



# From idea to maturity

**THE  
FESTIVAL** of the  
NEW EUROPEAN  
BAUHAUS





The **New European Bauhaus (NEB)** is an initiative launched by the European Commission to translate the European Green Deal into tangible change on the ground that improves our daily lives. It brings about sustainable solutions for **transforming the built environment and lifestyles** for the better under the green transition, matching **sustainability** with **good design** that needs less carbon. At the same time, it makes these solutions **inclusive, accessible and affordable** for all, while respecting the **diversity of places, traditions, and cultures** that we have in Europe and beyond.

The New European Bauhaus is committed to engaging people at a **grassroots level**. Instead of applying the same solution everywhere, the NEB principle lies in understanding the individual needs of different communities. By doing this, communities can develop **tailor-made solutions** that truly address what matters most to each of them.

Moreover, the New European Bauhaus is defined by its **openness to dialogue and adaptability**, actively incorporating the views of various stakeholders into the process of design and implementation. With this collaborative and flexible approach, it fosters sustainable and inclusive development in Europe's built environment and lifestyles and showcases that a positive transition through co-creation is possible.

While the European Commission provides **guidance, norms and tools** for the implementation of the New European Bauhaus, the real change comes from the people on the ground turning the NEB's principles and guidelines into reality in specific projects.

In only three years after its launch, the New European Bauhaus has already inspired a **strong grassroots movement on the ground** and the active involvement of Member States, regions and municipalities across the EU. It brought forth numerous activities in every Member State – almost **500 projects** in total – in the areas of research and innovation, cohesion, regional and urban development, skills development and culture. There is now a **vibrant NEB Community** in place with almost **1,400 members** to date uniting non-profit organisations, businesses, public authorities, NEB project holders, National Contact Points, and members of the NEB High-Level Roundtable, reaching several millions of Europeans. A strong network of practitioners promotes a growing number of NEB innovation, research and project implementation initiatives across several sectors and policy areas, while the New European Bauhaus Prizes motivate many individuals and organisations to on-board the NEB ideas and values in their projects.

# FUNDING AND INVESTMENTS

Up to now, the New European Bauhaus has mobilised **nine EU programmes**, notably Horizon Europe, Cohesion policy and the LIFE programme. As of March 2024, close to **EUR 380 million** have been committed to the NEB. In addition, the NEB principles have been used in numerous calls for proposals on various EU policies financed by EU budget in different programmes such as Erasmus and DiscoverEU.

From 2025 onwards, the New European Bauhaus will have its first-ever multiannual financial support instrument, the **NEB Facility**. The Facility will scale up the New European Bauhaus and deepen its impact on the ground, further accelerating the transformation of neighbourhoods. It will be one central instrument that will be transparent and easier to access.

Through the NEB Facility, the New European Bauhaus will be anchored in the EU multi-annual programming until 2027, with two components: Firstly, the research & innovation component will cover actions from research to testing and demonstration, with an indicative budget of **120 million per year until 2027**, financed by Horizon Europe. Secondly, the roll-out component will cover deployment and technical assistance, with support from various EU programmes, as well as, where applicable, national and private funding.

The European Commission is now consulting the Member States, the NEB Community and other relevant stakeholders to co-define the detailed priorities and content of the NEB Facility.

Additionally, the Pilot Project **"Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects"** promotes the core values and principles of the NEB and supports small, grassroots NEB-compliant projects in obtaining the crucial initial financing needed to get started. It includes two main actions:

- A.** The NEB Innovative Advisory Hub: An interactive platform that matches supply and demand for NEB-type projects and facilitates access to private funding
- B.** Special NEB Prizes to small municipalities shall be organised in 2025 alongside the organisation of the traditional NEB Prizes annual competition

The Pilot Project contributes to addressing challenges related to accessing funding for small entities and opening private funding avenues, such as through local philanthropic endowments and international cross-border crowdfunding platforms. The total value of the Pilot Project is **EUR 1,45 million**.



## THE NEB ON THE GROUND **IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS**

In less than three years, New European Bauhaus projects have expanded across **every EU Member State** and reached countries such as Iceland, Israel, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

### **LIGHTHOUSE DEMONSTRATORS**

In 2022, a total of **EUR 30 million** from Horizon Europe was invested in and distributed across six NEB Lighthouse demonstrator projects, encompassing 13 countries. These projects focus on various themes including building renovation, circularity, arts, cultural heritage, education, smart cities, and urban and rural regeneration. Their first outcomes promise a diverse array of results, which can be adapted and replicated in similar activities and demonstrators in Europe and beyond, helping to inspire future projects.

In 2023, a second generation of demonstrators was launched as part of the European Urban Initiative. Supported by **EUR 65 million** from the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF), 14 projects representing 12 EU countries were selected to promote sustainable construction, cultural heritage preservation, affordable housing solutions, and the regeneration of urban spaces, with up to EUR 5 million ERDF co-financing per project.

## EXAMPLES OF LIGHTHOUSE DEMONSTRATORS

Lighthouse demonstrators are already showing significant results. The DESIRE project, for example, addresses pressing challenges in societies and cities, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource constraints.

As part of the project, several demonstration sites across Europe are undergoing notable transformations in social inclusion and environmental sustainability, such as the conversion of a business and shopping center into a nature-friendly space in Ljubljana, Slovenia ([read here](#)).



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Another example is the **WATSUPS project** in Mechelen, Belgium, which aims to mitigate the risk of gentrification by developing a new public space alongside the river Dyle. A visible blue-green corridor will connect people, water and nature. This entails creating an outdoor swimming area, river terraces and lowered riverbanks around the Dyle, as well as connecting the fragmented walking and cycling zones and developing new public parks for recreation and social cohesion.





## NEB PRIZES

Every year, the New European Bauhaus Prizes reward exemplary projects, new concepts and ideas aligned with the NEB transformation themes:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- Prioritising places and people in need
- Shaping a circular industrial ecosystem and supporting life-cycle thinking

The NEB Prizes showcase and support projects and ideas that are already being implemented on the ground, bringing **tangible positive change** to communities and individuals. The **annual call for projects** and the **Prizes ceremony** contribute significantly to raising awareness about sustainability, and aesthetics can have a central role in the transformation of our living environment. At the same time, the NEB Prizes inspire even more individuals, communities and organisations to embrace similar practices, fostering a widespread cultural transition towards more sustainable living and development.



In 2024, for the first time, the NEB Prizes are welcoming applications of projects and concepts from **Ukraine**, in addition to EU Member States and the Western Balkans. This edition will award the 'Special Recognition to Ukraine's Reconstruction and Recovery Effort' prizes to support Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery effort and recognise the country's commitment to build back better.

Over the four editions of the NEB Prizes (2021-2024), almost **5,000 applications** have been received and, to date, 52 winners have been awarded monetary prizes ranging from EUR 15,000 to EUR 30,000. In 2024, **20 winners** are set to receive a total of **EUR 390,000** in monetary prizes (over the four editions, more than **EUR 1,5 million** will have been awarded to **72 winners**) at the fourth New European Bauhaus Prizes Ceremony on 12 April, as part of the New European Bauhaus Festival (more info following below).

In addition to the projects that are directly financed by European Commission calls, numerous other projects are put in place that embody the principles of the New European Bauhaus, for example by the EU Member States under Cohesion policy.

One example is the **ETHNIC project**, under the Interreg Europe programme, that empowers small, hidden and unexplored communities located inland from the Adriatic coast of Italy and Croatia to use their cultural and natural heritage in developing new eco-sustainable tourism destinations with a social inclusion, slow mobility and smart village approach.

The **Bauhaus Goes North project**, another Interreg project, aims to reduce energy use and CO2 emissions in building construction, especially housing, across the NPA region and Europe. By applying the principles of the New European Bauhaus, it seeks to develop and demonstrate new, sustainable building practices through pilot projects in collaboration with local authorities and universities.

Discover more inspiring NEB projects by following this [link](#) and exploring the [NEB Dashboard](#).





# A BUSTLING NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS COMMUNITY

The NEB has developed into a **movement** with a vivid community that shares knowledge and develops solutions together. Local and international entities across Europe, in fields such as culture, education, architecture, heritage, forestry, construction and housing, or fashion, among many others, come together to present their work and explore ways to combine efforts.

This **New European Bauhaus Community** counts nearly **1,400 members** to date, reuniting Partners (non-profit organisations), Friends (for-profit organisations, public authorities and politically-linked entities), NEB Prizes winners and finalists, beneficiaries of NEB dedicated calls, National Contact Points in the EU Member States, and members of the High-Level Roundtable.

While most members of the NEB Community come from EU Member States, memberships also spread across the world, including Ukraine, the United States, and Turkey.

Through the dynamic **NEB Lab platform**, NEB Community members can come together to self-organise, propose projects, and seek partners for the implementation of bottom-up NEB initiatives. 11 NEB Lab projects, covering 32 countries, have already been established, six of which were brought to life at the initiative of the NEB Community. A notable example is the **New European Bauhaus on the Danube**. This community-led project is a proactive think-and-do tank and a catalyst for the green transition in the Danube region. It unites public authorities, civil society, private, investment, and financial sectors to promote responsible land use practices by sharing proven green and sustainable investment solutions.



# OUTREACH AND EVENTS

The NEB calls for collective multi-level action and citizen participation in building a more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive future. Since its launch, events organised by and for the NEB Community, as well as for stakeholders and the wider public, provided numerous occasions to exchange ideas, stimulate discussion on NEB topics and explore opportunities for future cooperation.

That is why the Commission organises every second year a New European Bauhaus Festival.

The first **Festival of the New European Bauhaus** (9-12 June 2022) was the biggest event for the NEB Community since the launch of the initiative and brought together over 200,000 people on- and offline in Brussels and in the Member States. It acted as a platform to communicate, celebrate and discuss good practices for building a more sustainable, beautiful, and inclusive world. The event was designed around three main pillars: a FAIR (exhibition of NEB initiatives), a FEST (cultural programme), and a FORUM (discussions on NEB-related topics).

The biannual Festival is coming back with its second edition on 9-13 April to Brussels, casting a spotlight on the **results achieved** since the launch of the New European Bauhaus three years ago. It will showcase NEB projects, celebrate success stories, and offer the community an opportunity to meet, exchange, and build further networks. It will also serve as a hub to bring together relevant stakeholders, the NEB Community, and EU citizens to **collect insights** and **define the way ahead together**.

In the every other year, the NEB looks for other occasions to interact with the community and raise awareness for the project. For the first time in 2023, the New European Bauhaus participated with an event in the International Architecture Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, allowing participants to reflect on radical, yet possible, human actions leading to a better use of space and resources under the NEB principles. The NEB will again participate in the Biennale in its next edition in 2025.

Moreover, as the NEB seeks to be mainstreamed across different EU policies, it was also prominently featured in several other events and conferences organised by the Commission, including:

- LIFE in the New European Bauhaus event in 2021, a 3-day conference showcased exemplary projects financed through the LIFE and Horizon 2020 programmes, implemented in a NEB spirit and providing first examples of NEB in action.
- The European Week of Regions and Cities in 2021, 2022 and 2023, with sessions and workshops on the NEB and its impact on regions and cities.
- COP26, with an EU side event focusing on the global dimension of the NEB.

# TOOLS TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE NEB PRINCIPLES

## NEB COMPASS AND TOOLBOX

The [NEB Compass](#) serves as a guiding framework, outlining core values and principles for projects to embody the essence of the New European Bauhaus initiative. All values and principles are translated into three levels from basic to excellent and project owners can check with easy questions how much their project is NEB compliant.

Complementary, the [NEB Toolbox](#) serves as a practical resource collection, providing tools, workshops, and examples for planning and designing NEB projects, aiding in their implementation at various stages with a focus on co-design and transformative actions.

## UPCOMING: SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL AND HANDBOOK

The NEB is developing a **Self-Assessment Tool** as well as a **Handbook** for the technical and qualitative evaluation of projects, more specifically buildings and living spaces. These tools will allow experts with mature projects to measure to what extent their project is aligned with the NEB principles. As part of the New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform, this self-assessment tool will be ready in July 2024.



## UPCOMING: NEB INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

In close cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the New European Bauhaus is developing dedicated NEB Investment Guidelines to enhance the understanding of NEB projects among potential investors, make them more appealing and add reputational value, and foster private capital inflow into the NEB movement. The adoption of these Guidelines can be expected before the summer of 2024. An interim pilot project is also set to stimulate and support local and regional small projects under EUR 100,000 by facilitating access to financial support.

## NEB ACADEMY

The **NEB Academy**, a flagship initiative of the European Year of Skills, will offer high-quality, well promoted and accessible trainings to boost skills on sustainable construction and accelerate the fair and green transformation of the building sector. It supports the EU's ambition to upskill or reskill 25% of the European construction industry's workforce in the next five years (i.e. 3 million workers).

Over the next two years, the **NEBA Alliance**, a consortium of 14 partners based in 10 Member States, will set up the governance and structure of the Academy and establish a network of hubs at EU level. This network will offer tailored training services in sustainable construction solutions through a digital platform.



# SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Since the beginning of the Russian war against Ukraine, the New European Bauhaus community has shown its readiness to support in the sustainable and inclusive reconstruction of Ukraine. Simultaneously, Ukrainian authorities have shown an interest in rebuilding according to the NEB's principles and recommendations.

In 2023, the Commission launched a series of **New European Bauhaus capacity-building workshops for the reconstruction of Ukraine** in partnership with Ukrainian organisations. The capacity-building introduction aimed to provide both inspiration and practical help for over 60 municipalities involved in the reconstructions and rebuilding of Ukraine along the NEB values.

These and other NEB activities in Ukraine have been boosted through a new **'Phoenix' call via the LIFE programme**. As immediate steps, it developed and put at the disposal of Ukrainian cities cutting-edge expertise from the NEB community in affordable and sustainable reconstruction – for example on the recycling of debris from damaged buildings.

During the NEB Festival, the NEB Community is launching a **"Public Infrastructure for Ukraine"**, a NEB LAB project with the valuable support of vital stakeholders from Ukraine, Lithuania and EU Member States. The first deliverable of the project will be to design and implement a high-quality, sustainable school model that will be adaptive to build across Ukraine and meet the needs of local communities nationwide. The NEB Lab is actively supporting the access of Ukrainian children to education, providing Ukrainian communities with knowledge, technical designs and expertise that they might not otherwise have access to.

In Ukraine, the authorities have included the NEB principles in their **digital DREAM tool** that serves as data base for reconstruction projects. There is a close cooperation between Ukraine and the NEB team to see how best the project can support the reconstruction taking into account the NEB principles.



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