

Call for expressions of interest for
Fest: cultural and artistic activities
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 **artists** 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 joining us in person in Brussels, you will have the chance to be part of a **citizen-focused cultural celebration**, filled with art **exhibitions, music, theater, dance, and more**. You can propose participatory activities like workshops and competitions, or simply create friendly, lively, and enjoyable moments with citizens through musical performances and pop-up spaces. If you prefer a **digital presence**, no worries! You can submit pre-recorded material, reaching a broader audience and sharing your unique creativity.

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

To support the **participation of artists**, the European Commission will offer coverage for **travel expenses**. Additionally, a **flat fee** will be allocated to the selected activities to contribute to the fair remuneration of artists.

Join us in shaping the future of the New European Bauhaus by showcasing your talent, connecting with communities, and leaving a lasting impact. The exact amounts can only be decided once the Commission will have an overview of all applications.

Eligible initiatives

Contemporary languages of artistic experimentation in fields like music, live audiovisual shows, public projections, participatory theatre and documentary theatre, dance, and performances will complement the ideas, prototypes and project exhibitions that sit at the center of the program.

Your proposal should promote the values of the New European Bauhaus and the development of beautiful and sustainable spaces and ways of living together. The proposal of an artistic performance, exhibition or participatory activity should be planned to take place during the festival week, 9-13 June 2026, in Brussels.

Your proposal of an artistic performance, exhibition or participatory activity should reflect the **New European Bauhaus** core values²:

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

Your proposal 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 proposal 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.

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 \(COM/2021/573 final\)](#).

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**.

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. By 15 December 2025 at the latest, 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 meet the following criteria:

A. Content-related requirements:

- Connection to the New European Bauhaus values and thematic axes;
- Innovative and participatory aspects of the proposed activity;
- Relevance and quality of the communication activities;
- Communication plan and activities⁴ before, during and after the Festival.

B. Technical requirements:

- Capacity to deliver the proposed activity within the requested timeframe;
- Soundness of the budget in line of proposed activity(ies);
- Balance between different forms of artistic and cultural expression.

Terms and conditions for participation

1. Non-commercial nature: Exhibitors and performers are not allowed to sell products or services directly at the Festival.
2. Free admission: The Festival is free and open to the public. Exhibitors and performers must not charge admission fees for any of their activities.
3. Content guidelines: Exhibitors and performers must ensure that their performances or 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 and performers retain the intellectual property rights to their exhibits and performances, but they grant the festival organisers the right to use images, videos, and other materials for promotional purposes.
5. Liability and insurance: Exhibitors and performers are responsible for their own liability and insurance coverage, including damage to their exhibits, equipment, and personnel.
6. Setup and teardown: Exhibitors/performers 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 and performers must comply with the festival's technical requirements, including power supply, internet connectivity, and audio-visual equipment.

⁴ The communication plan should multiply the 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)

8. Exhibit size and layout: Exhibitors and performers must comply with the assigned exhibit size and layout, and must not exceed the allocated space.
9. Sustainability: Exhibitors and performers are encouraged to use sustainable materials, minimise waste, and reduce their carbon footprint during the festival.
10. Data protection: Exhibitors and performers 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.
11. Cancellation: The festival organisers 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](#).