Open Call for Proposals

EIT Community Connect NEB: Citizen-generated solutions and initiatives to advance sustainability, beauty and inclusivity – 2025 Call Manual

EIT Community NEB:

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Climate KIC

EIT Food

EIT Manufacturing

Barcelona| 4 July 2024

Funded by the European Union

History of changes

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	04.07.2024	Initial version

Any updates to this Call Manual are detailed in the table above. Amended versions of the Call Manual are published on the EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and EIT Manufacturing websites.

Contents

Abbreviations

BP	Business Plan
EEE	External Expert Evaluator
EIT Community NEB	EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing
EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
EU	European Union
FSA	Financial Support Agreement
FS	Financial sustainability
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
HE	Horizon Europe
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key performance indicators
KTI	Knowledge triangle integration
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
NEB	New European Bauhaus
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PIC	Participant Identification Code

Glossary

Lead Applicant	The entity/person who submitted the proposal and will coordinate the project if it is selected. if the proposal is successful, the Lead Applicant becomes the Project Leader.
Project Leader	The Project Leader is the main contact for EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food and EIT Manufacturing (EIT Community NEB) from the proposal submission stage to the end of project implementation. The Project Leader represents the project and the consortium partners (the other partners participating in the project, if any) to EIT Community NEB, and also has responsibility for creating and submitting a proposal. For mono-participant grants, the single legal entity involved in the project also has the Project Leader role.
Call for proposals	The call for proposals is the instrument used by EIT Community NEB to allocate funding to third parties with a view to supporting the deployment and development of the Strategic Agenda (SA) through projects.
Call Manual	The Call Manual is the document that defines and states the terms, conditions and criteria for any call for proposals in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition and sound procedural management.
Consensus meeting	The consensus meeting is convened so that all experts who assessed the proposals can discuss their individual evaluation reports and agree on comments and scores reflected in the Summary Evaluation Reports (SERs). This remote meeting is led by the Rapporteur and supported by the Quality Controller, who seek a consensus and ensure that proposals are evaluated in a fair manner and in line with the established evaluation criteria.
Coordinating KIC	The KIC coordinating the grant for a project.
Deliverable	Deliverables capture the achievement of key outputs and take the form of analysis reports, feasibility studies, strategy documents, pilot action reports and training documents. The deliverables specified must fully demonstrate the project's achievements and the judicious use of public funds.
EIT KPIs	Set of key performance indicators (KPIs) defined by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) that reflect its operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project is meeting the objectives of EIT.
Evaluation Panel	Group of EEEs and a Rapporteur with specific expertise in a particular area/segment of the call with the aim of evaluating a set of eligible proposals submitted to a call.

Evaluation process	Process by which EIT Community NEB, supported by External Expert Evaluators (EEEs), examines the quality of a proposal to decide if it should be selected to receive EIT funding.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe (HE) Model Grant Agreement (MGA) sets out the rights, obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded.
KIC-specific KPIs	A set of indicators defined by EIT Community NEB that reflect the societal challenge that KIC is seeking to address.
Knowledge triangle integration	EIT Community NEB aims to create close-knit partnerships between European education, research and business entities (knowledge triangles) and also involves cities, either through the composition of project members or through the expected impact of the project results.
Milestones	Control points to chart the progress of project implementation. They may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable that allows the next phase of work to begin.
Outputs	Tangible results, e.g. the specific technology, product, service, method, design, patents, jobs, curricula, prototypes, concept, methodology, approach, skills or experience created by the project.
Ranking list	List of proposals ranked according to the score awarded by the Selection Committee.
Selection Committee	The Selection Committee is responsible for endorsing the selected proposals and defining the conditions for funding to include the selected proposals in EIT Community NEB's final project portfolio.
Summary Evaluation Report	The Rapporteur issues a single and final SER for each proposal after the consensus meeting. This document provides a concise overview of the proposal's final evaluation score, strengths, weaknesses, associated risks and any recommendations made.

Introduction

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is currently one of the key European initiatives and translates the European Green Deal into tangible change on the ground by placing culture and citizens' needs at the core of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). EIT and its pan-European thematic KICs are well positioned to drive the change sought by NEB through innovation ecosystems and thematic expertise. NEB is utilising the experience and expertise of EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility to advance the implementation phase of NEB through grassroots activities. The KICs involved are creating a new and unique set of NEB activities resulting from a combination of their ongoing, tried and tested programmes and new ideas.

Since 2021, we have had a growing portfolio of projects to support the implementation of NEB in cities and, rural and peri-urban areas across Europe. We work with innovators, city administrations, research organisations, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and businesses to boost the transformation of their cities. A core summary of the projects conducted during 2023 can be found here. The projects currently under way in 2024 can be found here.

The EIT Community Connect NEB Open Call for Proposals is a competitive mechanism open to any entity located in an European Union (EU) Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe (HE)[1] that activate citizen-centred engagement activities to supply meaningful solutions to EIT Community NEB challenges. These citizen-centred engagement activities will serve not only to identify and prioritise challenges, but also to envisage an initial process to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with NEB's core values and principles.

Between six and eight projects will be selected in this Call with a maximum funding of 15,000 EUR per project and a minimum co-funding rate of 20% across the project.

This Call for Proposals is also aligned with the KIC portfolio strategic fit through its alignment with the activity plan approved by EIT. It responds to the EU dimension, as the proposals' geographical spread within the EU will also be considered.

Applicants selected for this call for proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the NEB Community, NEB Lab and other relevant NEB activities through the exchange of information, best practices and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official New European Bauhaus Lab website for more information.

1. Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Key dates in the Call calendar[1]	• **Call opening:** 4 July 2024 • **Call closure:** 26 September 2024 at 17:00 CET • **Eligibility and admissibility check:** September 2024 • **Evaluation of proposals:** October 2024 • **Communication of results:** November 2024 • **Tentative start of the projects:** 1 February 2025 • **Finalisation of the projects:** 30 November 2025
Total estimated EIT Funding allocated to this Call	€120,000 Between six and eight projects with up to € 15,000 of EIT Community NEB funding allocation per project. All proposals must have a minimum co- funding rate of 20%.
Link to the submission portal	The **new EIT UM NetSuite platform** will be available by mid-July 2024
List of documents to be submitted	• Application form available on the NetSuite platform
List of documents to take into consideration	• Call Manual • The New European Bauhaus Compass • Guidelines for Applicants • Eligibility of Expenditure • Appeal Procedure • EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook • Financial Support Agreement (FSA) template • Horizon Europe (HE) Model Grant Agreement (MGA) • List of previously funded projects
Short summary of the topics to be addressed	EIT Community NEB Challenges cover four main thematic axes: • Reconnecting with nature • Regaining a sense of belonging • Prioritising places and the people who need them the most • The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem
Evaluation criteria	The proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below, as stated in Section 5 "Evaluation and selection process": • Excellence and novelty • Impact and social, economic, financial, and general sustainability • Quality and efficiency of the implementation

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[1] Please note that this calendar is indicative. Dates may be subject to slight changes.

2. General requirements

2.1 EIT Community NEB strategic vision and mission

Our mission is to activate citizen-generated solutions and initiatives to advance sustainability, beauty and inclusivity in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative. These citizen-centred engagement activities will serve not only to identify and prioritise challenges, but also to envisage an initial process to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with New European Bauhaus's core values and principles. All activities must serve the purpose of achieving NEB's three core inseparable values:

- sustainability, from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution and biodiversity;
- aesthetics, quality of experience and style beyond functionality;
- inclusion, from valuing diversity to equality for all, accessibility and affordability.

The development of New European Bauhaus' dimensions integrates and is guided by the following three key principles:

- a multilevel approach, from global to local;
- a participatory approach;
- a transdisciplinary approach.

In addition, New European Bauhaus is guided by the following four thematic axes that the Commission decided to follow during the implementation of New European Bauhaus:

- reconnecting with nature;
- regaining a sense of belonging;
- prioritising places and the people who need them the most;
- the need for long-term, life-cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem.

These thematic axes are highly interconnected with the aim of delivering the New European Bauhaus approach. For example, having access to green spaces can also bring people together. Affordable houses need to be close to the labour market to create a healthy, functional living ecosystem. Local improvements to a place cannot be made without considering the DNA and communities of the place. Further details on the strategic focus of the Connect New European Bauhaus Call are provided in Section 3.

Applicants selected for this call for proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the NEB Community, NEB Lab and other relevant NEB activities through the exchange of information, best practices and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official NEB Lab website for more information.

2.2   Who can apply

This Call for Proposals is open to all legal entities established in Member States of the European Union (EU), and/or in Third countries associated to Horizon Europe. These legal entities may be, for example, public or private legal entities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), education institutions, research and technology organisations, consultancies, NGOs or social entities,

Applications from Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries are encouraged to participate.

All proposals must be composed of **one single legal entity** (mono-participant call type); **consortia are therefore not permitted**. Proposals submitted with more than one legal entity will be ineligible.

Specific cases

Entities established in Switzerland are eligible to participate but at their own cost. These entities will not receive EIT funding, they will be funded by the Swiss Government. Applicants from Switzerland are requested to contact the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) for further details.

Temporary eligibility requirements for Hungarian universities

Following the Council's Decision on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary that entered into force on 15 December 2022, special participation and funding restrictions may affect Hungarian public interest trusts and their linked Universities participating in any EIT Community NEB Calls. For further information and the list of affected entities, please refer to the *Eligibility of Expenditure* document published on the Call webpage.

This Call for Proposals adheres to the main rules and principles established by EIT Community NEB and general EU principles. The processes relating to the call are aligned with the principles of openness, transparency, equal treatment and sound management.

3. Call specific requirements

3.1 Strategic focus of the Call

The overall purpose of this Connect NEB Call for Proposals is to activate citizen generated solutions and initiatives to resolve challenges facing European cities and peri-urban and rural areas to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between people and to create citizen generated transdisciplinary projects that address sustainability, quality of experience and inclusiveness. In alignment with the city, peri-urban area and rural area cross-sectoral challenges, we encourage mapping challenges and the development of solutions in collaboration with citizens based on a demand-led approach. It aims to work on activities in which citizens and end-users are engaged and asked to identify relevant challenges in their community aligned with New European Bauhaus thematic axes.

The EIT Community NEB aims to support activities in which cities and peri-urban and rural areas can act to deliver on their commitments and action plans laid out in their strategic plans and are empowered to co-create potential solutions embedding the New European Bauhaus approach into a process of reflection aligned with the initiative. It is expected to encourage/incentivise the take-up of more sustainable habits through the co-creation of new solutions, products and services with citizens, thereby empowering them to implement innovations in their communities and trigger change by actively influencing local policies. Citizen engagement that reflects the diversity of voices in the community is essential to develop successful, long-term solutions that meet the needs of the wider community. Working together in a shared endeavour for a common higher goal, results in a true synergy of innovation, creativity, and design, thus improving citizens' quality of life in cities and driving green and digital transformations. For citizens, this can increase their engagement with and social acceptance of change and encourage a shift towards more sustainable behaviours and mindsets. For the private sector, this can help adapt and tackle regulatory frameworks and reconsider the fundamental value systems and norms that underpin them. Successful citizen engagement will increase the ability to create, experiment, demonstrate, scale and deploy innovative solutions for a just, equitable and prosperous future.

3.2   Call objective

The primary focus of the Connect NEB Call for Proposals is to deploy inspirational beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive project proposals and demonstrate new solutions to boost the transformation of our cities, peri-urban areas and rural areas.

All proposals must comply with the following requirements to ensure that the project scope is appropriated:

- Proposals must involved the development of activities to improve citizens' lives, while **integrating all three core New European Bauhaus values** (*sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion*) and all **three key New European Bauhaus principles** (*multilevel, participatory, transdisciplinary approach*) into their projects.
- The activities must be tailored towards **at least two specific and clearly identified target groups** (can be defined by age, profession, neighbourhoods of the same city, etc.). The proposal needs to include a communication and dissemination plan to engage with target groups in the given period.
- The **physical area or location where planned activities will take place must be specified**. Please note that all activities must be implemented in a specified location within EU Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries.
- The proposed solution must have the **potential to be implemented on a broader scale and/or replicable** following a context-based approach. Proposals should **aim for long-term sustainable impact.**
- The proposal must demonstrate an **in-depth understanding of the local ecosystem**, including stakeholders, culture and social dynamics, as well as expertise in citizen engagement activities and innovation/action.
- The applicant must have **proven expertise and hands-on experience in leading and coordinating at least one previous citizen engagement project** with the target groups involved.
- The proposed solution must use **existing knowledge, innovative methodologies, tools, or processes relating to target group behaviour** with regard to the selected topic and **push for/promote real behavioural change and influence policy making.**
- All activities should leverage and use the **Knowledge Triangle Integration** (KTI) principle to promote and facilitate collaboration with the cities as well as with education, research and business entities. To this end, proposals must include a joint workshop with the aforementioned stakeholders, in which impact assessment data will be discussed and potential opportunities for further research and exploitation identified.

3.3   EIT Community New European Bauhaus Challenge Areas

For this Connect NEB Call for Proposals, the EIT Community NEB defines four Challenge Areas based on the New European Bauhaus four thematic axes:

- Reconnecting with nature
- Regaining a sense of belonging
- Prioritising places and the people who need them the most
- The need for long-term, life cycle thinking in the industrial ecosystem

All proposals must address at least one of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus challenges described below.

Specific examples of projects that have previously been funded through the Connect NEB call and have addressed one of the challenge areas can be found here.

3.3.1 Re-connecting with nature

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement aims to create greater opportunities for contact with green public spaces that translate into better health and reduce income-related health inequalities. Nature-based solutions in cities can help address floods and other extreme weather events, whilst making the built environment more attractive. Climate action can improve air, water and soil quality and overall living conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the direct link between nature conservation and physical and mental health for citizens. There is a need to transition from a human-centred to a life-centred perspective, to seek inspiration from nature and to learn from it.

Key-words related to the challenge area:

Nature-based solutions (NBS), biodiversity, (re)naturalisation, green solutions, active mobility, active lifestyle, urban farming, regenerative agriculture, regeneration of degraded soils, resilient food production.

Examples:

Some inspirational examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Urban greening, such as urban green corridors for active mobility.
- Engagement of citizens in ecological and urban green networks.
- Interaction with citizens to encourage the up-take of green solutions.
- Co-creation of green space(s) to exploit their potential such as better refreshing/cooling urban areas, etc.

- (Re)naturalisation of degraded public areas, green areas, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and urban furniture as assets that promote active mobility.
- Nature-based-solutions for industrial sites and processes or old / post-industrial sites including the regeneration of degraded soils and wastewater streams.
- Greening of the job market through training on protection and promotion of biodiversity, nature-based solutions and biomimicry-inspired approaches, thus enhancing the connection to nature and, in turn, creating a willingness to take on stewardship responsibilities.
- Establishment of urban farming and regenerative agriculture initiatives as commercially viable options in key value chains, involving local communities.
- Activities geared towards promoting change towards healthier and more sustainable nutrition, including activities contributing to the protection of bio-diversity, and the promotion of plant-based meals and active lifestyles.
- Improvement of sustainable and resilient food production practices and reduction of food loss and waste.

3.3.2 Re-gaining a sense of community and belonging

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement is about collective and private experience. Building bridges between people involves encouraging intergenerational solidarity, developing links between education and the arts in local environments, and improving common spaces and meeting places.

Key-words related to the challenge area:

Human-centric approach, local manufactured products and solutions, 15-minute city, cultural exchange, deepen engagement, identity, cultural value of food, degraded public space transformation, community engagement, social cohesion, inter-generational, cultural exchange, proximity economy, accessible public spaces, urban revitalisation, participatory design, co-creation, local heritage preservation, public art, walkable communities, urban gardens, human-centric design, food culture, local identity, food-waste initiatives.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Enhancement of degraded public areas.
- Increased accessibility, and interconnection of public spaces via more sustainable means of transport.
- Promotion of multiple uses of public spaces by end-users and citizens, to create the conditions for enhanced cultural exchange.
- Promotion of proximity economy activities allowing citizens to access key services and amenities within walking distance in a way to strengthen connections and foster healthy, sustainable, active mobility.
- Manufacturing solutions contributing to building more human-centric, sustainable and resilient industry placing the well-being of workers at the centre of production processes.

- Cultural life, arts events, concerts, festivals, and clubs organized around a shared interest which serve as a platform to deepen engagement with local challenges and/or up-take of environmentally friendly solutions.
- Cultural and art activities and social interventions laying the groundwork for a high-functioning community that will be ready to assume ownership and responsibility for common and public goods, contributing to improved resilience and net zero carbon targets.
- Increasing urban-rural linkages for shorter, fairer, and more sustainable urban food chains, e.g. food chains which are more 'visible' chains to consumers, and which build on the close relationships between cities and their surrounding rural environments.
- Active citizenship activities aimed at highlighting the cultural value of food and its connections with local, regional, national, and European identity.

3.3.3 Prioritising places and people that need it the most

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes the inclusion of all citizens, as well as of the places where they live. Beautiful and sustainable solutions have to be affordable and accessible for all. Special attention should be paid to the specific situation of the most vulnerable groups and individuals, such as those at risk of exclusion or poverty and those experiencing homelessness. Disadvantaged groups are at greater risk of energy poverty and of suffering the effects of air pollution and have poorer access to public transport. Inclusion also requires that all approaches be designed in such a way that accessibility barriers to the built and virtual environments and to goods and services are removed. The New European Bauhaus clearly transcends major city centres to encompass places in all their diversity, including small villages, rural areas, shrinking cities, neglected neighbourhoods, suburbs and de-industrialised areas. This calls for planning to avoid the spatial segregation of social groups and create a sense of togetherness. It is crucial to connect the various parts of cities, villages and neighbourhoods.

Key-words related to the challenge area:

Social inclusion, vulnerable groups, rural-urban connectivity, inclusive public spaces, integrated public safety neighbourhoods, neighbourhood revitalisation, community-led solutions, participatory processes, social housing, social manufacturing, social integration, co-design, human-centred design.

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Solutions that address poor transport links between rural and urban areas.

- Solutions aimed at universal mobility as a key enabler of social inclusion so that everyone can move freely within cities, regardless of gender, race, beliefs or disability.
- Proposals that encompass social manufacturing, including those that involve less favoured groups or groups at risk of social exclusion in the manufacture of craft products.
- Establishment of physical and virtual spaces for sharing resources and best practices within communities to socialise sustainable lifestyles.
- Activities aimed at testing digital tools with citizens to ensure the traceability, safety and authenticity of foods and guarantee the rights and meet the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Co-design and co-creation of activities with vulnerable citizen groups involving new e-commerce and innovative food delivery services, e.g. digital services to solve the issue of 'food deserts' by delivering fresh and nutritious foods to neighbourhoods that lack physical stores, activities to help reduce food waste by connecting surpluses with potential buyers, or solutions for citizens with mobility issues who, for example, are unable to go to markets or carry heavy weights.

3.3.4 Prioritising the need for long-term, life-cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem

Specific Challenge

The New European Bauhaus movement promotes an economy based on circularity to tackle unsustainable practices, including resource uses for obsolete buildings or infrastructures. Addressing these challenges concerns the entire industrial ecosystem, from production to delivery and consumption, with a circular economy mindset. Recovered and renewable materials should be better recognised by all relevant disciplines and become part of design paradigms. The use of sustainably produced and procured nature-based building materials, such as wood, bamboo, straw, cork, or stone should be improved. New production technologies should help reduce the carbon footprint of steel or cement, recycle otherwise wasted textiles and accelerate the green transition of energy intensive industries. New business models, bioeconomy, social economy approaches, and Design for Sustainability can support the transformation of sectors such as textiles, tourism, waste management or energy production. The digital transition will play a systematic role in the development and implementation of the New European Bauhaus.

Key words related to the challenge area:

Circular economy, long-term use, reduce by design, maintenance, reuse, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose, recycling, waste rethinking, product life extension, second life, resource management, (un)sustainable mindsets and/or behaviours, decentralised manufacturing, circular mobility, cleantech, sustainable packaging, green economy, local production, shared mobility, durability, food waste, circular mobility, local crafts

Examples

Some examples of specific projects that can be addressed are included in the following non-exhaustive list:

- Activities to promote products and services for long-term use.

- Reduce by design, as well as, maintenance, reusing, refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurpose and recycling of resources and waste, including digital and monitoring tools.
- Improvement of current state-of-the-art of the manufacturing industries.
- Public and multi-stakeholder activities fostering circular economy actions, namely with regards to resources, waste, product life extension and second life of products, and more efficient management of sources.
- Activities targeting unsustainable mindsets or behaviours in specific social groups to maximize the potential impact.
- Activities of decentralised, local and urban manufacturing designing and/or demonstrating symbiotic and sustainable factories closer to the customer including integrating new and traditional techniques, local crafts, and knowledge to foster innovation in manufacturing.
- Circular mobility including shared mobility, satisfying user needs without transferring ownership of physical products through shared solutions.
- Revival of cultural traditions of durability and long-term use with an emphasis on sharing, exchanging, inheriting.
- Improving the experience of managing and participating in food donation and enhancement of efficiency through circularity in the food donation chain.
- Awareness-raising efforts to promote leaving ready products intact and valuing organic transience
- Leveraging existing innovations promoting circularity and market opportunities in the agri-food systems and a circular model maintaining the value of food in the economy for as long as possible.
- Improving sustainable and resilient food production practices including the integration of shorter supply chains.

3.4 Expected outcomes, outputs and impacts

All proposals submitted are expected to deliver high-quality citizen activation and engagement projects that address sustainability, quality of experience and inclusiveness in line with New European Bauhaus.

In terms of citizen activation and engagement strategies, **proposals must comply with at least one of the expected outcome targets:**

- **Outcome A:** Activate citizen generated solutions and initiatives to advance sustainability, beauty and inclusivity in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative. Simultaneously work in alignment with existing local strategies (city and or district/regional level) and/or planning to showcase the project results to relevant city officials.
- **Outcome B:** Collect and prioritise the most pressing challenges of citizens and end users. Provide them with the tools and information needed to empower them to get involved in decision-making, thus enabling them to co-design well-founded solutions that meet the needs of the wider community. Demonstrate and showcase the role citizens and end users can play in improving the quality of life in the city where they live by implementing the New European Bauhaus initiative.
- **Outcome C:** Strengthen transdisciplinary, intergenerational and intersectoral collaboration by convening diverse stakeholder groups through citizen engagement activities in line with the New European Bauhaus initiative and existing local strategies (city and or district/regional level).

Any of the above listed outcomes or a combination would be eligible to boost desired **collaboration within the local community.**

In addition, all submitted proposals must meet **at least one of the following expected outputs**:

- <u>OUTPUT 1</u>: Co-design and co-stewardship of:
  - o green spaces and natured-based-solutions through public-private partnerships and social participation.
  - o public realm and commons with civil society and other stakeholders to favour diversity while strengthening inclusivity and equitability, as well as promotion of co-ownership of public and working spaces.

- <u>OUTPUT 2</u>: Social activation and non-labelled education and training activities that involve:
  - o on nature-based solutions, access, and expansion of green spaces, as well as their collective stewardship.
  - o multi-stakeholder engagement enhancing urban regeneration in less-favoured areas, including most polluted zones, degraded or dangerous neighbourhoods, remote areas with poor communication, and districts with limited services.
  - o development and implementation of social interventions to encourage cultural understanding and connection between different social groups that otherwise would not interface. Activities enhancing the experience of belonging through shared orientation towards nature protection, sustainability, and resilience.
  - o to highlight commonalities of sustainability and resilience, as well as activities promoting interaction and collaboration between different social groups around urban and rural spaces, and heritage focused on nature conservation and culture.
  - o to foster circular economy actions, namely with regards to resources, waste, product life extension and second life of products, and more efficient management of sources.
  - o on circular economy initiatives aimed at changing individual and group behaviours that perpetuate an unsustainable use of resources and/or waste management, e.g. energy, water, food, plastic.
  - o to target unsustainable mindsets or behaviours in specific social groups to maximize the potential impact.

All the above-targeted outcomes and outputs aim to influence local policy/strategies or achieve a considerable resonance among the local policymakers/strategic planners.

3.5   Gender and diversity

Diversity powers us to offer the best solutions to pressing global challenges and enables us to make innovation happen. At the same time, we are aware that making our cities more liveable and addressing

the needs of all community groups requires a more diverse workforce and that gender and diversity must be considered when new mobility products and services are developed.

EIT Community aims to support organisations that also value diversity and gender equality. To this end, projects submitted to this call should:

- Demonstrate how gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project outputs (product/services, pilots and marketing material) and how these considerations interact with other identity traits (age, race, class, sexual orientation and physical ability, among others);
- Offer a mixed team consisting of women and/or underrepresented groups who will take an active role in project implementation.

3.6   Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

Each proposal must address a **minimum of two mandatory KPIs** from the list provided below and specify the minimum target value expected for each chosen KPI. **One of these two mandatory KPIs must be KPI EITHE08.1**. The selected KPIs might be subject to amendment depending on the scope of the project and the coordinating KIC designated during the conditions-clearing phase.

KPI Code	KPI name	KPI description	Minimum Target expected
EITHE08.1	Participants in non-labelled education and training	Number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, workshops, online training courses and other education/training activities delivered or in a process of delivery (by country and type of programme), including data on country of citizenship and gender. Only participants, who successfully finished the programme, will be counted. For this KPI, only those education and training activities which have clearly defined learning outcomes, and which carries out competency assessment method are applicable. Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: • Year of reporting • Title of course/training/education/workshop activity delivered. • Type of the programme • Key learning outcomes, competencies and results of the programme • Number of participants enrolled in the reporting year (and breakdown of participants by country of origin) • Number of participants who successfully finished the course in the reporting year • Is the training/education delivered through the HEI CBI • In Annex the signed and dated participant lists are mandatory with family names and signatures according to GDPR. • The following aspects related to EIT RIS countries will be provided: number of successful participants in EIT professional development courses, online training courses and other education/training activity delivered or in a process of delivery with citizenship in EIT RIS countries.	25

		Public realm is a platform for life with a diversity of urban functions to live, work, shop, relax, encounter and play, commonly defined as all areas between buildings including streets, boulevards and open squares that are accessible to the public. -This KPI includes both: a) small-scale and temporary changes, using low-cost and scalable interventions, as the first step in informing long-term systemic change, and b) permanent investment as part of a public realm action plan and/or a walking and cycling strategy, and/or parking interventions Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List incl. the type, title and short description	
KSN02	Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	Actively engage an appropriate amount of citizens/community representatives of various age and social groups in running a demonstration/successful pilot/living lab***** to encourage experimentation, research and the development of solutions to city challenges and issues; and, where relevant: mobilised local citizen associations and community groups to help maximise reach out to citizens. The aim is to ensure acceptance of measures, raise awareness for opportunities or restrictions that come with measure implementation, and enhance ownership of measures. **Living labs are defined as user-centred, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach integrating research and innovation processes in real life communities and settings. Living labs place the citizen at the centre of innovation.* Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List incl. the type, title, number of engaged participants and short description. In Annex the signed and dated participant lists are mandatory with family names and signatures according to GDPR.	1
CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	People with strengthened climate resilience Reach of activities with awareness and capability building effects for climate change mitigation, adaptation, green skills, futures literacy. Reporting requirement in the final performance report as structured data on: List of activities/events incl. the type, title and short description and number of participants	25
KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.BO5.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	Activities that lead to a reduction of material consumption (related to the process and/or product targeted) in the Connect NEB programme. Innovation activities will be required to report at the end of the activity (programme) if the results of the innovation activity that enables the activity partners to transition towards greater circularity have been implemented and the process or product in question has become (more) circular. Start-ups supported will be required to report if respective products or services have been brought to the market and material consumption rates are or, could be, lowered at customer level. EIT Community NEB beneficiaries are asked to report on to which degree has their activity met its overall objective of becoming (more) circular.	1
FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	People taking part in EIT Food co-creation activities proposed in the project.	25

The selected KPIs must be delivered during project implementation and no later than 31 December 2025.

3.7 Project duration

Projects selected for this Call for Proposals will have a maximum duration of 10 months (tentative start date: 1 February 2025 up to 30 November 2025).

As indicated in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook, if the project requires additional time to complete its work plan and/or achieve the KPIs, the Project Leader may request a project extension from their coordinating KIC. If the extension is approved, project implementation will be allowed to continue and KPIs may be attained without any additional EIT funding. No extension can be granted beyond 31 December 2025.

3.8 Financial aspects

3.8.1 EIT funding allocation, co-funding rate and cost eligibility

The total maximum **estimated EIT funding** allocated to this Call is € 120,000. Between six and eight projects[2] will be selected in this Call with a maximum funding of € 15,000 per project.

Additionally, all proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate[3] of 20% across the project. A co-funding rate of above 20% might be positively considered during the evaluation.

For information on the eligibility of your project's budget costs, please refer to the *Eligibility of Expenditure* document published on the Call webpage.

3.8.2 Contribution Financial sustainability

Within EIT Community NEB, the KICs have developed a financial sustainability (FS) strategy to enable them to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding. These FS plans are based on a combination of different mechanisms, such as revenue share and equity stakes. The FS strategy aims to create a permanent innovation fund that will sustain innovation beyond the predefined cycles of European

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[2] The number of funded projects will depend on the final EIT funding available.

[3] Co-funding refers to financial contributions such as partners' own resources and/or other non-EIT Community NEB funding sources.

Commission block grants. This financial independence will be based on a combination of both active earned income and passive investment revenue.

For Connect NEB projects, even if the provision of a Financial Stability Mechanism (FSM) for EIT Community NEB is not a mandatory element, it will be assessed as part of the evaluation criteria (see Section 5.2). Accordingly, each applicant should have a credible operational strategy for their own product, service or solution, evidenced by a credible operational forecast for their specific product, service or solution, to be scaled/replicated during project implementation.

We are aiming for long-lasting project effects and sustainability to ensure that the activities continue after completion of the EIT Community NEB project. Proposals are encouraged to outline the potential economic impact, the period for which the project is expected to continue (e.g. one, two, three or more years), and the plan for how this will be achieved (e.g. based on viable operational model or fresh funding from other grants). Measures for exploiting the data obtained should be described (in line with Article 16 of MGA on Intellectual Property Rights), including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan.

3.9   Project implementation, monitoring and reporting

EIT Community NEB will manage all projects according to the general rules and procedures outlined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook.

All Project Leaders will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA during the project implementation. In particular, they will have to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook published on the Call webpage and the Financial Support Agreement that each partner will have to sign with each coordinating KIC.

In addition, all Project Leaders will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA, with special attention to Article 16 (Intellectual Property Rights) an Article 17 (Communication, Dissemination and Visibility). Most importantly, all project activities must follow the branding guidelines and obligations as set out in Article 17 of MGA. All communication and dissemination activities funded by the grant must display the special logo of the EIT Community New European Bauhaus with the following text: "EIT Community New European Bauhaus [project name] is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union") and related communication materials must include the official logo of both: New European Bauhaus and EIT Community New European Bauhaus logos.

EIT Community NEB will offer mentoring to the selected projects to enlarge the impact of the activity through NEB values/principles, to assist in designing business model/scale up within NEB values/principles.

3.9.1 Mandatory deliverables

To prove the successful implementation of the project, and consequently to have the right to receive the EIT Community NEB funding according to its defined value, the following minimum mandatory deliverables are expected to be submitted:

Deliverable	Description[10]	Tentative date
Intermediate report	Report presenting activities implemented during the first half part of the project, including a description of challenges, initial outputs according to the submitted work plan, progress so far, methodology applied, stakeholder involvement, identification of potential risks and mitigation measures if required, etc.	30 June 2025
Final performance report, including report on KPIs	Report presenting activities implemented during the whole project period and final conclusions. - overall progress of the activity: brief description, methodology, work plan and achievement; - KTI workshop results for future exploitation and research (including proof of compliance with branding requirements); - outputs and outcomes; - potential impact on local policies: feedback from local authorities and impact on their strategy; - conclusions: overall management and recommendations for further replication and/or scale-up of the activity carried out; - evidence of KPIs; - publications, dissemination/communication events (title, description, views/participants, events pages, agenda, pictures, signed and dated consent forms with anonymised family names and signatures, signed and dated participant lists with anonymised family names and signatures, pictures/videos/graphics/images/infographics) that were achieved according to the predefined targets of the application.	15 December 2025

Minor additional deliverables may be needed (e.g. slide decks and presentations) during project implementation, depending on the projects' scope, and/or the product/service solution.

4. General proposal preparation and submission

4.1 Support for proposal preparation

To improve their chances of success, applicants are encouraged to read the Guidelines for Applicants document thoroughly, attend the call information session and direct any questions to contact people during the proposal preparation process.

Guidelines for Applicants

The Guidelines for Applicants document is published on the Call webpage and provides comprehensive information and instructions on preparing and submitting a proposal for this Call.

Call information session

To help applicants prepare and submit their proposals, EIT Community NEB will host an online information session after the publication of the Call. This online information event will cover the Call content, scope and challenges, requirements, timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps in relation to the Call.

Please find details below to register for the webinar, please fill in the registration form: https://forms.office.com/e/e3QSVvXTkc

Type of event	Topic covered	Date and time (CET)	Access to platform
Online Webinar	**Connect NEB Call Information session** Introduction to the Call, strategic focus, scope and Call requirements, the evaluation process and the steps for the submission of proposals through the online platform.	**23 July, at 11:00 CET**	MS Teams (LIVE) (a recording will be available later on the call webpage)

Call contact points

In addition to attending the Call information session, all applicants can reach out to EIT Community NEB with any concerns or doubts they may have in relation to the content, rules of participation, evaluation process and criteria, the online submission steps, etc. Below are the key contact details for the EIT Community NEB team:

Type of contact	Team	Email
Call timeline, evaluation process and criteria, financial aspects, and online submission steps.	Programme Management Office (PMO)	pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu
Call content, scope, challenges, and requirements	EIT Urban Mobility	maria.marrugat@eiturbanmobility.eu
	EIT Climate KIC	ellen.gale@climate-kic.org
	EIT Food	marianne.lemberger@eitfood.eu
	EIT Manufacturing	blanca.chocarro@eitmanufacturing.eu

In the email subject please write the title of the Call and the acronym/ID of your proposal if any.

4.2 Submitting a proposal

4.2.1 How and when to apply

Before starting to draft a proposal, all applicants must follow the following steps:

- **STEP 1**: register in the **EU Funding & tender opportunities portal** to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (**PIC number**). If an organisation has already a PIC number, there is no need to register again.
- **STEP 2**: access the new EIT UM NetSuite platform, by submitting the **Partner Information Form (PIF)**. NB: For organisations that previously participated in an EIT Urban Mobility project, and therefore are already registered in the PLAZA platform, do not submit the PIF form but **contact the EIT UM Service Desk servicedesk@eiturbanmobility.eu**: you will be provided with the credentials to access the new NetSuite platform.
- **STEP 3**: access the **EIT UM NetSuite platform** and find the open calls under *menu --> Call for Proposals --> Open Calls.*

The following documentation must be submitted by the Lead Applicant through **NetSuite no later than 26 September 2024 at 17:00 CET.**

- Application Form (**mandatory**)

Please carefully read the registration and submission process. It is outlined in the *Guidelines for Applicants* document. Be aware that the registration of a new entity in the EIT Urban Mobility NetSuite platform can take two working days. Therefore, please ensure that **each project partner** is correctly registered in NetSuite a few days before the deadline.

Proposals submitted after the set deadline will not be considered.

5. Evaluation and selection process

Once applicants have submitted their proposals, the EIT Community NEB team will proceed to:

- check the eligibility and admissibility of proposals and, if they are successful;
- initiate the content evaluation process, which is performed by independent experts.

5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A proposal will be admissible if it fulfils the below criterion:

1. Completeness	The proposal is complete, and has been submitted in time, by the Lead Applicant via the NetSuite platform, in English, with all its mandatory sections.

If a proposal is not admissible, it will not proceed to the eligibility check stage. A proposal will be eligible if it fulfils the below criteria:

2. Applicants registration	The applicant is registered in the NETSUITE submission tool and their PIF has been completed in full, including their PIC.
3.Applicant's eligibility	The applicant is an entity based in an EU Member State, and/or in Third countries associated to Horizon Europe, as defined in Section 2.2. Only one single applicant is allowed per proposal.
4. Co-funding rate	The submitted proposal must have a minimum co-funding rate of 20% across the project.
5. KPIs addressed	The submitted proposal must identify and address the minimum of two mandatory KPIs as listed below (one of which must be KPI EITHE08.1):

KPI Code	KPI title	Target
EITHE08.1	Participants in non-labelled education and training	25
KSN02	Demonstrations/ pilots/ living labs within a project that actively involve citizens and/or local associations	1
CL01	Strengthened resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change	25
KIC.B05.1	Transition towards greater circularity EITM KPI KIC.BO5.1 (adjusted for the purposes of the given Call as MO2)	1
FD01	Increased public engagement in food system	25

7.Mandatory deliverables	The submitted proposal includes the two mandatory deliverables identified in section 3.9.1: Intermediate report and Final performance report.

Proposals that fail to meet one or more admissibility and eligibility criteria will receive an official communication from EIT Urban Mobility informing the Lead Applicant of the outcome of the admissibility and eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

In the case of missing or incorrect information linked to the applicant's registration, co-funding, KPI or deliverables, the applicant will be given five calendar days after receipt of the official communication to complete or correct the proposal and resubmit it. If the applicant responds positively to this requirement within the time limit, the proposal will progress to the next stage of the evaluation process (see Section 5.2 below). If the applicant fails to respond or responds after the deadline, the proposal will be ineligible and will not be processed any further.

The Lead Applicant may appeal if they disagree with the decision to reject a proposal on the grounds that it is inadmissible or ineligible. An appeal must be made within five calendar days of the official notification of ineligibility from EIT Community NEB (see the Appeal Procedure document published on the call webpage).

5.2 Quality evaluation of proposals

The purpose of the quality evaluation is to assess the excellence, impact, implementation, and overall quality of each proposal that successfully passes the eligibility and admissibility check.

This evaluation comprises different groups of criteria and sub-criteria that will be assessed in accordance with the following scores:

Score		Description
0	None	The information requested is missing or incomplete
1	Very poor	The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific Call provisions
2	Poor	The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific Call provisions
3	Fair	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific Call provisions
4	Good	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific Call provisions
5	Excellent	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity and coherence, compared to the specific Call provisions

During this phase, each proposal will be evaluated by an Evaluation panel consisting of three Independent Expert Evaluators from the four coordinating KICs.

Initially, the KIC evaluators will conduct a quality evaluation of all eligible proposals, which will involve assessing them based on the evaluation criteria listed in the table below and producing an individual evaluation report for each proposal.

Furthermore, the 20 best-ranked proposals[4], as evaluated by the KICs during the initial phase, will undergo an additional evaluation conducted by one external independent expert evaluator, using the same evaluation criteria. This external expert will also serve as The Rapporteur.

Finally, the Rapporteur will produce a Summary Evaluation Report (SER) for each proposal assessed. The SERs will be discussed and finalised in a Consensus Meeting attended by the Evaluation Panel and a Quality Controller. The result of each SER, along with the list of evaluation results of all proposals assessed and the conditions for funding, will be sent to the Selection Committee.

Proposals are evaluated and scored against the criteria listed below:

Excellence: novelty and innovation	Max. scoring 25
• The proposal objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) and in line with the NEB challenges (Section 3)	5 points
• The proposal demonstrates the social demand, its need and relevance for society, with at least two target groups identified.	5 points
• The proposed solution, methodology, and/or the engagement strategy is innovative: it uses creative and stimulating formats in which locals are engaged to build community and to boost the transformation of their cities, per-urban areas and rural areas.	5 points
• The proposal integrates the three NEB values (sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetics) from the challenge definition into the proposed solution.	5 points
• Gender and diversity are considered in the design/development of the project and its outputs/solutions. The project team is mixed and includes women and/or underrepresented groups.	5 points

Impact: social, economic, financial, and general sustainability	Max. scoring 25

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[4] To determine the top 20 proposals in the event of tied scores, priority will be given to proposals with the greatest divergence in scores as reflected in the individual evaluation reports, thus indicating the need for an additional assessment by an external expert.

	Max. scoring
The proposal's expected outcomes, outputs and impacts are measurable on a quantitative and a qualitative level. Adequate performance metrics of the proposed solution are provided to objectively evaluate the sustainability, inclusivity and aesthetic value.	5 points
The proposal is aligned with existing local strategies (city and/or district/regional level) and/or is planning to showcase the results to relevant city officials.	5 points
The proposal presents an appropriate dissemination and end-user engagement plan that targets specific audiences and stakeholders in the local context and is aligned with the challenge area (in line with Article 17 of MGA).	5 points
The proposal has the potential to be implemented on a broader scale or replicated in various cities (the outcomes are repeatable and/or scalable).	5 points
The proposal's potential economic impact is outlined to ensure potential future durability and transferability. Measures to exploit the data obtained should be described, including how this could potentially be used as a project marketing and/or sales plan.	5 points

Implementation: planning and sound financial management	Max. scoring 20
The proposal provides effective and professional management structures to attain the defined outcomes.	5 points
A clear risk and mitigation plan is provided.	5 points
The workplan and budget including identified deliverables and milestones, are aligned with the proposed objectives, KPIs and expected outcomes.	5 points
The applicant represents the correct competencies in accordance with the scope of the proposal and demonstrates a strong ability to mobilise the identified target groups.	5 points

The total score of **70 points** is distributed as follows:

	Max score
Excellence	*25 points*
Impact	*25 points*
Implementation	*20 points*
Total points	*70 points*

Only proposals that receive **a score of at least 45 points (threshold)** are eligible to be funded.

If as a result of the quality evaluation, two or more proposals receive the same scoring, funding prioritisation will be based on the following scoring order:

- Geographical spread within the EIT Community NEB Portfolio
- Long-term sustainability to ensure the activities continue after completion of the EIT Community NEB project (Section 3.8.2, intellectual property rights and exploitation results);
- Co-funding rate higher than 20%.

This will be specifically brought to the attention of the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee.

5.3   Portfolio selection

Portfolio selection is the final step in the evaluation and selection process. It is carried out by the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee, which is composed of the EU Affairs and RIS Director of EIT Manufacturing, the Strategic Projects Director of EIT Urban Mobility, the Performance Developer of Climate-KIC and the Director of EIT Community of EIT Food.

The EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will receive the result of each SER together with the evaluation results and the list of all proposals assessed. This Committee will endorse the final ranking list of projects put forward for funding, those put forward for inclusion in the reserve list (if any), and those put forward for rejection. In addition, the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will endorse the list of conditions and recommendations (if any) to be addressed by applicants of the selected projects to improve their proposals.

The EIT Community NEB retains the right to reach out to proposals listed on the reserve list if additional EIT funds become available and in justified cases, the EIT Community NEB can use the reserve list in the next Business Plan.

5.4   Communication of results to applicants

The Lead Applicant will receive a communication from EIT Community NEB with the results of the Summary Evaluation Report (SER).

If the proposal is preselected, the evaluation results may include a set of conditions to improve the proposal within a defined, non-negotiable period. The Lead Applicant of a conditionally preselected proposal must respond and update the proposal according to these conditions within this timeframe. If the Lead Applicant fails to comply with the conditions or does not respond before the deadline, EIT Community NEB reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the applicant of the next proposal on the ranking list will be contacted.

5.5 Appeal against evaluation results

If the Lead Applicant disagrees with the decision, they may appeal only in the event that a comment in the SER clearly contradicts the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Lead Applicant will have five calendar days after receipt of the final SER to submit an appeal (see the Appeal Procedure document on the call webpage.

5.6 Onboarding and contracting phase

Should all conditions be met within the indicated timeframe, each KIC will initiate the onboarding and contracting process. The contract will be signed only after 30 days from the preselection decision.

As outlined in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook, entities receiving EIT funding for the implementation of projects will therefore become subgrantees of the Business Plan 2023-2025, and will thus commit themselves to work towards achieving the related targets. Entities that have never been part of projects funded by KICs and do not have a PIC validated by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission will be subject to a PIC validation process managed by the EIT Community Onboarding Service. All validated entities will proceed upon the signing of the FSA.

Additionally, each KIC reserves the right to request that the EIT Community Onboarding Service carry out a financial capacity assessment to check the financial capacity of any entity of a selected proposal. In such cases, the coordinating KIC may require the following:

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several liability for all subgrantees or joint and several liabilities of affiliated entities, if any;
- prefinancing paid in instalments (multiple/additional prefinancing);
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees.

Otherwise, it might:

- propose no prefinancing;
- request that the entity be replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

In other words, if the assessment results are not satisfactory, the coordinating KIC might reject the participation of this entity and then check whether the proposal is still eligible.