Connect NEB & Co-create NEB

Open Call 2027

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Eligibility

Does the applicant need to be legally based in the territory where the project will be implemented?

No, the legal entity's legal address does not need to be in the same territory where the project will be implemented. An entity may propose activities in another territory, provided it can clearly demonstrate a meaningful and established connection to that territory. This may include previous work carried out in the region, existing partnerships with local community groups, or other forms of engagement, demonstrating a relevant understanding of the local context and community needs.

Is there a minimum annual turnover or operating budget required to apply?

No minimum annual turnover is required. You do not need to meet a specific minimum budget or turnover threshold to apply. Financial capacity verification until 500.000 EUR is not automatically pursued, only in case of doubts regarding financial capacity.

However, applicants must have stable and sufficient financial and operational resources to implement the project and provide the required co-funding.

Applicants will be asked to confirm that they have carried out a financial-capacity self-check, and additional information may be requested if there are concerns regarding an organisation's capacity to deliver the project.

What types of entities can apply?

As defined in the Regulation (EU) 2021/695, 'Legal entity' refers to a natural person or an entity created and recognised by law as a legal person. All applicants must have legal personality and be able to exercise rights and assume obligations in their own name and on their own behalf. A VAT number is not required to receive funding.

Can applicant entities from different countries participate in the same Co-create NEB consortium?

Yes, the entities within a Co-create consortium can be from the same or different regions or countries, as long as all consortium members are eligible under the Call rules - all consortium members must be legal entities established in an EU Member State and/or a

Third Country associated with Horizon Europe (Countries associated with Pillar 3 'Innovative Europe' are eligible, while countries associated with Pillar 2 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', are not eligible for this call).

However, the consortium must demonstrate a strong connection with and the capacity to work on the area(s) where the project will take place.

Does the nationality of the partners in the consortium affect the project evaluation or scoring?

No, as long as all consortium members are eligible under the Call rules, the composition of the consortium in terms of partners' countries will not affect the project's score, whether partners come from the same or different countries

Will the financial capacity of the partners be checked?

No, unless a partner is requesting more than EUR 500 000 across different EIT Calls during the period covered by the current EIT Business Plan (2026-2028).

By submitting their proposals, applicants confirm that they have the capacity to work with the available funding, in accordance with the payment arrangements schedule, as well as with their own available resources.

In cases where a partner is requesting more than EUR 500 000 across different EIT Calls, additional financial documentation may be requested after the selection process, such as the latest financial statements (balance sheet and profit and loss statement) and, where applicable, the audit report if the entity is subject to an audit requirement.

In all other cases, no financial capacity documentation will be requested.

After the elections in Hungary this year, is the following still true? - "Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary — Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 15 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain."

Yes, the restrictions to Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 are still applicable to this Call. Please take into consideration that only a limited number of Hungarian entities cannot participate in Horizon Europe projects. To check which

Hungarian entities are not eligible to receive EU funding, check the Annex 1 Temporary eligibility requirements for Hungarian Universities (page 8)

2. Compatibility between calls

Can the same organisation submit more than one proposal or participate in several applications?

Yes, but an organisation can be the lead partner in only one proposal across the Connect and Co-create NEB programmes. If the same organisation submits proposals to both Connect NEB and Co-create NEB as lead partner, only the Co-create NEB proposal will be evaluated. The Connect proposal will then be deemed ineligible. However, an organisation may still participate as a partner in other project proposals.

Are Connect NEB and Co-create NEB compatible with other New European Bauhaus Facility calls?

Yes, the Connect and Co-create NEB Calls are compatible with other New European Bauhaus Facility calls.

3. Does my project fit the call?

How do I know if my proposal fits one of the Calls?

To understand which call a proposal fits into, applicants should keep in mind the key objective of each call. While Connect NEB focuses on improving the lives of communities through the deployment of co-design activities, solutions prototyping and/or collaborative governance models, Co-create NEB focuses on the transformation of public spaces through citizen participation (please refer to the definition of public space in the Call Manual and in Section 8 of this document).

To assess whether a proposal fits one of the calls, applicants should also consider the targets (KPIs) the proposal is expected to achieve, and the final deliverables they need to provide at the end of the project.

You may also look at previous Connect and Co-create NEB cohorts to understand the type of projects that have been supported under each. For this information, see section 9 of this document.

For any specific questions about what will be evaluated and the weighting assigned to each evaluation criteria, please consult the Call Manual (Section 6.2, Evaluation of Proposals). Applicants can also check the questions they are required to answer in the application form templates available in the Call Webpage, or directly on the NetSuite platform through which the applications must be submitted.

For Co-create NEB applications, how should I choose the thematic area?

Applicants must select one **primary thematic area** for their proposal: **Urban Mobility, Food or Climate**. Three proposals will be selected in each thematic area.

Where relevant, applicants may also select a **second thematic area** that their proposal relates to. All three thematic areas are given equal weight in the evaluation process, so applicants should choose the area that best reflects the main focus of their proposal. Examples of topics covered under each thematic area can be found in Section 3.1.2 of the Call Manual. However, proposals are not limited to these examples: other topics may also be considered, provided they are relevant to one of the three thematic areas and meet the required quality criteria.

For Co-create NEB, if the applicants selects the primary thematic area that most closely relates to a proposal, but there are other thematic areas that may also be relevant to the project, does it make sense to indicate a secondary thematic area, or could this dilute the positioning of the proposal?

Indicating an optional secondary thematic area will not dilute the positioning of the proposal in relation to the primary thematic area. As mentioned in *Section 6.2.2 - Evaluation of Proposals* of the Call Manual, the Co-create NEB evaluation and selection process will be based on the primary thematic areas identified by the proposals that score 45 points or more in the evaluation criteria. The primary thematic area selected by the applicant will therefore be the main reference for the selection process.

Only if there are not enough proposals within a given primary thematic area scoring 45 points or more will the secondary thematic area be considered for selection purposes, provided that it is relevant to the project.

Is it possible to finance the design and technical documentation for a future public space transformation project?

Yes, if the design work and technical documentation are presented as core project outputs and not merely as preparatory work for a future investment project. The proposed activities must deliver clear value and tangible results within the lifetime of the project itself.

In this case, the proposal should select "DEL 2_B: Research and/or new methodologies supporting improvements in the built environment" as the second final deliverable, with the technical documentation considered as part of the report. The report should focus on "providing actionable insights to improve the built environment within one or more neighbourhoods or regions". (Please see Section 3.3.4.2, *Deliverables – Co-create NEB*, of the Call Manual)

Can this Call fund a smaller phase of a larger project that extends beyond the funded period?

Yes. The funded activities must be achievable and completed within the project period, but they can form the first stage or a smaller stage of a larger initiative.

4. Project results and required outputs: KPIs and Deliverables

KPIs are the targets your project is expected to achieve (See section 3.3.5. Key Performance Indicators in the Call Manual)

Deliverables are the concrete evidence you need to provide by the end of the project (See section 3.3.4. Deliverables in the Call Manual)

What activities count towards KPI EITHE08.1? Does the KPI activity need to be a formal training course or teach a specific content?

The KPI **EITHE08.1** covers education and training activities delivered as part of the funded project. The activity does not need to be an existing EIT course, and applicants do not need to choose from a predefined EIT training catalogue

This does not necessarily need to be a formal training course: it may, for example, be a workshop or another structured learning activity. Eligible activities may include co-creation workshops, participatory processes, professional development courses or other structured education and training activities.

The minimum target is 25 successful participants. Reporting will include the activity title, learning outcomes and competencies, the number of enrolled and successful participants, and signed and dated participant lists (a template will be provided).

The Call Manual does not prescribe a specific topic or format, and it does not establish a minimum duration for the training. The topic and duration should be aligned with the intended learning outcomes and sufficient to assess participants' learning or competencies. (the Manual does not prescribe a standard competency assessment method).

For Co-create NEB, can more than the 2 mandatory deliverables be added?

No. The two mandatory deliverables are intended to capture the most relevant information needed to demonstrate the impact of your projects. Submitting more deliverables will not improve the proposals assessment. If you need to highlight specific outputs, please explain in the application form how they contribute to your objectives and how you will measure their success. Any other materials produced during the implementation can be referred to or included as annexes to the Final Report, if needed.

For Co-create NEB proposals involving the transformation of a public space, if applicants opt for the deliverable "DEL 2_A: Public Space Improvement", does the physical implementation need to be completed within the 10-month project duration?

Yes. If a proposal includes "DEL 2_A: Public Space Improvement" as one of its final deliverables, there needs to be evidence of a physical transformation of the space by the end of the project. This can take the form of a tactical intervention or be part of a wider transformation that will continue in the months following the project.

5. Funding, budget and co-funding

What types of costs can be included in the budget (EIT funding and co-funding)?

The Connect NEB and Co-create NEB programmes are based on a **lump sum** funding model, meaning that the mechanism to calculate and disburse payments is based on the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of the agreed KPIs and mandatory deliverables, rather than on the verification of actual expenditure.

Budget estimates should be based on eligible, reasonable and necessary costs in line with the applicable expenditure principles. Applicants will be asked to provide a justification of the proposed budget in the relevant question on the application form, without the need to provide a detailed breakdown of specific amounts.

If selected, applicants will need to keep appropriate and sufficient evidence to prove all the costs and the implementation according to the approved project. We encourage applicants to consult Annex 2 of the Call Manual on Lump Sum Funding, which explains the main principles that apply under this funding model. You can also consult the "Eligibility of Expenditures" document as a reference for the types of costs that may be incurred during the project.

Can the co-funding be covered through eligible project costs incurred by consortium partners (e.g. personnel costs), or must it be provided as a direct cash contribution? Are in-kind contributions eligible (e.g. volunteer hours, free use of spaces, equipment, or other resources), and if so, how should they be valued and accounted for?

Yes. Apart from cash contribution, eligible co-funding may also include costs such as personnel expenses or other eligible expenditures. However, any costs included as co-funding must comply with the same eligibility requirements as costs covered by the EIT Community NEB contribution. In particular, they must be real costs that have been incurred during the project implementation and can be verified in accordance with the eligibility rules set out in Annex 2 of the Call Manual and in the "Eligibility of Expenditures" document. All costs under co-funding must be directly linked to the implementation of the project and should be adequately documented.

In-kind contributions that do not constitute real, incurred, and verifiable costs by the subgrantee are not eligible as co-funding. Therefore, volunteer work, unpaid services, or the free use of facilities, equipment, or other resources owned by the subgrantee cannot be counted towards the co-funding requirement.

Applicants can consult the "Eligibility of Expenditures" document as a reference for the types of costs that may be incurred during the project.

In the context of the lump sum grant, how should applicants calculate and present their budget? Should cost estimates include VAT (where it is non-deductible), and should indirect costs be factored into the budget calculations?

Connect NEB and Co-create NEB are programmes with a fixed lump sum amount (EUR 18.000 for Connect NEB and EUR 57.000 for Co-create NEB). Accordingly, applicants are only required to enter the total requested grant amount in the application portal, and there is no need to separately calculate specific budget categories or indirect costs in the application form.

Nevertheless, applicants should ensure that their internal budget estimates are realistic and sufficient to cover all costs necessary for implementing the project, including any applicable indirect costs and non-deductible VAT.

In summary, applicants do not need to add a separate overhead rate or VAT line in the application portal. Instead, all expected project costs should be taken into account when determining the tasks that will be carried out within the fixed lump sum grant.

How does the payment schedule work? Do beneficiaries need to finance part of the project before receiving the final payment?

The payment scheme is composed of two payments: after signing the Financial Support Agreement (FSA), a first pre-financing payment is made to cover the project's initial steps (50% of the EIT support), while the remaining 50% is paid upon submission and approval of the final report, consisting of the KPIs, Deliverables and Final Report submission.

Does every Co-create NEB consortium partner need to have a project budget?

Yes, each Co-create NEB partner must have an allocated budget, either from EIT funding or from their own resources (co-funding).

Can different Co-create NEB partners contribute different amounts of co-funding?

Yes, each partner can contribute a different amount of co-funding. At a project level, co-funding much be 15% of the total budget (8,700 EUR). Please note that all partners must have a budget allocated, either from EIT funding and/or co-funding. To help Co-create NEB applicants with their budget section in the application, applicants might use a supporting Excel file.

Is there a limit on the amount of co-funding that can be provided?

Yes. As this is a fixed lump-sum call, both the co-funding amount and the EIT contribution amounts are fixed. Specifically, the required co-funding is EUR 2,700 for Connect NEB projects and EUR 8,700 for Co-create NEB projects.

At the application stage, what evidence is required to demonstrate the co-funding commitment? Is the budget declaration in NetSuite sufficient, or must applicants provide additional supporting documentation (e.g. municipal resolutions, budget commitments, certificates, or declarations)?

No specific evidence of the co-funding commitment is required at the application stage. Please note that, apart from the Declaration of Affiliation of Public Authorities (for Co-create NEB projects), no additional supporting documents can be submitted with the Connect NEB or Co-create NEB application. However, applicants can use the open question about their budget on the application form to provide credible and relevant information on how the required co-funding will be secured and covered.

How will the mandatory co-funding be verified at final reporting, and what supporting documents should beneficiaries keep?

As this is a lump sum call, reporting focuses on the achievement of the agreed deliverables and KPIs rather than on detailed cost reporting. Final payments will be calculated according to the criteria set out in Annex 2 of the Call Manual.

However, beneficiaries must keep evidence that project-related expenses, including co-funding, are real and incurred by the subgrantee during the project. In the event of an audit by the coordinating KIC or EIT, supporting documents such as timesheets, payslips, invoices, contracts, and proofs of payment may be requested. Further guidance will be provided in the NEB Project Implementation Handbook and the Financial Support Agreement.

For Co-create NEB projects, how are payments managed among consortium partners? Does the lead partner receive the full lump sum and distribute it to the other partners, or does each partner receive its share of the budget directly?

The payment management will differ depending on the KIC (EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Food and Climate-KIC) coordinating the project, according to the proposal's primary thematic area. For projects coordinated by EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Food, each partner will sign a Financial Support Agreement and will receive its allocated grant amount directly from the coordinating KIC. For projects coordinated by Climate KIC, all partners will sign a joint Financial Support Agreement and payments will be transferred to the lead partner, who will be responsible for transferring the respective share of EIT funding to each partner.

Payments will be made according to the applicable payment schedule and reporting periods set out in the NEB Project Implementation Handbook.

6. Co-create NEB Consortium requirements

What type of public authority needs to be involved in a Co-create NEB consortium? Does it have to be a city?

A Co-create NEB consortium must include a local/regional authority (e.g.: a local council, a parish, or district-level public authority.) or affiliated entity (entity legally linked with a local/Regional authority).

The proposal does not need to be implemented in a city; villages, parishes, and other district-level administrative areas are also eligible. There is no minimum or maximum population requirement.

What documentation is required from the city, region or affiliated entity participating in a Co-create NEB consortium?

For partners that are public authorities, the consortium does not need to submit any additional documentation regarding that entity.

If no public authority is part of the consortium, partners that are affiliated entities must provide evidence demonstrating their legal affiliation with a local or regional authority. This can be done by submitting either an official document proving the affiliation or a Declaration of Affiliation signed by the affiliated entity's legal representative. A Declaration of Affiliation template can be found here.

As stated in the Call manual: *"In the case no city or region is involved in the project, the entity affiliated with a city or region must upload, together with the application form, either the legal registration/official document that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region or a declaration of affiliation signed by the legal representative of the affiliated entity that proves the legal affiliation with said city/region."*

What should be the role of the public authority or affiliated entity in the proposal?

The public authority or affiliated entity should fulfil the role agreed by the consortium, in the same way as any other partner. Given their nature and expertise, they can provide a public policy and general public interest perspective on the proposal, its implementation, its medium- and long-term impact on the community, and, where applicable, support the project by enabling and/or facilitating interventions in public space.

As an optional support mechanism, a cohort of municipal partners is organised each year, allowing interested public partners to exchange experiences and share the challenges faced by their organisations.

Are there specific requirements regarding the role of each Co-create NEB partner?

Each partner should have a clear role in the project, taking into account the consortium's internal organisation, the project's needs, and each partner's capacity and resources. This is an internal decision to be made by the consortium.

Each partner's role must be presented in question 'Team capacity' in the application form.

Does the size of the consortia affect the evaluation of the proposal?

No. The evaluation will focus on the quality of the proposal and the team's capacity to implement it, so the number of partners doesn't influence the evaluation of the proposal, provided that the consortium has a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 partners.

7. Public space definition

Does a Co-create NEB intervention have to take place on publicly owned land?

The Call Manual defines public space as:

"Any space (e.g. streets, parks, town squares) that is open and accessible to everyone. This refers primarily to publicly owned spaces, but in some cases may also include privately owned ones. Such spaces are typically designed for the benefit of the community and may be used for social interaction, economic exchange, or cultural activities."

Therefore, the space does not have to be publicly owned, but it needs to ensure open access to the public.

Do we need to identify a specific public space in the proposal, or can we leave this open and allow the community to identify and prioritise the public space(s) they consider most relevant to work on during the project?

The proposals need to identify one or more public spaces that will be relevant for the project implementation. Even if applicants don't have a specific final public space in mind, as they want to make the final selection together with the communities, they will still need to indicate in the proposal which spaces they are considering for the selection. This is important to ensure that the teams have the necessary capacity in terms of accessibility and the right to work in those spaces.

8. Application process

Does the application need to be submitted in English?

Yes. It is stated in the Call manual section 5.1 Admissibility: "Applications and their supporting documents must be written in English, and must be readable, accessible and printable." In addition, under section 7.2.1, the submission instruction specify: "Application form (fully compiled in English language)".

Even though we understand that this is an open Call involving diverse countries, at this stage, one limitation is that communication between the teams and the EIT Community NEB must be conducted in English. This applies to the application process, the mandatory deliverables to be submitted, and the support meetings during the implementation phase. Therefore, it is important that applicants, particularly the lead partner, have a reasonable understanding of English, both to present their application and to communicate with our team throughout the implementation process.

Is any supporting document required as part of the application?

Connect NEB

No supporting docs are required. Note that Letters of Support will not be taken into account in the evaluation phase.

Co-create NEB

In order to be eligible, proposals that do not include a public authority, must ensure that an affiliated entity with a public authority is part the consortium, and a Declaration of Affiliation must be submitted as an annex to the application form in NetSuite. This document can be either:

- the legal registration or official document proving the legal affiliation with a public authority;
  or
- A Declaration of Affiliation signed by the legal representative of the affiliated entity, confirming the legal affiliation with the relevant public authority.

A Declaration of Affiliation template can be found here. This is the only supporting document that may need to be annexed to the proposal, where applicable to the consortium. Any additional documents submitted will not be considered by the evaluators.

Should the application be created and submitted through the account of the Legal Representative or the Primary Contact / Coordinator of the organisation?

The application can be created by whichever person has access to NetSuite, it does not matter which role they have.

Do all consortium partners need to register and create their own accounts in NetSuite before being added to the application?

Yes, all partners need to be registered to NetSuite before being added to the Application Form. Partners must also have a PIC number.

Is there any application fee or payment required as part of the application process?

No fee is required.

Is there any additional registration or information that needs to be completed by the consortium partners (except PIC number) before the application can be submitted?

No, the consortium partners only need to complete the PIC number and the PIF in NetSuite.

Will applicants receive a confirmation email when submitting their proposals?

Yes. After the lead partner submits the proposal in NetSuite, they will receive a confirmation email confirming that the proposal has been successfully submitted.

Are any supporting documents required upon successful selection?

Yes. Once selected, teams will go through an onboarding process. As part of this process, each team partner will need to provide a Certificate of Legal Representative (LRO) - Official document confirming who can legally represent the organisation -, a Registration Certificate - Official extract from a national register (e.g. Companies House for private entities, Law or Decree establishing a public entity), and a VAT Certificate - Official VAT (Value Added Tax) registration document issued by the tax authority. Where applicable, partners may also be required to provide the following financial documents: Latest financial statements (balance sheet + profit & loss) and Audit report (when the entity is subject to audit).

Please note that these documents will only be requested if the proposal is selected and **will not be required during the application process**.

For Co-create NEB projects, will each consortium partner sign a separate Financial Support Agreement (FSA) and Declaration of Honour (DoH), or will there be one document for the whole consortium signed through the Lead Partner?

This procedure will differ depending on the KIC (EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Food or Climate-KIC) coordinating the project, according to the proposal's primary thematic area. For projects coordinated by EIT Urban Mobility and EIT Food, each consortium partner will sign an FSA and a DoH. For projects coordinated by Climate-KIC, only the lead partner will be required to sign an FSA and a DoH.

9. Previous projects and future calls

How can I learn more about previous Connect NEB and Co-create NEB projects?

As a representative overview of the previous Connect NEB and Co-create NEB cohorts, applicants can learn more about the projects through the presentation of the 2025 cohort of projects and the EIT Community NEB 2025 Impact Report (the Impact Report covers all programmes within the EIT Community NEB and not only Connect NEB and Co-create NEB). Applicants are also encouraged to visit the EIT Community NEB website and LinkedIn page, where some of these projects are presented in more detail.

Please note that the previous projects refer to earlier calls which, although similar to the current calls, may have differed in terms of deliverables and other programme elements. Therefore, previous projects should be considered as examples and references, rather than as an indication of the exact requirements of the current calls.

To what extent can previous Connect NEB and Co-create NEB winning projects serve as a reference for this year's Call?

Previous winning projects may be considered as examples of the different types of projects that can be implemented, but should not be seen as the only references, particularly as the previous Call differed in several respects from the current one. Applicants are encouraged to present their own specific approaches to working with communities and their neighbourhoods, as well as a diversity of solutions that are meaningful and appropriate to each context. With this in mind, applicants should always consider the key elements defining the scope of the Call:

- The three NEB values, as much as possible: Sustainable, Beautiful, Together;
- The three NEB principles, as much as possible: multilevel, participatory, and transdisciplinary approaches;
- For Co-create NEB: applicants should check whether their proposal fits within any of the three Thematic Areas, taking into consideration not only the examples provided in the Call Manual but also other approaches that may fit within the broader thematic scope: Urban Mobility, Food, and Climate.

Which EIT Community NEB calls are expected to launch in 2027?

At this stage, we do not yet have any future timelines that are officially confirmed. However, based on our current planning and using this year's programme cycle as a reference, we are working towards the following indicative schedule:

Q2 2027: Ignite NEB

Q3 2027: Connect NEB & Co-create NEB

Q3 2027: Enhance NEB

Q4 2027: Catalyse NEB

Please note that these dates are subject to confirmation, funding availability and final programme planning, so they should not yet be considered official launch dates. We will publish confirmed opportunities and timelines through the EIT Community NEB website and communication channels as soon as they are available.