogies in times of a climate context

New Bauhaus in practice

Open day in the fantastic forest district of Luščić in Karlovac

TheSpaceThatStaysSilent & WallsThatSpeak

CZECHIA

Affordable Housing Forum

DENMARK

Copenhagen 'future city' walk

FINLAND

Construction forum: from research to action (Finnish: Rakennusfoorumi: Tutkimuksesta tekoihin)

Co-creating multispecies affordances within an affordable housing: visioning Turku 2050

Artova's home city story paths

FRANCE

Beyond binary. Building sustainable futures

Loire design lab: bringing heritage into 21st century living

Efficient, affordable housing as a core element of social justice: democratic policy dialogue with EU youth

Parcours Occitanie pour le Festival NEB, organisé dans le cadre du Festival NEB à Bruxelles et du Mois National de la Sobriété Foncière

Move game event

Living in cities with temperatures above 4°c: how cities can adapt using what they already have, including the added value of time-based policies

Forum architecture & climate: Vivre ensemble dans un monde a 50°C

LIVING WITH | VIVRE AVEC

GERMANY

Unbuilding commons

Open neighbourhoods

Bauhaus Nova 2026

Open House: Oktogon Bodnegg - A blueprint for rural Bauwende

RZZ Satellite

Räume der Kreativität – forschungswelten im Projekthaus Zukunft

Immersive Resonance

30 m³ Baukultur – Macht was draus!

Innovations in Construction – Summer Dialogue

Rethinking: how circular materials enable a better future - live experience at the Circular Material LAB

Open – Design Week Frankfurt RheinMain

PODIUM Project House Future. Symposium and public discussion of the designs by master's students at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts

Biosphere Reserve Rallye

Timber Construction Living Lab at the Landesgartenschau Leinefelde-Worbis

Public Vitality Lab @ BHROX: Prototype Healthy Neighbourhoods

Explore NEB values - looking at Pödelwitz

GREECE

From UrbCitizenPower to NEB impact: past experiences & ideas for the future

People, place, climate: climate neutrality in everyday life through the new European Bauhaus

Athens' waterfront

RUINS° for Athens – circular public space lab

HUNGARY

Nature and healing – improving mental health by cooperating with nature

LIFE Bauhausing Europe – transforming neighbourhoods into more sustainable, aesthetic and inclusive communities

Parallel paths

ITALY

Circular care: the 5R lab

Reactivating rural futures: smart rehabilitation and contemporary valorisation of traditional minor centres in the Madonie UNESCO Geopark

LaVALLE Festival 2026: alter-ecologies – artistic research, public art, participatory practices and urban regeneration in the Aniene Valley

Archè – Festival internazionale dell'architettura effimera

Democratic placemaking through healthy materials and nature-based solutions: affordable housing for well-being

Open oroms Venice – inhabiting the void La tribù del gioco va in Orbita

TAM FLOWING FORWARD

HABITARE 2050. life, spaces, buildings & inclusive open innovation

The "wine garden" between mountains. cultivating belonging

European forum on circular materials and temporary architecture

WHY IS ORTICA (more) BEAUTIFUL? An experiential walk to keep exploring biodiversity in the Ortica neighbourhood

RE-CODING VILLAGES – turning vacancy into community

Eco-synthony and regeneration of living environments. The Le Carré Bleu Line

Walking with water #2: exploratory walks across evolving waterscapes

Inclusive workplaces for knowledge workers: spaces, organisational practices and relations

Food design: regenerating places through agroecology, design and citizen science

GET INVOLVED UNIPV

I sewed my way through the dark: contemporary textile art – an itinerary designed for the visually impaired

Smart cities: design, sustainability and innovation

Darsena Ravenna Approdo Comune – Ravenna Docks common landing

Creative orads | A space for ideas

La Celebrazione – Living Heritage, Living Space Respiro. Arte nel bosco

Climate shelters and NEB-oriented regeneration in cities: engaging youth

Greening Italy "Verdeggiam l'Italia" – III ed. Respiro – art in the woods

Ferrania Film Festival preview

GOCCIA Fest 26 – La Natura si fa Spazio

Cities by people: learning to co-create circular and nature-positive futures

Flexplace Alliance

European urban initiative policy lab event on new European Bauhaus

Laboratorio Nervi: from building correctly to European Baukultur

LITHUANIA

GreenInCities: nature wisdom circle

MALTA

ArkiPjazza

NETHERLANDS

Co-creating green & climate resilient cities

Eat with us

Unlocking affordable housing by transforming underused buildings and spaces

NORTH MACEDONIA

Traviata in three acts

KomshiLOOK Traviata in three acts

NORWAY

NEB transforming the north: best practices in circular built environments

POLAND

Nature inspires design: biomimicry in NEB

Better electronics for better life – warsztat dla dzieci

Sustainable economy & construction in Horizon Europe for the NEB community. International matchmaking & networking (INSE 2026)

A scientific ritual of counting sand hoppers

SZTOS (Sztuka, Technologia, Obraz – Silesia)/START (Silesia – Technology ART)

Hempforma Lab: designing with hemp biomaterials

Which way to nature? Returning to the thickets and shrubs

PORTUGAL

Living Waters Forum-Fest

Viana STARTS: a living lab for the New European Bauhaus

Moves-It – Primeiro evento comunitário

O Que Move As Pessoas

New ideas of Europe – the satellite edition

FesThink – the cities and the exchanges

CitySenZ – sensing European cities for the new European Bauhaus

Coimbra Bauhaus: Diálogos Regionais para a Natureza e o Sentimento de Pertença

AL-BAUHAUS DREAM ACADEMY

GreenInCities: reshaping Parque de Real AL-BAUHAUS DREAM ACADEMY

CoLiving Alcanena

ROMANIA

UCMR at a turning point: co-creating the future of a transforming industrial landscape

Extending the body, reflecting the earth

MindFormers: creative future – how we will live in 2040

NomANDIa Makers' Fair: learning, growing & belonging

Growing roots

Cucuteni Open Air Art Lab: heritage in a rural art intervention

Sensing music

The "Noi Împreună" Festival for disabled persons

SERBIA

The environmental regeneration of Lower Dorćol

Design initiatives for the 21st century: the contribution of aesthetics and sustainability

MOVE GAME Pozarevac

MOVE game Mol

SLOVENIA

Laying the groundwork: municipal project briefs for sustainable and inclusive local development

Non tox talk

GreenInCities: commons garden

Designing together: rethinking living spaces for a sustainable future

Zasavje Just Transition Conference 2026

SPAIN

Are we integrating the inclusion principle into the NEB? Matchmaking event exploring European Funding Opportunities

NEB Murcia Region Festival: reconnecting nature and sense of belonging from the local level

III Repopulation NEB Fest

Wandering Workshop n'UNDO | #Almería: exploring the limits of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar National Park

ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

Regenerating Madrid: learning, design and community

FACTS 2 – Mediterranean NEB Festival: imagined cities, lived cities

NEB Attitudes Forum Barcelona 2026 DESPLAZADOS II

Basque BioDesign Center open doors

Ciudades resilientes: participación democrática y ecología. Repensar para construir comunidades inclusivas y sostenibles.

Allende el mar el camino continúa. (beyond the sea the journey continues)

GreenInCities: a network of living cities

Diseñar el futuro desde lo local: cultura, creatividad y comunidad en Bizkaia. Encuentro de partners de la New European Bauhaus (NEB)

Rural imaginaries: seeing things differently

SWEDEN

EURAU26 LATITUDES

Community Horizons: Changes, Signals and Futures

CITE - the new alliance for mid-sized cities shaping Europe´s future

SWITZERLAND

Co-creating a Beautiful Sustainability Standard

TÜRKIYE

From non-place to third place

Reimagining Public Spaces with Video Games & AI: Citizen-Led Pop-Up Interventions in Osmangazi,Türkiye

UKRAINE

Sustainable Materials: A Curated Tour of POLE's Material Lab

Neighbourhood Festival at CO-HATY

Career day

Low Carbon Lab Quest

UNITED KINGDOM

(Here-)stories Almanac

FAIR EXHIBITORS

Citizens' Forum at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) Geel: NEB & Doing the Right Things!
Renovating and extending a former European Commission conference building through a project to design beautiful, sustainable and inclusive spaces. BELGIUM

A mo(nu)ment for Europe
Design work by students at the University of Ghent around a discussion about NEB values and how Europe may represent and embody these. BELGIUM

Aalborg East: From isolated to inclusive
A redevelopment project transforming a neglected district into a safe, inclusive and sustainable community. DENMARK

AccesS
Enabling equal access to essential services and facilities through innovative, accessible and inclusive design. GREECE

AHA – Affordable housing for all
Converting vacant public buildings into near-zero energy social housing, as well as piloting cohabitation and apartment exchanges. HUNGARY

ARV
Speeding up deep energy renovations in four European climatic zones. NORWAY

Basque Biodesign Center Material Ecosystem
An exhibition space showcasing biomaterials developed at the Basque Biodesign Center: wood wool, onddo mycelium and Zelubak leather. SPAIN

Bauhaus of the Seas Sails
Reinterpreting Lisbon's azulejo tiles with biomaterial made of oyster shells and seaweed-based pigments through the case study "From the Tagus to the Tile". PORTUGAL

BAUHAUS4EU – a European University for Resilient, Sustainable, Inclusive and Beautiful Regions
Bringing together ten universities and 67 partners with 124 000 students and 10 000 staff members to create a European University aligned with NEB principles. GERMANY

BIG4LIFE collaborative strategies for maintenance, and impact evaluation of BIG systems
Enhancing the lifespan of Building Integrated Greenery (BIG) systems by improving sustainability and the provision of ecosystem services in Mediterranean cities. SPAIN

BIOARC: Bioregional mineralisation with agricultural resources for construction
Linking agriculture and construction to develop high-performance bio-based building materials from agricultural by-products. GERMANY

Buildings and education in ecosystem for the New European Bauhaus (LIFE BE WoodEN)
Promoting decarbonisation and circularity in construction by overcoming cultural, technical and economic barriers to wood use. ITALY

Circular lab Ukraine
Redefining how to rebuild with available resources and shared responsibility, showing how circular principles can meet the complex realities of recovery in wartime. UKRAINE

Co-creating to live together: Housing cooperatives for urban sustainability and community engagement
A pilot co-design project for cooperative housing in Valencia aligned with NEB values. SPAIN

Collective care in digital settings
A framework for building non-hierarchical, burnout-resistant collectives, emerging from workshops for neurodivergent artists. POLAND

Common spaces project
Helping more than 170 cultural centres across some 40 countries navigate crises and shape just, inclusive and sustainable futures, led by the NGO Trans Europe Halles. SWEDEN

Community comic survey lab
Reimagining surveys through comics and visual storytelling, transforming questions into narrative form with Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. GERMANY

Craftwork4.0all
Supporting emerging craft artists across 12 countries through training, residencies, mobility, co creation and digital tools. GREECE

Creative Glass Serbia
Revitalising the glassmaking tradition in Paraćin through sustainable, artistic, digital and circular practices. SERBIA

Cultuur&Campus Putselaan
A shared campus in Rotterdam-Zuid connecting higher education, arts, research and policy with local communities. NETHERLANDS

DIGITRIO
Reshaping how buildings are designed, built and operated with a focus on sustainability, and reducing embodied carbon. ITALY

EIT Community New European Bauhaus
A European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) initiative supporting the implementation of the NEB across Europe through seven interconnected programmes. SPAIN

EIT Culture and Creativity
Helping culture and creativity to become more sustainable, resilient and competitive, including with funding, knowledge and tailored support. GERMANY

EQUBUILD: Mapping diversity – How AI imagines the European city
Two maps showing what AI notices and leaves out: AI Brussels, generated from repeated prompts, and People's Brussels, built live as visitors pin locations. SWEDEN

EU Policy Lab – when NEB meets policy
Bringing together civil servants, citizens and experts to build a more connected, evidence-informed and future-ready Europe by sharing research, tools and insights. BELGIUM

European Climate Pact
Help the EU meet its goal of being the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050 through a citizens' movement, launched by the European Commission. BELGIUM

European collective housing award
A biennial prize celebrating excellence in collective housing across Europe, with a focus on architectural quality, social impact, sustainability and innovation. SPAIN

European green cities: Green capital and green leaf awards, green city accord
Recognising local action for a transition to a more sustainable future, through awards to cities reporting on and committing to five key environmental targets. BELGIUM

Eyes Hearts Hands Urban Revolution (EHHUR)
Creating more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful spaces in seven locations across the EU and beyond by involving citizens in the clean transition at the local level.

Fab city foundation
Shifting urban models from "product in, trash out" to "data in, data out" by leveraging local production through circular economies. ESTONIA

From the basement to the kitchen x ShiftSweden
Turning underused spaces into shared environments for indoor farming, cooking and learning through adaptive reuse, circular design and community-led methods. SWEDEN

GEOSTEM
A social innovation uniting science, culture and the environment by demonstrating how small actions can contribute to systemic change at the community level. TURKEY

Healing nature: Animation for health and well being in children's hospital environments
Supporting mental well-being and reconnecting children with nature by transforming children's hospital spaces with murals and screenless augmented reality animation. CROATIA

Holz-21-region: A real NEB model region for structural change: wood-based innovation in the Thuringian Forest
Reconnecting people with nature and the cultural identity of wood to promote a sense of belonging through local cooperation, craftsmanship and sustainable innovation. GERMANY

Homegrown Energy Market
Inspired by a farmers' market, a project making complex energy and renovation topics accessible, engaging and replicable. BELGIUM

Housing First Europe Hub
Putting housing at the centre of policies and practices to address and prevent homelessness across Europe by supporting training, research and advocacy. BELGIUM

IMASUS: Imagineering sustainable fashion
Rethinking fashion from the fibre up through workshops and a digital platform to create circular, beautiful and realistic solutions to fashion's environmental impact. SPAIN

International circular fashion week conference 2026
Exploring sustainability through fashion, heritage and folklore, including a corset revival project transforming donated corsets through circular and traditional design. UNITED KINGDOM

Kyushu Commonscapes
Using immersive installation and storytelling to show how place-based innovation can shape sustainable and inclusive environments. JAPAN

Local authorities on the path to a sustainable urban mobility in the Adriatic/Ionian region
Bringing together six municipalities to promote cycling as active, inclusive and climate-friendly mobility through a transnational network. GREECE

Made in Rog: Strengthening Communities Through Participatory Design
Restoring a sense of belonging to the community by actively involving vulnerable groups, local communities and underrepresented voices. SLOVENIA

Mapping social value of participation in collaborative housing: From a knowledge-based to evidence-based perspective (SOLVE-H)
Considering collaborative housing as a tool for social change – including affordability, inclusion, well-being and cohesion – in response to Europe's housing crisis. SWITZERLAND

Mother nature meets AI: A study in digital ecology
An interactive generative installation exploring the bridge between algorithmic intelligence and ecology, using a single screen. GEORGIA

MyChair: Nature taking a seat for a circular and collaborative construction
A student project designing chairs with biomaterials at the intersection of architecture, ecology and art BELGIUM

NaturArchy | Art & Science at the JRC
Addressing societal challenges through collaborative projects, publications, artworks and events. SLOVENIA

Natureza Urbana: Public spaces redesigned as biodiverse, inclusive, climate-resilient
A nature-positive approach treating ecosystems as urban infrastructure, using ecological restoration and inclusive public spaces to address climate adaptation. BRAZIL

NEB Academy Alliance
A European Commission initiative to accelerate skill development for more renovations and the clean transition of the construction sector. SLOVENIA

NEB Catalogue: Affordable and Resilient Homes
Bringing together design solutions as conceptual blueprints to show how living spaces can be resilient to environmental challenges, while also being affordable and enriching. UNITED KINGDOM

NEB goes South – New European Bauhaus
Initiated by six Southern European architecture schools to address shared climatic and social challenges through education and co-design in dialogue with local governments. PORTUGAL

NEB Junction
A shared home for the NEB community, collecting and showcasing results from projects across disciplines and geographies to strengthen connections and amplify impact. NORWAY

NEB Local Chapters in Action
Linking the NEB to local communities and public and private organisations, as well as translating principles into local projects, accelerating replication and scaling. BELGIUM

NEB LOVES LIFE: BAUHAUSING EUROPE, SEEDNEB, BIG4LIFE
Showcasing how the NEB impacts cities and communities on the ground through the renovation of an iconic public building and improved urban biodiversity. SPAIN

NEB-LAB Eco2-schools
Showing how educational buildings can become powerful catalysts for cultural, social and environmental transformation, promoting NEB values. FRANCE

NEB4All
Bridging the gap between research and innovation and real-world implementation by supporting a strong and well-informed network of National Contact Points. FINLAND

NEBULE: New European Bauhaus United for a Living Environment
Showcasing how co-creation operates within NEB research and innovation through transdisciplinary dialogue and a diversity of partners. ITALY

Never never school
A democratically oriented approach to learning and urban design, helping to turn ideas into projects by using design as a tool for investigation and imagination. SLOVAKIA

New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform: Self-Assessment Method and Tool
Measuring sustainability, beauty and inclusion in buildings and neighbourhoods with 29 indicators, including energy performance, cultural heritage and affordability. SLOVAKIA

PAC – Play Accessible Communities: Co-Designing Micromobility with Data, Play, and Communities
Addressing questions of accessibility and inclusivity for urban mobility through collaboration between gaming companies. NETHERLANDS

Passivistas, the Tavros project
Retrofitting a multi-family building in Tavros, Athens, following the Passivhaus principles, addressing a lack of education and information about energy efficiency. GREECE

Pit-board
Turning discarded olive pits into high-quality, sustainable items, promoting circular economy practices, supporting local communities and empowering olive producers. CYPRUS

Rebuild Green 2030
An international multi-stakeholder programme advancing regenerative reconstruction in Ukraine through public–private partnerships and participatory innovation. UKRAINE

Resilience action plan for Santa Maria watershed
Using local knowledge and collaborative planning to strengthen climate resilience by restoring ecosystems, supporting livelihoods and driving new ways of living with water. PANAMA

Roskilde Festival Station
Building on a proposal from 25 architecture students for the Roskilde Festival Station to be developed collaboratively and built by carpentry students. DENMARK

School of collective care
Redesigning a secondary school courtyard as a dynamic space for learning, play and community life, including with an open area and shared orchard. ITALY

Smart slow fashion by Magbago
Transforming agricultural and food waste into innovative, skin-friendly textiles to inspire conscious consumption while empowering artisans. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Social factory CLG: The architecture of connection
A new civic building typology transforming underused industrial and urban spaces into a living social infrastructure that is scalable and replicable across Europe. IRELAND

Supporting the integration of New European Bauhaus values and principles into the regional planning processes (NEBA)
Integrating NEB values into territorial planning with inclusive and sustainable policy instruments to increase climate resilience and adaptation. LITHUANIA

The architecture school for kids developed through industry-academia collaboration
An education programme running since 2016, providing a diverse and practical curriculum and drawing on expertise from diverse areas and industries. JAPAN

The Pathfinders: Overcoming circular economy bottlenecks
Researchers, designers and businesses working to put circular economy theory into practice, including examples in textiles, the built environment and lithium batteries. FINLAND

The Pile
Transforming a temporary sediment heap into a living public workshop, using the materials after a flood to promote ecological literacy. AUSTRIA

The public spaces manual in the Brussels-Capital region
Improving streets and squares through regulation-based site-specific design guidance for climate, inclusion and circularity projects. BELGIUM

TIMBERHAUS
Unlocking the circular potential of wood as a construction material by developing advanced technologies to integrate underutilised and post-consumer wood resources. FINLAND

Town centre first heritage revival scheme (THRIVE): Mainstreaming NEB in cohesion policy
Funding the development of community-led urban strategies and the regeneration of vacant buildings, restoring heritage spaces as living community assets. IRELAND

Transforming Invisible Buildings
Reactivating vacant and underutilised buildings, moving towards affordable housing and energy-efficient building stock in Europe. CROATIA

Urban bloomers
An interdisciplinary research initiative promoting awareness of urban regeneration and co-design, especially amongst young students. ITALY

Urgency Toolkit – Alessandra Pandolfi X Circolo del Design residency
A residency programme focusing on the relationship between design and democracy. Circolo del Design selected Alessandra Pandolfi, resulting in the Urgency Toolkit mobile device. ITALY

WElab: A Collaborative Campus for Sustainable Future
Using academia as a driving force for urban sustainability, creative civil dialogue and international cooperation. MEXICO

WoodStock
Promoting sustainable wood construction practices and advancing the circular economy by developing solutions to increase the use of underutilised wood. BELGIUM

FEST PERFORMERS

3:rma
Singer-songwriter duo led by vocalist Maša But and guitarist Urška Supej, blending poetry with music to address pressing social issues. SLOVENIA

A SONIC OASIS
David Bello Arcos and Maia Steinberg combine an operatic voice, saxophone, loops and singing bowls to surround audiences with moving soundscapes. NETHERLANDS

AAA – All Areas Access
A concert blending sound, gesture, light, captions and vibration, featuring Maria Chiara Argirò and her band alongside deaf performer Argentina Cirillo. ITALY/ UNITED KINGDOM

Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker/Rosas
The Slow Walk of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas invites people to rediscover the city and one another at a radically slowed pace. BELGIUM

Ana Povoas
Workshops of collective resonance led by an interdisciplinary team connecting social science and dance. BELGIUM

Angelo Gregorio
The Jazz Sailor quintet, combining music, poetry, storytelling and performance to take audiences on a marine journey to reconnect with the environment. BELGIUM

Bauplay
Handcrafted games and workshops blending sensorial materials with artistic movements, bridging the gap between art and pedagogy for all ages. SPAIN

Benoit+Bo
Inflatable sculptures known as Happy Heads, reflecting the personal and intercultural experiences of artistic duo Benoit+Bo in China, Paris and Brussels. FRANCE/CHINA

BURKICOM
Two performances, entitled "Siri, don't die" and "Smiling required", by two people who describe themselves as a duet full of hope and a sarcastic, desire-filled multimedia dance group. CZECHIA

Chorales Equinox
An organisation providing children, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds or living with disabilities, with access to music through choirs in Belgium and Burundi. BELGIUM

Coletivo Gira
Women with a history of migration and non-binary people reclaiming their place in samba through a celebration of Afro-Brazilian culture. PORTUGAL

Collective Mosaico
An artist collective combining visual arts, music and movement to create poetic, immersive experiences. PORTUGAL

Danube Dance Alliance
Exploring the relationship between architecture and the arts through dance with TOUCH, a duet built around weight-sharing, balance and support. SLOVENIA/HUNGARY

Dj Erykah
A Brussels-based DJ inviting dancers into a whirlwind of percussion and energetic highs for a unique sonic experience. BELGIUM

EZARAS Studio
A workshop creating lampshades, window curtains and interior decorations from sustainable materials such as paper made of dried plants. LITHUANIA

Felix DJ
Producer and DJ with BXL Underground. BELGIUM

Fritsch Company
Performances "Hárúz" and "L'un Sans L'Autre" by an NGO working towards an accessible, inclusive and diverse performing arts industry by employing artists with and without disabilities. SPAIN

Helena Fernández-Cavada
A workshop to feel sensations weaving through everyday moments, including tensions and conflicts, through collective sharing, listening and writing. SWEDEN

i Patagarri
A Milan-based band blending gypsy jazz, swing and blues, formed by classically trained musicians who went from busking in Milan to The X Factor'. ITALY

ICONITO
An invitation to discover Slovak culture through music and visual storytelling, linking contemporary pop and Slovak traditions. SLOVAKIA

Irene de la Rosa
A solo dance performance, ANTOÑITA, inspired by celebrated deaf flamenco dancer La Singla, exploring vibration, footwork and low frequencies. SPAIN

Jay Khamtay Garnier, Philippe Leblanc, Michael David
An original installation named 'Infinite Cloud' made of a colourful suspended cloud of 1 000 paper cranes. BELGIUM

Les Mains En'Chantées et la chorale citoyenne Les Motivés
Two excerpts from the show "Le Chant des Signes", combining voice, sign language and artistic expression and performed by artists from diverse backgrounds. BELGIUM

Manuela Pauk
A workshop reimagining metal coins as seed bombs, blurring the concept of monetary value and boundaries between humans, insects and plants. HUNGARY

MARIA ARNAL
A performance merging voice, body and AI from a feminist perspective, reshaping singing in real time through movement and technology. SPAIN

Mariana Piñar Castellano
A textile workshop creating small woven pieces from recycled fibre and fabric scraps; either as single pieces or a joined collective creation. SPAIN

MATTERS Collective
An interactive installation called "Web of Care", inviting visitors to explore the concept of multispecies interdependence and interconnectedness. ITALY

Melania DC
A workshop grounded in the belief that movement belongs to everyone. "Dance It Out!" explores the body as a space of expression and connection. NETHERLANDS

Mielotxin
A group exploring the richness and cultural diversity of Navarre and the Basque country with instruments, dances and music, including lyrics in both Basque and Spanish. SPAIN

Moveo Dance Company
A contemporary dance and physical theatre performance named Common Ground, bringing the perspectives of marginalised communities to life. MALTA

NeuroDiver Comfort Space LAB
A workshop designing inclusive spaces for neurodivergent users, using a toolkit to design empathetic areas. POLAND

Orfeo Art and Samu Social
"My Dream Home", a film by Vanessa Mbuyi, explores the idea of home through experiences of women and children living in emergency shelters run by the Samu Social. BELGIUM

Panos Malactos
A solo performance called "Heroine" in which the body becomes a site of intensity, resistance and transformation through repetition, rupture and exhaustion. CYPRUS

Philippe Leblanc
"Golden Rectangles E-Chain", an original installation, is made of plexiglass and steel rings suspended from the ceiling. BELGIUM

SoKo Jena
A performance entitled, "We Who Do Not Belong", combining Zimbabwean rhythmic traditions and contemporary performance to explore themes of migration, identity and belonging. ZIMBABWE/ GERMANY

Teatro Movimiento Anstatuanto
A duet created by twin sisters to reflect on humanity's relationship with nature through balance, risk and shared weight. SPAIN

Teatro Tocco
A performance of eight actors creating sensory installations on their own bodies and moving through space, inspired by Herman Melville's Moby-Dick. BELGIUM

The Boondocks
Award-winning rock band from Estonia with music that critiques societal and political norms to highlight the tension between marginalised individuals and state power. ESTONIA

The People Speak
A live, TV-style pop-up talk show called "Talkaoke", established by a London-based art collective, with no fixed agenda and topics chosen by participants. UNITED KINGDOM

Tuning Ecologies
An immersive, interactive performance exploring how nature-inspired sounds and visuals can foster a sense of belonging and ecological awareness. GERMANY



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