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of the Regions**

**Commission for
Social Policy, Education,
Employment, Research and Culture**

SEDEC

The New European Bauhaus at the local and regional level



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List of acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CAET	Territorial Climate Air Energy Plan
CoR/CdR	European Committee of the Regions/ <i>Comité européen des régions</i>
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DG R/I	Directorate-General on Research and Innovation
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
ERDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
EUSALP	EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region
IRM	Integrated Renovation Methodology
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JTF	Just Transition Fund
LIFE	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
NEB	New European Bauhaus
P2P	Peer-to-peer energy trading
PA	Partnership Agreements
SME	Small and medium enterprises
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UN	United Nations

Executive Summary

The present study aims to analyse the state of the art of the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative (NEB) in relation to the local and regional authorities, and how they are delivered it on the ground in adherence with their local and regional development strategies.

On 15 September 2021, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) received a Communication from the European Commission on the “New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together” (European Commission 2021)¹. Its objective was to introduce the NEB as an initiative enhancing sustainable innovation, technology, economy, and environmental transition through a participatory approach. Therefore, by involving people from different professions and backgrounds, the goal is to create a movement that expresses the EU’s ambition to create beautiful, sustainable and inclusive places, products and ways of living. In doing so, the NEB will create the space to explore and test policy, funding and other solutions to design and build a better life for all.

Against this backdrop, cities and regions play a key role in designing, implementing and disseminating the NEB. As they have clear responsibilities for sustainable local and regional policies, they are responsible for large stocks of public spaces and buildings and play an important regulatory and funding role in their renovation and regeneration processes. Therefore, their participation in the NEB is fundamental, to make the initiative more accessible and comprehensive of members of the public in the transformation process on the ground.

On 27-29 April 2022, the CoR adopted the opinion on the NEB (European Committee of the Regions 2022)², outlining that the role of the local and regional authorities (LRAs) in implementing the principles of the NEB is acknowledged. Since cities and regions are at the forefront of cultural development, they are responsible for the implementation of the NEB in public spaces. In its opinion, the CoR reaffirmed the importance of the multi-level and place-based approach, the identification of bottlenecks and impediments LRAs tackle in the realisation of the NEB initiative. Moreover, it proposes new instruments, such as the NEB Lab voucher scheme, to support LRAs in financing and organising NEB projects in their constituency, to enhance cross-border cooperation and partnership in relation to the NEB.

¹ European Commission. 2021. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, COM(2021) 573 final, Brussels, 15.9.2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM\(2021\)_573_EN_ACT.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM(2021)_573_EN_ACT.pdf).

² European Committee of the Regions. 2022. *Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, SEDEC-VII/025. Brussels, 27-29.04.2022. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA-EN.docx/content>.

Based on the abovementioned, this study investigates the very recent developments related to the NEB at local and regional level, which occurred after the launch of the NEB in September 2021.

The study is based on three main methodological approaches: desk research and review of available local and regional level data; wide ranging consultation that gathered feedback from 138 LRAs across the 27 EU Member States about the NEB, and interviews with LRAs already involved in the NEB, to build a general framework regarding their current and possible future involvement in the NEB as well as NEB-related foresight considerations and better implementation at the local and regional level.

Through informed objective evidence, this study is structured in four parts.

In Part 1, the NEB integration at the local and regional level is analysed. After explaining the main key transformation actions of LRAs in the context of the NEB, the ongoing and scheduled projects involving the LRAs, thanks to the financial support of EU funds and programmes, are mapped. The delivery of the NEB is supported by different dedicated and contributing calls, to enable the fostering of innovative and transdisciplinary projects making places more sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful, which are critically assessed.

Part 2 is focused on analysing the role of the LRAs in engaging communities, the NEB Lab, and developing partnerships and cross-border cooperation in the NEB. A set of tools, initiatives and methods is therefore provided, to understand how the participatory approach ascribed to the NEB can be exploited at best for further cooperation, replicability and dissemination purposes.

In Part 3, six case studies implementing the NEB at local and regional level are described. They provide a better understanding of the ongoing NEB projects and a deep analysis of the role of LRAs in delivering them. The case studies are described considering the NEB three core values (i.e., sustainability, inclusion, aesthetics) and the key principles of the NEB based on the participatory, transdisciplinary, and multi-level approach. They support the research by explaining the current implementation of NEB projects by LRAs through different funding programmes opportunities and intervention areas.

Finally, Part 4 is divided in two subsections. The first one proposes foresight considerations, to explore possible implementations of the NEB at local and regional level that can uptake it at best. Two scenarios are provided, in the framework of the current technological advancements, to best address policymakers in implementing strategies to satisfy NEB place-based policy actions in the future. The second part presents concrete recommendations to

LRA, Member States and the European Union regarding the implementation of the NEB. By way of example, concrete actions should be done in terms of funding scheme and financing instruments to better involve LRAs in the process of implementation of the NEB initiative. Moreover, guidelines to develop specific qualitative and quantitative indicators to monitor and evaluate any NEB projects should be defined by the EU.

Introduction

The historical Bauhaus school

Bauhaus' historic roots lie in the need for housing post World War One and in the wake of the changes ushered in by the first two Industrial Revolutions (Rosado-García, Kubus, Argüelles-Bustillo and García-García 2021, 2)³. It was founded in 1919 by Walter Gropius in the city of Weimar, Germany. Gropius, son of a famous architect, had already begun taking an interest in the architecture and technology revolution then underway in the early twentieth century (Forgács 1995, 5)⁴. At a very young age, he believed that the concept of mass production and industrialisation might be transferred to the field of architecture. In this context, Bauhaus' main philosophical principle, historically, was “form follows function”, meaning that any work of industry and technology is driven by the assumption that the functionality of any building should be a deriving factor, and form should consequently stem from it as the process goes on. This results in the fact that the form should never be considered important (Rethinking The Future – RTF [website](#))⁵. Furthermore, in one of his earliest writings, Gropius developed the idea of “the prosperous union of art and technology” (Forgács 1995, 7)⁶, which remarked the importance of transversality of science, art and technology in the architecture field.

The history of the historical Bauhaus school can be summed up in three distinctive stages. The first was directed by its founder, Gropius, who introduced the concept of experimenting with ideas, forms and products to combine functionality with aesthetics, with a view to merging art and industry, design and craftsmanship, into a single movement. Functionality was thus primary to aesthetics, and necessary for its implementation. The school's second period focused solely on functionality. Under Hannes Meyer's direction in Dessau, the ideas emerging within the historical Bauhaus school were inspired by the importance of engineering and the social dimension. Meyer was in fact an ardent believer in technology's ability to foster mass culture, and the importance of communities rather than individuals to creative work. In architecture, this shift translated into functionalism, and a philosophy that Meyer coined “*Die Neue Baulehre*” (i.e., a

³ Rosado-García, María Jesús, Renata Kubus, Ramón Argüelles-Bustillo, and María Jesús García-García. 2021. “A New European Bauhaus for a Culture of Transversality and Sustainability.” *Sustainability* 13 no. 21 (October 27, 2021): 11844. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132111844>.

⁴ Forgács, Eva. 1995. “The Bauhaus Idea and Bauhaus Politics.” In *Central European University Press EBooks*, 1995. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9789633864968>.

⁵ Rethinking The Future. 2023. “Theory in Architecture: Form follows function”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/rtf-architectural-reviews/a3347-theory-in-architecture-form-follows-function/>.

⁶ Forgács, Eva. 1995. “The Bauhaus Idea and Bauhaus Politics.” In *Central European University Press EBooks*, 1995. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9789633864968>.

new way to build) to describe (Astbury 2018)⁷. The period was therefore marked by a denial of the aesthetic concept previously introduced by Gropius, which was considered a direct consequence of functionalism (Rosado-García, Kubus, Argüelles-Bustillo and García-García 2021)⁸. Before its closure in 1933 by the Nazis, the historical Bauhaus school underwent a third and final stage. Under the direction of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, it was given an architecture education imprint and turned itself into a school of architecture based in Berlin (Droste 2002, 202-203)⁹.

The historical Bauhaus school was a milieu in which an inventive approach addressed the need to foster architectural innovation by breaking down the boundaries between disciplines. It was, therefore, both educational and groundbreaking, creating new spaces in which design and manufacturing industry activities could meld (White-Hancock 2023, 262)¹⁰. Barriers between artists and craftspeople were thus broken down and artists integrated into manufacturing and technological society. This new approach to functionality laid the foundations for an intersection between different knowledge dimensions with a new approach to architectural innovation fostered by the emerging urgency of the problems and conditions then facing Germany. Its strongly pioneering streak led to the new school's approach turning into a movement of international resonance, with Bauhaus artefacts exhibited all over the world.

Although the historical Bauhaus school responded to changing needs, it was the first two Industrial Revolutions which were instrumental to its birth (Rosado-García, Kubus, Argüelles-Bustillo and García-García 2021, 2)¹¹, meaning that it is to be contextualised in the era of changing social and scientific paradigms ushered in by the Industrial Revolution, demonstrating society's will to find new solutions and its yearning for advancement. Since it was closed down in 1933, there have been several attempts to regenerate interest in the Bauhaus movement, with limited success. It was only in 2018 that a need to reassess social, technological and environmental conditions led to a co-creation discussion that contributed to the launching of the New European Bauhaus in 2021.

⁷ Astbury, Jon. 2018. "Hannes Meyer: the "unknown" second Bauhaus director." *Dezeen*, November 12, 2018. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.dezeen.com/2018/11/12/hannes-meyer-second-bauhaus-director/>.

⁸ Rosado-García, María Jesús, Renata Kubus, Ramón Argüelles-Bustillo, and María Jesús García-García. 2021. "A New European Bauhaus for a Culture of Transversality and Sustainability." *Sustainability* 13 no. 21 (October 27, 2021): 11844. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132111844>.

⁹ Droste, Magdalena. 2002. *Bauhaus. 1919–1933*. Berlin: Taschen.

¹⁰ White-Hancock, Lorraine. 2023. "Insights from bauhaus innovation for education and workplaces in a post-pandemic world." In *International Journal of Technology and Design Education* 2023;33(1): 261–279. doi: 10.1007/s10798-022-09729-2. Epub 2022 Mar 3. PMID: 35261486; PMCID: PMC8890986.

¹¹ Rosado-García, María Jesús, Renata Kubus, Ramón Argüelles-Bustillo, and María Jesús García-García. 2021. "A New European Bauhaus for a Culture of Transversality and Sustainability." *Sustainability* 13 no. 21 (October 27, 2021): 11844. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132111844>.

The New European Bauhaus initiative

The precursor of the New European Bauhaus is [the Davos Declaration](#)¹². On 21 and 22 January 2018, ministers of culture from EU Member States met in Davos, Switzerland, to discuss future policies regarding the contribution of urban heritage to enhancing cultural diversity and achieving a holistic approach to its development (Davos Declaration 2018)¹³. Conscious of a loss of quality in building and landscape settings across Europe, the meeting acknowledged a need to take action to ensure future social, economic, environmental and climatic developments in the light of the diminishing social cohesion, health, and well-being (Davos Declaration 2018)¹⁴.

Against this backdrop, the NEB initiative was announced by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in September 2020, as an extension of the European Green Deal, given its desire to connect the latter's principles with our living spaces. The Green Deal tackles issues such as building renovation, climate change, energy material, water use, life-cycle costs and health. In addition, the inclusion of social and engineering sustainability were further NEB turning points to be considered when designing sustainable living spaces (European Commission 2020, 19-20)¹⁵.

Based on the ever-increasing importance of putting in place EU policies and initiatives capable of adding a cultural and creative dimension to the European Green Deal by enhancing sustainable innovation, technological uptake, economic growth, inclusion and accessibility for all, on 15 September 2021 the European Commission adopted a Communication setting out the groundwork for the implementation of the NEB initiative (European Commission 2021).¹⁶ In this document the NEB is described as an initiative enhancing sustainable innovation and technological, economic and environmental transition via a participatory approach. By getting people from various professions and backgrounds involved, the goal is to create a movement based on tangible action. The first step designed to ensure this participatory approach was a six-month co-design phase

¹² Davos Declaration. 2018. "Towards a European vision of high-quality Baukultur." Conference of Ministers of Culture, Davos Switzerland, 20-22 January 2018. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://baukultur--production--storage.s3.amazonaws.com/baukultur/2022-06-09-075742--context-document-en.pdf>.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ European Commission. 2020. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *A Renovation Wave for Europe - Greening Our Buildings, Creative Jobs, Improving Lives*, COM(2020), 662 final, Brussels, 14.10.2020. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:0638aa1d-0f02-11eb-bc07-01aa75ed71a1.0003.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

¹⁶ European Commission. 2021. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, COM(2021) 573 final, Brussels, 15.9.2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM\(2021\)_573_EN_ACT.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM(2021)_573_EN_ACT.pdf).

culminating in a conference on the New European Bauhaus in April 2021. This shaped a new movement based on three inseparable core values (i.e., sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics) and three principles: a multilevel approach - from global to local place-based policies, a participatory social diversity engagement and integrated cross-disciplinary professions. The European Commission's policy is designed to boost innovative strategy, analysis of obstacles and priorities and evaluation of NEB deliverables via implementation of the NEB Lab community and innovative pilot project proposals (European Commission 2021)¹⁷. Citizen mobilisation is to generate new solutions through inclusive social growth, creativity and synergy innovations.

During the plenary session of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) on 27-29 April 2022, the CoR adopted the opinion on the NEB¹⁸. The importance of local and regional authorities' (LRAs) part in implementing NEB principles was underlined, with LRAs viewed as playing a pivotal role in NEB policy development, as well as promoting related environmentally friendly and socially fair policies. Their participation in the NEB is thus fundamental, as they must play a centre-stage role in the strategy, providing the place-based technical assistance and appropriate support and funding essential to making the NEB implementation transformation process tangible.

In this regard, the CoR reaffirmed the importance of implementing a multi-level and locally based approach best suited to tackling global challenges by carrying out transformative initiatives at the local level, where change is happening and matters to people.

Against this backdrop, this study aims to analyse the NEB state of play as regards the LRAs and its consequences for them. There is a particular focus on LRAs' immediate needs and identification of good practices, as well as any challenges and bottlenecks getting in the way of the implementation of the initiative, enabling recommendations to be made, unlocking the initiative's full potential and raising awareness. The study therefore critically assesses current EU action and programmes promoting the NEB and their accessibility for LRAs, as well as mapping ongoing and planned projects involving LRAs based on EU funding and programmes and providing foresight considerations regarding how best to implement the NEB at the local and regional level in a structured way.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ European Committee of the Regions. 2022. *Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, SEDEC-VII/025. Brussels, 27-29.04.2022. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA-EN.docx/content>.

This study's challenge is its investigation of the very recent developments which occurred after the launch of the NEB initiative in September 2021. It is based on three main methodological approaches: desk research and review of available local and regional level data; wide ranging consultation amongst LRAs and interviews with a limited number of LRAs already involved in the NEB to build a general framework regarding their current and possible future involvement in the NEB as well as NEB-related foresight considerations and better implementation at the local and regional level.

Through informed objective evidence, this study is designed to act as a support tool at all governmental levels (including the European institutions, Member States and the LRAs) in understanding how to make the NEB a success.

Part 1: The integration of the New European Bauhaus at the local and regional level: innovative tools, solutions and funding

The NEB co-design phase led the European Commission to better define the concept and priorities any NEB-related action needed to address to properly adhere to it, and how to make implementation feasible.

It was against this backdrop that four thematic axes were developed as part of overall guidance on the NEB implementation ([NEB website](#))¹⁹:

1. Reconnecting with nature: enhancing the awareness of, and willingness to address, climate change and reduce exposure to pollution;
2. Regaining a sense of belonging: connecting people, emphasising the role of cultural and social assets as key factors making places unique;
3. Prioritising the places and people that need it most: providing affordable and accessible solutions for all, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups and individuals;
4. Fostering long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem, tackling unsustainable use of resources and waste by investing in the circular economy.

By investing in these priorities, the NEB initiative is expected to contribute to achieving three key interconnected transformations:

¹⁹European Union, "New European Bauhaus". Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/delivery_en.

1. Transforming places on the ground: fostering local tangible transformation in the built environment according to the three core inseparable NEB values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics;
2. Transforming the enabling environment for innovation, integrating the three core inseparable NEB values in the development of new solutions and products and/or in the adaptation of local crafts and knowledge, as part of the EU investment in innovation;
3. Diffusing new meanings, collaborating with communities to build a learning space inspired by the three core inseparable NEB values.

To achieve this, in 2021 the European Commission mobilised a set of EU funding mechanisms with complementary aims reflecting the transdisciplinarity of the NEB. Several calls – dedicated or contributing to the NEB²⁰ – were therefore launched starting from 2021-2022, differentiated by the key transformation they seek to achieve. They are to be considered as part of a support framework so far designed by the European Commission to shift the NEB from the co-design to the delivery phase on the ground (European Commission 2021, 3)²¹.

Review of local and regional authority implementation of the New European Bauhaus via EU funds and programmes to date

As reported in the *New European Bauhaus Progress Report* (European Commission 2023)²², EUR 106.35 million was set aside for the delivery of the NEB in 2021 and 2022 through a set of dedicated calls. To enable the NEB to foster innovative and transdisciplinary projects making places more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful, the European Commission invested in Horizon Europe and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as the two main pillars best fitting its purpose. The Single Market Programme, the Digital Europe Programme and the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) also contributed to it. Further to this, other EU programmes (i.e., Creative Europe,

²⁰ i.e., Dedicated calls are designed to enable the EU to implement pilot projects delivering the NEB on the ground. As such, they have budgets specifically allocated to the NEB. By contrast, contributing calls are designed to promote the NEB, by including it as an element of context or priority and have no specific NEB budgetary allocation.

²¹ European Commission. 2021. Mobilising EU programmes. Annex to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, COM(2021) 573 final, Brussels, 15.9.2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-039%20-%20Annex%20to%20another%20act%20to%20be%20approved%20by%20the%20Commission%20%281%29%20%28EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

²² European Commission. 2023. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, COM(2023) 24 final, Brussels, 16.1.2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-003%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Commission%20%28EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

Erasmus+, and the European Solidarity Corps) were used, supplementing the NEB as an additional element of context or priority and allowing organisations willing to apply to connect their projects with the initiative.

The following sections provide an overview of the NEB projects funded under the EU NEB dedicated and contributing calls in 2021-2022, with a special focus on the extent to which LRAs have participated in their design and delivery process.

Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the key EU funding programme for research and innovation. With a budget of EUR 95.5 billion for the 2021-2027 period, it aims to tackle climate change, help to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and boost EU competitiveness and growth.

At the core of the programme is a participatory approach encouraging beneficiaries to join forces to enhance the EU's contribution to research and innovation for better policymaking and further development of the new solutions (e.g., knowledge, technologies) that are key to addressing global challenges.

On 30 November 2021, the Directorate-General on Research and Innovation (DG R/I) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission held a high-level workshop on “research and innovation for the New European Bauhaus”. Leading experts in many fields relevant to the NEB (e.g., architecture, design, energy, climate, built environment, etc.) were invited to join the discussion, which led to the identification of the key research and innovation needs the NEB was to respond to. The results of this session converged in the *Horizon Europe – New European Bauhaus Nexus Report* (European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation 2022)²³ which set out its guiding principles in line with current and future Horizon Europe objectives²⁴ and timeframes.

In response to the workshop inputs, 17 NEB calls were launched within the Horizon Europe Programme for the 2021-2022 period. The total budget allocated

²³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. 2022. *Horizon Europe – New European Bauhaus Nexus Report. Conclusions on the High-Level Workshopon “Research and Innovation for the New European Bauhaus”*, jointly organised by DG Research and Innovation and the Joint Research Centre. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9f9acd60-8aec-11ec-8c40-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

²⁴ i.e., Promoting open strategic autonomy; restoring Europe's ecosystems and biodiversity; making Europe the first digitally enabled circular, climate-neutral and sustainable economy; and creating a more resilient, inclusive and democratic European society.

to NEB dedicated calls²⁵ amounted to EUR 50.5 mln²⁶. Additional 9 NEB contributing calls were launched during the same period, with a total budget of EUR 123 mln²⁷ (European Commission 2023, 1)²⁸. One of these is currently awaiting results²⁹. Out of the 16 calls in which LRA participation was possible, a total of 65 projects have been funded. The average number of partners participating in the consortia as beneficiaries is 9 (5.9 for NEB dedicated calls).

The total amount of projects having at least 1 LRA in the consortium is 34, distributed for the NEB dedicated and contributing calls for proposals in the number of 21 and 13, respectively. The total budget allocated to projects funded under the NEB dedicated and contributing calls for proposals having at least 1 LRA in the consortium is EUR 101.93 mln. The average number of LRAs in these consortia is 1.85, while the median value is 1. There are 45 local authorities and 9 regional authorities participating. The identified LRAs have the following nationality (number of LRAs): Belgium (2); Bulgaria (1); Croatia (2); Czech Republic (1); Denmark (1); Estonia (1); Finland (1); France (4); Germany (3); Greece (3); Ireland (1); Italy (11); Latvia (2); Malta (2); the Netherlands (5); Portugal (6); Slovenia (1); Spain (7). The LRAs participating in the funded projects with the role of Coordinator are 4, while 50 are Partners.

²⁵ One of these was not for LRAs, but for start-ups (i.e. acceleration of the New European Bauhaus start-ups by the EIT).

²⁶ It is however important to specify that the total budget of the projects funded is EUR 40.85 mln.

²⁷ Note, however, that the total budget of the projects funded is EUR 106.54 mln.

²⁸ European Commission. 2023. *Annex to the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, COM(2023) 24 final, Brussels, 16.1.2023. ANNEX 1. Accessed July 17, 2023.

<https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-039%20-%20Annex%20to%20another%20act%20to%20be%20approved%20by%20the%20Commission%20%281%29%20%28EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

²⁹ i.e., Sustainable and resource-efficient solutions for an open, accessible, inclusive, resilient and low-emission cultural heritage: prevention, monitoring, management, maintenance, and renovation (Built4People) (HORIZON-CL5-2022-D4-02-03).

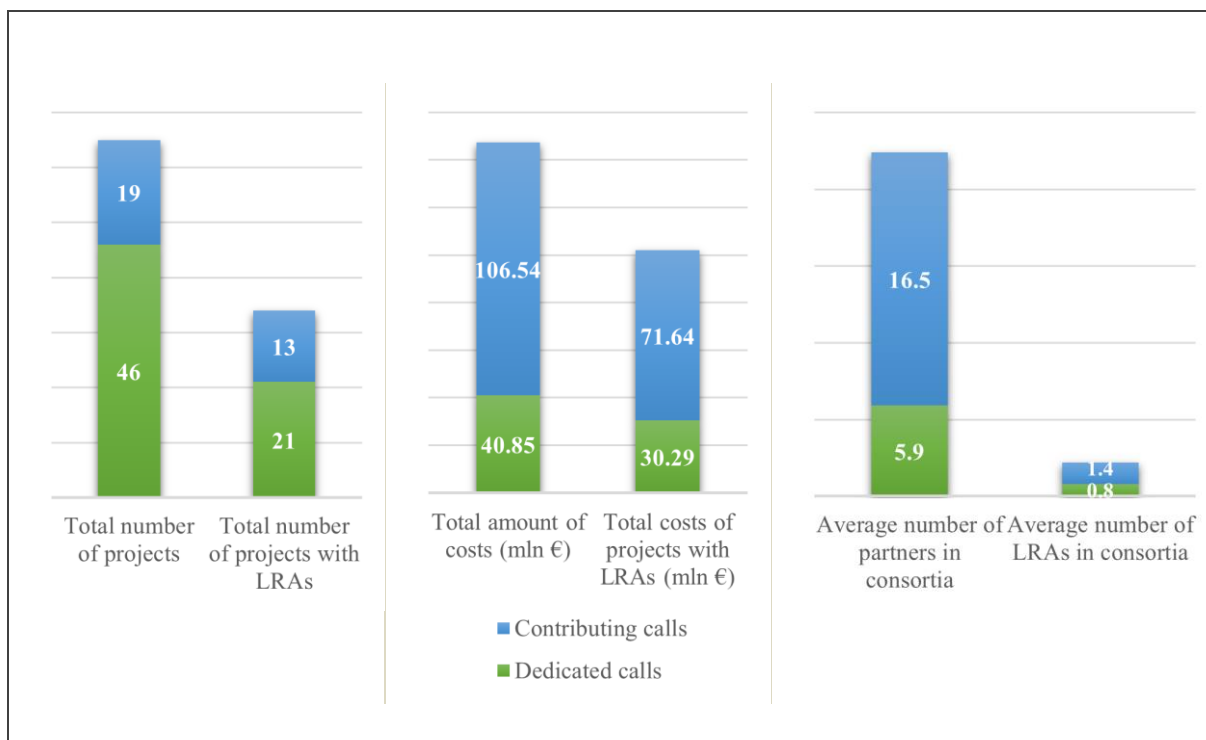


Figure 1 – Horizon Europe Programme and NEB projects

Out of the projects funded by the Horizon Europe Programme in 2021-2022, the six NEB lighthouse demonstrators are pilot projects to be implemented in 12 EU Member States³⁰, plus Norway and Turkey, to deliver tangible transformations helping the cities involved to adapt their settings according to the challenges they face. By addressing topics such as building renovation, circularity, urban and rural regeneration and cultural heritage, these will serve as examples of how the NEB can be delivered on the ground and be replicated in other cities and/or regions, for long-term local, and also global, benefits.

“Creating NEBourhoods Together. Munich-Neuperlach as test-bed for urban innovation landscapes” ([NEBourhoods](#))³¹ is one of these projects. Coordinated by the city of Munich (Germany), it aims to pave the way to making the borough of Neuperlach, in the southeast of the city, “NEB ready”. By deploying ten NEB actions on renewable energy, greater biodiversity, thermal health, and healthy food, the project is expected to make it future-proof by 2025 ([NEBhourhoods website](#))³². In 2016, the area was included in federal and state level urban development funding and since then EUR 1.28 mln in urban development funds

³⁰ i.e., BE, CZ, DE, DK, EL, HR, IT, LV, NL, PT, SE, SI.

³¹European Commission, “Creating NEBourhoods Together. Munich-Neuperlach as test-bed for urban innovation landscapes”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101080052/program/43108390/details>.

³² Creating NEBourhoods Together, “Creating NEBourhoods Together: designing beautiful, environmentally friendly and future-proof neighbourhoods together”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.nebourhoods.de/en/about>.

have been already allocated it (Munich 2022)³³. As Christian Bernreiter, Bavarian Minister of State for Housing, Construction and Transport, said after being notified of the project's success, “*We have been supporting Bavarian towns and communities in urban renewal for 50 years. The fact that our funding area has now been selected as a European flagship project makes it clear that we are setting the right priorities with urban development funding in Bavaria and are keeping a close eye on future issues*”³⁴. Prior to submitting the proposal, in 2020-2021, the municipality set up an integrated action plan with its citizens and stakeholders to identify the challenges needing to be addressed. This participatory and multi-level approach is part of Munich's commitment to becoming climate neutral and smart, as is confirmed by the fact that the city is one of the EU's 100 climate-neutral and intelligent cities by 2030 (European Union 2022, 2)³⁵.

The importance of this latter EU mission has been further highlighted by the NEB dedicated call “Collaborative local governance models to accelerate the emblematic transformation of urban environment and contribute to the New European Bauhaus initiative and the objectives of the European Green Deal” (HORIZON-MISS-2021-CIT-O1-02) for which Creating Actionable FuTures ([CRAFT](#))³⁶ was funded. Although there are no LRAs in the project consortium, a massive collaboration with the six NEB lighthouse demonstrators, other NEB and Cities Mission Communities and a heterogeneous set of interested stakeholders, including citizens, policymakers, the academia and artists, will deliver a *Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Guidance Package: NEB Edition* made up of at least 160 collaborative local governance models, tools, good practices and examples. At the core of the development process is the need to translate a city vision or strategy into concrete action plans by setting up working teams of experts and non-experts representing each city involved. In this regard, CRAFT will co-create and test new collaborative governance models for urban transformation in three sandbox cities that have already put in place relevant development strategies. By way of example, in 2021 the Municipality of Prague – one of the three cities piloting the initiative – adopted a 2030 Climate Plan to promote sustainability in power generation, heating and transport (Prague City Hall 2021)³⁷. In its *Circular 2030 Plan*, it mentioned the NEB as an initiative to be marshalled to deliver

³³ Munich. 2022. “Leuchtturmprojekte zum Neuen Europäischen Bauhaus stehen fest”. Last modified May 8, 2022. <https://www.stmb.bayern.de/med/pressemitteilungen/pressearchiv/2022/80/index.php>. Accessed June 24, 2023.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. 2022. *EU missions – 100 climate-neutral and smart cities*. Publications Office of the European Union. Accessed July 17, 2023 <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/191876>.

³⁶ European Commission, “Funding and Tenders opportunities”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101056946/program/43108390/details>.

³⁷ Prague City Hall. 2021. *Prague Climate Plan 2030 Prague on the road towards carbon neutrality*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://klima.praha.eu/data/Dokumenty/Dokumenty%202023/klimaplan_en_2301_18_online.pdf.

innovative pilot projects contributing to the circular economy (Prague 2022, 24)³⁸. Additional 60 reference cities will contribute to the implementation of the project by scaling up their neutral climate transitions on the basis of the three core inseparable NEB values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics.

European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to reduce disparities between EU regions, including by fostering sustainable development and addressing environmental challenges.

In the 2021-2027 period, the 27 EU Member States will be required to allocate at least 8% of their ERDF resources to sustainable urban development, while over 30% of ERDF resources must be dedicated to climate-related objectives (ERDF [website](#))³⁹. In addition to direct Cohesion Policy funding for NEB, the Partnership Agreements (PA) and programmes signed by all 27 EU Member States for the implementation of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Funds include specific references to the NEB at PA and programme level. As the [Ireland](#) and [France PAs](#), state, for instance, “*cohesion policy programmes will support investments that successfully combine the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusiveness of the New European Bauhaus initiative with a view to finding affordable, inclusive, sustainable and attractive solutions to climate challenges*”⁴⁰.

In this regard, the European Commission’s Commission for Cohesion and Reforms outlined the importance of cohesion policies ideally implemented through the NEB, to mainstream it in Member States’ socio-economic and territorial development strategies. At the regional level, Germany’s Saxony-Anhalt region will implement measures in line with the NEB initiative concept. As the ERDF and Just Transition Fund (JTF) for 2021-2027 specifies, the region will use the JTF to co-design sustainable and aesthetic spaces with local communities, leading to the implementation of identity-establishing projects inspired by the core inseparable NEB values⁴¹.

Against this backdrop, for the 2021-2022 period, two dedicated NEB calls were launched within the ERDF, with a total budget of EUR 67.5 mln. Out of this total amount, EUR 2.5 mln was allocated to 20 small and medium-sized municipalities

³⁸ Prague. 2022. *Circular Prague 2030. Prague Strategy for Transition to a Circular Economy*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://klima.praha.eu/data/Dokumenty/circular-prague-2030-eng.pdf>.

³⁹ European Commission, “European Regional Development Fund”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en.

⁴⁰ European Commission, “Partnership Agreements on EU funds 2021-2027”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/publications/partnership-agreements-eu-funds-2021-2027_en.

⁴¹ [Program of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Just Transition Fund 2021-2027, Saxony-Anhalt](#).

selected under the call *Technical Assistance for Public Authorities: Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives*, and EUR 65 mln to the 14 projects awarded by the first *European Urban Initiative* call.

The former call led to the 20 local authorities⁴² selected for funding receiving 75 days of in-kind support by multidisciplinary experts through a Technical Assistance Programme to turn their NEB ideas into tangible projects (Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives [webpage](#))⁴³. The knowledge and results achieved thanks to this support will be consolidated into an apprenticeship “toolbox” to be shared with other municipalities and provide them with further guidance on how to develop new NEB projects.



Figure 2 - World cloud of the 20 projects selected by the Technical assistance for Public Authorities: Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives call for proposals

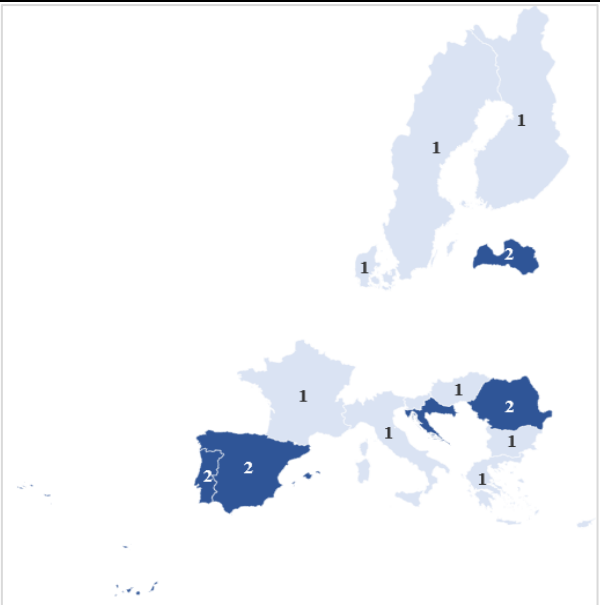


Figure 3 – EU Member States represented by the 20 local authorities funded by the Technical assistance for Public Authorities: Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives call for proposals

The latter call was designed to enhance urban innovation the ability of cities to base their urban development on the three core inseparable NEB values, to inspire other Cohesion Policy projects and transfer the knowledge and results achieved to other European cities. By addressing topics such as preserving and transforming cultural heritage, adapting buildings for use as affordable housing solutions, regenerating and renovating public spaces in accordance with

⁴² They represent the following EU member states: Bulgaria (2); Croatia (2); Cyprus (1); Denmark (1); Finland (1); France (1); Greece (1); Hungary (1); Italy (1); Latvia (2); Portugal (2); Romania (1); Slovenia (1); Spain (2); Sweden (1).

⁴³ Ramboll, “Support to the New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives, Honoring and supporting the inspiring place-based transformative projects done by local authorities”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://c.ramboll.com/local-support-new-european-bauhaus>.

circularity and carbon neutrality principles, the call generated great interest at EU level, with 99 applications from 21 EU Member States and 125 urban authorities involved (European Urban Initiative [website](#))⁴⁴. The 14 projects⁴⁵ selected for funding in June 2023 included 16 local authorities and 5 regional authorities representing the following EU Member States (number of LRAs): Belgium (1); Bulgaria (1); Croatia (3); Denmark (1); Estonia (1); Finland (2); France (4); Greece (1); Hungary (1); Italy (3); Portugal (1); Spain (2).

Time2Adapt is one of these 14 projects selected for funding. Coordinated by the Lille European Metropolis (France), it also involves the municipalities of Lille and Loos and the Hauts de France Regional Agency for Working Conditions Improvement (France), which will work together from September 2023 for a 3.5-year period. In view of the 2°C temperature increase recorded in the Lille European Metropolis from 1995 to 2017, the project will apply the core NEB principles by limiting land artificialisation and transforming public spaces to make them cooler, accessible to all and available for temporary “refreshing” artistic installations, building on existing urban settings. After an initial period of preparation, the project’s implementation will begin in Lille and Loos in March 2024. The results of the experiments will be made available to three other cities – to be selected – which will be offered the opportunity to test the model in the summer of 2026 for replication (Lille Metropole [website](#))⁴⁶. To ensure its success, the Lille European Metropolis set to work on the project concept in June 2022, on the strength of the Territorial Climate Air Energy Plan (CAET) it adopted in 2021 in which weather is the key to adapting territories to climate change (MEL 2021)⁴⁷. Although the NEB had not yet been launched at that time, it is worth noting that the plan’s objectives are coherent with those of the NEB.

Single Market Programme

The Single Market Programme aims to strengthen the single market and make it more balanced and fair, thus contributing to growth, competitiveness and employment. In the 2021-2027 period, it will be used to ensure EU recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by investing in adaptation and transition to a more digital and green economy.

⁴⁴European Urban Initiative, “Selected projects”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.urban-initiative.eu/calls-proposals/first-call-proposals-innovative-actions/selected-projects>.

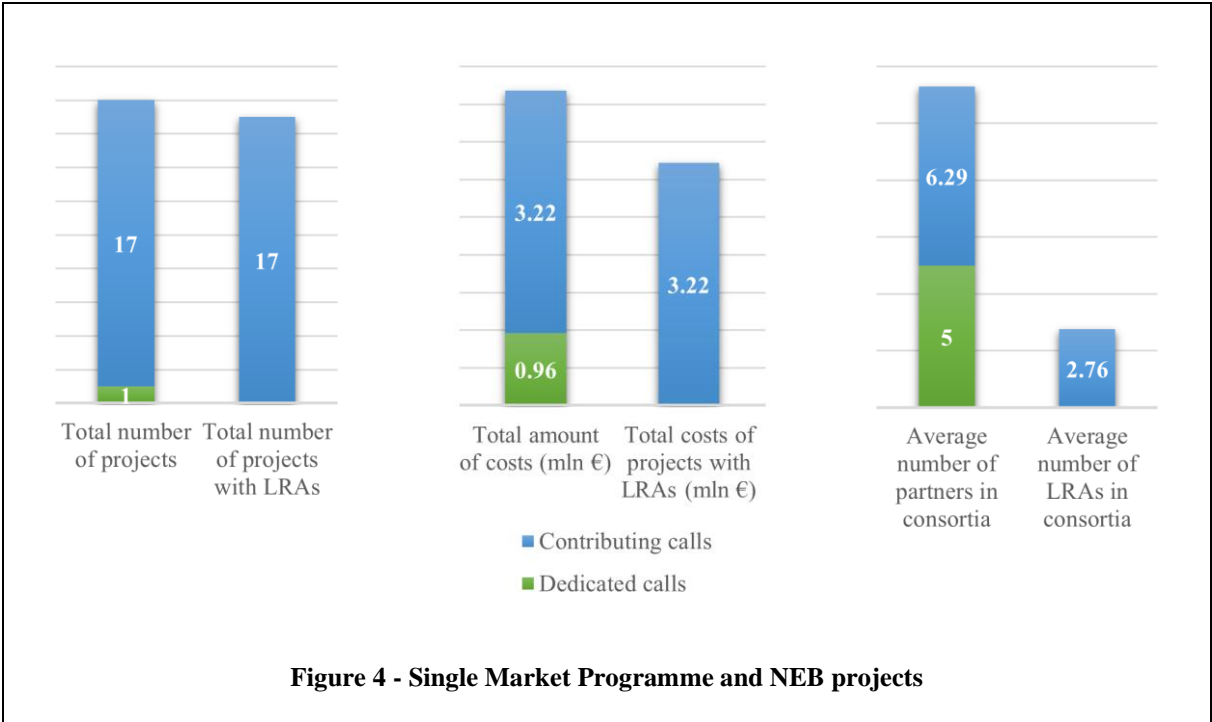
⁴⁵ These are all coordinated by local public authorities, as required by the call for proposals.

⁴⁶ Métropole Européenne De Lille. 2023. New European Bauhaus Prizes 2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.lillemetropole.fr/communiquede-presse/le-projet-time2adapt-de-la-mel-pour-plus-de-lieux-frais-ouverts-aux-habitants>.

⁴⁷ MEL. 2021. *Pour une MEL neutre en carbone, résiliente et solidaire. Plan climat air énergie territorial 2021-2026*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.lillemetropole.fr/sites/default/files/2021-09/Rapport%20PCAET%202021_0.pdf.

Three NEB calls were launched in the 2021-2022 period within the Single Market Programme, two of which were dedicated and one contributing. The total budget allocated to the NEB dedicated calls was EUR 2.2 mln⁴⁸. The total contributing call budget was EUR 4 mln. Of the two calls in which LRA participation was possible, a total of 18 projects coherent with the NEB objectives were funded⁴⁹. The average number of partners participating in the consortia as beneficiaries is 6.2 (5 for the NEB dedicated call).

A total of 17 of the contributing call projects have at least one LRA in the consortium with a total budget of EUR 3.22 mln. The average number of LRAs in these consortia is 2.76, while the median value is 3. 40 local authorities and 6 regional authorities are taking part. The LRAs identified are in the following countries (number of LRAs): Austria (1); Bulgaria (1); Croatia (4); Denmark (1); Finland (1); France (2); Germany (1); Greece (3); Hungary (2); Ireland (1); Italy (11); Malta (1); Netherlands (1); Poland (2); Portugal (1); Romania (1); Slovakia (1); Slovenia (2); Spain (8); Sweden (1). 4 LRAs are participating in the funded projects as Coordinators, while 42 are Partners.



⁴⁸ It is, however, important to specify that EUR 1 mln was allocated to the WORTH II Partnership call, which did not include LRAs.

⁴⁹ Whilst 19 projects were funded by the contributing call, these did not all include the NEB in their context or amongst their priorities.

Of the projects funded by the Single Market Programme in 2021-2022, “Social Economy Actors for New European Bauhaus” ([SEA4NEB](#))⁵⁰ aims to apply the core inseparable NEB values to social economy models. Starting in 2022, the project responds to one of the four priorities included in the [call](#)⁵¹, with applicants being asked to exchange knowledge and practices on the social economy’s contribution to the NEB by regenerating abandoned spaces, with an inclusive, green and local community development approach. Against this backdrop, the project has implemented four local experiences in Croatia, Italy, Latvia and Poland, developing local social economy action plans and recommendations for replication. One of the four local experiences encompassed by the project is the Polish “The Living Factory Company - Fabryka Pełna Życia”, a 4-hectare area of post-industrial buildings in the centre of Dąbrowa Górnicza, which will be transformed from an industrial city into a NEB city. A urban regeneration process was set in motion in 2017 via the Living Factory – Revitalisation of the Downtown Area of Dąbrowa Górnicza project (SEA4NEB [website](#))⁵². Through SEA4NEB, the intervention will involve local residents in a co-creation process aiming to transform the area into an environmentally friendly space open to everyone and foster cultural development.

Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme is a new EU funding programme designed to enhance digital uptake by businesses, citizens and public administrations.

For the period 2021-2022, 9 NEB calls were launched within the Digital Europe Programme, one of which was dedicated and eight contributing. The total budget allocated to the NEB dedicated call was EUR 1 mln whilst the total contributing calls budget was EUR 325.9 mln. One of these is currently awaiting results⁵³. Out of the 7 calls in which LRA participation was possible, 34 projects coherent with the NEB objectives were funded⁵⁴. The average number of partners participating in the consortia as beneficiaries is 10.7 (5 for the NEB dedicated call).

8 contributing call projects had at least one LRA in their consortia with a total budget of more than EUR 32 mln. A total of 13 LRAs are taking part while the

⁵⁰European Commission, “Social Economy Actors for New European Bauhaus”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101074116/program/43252476/details>.

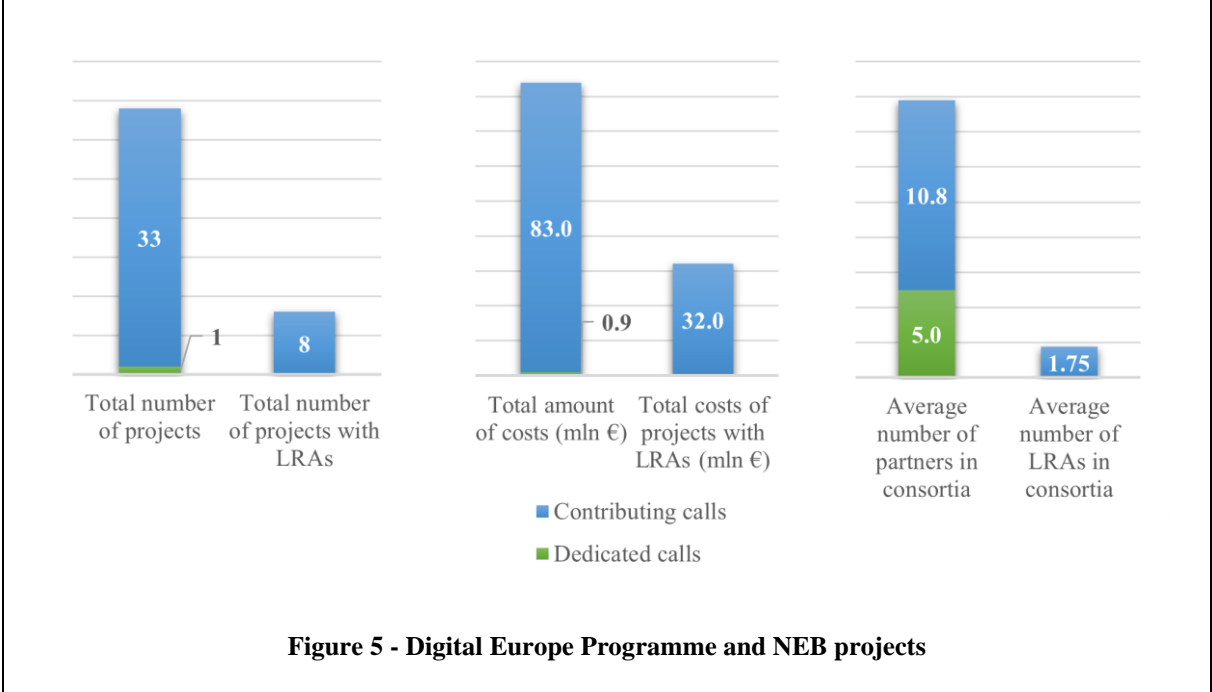
⁵¹Single Market Programme, “Call for proposals. Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient (SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE). Accessed July 17, 2023. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/smp/wp-call/2021/call-fiche_smp-cosme-2021-resilience_en.pdf.

⁵² SEA4NEB, “Local experiences: the living factory”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://sea4neb.eu/local-experiences/the-living-factory-company/>.

⁵³ i.e., Data space for smart communities (deployment) (DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-03-DS-SMART).

⁵⁴ Although the contributing call funded 143 projects implemented in any of the 27 EU Member States, not all included the NEB in their context or as priority to address.

average number of LRAs in the consortia is 1.75. 6 regional authorities and 7 local authorities are involved. LRA nationalities are as follows (number of LRAs): Belgium (2); Denmark (1); Finland (1); Greece (1); Slovenia (2); Spain (3); the Netherlands (3). There is one LRA participating as Coordinator, while the other 12 are involved as Partners.



LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme aims to foster the NEB’s ability to make the Green Deal cultural, human-centred and positive, through the development of more tangible initiatives. By targeting relevant environmental challenges (e.g., nature and biodiversity, environment and resource efficiency, etc.), it will contribute to designing future ways of living which combine environment, science, art and culture.

For the 2021-2022 period, two NEB calls were launched within the LIFE Programme, one of which was dedicated and one contributing. In addition to this, a budget of EUR 0.15 mln was allocated to organising the [LIFE in the New European Bauhaus](https://bauhaus-life-event.b2match.io/)⁵⁵ event, a 3-day conference held in November 2021 to showcase relevant NEB-related projects funded through LIFE and Horizon 2020 programmes working on various aspects of the transformation required for carbon-neutrality in 2050 (e.g., ecosystem preservation and nature-based solutions, social behavioural change, technological solutions for the circular economy). 60 local authorities and 46 regional authorities registered for the event.

⁵⁵ LIFE, “LIFE in the New European Bauhaus”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://bauhaus-life-event.b2match.io/>.

The budget allocated to the NEB dedicated call was EUR 13 mln, but the applications did not pass evaluation (European Commission 2023, 9)⁵⁶. The total contributing call budget was EUR 92.32 mln but only one of the 32 projects funded⁵⁷ is coherent with the NEB objectives.

With a total budget of EUR 2.74 mln, “Beautiful, sustainable, together: validation of the New European Bauhaus approach for the reimagination of public buildings as boosting projects for the transformation of their neighbourhoods” ([LIFE22-ENV-ES-LIFEBauhausingEurope](#))⁵⁸ involves five local authorities representing Croatia, Hungary, Latvia and Spain. It aims to pave the way for a transformation process to be applied to five different European neighbourhoods to demonstrate that the NEB approach can generate more sustainable, circular and beautiful places co-governed by the people living in them. The project has just signed the Grant Agreement, on which no additional information is currently available.

Creative Europe Programme

The Creative Europe Programme supports the recovery of the cultural and creative sectors for a more inclusive, digital and environmentally sustainable society. In line with the NEB, the programme’s ultimate aim is to increase European creativity by fostering lifecycle thinking and promoting a more inclusive and sustainable living environment and quality of life including all stakeholders active in the cultural field. For the 2021-2022 period, three NEB contributing calls were launched within the Creative Europe Programme, only one of which also covered LRAs. The total contributing call budget was EUR 68.61 mln. 44 of the 167 projects funded⁵⁹ were coherent with the NEB objectives. An average of 15 partners are participating in the consortia as beneficiaries.

7 projects have at least one LRA in their consortia with a total budget of EUR 22.72 mln. A total of 10 local public authorities are taking part while the average number of LRAs in the consortia is 0.23. The LRAs are from the following countries (number of LRAs): Denmark (2); France (2); Germany (1); Greece (1);

⁵⁶ European Commission. 2023. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, COM(2023) 24 final, Brussels, 16.1.2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-003%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Commission%20%28EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

⁵⁷ Last update: June 25, 2023.

⁵⁸ European Commission, “Beautiful, sustainable, together: validation of the New European Bauhaus approach for the reimagination of public buildings as boosting projects for the transformation of their neighbourhoods”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101113886/program/43252405/details>.

⁵⁹ Last update: June 25, 2023.

Portugal (2); Spain (1); Sweden (1). 9 LRAs are participating as Partners and one as Coordinator.

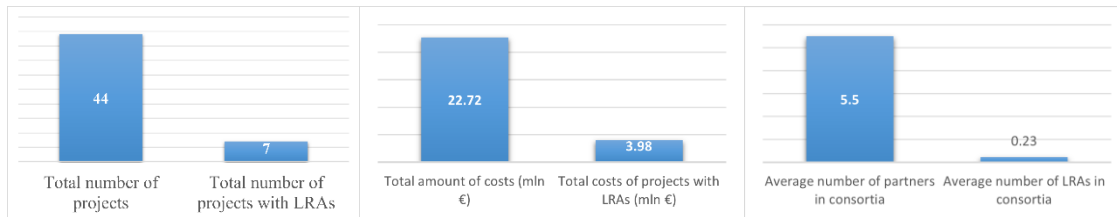


Figure 6 – Creative Europe Programme and NEB projects

“City memories: visualizing change in three European capitals” ([SSACREA2022](#))⁶⁰ is one of the Creative Europe projects funded in 2022. Coordinated by the municipality of Stockholm (Sweden) with the involvement of the municipality of Copenhagen (Denmark), it aims to promote the ability of European cultural heritage to build a sustainable and inclusive future, in line with NEB and UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities). To achieve this, professionals in urban history, architecture and technology will co-create new ways of innovatively interpreting and presenting architectural building drawings, to make them more understandable, available and enjoyable for all.

Erasmus+ Programme

The Erasmus+ Programme is the EU funding programme for education, training, youth and sports in Europe. It contributes to the NEB as its four overall priorities include it, under its Green label. Through a bottom-up approach involving, e.g., vocational education training centres, higher education centres, LRAs and the broader socio-economic environment, the Programme can contribute to implementing the NEB by investing in a set of relevant actions (e.g., training, education) to design sustainable future ways of living capable of improving how people live together.

For the 2021-2022 period, six NEB calls were launched within the Erasmus+ Programme, four of which were dedicated and two contributing. Of the four dedicated calls, only one was also open to LRAs, with a total budget of EUR 8 mln. The total budget for the two contributing calls was EUR 110 mln. Out of the six calls in which LRA participation was possible, a total of 53 projects was funded⁶¹. The average number of partners participating in the consortia as beneficiaries is 11.2 (6.4 for the NEB dedicated call).

⁶⁰ European Commission, “City memories: visualizing change in three European capitals”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/996559183/project/101099955/program/43251814/details>.

⁶¹ Last update: June 25, 2023.

A total of 11 projects had at least one LRA in their consortia, 2 and 9 respectively for NEB dedicated and contributing calls for proposals. A total budget of EUR 30.2 mln was allocated to projects funded under the NEB dedicated and contributing calls for proposals with at least one LRA in their consortia. The total number of LRAs is 15, while the average number of LRAs in these consortia is 1.45. 5 regional authorities and 10 local authorities are taking part. The nationality of the LRAs is as follows (number of LRAs): Bulgaria (1); Denmark (2); Estonia (1); Finland (2); Italy (2); Spain (6); Sweden (1). 14 LRAs are participating as Partners while 1 is a Coordinator.

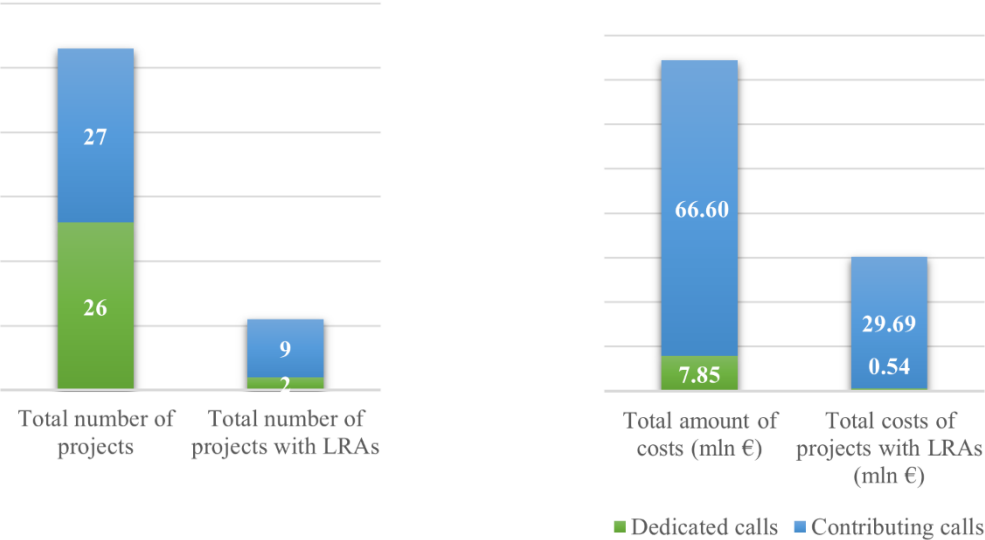


Figure 7 – Erasmus+ Programme and NEB projects

European Solidarity Corps Programme

The European Solidarity Corps is the EU funding programme investing in projects for the sake of communities and society as a whole. In 2021-2022, it incorporated the NEB into its horizontal environmental sustainability and climate goal priorities.

With no pre-established budget allocated to the NEB, in 2021-2022 it funded 2324 projects⁶² run by any of the 27 EU Member States, out of which 365 projects have been identified as relevant to the NEB⁶³. The funded projects identified have a

⁶²European Union, “European Solidarity Corps”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/projects/search?page=1&sort=&domain=esc2021&view=list&map=false&callYear=2022&coordinatorCountry=spain_ES--poland_PL--germany_DE--italy_IT--romania_RO--greece_EL--france_FR--croatia_HR--hungary_HU--belgium_BE--portugal_PT--lithuania_LT--bulgaria_BG--slovenia_SI--czechia_CZ--malta_MT--ireland_IE--latvia_LV--finland_FI--slovakia_SK--estonia_EE--netherlands_NL--cyprus_CY--austria_AT--sweden_SE--denmark_DK--luxembourg_LU.

⁶³ Filtering was performed for the purposes of understanding how many of these projects could be considered relevant to the three core NEB values with the following topics considered relevant for this purpose:

total budget of more than EUR 2.5 mln⁶⁴. The consortia require one partner per project⁶⁵. Three of the total amount of projects referred to above have three local authorities, from Italy (1) and Spain (2).

How the current EU funds and programmes are perceived by the local and regional authorities and how their accessibility and user friendliness can be improved

In view of this study's aims, an online consultation was made available in English, French, Italian and Spanish from 15 March 2023 to 12 April 2023 within its framework, to collect primary information on LRAs' perceptions of the NEB and their project implementation needs.

The consultation encompassed LRAs operating across the EU in any of the following fields:

- heritage, promotion of a territory and relations with universities;
- urban planning, public space and sustainability;
- education, social development and culture;
- European affairs;
- digitisation, innovation and smart cities.

The consultation received a total of 138 contributions from all 27 EU Member States⁶⁶, of which 83 (60%) were 'Local public authorities', 41 (30%) 'Regional public authorities' and 14 (10%) 'Other' entities (including, but not limited to, non-governmental institutions of public utility, regional innovation centres with LRAs amongst their shareholders, public LRA corporations, LRA association cooperation agencies).

Environment And Climate Change, Cultural Heritage/European Year Of Cultural Heritage, Green Transport And Mobility, Green Skills, Inter-Regional Cooperation.

⁶⁴ The total budget is calculated considering an estimated average EU contribution of EUR 7000 per project, since the funding rules contribute EUR 500 per month on the basis of a unit cost for the coaching costs.

⁶⁵ [Applicants](#) are groups of young people who will implement the project, with one person acting as legal representative and taking responsibility for submitting the application. Any public or private body legally established in an EU Member State or third country associated with the programme can apply on behalf of the group implementing the project.

⁶⁶ i.e., AT (3), BE (3), BG (4), CY (2), CZ (3), DE (2), DK (4), EE (1), EL (12), ES (14), FI (9), FR (2), HR (5), HU (1), IE (5), IT (14), LT (3), LU (2), LV (8), MT (5), NL (9), PL (6), PT (9), RO (2), SK (2), SI (2), SE (6).

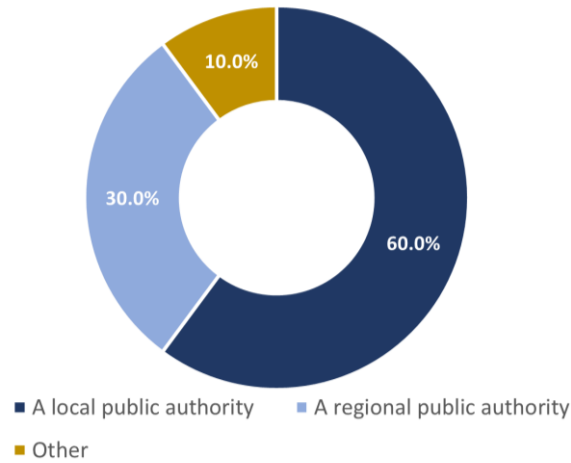


Figure 8 - Type of respondents participating in the NEB survey

The charts and graphs developed on the basis of the study’s consultation are based on the replies received from the sample of respondents referred to above.

The survey was inspired by our interest in finding out how many respondents were already involved in the NEB and how many of them would be interested in participating in it in the future. The results collected (Figure 9) show that most local public authorities (44.6%) are not currently participating in the NEB but would be willing to do so. However, 28.9% of these have applied for a NEB project to be funded and are currently involved in its delivery phase. A similar response in terms of interest in participating in the initiative was shown by regional public authorities (61%) and other entities (50%). It is also worth underlining that 35.7% of other entities had submitted a NEB project which was rejected.

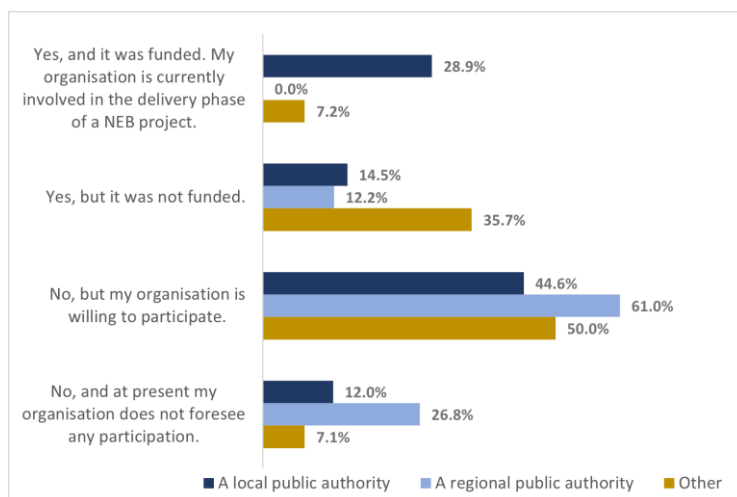


Figure 9 - Has your organisation already participated in the preparation of a NEB project?

All respondents - except those providing negative feedback about their interest in being involved in the NEB, both present and future -⁶⁷ were then asked to express their views on each of the funding instruments made available by the EU to support the NEB implementation (i.e., Horizon Europe, ERDF, LIFE, the Single Market Programme, Digital Europe, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps).

As the following figures show (Figures 10-17), Horizon Europe and ERDF are the main EU funding programmes used and/or considered for the future by respondents for NEB implementation purposes, confirming the EU’s decision to allocate most of its NEB funding budget through these two funding instruments.

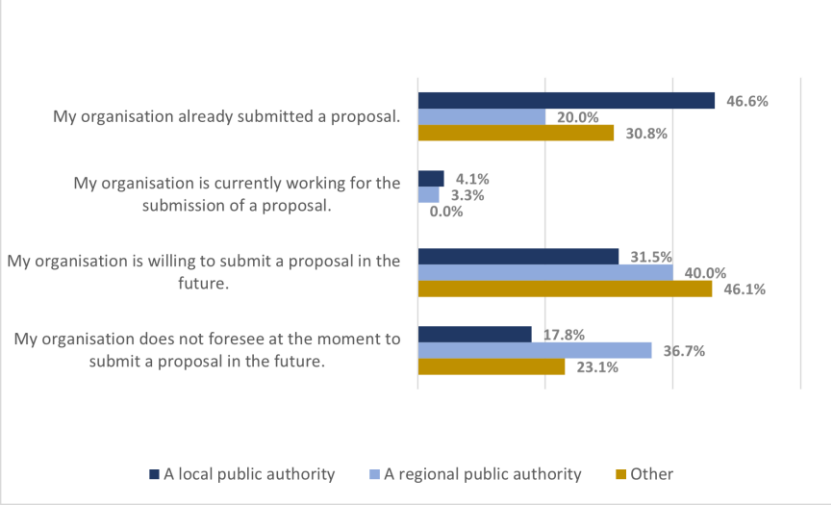


Figure 10 - Which is your organisation’s standpoint about Horizon Europe supporting the NEB initiative?

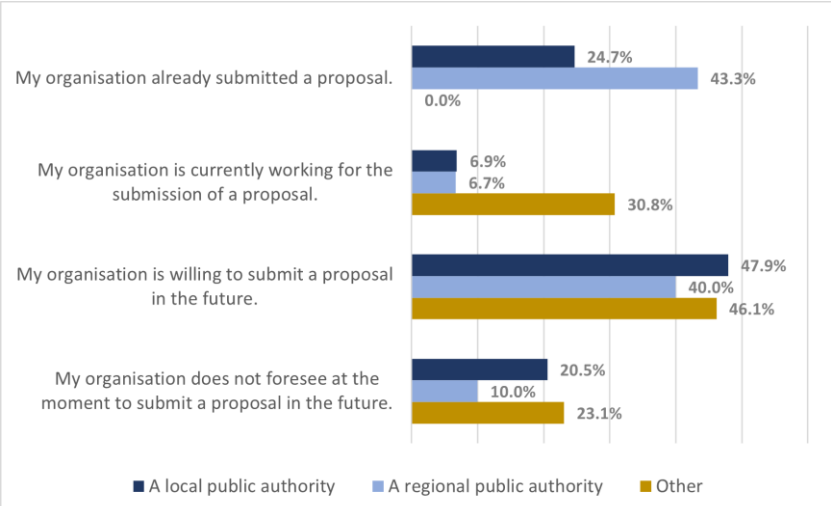


Figure 11 - Which is your organisation’s standpoint about the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supporting the NEB initiative?

⁶⁷ i.e., 116 of 138 respondents (of which 73 were local public authorities, 30 regional public authorities and 13 other entities).

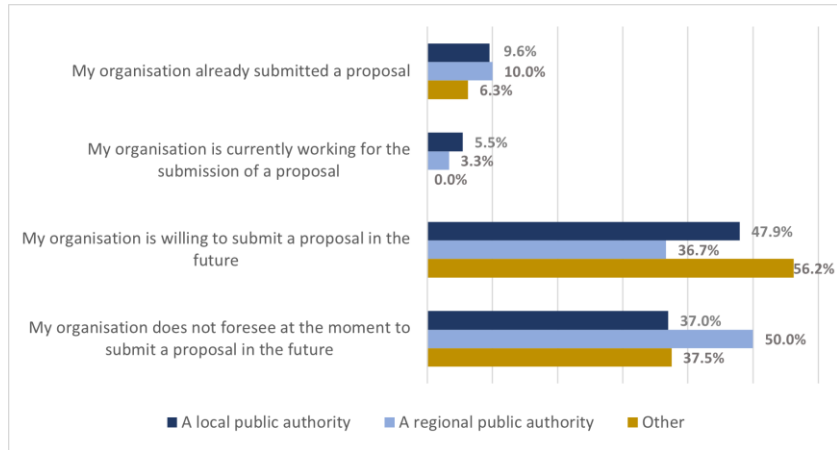


Figure 12 - Which is your organisation’s standpoint about the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) supporting the NEB initiative?

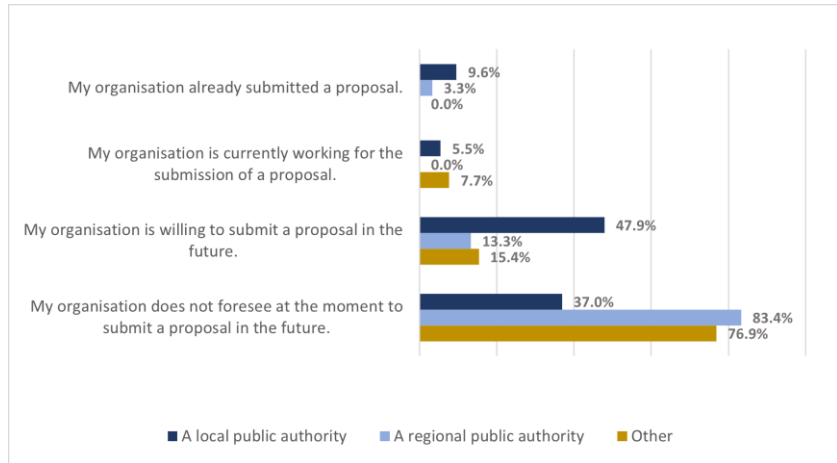


Figure 13 - Which is your organisation’s standpoint about the Single Market Programme supporting the NEB initiative?

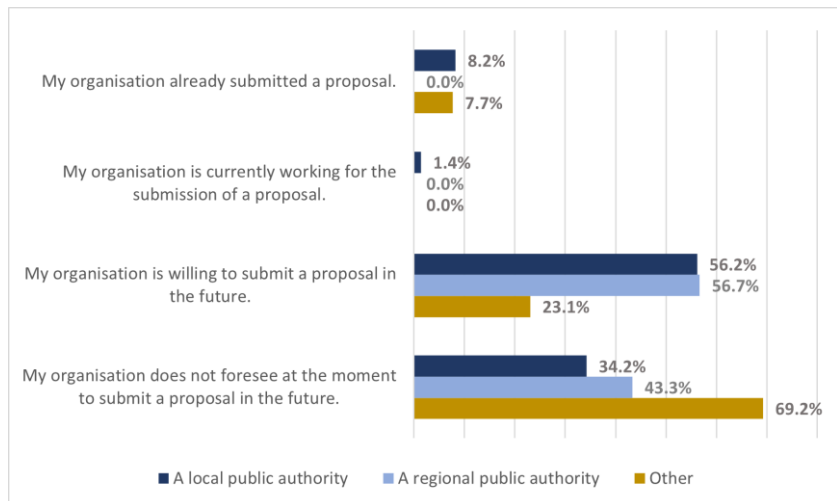


Figure 14 - Which is your organisation’s standpoint about Digital Europe supporting the NEB initiative?

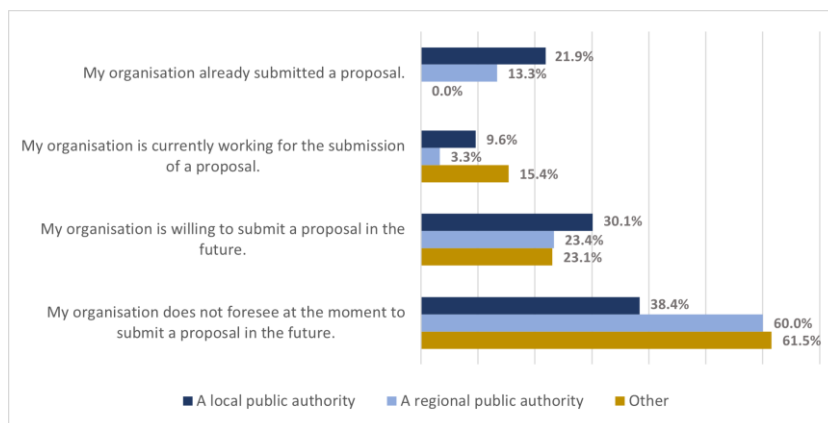


Figure 15 - Which is your organisation's standpoint about the Erasmus+ Programme supporting the NEB initiative?

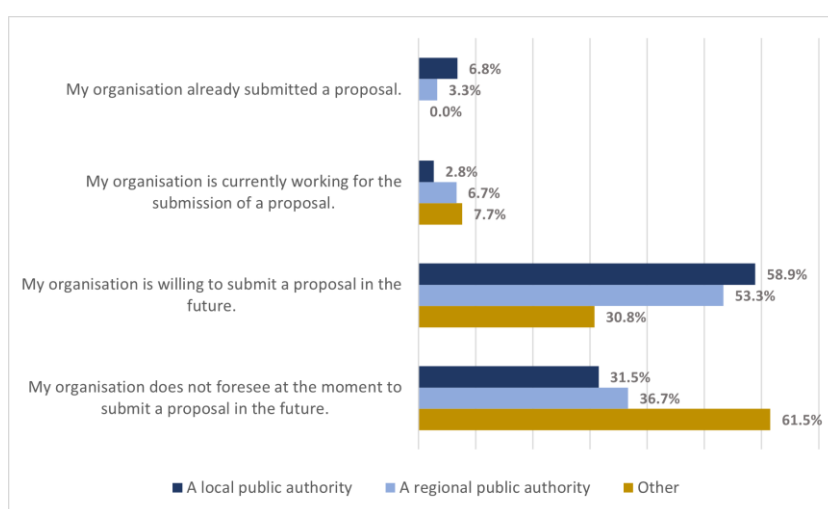


Figure 16 - Which is your organisation's standpoint about Creative Europe supporting the NEB initiative?

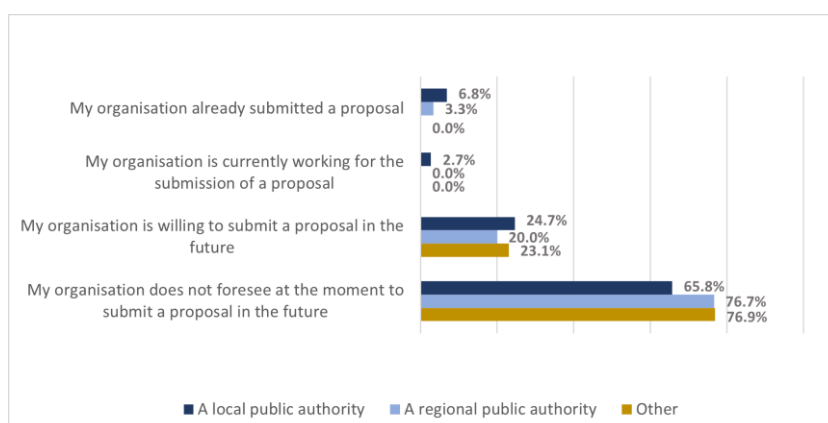


Figure 17 - Which is your organisation's standpoint about the European Solidarity Corps supporting the NEB initiative?

After relevant feedback about respondents' attitudes to date regarding EU funding programmes made available by the European Commission to deliver the NEB had been collected, they were asked to rate their interest in applying for any of these as a response to immediate and short-term needs. The four thematic axes through which the NEB is expected to be implemented were used as reference points with

which to rate LRAs' needs. The response to this was quite homogeneous - ranging from 3.83 to 4.21 out of 5 - from all types of respondents with reference to the need to reconnect with nature, regain a sense of belonging and foster long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem. NEB's mission to prioritise places and people needing them the most was rated rather low by regional public authorities answering the question (2.43 out of 5).

Overall the feedback provided by respondents confirms that the NEB ambition to make places more sustainable and inclusive accords with their local and regional priorities.

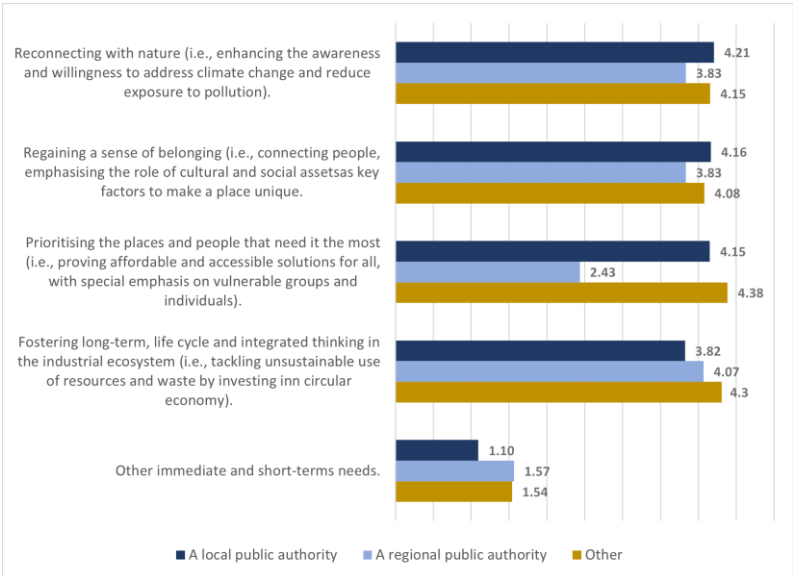


Figure 18 - According to the following immediate and short-term needs, to what extent is your organisation interested in applying for a NEB initiative to deal with the following? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Low interest] to 5 [Very high interest]. (Average values)

Respondents were then asked for their opinion on the main reasons to apply for a NEB initiative in relation to the objectives of their local and regional development strategies. These reasons were identified on the basis of the New European Bauhaus Compass, a methodological document made available in November 2022 by the NEB at EU level, to provide decision- and project-makers willing to join the NEB with a guidance framework helping them to assess how they can contribute to the initiative's implementation (New European Bauhaus 2022)⁶⁸. The Compass aims to lay the foundations with which to design an assessment tool expanding the three core inseparable NEB values and its three principles, to holistically evaluate how NEB-related projects can make an impact in line with the EU's mission. By exemplifying what sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics mean through a set of good practices, it poses tailored questions to decision- and

⁶⁸ New European Bauhaus. 2022. *New European Bauhaus Compass. A guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities.* Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/document/download/405245f4-6859-4090-b145-1db88f91596d_en?filename=NEB_Compas_V_4.pdf.

project-makers to evaluate whether and how they contribute to the implementation of the NEB. By May 2024, the NEB expects to make a final manual and assessment tool available for use in implementing a NEB Label, as one of the tools suggested by the CoR⁶⁹ to recognise concrete initiatives as relevant to the NEB and implement them on the ground.

The results gathered show that local public organisations highlighted the alignment between NEB's aesthetics value and their territorial development strategies to re-activate places' cultural, social and natural qualities in public life (69.9%), as well as to integrate new cultural and social values in places by enabling their creation and collective re-invention (56.2%) and connect different places and people by giving citizens from different contexts a sense of belonging (54.8%). Regional public authorities mostly agreed with NEB's sustainability value, pointing out the need to avoid and reduce environmental impacts and foster durability, adaptability and recyclability of materials (80%) and enhance circular processes aiming for zero pollution (66.7%). Other entities mostly expressed their alignment with both the aesthetics and inclusion values of the NEB, stressing the need to make places inclusive for all, transforming the way we live together (84.6%), integrating new cultural and social values into places (69.2%) and consolidating equal relationships between users and/or communities (61.5%), as the following figure shows (Figure 19).

⁶⁹ European Committee of the Regions. 2022. *Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, SEDEC-VII/025. Brussels, 27-29.04.2022. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA-EN.docx/content>.

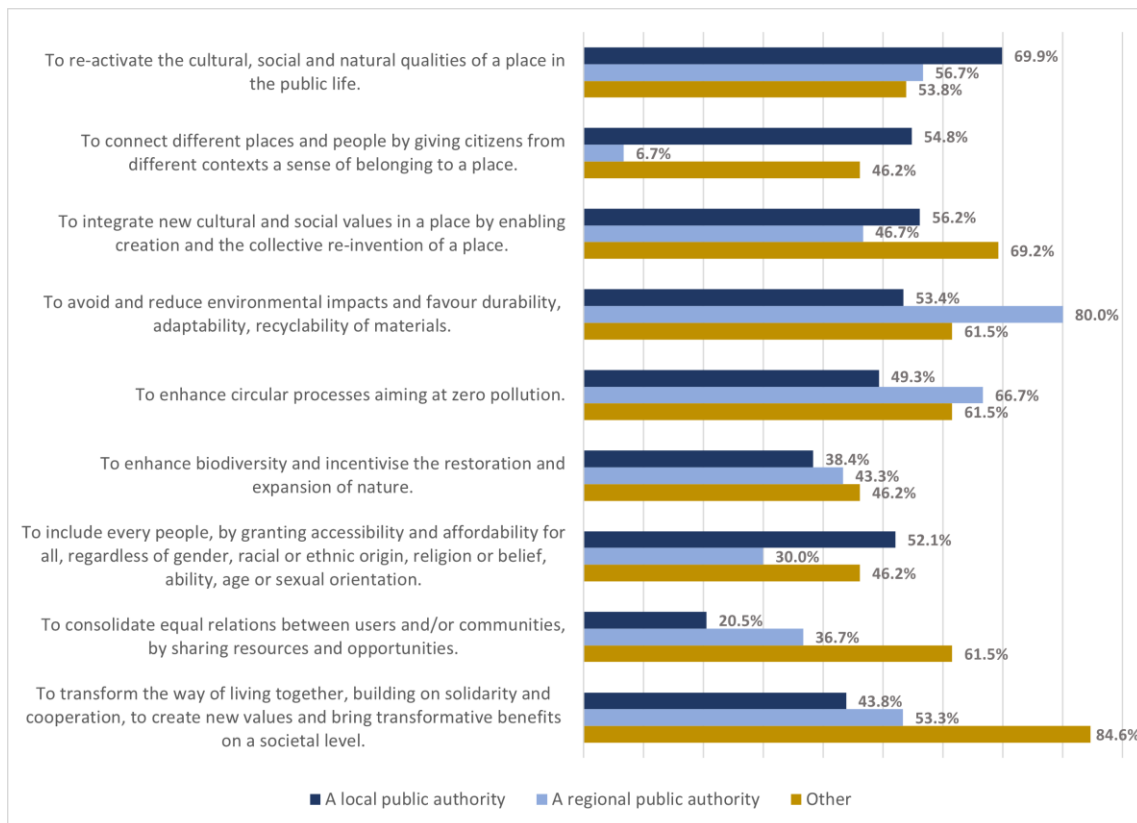


Figure 19 - In your opinion/experience, what are the main reasons behind the decision to apply for a NEB initiative that best match with the objectives of your regional and/or local development strategy?

All the answers provide insights into how LRAs are trying to align their policies with NEB values, expressing which practices they see as best able to deliver the NEB on the ground, in line with their strategies.

At present, several LRAs have integrated the NEB into their governance structures, at least theoretically speaking.

The municipality of Tartu (Estonia) referred to the NEB in its Energy and Climate Action Plan (Tartu 2021, 30)⁷⁰, including it amongst the EU initiatives and partnerships of use in fostering cooperation in research and development with universities, developing green and smart entrepreneurship and improving overall living conditions in the city.

In its Urban Agenda 2030 action plan (Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza 2022, 125),⁷¹ the municipality of Zaragoza (Spain) mentioned the NEB as part of its general action framework in the city, to further invest in renovating public buildings to make them available to all whilst supporting the city’s decarbonisation process.

⁷⁰ Tartu. 2021. *Tartu Energy 2030. Tartu City Energy and Climate Action Plan*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.tartu.ee/sites/default/files/uploads/Linnavarad/SECAP/TartuEnergy2030.pdf>.

⁷¹ Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza. 2022. *Agenda Urbana Zaragoza 2030. Plan de acción*. Accessed July 17, 2023. http://www.zaragoza.es/contenidos/agenda-urbana/Plan-AccionAUZ2030digital_Edit.pdf.

23 Swedish cities (e.g., Umeå, Växjö) and five government agencies have adhered to the Climate City Contract 2030⁷², a long-term commitment aiming to enable their transition to net zero emissions by 2030. Although each city is free to design its own political objectives, they have adopted an integrated local approach in which holistic targets such as climate neutrality, gender equality and social sustainability align with NEB's EU level goals. In this regard, as several LRAs participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study pointed out, NEB solutions and methods in place-based scenarios need to be tested before cities' strategies and action programmes can be aligned with them.

As regards incorporating the NEB into their development strategies, some cities have also declared themselves fully committed to applying the initiative on a larger scale.

The municipality of Valmiera (Latvia), for instance, shaped its candidacy for European Capital of Culture 2027 (Valmiera 2023)⁷³ around its ambition to set up technology residencies and reinvent public spaces as cultural hubs for people to use in the spirit of the NEB.

As European Green Capital 2023, the city of Tallinn (Estonia) has implemented a Grey to Green: Increasing Climate Resilience through Innovation programme (Tallinn European Green Capital 2023, 12)⁷⁴ in which the NEB is cited in the EU policy framework committing it to carbon neutrality.

The adherence of the NEB to LRAs' governance structure is further confirmed by the fact that respondents participating in the study's consultation view the NEB as an important enabler for environmental, social, cultural and aesthetic gains in their territories. As Figure 20 below shows, local public authorities pointed out NEB's contribution to enhancing their ability to involve citizens in co-development place-based actions responding to local needs (80.8%). The NEB was also seen by them as a way of implementing place-based actions contributing to the New European Green Deal at local and regional levels (61.6%) and to better integrating the territory's natural and cultural elements while advocating for beauty (60.3%). Further to this, regional public authorities pointed out the higher institutional commitment for place-based actions at territorial level which the

⁷² By way of example, see Umeå Kommun. 2021. *Climate City Contract 2030*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd54ca29c9179411df12b85/t/61bccd099f3386157f9bdbbc/1639763210842/Climate_City_Contract_2030_ENG_Umea.pdf and Växjö Kommun. 2021. *Climate City Contract 2030*. Accessed July 17, 2023.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dd54ca29c9179411df12b85/t/61bccd136e0662125cf68866/1639763221382/Climate_City_Contract_2030_ENG_Vaxjo.pdf.

⁷³ Valmiera. 2023. *Dynamic city. European Capital of Culture | Candidate City*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.valmierasnovads.lv/content/uploads/2023/03/ECOC_Valmiera_ENG.pdf.

⁷⁴ Tallinn European Green Capital. 2023. *Action & Communication Plan*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://greentallinn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ActionCommunication-plan_EC.pdf.

NEB can contribute to enhancing through its delivery (66.7%). They also highlighted the fact that participation in the NEB can improve cross-border and international cooperation (63.3%). Other entities mainly position themselves between the other two categories, pointing out the environmental (84.6%) and social (76.9%) gains the NEB can contribute to achieving, but also its aesthetic value (53.8%) and increased cross-border and international co-operation (53.8%).

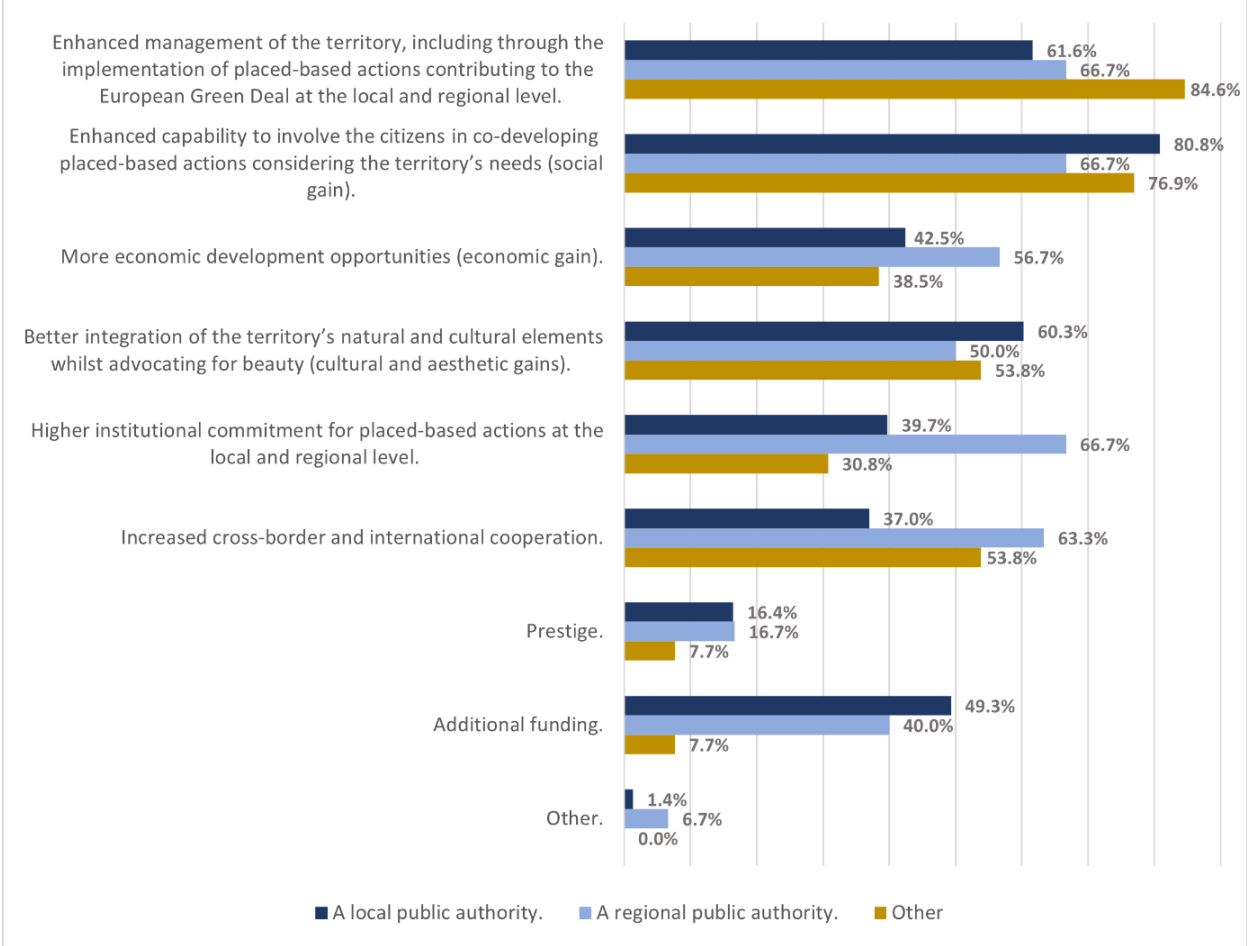


Figure 20 - In your opinion/experience, what are the potential benefits for your organisation in taking part in the NEB initiative?

Nevertheless, LRAs cite relevant barriers making them hesitant to apply for an EU call for proposals contributing to the NEB. As Figure 21 below shows, these are mainly related to a lack of human resources with which to draw up a NEB proposal, as well as a lack of the in-house expertise needed to build a consortium and project concept and a lack of information about existing EU funding opportunities. The same reasons were given by the 22 respondents⁷⁵ stating that they are not interested in the NEB, either at present or in the future (Figure 22).

⁷⁵ 10 of which were local public authorities, 11 regional public authorities and 1 other entity.

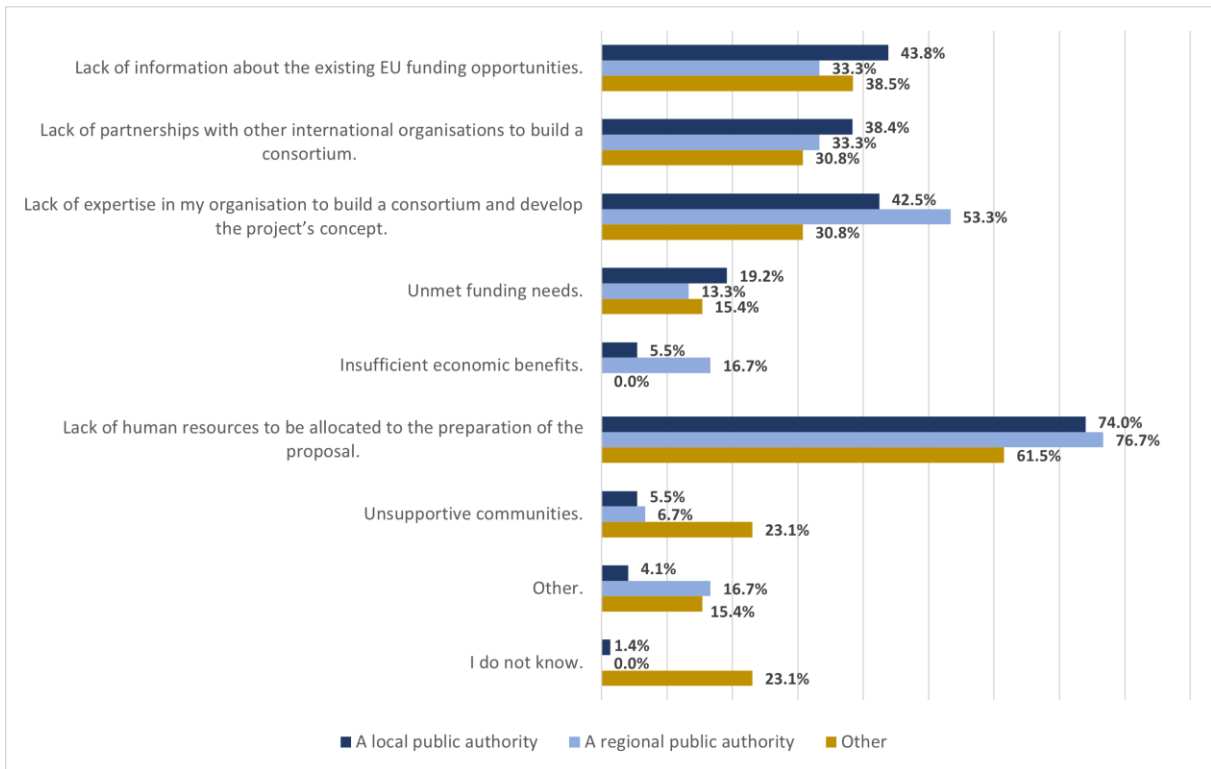


Figure 21 - In your opinion/experience, what are the main barriers to your organisation taking the decision to apply for an EU call for proposals contributing to the NEB initiative?

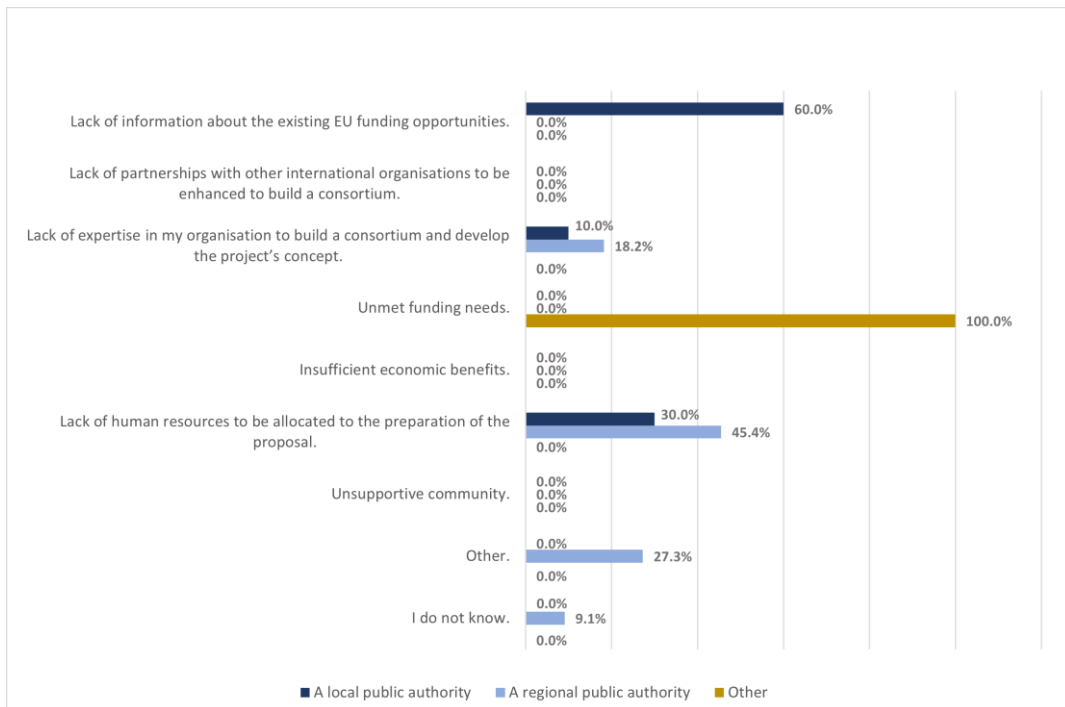


Figure 22 - Why does your organisation not foresee making proposals in support of the NEB initiative?

This outlines the importance for the EU in investing more in raising awareness about the opportunities for cities and regions to implement place-based initiatives, but also about a structural issue LRAs face as regards the human resources needed to draw up project proposals.

In order to provide the EU with significant inputs regarding how to increase the user friendliness of the current EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB, a tailored question was put to the LRAs participating in the study's consultation.

As Figure 23 below shows, most respondents would like a help desk supporting them in their attempts to gain an understanding of the potential for participation in EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB, as well as organising training sessions and peer-learning conferences focused on sharing knowledge and experience about how new NEB projects can be designed and implemented at the territorial level.

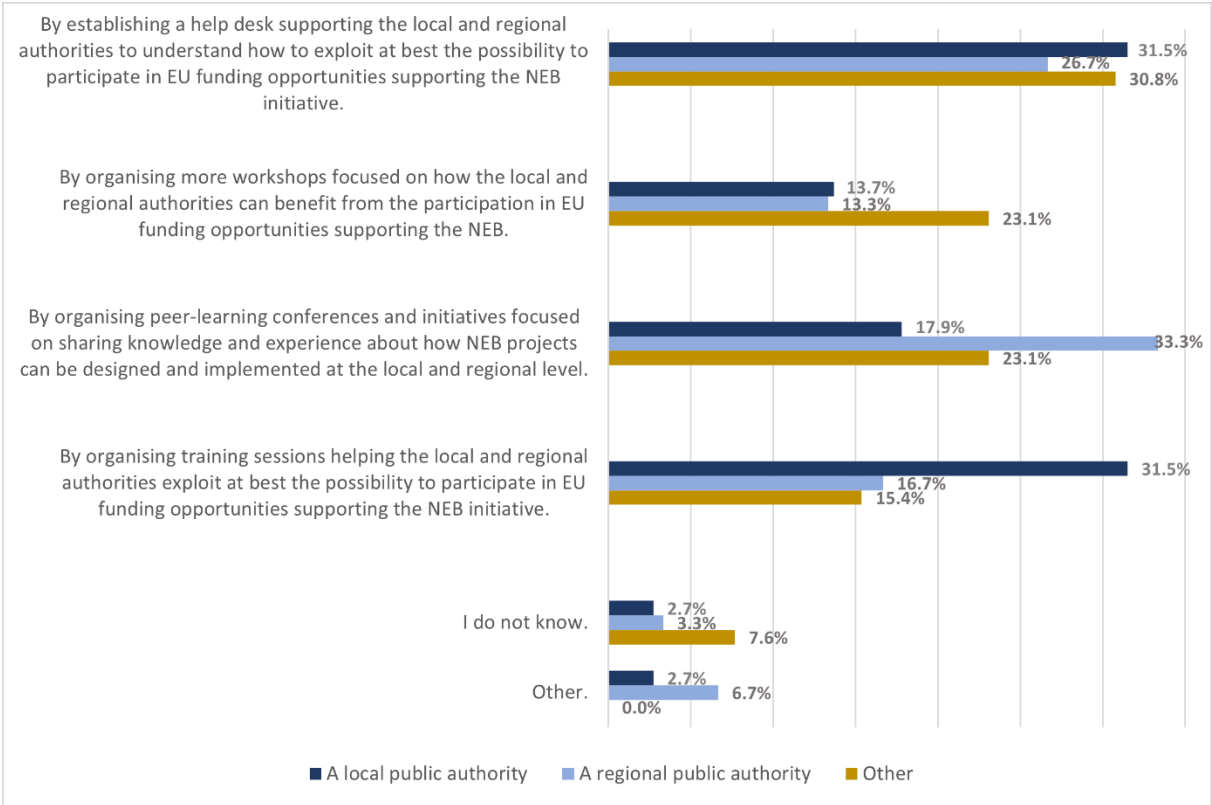


Figure 23 - In your opinion/knowledge, how could the user friendliness of the current EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative be improved?

To address the problem reported regarding their need to be periodically notified about existing EU funding opportunities, LRAs also provided feedback about how to make the current EU funding opportunities more accessible (Figure 24). A significant number of respondents would like to receive more regular updates about future EU calls for proposals, to participate in designing new NEB projects. They also advocated making their participation in relevant EU calls for proposals mandatory, to be duly recognised in their leading role in delivering NEB-related place-based actions. An additional solution would be to have a central NEB

funding opportunities portal showing all NEB calls for proposals incorporated into the EU funding programmes⁷⁶.

Most respondents would like, however, to implement the NEB Lab voucher scheme, as suggested by the CoR⁷⁷, as a good accessible way for easier NEB initiative engagement and to enhance their participation in the delivery phase of new NEB projects to be set up in their constituency without new bureaucratic hurdles. Because the NEB Lab voucher scheme constitutes an optimal way of enhancing access to the NEB, the communication gap between the institutional and local levels is likely to be the main challenge to be overcome in increasing access to EU calls for proposals. In this regard, the NEB Lab voucher scheme would have the greatest impact on the extent to which LRAs participate in the NEB, as well as in enhancing the part LRAs play in the NEB delivery phase and in supporting them to co-create, prototype and test new policies and tools contributing to transforming places on the ground by applying the core NEB values (Figure 25).

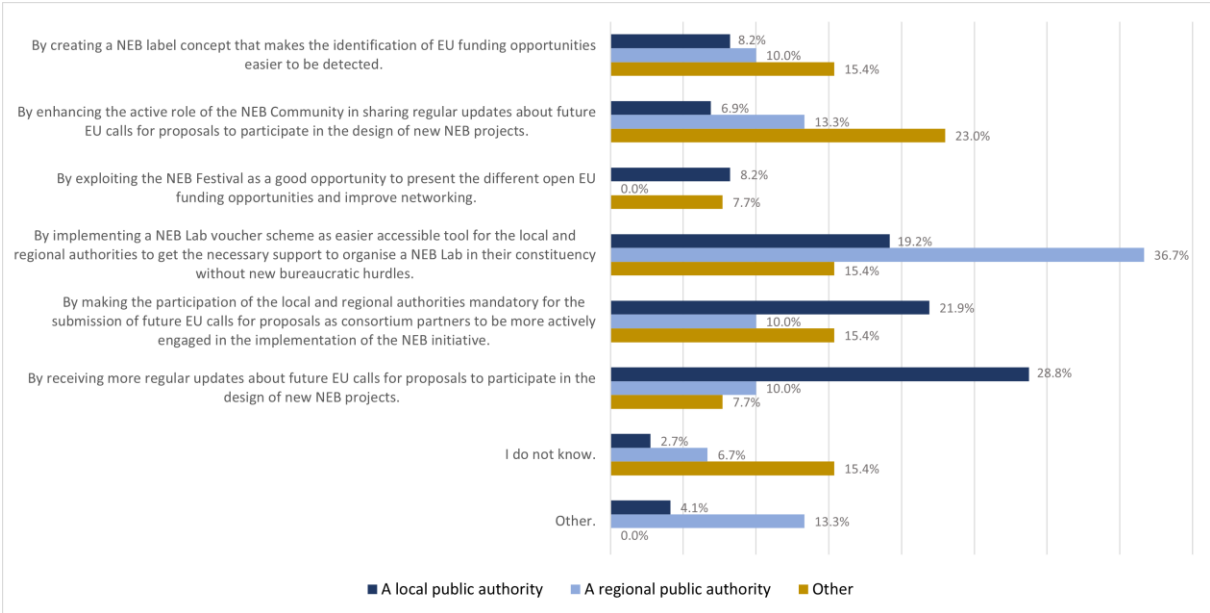


Figure 24 - In your opinion/knowledge, how could the accessibility of the current EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative be improved?

⁷⁶ These solutions were reported in the “Other” option.

⁷⁷ European Committee of the Regions. 2022. *Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, SEDEC-VII/025. Brussels, 27-29.04.2022. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://webapi2016.cor.europa.eu/v1/documents/COR-2021-05640-00-01-AC-TRA-EN.docx/content>.

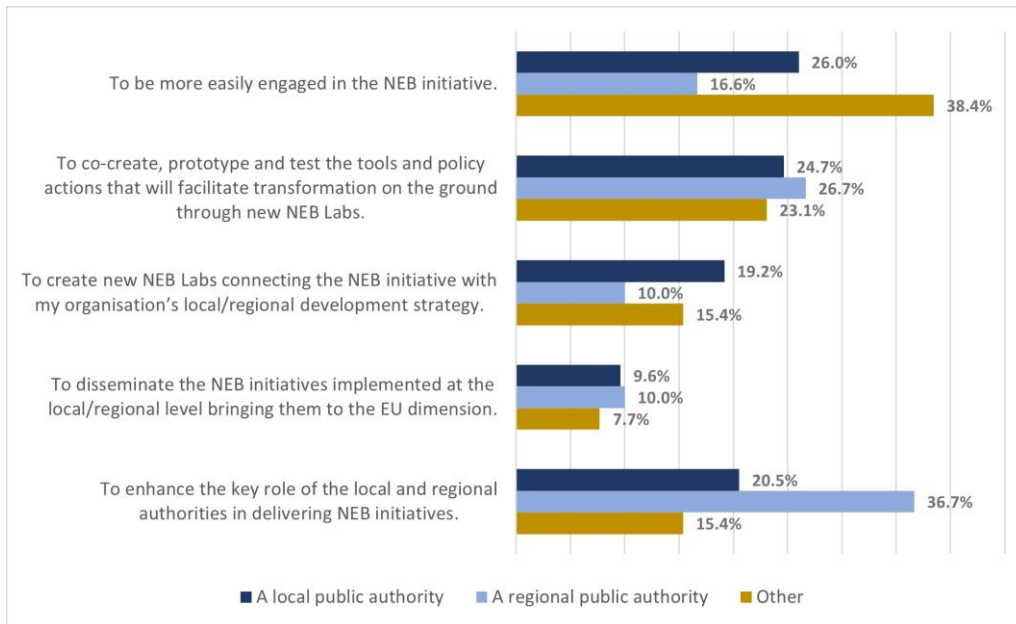


Figure 25 - In your opinion/knowledge, which type of activity would the NEB voucher scheme help you the most?

Regardless of how the NEB is developed further in the medium and long term, the European Commission has announced that it will keep working to support the NEB by mobilising EU programmes in the short term, and increase funding for the initiative. More than EUR 107 mln will be allocated to NEB dedicated calls under Horizon Europe, ERDF and LIFE programmes in 2023 and 2024 (NEB [website](#))⁷⁸. In addition to this, the European Commission has invited EU Member States to set aside significant recovery and resilience plan budgets and cohesion policy programmes to the NEB. It has also reiterated the importance of bringing the core NEB values into the territorial development strategy mainstream, to help LRAs leverage public and private investment to support the initiative at the local and regional levels.

Part 2: The implementation of the New European Bauhaus: how to engage communities, develop partnerships and cross-border cooperation

With its participatory approach, the NEB aims to become a movement enabling powerful narratives transforming public spaces to be created without leaving anyone behind. This assumption was developed right from the start of the initiative in 2021, when the European Commission launched the NEB co-design phase. More than 2000 contributions were received from all over Europe and

⁷⁸ European Union, “New European Bauhaus”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/funding-opportunities_en.

beyond (JRC [webpage](#))⁷⁹, providing inputs regarding how to generate interest in the initiative and translate NEB ambitions into tangible results involving all. The outcome of this phase was set out in the Report of the Online Conference “Common Ground: Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project” that was held on 29 April 2021⁸⁰, which indicated how to keep and intensify individual and collective efforts to create a new sense of cooperation, as well as how critical citizen participation is in building heritage to NEB’s success. As Emil Boc, mayor of the municipality of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and CoR member said in the same conference: “*We have to create eco-systems, not ego-systems*”⁸¹.

Since then several LRAs across the EU have hosted local discussions to gather local perspectives and ideas on how to design NEB-related projects to be implemented during the delivery phase of the initiative. Several research publications (Busacca and Paladini 2022)⁸² (Cacciatore and Panozzo 2022)⁸³ have in fact highlighted the ability of LRAs to quickly converge on NEB-oriented initiatives and co-develop new ideas to be submitted for funding.

An example of this is Venice’s co-design process which encompassed its main city institutions,⁸⁴ leading to the nomination and funding of the [BoSS project](#)⁸⁵, one of the six NEB lighthouse demonstrators funded under the Horizon Europe programme in 2022. In September 2021, the consortium promoting the nomination of the BoSS project to the Horizon Europe call for proposals organised an international event entitled [Bauhaus of the Seas](#)⁸⁶, focusing on submitting the application and developing a common discussion with other European cities sharing maritime issues (Busacca and Paladini 2022, 4)⁸⁷. The Venice case’s nomination to the Horizon Europe call for proposals shows the

⁷⁹European Union. 2021. EU Science Hub: New European Bauhaus moves from co-design to delivery. September 24, 2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/new-european-bauhaus-moves-co-design-delivery-2021-09-24_en.

⁸⁰New European Bauhaus Collective. 2021. *Report of the Online Conference Common Ground: Making the Renovation Wave a Cultural Project*. https://www.ace-cae.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/NEB_report_v3.pdf.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² Busacca, Maurizio, and Roberto Paladini. 2022. *Creativity and Social Capital: The Pillars of Venice’s Success in the New European Bauhaus Programme*. Social Sciences. 2022; 11(12):545. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11120545>.

⁸³ Cacciatore, Silvia, and Fabrizio Panozzo. 2022. *Strategic Mapping of Cultural and Creative Industries. The Case of the Veneto Region*. Creative Industries Journal, DOI: 10.1080/17510694.2022.2026059.

⁸⁴ The project was initiated by Ca’ Foscari University and joined by other Venetian universities, the Veneto Region, the municipality of Venice, the Academy of Fine Arts, the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory, the Soprintendenza Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio, the Venice Biennale, the Venice Foundation, the Port Authority, Confindustria and the International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice.

⁸⁵European Union, “Bauhaus of the Seas Sails”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101079995/program/43108390/details>.

⁸⁶ Bauhaus of the Seas, “Bauhaus of the Seas”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://bauhaus-seas.eu/it/>.

⁸⁷ Busacca, Maurizio and Roberto Paladini. 2022. *Creativity and Social Capital: The Pillars of Venice’s Success in the New European Bauhaus Programme*. Social Sciences. 2022; 11(12):545. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11120545>.

influence of the work done over past decades by an ecosystem of regional actors, in favour of creative and artistic work, as well craftsmanship⁸⁸.

The shift from NEB co-design to its delivery phase led the European Commission to deploy a set of networking tools and initiatives aimed at encouraging massive participation in the initiative at the EU level. In the Communication setting out the groundwork for the implementation of the NEB (European Commission 2021)⁸⁹, the European Commission officially launched the NEB Community as EU level incubator. The Community's aim is to amplify NEB-related messages and stories, as well as to transfer knowledge to the individuals and organisations joining it and co-develop new solutions. The New European Bauhaus Progress Report (European Commission 2023, 14-17)⁹⁰ reported that, from 2021 to early 2023, the NEB was joined by several million people across the EU and that its community is growing.

One of the categories of participants involved in it are Friends. These include political organisations, businesses and LRAs, as hosts or sponsors for NEB projects. At present, 137 Friends⁹¹ have registered with the Community, 21 of which are LRAs. This poor involvement was confirmed by the consultation launched within the framework of this study, where LRAs were asked about their awareness of the NEB Community. As Figure 26 below shows, an average of 63% of respondents answered that they did not know about it, while an average of almost 32% are members of it.

⁸⁸*Ibid.*

⁸⁹ European Commission. 2021. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus. Beautiful, Sustainable, Together*, COM(2021) 573 final, Brussels, 15.9.2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM\(2021\)_573_EN_ACT.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM(2021)_573_EN_ACT.pdf)

⁹⁰ European Commission. 2023. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, COM(2023) 24 final, Brussels, 16.1.2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-003%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Commission%2028EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

⁹¹ Last update: June 29, 2023. The information was gathered from the NEB Dashboard, a user-friendly interactive map developed by the European Commission's Data Advisory and Directorate-General for JRC and made available online in January 2023, displaying the current situation of the NEB across the EU and worldwide, in terms of individuals and organisations participating in its community.

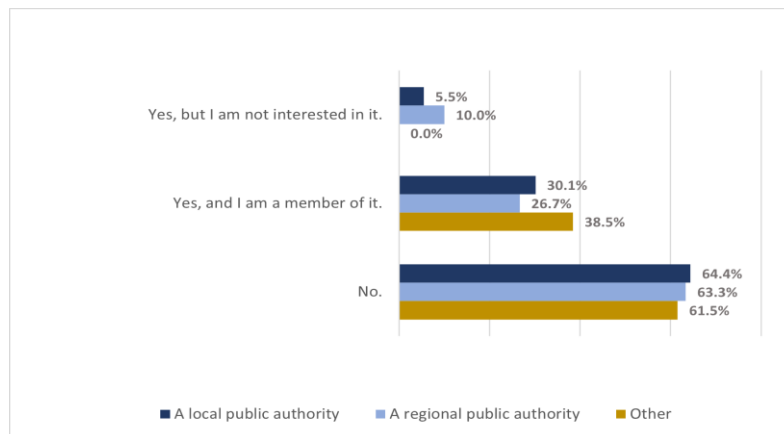


Figure 26 - Are you aware of the NEB community?

Friends play a key role in both funding and welcoming projects in their local and regional settings and assisting in delivery. LRA participation is pivotal in this regard and needs further promotion, as change is happening at the place-based level, and LRA involvement can help disseminate local NEB projects across the EU and facilitate the setting up of new NEB communities at the territorial level.

In view of this last ambition, together with the launch of the NEB Community, in 2021 the European Commission also set up the NEB Lab (NEB Lab [webpage](#))⁹² as an accelerator and connector, a “think and do tank”, whose goal is to connect people, learn from each other and capitalise on everyone’s experience to develop project ideas inspired by the core NEB values. The NEB Community and the Departments and Executive Agencies of the European Commission⁹³ can autonomously develop project proposals for it, which are to come under scrutiny prior to approval as relevant to NEB. In fact, to turn ideas into projects, they need to be linked with physical places or testing environments as well as to ensure active community engagement, to prove that their results are tangible, replicable and in line with the core NEB values. All working groups participating in the NEB Lab are self-governed, but they are given tailored mentoring and communication support, for e.g., to fine tune local action with the European and international dimension. The core idea behind the NEB Lab projects is, therefore, to develop a set of ecosystems within the NEB ecosystem, adopt a modular approach enabling local actions to resonate at territorial level and interact with others, to extend their impact to the wider EU level.

LRAs participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study were asked whether they were aware of the NEB Lab and whether they were

⁹²European Union, “New European Bauhaus: The NEB Lab”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/neb-lab_en.

⁹³ At present, there are 12 NEB Lab projects ongoing, out of which 5 are Community-led projects and 7 are European Commission-led projects, managed by the Joint Research Centre, the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Directorate-General for Environment.

involved in any of the existing 12 NEB Lab projects. As the following figures (Figure 27 and 28) show, an average of 75% of respondents had not heard of the NEB Lab. However, after having been made aware of it, an average of almost 79% of them are willing to participate in it, to co-create new NEB-related projects.

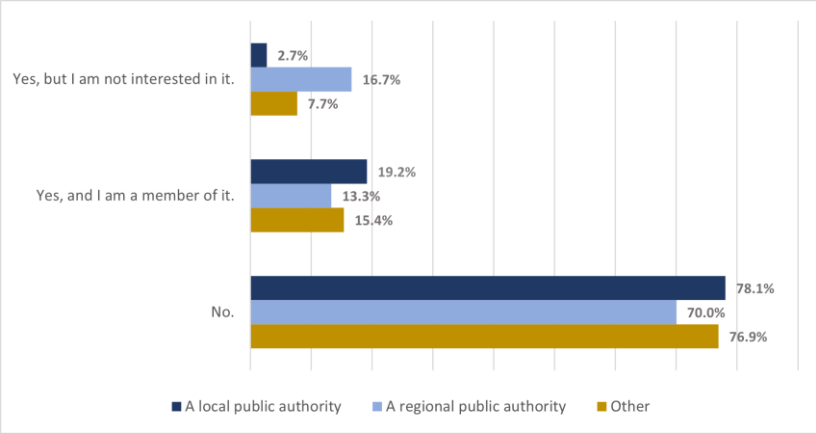


Figure 27 - Are you aware of the NEB Lab?

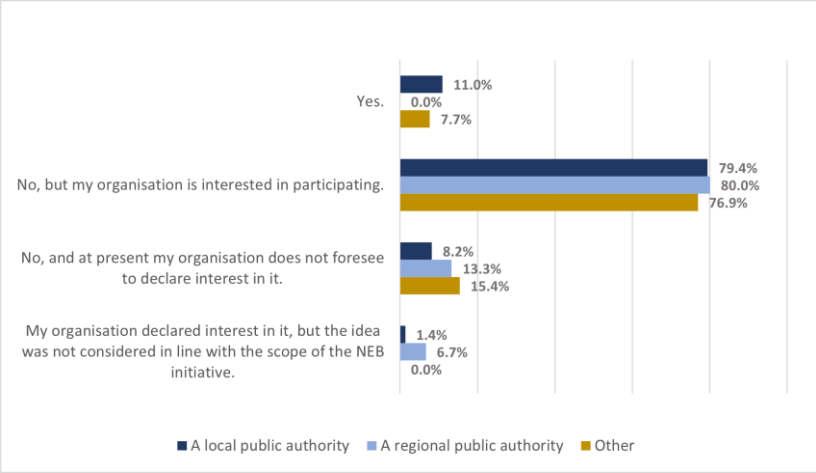


Figure 28 - Is your organisation involved in any NEB Lab project?

To raise awareness about the NEB and encourage individuals and organisations across the EU to join the movement, the European Commission deployed a set of tools and initiatives contributing to its communication and visibility through the NEB Community, as follows (European Commission 2023, 22-27)⁹⁴:

- NEB national contact points: all EU 27 Member States have appointed one with a view to disseminating information about the NEB in their countries, further connecting and coordinating efforts at national level around the initiative.

⁹⁴ European Commission. 2023. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *New European Bauhaus Progress Report*, COM(2023) 24 final, Brussels, 16.1.2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-003%20-%20Report%20from%20the%20Commission%2028EN%29%20Part%201.pdf>.

- NEB platform to get inspired: a dedicated [webpage](#)⁹⁵ on the NEB portal has been made available to provide the general public with brief factsheets about inspiring ideas and projects designed and implemented to date in the spirit of the NEB. On the webpage projects are filtered by countries, but it is possible to look at projects' location. They are to be considered significant local initiatives to be examined for replication and/or complementarity in other settings at EU level, to ensure that the NEB mission is pursued on both local and global scales.
- NEB Festival: it is the biggest annual event so far organised by the NEB Community to communicate, celebrate and foster dialogue about good practices enhancing the implementation of the core NEB values on the ground. In 2022, this gathered more than 200000 people – online and in Brussels – with more than 100 speakers and artists contributing to facilitating the discussion.
- NEB Prizes launched to award and celebrate existing NEB projects and young people's ideas to further develop new concepts delivered at place-based level. So far three annual editions have been launched, awarding a total of 53 winners (NEB Prizes [webpage](#))⁹⁶. The 2021 and 2022 editions received more than 3000 applications and awarded 38 winners, with total prize money of EUR 0.79 mln. [APROP Ciutat Vella: Proximity Temporary Affordable Housing](#)⁹⁷ was one of the prize winners in 2021. Promoted by Barcelona City Council's Development of Social Rights, this is a new municipal programme aiming to prevent gentrification by providing temporary accommodation to evicted households.

Against this backdrop, LRAs have organised a wide set of initiatives⁹⁸ to foster cross-border cooperation and engage their communities and deliver the NEB either with their own funds or through EU funding mechanisms – as presented in Part 1 above.

⁹⁵ European Union, “New European Bauhaus: Inspiring projects and ideas”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas_en.

⁹⁶ European Union, “New European Bauhaus Prizes 2023”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/2023-prizes_en.

⁹⁷ European Union, “New European Bauhaus Awards”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://2021.prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/node/269384>.

⁹⁸ By way of example, on the NEB website, a dedicated webpage has been made available to provide information about past and upcoming NEB-related independent events organised at local, regional and/or national level. The webpage is available at: https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/events_en.

[Rua Zero – \(Re\)imagining Coimbra](#)⁹⁹ is one of the more than 200 side events that took place all over Europe in conjunction with the 2022 NEB Festival. On 11 June 2022, Adelino Veiga street was turned into a public space open for discussion and a wide range of leisure activities, such as workshops and concerts. With the participation of the municipality of Coimbra (Portugal) as social investor, the aim of the event was to awaken the community’s interest in social issues – ranging from depopulation and ageing, buildings needing retrofitting, a lack of public and private investment to the presence of many families with severe economic needs and at risk of social exclusion – and come up with possible solutions to be implemented through a collaborative and participatory approach. The event was both in presence and online and led to the creation of a videographic memorial, including all testimonies shared by its participants, which will be regularly updated. The idea of the Festival was to launch a lasting initiative enabling everyone to take part, including children. In fact, a number of child-friendly initiatives activated citizenship practices in which everyone was able to share their thoughts about how to transform the urban environment in the spirit of the NEB. Adelino Veiga street has been the site of multiple interventions starting from December 2021, and the Festival has led to a willingness by the municipality to co-develop a urban renewal programme responding to local needs.

Through the active engagement of the Latvian NEB national contact point of the Latvian Architects’ Union, on 25 March 2022 the municipality of Liepāja (Latvia) hosted a [NEB event](#) on its Facebook page¹⁰⁰. Architects, designers, schools, universities, engineers, project makers and implementers and municipalities attended, contributing to fostering discussion on housing, education and production needs and how to address them, by enhancing transdisciplinary cooperation in the spirit of the NEB.

On the strength of its current participation in five NEB projects funded by the EU, the municipality of Turin (Italy) issued a [NEB Manifesto](#)¹⁰¹. In cooperation with the Turin Committee of the NEB, which promotes the NEB in the city, and the Open Incet policy lab, the Manifesto was designed to be the first local expression of the core NEB inseparable values. It was the result of a series of meetings involving its promoters, certain social stakeholders and the third sector. Together with citizens, the municipality developed this document to collect the inspiring principles the city identifies with and to express its willingness to inspire NEB-related interventions and initiatives.

⁹⁹ Coimbra Colectiva. 2022. *Novo Bauhaus Europeu: Sábado (re)imagina-se Coimbra na Rua Adelino Viga*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://coimbracoolectiva.pt/historias/temas/cultura/novo-bauhaus-europeu-sabado-reimagina-se-coimbra-na-rua-adelino-veiga/?doing_wp_cron=1688044235.1354179382324218750000.

¹⁰⁰ Latvijas Arhitektu Savienība, “Jaunais Eiropas Bauhaus”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.latarh.lv/jauna-eiropas-bauhaus-tiklosanas-un-sarunu-eksprezis-liepaja>.

¹⁰¹ Città di Torino, “Manifesto del New European Bauhaus di Torino”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.torinoeuprojects.it/manifesto-nebto/>.

The Region of Liguria (Italy) also organised a [workshop](#)¹⁰² on the NEB, which resulted in the drawing up of a NEB development plan to be implemented in the region. On 9 June 2022, the region's Presidency, through the Brussels Representative Office, organised a workshop attended by more than 100 high school students, about 30 university students from the Genoa University Department of Architecture and Design and teachers and experts from the public and private sectors who joined discussions about how to shape NEB-related ideas and projects taking account of the region's challenges and strengths. Several discussions were kept going over time, helping the region to launch the NEB Liguria Challenge 2023 [tender](#)¹⁰³. Four projects directly involving citizens, businesses and associations will be funded and supported through tailored workshops with experts in sustainability, inclusion and culture, as well as through consultancy services helping them identify potential sources of funding and develop the solutions proposed. Eligible applicants are required to propose solutions capable of bringing benefits to the region's inhabitants in environmental sustainability, inclusion and community empowerment terms, leveraging local beauty, creativity, arts and culture. At the end of the evaluation process, in November 2023, selected projects will be invited to present their proposals to the European Parliament in Brussels in the presence of representatives of the European Commission tasked with NEB delivery. This investment is a further confirmation of the region's commitment to using the NEB approach to deliver tangible action at a place-based level.

All the above ways of engaging local communities have been useful and key to giving the discussion a wider dimension, enabling partnerships and cross-border cooperation. Starting from existing partnerships within the same territories, LRAs have so far used their networks to build highly qualified consortia developing project ideas inspired by the core NEB values. This was confirmed by respondents participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study, who already applied for a NEB-related call for proposals – regardless of whether or not their NEB project applications were successful¹⁰⁴. As Figure 29 below shows, most local public authorities (33.3%) designed their NEB-related project ideas on their own, with the remaining shares indicating joint effort with a public organisation involved in the NEB (not LRAs) (22.2%), consultancy agencies or

¹⁰² Genova Quotidiana. 2022. Nuovo Bauhaus in Liguria, progetti ispirati a bellezza, sostenibilità e inclusione, July 9, 2022. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://genovaquotidiana.com/2022/06/09/nuovo-bauhaus-in-liguria-progetti-ispirati-a-bellezza-sostenibilita-e-inclusione/>.

¹⁰³ Riviera24.it. 2023. Ambiente, al via il bando Nuovo Bauhaus Europeo-Liguria challenge 2023. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.riviera24.it/2023/02/ambiente-al-via-il-bando-nuovo-bauhaus-europeo-neb-liguria-challenge-2023-798957/>.

¹⁰⁴ 47 respondents out of the total (138), of which 36 were local public authorities, 5 regional public authorities and 6 other entities.

individual consultants (19.4% each). Regional public authorities and other entities mostly worked jointly with consultancy agencies (40% and 66.7%, respectively).

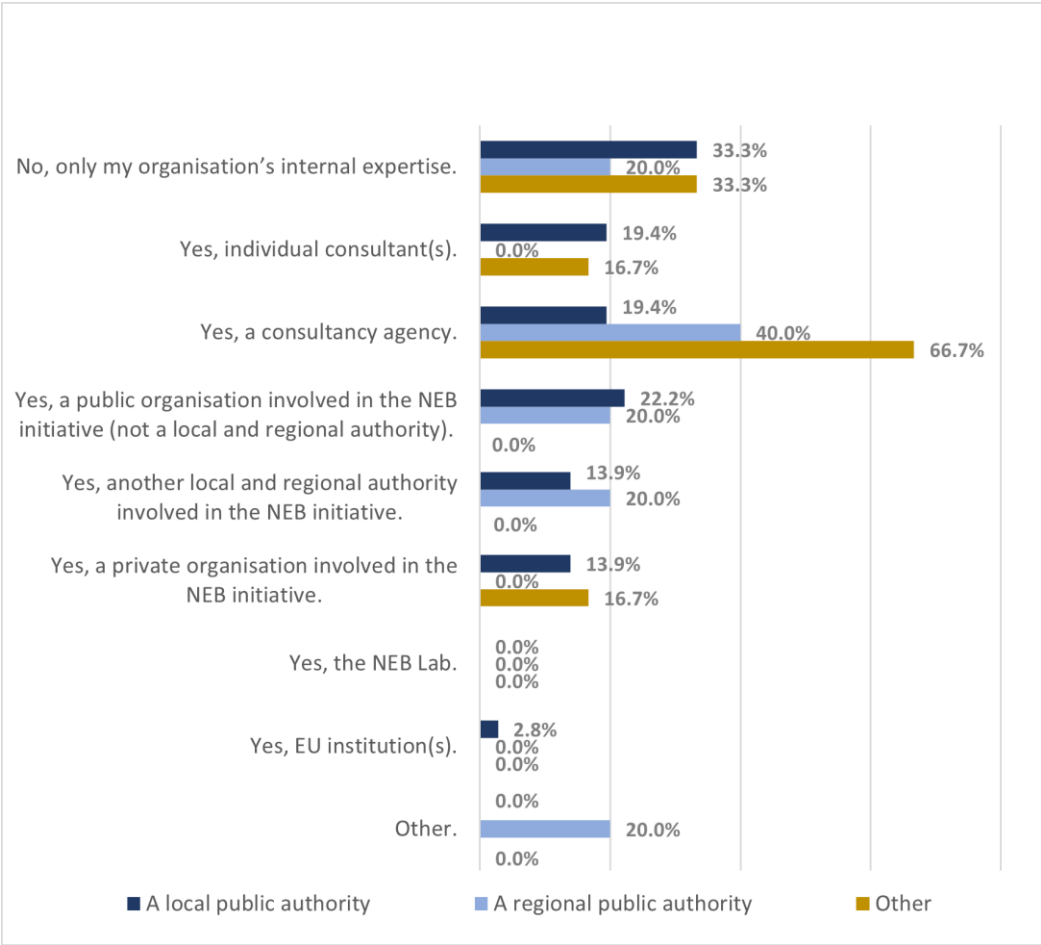


Figure 29 – Was your organisation supported by any external experts during the preparation process of any of the NEB project(s) you applied for?

On the basis of actual involvement and/or future interest in joining the NEB, all respondents were asked to provide feedback about how to use the NEB approach to promote a stronger cross-border and inter-regional collaboration between cities and regions. The results provided by the complete sample of 138 respondents showed that most LRAs agreed with the need to transfer best practices to other cities and regions, as well as improve dialogue between local communities and the various governmental levels (Figure 30).

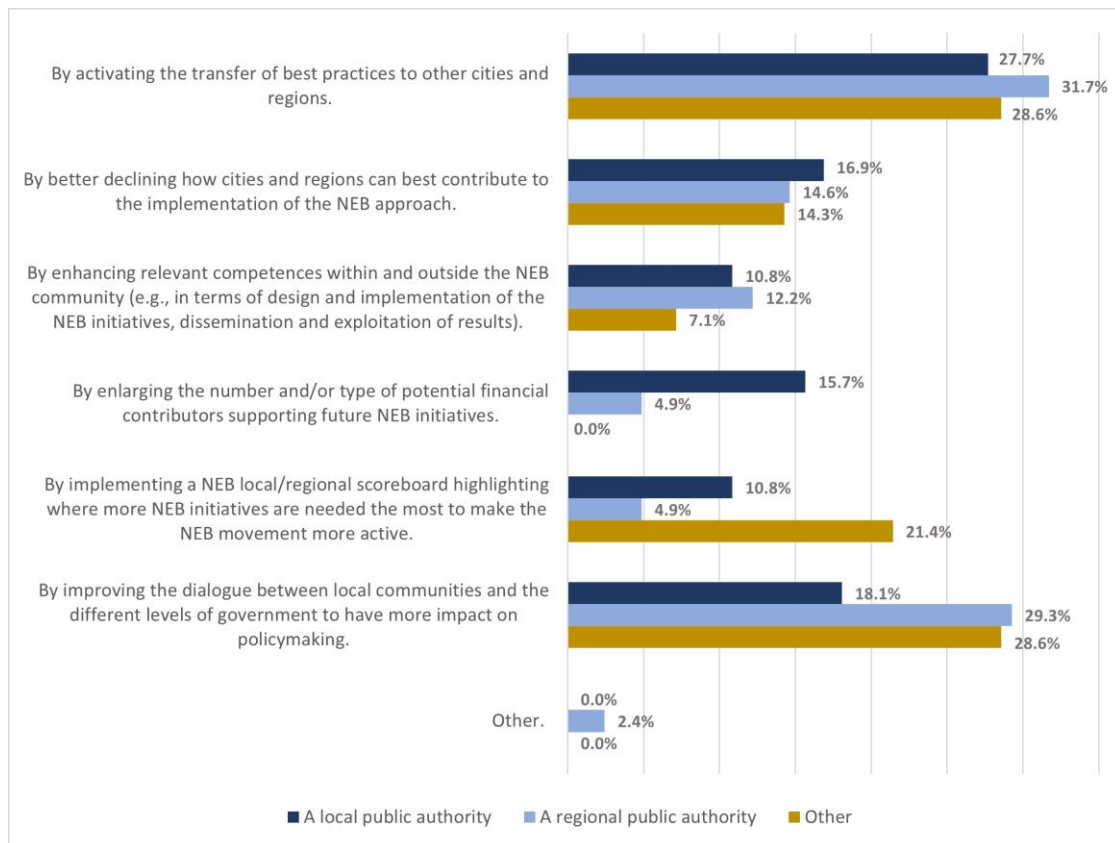


Figure 30 - How can the NEB approach be used to promote a stronger cross-border and inter-regional collaboration between cities and regions?

In this regard, coordination efforts from the NEB national contact points and the NEB Labs are needed to fine tune activities designed and implemented at local level with EU-level priorities and needs. The results of the consultation as presented above indicated that awareness raising is the main key barrier LRAs identified as a form of knowledge gap hampering their participation in the NEB and an updated overview of NEB-related initiatives carried out across the EU. A more detailed NEB governance structure at national and EU levels would help to shift the local and regional level NEB impact to a wider one, to understand how the NEB is delivered and how it can be disseminated and promoted as an EU movement enabling cities and regions to deliver place-based solutions and learn from each other. Greater communication and visibility action is therefore needed.

Part 3: Case studies

Case 3.1. Eyes Hearts Hands Urban Revolution (EHHUR) (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Portugal)



District of Kozani (EL), where renovation works will be carried out.

Photo credit: Ethniko Centro Erevnas Kai Technologikis Anaptyxis (CERTH).

Name of the EU funding opportunity: Horizon Europe.

LRAs involved: municipality of Zoersel (BE), Osijek (HR), Taastrup (DK) and Kozani (EL), Fondazione Bio-Distretto della Via Amerina e delle Forre ETS (IT), municipality of Maia (PT).

LRA participation: non-mandatory.

Implementation area: environmental transformation.

Timing: October 2022 – September 2025.

Description of the initiative

EHHUR is one of the six lighthouse demonstrators funded by the Horizon Europe NEB dedicated call “Support the deployment of lighthouse demonstrators for the New European Bauhaus initiative in the context of Horizon Europe missions” (HORIZON -MISS-2021-NEB-01-01) contributing to transforming places on the ground. With a total EU contribution of EUR 4,994,902.50, it aims to develop and test a comprehensive environmental transformation methodology to be implemented by cities, combining existing practices with NEB and EU Mission principles. With its motto, “Eyes, Hearts, Hands”, the project’s ambition is to translate the three core NEB values into tangible full sustainability and carbon neutrality results, and ensure equal and fair inclusion of local communities, regardless of citizens’ age, economic conditions and geographical origin, and make urban transformation aesthetically viable and socially accepted. Practically speaking, it is based on seven lighthouse demonstrators to be carried out in the EU and Turkey on the basis of specific case studies focusing on socio-economic and cultural issues (e.g., social segregation, marginalisation and energy poverty, depopulated and degraded historical centres). Neighbourhoods piloting the project’s mission set up Citizen Energy Communities, restore school buildings and parks, create new multifunction library buildings and renovate social housing and the historic centre, creating a new and sustainable culture centre and renovating the health and social care district, which is designed to pave the way for sustainable, beautiful and inclusive cities. The project will contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Action Plans for a zero-carbon Europe for the cities involved, consisting of adopting a transdisciplinary and participatory approach to urban transformation in local communities. The project’s innovation lies in its

methodology, engagement and funding practices, as well as their high potential replicability in a range of settings. Achieving its goals will consist of architectural strategies implemented in accordance with the history, functionality, cultural heritage and peculiarities of each neighbourhood, enhancing the adoption of circular principles and bio-based materials contributing to a de-carbonisation process. Local co-design and co-creation processes involving diverse socio-economic contexts will also be adopted to ensure that everyone can take part in the project's mission and its inclusive and sustainable energy behaviours, in a shift from passive consumers to prosumers (i.e., producers and consumers).

The project involves six local public authorities - some of which were newcomers to it and some of which were already engaged in the NEB mission - which expect to gain further knowledge about how to make the best use of the NEB to make their towns beautiful, inclusive and green. They consider their participation in the NEB initiative not mandatory, but highly relevant to significantly bridge the local community gap, meet their needs and create inclusive places open to everyone. The goal is that everyone should know what is happening in their territory and take part in any future NEB co-creation processes with a view to designing the strategy best able to combine NEB principles with local and regional operational programmes to be implemented at the territorial level, for a better use of spaces.

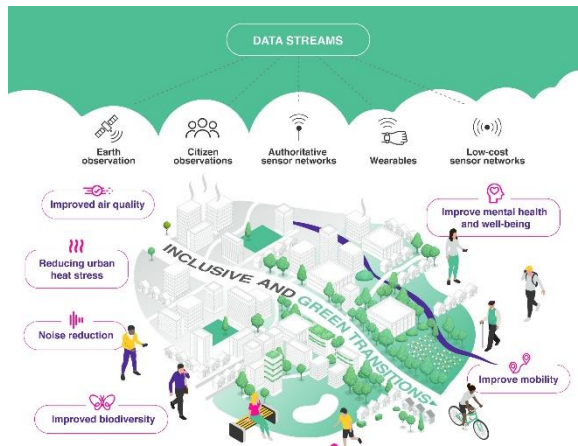
Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- Sustainable: EHHUR will contribute to a carbon neutrality paradigm shift and behavioural change through the creation of Citizen Energy Communities and the adoption of circular principles and bio-based materials.
- Beautiful: EHHUR will foster the creation and collective re-invention of places and lifestyles and the communities living them, generating a long-lasting movement and making cities more aesthetically viable.
- Together: EHHUR will contribute to the definition of new ways of living together that are socially accepted to everyone, regardless of age, economic conditions and ethnic origin.
- Participatory approach: EHHUR will implement a dynamic information flow that will facilitate interaction with the local communities participating in the co-creation urban transformation process in the seven lighthouse demonstrators.
- Transdisciplinary approach: EHHUR will adopt a collaborative public engagement process that will enable it to go beyond the transdisciplinary, integrating both formal and non-formal knowledge to achieve a common goal, i.e., making cities more beautiful, inclusive and carbon-neutral.

- Multi-level approach: by adopting a locally based approach, EHHUR will strive to design a flexible methodology applicable across Europe, to make its mission globally feasible.

Sources: [EHHUR factsheet](#)¹⁰⁵ on CORDIS; [EHHUR website](#)¹⁰⁶; interview held on 19 April 2023 with representatives from municipality of Zoersel (BE), Osijek (HR) and Kozani (EL), Fondazione Bio-Distretto della Via Amerina e delle Forre ETS (IT), municipality of Maia (PT).

Case 3.2. Citizen-powered data ecosystems for inclusive and green urban transitions (Urban ReLeaf) (Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands)



Name of the EU funding opportunity: Horizon Europe.

LRAs involved: municipality of Mannheim (DE), Riga Planning Region (LV), municipality of Utrecht (NL), province of Utrecht (NL).

LRA participation: non-mandatory.

Implementation area: citizen engagement.

Timing: January 2023 – December 2026.

Urban ReLeaf methodology.

Photo credit: Urban ReLeaf.

Description of the initiative

Urban ReLeaf is one of the three projects funded by the Horizon Europe NEB contributing call “Uptake and validation of citizen observations to complement authoritative measurement within the urban environment and boost related citizen engagement” (HORIZON-CL6-2022-GOVERNANCE-01-08), contributing to the diffusion of new meanings. With a total EU contribution of EUR 4,206,020 it aims to co-create citizen-powered data ecosystems as complementary resources supporting climate change adaptation, urban design planning and green infrastructure, in line with the Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., Target 11.7 – “By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”). At the core of the project is citizen science, an effective tool bringing together the scientific community and citizens for environmental monitoring applied to urban green planning. In accordance with the Commission Staff Working Document *Best Practices in Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring* (European Commission 2020, 2), citizen science serves the purpose of strengthening the evidence base for environmental policy whilst raising

¹⁰⁵ European Commission, “EYES HEART HANDS Urban Revolution”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101079948>.

¹⁰⁶ EYES, HEART, HANDS Urban Revolution. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://eyesheartshands.eu/>.

awareness and empowering people to pay attention to local issues through an open, participatory, co-creative and bottom-up approach. Against this backdrop, Urban ReLeaf will carry out a set of inclusive citizens' engagement campaigns whose aim is to address information gaps related to local greening issues of six EU pilot cities. These data will be generated by citizens' observations, to complement existing authoritative data ecosystems and foster innovation within public institutions. In one of the project's pilot initiatives, coordinated by the municipality of Mannheim (Germany), for instance, a co-creative participative approach with citizens will be adopted to address climate adaptation by planting 1000 trees. The initiative stemmed from the implementation of the *Mannheim 2030* mission statement in 2019, where the municipality translated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into a set of local action-oriented initiatives designed to make the city more sustainable and inclusive. This document was the backbone of a series of local strategic documents that were later adopted, such as the *Climate Adaptation Plan (2019)*¹⁰⁷, the *Mannheim Message (2020)*¹⁰⁸, the *Local Green Deal Mannheim (2021)*¹⁰⁹, the *Heat Action Plan (2021)*¹¹⁰, the *Local Green Deal Rulebook participation (2021)*¹¹¹ and the *Climate Protection Plan 2030 (2022)*¹¹². For the municipality of Mannheim, tree planting is an important action inspired by the NEB core values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics. Planting trees is, in fact, not only about enabling nature to capture the carbon we produce and thus reduce carbon emissions. It is also about bringing people from different backgrounds together and empowering them to join forces for the sake of their environment, whilst improving their psychological wellbeing and the neighbourhoods they live in. In Urban ReLeaf, the municipality of Mannheim will combine sensor systems with citizen science to get the information it needs to locate the trees. The final aim is to bring 250 people into the process and plant 1000 trees per year. To achieve this goal, the municipality of Mannheim will organise regular meetings with citizens and engage with them via a dedicated platform providing relevant information. This is a sustainable process that will be continued after the project ends, to achieve the goals set out in the *Climate Protection Plan 2030*. The municipality of Mannheim is not new to the NEB initiative: it participated in the 2021 co-

¹⁰⁷ An action plan detailing Mannheim's climate change adaptation strategy in the light of the latest climate change challenges (e.g. higher temperatures, heavy and more violent rainfall events).

¹⁰⁸ An international declaration promoted by the Municipality of Mannheim and shared by other 80 EU cities that lays the foundations for Local Green Deals designed in cooperation with citizens and key stakeholders (e.g. including businesses, research and innovation sectors) to address climate change-related challenges with a multi-level participatory approach.

¹⁰⁹ A policy document setting out the conditions for participation in the "EU Mission for climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030" promoted by the European Commission in 2020.

¹¹⁰ An action plan aimed at better protecting people and their health through a set of awareness raising and action-oriented processes counteracting the threats resulting from high temperatures and focusing in particular on nine categories of vulnerable people, e.g. the elderly.

¹¹¹ A policy document detailing how citizens can participate formally or informally in policy-making at the local level within the framework of the "Local Green Deal" adopted by the Municipality in 2021.

¹¹² An action plan designed to shape and support the achievement of Mannheim's climate-neutral-by-2030 goal.

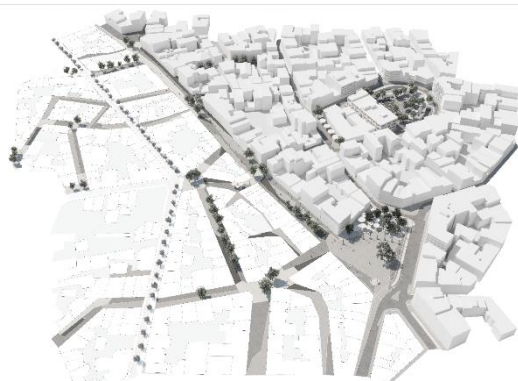
creation phase before the NEB was launched. Participation in the process is expected to increase knowledge exchange and understanding by means of an interdisciplinary approach capable of transferring knowledge on how participatory approaches can be implemented and learning how to translate citizen science into tangible place-based action. LRA participation in the NEB is non-mandatory, but necessary to moderate the citizen engagement process, get ideas and feedback on the actions that cities and regions can take to meet their needs and make their places beautiful, inclusive and green.

Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- **Sustainable:** Urban ReLeaf will contribute to a paradigm shift and behavioural change in the way environmental monitoring is carried out at the local level through citizen participation in getting additional observational data.
 - **Beautiful:** by mobilising citizens to get involved in contributing to policy-making and environmental monitoring through the provision of additional complementary data, Urban ReLeaf will reinforce the sense of belonging. Different places and people will be connected up and offered meaningful social interactions and collective experiences.
 - **Together:** Urban ReLeaf will encourage the development of sustainable and collaborative communities by getting them involved in gathering additional observational environmental data. This will contribute to creating value and bringing transformative benefits on a societal level.
 - **Participatory approach:** Urban ReLeaf will adopt a dynamic information flow that will enhance citizens' participation in gathering environmental monitoring data to contribute to policy making. This approach will be piloted in six EU cities.
 - **Transdisciplinary approach:** Urban ReLeaf will adopt a beyond-disciplinary approach combining formal and non-formal knowledge to monitor environmental data. Authoritative data streams (e.g., from the Global Earth Observation System of Systems) will, in fact, be complemented with additional observational data provided by citizens by enhancing the use of citizen science.
 - **Multi-level approach:** Urban ReLeaf will implement a locally based approach connecting informal networks (e.g., neighbourhoods, groups of individuals) and formal institutions (e.g., municipalities) to design a flexible and innovative governance mechanism to be replicated across Europe to collect and monitor environmental data through citizen science.
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Sources: [Urban ReLeaf factsheet](#)¹¹³ on CORDIS; [Goal 11](#) of the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹¹⁴; Commission Staff Working Document *Best Practices in Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring* (European Commission 2020)¹¹⁵; Mannheim 2030 (Mannheim 2019)¹¹⁶; *Climate Adaptation Plan* (Mannheim 2019)¹¹⁷; *Mannheim Message* (Mannheim 2020)¹¹⁸; *Local Green Deal Mannheim* (Mannheim 2021)¹¹⁹; *Heat Action Plan* (Mannheim 2021)¹²⁰; *Local Green Deal Rulebook participation* (Mannheim 2021)¹²¹; *Climate Protection Plan 2030* (Mannheim 2022)¹²²; Mannheim’s citizen engagement [portal](#)¹²³; interview held on 16 May 2023 with a representative from the municipality of Mannheim (DE).

Case 3.3. Rural Patterns – re-designing the urban space of the city’s centre through extended water-permeable paving systems, natural materials, natural elements (Greece)



Katerini city centre.
Photo credit: Aikaterini’s O. Kefalogianni
Design Team.

Name of the EU funding opportunity: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

LRAs involved: municipality of Katerini (EL).

LRA participation: mandatory.

Implementation area: urban design.

Timing: September 2022 – June 2023.

Description of the initiative

¹¹³ European Commission, “Citizens powered data ecosystems for inclusive and green urban transition”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101086638>.

¹¹⁴ United Nations, “Sustainable Development Goals”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>.

¹¹⁵ European Commission. 2020. Commission Staff Working Document, *Best Practices in Citizen Science for Environmental Monitoring*, SWD(2020) 149 final, Brussels, 27.7.2020. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9973-2020-INIT/en/pdf>.

¹¹⁶ Mannheim. 2019. *Leitbild Mannheim 2030*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.mannheim.de/sites/default/files/2022-08/MA_Leitbild_final_4.pdf.

¹¹⁷ Mannheim. 2019. *Konzept “Anpassung An Den Klimawandel in Mannheim”*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.klima-ma.de/begruenen/downloads/Konzept-Klimaschutzagentur-Mannheim.pdf>.

¹¹⁸ Mannheim. 2020. *Mannheim Message*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://past-conferences.sustainablecities.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/temp/Mannheim2020/Message/Mannheim-Message.pdf.

¹¹⁹ Mannheim. 2021. *Stadt Mannheim Mannheim als Pilotstadt für einen Local Green Deal*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://buergerinfor.mannheim.de/buergerinfor/vo0050.asp?_kvonr=227007.

¹²⁰ Mannheim. 2021. *Mannheimer hitzeaktionsplan*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://buergerinfor.mannheim.de/buergerinfor/getfile.asp?id=8162889&type=do>.

¹²¹ Mannheim. 2021. *Regelwerk Bürger-beteiligung der Stadt Mannheim*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.mannheim.de/sites/default/files/2019-03/BBT_Regelwerk_2019_03_1.pdf.

¹²² Mannheim. 2022. *KlimaSchutz-AktionsPlan 2030 – Auf dem Weg zur klimaneutralen Stadt Mannheim*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://buergerinfor.mannheim.de/buergerinfor/getfile.asp?id=8179789&type=do>.

¹²³ Mannheim, “Informationen”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://mannheim-gemeinsam-gestalten.de/archiv/dialoge/klimaschutzaktionsplan.html#uip-1>.

Rural Patterns is one of twenty projects funded by the ERDF NEB dedicated call “Technical assistance for public authorities: Support to New European Bauhaus Local Initiatives”, contributing to transforming places on the ground. The call targeted small and medium-sized municipalities which do not have the requisite expertise or capacity to turn their NEB project ideas into tangible results. With a total EU contribution of EUR 125,000, Rural Patterns aims to re-design the municipality of Katerini city centre’s urban space, including Dimarchiou and Eleftherias squares, and its main pedestrian area. Through extended water permeable paving systems, natural materials and elements (e.g., trees), and customised objects integrating natural sources (e.g., rainwater and sunlight), the project will finally shape a new sustainable city identity. Improved use of public spaces is expected to generate a social impact capable of leading to better health and well-being, removal of social distancing, better accessibility and enhanced safety in public spaces. In addition, various target groups are expected to be covered, including people of different ages and backgrounds, minorities, unemployed people, migrants and refugees. The city’s design is inspired by the agricultural fabric of the areas surrounding Katerini city centre, highlighting an unexpected correlation and dialogue between its rural and urban landscapes and the way they are shaped. Rural Patterns adheres fully to the municipality of Katerini’s spatial planning strategies (i.e., its [Strategy for the Sustainable Urban Development 2017 for the Municipality of Katerini](#)) and its relevant action plans and regulatory frameworks¹²⁴. After designing the project concept with an external Competition Design Team¹²⁵ which won an architectural contest launched by the municipality of Katerini, the municipality has benefited from a set of EU services, namely: i) a methodological framework for the assessment of environmental and socio-economic benefits from the project’s implementation; ii) design of architectural details and handbook of good practices linked to bioclimatic elements and information technology solutions; iii) green public procurement good practices and recommendations; iv) a methodological framework to keep stakeholders engaged in the project and implement needs assessments; v) a funding scheme. These helped the municipality of Katerini to acquire new knowledge, methodologies and technical solutions that have been already implemented and which will be key assets for later use. Furthermore, the Municipality has been trained in line with the NEB’s core values, which will help it expand its thinking and exchange knowledge with other European cities. In this regard, the Municipality considers the participation of LRAs in all NEB initiatives mandatory, as it is these who are responsible for planning, implementing and monitoring the local and

¹²⁴ Including the [General Urban Plan of Katerini GUP](#), the [Research support to the Municipality of Katerini towards a sustainable mobility strategy focusing on cycling](#) programme and a University of Athens Physics Department study entitled *Bioclimatic Assessment and Optimisation of the center of the Municipality of Katerini*.

¹²⁵ The Team comprises two architects, one hydraulic designer, one civil engineer and one electrical engineer.

regional sustainable development strategies which are at the core of any public space and public building project such as Rural Patterns.

Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- Sustainable: Rural Patterns will incentivise natural restoration and expansion by enhancing the use of nature-based solutions and applying circular economy principles to urban re-design.
- Beautiful: Rural Patterns will enable the municipality of Katerini's city centre to be recreated and collectively reinvented via the implementation of extended water-permeable paving systems, natural materials and elements. This will contribute to enhancing people's wellbeing in use of public space, as well as increasing their sense of belonging.
- Together: by re-designing Katerini city centre, Rural Patterns will contribute to enhancing its local community, as well as to improving the recreation opportunities available to it in the public space. This will help transform the way people of all ages and backgrounds live together, which will influence their long term social behaviour.
- Participatory approach: thanks to the EU support on the methodological framework required to keep stakeholders engaged in the project and the implementation of needs assessments, the municipality of Katerini has adopted a co-creation methodology for which, e.g., a set of surveys has been shared with selected target groups of inhabitants to re-design the city centre.
- Transdisciplinary approach: Rural Patterns has adopted an interdisciplinary approach bringing together specialists in urban planning, green areas, mobility, engineers and architects to re-design the municipality of Katerini's city centre.
- Multi-level approach: funded by the EU Cohesion Policy through the European Regional Development Fund, Rural Patterns has adopted a place-based approach designed to support urban re-design and sustainable development and improve citizens' quality of life. The local environment will finally be improved through the EU service knowledge transfer to the municipality of Katerini and made tangible upon completion of urban city centre renovation work.

Sources: [Rural Patterns factsheet](#)¹²⁶ on ERDF portal; Strategy for the Sustainable Urban Development 2017 for the Municipality of Katerini (Katerini 2017)¹²⁷; [General Urban Plan of Katerini GUP](#)¹²⁸; [Research support to the Municipality of Katerini towards a sustainable](#)

¹²⁶ Ramboll, "Support to New European Bauhaus Local initiatives, Honouring and supporting the inspiring place-based transformative projects done by local public authorities". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://c.ramboll.com/local-support-new-european-bauhaus>.

¹²⁷ Katerini. 2017. ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ / ΟΧΕ – ΒΑΑ εκτός Θεσσαλονίκης. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://civitas.eu/resources/sustainable-urban-development-strategy-katerini-0>.

¹²⁸ Katerini, "Schediasmos". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.schediasmos.com/general-urban-plan-katerini.html>.

[mobility strategy focusing on cycling](#)¹²⁹; interview held on 25 May 2023 with a representative from the municipality of Katerini (EL).

Case 3.4. Social Economy Laboratories for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities (eLabHauSE.rur) (Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Spain)



One of the two missions organised by the eLabHauSe.rur project.
Photo credit: eLabHauSe.rur.

Name of the EU funding opportunity: Single Market Programme.

LRAs involved: municipality of Vedra (ES), Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County (HR), Meath County Council (IE), municipality of Capannori (IT).

LRA participation: mandatory. At least three regional or local public administrations (such as regions, municipalities, cities, etc.) from at least three different eligible countries were required by the call for proposals.

Implementation area: social economy.

Timing: May 2022 – April 2024.

Description of the initiative

eLabHauSE.rur is one of eleven projects funded by the Single Market Programme NEB contributing call “Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient” (SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE), contributing to transforming the enabling environment for innovation. With a total EU contribution of EUR 199,707.14, it aims to support local public administrations, small and medium-sized social economy enterprises and people living in rural areas to overcome crises by means of social transformation through the NEB. To achieve this goal, the project will co-design and co-develop a network of social economy laboratories promoting more resilient, sustainable and inclusive employment and social opportunities in rural areas that will contribute to knowledge gathering, experience and promotion of innovative and creative best practices based on the NEB. eLabHauSE.rur comprises two phases. The first, which is expected to be completed by the end of June 2023, involves the launching of three social economy missions, the first of which took place in Italy in November 2022 and

¹²⁹ National Technical University of Athens, “Research support to the municipality of Katerini towards a sustainable mobility strategy focusing on cycling”. Accessed July 17, 2023.
https://www.elke.ntua.gr/en/research_project/research-support-to-the-municipality-of-katerini-towards-a-sustainable-mobility-strategy-focusing-on-cycling/.

focused on the green economy¹³⁰. The second was held in March 2023 in Croatia and was blue economy related¹³¹. The third will be organised in Spain in June 2023, and focus on the social economy¹³². Prior to each mission, a request to relevant stakeholders was launched through Wikiplatform¹³³, the project's dedicated platform based on NEB's three core values, to collect good practices at EU level focusing on the green, blue and social economies. Visits and workshops were thus organised on site during each mission, to gather greater knowledge on these initiatives, as well as to brainstorm ideas and come up with a Manifesto for the laboratories for future European Rural Community implementation. The second phase will thus be implemented at local level, during which the municipalities involved in the project will coordinate efforts to design local action plans and a roadmap for long-term rural economy sustainability inspired by the NEB initiative. Wide-ranging dissemination, capitalisation and transfer of the methodology designed is at the core of the eLabHauSE.rur project. To succeed in its mission, it is important for the project to engage with local communities and stakeholders and increase awareness of local action plans as effective instruments with which to mitigate the negative impacts of crisis and become an important enabler for social economy organisations to foster twin transition and long-term economic transformation towards greater sustainability, resilience and inclusion for all citizens. To ensure suitable participation at EU level in this collaborative process, it is important that LRAs are partners to the NEB and are kept up to date about it - in terms of how to disseminate for wider outreach, in accordance with NEB visibility rules - and how it is moving forward, as well as for specific and strict NEB project selection criteria to increase people's understanding of what the NEB is in practical terms and how they can get involved in it. In this regard, the [NEB Compass](#)¹³⁴ launched in January 2023 by the JRC paved the way for the development of a guiding framework to classify projects in accordance with NEB core values and principles. Nonetheless, greater efforts leading to quantitative indicators are needed. Although the LRAs involved in the project

¹³⁰ "It is an economy which recognises the true value of environmental resources and ecosystems and is closely related to the term 'sustainable development', since both relate to the aim of conserving environmental resources for future generations." (EUR-Lex glossary. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/green-economy.html>)

¹³¹ "It encompasses all industries and sectors related to oceans, seas and coasts, whether they are based in the marine environment (e.g. shipping, fisheries, energy generation) or on land (e.g. ports, shipyards, land-based aquaculture and algae production, coastal tourism)" (European Commission. 2021(a)).

¹³² "The social economy includes a variety of businesses, organisations and legal entities, such as social enterprises, cooperatives, mutual benefit societies (a specific type of collective insurance), non-profit associations and foundations. They put people and the environment at the centre of their mission and reinvest most of their profit back into the organisation or a specific social cause. They are governed in a participatory, bottom-up way." (European Commission. 2021(b)). <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=10117&furtherNews=yes#navItem-1>.

¹³³ eLabHauSE, "Welcome to eLabHauSE Wikiplatform". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://elabhause.eu>.

¹³⁴ European Union, "The New European Bauhaus Compass". Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/document/405245f4-6859-4090-b145-1db88f91596d_en.

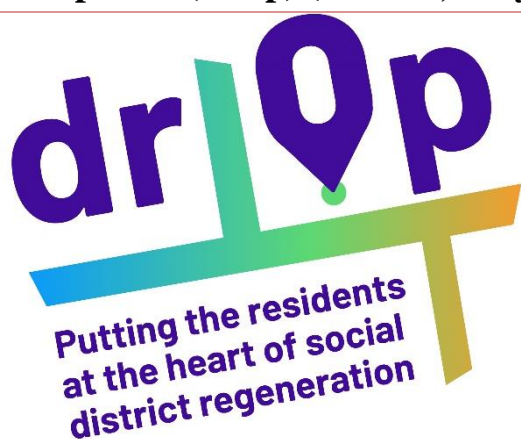
are already familiar with the NEB, they see themselves as engaged in a continuous learning process which needs to be fostered by a multi-level approach in which the EU, other cities and regions and social economy stakeholders join forces. In this regard, these view the NEB as an opportunity to strengthen ties with other territories whose needs, challenges and opportunities are similar, to achieve common objectives working for overall improvement from three points of view: environmental, social and citizen participation.

Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- Sustainable: eLabHauSE.rur aims to capitalise on the social economy to develop local action plans to apply to rural areas with a view to behavioural change, twin transition and better resilience in crisis recovery.
 - Beautiful: through wide-ranging dissemination, eLabHauSE.rur aspires to create a long-lasting European Rural Community movement, in which these are urged to share good practices and experiences in the collective transformation of rural areas through the social economy.
 - Together: through collective intelligence with local communities and stakeholders involved in social economy and living in rural areas, eLabHauSe.rur aims to inspire new ways of living together, building on solidarity and cooperation. Special attention is paid to civil society and people of all ages, including women and the disadvantaged.
 - Participatory approach: eLabHauSe.rur has set up a dynamic co-creation collaborative process designed to result in good practice mapping based on the opportunities offered by the NEB and developing local action plans and a roadmap for long-term rural economy sustainability.
 - Transdisciplinary approach: with an interdisciplinary approach, eLabHauSE.rur aims to bring together a range of disciplines and reach out to industry, society and policymakers in order to connect people and explore new ways of facilitating the ecological and socio-demographic transformation of European rural communities.
 - Multi-level approach: eLabHauSE.rur aims to work across levels with three missions involving citizens and social economy stakeholders, going beyond its initial dimension to set up a network of European Rural Communities inspired by the NEB values and principles.
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Sources: [eLabHauSE.rur factsheet](#)¹³⁵ on the EU Funding & tender portal; [eLabHauSE.rur website](#)¹³⁶; [EUR-Lex glossary](#)¹³⁷; European Commission. 2021(a)¹³⁸; European Commission. 2021(b)¹³⁹; [NEB Compass](#)¹⁴⁰; interview held on 15 May 2023 with representatives of the Galician Association of Agrifood Cooperatives (ES), municipality of Vedra (ES), Agency for Rural Development of Zadar County (HR), Meath County Council (IE), municipality of Capannori (IT).

Case 3.5. Digitally enabled social district renovation processes for age-friendly environments driving social innovation and local economic development (drOp) (Estonia, Italy, Spain)



drOp logo.

Photo credit: drOp.

Name of the EU funding opportunity: Horizon Europe.

LRAs involved: municipalities of Ermua (coordinator) (ES), Elva (EE), Matera (IT).

Participation of the LRAs: non-mandatory.

Implementation area: social housing area renovation.

Timing: October 2022 – September 2025.

Description of the initiative

drOp is one of three projects funded by the Horizon Europe NEB dedicated call “Social and affordable housing district demonstrator” (HORIZON-CL4-2021-RESILIENCE-02-32), contributing to transforming places on the ground. With a total EU contribution of EUR 2,486,150 it aims to develop an Integrated Renovation Methodology (IRM) with which to transform social housing districts into age-friendly inclusive smart neighbourhoods. This will help

¹³⁵ European Commission, “Social Economy Laboratories for the New Bauhaus in European Rural Communities”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/org-details/999999999/project/101074123/program/43252476/details>.

¹³⁶ eLabHauSE, “Welcome to eLabHauSE Wikiplatform”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://elabhause.eu/docs/about-elabhause/>.

¹³⁷ European Union, “EUR Lex”. Accessed July 17, 2023 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/green-economy.html>.

¹³⁸ European Commission. 2021(a). *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU. Transforming the EU’s Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future*, COM (2021) 240 final, Brussels, 17.5.2021. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2021:240:FIN>.

¹³⁹ European Commission. 2021(b). “Commission presents Action Plan to boost the social economy and create jobs”. Accessed June 12, 2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10117#navItem-1>.

¹⁴⁰ European Union, “New European Bauhaus Compass”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/document/405245f4-6859-4090-b145-1db88f91596d_en.

improve urban space, building accessibility and quality of life for all inhabitants, according to the three core NEB values of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics. Through a human-centred approach revolving around the needs of the inhabitants of selected neighbourhoods of Ermua (ES), Elva (EE) and Matera (IT), the methodology will be developed in four phases inspired by the Cities4ZERO methodology (Tatar, Merit, Tarmo Kalvet, and Marek Tiits 2020) designed for a previous Horizon 2020 project focusing on energy efficiency for smart cities ([SmartEnCity](#))¹⁴¹. The first phase is analysis and diagnosis designed to identify the buildings on which testing and validation attention is to focus. The second phase enquires into the key drivers and pilot initiative goals. A scenario for each individual neighbourhood is the next step. The last phase will design a strategic plan for the three cities. Once the methodology has been developed, it will be fully implemented and evaluated in Ermua's Santa Ana neighbourhood, which is characterised by post-war privately-owned multifamily buildings needing renovation. Previous action has been done here by the municipality of Ermua and TECNALIA according to a special plan¹⁴² developed in 2019 to address its accessibility problems. It was the great potential of such processes for the neighbourhood in terms of integration of energy efficiency and social, environmental, economic and accessibility which prompted the unicipality of Ermua to develop this strategic project to structurally transform the city with Horizon Europe funds, as cited in its *Urban Agenda* (Ayuntamiento de Ermua 2023, 41). The municipality is a newcomer to EU funding programmes but decided nonetheless to coordinate the project with TECNALIA as its technical coordinator, to prove its commitment to the success of the initiative. It will inherit the latest technological and social innovations from the municipalities of Elva (EE) and Matera (IT), with their respective expertise in digitalisation and cultural and creative industries. As a digitally advanced city, Elva's grounds for joining the drOp consortium were its residential renovation and living condition improvement needs, as highlighted in its [Strategic Plan](#)¹⁴³ and *Energy and Climate Plan* (Consultare OÜ Nomine, Consult OÜ 2022). The municipality will involve 152 people providing relevant future building renovation inputs potentially with complementary EU and national retrofitting. The municipality of Matera was involved in the consortium as it was European Capital of Culture in 2019. Its programme was entitled *Open Future* and focused specifically on social and cultural inclusion and collaborative innovation with citizens. Local communities took an active part in shaping the projects organised, prompting Matera to keep investing in co-creating. Against this backdrop, the municipality launched [Matera Partecipa](#)¹⁴⁴,

¹⁴¹ European Commission, "Towards Smart Zero CO2 Cities across Europe". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/691883>.

¹⁴² The plan is not publicly available, but can be shared on request.

¹⁴³ Elva Vald, "Arengukava 2030". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.elva.ee/arengukava-2030-koostamine>.

¹⁴⁴ Comune di Matera, "Matera Partecipa". Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.comune.matera.it/matera-partecipa>.

an initiative aiming to renovate public spaces through urban intervention and the creation of new approaches to living together involving sharing information, news and initiatives for the common good. One of the Matera Partecipa initiatives is the development of a Urban Center Laboratory launched in 2022 in the neighbourhood of Spine Bianche, the drOp pilot district. The cultural and creative industries will thus act as social and cultural enablers for citizen participation, but also as a means for new economic opportunity creation. A peer-learning method enabling the three cities to learn from each other will generate an IRM and some guidelines that will be implemented after the end of the project by Elva and Matera to replicate the testing activity in full. Furthermore, Housing Europe's participation in the consortium will enhance the project's ability to work jointly with other relevant EU projects, as well as to engage with other EU cities capable of replicating its methodology and calibrating it to their needs.

In this regard, the local authorities involved in the project consider the participation of cities and regions mandatory for the design and implementation of initiatives such as drOp, as it is these which are responsible for its operational management and which have the tools and contacts needed for its success. It is also important for these projects to develop sustainable people-centred solutions for better communication with the local authorities and more sustainable, beautiful and inclusive places to live in.

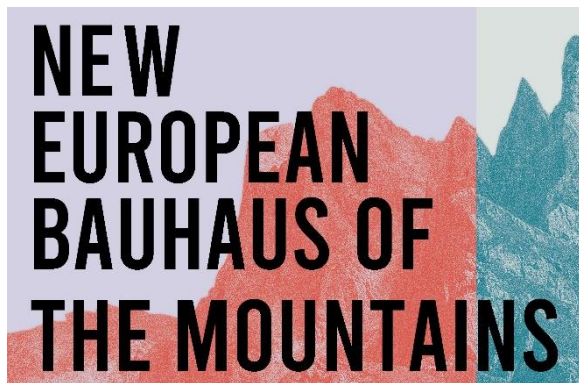
Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- Sustainable: drOp aims to set the basis for regenerating selected neighbourhoods needing retrofitting intervention. The project is not about retrofitting, but its objective is to provide significant strategic guidelines on action for accessible, beautiful and sustainable buildings.
- Beautiful: by developing an Integrated Renovation Methodology considering the needs of inhabitants, drOp aims to enable the collective re-invention of selected neighbourhoods - in terms of buildings and communities - to anticipate future transformations on the ground.
- Together: drOp aims to strengthen social cohesion through the transformation of social housing districts in inclusive smart neighbourhoods. By adopting a co-creation approach involving local community representatives, it will contribute to designing new ways of living together in which users' needs drive change and better living conditions.
- Participatory approach: at the core of the Integrated Renovation Methodology that drOp will deliver by the end of the project is a co-creation approach with neighbourhoods and the local ecosystem. After its methodology has been validated, Ermua will establish a neighbourhood office as a reference point people can go to to ask for technical and funding advice for building and home renovation.

- Transdisciplinary approach: at the core of the Integrated Renovation Methodology is an interdisciplinary approach exploring the potential of the cultural and creative industries and digitalisation to foster social innovation and enhance local economic development.
- Multi-level approach: drOp will develop an Integrated Renovation Methodology based on the experiences of the three pilot towns of Ermua (ES), Elva (EE) and Matera (IT). The project is locally based but the methodology will be validated for replicability and use optimisation elsewhere.

Sources: [drOp factsheet](#)¹⁴⁵ on CORDIS; [drOp website](#)¹⁴⁶; Tatar, Merit, Tarmo Kalvet, and Marek Tiits. 2020¹⁴⁷; [SmartENCity factsheet](#)¹⁴⁸ on CORDIS; Ayuntamiento de Ermua. 2023¹⁴⁹; [Elva Strategic Plan](#)¹⁵⁰; Consultare OÜ Nomine, Consult OÜ. 2022¹⁵¹; [Matera Partecipa website](#)¹⁵²; interview held on 30 May 2023 with representatives of the municipality of Ermua and TECNALIA (ES); interview held on 1 June 2023 with a representative of municipality of Elva (EE); interview held on 9 June 2023 with a representative of Materahub (IT).

Case 3.6. New European Bauhaus of the mountains (Italy)



New European Bauhaus of the Mountains logo. Photo credit: [Kseniia Obukhova](#).

Name of the EU funding opportunity: not applicable.

LRAs involved: autonomous province of Bozen/Bolzano (IT).

LRA participation: non-mandatory.

Implementation area: policy.

Timing: January 2021 – ongoing.

Description of the initiative

¹⁴⁵ European Union, “Digitally enabled social district renovation processes for age-friendly environments driving social innovation and local economic development”. Accessed July 17, 2023.

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101080025>.

¹⁴⁶ DrOp, “Digitally enabled social district renovation processes for age-friendly environments driving social innovation and local economic development”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://drop-project.eu/>.

¹⁴⁷ Tatar, Merit, Tarmo Kalvet, and Marek Tiits. 2020. “Cities4ZERO Approach to Foresight for Fostering Smart Energy Transition on Municipal Level” *Energies* 13, no. 14: 3533. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13143533>.

¹⁴⁸ European Union, “Towards Smart Zero CO2 Cities across Europe”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/691883>.

¹⁴⁹ Ayuntamiento de Ermua. 2023. *Agenda Urbana Ermua. Marco Estratégico & plan de acción*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://hiriagenda.ermua.eus/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/AU_ERMUA-Marco-Estrategico-y-Plan-de-Accion_vfinal.pdf.

¹⁵⁰ Elva Vald, “Arengukava 2030”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.elva.ee/arengukava-2030-koostamine>.

¹⁵¹ Consultare OÜ. Nomine Consult OÜ. 2022. *Elva valla energia- ja kliimakava*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://media.voog.com/0000/0046/8927/files/Lisa%201.%20Elva%20valla%20KEKK%2011102022.pdf>.

¹⁵² Comune di Matera, “Matera Partecipa”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.comune.matera.it/matera-partecipa>.

New European Bauhaus of the Mountains is one of the twelve community-led NEB Lab projects, and the only one involving a LRA. Coordinated by the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano (IT), it aims to act as a discussion space that bridges the gap between politics and the South Tyrol's mountain communities. The idea behind the project stemmed from the call of the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, to use the NEB to foster creativity across the EU. In January 2021, the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano started working to set up a project team in South Tyrol with a view to designing a new provincial ecosystem inspired by the core NEB principles of sustainability, inclusion and aesthetics. A preliminary draft of the project idea was discussed immediately afterwards with the JRC of the European Commission, responsible for NEB implementation, and validated with it as a NEB Lab project. This led the New European Bauhaus of the Mountains to hold its kick-off meeting on 8 July 2021 in a hybrid format, where a lively debate oriented discussions towards the implementation of seven flagship working groups focusing on seven thematic areas (i.e., sustainability and affordable housing, creative industries and inclusive society, circular design and bioeconomy, digital transformation for the common good, valorisation of sustainable and beauty in the built environment, design and art education, design and the art of democracy). Against this backdrop, the five pioneering organisations involved in the project team started meeting online with relevant stakeholders living in South Tyrol (e.g., activists, artists, designers, architects, students, engineers, scientists, policymakers) to brainstorm ideas and co-create innovative, beautiful, inclusive and sustainable solutions for the province's complex social problems with the final aim of looking for funding resources to bring them to fruition. At present, the project team has no funding mechanism in place and New European Bauhaus of the Mountains is a novel self-funding idea. Its individual stakeholders consider it, on one hand, an opportunity to raise awareness on the NEB and the various initiatives it can inspire and, on the other, as a creative movement designed to express the NEB at the European level. In this regard, New European Bauhaus of the Mountains hopes to attract further stakeholders living in mountainous areas with a view to maximising its impact. There is nothing accidental about the fact that, rather than making specific mention of the province, the project's name refers to mountains in general. Mountains can be seen as barriers but looked at from a different perspective they offer beautiful views from the summit. It is in this spirit that New European Bauhaus of the Mountains welcomes new stakeholders, as it did with RE START BZ, a provincial association with which a public event was hosted on 19 June 2023 to meet citizens. At present, the project is working on its internal governance, with the ultimate aim of adopting a multi-level approach enabling its partners to discuss existing policies and issues related to the South Tyrol as part of the EU, but also to widen its context to the EUSALP macro-region and other mountainous areas located in the EU. In order for the project to succeed,

regular dialogue with citizens and the European Commission is needed, to shed light on what the project is doing and how it can best be supported. The Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano has also expressed a wish for interaction with other NEB Lab projects such as, for instance, organising a NEB week or setting up a secretariat, enabling all stakeholders working in accordance with the NEB spirit to meet and exchange best practices and lessons learned with a view to the widest possible use.

Evidence of the project's relevance to the NEB initiative

- **Sustainable:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains aims to create an ecosystem of stakeholders living in mountainous areas, to act jointly for behavioural change leading to socio-ecological transformation in these settings.
- **Beautiful:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains aims to foster creation and collective re-invention of mountain places, communities and lifestyles. By enabling anyone interested in the mountains and living in such settings to join it, it aspires to generate a long-lasting movement showing the ways the NEB can be applied to mountainous areas.
- **Together:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains is an inclusive platform for discussion, where people can meet and co-create new ways of living together.
- **Participatory approach:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains aims to enable people living in mountainous areas to freely engage and manage the project, without any strict rules to abide by. Anyone interested in the mountains and living in such settings, regardless of age, geographical position, etc., is invited to take part.
- **Transdisciplinary approach:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains wishes to go beyond disciplinary boundaries. As an open discussion space, the project aspires to integrate scientific and technical knowledge with creativity and innovation, to explore new possibilities and bring new narratives applicable to mountainous areas to fruition.
- **Multi-level approach:** New European Bauhaus of the Mountains aims to bridge the gap between local mountain communities and policymakers. Whilst the project is currently territorial, it aspires to achieve a wider transformational impact by going international. In this regard, cooperation with the European Commission through the NEB Lab, other NEB Lab projects and other mountainous areas located in the EU is key to ensure the sustainability of its ecosystem and broaden its initial scope.

Sources: [New European Bauhaus of the Mountains](#)¹⁵³ on the New European Bauhaus website; [New European Bauhaus of the Mountains website](#)¹⁵⁴; interview held on 9 June 2023 with a representative from the Autonomous province of Bozen/Bolzano (IT).

¹⁵³ European Union, “NEB Lab: New European Bauhaus of the mountains”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-new-european-bauhaus-mountains_en.

¹⁵⁴ New European Bauhaus of the Mountains, “New European Bauhaus of the Mountains, Beautiful Sustainable Together”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <http://mountainbauhaus.eu/>.

Part 4: Conclusions, policy recommendations and foresight considerations

Foresight considerations regarding the implementation of the New European Bauhaus at the local and regional levels

At the end of 2020, the European Commission issued a Strategic Foresight Report (European Commission 2020, 2)¹⁵⁵ in which it stressed the key role strategic foresight plays in helping future EU policymaking by building collective intelligence on short-term initiatives to ensure that these are grounded in a longer term perspective. In this regard, a foresight analysis has been conducted within the framework of this study, to explore possible NEB implementations at the local and regional levels capable of tapping its potential to the full in a structured way in line with the initiative's three core values (i.e., sustainability, inclusion, aesthetics). The following approach is derived from the methodological steps already implemented in the study *Territorial foresight study in addressing the digital divide and promoting digital cohesion* (Fontana, Bisogni, Cavallini and Soldi 2022)¹⁵⁶.

The first step in the approach includes **horizon scanning**. “*Horizon scanning is the systematic outlook to detect early signs of potentially important developments in the future*” (European Commission 2016, 4)¹⁵⁷. Through horizon scanning, policymakers at any administrative level can take into account “signals of change” that may affect the expected impact of their decisions and actions. Early signs of change are called **weak signals**. They are unclear observables warning us of possible future “game changing events” whose weakness is proportional to the level of uncertainty regarding their interpretation, importance and implications in the short-medium to long term ([iKnow project](#))¹⁵⁸. For the purpose of this study, horizon scanning was carried out with a view to screening and selecting weak signals related to the NEB, starting from the list identified by the JRC available in the [TIM Trends system](#)¹⁵⁹ (i.e., a monitoring system developed by the JRC) and

¹⁵⁵ European Commission. 2020. *2020 Strategic Foresight Report. Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe*. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/497a17be-3824-4135-bf2b-1072d74272b3_en?filename=strategic_foresight_report_2020_1.pdf.

¹⁵⁶ Fontana, Susanna, Fabio Bisogni, Simona Cavallini, Rossella Soldi. 2022. *Territorial foresight study in addressing the digital divide and promoting digital cohesion*. European Union. QG-07-22-619-EN-N; ISBN: 978-92-895-1241-1; doi:10.2863/51662. Available at: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/studies/Documents/Territorial%20foresight%20study%20in%20addressing%20the%20digital%20divide%20and%20promoting%20digital%20cohesion/DIGITAL-COHESION.pdf>.

¹⁵⁷ European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. 2016. *Models of horizon scanning: how to integrate horizon scanning into European research and innovation policies*. Publications Office. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/338823>.

¹⁵⁸ European Commission, “Final Report Summary - IKNOW (Interconnecting knowledge for the early identification of issues, events and developments (...) shaping and shaking the future of STI in the ERA)”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/225695/reporting>.

¹⁵⁹ TIM, “Tools for Innovation Monitoring”, Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.timanalytics.eu/TimTechPublic/main.jsp?dataset=s_1597.

set out in the JRC technical report *Weak Signals in Science and Technologies* published in 2021¹⁶⁰. These were analysed in terms of their links and relevance to the three NEB core values, to increase understanding of what their future might be.

Against this backdrop, a list of 13 selected weak signals relevant to the NEB was developed¹⁶¹, as Table 1 below shows. Occurrences of each weak signal in the scientific literature¹⁶² were calculated by means of quantitative research analysis, considering a timespan ranging from 2018 to 2022. These served as a basis for two time frames - 2021-2022 and 2018-2022 - to describe the impact of each weak signal on the short and medium-long term, respectively, and build two different scenarios for the future of the NEB (Value 1, Value 2)¹⁶³.

Table 1 – List of relevant weak signals (2020) with quantitative data analysis related to 2018-2022

WEAK SIGNAL	Year	DESCRIPTION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Value 1	Value 2
Behavioural public administration approach	2020	A psychological method investigating the political administrative settings and focusing on cognitive and decision-making biases and discrimination by bureaucrats, interaction between citizens and bureaucrats and the psychological effects of public service failure.	2	8	27	9	10	5	2
Biocrust restoration	2020	Biocrusts are multifunctional communities of cyanobacteria, algae, lichens and other organisms that are increasingly being used to restore degraded or damaged ecosystems. In particular, they are used to restore dryland ecosystems (40% of the earth's surface) facing increasing degradation due to human activity.	4	9	16	6	9	5	3
Demographic growth	2020	Demographic growth, and more precisely geographically unbalanced demographic growth, is a major issue for Europe and other continents.	35	48	50	45	49	3	2

¹⁶⁰ Joint Research Centre, “Weak signals in science and technologies in 2021”. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f5a243d0-24eb-11ed-8fa0-01aa75ed71a1>.

¹⁶¹ Year of reference: 2020.

¹⁶² The scientific documents included articles, conference proceedings, book chapters, reviews, patents, and EU projects, as reported in the TIM Trends system: https://www.timanalytics.eu/TimTechPublic/dashboard/index.jsp#/space/s_1597?ds=126837.

¹⁶³ The value of each weak signal was calculated in terms of occurrence increase/decrease percentages in the scientific literature in the two different timespans. Each percentage range was given a value according to the following value scheme %<0= 1; 1-33%=2; 34-66%=3; 67-100%=4; %>100=5.

WEAK SIGNAL	Year	DESCRIPTION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Value 1	Value 2
End effects for Agri Robots	2020	End effectors are essential parts of agricultural robots located at the end of robotic arms and used for various agricultural operations.	182	241	256	250	248	3	1
Large-scale group decision-making processes	2020	Required by society's increasing complexity and favoured by new technologies and means of communication.	13	24	26	58	78	5	3
Magnetic covalent organic frameworks	2020	Recently investigated for their use in wastewater remediation, they have a high absorbent capacity for environmental pollutants such as perfluorinated compounds, endocrine disruptors, insecticides and even mercury.	12	17	54	42	47	5	2
Nature's contribution to people	2020	A new trend in policy making that aims to include the evaluation of nature's contribution to people and society when designing new policies.	11	14	34	56	36	5	1
Neuromorphic photonics	2020	Photonic neural networks are physical/hardware networks (as opposed to algorithmic neural networks) inspired by the structure of the human brain. They are being examined for their potential advantages (speed, energy consumption) in computational tasks (e.g., image recognition, speech processing, machine learning).	27	60	87	89	115	5	2
Optical wireless power transmission	2020	A technology with high potential to change our everyday lives and many applications, such as implanted medical device charging, underwater vehicle and arial drone powering, or long distance wireless power transfer.	8	14	11	13	10	2	1
Polystyrene nanoplastic	2020	The presence of a signal related to nanoplastic in the list of weak signals is not surprising. There is no doubt that micro- and nano-plastics are accumulating in the	15	43	81	95	191	5	5

WEAK SIGNAL	Year	DESCRIPTION	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Value 1	Value 2
		environment and research has recently detected/identified these in the environment and their toxicity.							
UAV assisted communication	2020	This weak signal relates to the potential of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to revolutionise various sectors such as automotive, energy and healthcare, by working as wireless relays to improve connectivity with and between networks of connected devices on the ground.	10	38	62	91	123	5	3
Urban agriculture	2020	Urban agriculture is a potential food security solution for ever growing cities.	373	347	413	459	492	2	2

Weak signals detected in 2021 are not associated with any quantitative data (Table 2) due to current data unavailability. However, they were selected in a qualitative way, to correspond with the three NEB core values. These weak signals were nonetheless worth including in the narrative at the end of this chapter presenting two possible scenarios on how the NEB could be affected in the future. These were considered relevant, as they are linked to some of the case studies presented in Part 3 which further validate their possible impact on NEB's future development.

Table 2 - List of relevant weak signals (2021) (unavailable quantitative analysis)

WEAK SIGNAL	Year	DESCRIPTION
Agrivoltaics	2021	The symbiotic spatial combination of photovoltaic installations and agriculture. The challenge is to optimise the energy harvested by crops and photovoltaic cells which compete for solar energy.
Green Artificial Intelligence	2021	A new research topic covering two dimensions: reducing the resource consumption of systems using artificial intelligence and exploring how artificial intelligence can be used in processes and systems to decrease resource consumption overall.
Mycelium-based materials	2021	New composite materials based on fungus mycelium, these are novel green materials with the potential to replace plastic film and sheets, synthetic foams and plastics and semistructural materials (e.g., panelling, flooring, furniture, decking). Some clinical trials have also explored their use for wound healing, showing their potential in biomedical applications.
Nanoagriculture	2021	A relatively new approach that aims to address current issues in agriculture and meet future challenges. It includes the use of nano-biotechnology and nanomaterials in agriculture, nanofertilisers, nanopesticides, nanosensors, etc. Researchers are developing new products and processes and also

		studying the effects of nanomaterial use on human and animal health and the environment.
Peer-to-peer energy trading	2021	The current shift towards distributed energy resources implies that electricity generation and intermediary storage elements (like batteries) are distributed as well. This calls for a new business model in which consumers have also become prosumers, generating and consuming energy. A peer-to-peer energy trading mechanism where prosumers interact (and transact) directly is being investigated.
Plastic chemical upcycling	2021	Plastic upcycling is meant to complement plastic recycling by offering a way to transform plastic waste into higher-value products and contribute to reducing plastic's environmental burden. Various conversion methods (e.g., pyrolysis, gasification, photoreforming) are currently under development and scaling up.

Relevant weak signal filtering and evaluation was followed by a second foresight methodology step designed to build two scenarios, an approach midway between exploration and pre-policy research. For this reason, the scenarios are vehicles of learning rather than decision-making tools (Iversen 2006, 3)¹⁶⁴. In the context of this study, scenario-building activity is designed to explore the obstacles and bottlenecks that potentially arise when attempts are made to implement the NEB at the local and regional levels. The scenarios show NEB developments in a 1 to 15 year time frame, to unlock its full potential and raise awareness. The creation of the scenarios also included an analysis of megatrends relevant to NEB evolution.

Megatrends are long-term driving forces that are observable now and whose future impact will most likely be significant. As regards Europe, the European Commission's Competence Centre on Foresight identified 14 global megatrends within the [Megatrends Hub](#)¹⁶⁵. Against this backdrop, LRAs participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study were asked to assess the relevance of each megatrend to the NEB on a scale from 1 (Low relevance) to 5 (Very high relevance).

The average rate for each megatrend was used to create a top-six list of relevant megatrends for the NEB (Figure 31).

¹⁶⁴ Iversen, Jonas Svava. 2006. *Futures Thinking Methodologies – Options Relevant For “Schooling For Tomorrow”*. Accessed July 17, 2023. <https://www.oecd.org/education/ceri/35393902.pdf>.

¹⁶⁵ European Commission, “Supporting policy with scientific evidence”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/megatrends_hub_booklet_-_web.pdf.

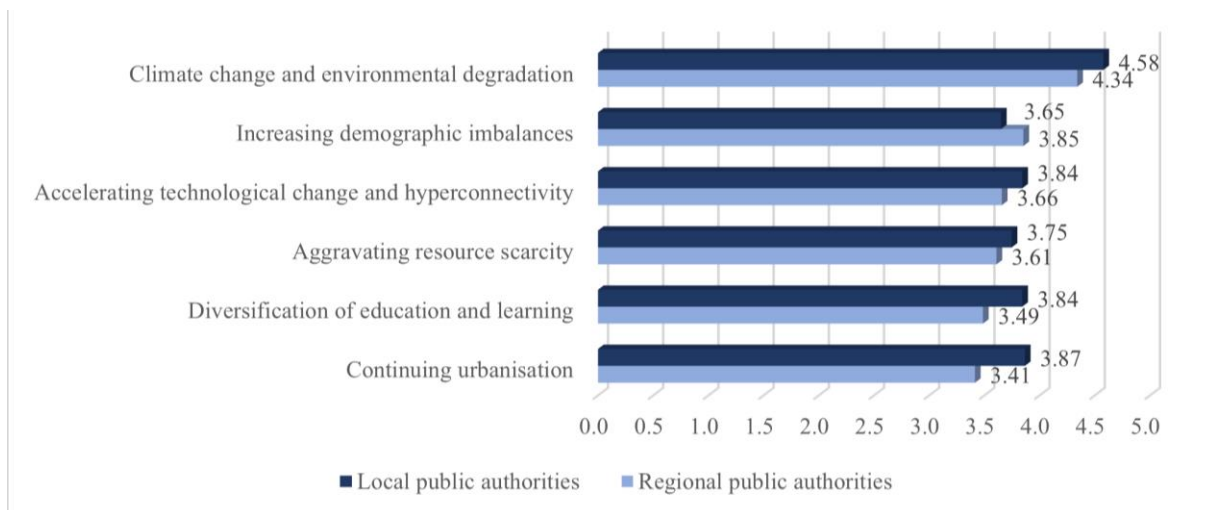


Figure 31 – Top-six list of relevant megatrends for the NEB

Each of them was then matched with the relevant weak signals to further supplement the scenario analysis (Table 3).

Table 3 – Match between the top-six list of megatrends as evaluated by the LRAs participating in the consultation and relevant weak signals.

Rank	Megatrend	Relevant weak signals	Average rate
1	Climate change and environmental degradation	Magnetic covalent organic frameworks; Polystyrene nanoplastic; Mycelium-based materials; Agrivoltaics; Nanoagriculture; Plastic chemical upcycling; Green Artificial Intelligence; Biocrust restoration; Peer-to-peer energy trading; End effects for Agri Robots.	4.46
2	Increasing demographic imbalances	Demographic growth.	3.75
3	Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity	Optical wireless power transmission; UAV assisted communication; Neuromorphic photonics.	3.75
4	Aggravating resource scarcity	Urban agriculture.	3.68
5	Diversification of education and learning	Nature's contribution to people; Large-scale group decision-making processes; Behavioural public administration approach.	3.67
6	Continuing urbanisation	Urban mobility.	3.64

Starting from this matching analysis, two types of scenarios were therefore built. The first analyses the decreasing or increasing impact of selected weak signals and the course of the associated megatrend. The second considers the three core NEB values in relation to the weak signals.

In the two figures representing the two scenarios below (Figures 32 and 33), each megatrend associated with one or more weak signals is positioned following the

ranking order illustrated in Table 3, top down. The coloured background of the megatrends is subjacent to the weak signals associated with it. Moreover, the weak signals and their impact on the NEB on a scale from 1 to 5 are shown in black dots.

Scenario 1: The NEB is almost fully integrated in society

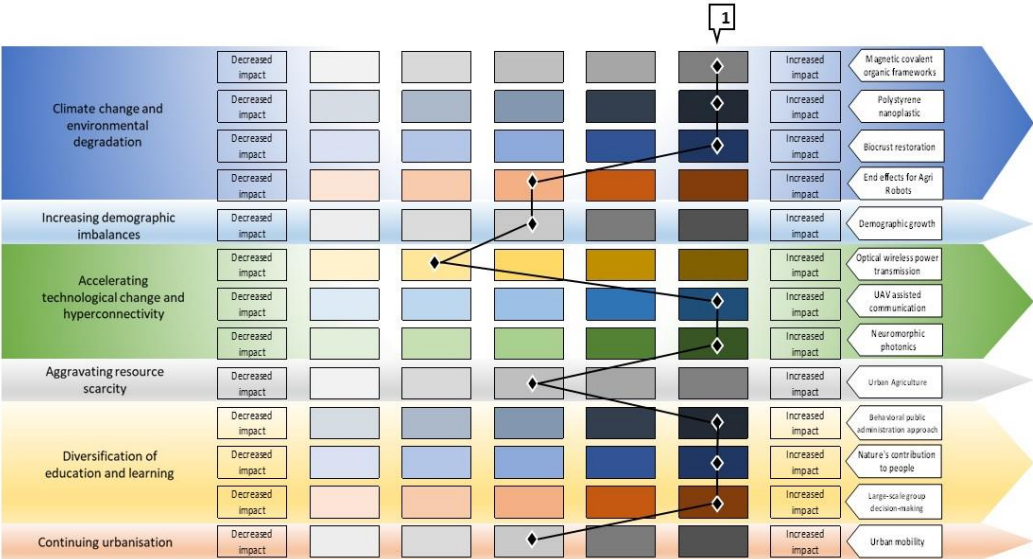


Figure 32 – Scenario 1 development based on 2018-2022 timespan data

Impact of relevant weak signals:

In Figure 32 above, the first scenario is shown considering the “Value 1” column associated with the selected weak signals (Table 1). The value range (1-5) of each weak signal is represented by the squares in progressive order, from decreased to increased impact. Each megatrend is illustrated with different colours (Table 3).

In the dark blue coloured background representing the climate change and environmental degradation megatrend - deemed the most relevant to the NEB by the LRAs participating in the consultation - most of the grouped weak signals (i.e., magnetic covalent organic frameworks, polystyrene nanoplastic, biocrust restoration) are high in impact. They represent progress in technological investment tackling climate change threats by the public and private sectors in the specific field of plastic reduction and upcycling. In this context, the “end effects for agri robots” is low in impact amongst the other accelerating weak signals. This

may be explained by low agricultural robot market uptake, although innovation in these is needed in response to increased food demand¹⁶⁶. Demographic growth's impact on the NEB is low, possibly because demographic growth is less pronounced in Europe than in other parts of the world. The accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity megatrend may foster the emergence of new technological communication tools (i.e., UAV-assisted communication) and neuromorphic photonics, while the impact of optical wireless power transmission on the NEB seems not to be high. Regarding both the worsening resource scarcity and continuing urbanisation megatrends, the two weak signals (i.e., urban agriculture and urban mobility) are decreasing in impact while, in the context of the megatrend on diversification of education and learning, the relevant weak signals (i.e., behavioural public administration approach, large-scale group decision-making and nature's contribution to people) seem to be significant for the NEB.

Impact on the NEB initiative

Overall this first scenario is positive. It is significant to NEB initiatives that society is moving towards increasing investment in its core values. As we have seen ideal weak signal acceleration is based on societies facing up to environmental issues without marginalising transdisciplinary, action-oriented and inclusive approach elements. LRAs can further enhance their efforts to rebuild society and the environment in sustainability and better inclusivity terms. This scenario shows the NEB at its most effective, tackling environmental degradation by investing in the core value of inclusion as well as by developing new methodologies to increase diversification in education and learning. This can be done by highlighting nature's functional role (i.e., nature's contribution to people) and the importance of a cooperative approach through engagement in society (i.e., large-scale group-decision-making processes), which highlights the need to explore the public administration's behavioural aspects (i.e., the behavioural public administration approach). In this respect, Green Artificial Intelligence and peer-to-peer energy trading (P2P) are the best solutions as regards enhancing cities' neighbourhood production and consumption of renewable energy efficiency of the various NEB initiatives and funded projects involving LRAs. As shown in the Urban ReLeaf project description (Part 3), data gathering plays a key role in ecosystem observation as well as in providing qualitative and quantitative indicators for the implementation of NEB projects at local and regional levels. In these circumstances, too, Green Artificial Intelligence can be of use in infrastructure monitoring and assessment and for predictive data analysis of ecosystems and cities, in order to give policymakers and LRAs effective

¹⁶⁶ Vrochidou, Eleni, Viktoria Nikoleta Tsakalidou, Ioannis Kalathas, Theodoros Gkrimpizis, Theodore Pachidis, and Vassilis G. Kaburlasos. 2022. "An Overview of End Effectors in Agricultural Robotic Harvesting Systems". *Agriculture* 12, no. 8: 1240. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12081240>.

guidelines (Yigitcanlar, Tan, Rashid Mehmood, Juan M. Corchado 2021, 2)¹⁶⁷. Urban mobility is another focal point in the NEB initiative, since its development changes the places we live in for the better in community terms. In fact, it improves cities' infrastructures, with strategies including the engagement of public officials with the community and the implementation of sustainable policies to design and build urban mobility. However, urban mobility is not fully integrated into this scenario, as it is rated 3. This could be explained by the challenges involved in implementing technology at the local and regional levels, due to the cost of reshaping mobility and, possibly, administrative constraints.

In this first scenario, whilst high levels of NEB principle awareness and development has almost been achieved, the NEB should continue to invest in local place-based action-oriented policies focusing on awareness and practical intervention by LRAs to ensure transformation on the ground.

Evaluation of the NEB three core values

Following the above description of the weak signals and their impact on the NEB, the three core NEB values are evaluated in a qualitative way through the weak signals associated with them. In the scenario described, sustainability and inclusion score highly, while aesthetics cannot be described as a fully developed core value, because of the unavailability of data on the possible weak signals directly associated with it (e.g., the cultural and creative industries). However, the development of the concept of nature's contribution supports the aesthetics dimension in terms of the new role of the nature around towns (this is also present in the idea that people and nature are inseparable)¹⁶⁸. The hypothetical development of inclusion awareness (e.g., on the strength of the role of the decision-making process in large-scale groups) results in a high score for this core value. In this context, citizens cooperate with, and freely engage in sharing, good place-based action practices, enabling them to mutually exchange knowledge and disseminate and better learn NEB policies.

¹⁶⁷ Yigitcanlar, Tan, Rashid Mehmood, and Juan M. Corchado. 2021. "Green Artificial Intelligence: Towards an Efficient, Sustainable and Equitable Technology for Smart Cities and Futures" *Sustainability* 13, no. 16: 8952. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13168952>.

¹⁶⁸ Hill, Rosemary, Sandra Díaz, Unai Pascual, Marie Stenseke, Zsolt Molnár, Julia Van Velden. 2021. Nature's contributions to people: Weaving plural perspectives. *One Earth*, Volume 4, Issue 7. Pages 910-915, ISSN 2590-3322, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.06.009,p.911>.

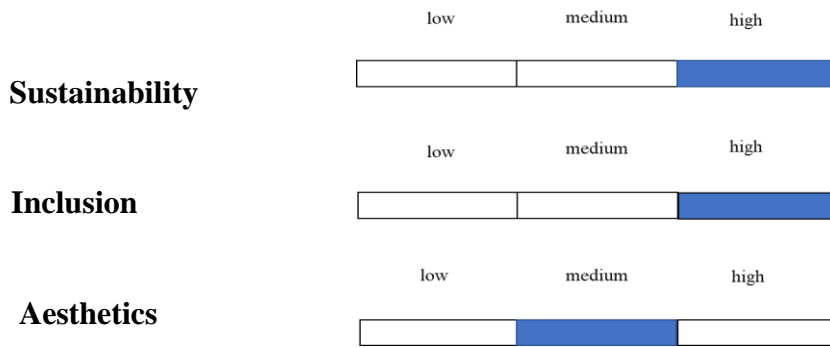


Figure 33 – Relevance of the three NEB core values according to Scenario 1

Scenario 2: The greater the increase in plastics, the lower the NEB impact

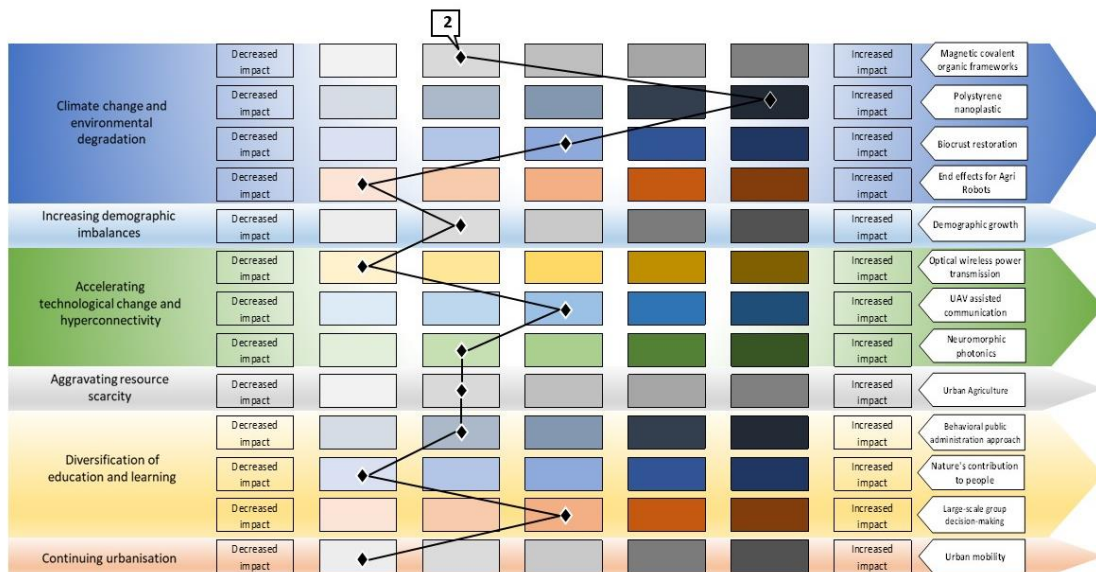


Figure 34 - Scenario 2 development based on 2021-2022 timespan data

Impact of relevant weak signals

The climate change and environmental degradation megatrend would seem to be even more accentuated than the others in the second scenario (Figure 34 above), given that polystyrene nanoplastic is the only weak signal associated with value 5. The other weak signals, rated 1 and 3, are associated with slow development and uptake. The impact of nature’s contribution to people and urban mobility is minimal, although their role in the NEB initiative’s impact as regards the realisation of its fundamental principles and tangible results is a priority. This huge disparity between the impact of the various weak signals can be interpreted

as global communities' urgent need to invest in new technologies and research to tackle plastic issues rather than other environmental issues. For this reason, whilst all six megatrends are accelerating, climate change and environmental degradation is more significant than the others.

Impact on the NEB initiative

Nature's contribution to people is a good point by which to describe the impact of weak signals on the NEB. It is a transdisciplinary, action-oriented and inclusive analytical tool which is also adaptable and flexible in application (Hill, Rosemary, Sandra Díaz, Unai Pascual, Marie Stenseke, Zsolt Molnár, Julia Van Velden 2021)¹⁶⁹. Its low impact may be a matter of the lack of a community approach to finding new methodologies to foster growth in technological tools in multiple ways and contexts. In this scenario, the NEB Community may play a strategic role in fostering the development of this new perspective and concept. Focusing on new technological tools, the NEB has the potential to enhance Green Artificial Intelligence, which does not completely shift its paradigm from the AI used to improve business efficiency and productivity to the need to tackle global threats, bringing the benefits of technological development to social goods and the environment (Yigitcanlar, Tan, Rashid Mehmood, and Juan M. Corchado 2021, 5)¹⁷⁰. Moreover, the potential impact of urban mobility seems not to have been boosted yet, as the first scenario shows. This negative trend shows that sustainable transport methods have not yet fully come to fruition in Europe (European Court of Auditors 2020)¹⁷¹. Since the NEB began working jointly with the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\) Community](#)¹⁷², the lack of effectively sustainable transport policies can reduce citizens' engagement and the upscaling of good practices and innovative solutions between cities¹⁷³. However, the NEB initiative continues to enhance the creation of entire neighbourhoods in which renewable energy governance is dependent on prosumers' ability to trade excess energy production and benefit from it as consumers. At present, there is no available data on the value of its impact, although there is evidence of local action-based projects being implemented through dedicated NEB calls for proposals. This is the case of the EHHUR project, a case study described in Part 3. People

¹⁶⁹ Hill, Rosemary, Sandra Díaz, Unai Pascual, Marie Stenseke, Zsolt Molnár, Julia Van Velden. 2021. Nature's contributions to people: Weaving plural perspectives. *One Earth*, Volume 4, Issue 7. Pages 910-915, ISSN 2590-3322, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.06.009>.

¹⁷⁰ Yigitcanlar, Tan, Rashid Mehmood, and Juan M. Corchado. 2021. "Green Artificial Intelligence: Towards an Efficient, Sustainable and Equitable Technology for Smart Cities and Futures" *Sustainability* 13, no. 16: 8952. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13168952>.

¹⁷¹ European Court of Auditors. 2020. *Special Report: Sustainable Urban Mobility in the EU: No substantial improvement is possible without Member States' commitment*. Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/urban-mobility-6-2020/en/>.

¹⁷² Urban Mobility, "New European Bauhaus EIT Community Initiative". Accessed July 17, 2023.

<https://engage.eiturbanmobility.eu/processes/new-european-bauhaus>.

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

inclusivity in fostering these policies is increasing. The collective decision-making processes (i.e., large-scale group-decision-making processes) are stable, and this could help the NEB to exploit inclusion as a tool to promote new NEB initiatives at the territorial level. In conclusion, in this second scenario, the NEB strategy needs to call upon the importance of tackling major global threats, such as plastic pollution, in the very short term.

Evaluation of the three core values

In this scenario, sustainability’s score is average, because not all the weak signals associated with it are rated 5 (e.g., end effects for agri robots are very low in impact, while polystyrene nanoplastic’s impact is very high). Inclusion is progressing through attempts to find methods by which to get people involved in decision-making processes, decentralising the non-cooperative process with the help of new technological solutions (Palomares, Iván, Luis Martínez and Francisco Herrera 2014)¹⁷⁴. Aesthetics can be tracked in the restoration of new ecosystems, but the low impact of some important weak signals associated with it (i.e., nature’s contribution to people and urban mobility) may reduce its resonance in developing new sustainable strategies and methodologies.

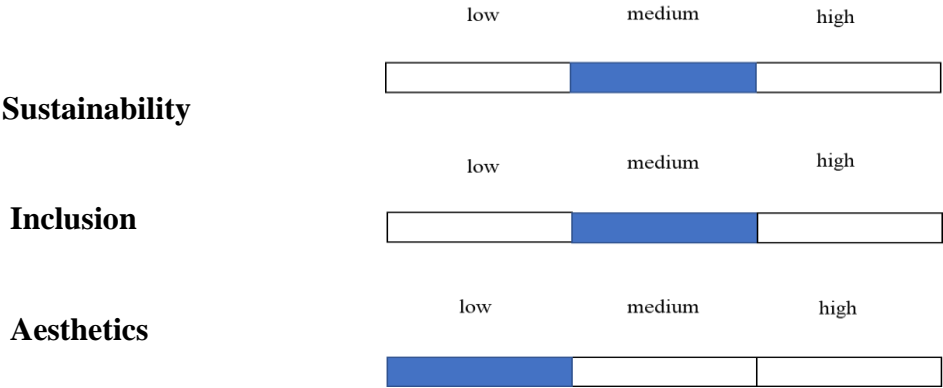


Figure 35 - Relevance of the three NEB core values according to Scenario 2

Conclusions

The foresight analysis outlines the future of the NEB initiative in terms of new technologies impact associated with megatrends. The creation of the two scenarios is useful to understand what strategies the NEB should follow to

¹⁷⁴ Palomares, Iván, Luis Martínez and Francisco Herrera. 2014. "A Consensus Model to Detect and Manage Noncooperative Behaviors in Large-Scale Group Decision Making," in *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp. 516-530. doi: 10.1109/TFUZZ.2013.2262769.

continue to implement its principles in line with its core values in the two identified plausible futures.

From the described scenarios, it is possible to determine the forthcoming growing relevance of the NEB given that climate change and environmental degradation are significant trends. The impact of the identified weak signals (i.e., new technologies) on the NEB contributes to the reduction of global threats (such as the increase in the use of plastics) and environmental issues. Considering the description of both scenarios some weak signals (i.e., urban mobility, end effects for agri robots, and urban agriculture) are less relevant than others because they seem not to support sustainable processes within the society. For example, the urban agriculture, with its central role in making cities resilient versus food shortages and external shocks. In this context, even if urban agriculture is not expected to significantly grow in the future, according to the scenarios, the NEB collaborative action could be directed towards shifting from a consumption model where the percentage of the supply is imported to one based on sourcing from their peri-urban surroundings (Institute of European democrats 2021)¹⁷⁵.

Assuming that the identified weak signals strongly related to NEB objectives seem not to boost their potential impact, the NEB needs to be ready to compensate for such weakness in order to achieve its goals. Without having the strength of closer NEB-related weak signals and their full development, NEB place-based actions should continue to be performed particularly in cities and rural areas finding new solutions to enhance the application of these new technologies and encourage local transformation. In this regard, the NEB should find *ad hoc* initiatives to increase the implementation of urban mobility, technological agricultural development, and urban agriculture. Moreover, the NEB should find new strategies to make the local place-based action tangible, providing LRAs with funding programme or financing instruments in line with feeble weak signals.

Finally, regarding the inclusion value, technologies like large-scale group decision-making processes will possibly enable communication between citizens and authorities, empowering the co-creation and cooperative attitude between stakeholders. Moreover, in the context of technologies developed for nature's contribution to people, LRAs' policy decisions will be fostered towards the transdisciplinary approach. Both evolutions are in line with NEB principles (e.g., participatory approach, transdisciplinary approach) possibly having a positive impact in the realisation of the NEB inclusion core value, as they aim to bring

¹⁷⁵ Institute of European democrats. 2021. Call for Papers "*The European Green Deal: Moving to Action. Opportunities and Challenges for the European Citizens Change on the menu: the New European Bauhaus Initiative as the enabler for the cocreation on the food systems of tomorrow*". Brussels.
https://www.iedonline.eu/download/green-deal/02_Emiliani_NEB-Green_Deal_IED_paper_2021.pdf.

creative solutions from collective thinking and integration of different viewpoints from different professions.

Recommendations to the European Institutions, the Member States and the Local and Regional Authorities regarding the implementation of the New European Bauhaus at the local and regional level

The following recommendations are grounded on the assumption that the EU and its Member States acknowledge and support the role played by LRAs in the implementation of the NEB. They aim to guide EU institutions, Member States and LRAs in the adoption of action-oriented policies on the ground to make the NEB initiative successful.

In this regard, the bottlenecks and impediments which emerged from the analysis carried out within the scope of this study, as well as the foresight considerations developed, are key to designing concrete solutions addressing policy recommendations at all levels.

Recommendation 1. The EU should keep working on the NEB Compass, to develop specific indicators helping to monitor how NEB-related projects can contribute to the NEB and its three core values and principles at the international, national and local levels.

Most LRAs involved in the EU-funded NEB projects described in Part 3 reported a lack of indicators with which to monitor the tangible results of their projects in line with NEB ambitions at the EU level, which prevent them from better adapting the NEB to their local and regional development strategies. This bottleneck derives from an undefined indicators strategy for use during the project implementation stage in order to identify their NEB-related transformative impact. This could be translated into the need for LRAs to be provided with international guidelines with which to monitor, measure and evaluate the relevance of their projects to the NEB and their impact on the ground. In this regard, some LRAs considered the NEB Compass useful, but not sufficiently so to satisfy these monitoring elements. Further structuring the NEB Compass in specific quantitative and qualitative indicators can help NEB project implementers to evaluate how they contribute to the NEB and its three core values and principles. Against this backdrop, in 2022 the European Commission launched the Lab project “Labelling strategy” (Labelling strategy [webpage](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-labelling-strategy_en))¹⁷⁶ aiming to improve the NEB Compass as well as to develop a set of assessment frameworks to be declined into self-assessment tools to define punctual criteria for labelling of projects. Should this process be validated by 2024, as expected, it

¹⁷⁶ European Union, “NEB Lab: Labelling strategy”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-labelling-strategy_en.

would also contribute to strengthen the NEB identity at the EU level and enhance the awareness about the initiative. Once the labelling mechanism is up and running, a possible concrete action to implement a solution to the monitoring obstacle outlined by the LRAs interviewed within the framework of this study would be setting up a specific NEB steering committee involving the EU NEB secretariat with ad hoc working groups to be implemented at the national and regional levels. This committee would indeed help gather and exchange information about the state of the art of NEB project implementation at the three levels of governance (i.e., EU, national and regional), as well as regularly monitor each project's effectiveness and coherence with the EU initiative according to the labelling mechanism put in place.

Recommendation 2. The EU should better define the core NEB aesthetics value.

When the NEB was launched in 2021, one of its three values, aesthetics, was referred to as “*the quality of experience and style beyond functionality*” (NEB [website](#))¹⁷⁷. Overall the LRAs participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study judged the aesthetics concept to be unclear, as it could encompass many different meanings and lead to multiple interpretations. At present, the interpretation given to this value is inspired by its further expression in the NEB Compass, where the aesthetics value is associated with re-activating the cultural, social and natural qualities of a public place, or connecting different places and people by giving citizens from different contexts a sense of belonging to a place, or integrating new cultural and social values in a place by enabling places to be created and collectively re-invented. Other interpretations were nevertheless gathered from interviews held with selected LRAs, for which the aesthetics value was associated with citizens' contribution to policy-making action, the role of nature in urban and rural areas and lifestyles and the concrete objective of making cities more aesthetically attractive. There is thus a need to better define this value, associating it with precise attributes with a view to moving forward with the NEB implementation monitoring process at the local, EU and international levels.

Recommendation 3. The EU should better define the role of the NEB national contact points, acting as a bridge between the EU Member States and the NEB at EU level. The LRAs could be part of these national contact points.

The desk research and interviews carried out with selected LRAs within the framework of this study highlights that the role of the NEB national contact points is unclear in practical terms. This role is relevant to the dissemination of information about the NEB in the various countries, further connecting and

¹⁷⁷ European Union, “New European Bauhaus. About the initiative”. Accessed July 17, 2023. https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative_en.

coordinating efforts at national level around the initiative. In the light of the bottleneck highlighted by respondents taking part in the consultation launched for this study relating to a lack of awareness of funding opportunities, tools and initiatives for NEB delivery, the EU should shed light on how the NEB national contact points can help bridge the knowledge gap. In this regard, these should be equipped with publicised specific roles and responsibilities. It is important that the NEB set up a transparent and clear governance structure at EU level, helping NEB implementers, and LRAs in particular, to understand how they can join the movement.

Recommendation 4. The EU should capitalise on the NEB Lab, by activating an operative strand facilitating LRAs to develop new local and regional ecosystems to be brought into a wider dimension.

Most respondents participating in the consultation launched within the framework of this study said they were unaware of the NEB Lab but would be interested in participating in it in the future, including for specific project development purposes. In this regard, through the NEB Lab the EU should design and activate an operational strand facilitating LRAs in co-creating new projects and initiatives with an impact at the territorial level, but an ambition to reach a wider scale. The example of the New European Bauhaus of the Mountains project described in Part 3 is clearly potentially replicable. Although the project has so far developed an ecosystem of stakeholders living in the South-Tyrol region (Italy), it aims to work with other mountainous areas across the EU to replicate its co-creation model and make the mountains more beautiful, inclusive and sustainable. The final goal of the NEB Lab should be to create an ecosystem of interconnected ecosystems in dialogue with one other to exchange ideas and good practices implemented in the spirit of the NEB.

Recommendation 5. The EU should implement a central NEB funding programme as a primary source of investment for LRAs to draw on.

At present there are eight EU funding mechanisms that directly or indirectly support the implementation of the NEB on the ground. What is lacking for LRAs in terms of available funding programmes is a central NEB-specific funding programme. A central NEB funding idea should be created to ensure all available opportunities are marshalled by LRAs to implement NEB projects. This is the consequence of the fragmentation of NEB calls for proposals which does not facilitate LRA attempts to invest in NEB project implementation. A new central

NEB funding programme would ensure the updating of funding opportunities for NEB projects and a better understanding of the related information needed by LRAs. This new approach would give the NEB its own classification and resonance at the EU level, with appropriate scheme funding and labelling.

Recommendation 6. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission should capitalise on the NEB Dashboard to provide a regularly updated overview of all NEB projects implemented across the EU for wider dissemination.

The NEB's ability to reach out to its target stakeholders in a massive way requires taking visibility and dissemination action to enable interested parties, and LRAs in particular, to get an updated overview of the NEB state of the art at the territorial, national and EU levels. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre has launched the NEB Dashboard, as a digital public use tool with which to gain an overview of the individuals and organisations joining the NEB Community and the beneficiaries of selected EU NEB-specific programmes. To provide users with an overarching overview of how the NEB is delivered, the JRC should further supplement the Dashboard with all projects and initiatives implemented through EU funding investments and/or national, regional or local ones. The Dashboard should be turned into a common repository visually representing where and by whom the NEB is delivered on the ground, after validating the concrete contribution that such projects make to EU goals. This would help regularly monitor how the initiative is implemented, and disseminate everything done to foster inter-regional and cross-border cooperation and replicability in other settings.

Recommendation 7. EU, Member States and LRAs should enhance the use of the NEB approach in improving the living conditions in rural areas.

In order to make the NEB a success, it is important to deliver place-based activities aiming to make both urban and rural areas more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful. However, at present few initiatives have been registered which are focused on rural areas. One of them is the eLabHauSe.rur project (Part 3), which aims to support local public administrations, social economy small and medium-sized enterprises and people living in rural areas to overcome social transformation crises through the NEB. In this regard, the EU should stress the importance of focusing on these areas, too. To ensure these areas are not left behind, *ad hoc* funding schemes could be launched by the EU to promote their development.

Recommendation 8. LRAs should be provided with foresight competencies to evaluate and update their policy actions in the spirit of the NEB, in the light of their needs and challenges.

In the light of the foresight analysis carried out within the framework of this study, future phenomena and trends are essential to understanding the future development of NEB strategies at the local and regional levels. Green and technological transition means that technological progress has the potential to change strategic approaches to implementing the NEB, enabling it to hold onto its core values and principles. The foresight considerations described in this study, including the two scenarios developed to identify plausible futures of the NEB, have outlined that the NEB has the potential to becoming increasingly relevant to tackle major challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation, primarily, by applying a place-based approach. This enable us to hypothesise that NEB place-based actions should have a central role in supporting the development of urban mobility, urban agriculture and agricultural technological development in urban and rural areas in the future. Without the support of NEB policies' strategies, the advancement of these three areas of development seems limited. More in general, regarding foresight considerations, the creation of different future scenarios would increase NEB's efficiency and make its policy action more targeted. LRAs should thus be equipped with specific foresight competencies (e.g., through reports and capacity building initiatives at the centralised level – EU or national), helping them identify their needs and the possible challenges they may face in the short and medium term, to capitalise on the NEB and coherently integrate it into their territorial development strategies and contribute to improving their places.

Recommendation 9. Regular peer-learning workshops at modular level (i.e., local, regional, national, EU) should be organised to share experiences and good practices about how the NEB is being implemented.

Modular peer-learning workshops (at local, regional, national and EU levels) should be organised on an annual basis to raise LRA awareness of how the NEB is being implemented, where and by whom, and the type of impact it has achieved in view of its three key core values and principles. This would help activate a monitoring and awareness-raising activity helping LRAs to understand how the good practices already delivered can be replicated or adapted to other settings, and how they can move forward in addressing the NEB to other needs and scenarios, whilst updating their local action-oriented strategies accordingly. More specifically, at least at the regional level, the creation of a New European Bauhaus implementation 'working group' in which representatives of municipalities,

citizens and the scientific, economic and cultural sectors meet to work on the possible development of the NEB initiative on the ground would be of use. This process could lead to the development of a cooperative and transdisciplinary approach in cities, reducing the engagement gap between local authorities and citizens.

Recommendation 10. LRAs should set up a specific NEB citizens' helpdesk to keep engaging with their communities on a regular basis.

The feedback provided by LRAs participating in the selected case studies presentation interviews in Part 3 highlighted that one of the main challenges to be addressed during the NEB project delivery phase is engaging with local communities. Although several tools, solutions and methods have been deployed to date to ensure that NEBs are delivered with a participatory approach, it is important that LRAs maintain dialogue with their citizens. To achieve this, LRAs should set up specific helpdesks citizens can go to share their problems and contribute to a co-creation process leading to tailored solutions to their needs. This solution will be implemented by the municipality of Ermua (Spain) after the drOp project – as presented in Part 3 above, for example.

Annex I – The online consultation

Introduction to the online consultation

The survey addresses the EU Local and Regional Authorities from the EU27 with the aim of collecting their perception of the situation and needs with regard to the implementation of projects related to the New European Bauhaus at the local and regional level.

The survey is structured into five sections. The survey is available online in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

The outcomes of this survey will serve to enrich the study "*The New European Bauhaus at the local and regional level*" commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) to Fondazione FORMIT (Specific Contract No. 16379). Answers to this survey will be analysed in an aggregated manner.

Individual contributions provided through the open questions of the survey may be eventually used in the study but in an anonymised form. [Fondazione FORMIT standard privacy statement](#)¹⁷⁸ applies.

*Section 1 – Details about the respondent (Questions marked with * are mandatory)*

I hereby consent to the transfer to the European Committee of the Regions ("the Committee") of the personal data (first name; last name; organisation; role/position; email address) that I submit in the present survey, to be used by the Committee for canvassing purposes. The CoR will retain data collected on the occasion of the study for a maximum of two years after the prospection. However, the personal data of survey respondents having refused to be contacted around survey follow-up activities will be deleted two months after the completion of the study.

- Yes, I consent.
- No, I do not consent.

Q1.1 – Information about the respondent

First name:

Last name:

Email:*

Role/position:*

Organisation:*

Country where the organisation is based:*

Region where the organisation is based:*

¹⁷⁸ Fondazione FORMIT, "Privacy statement. New European Bauhaus online questionnaire". Accessed July 17, 2023. https://www.formit.org/pdf/Privacy%20statement%20-%20New%20European%20Bauhaus_v01.pdf.

City where the organisation is based:*

*Q1.2 – Your organisation is *:*

- A local public authority.
- A regional public authority.
- Other.

*Q1.3 – Has your organisation already participated in the preparation of a New European Bauhaus (NEB) project *?*

- Yes, and it was funded. My organisation is currently involved in the delivery phase of a NEB project.
- Yes, but it was not funded.
- No, but my organisation is willing to participate.
- No, and at present my organisation does not foresee any participation.

Q1.3.1 – Please provide reference to the name of the NEB project(s) your organisation is currently delivering and possibly to a web link where a piece of information is available.

Project name 1 _____
Web link 1 _____

Project name 2 _____
Web link 2 _____

Project name no. _____
Web link no. _____

*Q1.4 – Did any external expert support you during the preparation process of any of the NEB project(s) you applied for *?*

- No, only my organisation's internal expertise.
- Yes, individual consultant(s).
- Yes, a consultancy agency.
- Yes, a public organisation involved in the NEB initiative (not a local and regional authority).
- Yes, another local and regional authority involved in the NEB initiative.
- Yes, a private organisation involved in the NEB initiative.
- Yes, the NEB Lab.
- Yes, EU institution(s).
- Other.

*Q1.5 – For each of the following EU funding instruments supporting the NEB initiative, which is the standpoint of your organisation *?*

Name of the EU funding instrument	My organisation already submitted a proposal	My organisation is currently working for the submission of a proposal	My organisation is willing to submit a proposal in the future	My organisation does not foresee at the moment to submit a proposal in the future
Horizon Europe				
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)				
Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)				
Single Market Programme				
Digital Europe				
Erasmus+ Programme				
Creative Europe Programme				
European Solidarity Corps				

Only for respondents answering “No, and at present my organisation does not foresee any participation” to Q1.3:

*Q1.6 – Why does your organisation not foresee the preparation of any proposal supporting the NEB initiative *?*

- Lack of information about the existing EU funding opportunities.
- Lack of partnerships with other international organisations to be enhanced to build a consortium.
- Lack of expertise in your organisation to build a consortium and develop the project’s concept.
- Unmet funding needs.
- Insufficient economic benefits.
- Lack of human resources to be allocated to the preparation of the proposal.
- Unsupportive communities.
- Other.
- I do not know.

Section 2 – The co-design phase of the New European Bauhaus initiative
(Questions marked with * are mandatory)

*Q2.1 – Was your organisation involved in the co-design phase of the NEB initiative *?*

- Yes.
- No.
- I was not aware of this phase.
- I do not know.

*Q2.2 - Are you aware of the NEB community *?*

- Yes, and I am a member of it.
- Yes, but I am not interested in it.
- No.

*Q2.3 – Are you aware of the NEB Lab *?*

- Yes, and I joined it.
- Yes, but I am not interested in it.
- No.

*Q2.4 – Is your organisation involved in any NEB Lab project *?*

- Yes.
- My organisation declared interest in it, but the idea was not considered in line with the scope of the NEB initiative.
- No, but my organisation is interested in participating.
- No, and at present my organisation does not foresee to declare interest in it.

*Q2.5 - According to the following immediate and short-term needs, how much interest has your organisation to apply for a NEB initiative to cope with the following *? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Poor interest] to 5 [Very high interest].*

- Reconnecting with nature (i.e., enhancing the awareness and willingness to address climate change and reduce exposure to pollution).
- Regaining a sense of belonging (i.e., connecting people, emphasising the role of cultural and social assets as key factors to make a place unique).
- Prioritising the places and people that need it the most (i.e., providing affordable and accessible solutions for all, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups and individuals).
- Fostering long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem (i.e., tackling unsustainable use of resources and waste by investing in the circular economy).
- Other immediate and short-term needs.

Section 3 – How to be involved in the New European Bauhaus initiative
(Questions marked with * are mandatory)

*Q3.1 - How did you become aware of the NEB initiative *?*

- Through web platforms.
- Through dedicated newsletters.
- Through social media (e.g., Instagram).
- Through NEB dedicated events (face-to-face and online).
- Through other events (face-to-face and online).
- Through the press/media.

- Other.
- I was not aware of it.

*Q3.2 – Which of the following EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative are the most appropriate for your organisation *? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Poorly appropriate] to 5 [Very appropriate].*

- Horizon Europe.
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE).
- Single Market Programme.
- Digital Europe.
- Erasmus+ Programme.
- Creative Europe Programme.
- European Solidarity Corps.

*Q3.3 – In your opinion/experience, which are the main reasons behind the decision to apply for a NEB initiative that best match with the objectives of your regional and/or local development strategy *?*

- To re-activate the cultural, social and natural qualities of a place in the public life.
- To connect different places and people by giving citizens from different contexts a sense of belonging to a place.
- To integrate new cultural and social values in a place by enabling creation and the collective re-invention of a place.
- To avoid and reduce environmental impacts and favour durability, adaptability, recyclability of materials.
- To enhance circular processes aiming at zero pollution.
- To enhance biodiversity and incentivise the restoration and expansion of nature.
- To include every people, by granting accessibility and affordability for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability, age or sexual orientation.
- To consolidate equal relations between users and/or communities, by sharing resources and opportunities.
- To transform the way of living together, building on solidarity and cooperation, to create new values and bring transformative benefits on a societal level.

*Q3.4 – In your opinion/experience, which benefits may stem for your organisation from being part of the NEB initiative *?*

- Enhanced management of the territory, including through the implementation of placed-based actions contributing to the European Green Deal at the local and regional level (environmental gain).
- Enhanced capability to involve the citizens in co-developing placed-based actions considering the territory's needs (social gain).
- More economic development opportunities (economic gain).
- Better integration of the territory's natural and cultural elements whilst advocating for beauty (cultural and aesthetic gains).
- Higher institutional commitment for placed-based actions at the local and regional level.
- Increased cross-border and international cooperation.
- Prestige.
- Additional funding.

- Other.

*Q3.5 – In your opinion/experience, which are the main barriers for taking the decision to apply for an EU call for proposals contributing to the NEB initiative *?*

- Lack of information about the existing EU funding opportunities.
- Lack of partnerships with other international organisations to build a consortium.
- Lack of expertise in my organisation to build a consortium and develop the project's concept.
- Unmet funding needs.
- Insufficient economic benefits.
- Lack of human resources to be allocated to the preparation of the proposal.
- Unsupportive communities.
- Other.
- I do not know.

*Q3.6 – In your opinion/knowledge, how could the accessibility of the current EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative be improved *?*

- By receiving more regular updates about future EU calls for proposals to participate in the design of new NEB projects.
- By making the participation of the local and regional authorities mandatory for the submission of future EU calls for proposals as consortium partners to be more actively engaged in the implementation of the NEB initiative.
- By enhancing the active role of the NEB Community in sharing regular updates about future EU calls for proposals to participate in the design of new NEB projects.
- By creating a NEB label concept that makes the identification of EU funding opportunities easier to be detected.
- By exploiting the NEB Festival as a good opportunity to present the different open EU funding opportunities and improve networking.
- By implementing a NEB Lab voucher scheme as easier accessible tool for the LRAs to get the necessary support and funding to organise a NEB Lab in their constituency without new bureaucratic hurdles.
- Other.
- I do not know.

*Q3.7 – In your opinion/knowledge, how could the user friendliness of the current EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative be improved *?*

- By organising more workshops focused on how the local and regional authorities can benefit from the participation in EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB.
- By organising peer-learning conferences and initiatives focused on sharing knowledge and experience about how NEB projects can be designed and implemented at the local and regional level.
- By establishing a help desk supporting the local and regional authorities to understand how to exploit at best the possibility to participate in EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative.
- By organising training sessions helping the local and regional authorities exploit at best the possibility to participate in EU funding opportunities supporting the NEB initiative.
- Other.
- I do not know.

*Q3.8 – In the opinion presented by the CoR on the NEB, a NEB Lab voucher scheme is proposed to be launched as an innovative way of funding cities and regions with vouchers. The local and regional authorities would therefore receive such a voucher as easier accessible tool to get the necessary support and funding to organise a NEB Lab in their constituency without new bureaucratic hurdles. In your opinion/knowledge, in which type of activity would such a voucher scheme help your organisation the most, should it be implemented *?*

- To be more easily engaged in the NEB initiative.
- To co-create, prototype and test the tools and policy actions that will facilitate transformation on the ground through new NEB Labs.
- To create new NEB Labs connecting the NEB initiative with your organisation's local/regional development strategy.
- To disseminate the NEB initiatives implemented at the local/regional level bringing them to the EU dimension.
- To enhance the key role of the local and regional authorities in delivering NEB initiatives.

Section 4 – The delivery phase of the New European Bauhaus initiative
(Questions marked with * are mandatory)

*Q4.1 – To which extent each of the following ambitions related to the participatory approach applied to the NEB initiative can be achieved by the NEB project(s) your organisation is delivering *? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Poorly relevant] to 5 [Very relevant].*

- To inform citizens about the project and its progress and consult them.
- To co-develop the rules and objectives of the project with citizens.
- To empower citizens to make decisions and self-govern the project.

*Q4.2 - To which extent each of the following ambitions related to the transdisciplinary approach applied to the NEB initiative can be achieved by the NEB project(s) your organisation is delivering *? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Poorly relevant] to 5 [Very relevant].*

- To be multidisciplinary, by addressing a common problem independently but alongside other disciplines.
- To be interdisciplinary, by addressing a common problem according to two or more academic disciplines or fields of knowledge.
- To be beyond-disciplinary, by integrating both formal and non-formal knowledge to achieve a common goal thanks to the engagement of people from political, social and economic fields with members of the public.

*Q4.3 - To which extent each of the following ambitions related to the multi-level approach applied to the NEB initiative can be achieved by the NEB project(s) your organisation is delivering *? Please rate each of the following from 1 [Poorly relevant] to 5 [Very relevant].*

- To work locally, by applying a placed-based approach together with informal networks (e.g., groups of individuals, neighbourhoods, etc.) and/or formal institutions (e.g., sectoral departments, political groups, etc.).
- To work across levels, to engage with informal networks (e.g., groups of individuals, neighbourhoods, etc.) and/or formal institutions (e.g., sectoral departments, political

groups, etc.) across various scales (e.g., single municipalities with regional authorities) to move beyond their own dimension (e.g., local, regional).

- To work globally, to apply the place-based approach implemented at the local and regional level to the global level, making a transformational impact beyond its initial local and regional scale of application.

*Q4.4 - To what extent is the NEB initiative integrated in your organisation's governance structure, and how could this integration be improved *? Rate it from 1 [Poor] to 5 [Very much] and explain why. Provide also reference to any programmatic documents your organisation has recently adopted that provide mention to the NEB initiative.*

*Q4.5 - What challenges and top barriers is your organisation facing with in implementing the NEB initiative *?*

- Limited international support and cooperation with the other partners of the NEB project.
- Turning the placed-based approach into tangible results improving the place and the well-being of the people living in it.
- Involving the community.
- Creating the right communication tool to engage the community.
- Finding expertise for managing the project.
- Monitoring the project on a continuous basis.
- Ensuring a proper internal organisational capacity.
- Other.
- I do not know.

Section 5 – Paving the way for the future of the New European Bauhaus initiative *(Questions marked with * are mandatory)*

*Q5.1 - How can the NEB approach be used to promote a stronger cross-border and inter-regional collaboration between cities and regions *?*

- By better declining how cities and regions can best contribute to the implementation of the NEB approach.
- By activating the transfer of best practices to other cities and regions.
- By implementing a NEB local/regional scoreboard highlighting where more NEB initiatives are needed the most to make the NEB movement more active.
- By improving the dialogue between local communities and the different levels of government to have more impact on policymaking.
- By enlarging the number and/or type of potential financial contributors supporting future NEB initiatives.
- By enhancing relevant competences within and outside the NEB community (e.g., in terms of design and implementation of the NEB initiatives, dissemination and exploitation of results).
- Other.

Q5.2 – In your opinion/knowledge, are there any trends that are relevant and meaningful in understanding the future of the NEB initiative?

*Q5.3 - In your opinion/knowledge, to which extent the following megatrends are relevant and meaningful in understanding the future of the NEB initiative *? Rate each of them from 1 [Poorly relevant] to 5 [Very relevant].*

- Diversifying inequalities.
- Increasing significance of migration.
- Aggravating resource scarcity.
- Increasing influence of new governing systems.
- Continuing urbanisation.
- Increasing demographic imbalances.
- Climate change and environmental degradation.
- Diversification of education and learning.
- Changing nature of work.
- Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity.
- Growing consumerism.
- Expanding influence of east and south.
- Changing security paradigm.
- Shifting health challenges.

Section 6 - Initiatives related to the New European Bauhaus

Q6.1 - Are you aware of any good practices implementing the NEB approach at local and regional level that combine social projects and the digital and green transformation with aesthetics that could be mainstreamed in other cities and regions? If yes, please provide their names and a web link where a piece of information is available.

Annex II - Script of the interviews carried out to build the case studies (Part 3)

Introduction to the Interview

This interview will take place in the context of the study “The New European Bauhaus at local and regional level” commissioned by the European Committee of the Regions to Fondazione FORMIT (Specific Contract No. 16379). The research project aims at analysing the state of play of the New European Bauhaus initiative in relation to the Local and Regional Authorities, and their consequences for regions. A particular focus will lie on cities and regions’ immediate and short-term needs and also in identifying best practices, or any difficulties and bottlenecks concerning the implementation of the initiative, so that along the way it can make recommendations and unlock the initiative’s full potential awareness. The input given by the Local and Regional Authorities’ experience in relation to the implementation can be used as a guide and help transfer the best practices and know-how to other entities.

Areas of discussion

The following are the areas of discussion that will be covered during the interview and the possible questions that will be raised.

Reasons and processes leading to the participation in the NEB initiative

- What are the reasons behind your decision to apply for a NEB project?
- How did you build the partnership of your NEB project?
- According to your opinion, which are the main elements that contributed to the funding of your NEB project?

Management, multi-level approach and funding arrangements

- Can you briefly describe the scope of your NEB project, and how it is meant to carry out place-based activities combining sustainability, inclusiveness and beauty?
- How will you measure your project’s consistency with the spirit of the NEB initiative? Have you set any quantitative and/or qualitative indicators measuring the impact of your NEB project on the three axes the NEB initiative is based upon (i.e., sustainability, inclusiveness, beauty)?
- To what extent the scope your NEB project aims to achieve is already integrated in your governance project? Can you please indicate the tools

and solutions that allowed its implementation (e.g., reference to NEB in your local/regional development strategy)?

- Do you expect that such an integration will be further improved throughout the delivery of your NEB project? How?
- How would you expect to make the results stemming from your NEB project sustainable on the medium and long-term period? Would you expect to make use of any funding instrument contributing to its sustainability?

Existing synergies and cross-border elements

- Which is the engagement process your NEB project has implemented to involve local communities? Will they have a direct participation in the project? If yes, how? If no, why?
- Can you please briefly describe the communication, dissemination and exploitation strategy of your project, with special reference to if and how it will contribute to enhance cross-border and/or inter-regional cooperation? Do you expect to organise peer-learning initiatives and events focusing on sharing experiences and ideas on the NEB initiative, or to cooperate with other NEB-funded projects? If yes, can you please cite them?
- Given your involvement in this NEB project, do you think that your Local/Regional Authority will benefit from the participation in the NEB initiative? If yes, how? If no, why?

Challenges and success factors

- Your NEB project has recently started. In this phase, are you experiencing any obstacles or bottlenecks in its implementation? If yes, can you please briefly describe them?
- Do you think that new obstacles will raise throughout the implementation of your NEB project? If yes, can you please briefly describe them?
- Did your perception of the NEB initiative change after the kick off of your NEB project? Is there any clarification or doubt you may need to solve about?
- Which is your standpoint about the involvement of cities and regions in the implementation of the NEB initiative? Can you please briefly describe if and how Local and Regional Authorities are important for its success?

- The NEB initiative started in 2021, and at present several funding mechanisms (e.g., Horizon Europe) have been used to support its implementation. In your experience/opinion, is there any alternative scenario that may be worth to be considered to improve its accessibility and effectiveness in a more structural way?

Additional relevant input from the interviewee(s)

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