

Call for expressions of interest for
Fair: NEB project showcase and experiences
The Festival of the New European Bauhaus
9-13 June 2026
Brussels, Belgium

Context

The European Commission organises the **third edition** of the [New European Bauhaus Festival](#) in Brussels (Belgium) on 9-13 June 2026, and you can be part of it!

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a European Commission initiative that aims to turn the European Green Deal and Clean Industrial Deal into tangible change on the ground, improving daily lives through sustainable solutions for the built environment and lifestyles. It combines sustainability with good design, inclusivity, accessibility, and affordability, respecting Europe's diverse places, cultural heritage, and cultures.

The NEB Festival 2026 will among other topics address the transformative power of **democratic engagement** in shaping more inclusive and sustainable communities. It will highlight how empowered citizens and local authorities can play an active role in creating their environments, with a particular emphasis on **affordable housing** as a cornerstone of democratic participation. In line with the NEB's core vision, the Festival will be a space to reimagine our built environment, **placing first life**, then spaces, and then buildings¹.

The Festival encompasses four key pillars:

- **Forum** - a platform for engaging discussions and the exchange of ideas surrounding the New European Bauhaus.
- **Fair** - a laboratory and exhibition, highlighting projects and prototypes that align with and support the core values of the New European Bauhaus.
- **Fest** - a celebration that unites culture, art, and conviviality, serving as a moment of collective rejoicing, honouring freedom of expression and embracing radical, innovative, and disruptive ideas and visions.
- **Satellite events** - initiatives and events organised independently in Brussels and beyond, aligned with the New European Bauhaus values.

Why apply

The 2026 edition of the Festival is calling for **innovators** like you to participate in this extraordinary hybrid event. With its core activities taking place in vibrant Brussels and captivating satellite events spanning across the European Union and beyond, this is an unparalleled opportunity to **gain international exposure**.

By stepping into the Fair, your work will take the spotlight, illuminating the profound impacts of climate change in our urban and rural landscapes. Through your creations, you will raise awareness, fostering empathy and highlighting the transformative actions you have taken. Nevertheless, that is just the beginning. At the Fair, you will also unleash your boundless creativity and join forces with fellow visionaries to pioneer the next groundbreaking solutions for these urgent challenges.

¹ A reference to Jan Gehl's quote "“First life, then spaces, then buildings. The other way around never works.”"

Immerse yourself in this electrifying atmosphere where experimentation reigns, empowering you and your peers to defy limitations and transform the path to a New European Bauhaus future. Apply now and make your project an integral part of this groundbreaking festival.

Eligible projects

You meet the criteria to be a part of this transformative movement if your project promotes the values of the New European Bauhaus and the development of beautiful and sustainable spaces and ways of living together. The proposed project can be based either in Brussels, across the EU or beyond.

Priority in the selection process will be given to projects by entities involved in the NEB Community, such as, for example, being a NEB Lighthouse demonstrator, a NEB Prize finalist or winner, projects implemented by NEB Partners or Friends, or if your project has received EU funding from a NEB dedicated call for funding.

Regardless of its geographical origin, your project needs to hold the power to captivate and connect with people and reflect the **New European Bauhaus** core values²:

- **Sustainability** in environmental terms, from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution, and protecting nature/improving biodiversity;
- **Aesthetics**, including quality of experience and style, beyond functionality;
- **Inclusion**, from valuing diversity to securing accessibility and affordability.

Your project should relate to at least one of the **thematic axes**³:

1. **Reconnecting with nature**
2. **Regaining a sense of belonging**
3. **Prioritising the places and people that need it most**
4. **Fostering long-term, life cycle, and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem**

Your projects could also illustrate the **principles of the New European Bauhaus**:

- **A multilevel approach**: from global to local. A multi-level engagement across scales, fields, and time is necessary to anticipate the effects that global issues can have on the local dimension, and vice versa (e.g. the effects of national air quality regulations on local environments, the impact of an activity launched at neighbourhood level for cleaning the oceans...). A multi-level NEB project should implement an effective exchange both horizontally (with peers) and vertically (with others operating on a different scale), and then advance to a well-defined collaborative framework integrating the two.
- **A participatory approach**: involves civil society and people of all ages and in all their diversity, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups (disabled people) and minorities.
- **A transdisciplinary approach**: requires bringing together knowledge from different fields and practitioners from various fields. They work on solutions that affect different aspects of a project – social, economic, cultural, artistic, architectural, ecological, etc. Transdisciplinary ways of working also encourage solutions that can be applied in a variety of disciplines and fields and are not limited to one area only.

When and how to apply

Please fill in the online application form by clicking on the following link: [APPLICATION FORM](#). Your applications must be submitted in English, no later than **15 October 2025**.

² A detailed description of NEB core values and principles is available in the [NEB Compass](#).

³ Thematic axes are described in the [Communication on New European Bauhaus \(COM/2021/573 final\)](#).

Once the application is submitted, the answers cannot be changed.

Selection process and criteria

The European Commission will be assessing applications throughout October and November 2025. By 15 December 2025, you will receive notification regarding the assessment results, providing you with information on whether your proposal has been accepted to be a part of the Festival. At that time, you will also receive further instructions and additional details.

Beyond **eligibility aspects explained above**, the proposals will be scored based on how well their declared scope of the initiative meets the following criteria:

A. Content-related criteria:

- Connection of the proposed project to the New European Bauhaus values, axes and principles;
- Innovative and participatory⁴ aspects of the proposed activities ;
- Relevance and quality of the proposed activities;
- Communication plan and activities⁵ before, during and after the Festival.

B. Technical requirements:

- Capacity to deliver the proposed presentation and plan of activities within the requested timeframe.

C. New European Bauhaus Community membership⁶

- Members of the NEB Community are NEB Partners, NEB Friends, NEB Prizes winners and finalists, beneficiaries of NEB dedicated calls for funding⁷, NEB Policy and R&I National Contact Points.

Terms and conditions for participation

1. Non-commercial nature: Exhibitors are not allowed to sell products or services directly at the Festival. The focus is on showcasing ideas, projects, and initiatives that promote sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful living environments.
2. Free admission: The Festival is free and open to the public, and exhibitors must not charge admission fees for any of their activities.
3. Content guidelines: Exhibitors must ensure that their exhibits are respectful, inclusive, and suitable for a diverse audience. The festival organisers may review and approve exhibit content in advance.
4. Intellectual property: Exhibitors retain the intellectual property rights to their exhibits, but they grant the festival organizers the right to use images, videos, and other materials for promotional purposes.
5. Liability and insurance: Exhibitors are responsible for their own liability and insurance coverage, including damage to their exhibits, equipment, and personnel.

⁴ How will the proposed activities engage with the Festival's visitors (e.g. activities at the stand or other activities at the Festival venue).

⁵ The communication plan should multiply Festival's communication and amplify it through the specific angle of the applicant (e.g. taking into consideration local, regional or national context when choosing audiences, activities and topics)

⁶ More information about the NEB Community and how to join: <https://europa.eu/!9pMQdm>

⁷ NEB dedicated calls for funding are funding opportunities aiming to directly support NEB Initiative implementation. The list of dedicated calls is available [here](#).

6. Setup and teardown: Exhibitors are responsible for setting up and tearing down their exhibits and must comply with the festival's schedule and technical requirements.
7. Technical requirements: Exhibitors must comply with the festival's technical requirements, including power supply, internet connectivity, and audio-visual equipment.
8. Exhibit size and layout: Exhibitors must comply with the assigned exhibit size and layout, and must not exceed the allocated space.
9. Sustainability: Exhibitors are encouraged to use sustainable materials, minimise waste, and reduce their carbon footprint during the festival.
10. Financing Responsibility: The Exhibitor is fully responsible for financing their participation in the New European Bauhaus Festival, including all costs associated with their exhibit, personnel, and travel. The Festival Organizers will not provide any financial support or reimbursement.
11. Data protection: Exhibitors must comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant data protection laws and must not collect or store personal data without the explicit consent of the individuals involved.
12. Cancellation: The festival organizers reserve the right to cancel the festival or individual exhibits due to unforeseen circumstances, and exhibitors must not claim any compensation or damages in such cases.

Contact and more information

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding the call for expressions of interest, please write to EC-New-European-Bauhaus@ec.europa.eu.

For more information about the Festival of the New European Bauhaus [visit this link](#).