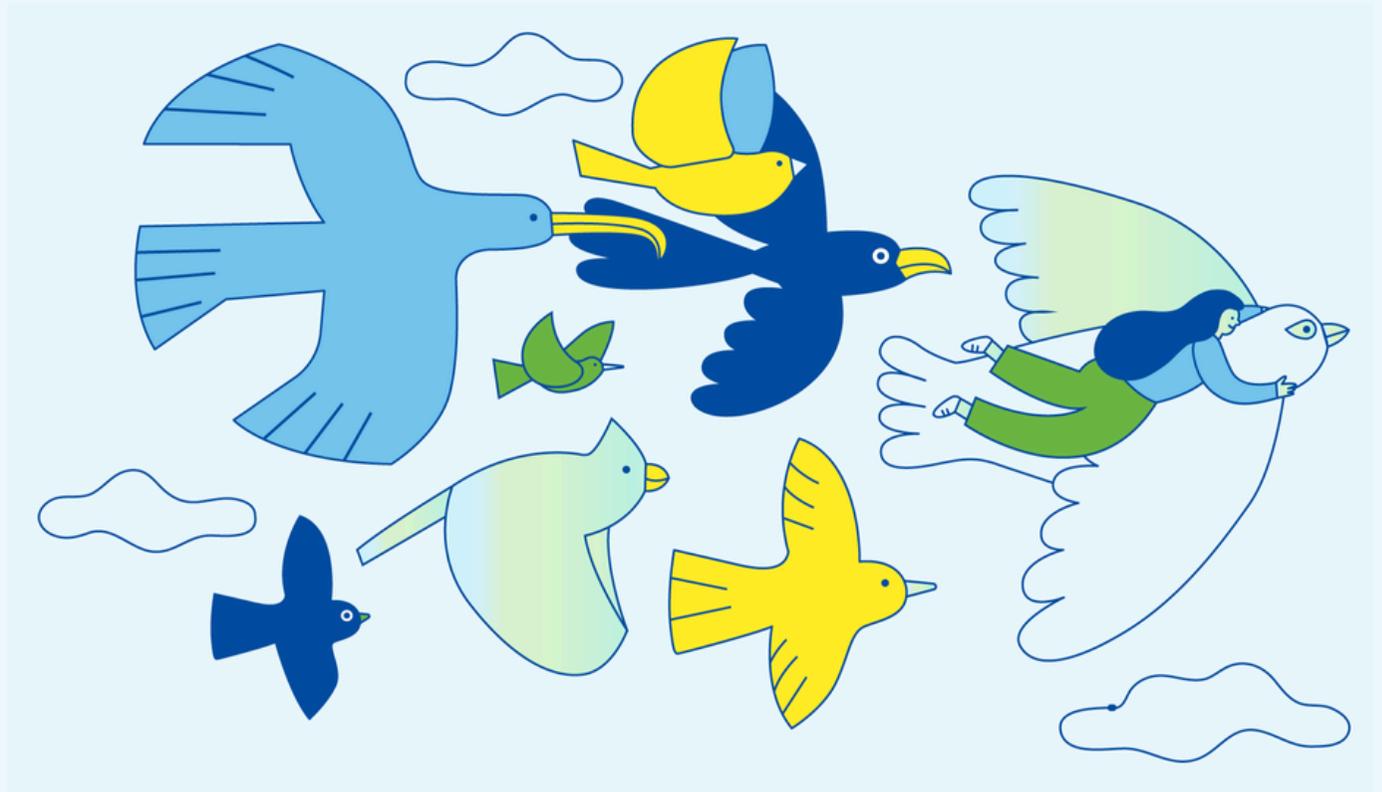


Delivering the New European Bauhaus

EIT Community NEB Impact Report 2025



The New European Bauhaus: A vision for Europe

The **New European Bauhaus (NEB)** is the European Union's creative and cultural dimension of the **European Green Deal**: a movement that brings together citizens, designers, artists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to reimagine how we live together.

It is both **a vision and a practice**: connecting ecological transition to everyday life, cities, and a shared sense of belonging. By merging **sustainability, inclusion, and beauty**, the NEB makes the green transition tangible—in culture, space, and daily experience.

At its heart, the NEB is **citizen-generated**. Transformation emerges both bottom-up and top-down, where community action meets institutional ambition. As one of NEB's core implementation partners, the EIT Community NEB turns this vision into reality, empowering citizens, innovators and cities across Europe to co-create new ways of living and working towards a sustainable, beautiful and inclusive future.

*Perched atop a public retirement home in one of Paris's most underserved districts, **Gardens4Good** transformed an unused rooftop into a thriving intergenerational garden. Led by **SocialVeggieClub** under Connect NEB, the project brought residents, staff, and local schoolchildren together to co-design and co-steward an edible green space that fostered well-being, learning, and inclusion. Beyond growing food, the garden revitalised community ties: improving residents' mental health, reconnecting generations, and inspiring new rooftop and school gardens across the city as a replicable model for urban resilience and social cohesion.*





A European vision made tangible

Launched in 2021, the **EIT Community NEB** has developed and matured in parallel with the NEB movement itself- learning, adapting, and supporting its translation from vision to practice across Europe. Our journey of programmes has focused on **creating entry points** and **access pathways** for a wide diversity of actors, from grassroots initiatives and citizen collectives, to cities and municipalities, entrepreneurs and start-ups, higher-education institutions and cultural organisations.

Through seven complementary programmes - Connect NEB, Co-create NEB, Enhance NEB, Ignite NEB, Grow NEB, Catalyse NEB, and the NEB Mentors - the EIT Community NEB has enabled over **220 activities across 35+ countries**, directly supporting actors to implement tangible NEB solutions, interventions, policy change, products and services. Together, these programmes form a continuous journey from ideation to implementation, bridging local realities with European ambitions.

While major Horizon Europe and Lighthouse Demonstrator projects have driven large-scale policy and innovation, the EIT Community NEB has focused on the **human scale of transformation**: small-scaled grants, mentorship, start-up acceleration and community-led interventions. In doing so, it has helped democratise access to the NEB and EU funding, lowering barriers for first-time EU applicants and smaller organisations. This approach reflects our belief that the NEB transformation must emerge both top-down and bottom-up, **where policy and institutional ambition meet citizen-generated change**.



Achievements at a glance

- **227 activities** deployed (2021–2025), across **35+ countries**, **60% in RIS regions**.
- **€5.9 million** sub-granted across **7 programmes**
- **92 NEB aligned start-ups** accelerated to market
- **88 citizen engagement projects** implemented, delivering **80+ public space interventions** and **engaging 18,600+ citizens** in co-design processes
- **17 NEB ideation events**, with **103 NEB ideas generated** and **20 winning teams** guided and supported in prototyping and testing ideas into viable products and services
- **400+ NEB mentors** and experts mobilised with **100+ workshops and capacity-building sessions** developed and delivered to beneficiaries across programmes
- Over **50% of project leads are women**, with most projects integrating inclusive design and accessibility principle

As the NEB enters its next phase by advancing implementation through NEB Facility and Horizon Europe R&I calls, the EIT Community NEB offers a proven, cost-effective mechanism to connect visionary policy with lived transformation, demonstrating that small-scale, community-driven initiatives and innovative ventures can collectively accelerate Europe's **green, inclusive, and beautiful transition**.



Once a neglected post-industrial site, **Cabra Figa Community Park** reimagined the future of Portugal's Cabra Figa neighbourhood. Led by **Res do Chão** under Connect NEB, the project empowered over 80 residents, including children, families, and local representatives, to co-design the area's first public green space, first proposed through participatory budgeting.

(Previous page) Rooted in Liepāja's historic neighbourhoods, **From Know-How to Do-How** empowers residents to reconnect with their built heritage through traditional craftsmanship and creative participation. Led by the **Liepāja Restoration Centre**, the project revived 18th-century restoration techniques through hands-on masterclasses and residencies involving over 50 artisans, building owners, and local residents. Starting as a Connect NEB pilot and now scaling through Enhance NEB, it transforms shared spaces while building skills, pride, and ownership among citizens—strengthening Liepāja's identity as a future European Capital of Culture 2027 and a model for community-led heritage preservation.

Our reach & scale

Where we work

The EIT Community NEB has implemented activities across more than **35 countries** in Europe, with a strong presence in Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) regions. Its activities span a wide variety of contexts - from **dense urban areas** (around 66%) to **rural territories** (21%) and **border or transitional regions** (13%) - ensuring that the New European Bauhaus values are tested, adapted, and brought to life in settings that reflect Europe's full territorial diversity.

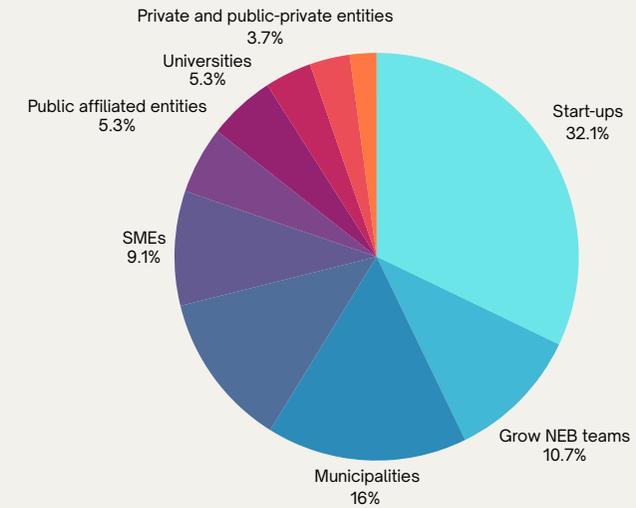


Who we work with

The EIT Community NEB **brings together a unique ecosystem of actors** enabling collaboration across disciplines and scales.

Whereas Catalyse NEB engages **start-ups** and **entrepreneurs**; Ignite NEB and Grow NEB empower **individuals, citizens, and students**; Connect NEB, Co-create NEB, and Enhance NEB engage the most diverse entities.

Data below represents activities between 2023-2025



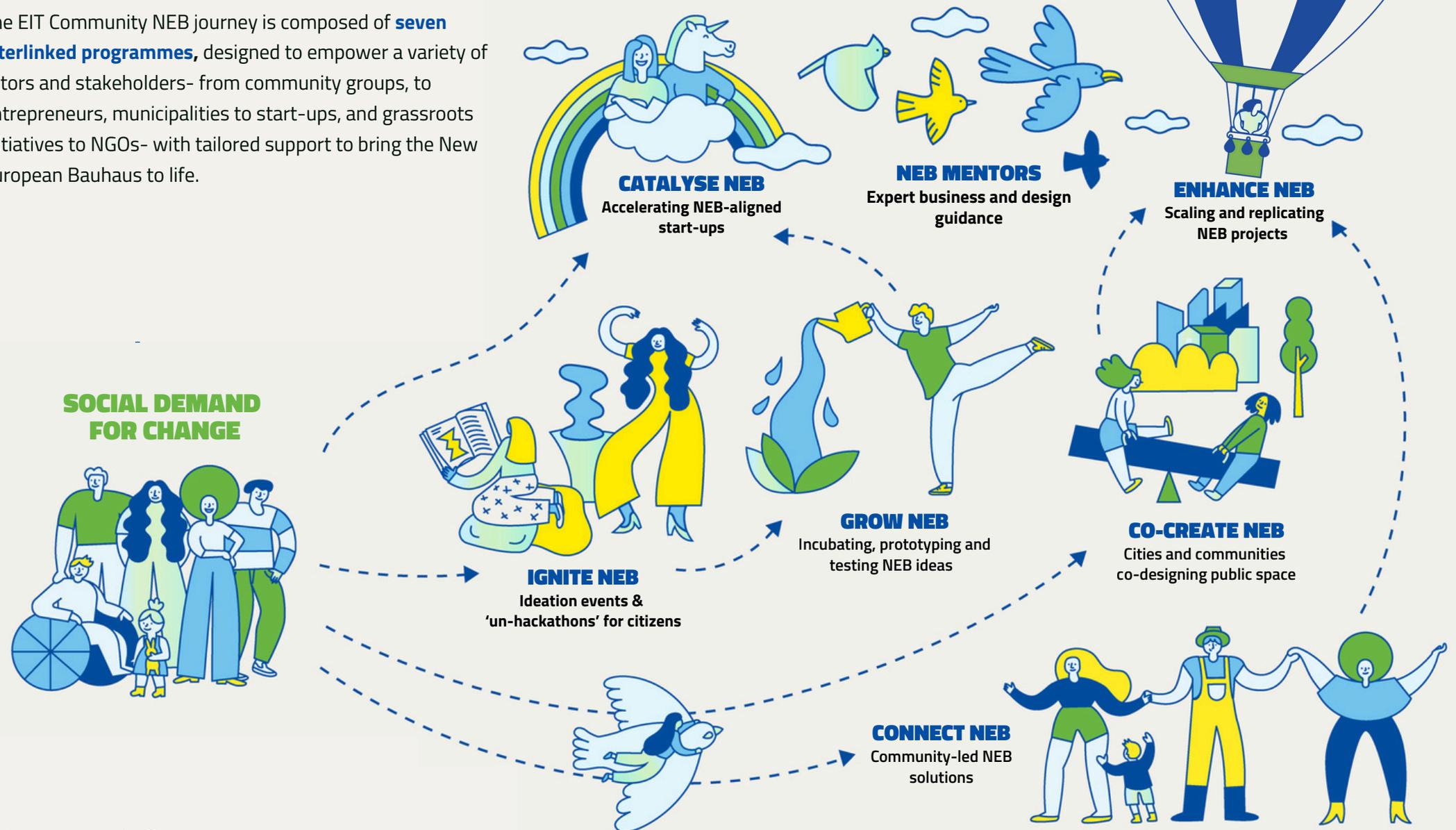
Demand for access

A record **250+ proposals** were received for Connect NEB and Co-create NEB in **2024 alone**, including 120+ proposals from new municipalities/affiliated entities, underscoring the strong appetite for small-scaled accessible funding in the NEB ecosystem.

Over the past 4 years, the EIT Community NEB has attracted over **1500 proposals and applications** demonstrating its role as one of the EU's most accessible mechanisms for testing and deploying NEB-aligned innovation across Europe.

The EIT Community NEB Journey

The EIT Community NEB journey is composed of **seven interlinked programmes**, designed to empower a variety of actors and stakeholders- from community groups, to entrepreneurs, municipalities to start-ups, and grassroots initiatives to NGOs- with tailored support to bring the New European Bauhaus to life.



The seven programmes have been designed and tailored to provide the opportunity for many actors to enter the NEB ecosystem and to be able to develop and scale through it (via our programmes and/or beyond). The activities are intentionally interlinked to initiate products, services, projects, and scale-ups that will answer the range of citizen needs. In doing so, it focuses on **three strands**, with the overarching support of the NEB Mentors sitting horizontally across all areas.

1. NEB Ideation & Entrepreneurship:

Ignite NEB, Grow NEB
and Catalyse NEB

2. NEB Citizen Engagement:

Connect NEB, Co-create NEB
and Enhance NEB

3. Cross-cutting:

NEB Mentors



*At a lively community gathering, residents celebrated the launch of Slovenia's first **Library of Things (LoT)** - a new way to access and share everyday tools. Led by **Prostoroz** under Connect NEB, the initiative was co-designed with local citizens through workshops and collection drives, creating a shared space where borrowing replaces buying. Building on this success, Enhance NEB supported its replication in Nova Gorica and Velenje, expanding access to more communities. By fostering circularity, social connection, and local pride, LoT has inspired a growing national network of sharing spaces and open handbooks now guiding similar initiatives across Slovenia.*

1. NEB Ideation & Entrepreneurship

The EIT Community NEB goes beyond supporting early-stage innovators. Through the **NEB Ideation & Entrepreneurship strand** it empowers citizens from all backgrounds and professions to take part in Europe's innovation journey.

Through **Ignite NEB**, **Grow NEB**, and **Catalyse NEB**, citizens, researchers, designers, and entrepreneurs transform locally grounded ideas into sustainable products, services, and start-ups that embody the NEB values of sustainability, inclusion, and beauty.

Our journey is modular by design: participants can join at any point, taking part in a single programme or progressing through the full pathway. This flexibility ensures accessibility for newcomers while offering continuity for those who wish to advance together. In this way, a concept born in a local ideation event can evolve into a viable business, social venture, or policy prototype, guided every step of the way.

*Set in the world's last divided capital, **Ignite NEB Cyprus** brought together citizens from both sides of Nicosia's buffer zone to co-create solutions for a shared urban future. Hosted by **CyprusInno / SocialTech Lab** under Ignite NEB, the three-day hackathon united citizens, city officials, and local entrepreneurs around challenges of sustainable urban development and inclusive public space. Two winning teams - Pit-to-Table and MC² - went on to prototype their ideas through Grow NEB, turning local creativity into tangible action. The event not only bridged communities through collaboration but also positioned The Base by CyprusInno as a growing NEB hub for peace, innovation, and cross-border cooperation, recently nominated for a New European Bauhaus Prize.*

Ignite NEB Sparking NEB- aligned ideas from local challenges

Ignite NEB turns **community needs into creative challenges**. In immersive ideation events co-designed with local partners, participants explore how NEB values can inspire tangible solutions to place-based needs. As the first step in the NEB entrepreneurship pathway, it brings together transdisciplinary teams to connect local insight with entrepreneurial action.

Rather than limiting participation to the typical start-up or hackathon audience, it opens the door for residents, local associations, educators, craftspeople, artists, and civic actors - people who may never have engaged with EU innovation programmes before - to contribute their ideas and shape meaningful change.

By combining creativity, design, and collaboration, Ignite NEB helps citizens, often first-time innovators, **transform abstract ideas into actionable projects, products, or services**.



*Rooted in one of Copenhagen's most diverse neighbourhoods, **Ignite NEB Copenhagen** invited local residents and young people to step into the role of innovators. Led by **cirka cph**, the event embodied the essence of the Ignite NEB programme, moving beyond traditional hackathons to create an inclusive space where entrepreneurs co-designed solutions alongside local youth from multicultural and underserved communities. Over an intensive weekend of ideation, participants tackled challenges around urban belonging and circularity, forming teams that bridged generations and perspectives. Two winning teams were selected, including one led by participants under 18, who will continue developing their idea through our Grow NEB programme in 2026 with support from their community social worker.*



[Watch video on YouTube](#)



Grow NEB From idea to prototype

Grow NEB builds on Ignite NEB by offering structured incubation to winning teams. Over the course of 8 months, these early stage changemakers receive support in:

- Business and design mentorship
- Prototyping their products and solutions
- User testing with real communities or stakeholders

Grow NEB provides the time, space, and resources **to evolve ideas into validated concepts or ventures**- social projects, collectives, or start-ups.



Emerging from Rotterdam's Ignite NEB challenge at BlueCity, a circular innovation hub in a former tropical swimming pool, Myrica is transforming agricultural by-products into sustainable consumer goods. Initially tasked with finding new uses for waste from local farms, the team discovered the natural mosquito-repellent properties of bog myrtle and developed a biobased insect-repellent stick using the plant itself for packaging. Through Grow NEB, they refined their prototype with expert mentorship, exploring business models for regenerative agriculture and circular product design. Now evolving toward start-up stage, Myrica stands as a symbol of how creativity, sustainability, and entrepreneurship can intersect to turn waste into value.



Catalyse NEB Accelerating start-ups aligned with NEB values

Catalyse NEB is the **flagship acceleration programme** for start-ups that combine sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics with market viability. The programme provides tailored business coaching, investment readiness support, and visibility across the pan-European EIT ecosystem.

Together, **Ignite NEB, Grow NEB and Catalyse NEB** demonstrate how citizen creativity and entrepreneurial capacity **merge into market-ready innovation**, building a pipeline of NEB-aligned solutions that link social impact with economic opportunity.



Navibind is redefining inclusive urban mobility with its AI-powered navigation system for blind and visually impaired people, enabling safer and more independent movement through cities. Since joining Catalyse NEB in 2024, the start-up has gained remarkable momentum: from being selected to pilot its solution in Berlin in collaboration with the municipality and regional transport authority, to showcasing its innovation at the 2025 EU Research & Innovation Days. Navibind's journey demonstrates how joining the EIT Community NEB opens doors to partnerships, visibility, and growth, propelling purpose-driven innovation across Europe.



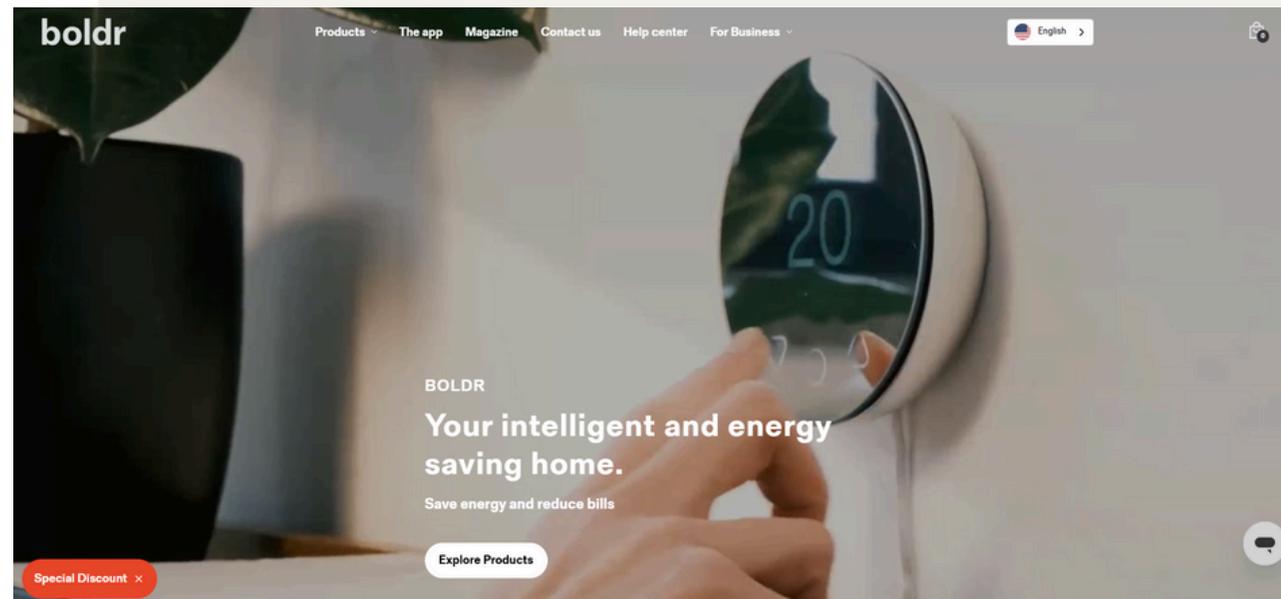
Ekotekt is revolutionising the construction industry with its HempCon 3D panels - a biocomposite solution offering exceptional thermal comfort, sound reduction, and fire resistance, while using 70% less concrete, storing 14 kg of CO₂ per m², and achieving up to 90% waste reduction.

Through its EKOFAB Design Marketplace, Ekotekt connects homebuyers with top global architects to access eco-friendly, affordable designs. Since completing Catalyse NEB, the start-up has won multiple awards, including at Expo Real 2024–2025, PropTech Startup Europe Realty Awards, Slush 2024, and CleanFuture.pt Accelerator, opened a new 3D printing facility in Estonia, and secured patents in both Finland and the U.S..

Key impacts

- **17 Ignite NEB events** engaging and empowering just under **1,000 citizens** in NEB ideation and innovation around their local challenges
- **100+ NEB-aligned ideas generated**, connecting creativity, sustainability and social inclusion (*Ignite NEB*)
- **40+ prototypes** and **30+ stakeholder workshops** integrating citizen feedback into innovation (*Grow NEB*)
- **4 start-ups** progressed through the **full NEB journey** – from ideation and prototyping to becoming registered companies and entering the market
- **92 start-ups accelerated**, integrating NEB values into their business models and brought to market (*Catalyse NEB*)
- **€12 million** raised by NEB start-ups, **€66 million total** portfolio valuation and **57.5 kt CO₂e annually** (*Catalyse NEB*)
- **Recognition and visibility** for NEB-aligned start-ups at EU and international events (NEB Festival, EU R&I Days, World Expo Japan), positioning the EIT Community NEB as a key accelerator of purpose-driven innovation in Europe.

What began as a spontaneous collaboration between three strangers at an Ignite NEB event in Seville has grown into a thriving circular start-up transforming orange peel waste into regenerative biomaterials. Winning the local challenge, the team advanced through Grow NEB to prototype and test their concept, eventually registering as a company and being selected for acceleration in Catalyse NEB. Today, **Remonda** stands as a flagship example of the NEB entrepreneurship journey, from idea to impact. Their innovation recently took centre stage at the inauguration of the EU Joint Research Centre in Seville, where they met President Ursula von der Leyen, showcasing how citizen creativity, science, and design converge to turn local waste into European opportunity.



A standout success from the Catalyse NEB accelerator, **Boldr** is redefining intelligent home energy management with smart, accessible solutions that empower households to cut consumption and become active players in the energy grid. Since joining the programme, Boldr has achieved remarkable growth, raising an oversubscribed \$3.2M seed round, expanding to Canada and the U.S., and launching the Boldr ProPack, the first smart thermostat system designed specifically for HVAC contractors working with ductless units. Recognised in Sifted's 250 list of Europe's fastest-growing start-ups and the Sifted 100 for the UK & Ireland (2025), Boldr exemplifies how NEB-aligned innovation can scale globally while driving Europe's green transition from the household up.

2. NEB Citizen engagement



The **NEB Citizen Engagement strand** brings the New European Bauhaus vision to life through concrete, locally driven action. They are intentionally designed to provide accessible entry points for a diverse range of stakeholders, from grassroots initiatives and community organisations to creatives and municipalities, many of whom are traditionally underrepresented in EU funding landscapes.

By supporting small-scale, place-based projects, these programmes uphold the NEB principle that transformation begins with citizens, while directly improving public spaces and neighbourhoods and advancing the ambitions of the European Green Deal.

Through three distinct calls for proposals, each engaging different stakeholder constellations across several project stages, the EIT Community NEB **builds a bridge between local participation and systemic transformation**, proving that citizen-led innovation and institutional collaboration are both essential to realising the NEB vision across Europe.



*Along the banks of the Neiva River, the **Minante Watermill** project brought cultural heritage to life through community co-creation. Led by **Rio Neiva** under Co-create NEB, the initiative engaged residents, artists, and students in reimagining the historic watermill and its surroundings as a shared public space. Through storytelling, artistic residencies, and hands-on workshops, participants revitalised the site with new pathways, signage, and small-scale interventions that made the area more welcoming and accessible. Beyond the physical transformation, Minante Watermill rekindled local pride, intergenerational connection, and civic stewardship—showcasing how participatory design can bridge heritage preservation with contemporary community life.*

Connect NEB Empowering grassroots solutions and initiatives transforming their local environments

Connect NEB is a **low-barrier, inclusive entry point** designed to democratise access to EU support for actors traditionally underrepresented in the EU funding ecosystem. For many participants, it marks their first engagement with European collaboration and funding.

By offering accessible, well-structured pathways to funding and mentoring, Connect NEB enables grassroots initiatives, community groups, creatives, municipalities, and civil society organisations to design and deliver NEB-aligned projects that address local challenges. In doing so, **Connect NEB plays a vital role in disseminating the New European Bauhaus as a bottom-up, pan-European movement.**



*Through the power of performance, **PLACETHEATRE** turned neglected urban areas of Novi Sad into open stages for dialogue and imagination. Led by **Deep-Tech Balkans** under Connect NEB, the project used street theatre and community storytelling to engage residents of three neighbourhoods in rethinking their public spaces. Performed in everyday settings - streets, courtyards, and bus stops - the plays explored how inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability could shape a better urban future. By sparking conversation among citizens long disconnected from cultural life, **PLACETHEATRE** revived a sense of belonging and demonstrated how art can transform not only public space but also public spirit.*

Co-create NEB Transforming public space through city/public authority collaboration

Co-create NEB supports **collaborations between public authorities and local actors** to co-design and implement NEB-aligned transformations of public space. Projects combine citizen participation with municipal leadership, addressing local challenges through shared design processes and place-based innovation.

By bridging institutional capacity with community creativity, Co-create NEB complements Connect NEB **by merging bottom-up engagement with top-down influence** - enabling tangible spatial interventions that also catalyse policy and systemic change.



*In Kerava, Finland, the **Our City** project reimagined public space for year-round use through the lens of winter placemaking. Led by **Parkly** under Co-create NEB, the initiative brought together local youth, designers, and urban practitioners in a series of co-creation workshops, city walks, and interactive design sessions. The collaboration resulted in the installation of modular urban furniture that keeps pedestrian areas active, welcoming, and inclusive even in colder months. By giving young residents a meaningful voice in shaping their city, Our City not only improved local livability but also set a reference for seasonal, human-centred urban design across Northern Europe.*



Enhance NEB: Scaling successful NEB practices

Enhance NEB is a scale-up and visibility programme that **enables successful Connect and Co-create NEB projects to expand their impact, reach new audiences, and/or replicate their methods** in different locations. It supports the evolution of promising practices into scalable, adaptable models for local NEB action.

Through three distinct calls for proposals, **Connect NEB, Co-create NEB and Enhance NEB** each engage diverse stakeholders and project stages, **connecting local participation with systemic transformation**, demonstrating that citizen-led innovation and institutional collaboration are both essential to realising the NEB vision across Europe.



Born in Budapest's diverse Losonci neighbourhood, CoolCo's began as a community-led intervention addressing urban heat and social inequality. Through Co-create NEB, Mobilissimus co-designed a shaded "cooling corner" with local residents: a modular public space combining seating, greenery, and water retention elements that reduced surface temperatures by up to 19°C. Building on its success, the project scaled through Enhance NEB, replicating the concept in Poland and demonstrating how simple, low-cost design can deliver real climate resilience. By engaging elderly residents, families, and marginalised groups, CoolCo's not only cooled cities but also strengthened trust, inclusion, and collaboration between communities and municipalities.

Key impacts

Over **18,600 citizens were engaged** in NEB activities through workshops, co-design sessions, and public gatherings across **98 projects**, 22 of which are currently being implemented in 2025. Participants range from schoolchildren and elderly residents to artists, entrepreneurs, and local policymakers, representing diverse communities across Europe and beyond. Our projects have:

- Delivered **80+ public space interventions** transforming rooftops into community gardens, creating green walking routes and restored courtyards, building wooden dinghies, outdoor classrooms, and participatory art installations that bring the New European Bauhaus values of beauty, sustainability, and inclusion to life
- Facilitated **407 workshops** - spanning ideation, co-creation, and citizen forums; participatory mapping and planning; climate-resilience trainings; and hands-on masterclasses that connect design thinking with tangible local action
- Organised **113 public events** - from multi-day festivals such as Neiva Fórum Fest to local community dinners, public exhibitions, launch celebrations, and street performances that foster exchange between citizens, experts, and institutions
- Developed **35+ unique tools and methodologies** - including community toolkits, digital platforms, learning frameworks, acceleration guides, and participatory planning models that are enabling replication across Europe



Along the coast of Anzio, **FishArt** is transforming the city's neglected fishermen's harbour into a vibrant and inclusive public space where art and sustainability meet. Led by the **University of Turin** under Co-create NEB, the project engaged local fishermen, artists, schools, and residents to reimagine the harbour as a shared cultural and ecological landmark. Through participatory workshops and environmental education, the community co-created 22 artistic installations and hosted a large-scale public event celebrating marine conservation and local identity. Blending art, science, and civic collaboration, FishArt strengthened social cohesion, fostered pride of place, and set a powerful example of how creativity can anchor sustainable transformation in coastal communities.

[Watch video on YouTube](#)



*Data collected from projects implemented in 2023-2025 alone (excludes 2021-2022).
Data for 2025 reflect expected outcomes and are subject to delivery.*

- Co-created **28 participatory designs** - from adaptive reuse concepts for historic sites to urban prototypes, blueprints, and micro-interventions that turn co-created visions into shared public assets
- Produced over **90 reports and publications** - including replication handbooks, design manuals, research studies, policy recommendations, and visual storytelling reports that document lessons learned and guide future transformation

The projects collaborate and co-create their actions with diverse local groups to engage communities and improve quality of life, focusing on the main needs of each context. The main **target groups** reached by the projects are **municipalities and other municipal stakeholders** (46 projects), and **local residents** (44 projects).

Municipalities and other municipal stakeholders	46 projects
Local residents	44 projects
Youth, young adults	26 projects
Children and families with children	25 projects
Elderly people	22 projects
Artists and cultural workers	21 projects
Students	15 projects
Community associations	14 projects
Vulnerable and marginalised groups	10 projects
Local food producers, farmers and fishermen	9 projects
Teachers and educators	9 projects
Ethnically diverse and emigrants communities	7 projects
Local businesses	6 projects
Factory, harbour and outdoor workers	6 projects
Caregivers and healthcare staff	5 projects
Cultural institutions	5 projects
Researchers and academics	4 projects
Young professionals	4 projects
Other (e.g. sex workers, pregnant women, autistic children)	22 projects



*In partnership with the **Municipality of Utrecht**, **COHERE** reconnected residents of the city's least green and most heat-affected neighbourhoods with nature through community-led, climate-resilient greening. Led by **Natuur en Milieufederatie Utrecht** under Co-create NEB, the project engaged over 200 residents in façade garden workshops, neighbourhood safaris, and shared dinners, resulting in 150 m² of new green space and a replicable urban greening toolkit. Beyond cooling the city and boosting biodiversity, COHERE strengthened community ties and influenced policy, inspiring Utrecht to explore a city-wide façade garden initiative, proving how local action can drive inclusive and sustainable transformation.*

3. NEB Mentors

The NEB Mentors programme is the cross-cutting backbone of the EIT Community NEB. It ensures that every project, start-up, and local initiative, regardless of scale or maturity, has access to **expert guidance and tailored support**. By connecting innovators with a diverse pool of mentors in design, sustainability, business, and citizen engagement, the programme enhances the quality, impact, and continuity of NEB-aligned actions across all seven programmes.

The Mentors programme embodies the NEB principle that transformation happens through collaboration and shared learning. Beyond one-to-one support, **mentors foster a culture of reflection, capacity-building, and professional growth among beneficiaries** - from grassroots initiatives learning EU project management to start-ups refining impact-oriented business models.

*Each year, the **EIT Community NEB Gathering** brings together beneficiaries, mentors, and partners from across our programmes to connect, reflect, and co-create the future of the New European Bauhaus. Through workshops, showcases, and peer-to-peer learning, participants share insights, celebrate progress, and spark new collaborations. The Gathering embodies the EIT Community NEB's role as a bridge-builder and convener, weaving a pan-European network united by a shared commitment to a sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful future.*



Key impacts

- Mentorship has supported more than **240 activities**, ensuring consistent project quality and coherence with NEB principles.
- **182 mentors mobilised across Europe**, providing over 500 mentoring assignments to beneficiaries.
- **39% women mentors**, reflecting the programme's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The NEB Mentors programme does more than strengthen individual projects; it builds capacity across the entire NEB ecosystem. It creates bridges between citizen initiatives and investors, between start-ups and municipalities, and between creativity and governance.

By embedding mentoring and reflection across all programmes, the NEB Mentors have created a pan-European community of practice, uniting diverse actors around shared learning and purpose. This approach ensures that the EIT Community NEB's impact endures beyond individual funding cycles, supporting Europe's continued journey toward a sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful future.





The Impact of the EIT Community NEB Journey

As a core implementation partner of the New European Bauhaus, the EIT Community NEB has played a pivotal role in delivering the NEB vision on the ground. Its programmes have empowered thousands of citizens, cities, and innovators to co-create solutions that give form to European values, linking the Green Deal's ambition with real transformation in communities across Europe.

1. Empowering citizens and communities

At its core, the EIT Community NEB has empowered citizens to bring the NEB vision to life- empowering them to become Change Makers of their neighbourhoods and places.

By supporting small-scale, participatory projects, it has allowed residents, artists, craftspeople, educators, and local associations - many of whom had never accessed EU support - to become active agents of transformation in their own environments.

Communities have learned new methods for co-creation and participatory design, strengthened local networks, and built confidence to continue experimenting beyond EU funding. Citizens are no longer passive recipients of innovation, but co-authors of Europe's sustainable transition.

Impact: Over **19,500 citizens** across **35+ countries** engaged directly in co-design, planning, and decision-making - a tangible expansion of democratic participation in shaping Europe's future.

*In Fuenlabrada, the **PlaYInn!** project put young people at the heart of urban innovation. Led by the **Municipality of Fuenlabrada** under Co-create NEB, the initiative engaged over 70 adolescents and students in a structured co-design process to reimagine two public plazas through the lenses of inclusivity, sustainability, and creativity. Working alongside city officials, universities, and local organisations, participants co-developed and tested two urban furniture prototypes, showcasing how circular design and youth perspectives can redefine public space. Beyond its tangible outputs, PlaYInn! strengthened youth participation in local governance and inspired new models for collaborative city-making.*

2. Transforming places and public space

Through the NEB Citizen Engagement strand, public space has become a laboratory for the NEB. From green corridors and rooftop gardens to adaptive reuse of heritage sites and inclusive playgrounds, these interventions are not isolated beautifications, they are spatial proofs of concept for the NEB vision.

Each project links aesthetics with ecology, social life with sustainability, and local identity with European purpose. These are not prototypes for future scaling alone — they are real places where the NEB is already lived.

Impact: **80+ public space interventions** demonstrate how climate resilience, inclusion, and cultural expression can coexist at the neighbourhood scale, setting a model for human-centred urban policy.

3. Nurturing innovation with purpose

Through its entrepreneurship journey - Ignite NEB, Grow NEB, and Catalyse NEB - the EIT Community NEB has reframed innovation in Europe. It shows that business growth and societal value are not competing aims: they are mutually reinforcing when guided by design and responsibility.

By embedding NEB principles in product development, materials science, and circular business models, the EIT has helped shape a new generation of ventures, ones that measure success not only in profit, but in purpose.

Impact: **92 NEB-aligned start-ups accelerated, raising €12M and avoiding 57.5 kt CO₂e annually**, proving that sustainability and inclusion are viable market advantages.



*In Slovenia's largest healthcare complex, **AwaRe** reimagines hospital green space as a place of healing, connection, and climate resilience. Led by **Prostoroz**, the project created a modular, shaded waiting area that improves accessibility and comfort, while generating data to inform Ljubljana's upcoming climate adaptation strategy. AwaRe strengthened collaboration across hospital, municipal, and national levels, earning a 2025 New European Bauhaus Prize and setting a benchmark for health-oriented public space design.*

4. Building bridges between citizens and institutions

One of the most profound impacts lies in how the EIT Community NEB has fostered relationships between citizens and institutions.

Municipalities, often cautious about participatory processes, have begun to co-design with residents as equals. Public authorities have tested new governance models and rediscovered trust in co-creation as a form of policymaking.

The result is a growing European practice of shared governance, where transformation is not delivered to citizens but with them.

Impact: **40+ municipalities and affiliated entities** have co-led participatory design projects, inspiring new policy frameworks for local NEB implementation.



*In Aizpute, the **Aizpute Citizens' Forum for Preservation of Historical Heritage** strengthened the town's sense of belonging by linking urban planning with cultural preservation. Led by the **Aizpute Citizens' Forum** under Connect NEB, the project brought residents and decision-makers together to co-develop the Aizpute 2040 vision — a long-term plan to protect and revitalise the town's historical centre. Through close collaboration with municipal leaders, the initiative gained strong political backing and culminated in a dialogue with the President of Latvia. By bridging citizens and policymakers, the project set a powerful example of how heritage preservation can drive shared identity and forward-looking local development.*

5. Strengthening Europe's capacity to learn, replicate and scale

Beyond funding projects, the EIT Community NEB has built a pan-European learning ecosystem that enables continuity, growth, and long-term impact. Each programme provides beneficiaries not just with funding, but with the support and tools to evolve their ideas, strengthen capacities, and scale successful practices across contexts.

A network of mentors and experts delivers both one-to-one guidance and collective workshops, ensuring tailored support across all stages of project development. Peer-to-peer exchange is central to this approach, connecting hundreds of initiatives that learn from each other's experiences through ongoing collaboration.

The annual EIT Community NEB Gathering brings together beneficiaries from all seven programmes to share lessons, showcase progress, and ideate future pathways, while year-round online sessions foster continuous learning and reflection.

Through open-access handbooks, replication guides, and toolkits, beneficiaries contribute to a growing body of practical knowledge now shared among hundreds of cities, institutions, and innovators. These outputs are complemented by training programmes and peer-learning formats that ensure lessons are embedded into future practice rather than lost at project's end.

Impact: Over **90 reports, methodologies and handbooks produced, 16 projects scaled to new contexts**, and an active community of practice connecting innovators, municipalities, and experts, ensuring that the NEB's principles are not only learned but lived and replicated across Europe.

Some of the handbooks, replication manuals and toolkits as outcomes of the EIT Community NEB projects. Seen here: Urban greening toolkit (COHERE), Library of Things Blueprint (Spread of the LoTs), Bring Nature Home Practical Handbook (Bring Nature Home) and Traditional Water Management Handbook (DROPS)

Urban greening toolkit: Empowering communities through facade gardens

Inspired by the New European Bauhaus (NEB) principles

This project is supported by EIT Community NEB, an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology



KNJIŽNICA REČI + SPLOŠNA KNJIŽNICA

Priročnik za vzpostavitev in vodenje knjižnice reči znotraj splošne knjižnice



BRING NATURE HOME
- a practical handbook -

TRADICIJSKO
UPRAVLJANJE
VODAMA NA
ZLARINU

TRADITIONAL
WATER
MANAGEMENT
IN ZLARIN

Pictured top to bottom: EIT Community NEB Gathering 2023, EIT Community NEB Gathering 2024, Catalyse NEB 2025 Kick-off event

6. A European Ecosystem of Practice

Taken together, these impacts form more than the sum of their parts. The EIT Community NEB has created an ecosystem of practice — a distributed, pan-European structure that connects citizens, entrepreneurs, cities, mentors, and EU institutions through a common design language and shared purpose.

It bridges Europe’s “messy middle” - between visionary policy and lived experience - ensuring that the NEB is not only an idea discussed in Brussels, but a movement taking root in communities across the continent.

Impact: **227 activities across Europe** collectively demonstrate how micro-grants, mentorship, and innovative ventures can deliver structural change - affordably, inclusively, and at scale.

7. The NEB as a living practice

The EIT Community NEB’s most lasting achievement is not numerical: it is cultural. It has helped define what the New European Bauhaus is when translated from policy to practice — an approach that is participatory, transdisciplinary, and deeply human.

Through its seven programmes, it has proven that the NEB can live in multiple forms: as a community dinner, a start-up prototype, a repurposed square, a design workshop, a mentoring session, or a European policy dialogue.

Together, these experiences form a **living, evolving NEB practice**, one that inspires, connects, and empowers across boundaries.



[Watch video on YouTube](#)



Future outlook for scaling solutions and activities

Looking ahead, the EIT Community NEB will continue to deepen and extend its impact by **strengthening its network, increasing visibility** and continuing to **foster meaningful exchange** between our beneficiaries and with other key NEB actors. Support for beneficiaries is evolving beyond one-to-one mentorship to include collective formats such as workshops and peer-learning sessions, enhancing both the quality of support and a sense of community. We also **aim to reinforce connections with other NEB initiatives** and prioritise financial sustainability and policy integration to ensure long-term impact.

Consequently, there is a need to expand beyond our programmes and find synergies with other key NEB initiatives and actors, as well as existing NEB-aligned activities. We have identified several promising leads from our programmes that could be linked to other EU initiatives, funding streams, and programmes. For example, Ignite NEB aligned hackathons and events are widespread across Europe. We aim to go beyond our own events and **embed Ignite NEB events into broader NEB activities**, thereby “NEBifying” existing formats. To support this, we are developing NEB event **guidelines to standardise practices** and introduce a NEB certification, ensuring alignment of NEB values and principles from concept to execution.

To foster continued innovation, it is essential to enable start-ups to reach investors, industry partners, cities, and potential end-users. **A clearly defined roadmap to innovative and post-acceleration funding would be a valuable resource to ensure long-term financial support and investment readiness.**

Our pool of over 400 NEB mentors, providing guidance on NEB design and financial sustainability to entrepreneurs, has the potential to evolve into a “mentors-as-a-service” model, particularly through collaboration with other NEB institutions.

A key lesson from the past four years is the strong, unmet demand for small-scale, accessible funding. The record number of applications to Connect NEB and Co-create NEB — including over 120 new municipalities in 2024 — highlights the need for flexible mechanisms that effectively support local actors, first-time applicants, and smaller organisations often underserved by EU programmes. Small-scale does not mean small impact, but rather scalable experimentation — a vital link in Europe’s innovation chain. Solutions, handbooks, and blueprints co-created with citizens will be consolidated within NEB Junction, ensuring broader accessibility. **Formal connections between EIT Community NEB and structural funds, including the next phase of the NEB Facility and related EU programmes** (e.g. DUT, PCP), could further enable replication and scaling of successful solutions, driving systemic transformation across the ecosystem.

The goal remains clear: to evolve the NEB from a visionary movement into an enduring and ingrained European practice—where every project, start-up, and citizen is empowered to shape a sustainable, inclusive, and beautiful future.



The EIT Community NEB team

The EIT Community New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a collaboration between several **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)** of the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**.

Led by **EIT Urban Mobility**, the initiative works in close partnership with **Climate-KIC**, **EIT Food**, and **EIT Manufacturing**. Together, we combine expertise across sectors to implement the NEB vision on the ground, bridging innovation, sustainability, and design to create more beautiful, inclusive, and sustainable living spaces across Europe.



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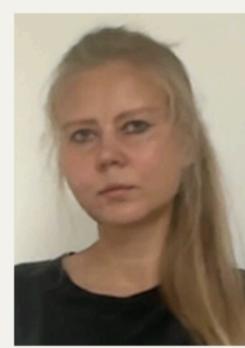
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EIT Community NEB - Impact Report 2025



New European Bauhaus



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