Business Plan 2023 – 2025
Open Call for Proposals
EIT Community Connect NEB: Citizen-generated solutions and initiatives to advance sustainability, beauty and inclusivity – 2024
Call Manual

EIT Community NEB:

EIT Urban Mobility

EIT Climate KIC

EIT FOOD

EIT Manufacturing

Barcelona| 19th July 2023

History of changes

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	17.09.2023	Initial version

Any updates on this Call Manual, if any, are identified 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
CfP	Call for Proposals
EEE	External Expert Evaluator
EIT Community NEB	In this Call, EIT Community NEB refers to EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)
Coordinating KIC	The KIC that coordinates the grant of a project
FSA	Financial Support Agreement
FS	Financial Sustainability
FSM	Financial Sustainability Mechanism
HE	Horizon Europe
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MGA	Model Grant Agreement
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme
SA	Strategic Agenda
SER	Summary Evaluation Report
SO	Strategic Objectives
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

Glossary

Project Leader	The Project Leader is the central contact point for EIT Community NEB from the proposal submission stage to the end of the project implementation. The Project Leader represents the project and the consortium partners (the other partners participating in the project, if any) towards EIT Community NEB, and also has responsibility for creating and submitting a proposal.
Call for Proposals	The Call for Proposals is the instrument used to allocate funding by EIT Community NEB to third parties to support the deployment and development of the Strategic Agenda through projects.
Call Manual	The Call Manual is the document where the terms, conditions, and criteria of any Call for Proposals are defined and stated according to the principles of transparency, equal treatment, open competition, and sound procedural management.
Deliverable	Deliverables are tangible or intangible goods or services produced at a given moment during the project implementation. Deliverables chart the path to reach project objectives and could be a report, a document, a software product, a course, an event or any other building block of a project. The deliverables specified need to fully demonstrate the achievements of the activity and judicious use of public funds.
EIT KPIs	Set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined by the EIT that reflect the EIT operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project is meeting the objectives of the EIT.
Evaluation Process	Process by which EIT Community NEB, supported by external experts, examines the quality of a proposal to decide if it should be selected to receive EIT funding.
Evaluation Panel	Group of external expert evaluators and Rapporteur, with specific expertise in a specific area/segment of the Call, aiming to evaluate a set of eligible proposals submitted to a Call.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) sets out the rights and obligations and terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded.
Knowledge triangle integration	EIT Community NEB aims to gather close-knit partnerships of European education, research and business entities (knowledge triangles) and also involves cities, either in the composition of the members of the projects or in the expected impact of the projects' results.
KIC Specific KPIs	Set of indicators defined by EIT Community NEB that reflect the societal challenge that the KIC is trying to address.

Milestone	Control points to chart progress. They may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable that allows the next phase of work to begin.
Ranking list	List of proposals in order of scoring after the Selection Committee assessment.
Selection Committee	The Selection Committee is responsible for the selection of shortlisted proposals and the definition of requirements for the inclusion of the selected proposals in the final EIT Community NEB's portfolio of projects.
Summary Evaluation Report	A single and final Summary Evaluation Report (SER) per proposal is produced by the Rapporteur after the consensus meetings. This document summarises the final score, the strengths, weaknesses, risks, and potential recommendations of a proposal.

Introduction

The New European Bauhaus (NEB hereinafter) is one of the main European key initiatives at present 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. EIT and its pan-European thematic KICs are well positioned to drive the NEB change through innovation ecosystems with their thematic expertise. NEB utilises the experience and expertise of EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital, EIT Food, EIT Manufacturing and EIT Urban Mobility to advance the implementation phase of the NEB through grassroot activities. The participating KICs create a new and unique set of NEB activities resulting from the combination and blending of their tested and successful ongoing programmes and new ideas.

Since 2021, we have a growing portfolio of projects to support the implementation of New European Bauhaus in cities, rural and peri-urban areas across Europe. We work with innovators, city administrations, research organisations, educational institutions, NGOs and businesses to boost the transformation of their cities. A core summary of the conducted projects during 2021-22 can be found here.

The open Call for Proposals EIT Community Connect NEB is a competitive mechanism open to any entity located in a EU Member State or a Third Country associated to Horizon Europe[1] that activate citizen-centred engagement activities to supply meaningful solutions to the EIT Community NEB Challenges. These citizen-centred engagement activities will serve to not only identify and prioritise challenges, but also to ideate an initial process to cocreate solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with the New European Bauhaus core values and principles. 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 KICs' portfolio strategic fit through its alignment with the activity plan approved by the EIT. It reflects the EU dimension character as the geographical spread within the European Union of the proposals will also be considered.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, NEBLab and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official New European Bauhaus website.

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[1] Entities established in the United Kingdom and in Switzerland are eligible to participate and to receive EIT allocation up to 59.999,99 EUR per organisation, for the entire duration of the BP23-25.

1. Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Key dates of the Call calendar[1]	• **Call opening:** 19th July 2023 • **Call closure:** 29th September 2023 at 17:00 CET • **Eligibility and admissibility check:** October 2023 • **Evaluation of proposals:** October - November 2023 • **Communication of results:** December 2023 • **Tentative start of the projects:** February 2024 (latest Q1) • **Finalisation of the projects:** 30th November 2024
Total estimated EIT Funding allocated to this Call	€120,000 Eight projects with up to € 15,000 of EIT Community NEB funding allocation. All proposals must have a minimum co- funding rate of 20%.
Link to the submission portal	PLAZA platform will be available by the end of July 2023
List of documents to be submitted	• Application form available on the PLAZA 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 Model Grant Agreement • List of previously funded projects
Short summary of the topics to be addressed	The EIT Community NEB Challenges cover 4 main thematic axes: • Reconnecting with nature • Regaining a sense of belonging • Prioritising the places and people that need it 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 to not only identify and prioritise challenges, but also to ideate an initial process to co-create solutions for the most pressing challenges in alignment with the New European Bauhaus core values and principles. All activities need to serve the purpose of achieving the three core inseparable values of the New European Bauhaus:

- Sustainability from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity
- Aesthetics quality of experience and style, beyond functionality
- Inclusion valorising diversity, equality for all, accessibility, and affordability

The following three key principles guide and integrate the New European Bauhaus dimensions' development:

- A multilevel approach: from global to local
- A participatory approach
- A transdisciplinary approach

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

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

These thematic axes are highly interconnected in support of delivering the New European Bauhaus approach. For example, having access to green spaces can also bring people together. Affordable houses need proximity to the labour market to create a healthy and functional living ecosystem. Local improvement of a place cannot be done without taking the DNA and communities of the place into account. Further details on the strategic focus of the Connect NEB Call are given in Section 3.

Applicants selected for this Call for Proposals will have the opportunity to interact with the New European Bauhaus Community, NEBLab and other relevant New European Bauhaus activities through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Please visit the official New European Bauhaus website.

2.2   Who can apply

This Call for Proposals is open to all legal entities established in Member States (MS) 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, SMEs, Universities, research & technology organisations, or businesses.

Applications from RIS countries are encouraged to participate.

As a requirement, all proposals must be composed of one single entity (mono-beneficiary type of call), therefore consortia are not allowed.

Specific cases

Entities established in the United Kingdom and in Switzerland are eligible to participate and to receive EIT allocation up to 59.999,99 EUR per organisation, for the entire duration of the BP23-25.

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 follows the main rules and principles established by the EIT Community NEB and EU general principles. The Call processes respect the principles of openness, transparency, equal treatment, and efficacy.

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 addressing sustainability, quality of experience and inclusiveness. In alignment with the cities and peri-urban and rural areas cross-sectoral challenges we encourage mapping challenges and developing solutions in collaboration with citizens based on a demand-led approach. It aims to work on activities where citizens and end-users are engaged and asked to identify relevant challenges in their community aligned with New European Bauhaus thematic axes.

The EIT NEB Community aims to support activities where cities and peri-urban and rural areas can act to deliver on their commitments and action plans laid out in their strategic plans and empowered to create together potential solutions embedding the New European Bauhaus approach in an ideation process aligned with the initiative. It is expected to encourage/incentivise the uptake of more sustainable habits, through the co-creation of new solutions, products and services with citizens, 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 developing successful long-term solutions that match 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, improving citizens quality of life in cities and driving green and digital transformations. For citizens, this can increase engagement with and social acceptance of change, and encourage a shift to 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 upon which they are based. 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 that boost the transformation of our cities, peri-urban and rural areas.

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

- Develop activities to improve citizens' lives, and embed and **integrate 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 provide **deep 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 on target group behaviour** with regard to the selected topic and **push for/promote real behavioural change and influence policy making.**

3.3 EIT Community New European Bauhaus Challenge Areas

For this Co-create 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 the places and people that need it 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.

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 protection and physical and mental health for citizens. There is a need to go beyond a human-centred to a life-centred perspective, seeking inspiration from nature and learning from it.

Examples:

Some 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, engaging citizens in ecological and urban green networks, interacting with citizens to encourage the uptake of green solutions, co-creation of green space(s) in order to exploit their potential such as better refresh/cooling an urban area, etc.
- (Re)naturalisation of degraded public areas, green areas, biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure, and urban furniture as assets promoting active mobility.
- Greening the job market, including the educational field of life-long learning, through nature-based solutions.
- Training on biomimicry-inspired approaches, enhancing the connection to nature which in turn can create willingness to take on stewardship responsibilities.
- Urban farming and regenerative agriculture initiatives involving local communities.

- Activities geared towards promoting change towards healthier and sustainable nutrition, including activities contributing to the protection of bio-diversity, the promotion of plant-based meals and active lifestyles.

3.3.2 Re-gaining sense of community and belonging

Specific Challenge

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

Examples

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

- Enhancement of public realm, neglected public areas, accessibility, and interconnection with more sustainable means of transport, encouraging multiuse of public space by end-users and citizens boosting 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.
- 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 potentially 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 the 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 groups and individuals who are the most vulnerable, for instance, at risk of exclusion or poverty or experiencing homelessness. Disadvantaged groups are at greater risk of energy poverty and air pollution and have less access to public transport. Inclusion also implies pursuing a

design for all approaches to remove accessibility barriers to the built and virtual environments and to goods and services. The New European Bauhaus clearly goes beyond large city centres and encompasses places in all their diversity, including small villages, rural areas, shrinking cities, neglected city districts, suburbs and de-industrialised areas. This calls for planning to avoid spatial segregation of social groups and create a sense of togetherness. The various parts of a city, a village or neighbourhood should be connected.

Examples

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

- Addressing poor transport connections between rural and urban areas.
- Solutions aimed at universal mobility as a key enabler for social inclusion, allowing everyone to move freely within cities regardless of gender, race, beliefs, or disability.
- Creating immersive experiences to sensitise diverse groups to each other's challenges and thus build solidarity, with particular focus on forging alliances among precarious actors.
- Establishing physical and virtual spaces for resource and best-practice sharing within communities to socialise sustainable lifestyles.
- Activities aimed at testing digital tools with citizens assuring traceability, safety, and authenticity of foods to ensure the rights and meet the needs of vulnerable groups.
- Co-designing and co-creating activities with vulnerable groups of citizens aiming at new e-commerce and innovative food delivery services, e.g. digital services to solve the issue of 'food deserts', by providing delivery of fresh and nutritious foods to neighbourhoods lacking physical stores; helping food waste reduction, by connecting surpluses with potential buyers; or solutions for citizens with mobility issues such as being 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.

Examples

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

- Circular mobility including shared mobility, such as satisfying user needs without transferring ownership of physical products through shared solutions.
- Enhancing a circular economy mindset, at a citizen level to tackle unsustainable use of resources and waste.
- Improving the experience of managing and participating in food donation and enhancement of efficiency through circularity in the food donation chain.
- Revival of cultural traditions of durability and long-term use with an emphasis on sharing, exchanging, inheriting.
- Sensitisation efforts that 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.

3.4 Expected outcomes, outputs and impacts

All submitted proposals are expected to deliver high-quality citizen activation and engagement projects addressing sustainability, quality of experience and inclusiveness in alignment with NEB.

In terms of citizen activation and engagement strategy, the **projects 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:** Collecting and prioritising citizens' and end-users' most pressing challenges. Empower them with the necessary tools and information to get involved in decision-making, enabling them to co-design well-founded solutions that match the needs of a wider community. Demonstrate and showcase the role citizens and end-users can play in improving the quality of life in the city they live in by implementing the New European Bauhaus.
- **Outcome C:** Strengthen transdisciplinary, intergenerational and intersectoral collaboration by convening diverse stakeholder groups through citizen engagement activities in line with NEB initiative & existing local strategies (city and or district/regional level).

Any of the above listed outcomes or their combination are eligible to boost desired collaboration within the local community.

In addition, all submitted proposals need to meet **at least one of the following expected outputs**:
- <u>**OUTPUT 1**</u>: **Co-design and co-stewardship of:**
    - 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 promoting co-ownership of public and working spaces.

- OUTPUT 2: Social activation and non-labelled education and training activities
  - o on nature-based solutions, access, and amplification 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 Key Performance indicators (KPIs)

Each proposal must address a minimum of 2 mandatory KPIs from the provided list below and specify the minimum target value expected for each chosen KPI. One of these 2 mandatory KPIs must be KPI EITHE08.1. The KPIs might be subject to amendment depending on the scope of the project and the designated coordinating KIC 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	25

		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. 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:	25

		List of activities/events incl. the type, title and short description and number of participants	
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 the project implementation and reported in the final report.

All outputs and KPIs should be achieved within the project lifecycle and no later than 30 November 2024.

3.6   Project duration

Projects selected to this Call for Proposals will have a duration of up to 10 months (tentative start date: February 2024 up to 31st November 2024).

As indicated in the EIT Community NEB Project Implementation Handbook 2023, in case the project requires additional time to complete its workplan and/or achieve the KPIs, the Project Leader will have to request a project extension from the EIT Community NEB. If the extension is approved, the project will be allowed to continue with the implementation without any additional EIT funding.

3.7   Financial aspects

3.7.1 EIT funding allocation and co-funding rate

The total maximum **estimated EIT funding** allocated to this Call is € 120,000. Eight projects will be selected in this Call with the maximum funding of € 15,000 per project.

Additionally, all proposals must have a minimum co-funding rate[2] of 20% across the project. Partners in the consortium may have different co-funding rates as long as the overall project co-fund meets the required 20% minimum.

Any co-funding rate above 20% will be positively assessed by the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee.

3.7.2 Financial sustainability

Within the EIT Community NEB, the KICs have developed a Financial Sustainability (FS) Strategy, to enable the KICs to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding. These FS plans are based on a mix of different mechanisms, such as revenue share and equity stakes. The FS strategy aims to create a perpetual innovation fund that will sustain innovation beyond the predefined cycles of European Commission block grants. This financial independence will be based on a mix of both active earned income and passive investment revenue.

For the Connect NEB projects, even if the provision of a FSM for EIT Community NEB is not a mandatory element for 2023-2024, it will be positively 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/solution, evidenced by a credible operational forecast for their specific product/service/solution to be scaled/replicated during the project implementation. We are aiming for long lasting effects and sustainability of the project, ensuring that the activities continue after the completion of the EIT Community NEB project. In the Application form it is encouraged to outline the potential economic impact, a potential planned period of project continuation (e.g., 1-2-3 years or beyond), and how it is planned to be achieved (e.g., based on viable operational model, or fresh funding from other grants, etc.). Measures on exploiting the obtained data should be described, including how this could potentially be used as a project's marketing and/or sales plan.

3.8   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 2023 published on the Call webpage and the Financial Support Agreement that each partner will have to sign with each KIC.

In addition, all Project Leaders and consortium partners will need to comply with the rules and procedures defined in the Horizon Europe MGA, with special attention to Article 16 (Intellectual Property Rights) and

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

Article 17 (Communication, Dissemination and Visibility). Most importantly, all project activities must follow the branding guidelines and obligations as set out in MGA Article 17. 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 provide mentoring for the winners of the current Call to enlarge the impact of the activity through NEB values/principles, to assist in designing business model/scale up within NEB values/principles.

3.8.1 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 and successfully approved by the EIT Community NEB.

Deliverable	Description[10]	Tentative date
Intermediate report	Report presenting activities implemented during the first half part of the project, including challenge description, initial outputs according to the submitted work plan, progress so far, applied methodology, stakeholder involvement, identification of potential risks and mitigation measures if required, etc.	Mid June 2024
Final performance report, including report on KPIs	Report presenting activities implemented during the whole period of the project and final conclusions. - Overall progress of the activity: brief description, methodology, work plan and achievement. - 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 upscaling the realised activity. - Demonstrating the evidence of the KPIs publications/dissemination/communication events (title, description, views/participants, events pages, agenda, pictures, signed and dated consent forms with family names and signatures anonymised, signed and dated participant lists with family names and signatures anonymised, pictures/videos/graphic/image/infographics) that were able to be achieved according to the pre-defined targets of the application.	Mid December 2024

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

4. General proposal preparation and submission

4.1 Support on proposal preparation

A document on *Guidelines for Applicants*, recorded webinars and contact details are available to guarantee the maximum support to applicants during the proposal preparation process.

Guidelines for Applicants

EIT Community NEB has developed the *Guidelines for Applicants* document with the aim of assisting all potential applicants during the proposal preparation and submission processes. The *Guidelines for Applicants* document is published on the Call webpage and provides a full set of information and instructions to prepare and submit a proposal to this Call.

Call information session

To help applicants with the preparation and submission of their proposals, EIT Community NEB will host an online information session after the publication of the Call. This online information event will be focused on the Call content, the challenges, and requirements, as well as on the general procedures, such as the submission and evaluation process, the financial aspects and the monitoring and reporting activities.

Please find details below. To register for the webinar, please fill in the registration form: https://forms.office.com/e/9Zret8tHgvCall

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, and evaluation process.	31st July 2023, at 10:00 CEST	MS Teams (LIVE) (Recording to be available after in our website)

Call contact points

In parallel to the Call information sessions, all applicants may contact EIT Community NEB to resolve any concerns or doubts on the general/technical procedures and Call content. These are the key contact details of the EIT Community NEB team for questions related to this Call:

Type of contact	Team	Email
For legal, financial and administrative procedures, including questions about PLAZA submission tool	Programme Management Office (PMO)	pmo@eiturbanmobility.eu
For content, topic-related related questions	EIT Urban Mobility	maria.marrugat@eiturbanmobility.eu
	EIT Climate KIC	Natalia.vera@climate-kic.org
	EIT FOOD	Marianne.lemberger@eitfood.eu
	EIT Manufacturing	blanca.chocarro@eitmanufacturing.eu

In the email subject please insert Connect NEB Call and acronym of your project.

4.2 Proposal submission

4.2.1 How and when to apply

Before starting a proposal, all applicants (Project Leader and consortium partners) must register on the following two platforms:

- The EU Funding & tender opportunities portal in order to obtain the 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number). If the participant already has a PIC number, there is no need to register again.
- The EIT Urban Mobility PLAZA tool to complete your Partner Information Form (PIF).

The following documentation must be submitted by the Project Leader through the PLAZA e-submission platform no later than **29th September 2023 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 PLAZA can take 2 working days. Therefore, ensure that **the project partner** is correctly registered in PLAZA a few days before the deadline.

Any proposals submitted after the set deadline will be ineligible.

5. Evaluation and selection process

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

- Check eligibility and admissibility of those proposals and, if successful,
- Initiate the evaluation of the content by independent experts.

5.1   Eligibility and admissibility check

A proposal will be eligible if:

1. Completeness	The submitted proposal is completed, submitted on time by the Project Leader via the PLAZA submission tool, in English, and with all its mandatory sections.
2. Applicants registration	The applicant is registered in both the EU Participant Portal (to obtain the PIC number) and in the PLAZA submission tool (PIF fully completed). **NB: The lack of any information within the Partner Information Form in PLAZA by the applicant may result in the complete ineligibility of the project.**
3.Applicant's eligibility	The applicant is an entity based in a EU Member State (MS), and/or in Third countries associated to Horizon Europe, as defined in Section 2.2.
4. Consortium composition	Mono beneficiary type of call: one single applicant. Consortia not allowed
5. Co-funding rate	The submitted proposal must have a minimum co-funding rate of 20% across the project.
6. KPIs addressed	The submitted proposal must identify and address the minimum of 2 mandatory KPIs and the minimum target value as listed below (one of these 2 mandatory KPIs 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 mandatory deliverables identified in section 3.8.1		

Proposals containing one or more ineligible elements will receive an official communication from the EIT Community NEB, setting out 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 partner registration, deliverables, co-funding and KPIs,, applicants will be given 5 calendar days from the official communication for the completion of the application. If the applicants respond positively to this requirement and within the time limit, the proposals will be sent to the next step of the evaluation process (see section 5.2 Evaluation of proposals).

If the applicants fail to respond or respond after the deadline, the proposals will remain ineligible and will not be further processed. In the case where one single consortium partner is ineligible, this partner will step down. EIT Community NEB will then check if the proposal is still eligible or not. The Lead Applicant will be informed accordingly.

The Lead Applicant of any proposal deemed inadmissible/ineligible may dispute the ineligibility decision. An appeal must be made within 5 calendar days of the official EIT Community NEB notification of ineligibility (see document *Appeal procedure* 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 **quality evaluation** carried out by three independent expert evaluators. These experts will be invited to evaluate the proposals and produce a Summary Evaluation Report (SER) per proposal assessed. The result of each SER will be sent to the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee.

Each evaluation phase is comprised of different groups of criteria and sub-criteria which will be assessed according to 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

The proposals are evaluated and scored against the criteria listed below:

Excellence: novelty and innovation	Max. scoring 15
• The proposal objectives are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) and in line with NEB challenges	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 and rural areas.	5 points
• The proposal demonstrates the social demand, its need and relevance for society, with at least two identified target groups.	5 points

Impact: social, economic, financial, and general sustainability	Max. scoring 20
• The proposal's expected outcomes, outputs and impacts are measurable at 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 communication plan to specific target audiences and stakeholders in the local context and is aligned with the challenge area (in line with MGA Article 17).	5 points
• The proposal has the potential to be implemented on a broader scale or replicable in various cities (the outcomes are repeatable and/or scalable).	5 points

Implementation: planning and sound financial management	Max. scoring 15
• The workplan and budget including the identified deliverables and milestones, is aligned with the proposed objectives, KPIs and expected outcomes.	5 points
• The proposal provides effective and professional management structures to attain the defined outcomes. The applicant represents the right competencies in accordance with the scope of the proposal and demonstrates a strong ability to mobilise the identified target groups.	5 points
• A clear risk and mitigation plan is provided.	5 points

The total scoring of 50 points is distributed as follows:

	Max score
Excellence	15 points
Impact	20 points
Implementation	15 points
Total points	50 points

If proposals receive the same scoring, funding prioritisation will be based on the following scoring order:

- Geographical spread within the EIT Community NEB Portfolio
- Long lasting sustainability ensuring activities continue after the completion of the EIT Community NEB project (section 3.7.2)
- Co-funding rates higher than 20%

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

5.3   Portfolio selection

The EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will select the projects to be funded. This final portfolio selection will be based on the Call Report, the SERs and the ranking list of the Evaluation results list. Only proposals ranked **equal or over 30 points (threshold)** will be passed to the Selection Committee.

The NEB Selection Committee is composed of the EU Affairs and RIS Director of EIT Manufacturing, the Strategic Projects Director of EIT Urban Mobility, the Performance Developer of EIT Climate-KIC and the Director of EIT Community of EIT Food.

The EIT Community NEB Selection Committee will agree on the final list of projects proposed for funding (portfolio selection), as well as the projects proposed for inclusion in the reserve list (in case further EIT Community funding is available in the future) and proposed for rejection. In addition, the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee may provide a list of strategic conditions to be addressed by the applicants of these selected projects and make recommendations to improve the proposals. As part of this process, the EIT Community NEB may also issue technical conditions that will be included in the conditional offer.

Additionally, the EIT Community NEB retains the right to reach out to proposals listed in the reserve list in the event that additional EIT funds become available in the current or next Business Plan.

Finally, the EIT Community NEB reserves the right to reach out to proposals whose projects have been successfully implemented and have a well-defined replication/scale-up strategy outlined in their final report. These proposals may be contacted to contribute to the enhancement of NEB if additional EIT funds become available in the current or next Business Plan. The selection process for scaling up the most promising Connect NEB projects will be based on the final report, and additional strategic documents may be requested to support the final decision. Guidance to those projects will be provided in due time.

5.4 Communication of results to applicants

The Project Leader will receive an email notification with the results of the evaluation.

If the proposal is rejected or included in the Reserve List, the Project Leader will receive the corresponding communication together with their respective SER.

In case the proposal is pre-selected, the evaluation results may include a set of recommendations/conditions. The communication will set up a defined and non-negotiable deadline. The Project Leader will respond to and update the PLAZA proposal according to these recommendations/conditions within the outlined timeframe. The process for the final approval of projects, including the conditions clearing phase, will take a minimum of 30 days.

If the Project Leader fails to comply with the provided recommendations/conditions or does not respond by the deadline, the EIT Community NEB Selection Committee reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. In such a case, the next proposal by ranking included in the Reserve List will be contacted.

5.5 Appeal on Evaluation Results

The Lead Applicant who disagrees with the decision may appeal only in the event where a SER comment is in clear contradiction with the information provided in the proposal. In this case, the Lead Applicant upon

receipt of the final SER, will have 5 calendar days to submit an appeal. See *Appeal Procedure document* published on the Call webpage.