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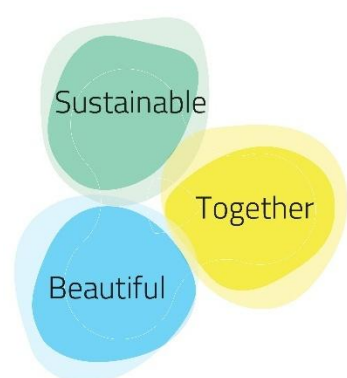
**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**New European Bauhaus - from vision to implementation**

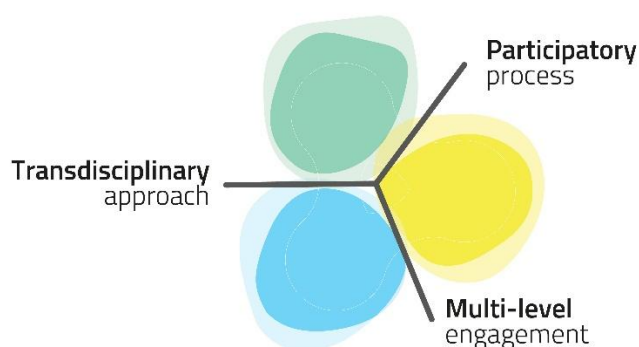
## 1. INTRODUCTION

**European citizens and businesses face challenges at an unprecedented scale and complexity:** from geopolitical upheavals and security threats on our own continent to the triple planetary crisis as well as technological changes and threats to our democracy and values. In these times of uncertainty, it is natural for citizens to feel concerned and it is therefore crucial to **provide predictability and perspective, foster innovation and create places that support a sense of belonging, quality of life and a feeling of security.**

**This is what the New European Bauhaus (NEB) is doing.** Launched in 2020 by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, it **empowers people, communities and businesses to jointly find innovative solutions for a positive future**, which combines inclusion, sustainability and quality of life.



*NEB Values*



*NEB Principles*

The **NEB aims at creating tangible change on the ground for people and businesses**, acting through an innovative, transformative and bottom-up approach. In five years, it has become a **movement, with over 700 projects across Europe and beyond, a vibrant community** of nearly 2000 organisations, reaching millions of people, and a network of national authorities acting as a bridge with the local level. The various projects that have been researched, piloted and demonstrated from 2021 to 2025, from affordable housing districts demonstrators to accelerators for construction digitalisation, as well as art-driven participation in local communities, show that an inclusive, sustainable and quality built environment is possible and has the potential to take more citizens on board and to strengthen resilience and competitiveness.

Based on the experience and learnings from the past years, the **moment has come to scale-up the NEB and move to the next level as a powerful enabler for the clean transition** and innovation in Europe and beyond. This Communication outlines the policy objectives of the NEB for the next years and provides a framework for tangible actions to enhance innovation, resilience and sustainability. To increase its impact, this Communication is accompanied by a proposal for a Council Recommendation<sup>1</sup> to Member States, in full respect of subsidiarity.

**The focus of the NEB remains the built environment.** It is an essential part of the daily lives of citizens, has a huge potential to improve quality of life, reduce emissions, support affordability and at the same time increase the competitiveness of our industries. **Neighbourhoods need policy action, funding and technical support for regeneration.** More action is needed to build skills and scale-up affordable solutions that can increase the efficient

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2025) 1027

use of the built space in urban and rural areas, adopt bio-based solutions and innovative materials and techniques, **strengthening resilience and creating lead markets** for Europe's innovative competitive industries. In the upcoming years, the NEB will expand to other sectors, namely textiles and fashion.

The potential for **co-creation and multidisciplinary approaches, including through digital tools** needs to be better used and more opportunities and capacities are needed to bring researchers, artists, authorities, citizens, and businesses together to co-create and implement visions on the ground.

Five years on from the launch of the initiative, **the Commission and its partners will strengthen the NEB and enlarge its Community**, disseminate and scale-up creative concepts and innovations, with the aim to foster the business case of key projects. The NEB will further **support Member States in bringing NEB inspired approaches** into national housing policies, building renovation plans and spatial planning decisions, in synergy with the EU Agenda for Cities<sup>2</sup> and cohesion policy territorial tools, as well as the European Affordable Housing Plan<sup>3</sup> and the Housing Construction Strategy<sup>4</sup> presented together with this Communication.

## **2. NEB AS AN ENABLER FOR INNOVATION AND THE CLEAN TRANSITION**

Capitalising on its achievements, the NEB will scale-up **support to businesses, innovators and communities** across Europe and beyond for an **inclusive, sustainable and quality-driven transformation of neighbourhoods and industries**. It will prioritise affordable solutions, in line with the Affordable Housing Plan, and it will offer co-creation spaces and evidence-based tools where professionals, researchers, users, communities and businesses meet and work together to create innovative solutions of highest value. It will develop the NEB Academy as core structure of the New European Bauhaus to enhance the **training, reskilling and upskilling of the different actors in the construction ecosystem**, provide **sandboxes for innovative solutions** and support start-ups offering solutions that enshrine the NEB values. The NEB Facility will support excellent research, as well as scaling-up of innovations and demonstrators. In synergy with the EU Bioeconomy Strategy<sup>5</sup>, the NEB will also help accelerate the uptake of circular and bio-based materials and construction methods, creating new lead markets and strengthening Europe's competitiveness.

### **NEB good practices on circular and bio-based solutions**

- ❖ **TOVA (ES):** creates architectural constructions made from rammed earth built with a crane WASP 3D printer that can be completed in just weeks, generating zero waste and close to zero carbon emissions [NEB Prize 2023].
- ❖ **NEBourhoods:** revitalises a 1970s district in Munich by creating mixed-use spaces, stronger community ties and energy solutions like solar modules/shading [Horizon Europe].
- ❖ **Panelka 2.0 (TEPLO):** supports Ukraine's recovery through circular renovation with recycled and bio-materials, energy-efficient solutions and community empowerment [LIFE].

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<sup>2</sup> EUR-Lex - 52025DC0739 - EN - EUR-Lex

<sup>3</sup> COM(2025) 1025

<sup>4</sup> COM(2025) 991

<sup>5</sup> COM(2025) 960 final



TOVA ©GregoriCivera - © NEBBourhoods - © TEPL0

## 2.1 Enhance circularity, sustainability and innovation in the built environment

### 2.1.1 Fostering innovative and sustainable solutions

To support the transition of the construction ecosystem towards low-carbon, circular and bio-based solutions, NEB projects have experimented over the past years with **novel solutions for the construction sectors**, such as modular construction, energy and water efficient design, as well as bio-based, recycled and innovative materials. It has researched and tested sustainable construction techniques, such as automated and robotic construction, 3D printing, biogenic carbon storage in buildings, AI applications for design as well as off-site and modular construction, often produced by SMEs.

To strengthen economic resilience and implement the transformational Clean Industrial Deal, the NEB will **enhance the opportunities provided by the circular economy and the bioeconomy**, boost markets for innovative materials and construction methods, harvesting sustainable and affordable energy, water and mobility solutions as well as digital technologies, data and trustworthy AI. The NEB will promote **research, scale-up and mainstreaming of innovative resource-efficient solutions**, support businesses in prototyping new cost-efficient approaches which can be scaled up, and support new and wide-spread standards for decarbonised, circular and nature-positive design. It will also support **communities to serve as hubs of innovations** and bottom-up solutions for the clean transition, tailored to local needs and capacities. By prioritising innovation, skills and industrial competitiveness, the NEB will help ensure that Europe leads globally in high-quality, sustainable and affordable solutions.

**Public financing alone will not be sufficient to carry out the transformation.** NEB projects show that integrated solutions are safe to invest in, because they develop buy-in of citizens and involvement of end-users, resulting in attractive environments and vibrant local economies. Instruments such as InvestEU could help mobilise additional private investment. The European Commission, in partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), developed **NEB Investment Guidelines**<sup>6</sup> to provide investors and developers with good practices and quality guarantees to boost impact investments that transform buildings, public spaces and neighbourhoods along the NEB values. Building on those guidelines, the Commission will – via the NEB Academy - step-up action and facilitate **matchmaking between NEB concepts and funding sources**, including innovative funding models.

By combining innovation, business creation and training, the **European Institute of Technology and Innovation (EIT)** and its **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)** are well placed to support the transformational and transdisciplinary nature of the NEB. In particular, it aims to **support entrepreneurs and SMEs** in NEB-relevant sectors – such as

<sup>6</sup> NEB Investment Guidelines - New European Bauhaus - European Union

construction, design, fashion, crafts, agri-food, manufacturing, energy and mobility – to bring their ideas to market.

The Commission will:

- **Develop a NEB Label to reward NEB projects and practices** and increase their visibility with potential promoters and investors.
- **Fund the development of NEB demonstrators for innovative solutions** such as on the use of vertical space, mass customisation of offsite modular construction components, social infrastructures in neighbourhoods, intergenerational neighbourhoods or addressing homelessness.
- Encourage Member States to develop via Cohesion Policy **one NEB Lighthouse in each Member State**.
- **Support entrepreneurs and SMEs** in NEB-relevant sectors, notably **via the EIT**, by helping them access funding to commercialise and scale up new solutions.
- Through the Roll-out component of the NEB Facility, **support NEB-relevant sectors** - construction, design, fashion, crafts, agri-food, manufacturing, energy, mobility – to deploy and scale-up NEB innovative methods, processes and practices which combine sustainability, inclusion and quality.
- **Lead by example** by applying the NEB approach in the construction or renovation of Commission buildings, inspired by the example of the future **JRC net-positive energy building in Seville** and the **JRC Citizens Forum in Geel**, and by promoting it in other EU, national and local institutions.



*The future JRC building in Seville, built according to the NEB values and principles - © Playtime*

### ***2.1.2 Inclusive, sustainable and quality-driven transformation of neighbourhoods***

Local communities and neighbourhoods are increasingly exposed to **climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and human-induced risks** like droughts, wildfires, floods, and water scarcity, and remain exposed to pollution, including from dirty heating<sup>7</sup>, which undermine economic security, deepen social and health inequalities<sup>8</sup> and jeopardise the European *way of life*. There is a pressing need to implement the European Green Deal and the Clean Industrial Deal on the ground through a fair transition. This means providing affordable

<sup>7</sup> See EEA 2025: EU Heating and Cooling Systems Drive Air Pollution, Urgent Action Needed.

<sup>8</sup> See European Environment and Health Atlas.

solutions to all citizens and boosting the resilience and crisis preparedness of neighbourhoods, while respecting Europe's cultural diversity and local heritage.

The NEB will **foster place-based transformations that boost people's and communities' preparedness** to climate-related risks and natural disasters, in line with the EU Preparedness Union Strategy<sup>9</sup>, and the phase out of fossil fuels dependency through sustainable, efficient mobility and energy production and consumption in our housing stock. The Commission already supports the empowerment of citizens for renovation and climate-adaptation projects, e.g. through the EU Missions on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and on Adaptation to Climate Change, and the Citizen-Led Renovation initiative<sup>10</sup>. NEB experimentation and co-designed solutions can demonstrate the effectiveness of **spatial planning that integrates low carbon, water-efficient, water resilient and nature-based solutions as well as social innovation**, thus making communities safer, healthier and more resilient.

Building renovation or refurbishment<sup>11</sup>, in particular when combined with social practices such as mixed use, flat swapping or intergenerational living, **can help deliver affordable and sustainable housing for all**, slowing down urban sprawl and soil sealing, foster social cohesion and acceptance while protecting our cultural heritage. The NEB will tap into the potential of vacant and under-occupied built environment, **prioritising the better use of existing buildings** over demolition and new construction and contribute to the **pilot project of the Competitiveness Coordination Tool (CCT)** on industrialised construction. Procurement, supported by transparent criteria, can also be an important catalyst for the uptake of sustainable practices and products for neighbourhoods.

The Commission will:

- Support communities in their efforts to strengthen **resilience to natural disasters, including crisis prevention and preparedness, and in post-disaster recovery and rebuilding** by financing integrated bottom-up initiatives such as nature-based, water-efficient and culture-led innovative solutions.
- Ensure capacity building, development of tools and sharing of good practices on **building adaptation** to natural disasters including **floods**<sup>12</sup>, **wildfire risk mitigation**<sup>13</sup>, **urban ecosystems restoration**<sup>14</sup>, as well as on comprehensive risk and threat assessment.
- Promote **AI-powered analytics, to enable data-driven decision-making** to anticipate challenges and co-develop smarter spatial planning<sup>15</sup>, and deploying Local Digital Twins for reconstruction and providing authorities with AI-enabled tools to manage construction projects transparently<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> See Preparedness Union Strategy JOIN (2025) 130 final.

<sup>10</sup> [Home - Citizen-led renovation - European Commission](#)

<sup>11</sup> 'Refurbishment' includes changes to space plan or of function to new use, not typically covered by renovation, in line with the standards set the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

<sup>12</sup> See [EU-level technical guidance on adapting buildings to climate change](#).

<sup>13</sup> The Commission will present a European Strategy on Wildfire prevention in early 2026.

<sup>14</sup> See article 8 Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on nature restoration.

<sup>15</sup> <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/ldttoolbox>

<sup>16</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/digital-twin-reconstruction-ukraine>

- Support the **sustainability and efficiency of the built environment** by providing a common methodology<sup>17</sup> and evidence on the decarbonisation of buildings and guidance on prioritising the efficient use of the built environment<sup>18</sup>.
- **Foster procurement procedures that enable sustainable, inclusive and quality-led solutions**, notably via the European Innovation Council (EIC) Innovation Procurement Programme, and seek to promote the procurement of sustainable solutions through the **upcoming revision of the Public Procurement Directive**.
- Finance through the R&I component of the NEB Facility **research and innovation to revitalise neighbourhoods** through design for sustainability and inclusion.

## 2.2 Empower citizens through participatory processes to build democratic, inclusive and resilient neighbourhoods

**Participation is a key principle of the NEB.** As defined in the NEB Compass<sup>19</sup>, participation refers to the degree to which communities affected by a project are involved in its design, decision-making, implementation and validation. The **resilience of Europe's neighbourhoods ultimately depends on their ability to engage their communities** and to serve all citizens. Transdisciplinary approaches and evidence-based design methodologies that combine expertise from a range of stakeholders and disciplines are not only more representative and coherent with the needs of citizens, but they also **build trust, legal certainty for project developers, increase acceptability and strengthen the social fabric**. Inclusive public spaces also have a crucial role to play to facilitate social connections, promote equality in general, gender and intergenerational fairness, create a sense of belonging and ultimately foster grassroots democracy<sup>20</sup>.

### NEB good practices to strengthen local democracy and connect communities

- ❖ **NEB-STAR:** creates governance and financing models to reuse buildings, prevent gentrification and democratise urban development [Horizon Europe].
- ❖ **SOFTAcademy:** renovates Soviet-era prefabricated apartment buildings in Tallinn with a holistic and neighbourhood-level approach [ERDF]
- ❖ **Activating Spaces with neuroDiverse Publics:** helps public authorities in Barcelona improve playgrounds and public areas for children with autism [EIT Community NEB].



<sup>17</sup> See Union framework for the national calculation of life-cycle global warming potential: Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to Directive (EU) 2024/1275, C(2025) 8723 - PE/2025/8966.

<sup>18</sup> Based on Commission studies: [Conversion of offices into affordable housing](#), [Sufficiency in the built sector](#) and on a more efficient use of the building stock (results mid-2027).

<sup>19</sup> [Use the Compass - New European Bauhaus](#) - European Union.

<sup>20</sup> As highlighted in the [JRC Science for Policy Brief on Public Spaces](#).

The Commission intends to **tap the transformational potential of the NEB to support local democracy**, fight increasing polarisation in our societies and empower communities as well as local public-private partnerships. The NEB aims at boosting the capacities of public authorities and stakeholders to **integrate genuine participatory and transdisciplinary practices in the design and decision-making processes** of local development projects, thereby enabling citizens to co-create their future neighbourhoods adapted to local needs. It will support **local transformation by using experimentation, including with digital and virtual reality tools** for citizens and professionals to co-design, co-create and co-manage inclusive, beautiful and sustainable living environments.

The NEB develops and provides innovative tools for **supporting democratic participatory processes at local level**, thereby contributing to implementing the objectives of the European Democracy Shield<sup>21</sup> on the ground. It serves as a **catalyst to empower citizens in local transformation**, including in former industrial and brown mining regions and in disadvantaged suburban areas. The **NEB Compass and the NEB toolbox**<sup>22</sup> help citizens and communities shape their own living environment through a step-by-step approach for participation, co-creation and engagement. The **23 NEB Lighthouse Demonstrators**<sup>23</sup> have revitalised over 90 neighbourhoods together with residents and developed tools to democratise urban planning.

The Commission will:

- Expand **democratic design and citizens' co-ownership of urban and rural regeneration processes** by using **digital platforms, virtual reality and immersive digital environments** through the Local Digital Twins and CitiVERSE<sup>24</sup>.
- Launch a 2026 edition of the **NEB Boost for Small Municipalities** to reward key local players for their contribution to building inclusive and sustainable societies.
- As part of the **European Democracy Shield and contributing to the future EU Strategy for Intergenerational Fairness**, support local democracy through innovative approaches to community engagement, intergenerational connections, and inclusive public spaces.
- **Support public authorities in designing and implementing participatory processes** in neighbourhoods' transformation by drawing on the EU Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy<sup>25</sup> in connection with the European Citizens' Panels and the Citizens' Engagement Platform<sup>26</sup>.

### 2.3 Harness the transformative power of education, arts and culture to boost creativity and innovation for local transformation

<sup>21</sup> EUR-Lex - 52025JC0791 - EN - EUR-Lex

<sup>22</sup> NEB Toolbox

<sup>23</sup> Projects resulting from the first wave of NEB calls in 2021-2022 under different EU funding programmes.

<sup>24</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/citiverse>

<sup>25</sup> Participatory Democracy

<sup>26</sup> Citizens' Engagement Platform - Citizens' Engagement Platform

**Culture and arts are a core feature of individual and communities' well-being** and have the power to unleash creativity and innovation. They are at the core of civil structures that foster empathy, tolerance, intergenerational fairness and social cohesion.

Spatial design and architecture are an essential part of a truly transdisciplinary response to social demands and environmental challenges. **Quality of design is a magnet for acceptability and funding.** Designers, architects and artists who integrate sustainability, inclusion and quality in their projects unlock both financial support and community acceptance as they ultimately build creative, meaningful and lasting solutions that are affordable, cost-efficient and act as landmarks of local culture and history. As acknowledged in the Culture Compass for Europe<sup>27</sup>, the NEB is an important initiative to promote a **shared culture of architecture and design and to invest in high-quality living** for everyone.

### NEB good practices illustrating the power of arts, culture, education and research

- ❖ **Bauhaus of the Seas Sails:** engages artists to highlight the ocean's value and connects coastal and inland communities through cultural spaces [Horizon Europe].
- ❖ **Bauhaus4EU:** European Universities alliance driving NEB regional transformation through campus renewal, living labs and transdisciplinary curricula [Erasmus+].
- ❖ **Cultuur&Campus:** renovates a heritage building in Rotterdam into a multifunctional learning hub, using artistic tools to engage residents and document stories [Horizon Europe].



© Bauhaus of The Sea Sails - © Bauhaus4EU - © Cultuur&Campus

Education and culture are key to raise awareness on the benefits of holistic and explorative approaches in combination with evidence-based design methodologies. The Commission will promote **NEB values in schools** across Europe through the Education4Climate Coalition<sup>28</sup> and its work on School learning environments for sustainability<sup>29</sup>.

The Commission will also support action to break silos between art, science and industry as NEB projects show that **embedding artists in technological and scientific environments and vice-versa** can spark paradigm-shifting collaborations leading to innovation and concrete outputs. In synergy with the actions announced under the Culture Compass for Europe, the NEB will foster the **interaction of cultural professionals, artists and academics with industry and construction players** to provide new perspectives, imagine alternative futures

<sup>27</sup> EUR-Lex - 52025DC0785 - EN - EUR-Lex

<sup>28</sup> <https://education-for-climate.ec.europa.eu/community/>

<sup>29</sup> Greening schools: New report on school learning environments for sustainability | European School Education Platform

and co-create out-of-the box and forward-looking solutions for the regeneration of neighbourhoods.

In line with the 2021 **Council conclusions** on ‘culture, high-quality architecture and built environment as key elements of the New European Bauhaus initiative’<sup>30</sup>, the Commission promotes a culture-led, evidence- and quality-driven participatory approach to the built environment, notably by supporting the uptake of the **Davos Baukultur Quality System**<sup>31</sup> and of the recommendations of the Member States’ expert group on “High-quality architecture and built environment for everyone”<sup>32</sup>.

The Commission and its partners will:

- Make a proposal to the Council and the European Parliament to **strengthen the European Capitals of Culture** in a way that synergises with the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus.
- Set-up a **NEB Ocean Lab to foster collaborations in the marine environment** and contribute to the EU Ocean Observation Initiative<sup>33</sup>.
- Engage young people to get involved in European heritage preservation as well as urban and rural regeneration through the **NEB Route within DiscoverEU**.
- Support **NEB artists’ residencies** through the “Culture Moves Europe” initiative.

### 3. ENABLERS

#### 3.1 NEB Community and grassroots participation

The NEB has been growing thanks to the drive of its **Community of almost 2000 public and private members**, ranging from local to international organisations across Europe and beyond, spanning various fields such as culture, education, architecture, heritage, forestry, construction, housing, and fashion, and reaching millions of citizens and businesses through the NEB Festival and NEB Prizes.

While the Commission can do its part, it is only a piece of the puzzle. **The NEB Community has actively taken up actions**: from local funding schemes to building standards aligned with the NEB, as well as NEB masters’ and PhD programs. It has acted as the true engine of the initiative and multiplier of EU funding and support, which has made it possible to replicate and scale-up NEB-proven solutions.

**Knowledge and best practice exchange is crucial** especially when further transformation and acceleration is needed, often for implementation at the local level. The NEB will launch a **pilot for cities to exchange on solutions on the resilience of the built environment** to climate change and natural disasters. The NEB Community will bring together stakeholders to co-create, prototype and test tools and solutions for transformation, in particular through its **innovative Labs**. NEB Labs currently host eight projects tackling a wide range of topics - from public infrastructure in Ukraine<sup>34</sup>, green transition in the Danube region<sup>35</sup> to trans-European

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<sup>30</sup> 2021/C 501 I/03

<sup>31</sup> Davos Baukultur Quality System

<sup>32</sup> Home - Towards a shared culture of architecture - EAC

<sup>33</sup> Flagship action announced in the European Ocean Pact

<sup>34</sup> Public Infrastructure for Ukraine - New European Bauhaus - European Union

<sup>35</sup> NEB Lab: New European Bauhaus on the Danube - New European Bauhaus

Modernism<sup>36</sup> - and new ones are being created, in particular to deliver solutions on affordable housing.

Building on this experience, the Commission aims at **expanding and diversifying the NEB Community**, attracting new members from different sectors, groups and policy areas, increasing engagement and informing relevant policies. The Commission will **optimise the use of digital tools to facilitate interactions and collaboration**, in particular at regional and local levels and for public-private partnerships, and to make the sharing of good practices and evidence-based data easy and fast. It will seek synergies and maximise collaboration with related initiatives, in particular by integrating the **NEB values and principles in the Covenant of Mayors, the European Climate Pact and the Green Cities Accord**.

The Commission and the NEB Community will:

- **Set up an EU network of local NEB Ambassadors**, in cooperation with the NEB Local Chapters and, where relevant, with EUROPE DIRECT centres.
- Set-up a **NEB Lab on affordable housing** to collect good practices on affordable housing solutions focusing on off-site construction and densification in synergy with the EU Housing Alliance.
- Boost stakeholder engagement and exchange of good practices through the **biennial NEB Festival**, focusing on priority topics such as housing and democracy, and through other relevant events such as the **European Researchers' Night**.
- Promote **NEB prizes** to reward good practices and raise awareness on innovative solutions, and develop **special prizes** for water resilience (2026) and for innovative student accommodation (2027).
- Provide regions and cities with a common space to co-create and learn together through the **'Transforming Territories NEB Experimentation Journey'**<sup>37</sup> and a follow-up **pilot with cities** on the resilience of the built environment.
- Ensure synergies and collaboration between the NEB Community members and the future **EU Housing Alliance**.

### 3.2 The NEB Academy: Knowledge, Skills, Innovation and Funding

A wide range of universities and competence centres have already started contributing actively to the NEB, to foster research, pioneer new models of education and trainings and to connect knowledge with business applications. In 2022, the European Commission launched the NEB Academy<sup>38</sup> on skills for sustainable construction, bringing researchers and practitioners together to accelerate the up-skilling and re-skilling of workers in the construction ecosystem. **The NEB Academy will now become the core infrastructure** for knowledge and research, safe experimentation and innovation, and skills development, providing a dynamic link to ensure that all knowledge produced under the NEB Facility R&I is channelled towards skilling activities, capacity-building and applied innovation.

Three streams will power the NEB Academy:

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<sup>36</sup> European Triennial of Modernism (ETOM) - New European Bauhaus

<sup>37</sup> Preparatory Action (2024-2026) - Innovation for place-based transformation

<sup>38</sup> NEB Academy - New European Bauhaus - European Union

### 3.2.1 Capacity building and skills development

As a framework for training, capacity-building and skills development, the NEB Academy will foster systemic change across sectors. It will **translate research insights into practical skills, develop training frameworks and learning pathways** for the workforce, public authorities and SMEs, and strengthen the pedagogical quality, coherence and certification of NEB-related training across Europe. Particular attention will be paid to SMEs and skilled workers, recognising that Europe's clean transition depends on a strong productive economy and on enabling smaller actors to innovate and compete. It will support the **upskilling and reskilling of the workforce in the construction ecosystem**, in particular for bio- and nature-based construction, scaling-up its brand for high-quality courses and connecting cutting-edge research and practitioners. This will include support for apprenticeships and vocational training targeting young people. It will also promote the use of **digital tools for optimising resources, efficiency and data-driven decision making**, in line with the Digital Decade targets and by relying on the EU Cities web-Portal as common access point to EU tools and initiatives supporting local transitions.

In the broader framework of the Union of Skills, the NEB Academy will also contribute to develop **skills intelligence** at EU level, supporting the European Construction Observatory<sup>39</sup>, the European Training Foundation<sup>40</sup>, the future European Skills Intelligence Observatory and the Construction Large-Scale Partnership.<sup>41</sup> It will also contribute to the Build Up Skills initiative<sup>42</sup>, which supports energy renovation via national skills platforms in all Member States.

### 3.2.2 Knowledge and research

The NEB showcases **practical experimentation on local transformation**, generating evidence on the cultural, societal and environmental benefits of neighbourhood regeneration and co-design. The scientific community has shown a strong interest in researching the methods and impacts of such integrated approach, and there is currently an ecosystem of doctoral and masters' programmes focused on the NEB, as well as scientific publications emerging from NEB projects such as the Lighthouse Demonstrators or the NEB Academy Alliance. However, this is still a very fragmented landscape, therefore with a limited impact in terms of tested blueprints offered for replication to **communities, professionals, local authorities, businesses and other stakeholders**.

Through an evidence-based approach, and by exploiting digital opportunities, the NEB Academy will support practitioners, professionals, businesses and authorities in integrating NEB values and principles in their initiatives and optimise the storing, sharing and assessing of data and good-practice evidence. The **knowledge generated through experimentation and evidence-based design methodologies** will be compiled and accessible, providing data and successful blueprints to mainstream and roll-out the most successful NEB experiments. The **NEB Hub for Results and Impact**<sup>43</sup> will collect, analyse and share lessons learned and tools.

### 3.2.3 Business development

The Commission has developed a variety of tools to help project developers design and implement NEB projects.<sup>44</sup> The NEB Academy will **support SMEs, start-ups and creative**

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<sup>39</sup> European Construction Observatory (ECO)

<sup>40</sup> Home | ETF

<sup>41</sup> Construction

<sup>42</sup> <https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/bup-skills>

<sup>43</sup> Implemented through Horizon Europe.

<sup>44</sup> Tools and resources - New European Bauhaus - European Union

**practitioners** through advisory services and toolboxes to enable experimentation environments and to trial NEB blueprints. Building on the solutions developed in the NEB Labs and through EU funded projects, the NEB Academy will create pathways for community-led and interdisciplinary innovation to grow, replicate and reach the market, for example by moving innovative bio-based materials from the lab to applied use in building construction and renovation. The NEB will act as an enabler on the ground to implement EU legislation on circular economy and the clean and water resilient transition by **supporting businesses and stakeholders moving to new sustainable practices**, e.g. in fashion through the NEB Fashion Shift (EIT).

**EIT will provide dedicated support to the NEB Academy** by enhancing knowledge-sharing among NEB projects and launching innovation pilots through the EIT CC, by fostering and scaling up innovation through the EIT Community NEB Journey<sup>45</sup>, and by offering a pre-acceleration pathway for early-stage innovators through the EIT Jumpstarter<sup>46</sup>. The Commission and its partners will support capacities and access to funding, in particular for small actors and funding opportunities adapted to local needs<sup>47</sup>. They will build on existing good practices to **attract private funding** and set up **innovative governance and financing models**. Investment support, including matching projects with potential investors, will also be supported through the new **Pan European Investment Platform for affordable and sustainable housing**, comprising the EIB Group, National Promotional Banks, the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and other financial institutions.

Through the NEB Academy, the Commission and its partners will:

- **Support the upskilling and reskilling of the construction sector and its value chain** to accelerate the transition towards a more regenerative and circular system of material use.
- **Launch innovation and training pilots such as the NEB Fashion Shift** to help fashion SMEs develop circular strategies and expand into new markets
- Support an exploratory action for a possible **NEB joint European Degree** to develop transdisciplinary competences across architecture, design, sustainable engineering, and the arts that are relevant for NEB at university level.
- Build on and set up **university-business partnerships** to develop skills and competences in NEB-related sectors (e.g. workforce and future entrepreneurs).
- **Strengthen the role of NEB as a space for frontier research**, including by promoting scientific publications and academic gatherings on NEB practices and blueprints.
- Develop **indicators and guidance to assess the effects of community-led initiatives** that combine sustainability, inclusion and quality.
- Produce a **digital catalogue of NEB good practices and blueprints on affordable and resilient housing** in synergy with the NEB Pilot project on cities, to inform local authorities, businesses, and practitioners on state-of-the-art solutions.
- In synergy with the European Investment Platform and building on the NEB investment guidelines, improve access to funding for smaller players through the **NEB Advisory Hub**, including by engaging with philanthropy associations, and develop a **NEB Investment Accelerator** alongside this hub to attract and facilitate private, public and

<sup>45</sup> See [EIT Community NEB: Impact Report 2025](#).

<sup>46</sup> [EIT Jumpstarter](#)

<sup>47</sup> For example, through BlueInvest and the European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator.

blended finance and the development of innovative business models based on NEB values and principles.

### 3.3 Funding and governance

In five years, over 700 NEB projects have already been supported. Under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), EUR 1.4 billion have been devoted to the NEB, with the bulk stemming from cohesion policy (over EUR 840 million) and Horizon Europe (over EUR 530 million). The NEB has now its first-ever multiannual funding tool, anchored in the Horizon Europe Programme: the **NEB Facility**, running from 2025 to 2027<sup>48</sup>. It consists of two components: a research and innovation component<sup>49</sup>, with an indicative budget of around EUR 120 million per year to develop and demonstrate novel solutions; and a roll-out component, to implement and scale up NEB success stories and innovations, expected to leverage the same amount from different EU programmes as well as national and private funding. **The Commission, together with Member States, will strive to optimise the use, synergy and complementarity of EU funding** across different levels of government<sup>50</sup>, and to increase access to funding, especially for small players. In particular, the Commission will continue encouraging Member States and regions to **mainstream the NEB values and principles in the implementation of cohesion policy** and other strategies and policies relating to the built environment, including through the **development of one NEB Lighthouse in each Member State**. In collaboration with the Member States, the Commission will seek to diversify the landscape of funding opportunities, in particular to boost support for grassroots initiatives. The Commission also invites the co-legislators to support its proposals for the **future MFF, allowing for continuity of funding for the NEB Facility after 2027**<sup>51</sup>.

**An optimal use of the EU funding requires a strong role of Member States**, to act as a bridge with the local actors and ensure their access to funding, but also to maximise coordination and coherence across funding instruments and policies. **Member States appointed NEB National Contact Points (NCPs) in 2021**. Since then, they have played a crucial role in implementing the NEB at national and local levels. With the establishment of the NEB Facility, two additional networks were established: NEB R&I NCPs<sup>52</sup> as well as a dedicated network of managing authorities and other relevant bodies for promoting NEB investments in 2021-27 Cohesion Policy programmes<sup>53</sup>.

Notwithstanding the progress made, most Member States lack a model and resources for a truly holistic multi-level and cross-sectoral NEB governance, leading to missed opportunities for stakeholders and local authorities. In close collaboration with the Member States, **the Commission will redefine the tasks for NEB NCPs and provide support** through capacity building and funding opportunities, strengthening also their cooperation with managing authorities, such as the NEB P2P community. The Commission has issued a proposal for a Council Recommendation with the aim of **empowering the Member States as key players in**

<sup>48</sup> See the [NEB Facility Roadmap 2025-27](#).

<sup>49</sup> The R&I component has an indicative budget of around EUR 120 million per year, implemented in the Horizon Europe Work Programmes for 2025-2027.

<sup>50</sup> Also building on good practices such as [THRIVE | Southern Regional Assembly](#) or the delivery of the Just Transition Fund to advance the climate-neutral transformation of industry in Saxony-Anhalt's coal-mining region.

<sup>51</sup> [Commission proposals on the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2028-2035](#)

<sup>52</sup> [R&I NCPs](#) support the implementation of the R&I component of the NEB Facility under Horizon Europe.

<sup>53</sup> [NEB Peer2Peer \(P2P\) Community](#)

**the NEB governance and making the NEB operational** from the neighbourhood to the European level. Implementation must respect subsidiarity and national specificities, allowing Member States, regions and local authorities to tailor the NEB to their environmental, cultural and social contexts. The NEB therefore reinforces the central role of Member States in designing and steering approaches that reflect national priorities, governance structures and local needs, ensuring that the EU-level supports and complements, rather than replaces, domestic policy choices. The **European Semester as well as the new EU Housing Alliance** will also support Member States to take holistic approaches that combine sustainability, affordability and quality as regards housing.

The Commission will:

- Provide an easy search and **overview of NEB-related funding opportunities across EU programmes**, including in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal<sup>54</sup> and through the EU Cities Platform.
- Provide direct **tailored support to national and regional authorities** for integrating the NEB values and principles into cohesion policy programmes, and collaborate with the **EIB/JASPERS**<sup>55</sup> to develop additional assessment and capacity building tools.
- Support **capacity building for public administrations and stakeholders** through peer-to-peer learning and good practice sharing, including activities such as Living Spaces<sup>56</sup> to promote high quality architecture and the built environment for everyone.
- Provide **funding for NEB NCPs and R&I NCPs** to strengthen their capacities and cooperation.

### 3.4 International dimension

Cities and neighbourhoods around the world face the same challenges as in Europe, such as climate impacts, water scarcity, demographic changes and housing crises. In some cases, like in the Global South, those challenges may be dramatic and driving migration or even conflicts. **The NEB has the potential to bring integrated solutions beyond Europe**, but also to learn and inspire European neighbourhoods through international practices and success stories.

The NEB can play an **important role in the EU enlargement process** by promoting sustainable local development, cultural heritage preservation, innovative solutions for a green and digital transition and the integration of social, economic and cultural values. It can provide a platform for candidate countries to share good practices, expertise, resources and networks, and to collaborate with EU Member States on joint projects. Since 2022, the NEB has specifically supported **Ukraine's green recovery and participatory reconstruction** through innovation projects such as the circular renovation of panelka buildings in Chernihiv, sustainable land use initiatives, and green urban restoration in the Black Sea Basin<sup>57</sup>. The NEB aims to make rebuilding Ukraine sustainable, innovative, and inclusive by leveraging partnerships and resources such as the NEB Community, specific guidelines and technical assistance.

**NEB initiatives have also inspired dialogue and action in other non-EU countries**, in particular Japan, Brazil and Mexico. The Commission will continue to expand its international network and encourage further cooperation among interested international experts, citizens and

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<sup>54</sup> Based on a 'NEB flag', currently used for Horizon Europe.

<sup>55</sup> Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions.

<sup>56</sup> [Living Spaces - Culture and Creativity](#)

<sup>57</sup> Those projects were funded through LIFE, Horizon Europe, and Interreg.

governments to discuss and co-design global solutions inspired by the NEB. In 2025, the **Osaka World Expo** was the opportunity for the EU to showcase the NEB globally, to connect to professionals worldwide, and to launch a specific **EU-Japan NEB dialogue**. The Commission will expand on those occasions and also use the visibility offered by the **NEB Festivals to showcase international good practices and testimonials**.

The Commission will:

- **Support Ukraine's reconstruction and urban regeneration** by promoting affordable and sustainable quality design through local and replicable projects for schools, hospitals and cultural heritage, by supporting the creation of a **NEB Academy Hub**, and by integrating NEB values across relevant legislation and reconstruction activities, in particular through 'EU4Reconstruction'<sup>58</sup> and Local Digital Twins for reconstruction<sup>59</sup>.
- With the support of EU Delegations, expand the international constituency of the NEB Community through **local NEB networks in third countries and the creation of NEB Academy Hubs**, notably in Japan and Brazil.
- Support EU enlargement by providing funding, capacity building, and technical assistance to **initiate NEB projects and initiatives in candidate countries**.
- Launch an **international strand of the New European Bauhaus Prizes** to showcase and reward international projects that reflect the NEB values.
- Foster **international cooperation on quality architecture** through the Davos Baukultur Alliance<sup>60</sup>.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

The NEB has generated enthusiasm, creativity and participation across Europe and beyond since it was created in 2020. By fostering innovation, skills and industrial strength, the NEB will support a more competitive and resilient Europe, grounded in high-quality affordable solutions and responsibility shared across all levels of governance. The next key step will be the **further mobilisation of relevant actors and networks** across multiple levels of governance, policy areas and economic sectors to boost the full potential of the initiative. **Professionals, researchers, authorities, civil society representatives and businesses are invited to join the NEB Community** and work together to co-create and scale-up innovative solutions to support the regeneration of neighbourhoods and the clean transition.

The European Commission counts on the cooperation of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU, the European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee to raise awareness and to promote the NEB and its related opportunities in their constituencies, to **involve civil society, artists, local authorities, businesses and scientists, and to share available resources**. It will build on the strengths of its growing community and will disseminate its good practices. Non-EU countries, interested international organisations and networks are also invited to disseminate and support NEB values and principles and to promote participatory co-designed projects and initiatives.

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<sup>58</sup> At local level, the project will work with around 50 medium-sized “lighthouse” municipalities to prepare and manage reconstruction investments that reflect the “build back better” approach and the NEB values.

<sup>59</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/digital-twin-reconstruction-ukraine>

<sup>60</sup> Davos Baukultur Alliance

The Commission invites in particular the Council to discuss and adopt the proposal for a **Council Recommendation accompanying this Communication**, in order to strengthen cross-sectoral efforts in their respective country and to ensure that the NEB becomes operational and factored into relevant national, regional and local initiatives and funding.