

## PRESS RELEASE



### NEB Junction: A new platform to accelerate sustainable transformation across Europe

**Brussels, 17/06/2025.** Today marks the official launch of **NEB Junction**, a new European knowledge platform set to accelerate sustainable transformation. Funded under the European Union's Horizon Europe Work Programme Destination: New European Bauhaus (2024), NEB Junction will be the dedicated hub for results and impact of the initiative. Its aim is to make it easier for cities, communities, and changemakers to connect, get inspired, and take action, all in line with the vision of the **New European Bauhaus**.

Since 2021, hundreds of projects have emerged under the NEB banner. Many have been directly driven by local communities and grassroots actors seeking to transform their environments. This extensive work has, in turn, generated a wealth of knowledge. NEB Junction is precisely positioned to capture, collate, and package this knowledge to support the widespread uptake of NEB solutions and facilitate a just transition across Europe.

NEB Junction will translate the NEB vision of a more **inclusive, sustainable, and beautiful Europe**, into practical and impactful outcomes. At the core lies a dynamic and user-centred online platform. This platform will collect, curate, and share validated NEB stakeholder insights, thereby boosting wider impact and learning.

As an open platform, it will offer practical, actionable, and inspirational content, where users can:

- Explore **Knowledge Gems**—curated insights and solutions from real-world projects
- Join **assemblies and workshops** and connect with practitioners across Europe
- Access practical **guidance** to launch their own initiatives, through tools, reports, and policy recommendations
- **Connect** with others—from artists and architects to municipalities and urban developers
- **Bridge impact metrics** across environmental, social, health, governance, and cultural and creative aspects to support the uptake of NEB solutions

*“The NEB Junction is a game-changer. It empowers anyone looking to make a tangible difference in their community. It breaks down silos and provides direct access to proven solutions, ultimately fostering a more beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive Europe.”*

- Annemie Wyckmans, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

Led by [NTNU](#) and supported by a strong European partnership including **Climate KIC**, [Austrian Institute of Technology \(AIT\)](#), [Ars Electronica](#), [Dowel Innovation](#), [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#), [European Regions Research and Innovation Network \(ERRIN\)](#) and [The Democratic Society](#), NEB Junction is built to empower anyone working for change in their community—whether they represent local government, the

construction sector, artists, a civil society organisation, or are simply passionate about their neighbourhood.

**NEB Junction will provide the ideas, tools, and community to turn vision into action.**

- **Find out more:** [www.nebjunction.eu](http://www.nebjunction.eu)
- **Media contact:** Ellen Gale – [ellen.gale@climate-kic.org](mailto:ellen.gale@climate-kic.org)

## Climate KIC

Climate KIC is Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community, creating climate-resilient communities and fighting climate breakdown by mobilising systems change in countries, regions, cities, and businesses. Together with partners across the globe, Climate KIC orchestrates solutions and facilitates learning to bridge the gap between climate commitments and current reality, driving faster and more ambitious action.

Founded in 2010 upon the initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, for over 15 years Climate KIC received funding and strategic guidance as an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). Today, as an independent foundation, Climate KIC continues to collaborate with EIT and other EU institutions, as well as intergovernmental organisations, UN agencies, national and regional governments, cities, civil society, academia and the private sector to boost climate innovation across Europe and beyond.

## Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) is Norway's largest university and a leading European institution in technology, natural sciences, and innovation, with a strong commitment to sustainability and interdisciplinary collaboration. NTNU, as Project Coordinator, brings extensive experience in leading Horizon Europe Mission and New European Bauhaus (NEB) projects, supported by a transdisciplinary team spanning urban planning, urban politics, architecture, mobility, economy, digitalisation, and social science. Through its Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC) initiative, NTNU drives people-centered urban innovation by combining academic excellence with real-world experimentation, living labs, and public-private partnerships. The coordinating team includes professors and senior researchers with over 15 years of experience managing large-scale innovation projects, including CrAft, NEB-STAR, Re-Value, Bauhaus Bites, ClimaGen, as well as the newly launched NEB Junction and CO-WATERS platforms—ensuring strong integration of research, practice, and policy.

## Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)

The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) is Austria's leading applied research institute, and its Cooperative Digital Technologies unit focuses on developing smart, secure digital systems for public safety, critical infrastructure, and environmental resilience. Through advanced technologies like sensor networks, AI, and real-time data platforms, the unit supports informed decision-making and coordination among stakeholders, making it a key contributor to building robust, knowledge-driven ecosystems.

## Ars Electronica

Ars Electronica is a pioneering cultural institution, an educational facility and an R&D lab based in Linz, Austria. Like no other institution, Ars Electronica represents a comprehensive approach in the confrontation with techno-cultural phenomena and enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence. It is comprised of four divisions: the Ars Electronica

Festival, the Prix Ars Electronica, the Ars Electronica Center and the Ars Electronica Futurelab. These four divisions mutually inspire one another, constituting a circuit of creativity: The FESTIVAL as test environment and the PRIX as competition of the best and brightest—both of them international, artistic, experimental and focused on the leading edge; the CENTER as year-round presentation & interaction platform—local, educational and entertaining; and the FUTURELAB as R&D facility—innovative, creative, endowed with strong technical competence and implementation skills, and linked up to a global network of universities & research facilities.

## Dowel Innovation

Dowel is a French cooperative company specialised in innovation management. The organisation's mission is to support the development of sustainable innovations for the ecological transition. Dowel has a long-standing experience in collaborative research and innovation related to the built environment. The company cultivates strong connections with a variety of local construction ecosystems across Europe, from academic research in engineering and social sciences, to industrial organisations developing technological innovations. Dowel works as a connecting agent between sectors, expertise, and experiences, in view of a more sustainable Europe.

## ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI is a global network of over 2500 local and regional governments across 125+ countries. ICLEI drives sustainable urban development by pioneering practical, integrated solutions for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development for human-centred built environments.

ICLEI's extensive network allows them to advocate for urban sustainability and influence policies at different governance levels. ICLEI has expertise in five pathways: low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development, which they apply to their involvement in various projects, several related to the New European Bauhaus initiative.

## European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)

The European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) is a Brussels-based network of over 120 regional organisations from more than 20 European countries. Since 2001, ERRIN has worked to strengthen regional research and innovation ecosystems by fostering collaboration, promoting regional strengths, and supporting innovation-driven growth. The network maintains strong cooperation with EU institutions to ensure a bottom-up, place-based perspective is embedded in European research and innovation policy and programmes.

ERRIN members collaborate through 13 Working Groups and two Task Forces, focusing on key thematic and policy areas aligned with member priorities and EU opportunities. One of these Task Forces is dedicated to the New European Bauhaus (NEB), where ERRIN follows the development of the initiative and facilitates a member-driven exchange of experiences and knowledge to promote sustainable and inclusive innovation rooted in local context and identity.

## The Democratic Society

Democratic Society is a European NGO with the mission to secure democracy by, with, and for all. We were founded in 2006 on the premise that democracy thrives when citizens have meaningful opportunities to shape the decisions that impact their lives. While individual participatory events can spark democratic renewal, building resilient democracies requires sustained, systematic effort. We therefore envision a future where democracies flourish based on strong democratic infrastructures(\*).

We work to create the best obtainable democratic systems, blending models and approaches, and working across boundaries of nation, language, and party. We accompany individuals, communities, governments, and organisations in embedding and institutionalising best practices as well as implementing new democratic processes that stand the test of time - ensuring lasting change for all those affected. In Neb Junction, we bring our expertise in Participatory Governance and Systems Design as well as networked stakeholder engagement.

*\*These infrastructures include deliberative and participatory governance models, public services and political commitments that deepen democracy, supportive legal and financial frameworks, tools that build community skills, and long-term networks for democratic action. Built on strong local foundations, these systems span geographical and governance boundaries.*

## The New European Bauhaus

The New European Bauhaus is an initiative by the European Commission that brings the European Green Deal to life through beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive solutions. The NEB Junction serves as a vital implementation node for translating this vision into practical, impactful outcomes.



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