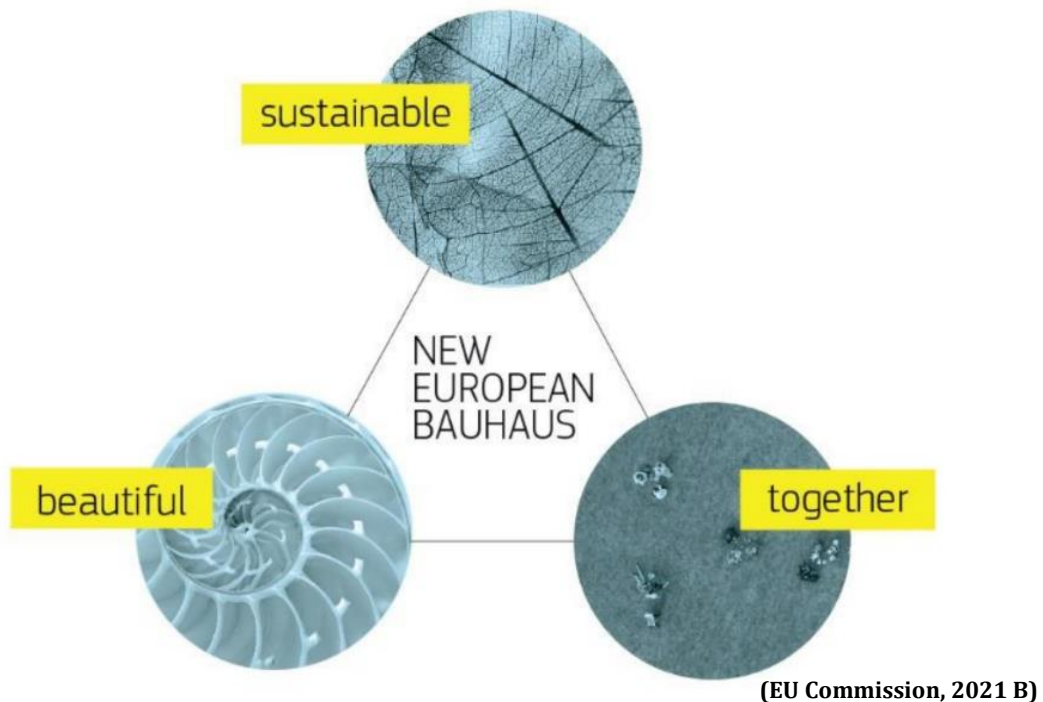


# Examining the planning processes of the New European Bauhaus



**Title:** Examining the planning processes of the New European Bauhaus

**Project period:** 01.02.2023 – 02.06.2023

**Education:** Sustainable Cities, Aalborg University Copenhagen

**Group number:** Fri-78920-6

**Authors:**

*Freja Katrine Køllund*

*Jonathan Munksgaard Pedersen*

**Supervisor:**

*Birgitte Hoffmann*

**Number of characters including spaces:** 136.613

**Number of pages:** 66

**Number of appendices:** 5



**AALBORG UNIVERSITET**  
STUDENTERRAPPORT

## Summery

This study investigates the New European Bauhaus initiative. An EU commission driven initiative aimed at bridging the world of technology and science with the world of art and culture, and to create changes on the local level. This study explores through the lens of critical pragmatism, the EU Commissions ambitions of trying to encourage changes in the planning landscape on the local level, and ultimately answer the following research question:

*When examining the planning process of the New European Bauhaus - as uncovered from the official and public documents presented on the initiative's own website - through the lens of critical pragmatism: How have the EU Commission undertaken their ambition of creating local change?*

To answer the beforementioned research question has this study firstly with inspiration from the Actor Network Theory framework investigated the New European Bauhaus network of activities, actors, visions and goals. This investigation was done through a document analysis of the official presented documents on the official New European Bauhaus Website. The results of this investigation showed that the New European Bauhaus initiative successfully had managed to create a community of engaged actors (NEB Community), working together with the EU Commission to co-design three core values, three key principles and four thematic axis to help guide an shape the New European Bauhaus into a cultural movement. To try and comprehend the complexity of the New European Bauhaus initiative, was a metaphor of the New European Bauhaus both being a journey and a destination created. With the journey being the planning process surrounding the establishment of the New European Bauhaus. Both the decision making and co-design process created driven by the EU Commission, to help shape the initiative. The New European Bauhaus as a destination on the other hand contextualizes what the initiative is striving towards. The goal of spreading the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus throughout local planning landscapes, to create a future that is both beautiful, sustainable and inclusive.

Based on this metaphor of understanding the New European Bauhaus initiative as both a journey and destination raises the question of what is the future for the initiative? To answer this question has the study explored the New European Bauhaus initiative in relation to the EU political ecosystem. An analysis of funding of the New European Bauhaus initiative, and

how the New European Bauhaus can create synergies with other EU policies, programs and regulations. This analysis shows that the New European Bauhaus currently is dependent on the continued support from the EU Commission, in order to continue. The EU Commission is currently responsible for generating funds and organising the evolution of initiative. But that the New European Bauhaus ability to trigger gaps between existing EU policies, initiatives and regulations could secure the longevity in context of the EU, and allowing new funding opportunities to emerge. This analysis furthermore showcases that a strong NEB Community is just as important for the evolution and future of the New European Bauhaus initiative. The NEB community acts as bridge between what is happening in local communities and the EU. This study discusses the planning process of co-creating the New European Bauhaus. How pre-defined structures of the New European Bauhaus has affected the planning process. The planning process of co-designing the New European Bauhaus was characterized by being collaborative in its approach, but not necessarily collaborative planning. The lack of transparency, and general focus on expert knowledge created a planning process where it was hard to grasp how inputs from non-experts were evaluated. But while the co-design process might not have lived up to the collaborative ideals, did it still manage to receive inputs from all over Europe. Raising conversation and discussion that might not otherwise had occurred, and by extension encouraging more deliberative approach to planning in local context.

The New European Bauhaus and subsequent co-design process furthermore showcased the value the NEB Community can have on acting as a translation bridge between the EU Commission and the realities the European Citizens experience in their daily lives. Thus becoming a way for the pluralistic array of views and voices in the EU to be translated to the EU Commission. And likewise translate concepts and knowledge the EU Commission gains from the New European Bauhaus into tools and solutions for planning and executing local transformation that are both beautiful, sustainable and inclusive.

# Contents

1. Problem statement.....	5
1.1 EU in global crises.....	5
1.1.2 COVID-19 .....	6
1.2 The EU Commission and NEB .....	7
1.3 European Union’s influence .....	8
1.4 Problem formulation .....	9
2. Theory and Methods .....	11
2.1 Research Design .....	11
The Network of NEB (Analysis) .....	13
Funding and political ecosystem (Analysis continued).....	13
2.2 Critical pragmatism .....	14
2.2.1. Pragmatism in planning .....	16
2.3 Document analysis - the documents.....	17
2.3.1 The analytic approach to document analysis .....	19
2.4 Desk Study.....	22
2.5 Interview .....	22
3. The Network of NEB.....	24
3.1 New European Bauhaus time plan.....	24
3.2 Before the NEB Co-design phase.....	25
3.3 The Co-design phase .....	27
3.3.2 High-Level Roundtable (HLRT).....	27
3.3.3 Official NEB partners .....	27
3.4 Co-design collection of inputs.....	28
3.4.1 Conversations .....	29
3.4.2 Short stories and free form contributions.....	29
3.4.3 Prizes (2021) .....	30
3.4.4 NEB conference and workshops.....	31
3.5 The results of the Co-design phase .....	31
3.5.1 The three core values .....	32
3.5.2 The key principles .....	33
3.5.3 The thematic axes.....	33
3.6 The Delivery phase .....	33
3.6.1 NEB lighthouse demonstrator pilot projects.....	34
3.6.2 NEB Lab.....	35

3.6.3 NEB prizes 2022 and 2023 editions .....	36
3.6.4 Friends of NEB .....	36
3.7 The Dissemination phase .....	37
3.7.1 NEB Academy.....	38
3.8 Conceptualizing NEB .....	39
3.8.1 NEB as a Journey.....	39
3.8.2 NEB as a Destination.....	40
4.Funding and political ecosystem.....	41
4.1 EU budget and NextGenerationEU .....	41
4.1.1 Allocation of the budget.....	41
4.2 Synergies between existing policies.....	42
4.2.1 Funding NEB.....	44
4.3 NEB in the future .....	45
4.3.1 EU Commission’s continuation of NEB .....	45
4.3.2 The depth of the cultural and systemic changes.....	46
5 Discussion: Planning NEB .....	48
5.1 pre-decided structural decisions.....	49
5.1.1 NEB as a collaborative process .....	51
5.2 Planning approach and local projects .....	53
6 Conclusion .....	56
7 Perspective.....	58
8. Bibliography .....	60

# 1. Problem statement

This chapter will introduce the EU initiative, New European Bauhaus (NEB). An initiative which has been forming since late 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The chapter will explain how NEB is the EU's attempt at adding a cultural perspective to the otherwise economic and environmental project of combatting the climate crisis. NEB as an initiative aims at being collaborative and focus on co-design, and the aim of bridging the gaps between the technical and cultural parts of Europeans daily lives. This study will not focus on what the EU kind of change the EU is trying to foster in local community, but instead focus on the span between planning on the EU level, trying to affect planning on the local level.

The chapter will additionally address the political connection between EU and the member states, to understand how actions and activities in the EU affects the legislations in the member states and subsequent planning landscape. Lastly the problem formulation of this report will be presented.

## 1.1 EU in global crises

It is very apparent that the citizens of the World, on average, are overusing the shared resources as the Global Overshoot Day is estimated to be July 28<sup>th</sup>, with Europe being well above the global average. The date represents how many days into a year it would take for the biocapacity of the earth to be transgressed if everyone had the same ecological footprint as the average citizen in Denmark. (EOD, 2022). In addition to overconsumption, the planetary boundary framework presents nine indicators which should not be transgressed in order to stay within a *safe operating space*. With multiple boundaries already being in critical conditions, and a change needs to happen in order to upset unacceptable environmental change (Rockström et.al, 2009)

Raworth (2017) took an economist's view on the planetary boundaries and on how the economic governance of the 21st century should be altered to better stay within a safe operating space. The visualization of this became a doughnut. With an outer ring representing the planetary maximum capacity. And an inner ring representing the minimum human needs (social, economic and material). In between the two rings forming the doughnut are the safe operating spaces where humans can live a fulfilling life, having their needs met, while

simultaneously living within the planetary boundaries. The economic view can be compatible with the Brundtland reports (1987) definition of sustainability development as: *“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”* (United Nations, 1987). Once again raising the question of how EU, and the member states, can manage to stay within their share of global resources and the planetary boundaries, while still taking care of the citizens and realizing the needs of the citizens.

With the recent IPCC reports (IPCC, 2023) there should be no doubt that there exists a global environmental and climate crisis and an urgent need for actions. Increasing globalization, and the complex interactions between natural and societal systems of the world, create a need for national and international environmental governance which:

*“recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies; the value of diverse forms of knowledge; and the close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development, and reflects the increasing diversity of actors involved in climate action.”* (IPCC, 2023).

While citizens can take an active role in combatting overconsumption and greenhouse gas emission, the changes at large should come from systemic changes. The EU is in a position where they make this systemic change happen by increasing transdisciplinary thinking across political, academic, and professional competences. (Galaz et.al, 2012).

### 1.1.2 COVID-19

During early 2020 the global COVID-19 Pandemic hit Europe, causing a new crisis. Firstly, concerning people’s health, but also affecting businesses and livelihoods not to mention the limited mobility and multiple lockdowns. During late spring and summer, the EU worked on a recovery plan, which should help Europe to:

*“Emerge stronger from the pandemic, transform our economies, create opportunities and jobs for the Europe where we want to live.”* (EU Commission nd. A).

The president of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen presented the NextGenerationEU at her State of the Union Address on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. NextGenerationEU was presented as a recovery fund created to use the COVID-19 Pandemic as an opportunity to emerge stronger than before the Pandemic. Utilizing the COVID-19 Pandemic as an opportunity to

look ahead and rebuild for the future by design and not disaster (EU nd. A). In conjunction to the presentation of NextGeneration EU were NEB introduced. Von der Leyen emphasized that a project such as NextGenerationEU needs to include culture when designing how life should look after the pandemic, and not solely focus on environmental and economic aspects. Von der Leyen introduced NEB as a co-creational space where different actors within the creative, educational and sustainable fields were imagined to be working together to create new ways of including culture into projects regarding everyday life for the citizens of the EU. (Von der Leyen 2020).

## 1.2 The EU Commission and NEB

The NEB initiative is led by the European Commission and especially by the President of the European Commission von der Leyen, who has taken a special interest in NEB (EU Commission, 2021). Besides von der Leyen, other Commissioners have been central to the evolution of NEB and its related activities. Noteworthy is the Mariya Gabriel (Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth) and Elisa Ferreira (Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms). They have been the main contact points and spokespeople of NEB (EU Commission, 2021). Their areas of competence also indicates which political areas NEB are especially attached to.

### About the European Commission

The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

**Role:** Promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

**Members:** A team or 'College' of Commissioners, one from each EU country

**President:** Ursula von der Leyen

**Year established:** 1958.

**Location:** Brussels (Belgium)

Extraction taken from the EU Commissions webpage (EU nd. C)



## 1.3 European Union's influence

Denmark is one of 27 member states in the European Union. The member states are sovereign, but EU holds some of the law-making authorities due to the cooperation having both intergovernmental and supranational aspects.

The four main institutions of the EU are the European Parliament (elected members from each member state); The European Council (Head of state from each member state); The Council of the European Union (relevant ministers from each member state, depending on the case); and the European Commission (A college of Commissioners with one being from each member state). The European Council sets the main political direction and priorities for the EU, but it is usually the EU parliament and the Council of the European Union that negotiate and adopt new laws and regulations. The EU Commission is a politically independent organ of the EU, responsible for implementing the political decisions made by the European Parliament and Council. They are also responsible for drawing up proposals for European legislation (EU, nd. C)

The European Union has evolved quite a lot since Denmark joined in 1973: The treaties, which are the constitutional basis of the EU has been expanded and additional law and regulations have been adopted (Borberg, 2021). Furthermore, the organizational and administrative sides of the EU have grown in both size and complexity. In total there are seven institutions, seven bodies and over thirty decentralized agencies next to the many agencies, organizations and interinstitutional services supporting the institution. (EU, nd. D)

The EU can make and adopt regulations, directives, and decisions, which are all legally binding, either directly in their entirety or reworked to fit national politics. (EU, nd. E) It is a principle of the *Acquis Communautaire* - the cumulative body of existing European Community laws - that current and future members must accept all EU law and regulation which have been adopted and will be adopted in the future (Borberg, 2021).

In 2011 the Danish Ministry of Justice estimated that 11,25% of Danish law either directly or indirectly came from EU-regulating (Danish Ministry of Justice, 2011). The Think Tank "CEPOS" concluded that 50-60% of the Danish law in 2011 stemmed from EU regulations or directives. In 2015 a review made by "Think Tank EUROPA" estimated 58% of the current Danish law

made after 2010 was in some way stemming from EU regulations. (Danish Ministry of Justice, 2011). As per the *Acquis Communautaire* this number must be expected to have increased since then.

Besides the direct political influence EU have over its the member states, the EU influence the member states trough difference means of soft power, trough the cultural exchanges and debates between representatives i.a. For example, when a topic is being debated for a new law, even if it does not go through, the debate creates awareness of the subject, and can potentially affect the way politicians and citizens of the EU think and act regarding the matter. The members all pay a share of their BNI, to EU, which then negotiates a budget and redistributes the funds. How the budget is used is therefore highly relevant for the member states, but also influences the areas in which they are used.

## 1.4 Problem formulation

The EU is actively addressing the climate and environmental crisis through various programs and strategies, particularly within the Green Deal, the EU's plan to become the first climate neutral continent. The COVID-19 pandemic led to significant recovery funds, and subsequent opportunities. Prompting the EU Commission to consider how these funds can best meet citizens' needs and contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal, while positioning the EU as leaders in the circular economy (von der Leyen, 2020). In order to achieve this The New European Bauhaus was introduced with the aim at bridging the gap between the Green Deal and the everyday lives of Europeans. The New European Bauhaus focused on incorporating arts and culture into sustainable transformation projects and defining the aesthetic and culture together with the local communities. Leading to the following research question:

*When examining the planning process of the New European Bauhaus - as uncovered from the official and public documents presented on the initiative's own website - through the lens of critical pragmatism: How have the EU Commission undertaken their ambition of creating local change?*

This project examines the NEB initiative and its planning process, primarily based on official and public documents available on the NEB. The analysis and subsequent discussion take a

critical pragmatic approach when reviewing the planning processes, which have been established through document analyses conducted with inspiration from Actor-Network-Theory, by focusing on actors and activities (see chapter 2). The report critically assesses the NEB's planning process in setting up a framework for attempting to influence local activities. As well as commenting the potential impact NEB have had on other parts of areas of EU's work.

Chapter 1 Problem statement, Introduces the New European Bauhaus (NEB), and the crisis creating the lead up to the EU Commissions establishment of the NEB initiative.

Chapter 2 Research Design, Theory and Methods: Presents the research design alongside the theory and methods applied in conducting this study. Pragmatism focusses more on actions than on theorising, and the supporting theory, Actor-Network-Theory is partly used as a method and partly used as a theory, making the division of theory and methods abundant.

Chapter 3 The Network of NEB 1: Presents the network of actors and activities that make up the NEB initiative, exploring what NEB is setting out to do, and rise the metaphor of NEB being both a journey and a destination.

Chapter 4 Funding and ecosystem: Explores NEB in relation to the EU political ecosystem, exploring synergies and funding opportunities with other EU instruments. To finally comment on different potential futures for NEB.

Chapter 5 Discussion: Commenting on the planning of NEB, what the approach in planning has meant for the process of establishing NEB, and the how the planning of NEB has affected the EU Commissions ambition of creating changes in local projects.

Chapter 6 Conclusion: Concluding on this studies research question: *When examining the planning process of the New European Bauhaus - as uncovered from the official and public documents presented on the initiative's own website - through the lens of critical pragmatism: How have the EU Commission undertaken their ambition of creating local change?*

Chapter 7 Perspective: Highlights some of the blind spots of this study, as well as pointing towards knowledge areas worth exploring based on the findings of this study.

## 2.Theory and Methods

This chapter presents the theory of science and main theoretic approach leading up to the research design which briefly explains what to expect for each chapter. Afterwards the theories will be further examined before presenting the methods used to gather and process the data analysed within the report.

This study takes a critical pragmatist's approach to investigating New European Bauhaus (NEB). Firstly, by investigating what type of network NEB is and subsequently analysing what the NEB initiative is doing in order to foster a sustainable transition. In line with pragmatism this study, will not claim to uncover the *truth* of what NEB is or uncover every nuance of the NEB or its underlying structures (Allmendinger, 2017). Instead, the study focuses on investigating what is happening in the initiative in order to critically review and analysing how NEB seems to plan for sustainable transformation. This study's empirical data is primarily collected through a document analysis which is supported by an interview.

### 2.1 Research Design

In order to be able to explore the NEB initiative, the terminology from Actor-Network Theory (ANT). By applying the ANT framework, NEB can be viewed as a network of actors and artifacts that interact with each other through various devices and interests (Papazu et Ross 2021). The NEB initiative comprises of several interconnected parts, and ANT's terminology provides a useful framework for trying to comprehend its complexity and supports how NEB can be analysed (Latour 1996, p.378.).

Pragmatism has a strong tradition for experimentation and is often compared with incremental planning, as one approach or method is changed for another if the result is not as desired (Allmendinger, 2017). NEB as an initiative is actively working with encouraging experimental projects and through its design phase, which results in NEB having no clearly defined beginning or end.

The analyses also touch the historical and political context of the NEB, but these are not investigated using the same ANT-approach, as opening up the networks withing would be too extensive for this study.

As the NEB have been an ongoing process of establishing and defining itself, ANT have been helpful in approaching this otherwise vaguely defined initiative, by its actions and actors – through the act of viewing the documents which themselves is part of the network. Viewing NEB as a Network, also allowed to better comprehend the complexity of the network NEB is a part of, and accepting that not all can be uncovered, or should be. NEB touches multiple networks throughout Europe, and especially the EU institutions. Networks which are too large and complex to be investigated further within this study.

Using ANT allowed to comprehend NEB, which made it possible to approach the subject matter, and created a more practical approach to how to investigate and understand NEB.

The research design shows how the research is going to analyse NEB as a case study. The study does not base its work on a technical evaluation or calculations. Instead, it bases its conclusions on content of the official documents and an interview. While the analyses were conducted with careful consideration, the quality of the analysis is closely tied to the author's knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. Knowledge which very much is expressed in pragmatism as 'common sense'. The biggest margin of error within this study is most likely the author's lack of 'academic common sense' and experience. Pragmatism allows the researchers to take a critical approach to the documents that make up the core of the empirical data. The critical point of view on the documents allows the world to be viewed as multifaceted in search for multiple truths (Allmendinger 2017), which commits the researchers to analyse documents related to NEB in a way that secures open view of documents content and worldviews. The strength of the commitment the research gain from a pragmatic lens, comes in the form of being able to seek out opposing worldviews within the empirical data, while being able to challenge existing worldviews the researchers might have (Allmendinger, 2017 / Rorty 1982).

<b>Research design</b>		
Problem statement	Introduces NEB and puts it in context of the global crises it is a response to. This chapter furthermore explores EUs influence on Denmark, resulting in an explanation of why an EU initiative like NEB is important to understand from a Danish planning perspective.	Desk study
The Network of NEB (Analysis)	This chapter investigates NEB from 2020-2022 inspired by the ANT-framework, investigating NEB through the involved actors and activities. Finally, the chapter re-conceptualises NEB in a metaphor of NEB being both a <i>journey</i> and a <i>destination</i> , in order to understand the different modes of NEB.	Document analysis of official NEB documents, supported by an interview. The interview-guide, transcription and the document analysis can be seen in appendices A, B, and C.
Funding and political ecosystem (Analysis continued)	This chapter examines NextGenerationEU and its relation to NEB. It analyses the funding of NEB and how NEB creates synergies between NEB and other existing EU policies. It comments on how NEB bridges the gaps between the existing EU policies, initiatives, and regulations. The chapter concludes with a section regarding how changes in the political ecosystem could affect the future of NEB.	Continuing the document analysis of official NEB documents, expanding on the knowledge with desk study of other relevant EU documents.
Discussion: Planning NEB	The discussion acknowledges that this study has not been able to identify the personification of the NEB-planner, and instead discuss the <i>planning</i> of NEB, as it is seen spread out between a political level, a mediating level and a more concrete actionable level. The discussion then further points to how the pre-defined structures of NEB have affected the planning process. The chapter discusses how the planning process of NEB has been collaborative, but within the ideals of <i>collaborative planning</i> . Finally, the chapter comments on how the NEB on one hand is promoting a more deliberative democracy in the local scale, while not conducting it on the strategic-EU level.	The discussion draws from the pragmatic theory presented in the Theory chapter, especially regarding collaborative planning. But draws on all knowledge produced throughout the study.
Conclusion	This chapter will conclude on the research question; <i>When examining the planning process of the New European Bauhaus - as uncovered from the official and public documents presented on the initiative's own website - through the lens of critical pragmatism: How have the EU Commission undertaken their ambition of creating local change?</i>	The conclusion is based on the previous analysis and discussions.
Perspective	Lastly will this study briefly touch on some aspects that has been outside of this research but could create basis for expansion of the knowledge and conclusions drawn from this study.	

## 2.2 Critical pragmatism

This study will not evaluate to what extent NEB succeeds with its own objectives, but instead focus on reviewing the planning processes based on critical pragmatism as explained in this subsequent chapter.

Classical pragmatism as a theory of science is concerned with a practical approach in planning as “what matters is what works.” Critical pragmatism adds to this practical focus, by being critical in the processes of “what works” as it focuses more on inclusivity and the notion on power in planning. If what works is what counts, it should be important to note that what works will differ from one state to another as one solution do not necessarily fit all.

Allmendinger (2017) explains the shift which is compatible with the use of the theory in this study:

*“It is now clear that pragmatism as a philosophy of practice is not simply about ‘getting things done’. It has developed into an approach to complex and intractable problems based around the role of the planner and the use of language. In this respect it has some close parallels with the collaborative approach”* (Allmendinger, 2017 p. 128)

In *critical pragmatism*, Forester (1989) recognizes that planning should not be purely pragmatic but also include power dynamics and inequalities that planning practices could reproduce. (Forester, 1989 / Allmendinger, 2017) This project also leans on the communicative-collaborative tradition on pragmatism, which highlights the role of the planner as a mediator Allmendinger (2017). A well-fitted role in the case of NEB where the planning process has been opened to a larger array of actors. One major difference being the pragmatist is not seeking consensus, but rather believing that if a subject matter is debated enough a solution will find its way (Allmendinger, 2017). Furthermore, pragmatism is not married to a method of communication or approach to conducting collaborative planning.

In critical pragmatism the planner is seen as someone who can challenge inequities and oppressions to help build humane and richly informed democratic polities (Healy, 2009).

Even though this study has its limitations of not being able to observe or interview the people working with NEB in the EU, it seeks to comprehend the complex network of NEB and what planning process were conducted. Leaning on Forester (Allmendinger 2017 / Forester 1989) who sees planning not as *a done action*, but a continually process of going behind the routine

and identifying transformation potentials - This study investigates NEB as a continuing planning process and investigates how it seeks to create transformations on the ground.

In its core pragmatism is a highly practical approach to planning, emphasizing direct action to tackle concrete problems (Allmendinger, 2017 p.127). In the context of this study the overarching problem present is roughly: How to create good lives while staying inside the planetary boundaries. Pragmatism would originally concern itself with concrete problems and actionable solutions. This study is situated in a less concrete, but very real, problem of sustainable transition. Furthermore, the planners are not in a local setting, but a much more strategic and international setting of the EU. The action is still trying to solve a very real and defined issue - even if the problem expands as it is being investigated.

Applying critical pragmatism as the theory of science comports with the focus of investigating NEB as a case of planning the focus can keep being on the actions, rather than a priori theorizing. Following a pragmatism approach this study focuses on what planning activities are observed, rather than what theories predict them to do. The theoretical discussions of the study are based on a deductive approach. This means that what is observed in the documents is put into a theoretical context in order to analyse it, instead of taking a theory of how it should be beforehand. The documents and the pragmatic lenses applied to them therefore become crucial for what can be revealed of the subject-matter. The documents are part of the complex network of actors and actions within the actor network of NEB, but they also serve as records that can expose some of the networks, actors, and conflicts within the NEB network.

Taking inspiration from Latour's thoughts on circling references (1999) Viewing the documents as records, or references, of some of the complex actions taken in the NEB network, the fewer transformations made upstream, the less is lost in the transformation from matter to form. The fewer transformations made upstream, the less is lost in the



transition from matter to form. Using official documents delivered directly from the source itself as primary data helps ensure accuracy and reliability in the research process.

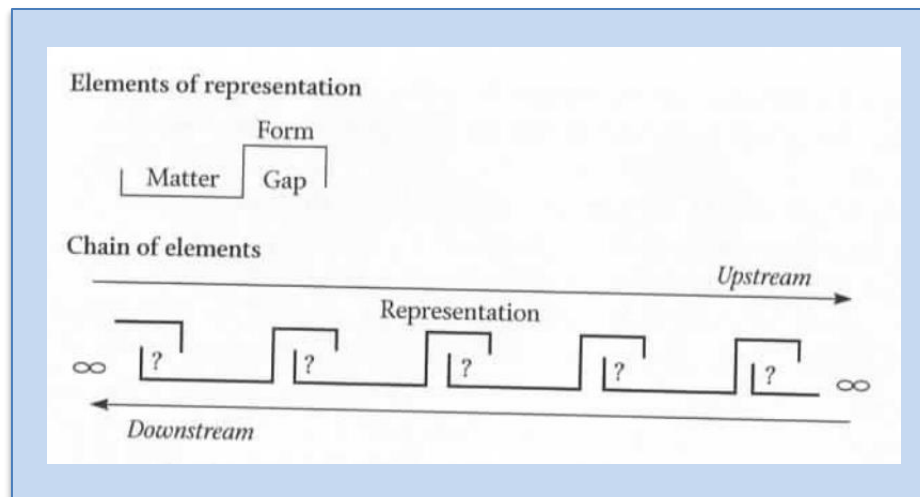


Image 1 shows Latour's conception of references following a series of transformations from matter to form, each transformation with an unknown gap, as something might be lost, or gained, when moving up or down the stream, starting in the middle with what is being represented (Latour, 1999).

The documents will not reveal all the structures leading up to the publishing downstream of the chains of elements, but at least there are a minimum of gaps between the time of their publication and their use in this study. When translating the documents through with the analytic tools in this report, some elements of the NEB network, and the documents will be reduced in the gaps going from matter to form, but in its place an amplification of new insights, perspective and conceivable knowledge hopefully arise (Latour 1999).

### 2.2.1. Pragmatism in planning

Pragmatism is a practical approach to planning which has been accused of being "*conservative and blind to the deeper forces and structuring influences in society*" (Allmendinger, 2017 p.127). This is however contradicted by Forester (1989) who views planning as an essentially pragmatic activity which is on the contrary inherently structured and influenced by power (Allmendinger, 2017 p. 137)

This study recognises the power of planners *acting as gatekeepers, who selectively draws attention to a variety of possibilities.* (Allmendinger p. 137). The planners can be blind operators of the system they find themselves within or they can progressively try to change the system through different approaches. Inspired by Rorty, Allmendinger states how:

*“The planners can ‘take a more proactive position as mediator, provoking new views or different ways of describing a situation in a way to work through any impasse”*  
(Allmendinger, 2017 p. 132)

On the other end of the pragmatism spectrum of the planner’s role, is the planners who are not being progressive. They can be ‘blindly operating’ within the system they are within, not trying to change it. The planner could be aware of, at least to some extent, the different interests and power dynamics, but might not be able to act upon it. Either due to a want for not making enemies in the office, or simply because they are too busy *‘putting out* in the offices (Allmendinger, 2017 / Forester, 1989). The communicative element of pragmatic planning arises when one asks what the planner's role in a democracy is - and how in this democratic setting the problems are best solved.

*“When ‘solving’ problems depends in large part on the interest, perceptions, commitments, and understandings of others, how can planners best convey their ideas, show what is consequential, expose dangers and open up fruitful opportunities for action? In planning practice, talk and argument matter”* (Forrester, 1989. p.5)

In this study the document is the means, or data source, into investigating said talk and argumentation, even though it mainly focuses on a polished output and not the process.

When reviewing the documents and the actions within the network of NEB, talk and argumentation is therefore also viewed as an important contributor to the network. Actions is the focus, but talks, speeches, argumentation can be viewed as actions too. Within the language of ANT, it could be argued that the documents gain agency, and works as translation tools explaining what has already happened or making other actors act.

This study investigates the notion of power being a prominent factor in planning. And while the documents do not reveal much of the power relations on an interpersonal level, they reveal elements of how the planning processes was conducted and who was included.

## 2.3 Document analysis - the documents

The main method applied in this study is document analysis as the main data source is documents. *Documents* is in this study understood as defined by Prior (2003):

*Both physical or virtual artefacts are designed by a creator, for users, and it functions within a specific definition. Documents do not exist as standalone objects but exist within the context of a network of which it is created and consumed” (Prior, 2003).*

Prior's definition is blending in with the inspiration this study takes from actor-network theories in terms of understanding inhuman (and human) actors. where the documents can be actors with agents. Documents are a means of translation, both between the sender and the intended reader - as well as between the analytic means of translation into what we can know about the NEB. However, it is important to note the documents are not producing themselves, nor is the content created without political decisions. Real humans are typing in the words, conducting the reports and chains of commands influence the directions of the words. Even if it can't be treated in this study, due to lack of empirical data, it must be acknowledged that the documents have been surrounded by oral and written communication. In later studies it would be interesting to take a deeper dive into the underlying structures of what goes on behind and surrounding the documents, but in this study of NEB, the documents work as a record of what the underlying work led to. Which is comport with the pragmatic view focusing on actions.

The documents might have been a very real act with agents in each situation, but as we review the documents their urgency creating the agents could have died down or increased in urgency as actions have been made and time has passed. Some of the documents are written communications official statements. While others are press releases explaining an NEB activity. For example, when von der Leyen gives speeches, in that case the document becomes the written record of her speech, but she is the sender even if she never typed a word of the document. The documents read are mainly official, public and/or part of a political structure. While individual people within the EU different offices can have different understandings or 'truths' the official documents often transcend one person's work or ideas and become the voice of the institution.

These documents are therefore viewed as a mixture of partly being possible actants in the NEB network and partly being the data source, records or digital paper trail, which works as and translation into the matter of concern. The document becomes a tool of translation into

the underlying network while also being part of the network. What is not able to be translated from the documents is likely to be missed due to the research design of this study. Therefore, it has been crucial for the reliability of this study to supplement the analysis with additional desk study and a single interview.

### 2.3.1 The analytic approach to document analysis

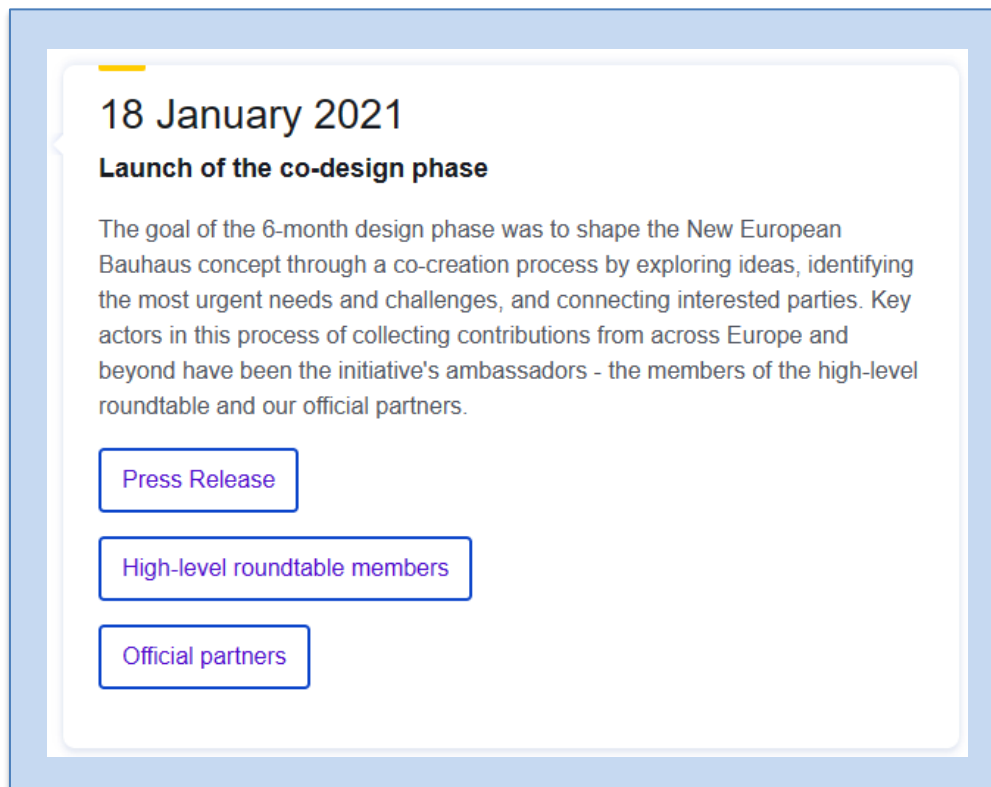
The document analysis was conducted using the READ approach (Dalglish et. al., 2020). Where the analysis is divided into four different steps; (1) Ready the materials, (2) extract data, (3) analyse data and (4) distil findings. The approach provides a systemic and transparent approach which heightens the validity of the analysis of the official documents. Even Though the two first steps might seem reductant or obvious, all four steps of the READ approach are important to achieve a validity of the study. If the wrong documents are analysed in the right way, the validity of the study will be skewed; if the right documents are analysed in the wrong way the validity of the study will be skewed; and if the right analysis is being analysed rightly, but not systematic and transparent the reliability of the study is lost.

#### **Step one: Ready materials**

Before being able to conduct the analyses an overview of the documents going to be analysed was made a long side with a frame for how to decide which documents to code and base the analysis upon. The frame for the analysis was based on the documents presented in the NEB initiative's own official website, (EU, nd. B), under the section.

*"About the initiative: Key information about the New European Bauhaus (what, when, who, etc.)."* (EU Commission nd. C), The timeline provided a chronological order and allowed for investigation of how the commission themselves presented their work.

On the webpage there are 22 entries, each with a date, a short summary of the entry, and then at least one *item*, which is a hyperlink to either a press release, communication, report, paper, or other EU-webpage. Even though the summary in the entry point is a document as per Prior's definition, this has not been analysed separately, but has been used in the process of analysing the items it is describing.



*Image 2 Is an example of how the EU Commission displays Items on their timeline. (EU Commission nd. C)*

Readying the materials also included a process of deciding what documents *not* to include. However, it is important to note that these documents are heavily influenced by the Commission and may not challenge their claims. Other sources might take a more critical stance on NEB. Additionally this study have only focus on publicly published documents and are not investigated the internal documents or the NEB Newsletters, who are only sent to subscribers. Which could have been an interesting addition as it could have revealed some of the communication happening between the EU Commission and the NEB Community in the initial phases of NEB, and as it might provide additional information and insights to the process. Furthermore, the study has not analysed the NEBs social media.

Another crucial decision impacting the entire study is the exclusion of entries from 2023 and forward, which mainly concerns NEB's involvement in supporting Ukraine. This omission is due to the limited time available to comprehend these recent developments, and it also falls outside the authors' area of competence or knowledge.

## Step two: Extract data

In the second step each document was firstly skimmed-read in order to gain the needed overview of the document and its main attributes (Bowen, 2009). Afterwards the document was read thoroughly with a set of focal points in mind to extract the needed data (Bowen, 2009). The focal points were created with inspiration from ANT as a tool to be mindful of what actors, human and non-human are presented within the documents and what actions and these actors say about the process of NEB. Not distinguishing between social and technical phenomena, even though one might be more present than the other. In line with pragmatism the focal points were made to be open on purpose, to allow for the text to reveal itself, without applying a restrictive theory putting the document into predefined boxes. The focal points were:

- What type of document is it?
- Which actors (human and non-human) are presented and in what context?
- Which links are present between actors?
- What central goals, visions and ideas are presented within the documents?
- What are the actions happening as well as what activities are suggested?

Each document located through the analyse was noted with a small summary based on the focal points. Afterwards the points being deemed valuable based on the focal points was extracted from the summaries into three categories:

- Actors and network connections (marked with a red colour)
- Central concepts, goals, visions and ideas (marked with green)
- Initial unanswered questions or reflections (marked in red)
  - Please note, this is reflections arising during the process of coding, and representative for all the unanswered questions or reflections throughout the process of working on the thesis. Similar notion goes for actors and central concepts.

The full extraction and coding can be viewed in appendices C.

## Step three: Analyse data

The extracted data was processed in order to analytically work on understanding NEB as a network. An interpretation of the body of documents (Dalglish, 2020; Bowen, 2009). Once the data was extracted the data was contextualized into a reference works that allowed for the data from one document to easily be compared to another. The reference work was created

based on the chronological order of documents that came in the timeline, allowing the actions and activities found in the document to be viewed in relation to prior findings.

#### **Step four: Distil findings**

The last step of the READ approach is for the researchers to take a critical look at the extracted and analysed data (Dalglis, 2020). It is somewhere between step three and step four that the analysis takes its form into what can be read in the report. The report is showing the extracted data being analysed, but in its distilled form, as the process of analysing the data is larger than what has been put to paper, and then what has made it into the final paper.

The main part of the distilling is represented in section 3. The Network of NEB, where the result of the analysis is being discussed and in the conclusion, where the entire thesis, which mainly is the document analysis, is being distilled into answering the problem formulation.

## 2.4 Desk Study

Besides the documents analysed as part of the document study, additional sources were used to confirm, expand or contradict the main data sources. This is methodologically part of a supporting desk study going on parallel to the document analysis. This desk study was important in narrowing down the problem statement. These documents have not been coded or analysed in the same ways as the documents in the document analysis. They will be mentioned in the text directly or through citations. The documents/source not from the NEB timeline are mainly from other official EU webpages and academic articles. Supplying theories and providing additional knowledge and/or perspectives used for analysing and conceptualizing New European Bauhaus

## 2.5 Interview

One interview has been conducted with the project leader of a NEB lighthouse demonstrator project (see section 3.6.1). An interviewee with knowledge of the process creating the lighthouses and perspectives into what she saw was different with the NEB approach as she has been working with the EU system for multiple years.

The interview was conducted as a semi structured interview with an interview guide. The more open nature of semi structured interviews allows the respondent to openly highlight

standpoints and viewpoints the interviewers might have missed when creating the interview guide (Andersen, 2014). The interview guide, as well as a transcription of the interview, can be seen in appendices (A and B).

Ideally it would have been an asset to the project to be able to conduct interviews with the political actors in Denmark and EU connected to the NEB initiative. This was targeted but was not possible to set up within the timeframe of this study. A positive side to not conducting more interviews is that the study has not been skewed by what voices have been heard and not based on who had time or the ability to talk to us.

One of the authors of this report has previously been involved with NEB as part of Project Management Offices assisting in the process leading up to an application being made for the EU Call. While this has not had any effects it did give prior knowledge of the NEB and was also what inspired interest in the topic for this report. It meant an already established work-relationship to the informant and it gave a slight insight to some of the processes going on in 2021, including knowledge of the NEB Prizes criteria seen in appendices D.



## 3. The Network of NEB

This Chapter is going to investigate the establishment of NEB, from the time going before the co-design phase was officially launched, until the end of 2022. This chapter will explore the actors involved with NEB as well as the activities related to NEB. Based on these findings will the chapter re-conceptualises NEB into a metaphor of NEB as a *journey* and a *destination*.

### 3.1 New European Bauhaus time plan

The creation of a New European Bauhaus (NEB) was first publicly mentioned by the President of the EU Commission von der Leyen at her State of the Union Address in September 2020. It was mentioned as part of the NextGenerationEU, an investment strategy helping EUs recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while also positioning the EU as a leader in the circular economy. According to von der Leyen the intention with setting up a new European Bauhaus was ensuring the project also became a cultural project – and through co-creation should NEB make sure that sustainability matches with the style of the world people want to live in. (Von der Leyen, 2020).

Four months later in January 2021 NEB was presented as:

*“An environmental, economic and cultural project, aiming to combine design, sustainability, accessibility, affordability and investment in order to help deliver the European Green Deal. “(EU Commission, 2021 G).*

Additionally, a three-phase plan for the execution of the new co-creational European Bauhaus was presented. First a *design* phase, then a *deliver* phase and finally a *dissemination* phase.

The clear division between the phases have become less conspicuous as the timeline has progressed and the end-dates are still unknown. But for the sake of being able to address the progression of the initiative, they three phases are used as a framework for the narrative of this chapter, as it tries to convey the intangible network of actors, artefacts and actions that makes up NEB. The first section will address the time before the co-design phases began in January 2021. This period is sparser in available data and information, but a process that has undeniably happened, starting with understanding where the inspiration of ‘Bauhaus’ stems from.



Image 3. The timeline of the three phases as presented in the document *New European Bauhaus explained* (appendices E). The timeline presents three phases of NEB. A co-design phase from the fourth quarter in 2020 to the third quarter in 2021, a Delivery phase from the fourth quarter of 2021 to the 2023 and onwards, and lastly a disseminate phase from the first quarter of 2023 to 2024 and onward.

### 3.2 Before the NEB Co-design phase

Before there was the *New European Bauhaus*, there was the *Staatliches Bauhaus* and the movement growing alongside it. *Staatliches Bauhaus* was a German school of design, architecture, and applied arts (1919-1933) created as a combination of the Weimar Academy of Arts and the Weimar School of Arts and Crafts. The main idea was tearing down the division between the fields of resp. arts and technical craftsmanship, as the students were taught in both. The educational concepts challenged the rigid structures of the time as it was more pluralistic in its educational concepts and creative methods. Likewise, the school sought to make the enrolment process more inclusive for people irrespective of gender, nationality, or educational background making the education less elitist (Bauhaus Kooperation, 2023/ Schellnhuber, 2022). While the original Bauhaus came:

*“As a response to the continental cataclysm of the First World War and its corresponding physical destruction and social upheaval”* (Schellnhuber, 2022 p. 5)

the *New European Bauhaus* came after a global pandemic, but even more importantly as a response to:

*“The threat of our contemporary global cataclysm: climate change, mass extinction, resource depletion, social conflict, human degradation.* (Schellnhuber, 2022, p. 5).

The heritage of the original Bauhaus can be seen in NEB: In how the EU Commission seeks to have a pluralistic and inclusive approach; In how NEB seeks to integrate arts, aesthetics, and culture with the implementation of the Green Deal; In NEBs focus on design; and in their ambition to create a movement (EU Commission, 2021 G). It must be emphasised that NEB is not a continuation, reprise, or replication of the original Bauhaus. It is *new*, and in contrast to the original Bauhaus it is not a school, but a political driven initiative situated in the EU.

In chapter 5.1 the study will speculate more about why the initiative became to be presented within the narrative of 'Bauhaus.' But no matter how, or why, NEB came to be NEB, there must have been some internal process leading up to NEB being mentioned on the State of the Union Address on 16th of September 2020, and likewise a process leading up to the presentation of the three phases and the three core NEB values *Sustainable, Beautiful, Together* as well as a structure for how the co-design phase should play out (EU Commission, 2021 G).

One process happening in the phase *before* the co-design, is the recruitment of NEBs High-Level Round Table (HLRT). More than fifty specialists were invited to a pre-selection process where they pitched their ideas of what the New European Bauhaus should be. Furthermore, they partook in a series of conversations gathering ideas for the project (EU Commission nd. D). It must be assumed that even the candidates not making it to the final 18 (later 21) also contributed with their insights, meaning the EU commission had over 50 professional prominent figures in their field contributing with insights in the formative stages of NEB - which is very likely to have had influence, even though how much is unclear.

The potential members of the HLRT were invited based on their *recognised competence, capacity, and commitment in their fields and the New European Bauhaus values.*' (EU Commission, nd. D). Alluding to the fact that the creation on the NEB values lies before the process of drafting the HLRT. *How, why, or when* the EU Commission selected the three values is unknown to this study, but definitively selecting the values and creating a structure of the co-design phase is the EU Commissions work.

## 3.3 The Co-design phase

The co-design phase showcased examples of ideas and concepts of how to create beautiful-, sustainable- and inclusive places. But also highlighted relevant challenges and tasks related to sustainable transformation to the local communities, while also introducing and bringing together a wide array of collaborators in the NEB community (EU Commission, 2021 G).

The co-design phase had a significant focus on establishing the NEB community and conducting a range of different activities that could co-create and help define what NEB should entail. This chapter will reiterate the role of the HLRT and introduce the official NEB partners, which at the time were the main actors in the NEB community together with the EU Commission.

### 3.3.2 High-Level Roundtable (HLRT)

The first group to officially be introduced to the NEB community was the *High-Level Roundtable* (HLRT), which was recruited already before the co-design phase, as explained in section 3.2. The HLRT members are ambassadors of NEB. Besides providing their insights to the EU Commission they have also carried out different tasks including being facilitators of the panel discussions (EU Commission, 2022 C / EU Commission nd. D). The members of the HLRT have been one of the EU Commission's main drivers in consolidating and accelerating NEB, especially in the initial stages (EU Commission, 2021 B).

### 3.3.3 Official NEB partners

As part of the co-design phase kick-off, came an open call for official partners, who were intended to be part of a group of engaged actors, all working towards building and movement of sustainable communities across Europe. The official NEB *Partners* can neither be for-profit business or public authorities (EU Commission, nd. E). The EU Commission screened all partner applications ensuring the applicants were within the scope of the EU Commissions definition of what NEB should be. This evaluation of applications, done by the EU Commission, is untransparent in what they see as being “inside the scope of NEB” making the exact premises of acceptance unclear. In return for the commitment the partners were invited to participate in a set of work sessions and networking opportunities. These working sessions

were hosted and facilitated by the EU Commission. Additionally, the partners receive exposure on official NEB websites as well as social media platforms. It is understood, as expressed by the EU Commission, that actors engaging early on had an advantage in engaging in calls and other funding opportunities as they were well informed of the opportunities within NEB (EU Commission, nd. F). Even though the EU Commission did not express it, it also alludes to the fact that people not involved in the work sessions, and community had a disadvantage. Which is in line with the fact that people and organisations signed up for the Newsletters received information which are not accessible through any other means, and historical newsletters are not published online.

According to the NEB website, the partners role is to function as sounding boards and key interlocutors for inclusive dialogues with other partners and citizens to increase transdisciplinary discussions and thinking. The partners support the spread and discussion surrounding NEB, by reaching out to their own networks, and carrying out activities that engages transdisciplinary discussions. And then to represent challenges and ideas in the NEB Community, that was identified through the discussion with local networks (EU Commission, nd. E). Thus, indirectly including more voices in the NEB community and spreading awareness of NEB.

### 3.4 Co-design collection of inputs

This previous section presented the different actors engaged in the co-design phase. The table below is an overview of the activities and contributions which have been part of the co-design phase, as identified by this paper.

The next sections will highlight some of the main activities and elements derived from the co-design as presented in the co-design report: The three core values, three principles of how to conduct projects within NEB and finally four thematic axes. The axes are four strategic themes or action areas, for where NEB could focus their work and activities to gain traction and thereby better implement the values.

Summarisation of involved actors and activities identified in the co-design phase, as part of this study	
<p><b>NEB activities during the co-design phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEB Conference</li> <li>- Workshops</li> <li>- Conversations</li> <li>- Short stories</li> <li>- Free form</li> <li>- 2021 editions for the NEB prizes</li> <li>- Social Media and newsletters</li> <li>- Potential activities by partners or the like</li> </ul>	<p><b>Actors involved with the co-design phase.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EU Commission</li> <li>- Members of the High-level Roundtable</li> <li>- Official partners</li> <li>- Applicants for the 2021 NEB prizes</li> <li>- Respondents to the Short stories and Free form contributions</li> </ul>

### 3.4.1 Conversations

*Conversations* in the context of the co-design phase, served two purposes, one being a way for the EU to spark interest and spread discussion surrounding NEB, with the second purpose being a method for collecting inputs on what NEB should be. How to contextualise NEB and to collect ideas, examples, and challenges for sustainable development, that the partners and members of the High-level roundtable experience in their respective fields (EU Commission, nd. G). During the Co-design phase more than 200 conversations had been held, adding perspectives and viewpoints on NEB (EU Commission, 2021 B). The *conversations* during the co-design phase functioned as a method for the collection of inputs, but also a tool to increase transdisciplinary thinking (EU Commission, 2021 B).

### 3.4.2 Short stories and free form contributions

Conversations were not the only way the EU Commission gathered input and perspectives on what NEB should be or how to contextualise it further. A digital platform was set up where anyone could share short stories on either; existing examples and projects; visions and ideas; or challenges experienced in everyday life (EU Commission, 2021 B). All submitted short stories during the co-design phase were visualised by the EU Commission into three interactive overviews, highlighting the concentration of the response (EU Commission, nd. H, I, J).

Additionally, it was possible for anyone interested to share their thoughts in a *free form contribution* which was not confined by any format or theme. Around 200 contributions were

digitally collected which after a screening to prevent offensive content was published on the official NEB website (EU Commission, nd. G). The free form allowed people to contribute in a way they were comfortable with and with a less restraining structure, was inputs the EU Commission might not have anticipated allowed to be added. The free forms opened for new ideas, challenges and perspectives that more structured conversations might not have. Structured conversations could have an agenda or a reason to be held, where the free form is more open to any type of input, even if the subject was set. On the downside the *Free form contributions*, are harder to organise and analyse due to the inputs being unstructured.

### 3.4.3 Prizes (2021)

Another tool the EU Commission used during the Co-design phase were the NEB prizes. The first round of NEB Prizes was a competition where everybody could send an application with a project or concept being exemplary within the NEB values, with the chance of winning a communication package and resp. 30.000 or 15.000 Euros in addition to being celebrated at the NEB festival. The NEB festival celebrated and wrapped up the ending of the co-designing phase.

The prizes were awarded in two parallel competitions within the same 10 categories.

- New European Bauhaus awards, highlighting exemplary existing projects.
- New European Bauhaus Rising stars, which only was applicable for people under the age 30 but allowing for the project to still be in a concept phase.

(EU Commission, 2021 H).

The prizes were a co-creational process as the over 2000 applications, after being reviewed by an evaluation committee, was shortlisted based on elections from the recipients of the NEB newsletter. This shortlist of 60 entrees was then evaluated by a jury composed of 80 of the official NEB partners. The evaluation criteria can be viewed in appendices D.

The Prizes are quite successful in creating incentive for sharing projects and ideas that showcases NEB values as well as being incentive for new thinkers to form and contextualise project ideas with the NEB values in mind, while also engaging the NEB community through reviewing the applications.

It was later decided to continue the prizes through a yearly program simply called 'NEB prizes' to gather even more inspiration and to reward projects and ideas being exemplary within the NEB values.

The categories from the first rounds of the NEB prizes and the continuation here of, it becomes apparent that the categories of the first round were more open and that NEB was still very much finding its identity. As NEB in this phase became surer of itself so did the categories of the prizes which develops with NEB. (EU, nd. F).

#### 3.4.4 NEB conference and workshops

The three core values of NEB were predetermined, but during the co-design phase these three words, Beautiful, Sustainable, Together, were subjected to comprehensive discussions and examinations for how they should be understood.

One event where this happened was at the NEB conference, an official and online gathering of the NEB community. This online conference, expertly organised and hosted by the EU Commission on April 22nd and 23rd, 2021, brought together the EU Commission, members of the High-level roundtable, and the pioneering official partners of NEB. Through a series of workshops, the NEB community diligently laid the foundation for understanding the essence of NEB including contextualising its three-core values Beautiful, Sustainable and Inclusive. The conversations were made into visual representations, where a mixture of drawing and writing visualise the conversations, but it is assumed that representatives from the Commission also took notes for internal use. *The Visual harvest* can be downloaded from the official NEB webpage but is not supplied by any text (EU Commission, 2021 D).

### 3.5 The results of the Co-design phase

The Co-design phase was concluded with a report on the process of how to move NEB from the co-design phase to the delivery phase. In the end, the report concluded with a continuation of an expanded version of the three core values and with an addition of three key principles, and four thematic axes. The core values, key principles and thematic axes are together what should give NEB its own feel as a movement when moving forward (EU Commission, 2021 A).



### 3.5.1 The three core values

As explained in the previous section. The three core values of NEB were further developed during the co-design phase, especially on at least one online workshop on the NEB conference. Multiple panel discussions were held debating subjects such as “NEB as a project of HOPE and driver for CHANGE, the vision and timeline of NEB, Transformative ideas for the NEB, and co-designing the NEB movement” (EU Commission, 2021 D).

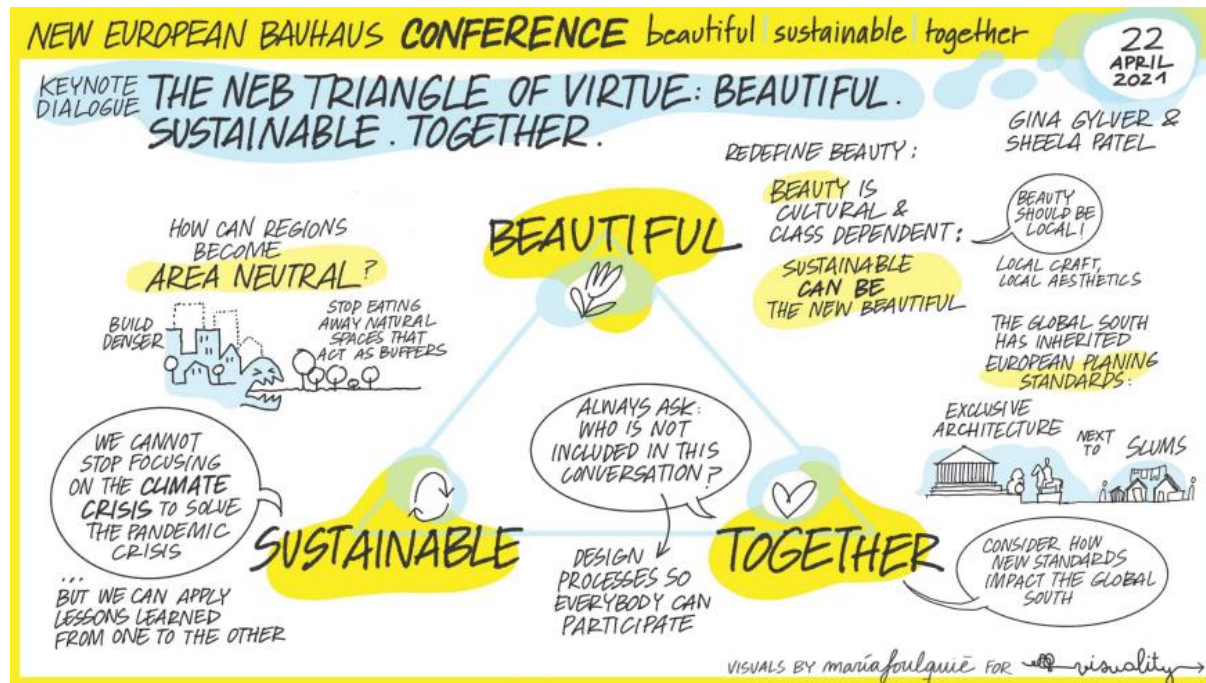


Image 4 Example of a visual harvesting from the NEB Conference, based on a keynote dialogue from a workshop held at the NEB conference: on the NEB triangle of virtue: Beautiful, Sustainable, Together (EU Commission, 2021 D).

It is hardly fair to boil all these many conversations into a few lines but some of the discussions concerning the three values can be read below.

**Beautiful** was among others discussed within the context of being subjective, and therefore hard to be well defined, which is also an argument for why projects following NEBs values should aim at creating enriching projects from within the local context.

**Sustainable**, was talked about in terms of the climate crisis and circular economy.

**Together**, was addressed as the need for co-creation and inclusion in the design process so everybody can participate, or at the minimum a need to be aware of who is not included in the conversation and how that effects the conversation (EU Commission, 2021 D).

### 3.5.2 The key principles

Based on the co-design process did the EU Commission pick up three key principles that they mean should guide NEB forward. Three key Principles guiding all projects that want to be or inspire to be NEB. Contextualising not only that any project that aspires to be a NEB project, and what a NEB project needs to be aware of when approaching a project. A NEB project can either be projects at the local scale that adapts the NEB values and principles into their approach, as well as NEB projects created in response to EU Calls. (EU Commission, 2021 A). The three principles being the need for a *multilevel approach (from global to local)*; *a participatory approach*; and *a transdisciplinary approach*. A project inspiring to be within the NEB movement should therefore work with these three principles in mind (EU Commission, 2021 A).

### 3.5.3 The thematic axes

The four thematic axes are the EU Commission's way to best help the implementation of NEB. The EU Commission bases the thematic axis on the idea that in order to create a movement there is a need to be *“working with people and their interests, needs, and motivations.”* (EU Commission, 2021 A, p. 6) The three core values and key principles were created to define what being NEB means, and what focus a NEB project should have, where in contrast the four thematic axes are like an implementation strategy for NEB. In order to have the thematic focus where its thought it would have best potential for having NEB being implemented. The four thematic are:

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

## 3.6 The Delivery phase

The delivery phase builds on the findings from the Co-design phase as shown with the EU Commission adaptation of a communication strategy (EU Commission, 2021 I). Here they expressed the core values, principles and axes as explain in previous chapter 3.5, which sat the frame for NEB should move forward in the delivery phase.

### 3.6.1 NEB lighthouse demonstrator pilot projects

As part of the delivery phase five calls were launched to establish five lighthouse demonstrators to showcase what NEB could look like in practice (EU Commission, nd. K). The EU Commission wanted the knowledge and experiences from the Lighthouses to contribute with innovation, ideas and solutions for all further NEB projects (EU Commission, 2022 A) and for them to showcase how a co-design process with architecture, design and culture can create innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges in the built environment (EU Commission, 2021 J). Initially the five projects chosen to become lighthouse were: CULTUURCAMPUS, NEB-START, NEBourhoods, DESIRE and ENHUR. With a sixth NEB lighthouse called DigiNEB which was added in another call specifically for digital infrastructure (see section 3.7) The Lighthouse demonstrators are part of the Horizon Europe programme and its funding, which means that each lighthouse needs to fit within the Horizon program, even if the goal of the lighthouse demonstrators from a NEB perspective is to make the values of NEB become common practice in the built environment (appendices A). The Horizon program sets out five EU missions, any project under the Horizon Europe programme needs to contribute to at least one of these five EU missions (appendices B).

**The five EU Missions are a novelty of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for the years 2021-2027:**

1. Adaptation to Climate Change: support at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030.
2. Cancer: working with Europe's Cancer Plan to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure, and solutions to live longer and better
3. Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030
4. 100 Climate-neutral and Smart Cities by 2030
5. A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

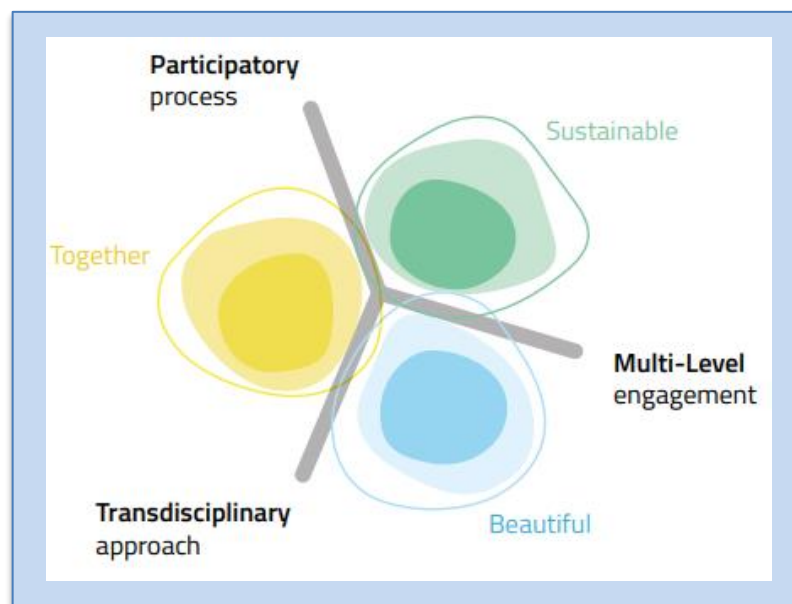
The five EU missions as defined on the EU missions in Horizon Europe website (EU Commission, nd. L)

NEB and the EU missions have much in common regarding ambitions of linking activities across different disciplines an innovation types, while tackling major challenges within climate and environment through engagement of citizens (EU Commission, 2021 A / EU Commission, nd. L). Linking the EU missions and lighthouse demonstrators means that the output of the

demonstrators is going to showcase not only the values and principles of NEB, but also the EU missions. And likewise, the NEB values becomes integrated into the New Horizon programme.

### 3.6.2 NEB Lab

According to the EU Commission the NEB Lab is meant to become a “think and do tank” created to co-create both prototypes, test tools and solutions, while also making recommendations for policy actions (EU Commission, nd. M). The NEB Lab is working with thematic self-organised workgroups. Some of the workgroups are Commission-lead while others are Community-led. Anyone within the NEB Community and EU institutions can propose new project ideas for the NEB Lab (EU Commission, nd. M). An example of an EU commission driven project is “Project NEB Lab: Labelling strategy.” A project aimed at developing new tools to characterise and recognise what makes a local transformation project or initiative “NEB” (EU Commission, nd. N). The labelling strategy that has been contextualised into the NEB compass see image 4.



*Image 4 The New European Bauhaus Compass showcasing NEB’s three core values of Beautiful, Sustainable and together, and the three principles of NEB Participatory- Multi-level- and Transdisciplinary approaches. Presented in the in the report called “New European Bauhaus Compass - A guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities.” (EU Commission, 2022 B).*

A tool designed to make the core values and principles of NEB accessible to anyone interested in integrating NEB into their projects. The tool helps evaluate how ambitious a project is in

terms of achieving the three values and fulfilling the three principles (Participatory processes, Multi-level engagement and Transdisciplinary approach).

As the report puts it, the principles are described in such a way that “project makers” can evaluate how ambitious their projects are within each parameter. (EU Commission, 2022 B).

### 3.6.3 NEB prizes 2022 and 2023 editions

In 2022 and 2023 the EU Commission decided to continue the NEB prizes. For the 2022 editions of the prizes, the focus of the submissions had shifted to focus on the four thematic axes, presented at the end of the co-design phase (EU Commission, 2022 D). The 2021 edition of NEB prizes had ten prize categories, spanning ten different price categories, which the EU Commission at the time thought NEB should encompass, while the 2022 editions had gotten more streamlined with all submissions to be submitted within one of four prize categories, each reflecting on one of the four thematic axes. Switching focus from the 2021 editions' more explorative approach of showcasing projects and ideas spanning a wide range of categories to the 2022 editions' more streamlined showcase of projects matching with the thematic axis shows that NEB prizes are both a tool and an activity that the EU Commission want to use in their implementation strategy for NEB. For the 2023 editions of the prizes an additional prize category was created focusing on education and learning. This could be seen as a delivery but could also serve as an inspiration for the NEB academy, which will be address in chapter 3.7.1 (EU Commission, 2022 E).

### 3.6.4 Friends of NEB

To support the NEB Lab and expand the NEB community, a call was made on the 7th of April 2022 for *Friends of NEB* (EU Commission, nd. O). Friends of the NEB can be any for profit organisations and public authorities that wish to support the NEB initiative by adding to the transdisciplinary thinking and conversations happening surrounding NEB. Either by sharing or identifying projects that follow the NEB values, by partaking in the co-creation processes or by offering to host or sponsor NEB related events or projects (EU Commission, nd. O). In return for the work the Friends of NEB do, they were invited to a set of sessions where they can build a community and share knowledge with the other *Friends*. Furthermore, the chance of being

exposed on the official NEB website and Instagram is presented as an incentive. (EU Commission, nd. O).

#### National Contact Points

The member states were invited to appoint a national contact point (NPC). According to the EU Commission, an NPC is responsible for connecting and coordinating national efforts or projects related to NEB. The NPC was also intended to become the point of reference for anyone interested in collaborating on national NEB activities, as well as being the contact point for the EU Institutions or other member states (EU Commission, nd. P). When contacting the Danish NPC, as part of this study, it became apparent, that he did not have much to do with NEB other than receiving and spreading knowledge from EU to the Danish political ecosystem. Denmark might work with NEB through other political channels, but the NPC did not seem to have a proactive role in the Danish setting. This might be different for the other countries' NPCs.

### 3.7 The Dissemination phase

The dissemination phase was set to start in 2023 but has not been formally “kickstarted” the same as the co-design phase was. It is unclear what exactly the dissemination phase is supposed to include of concrete activities. The dissemination of the first five NEB Lighthouse demonstrator pilot projects, would have matched the timeline. But as some of them were prolonged (appendices B), the dissemination phase becomes less of a phase, and more of an ongoing process of dissemination and knowledge sharing, which should continuously heighten the content of the projects within the NEB framework and possible also the framework itself - both the calls funded by the EU and local projects inspired from the NEB value.

In addition to the first five NEB Lighthouse Demonstrators, were a sixth project established to support the digital side of New European Bauhaus, aligning with the EU target of bringing the EU into the digital decade. This could also have been explained as part of the delivery, but have been chosen to be introduced here, as it is going to be a platform facilitating many of the dissemination activities, as their platform is intended “to supporting cross-fertilisation between the digital industry all NEB community.” (digiNEB, nd.).

According to the digiNEBs own webpage, the digital platform will stimulate knowledge sharing and encourage collaboration by three main services: online training courses, a digital toolkit sharing digital solutions (digiNEB, nd.). Furthermore, digiNEB will be setting up thematic work groups, where experts from the NEB digital ecosystem can share ideas and inputs. These inputs are planned to be collected to provide strategic policy recommendations, and thereby work to knowledge-share both within the community and to relevant decision-makers (digiNEB, nd.).

*The National Contact Points* and *The NEB Friends* were both appointed during the ‘delivery phase’ but are highlighted as being important for national and local dissemination in the New European Bauhaus Progress Report from January 2023 (EU Commission, 2023 A). The report does not mention the dissemination as part of a phase, which supports the claim that the commission has moved away from a narrative of three distinct phases.

### 3.7.1 NEB Academy

Another activity, which has been debated in the NEB ecosystem for some time, is the creation of NEB Academy, which should help to provide the knowledge and capacity needed to achieve the transformations wanted within the NEB initiative. It is unclear whether there will be multiple activities under the umbrella of NEB Academy, but a first call for contributions have been made. As part of the *European year of skills* the NEB initiative have launched “NEB Academy on skills for sustainable construction.” (EU Commission, 2023 B). Which focuses on *Upskilling for bio-based materials, circularity & sustainability in construction*. The call was open from April 3rd to April 25th (EU Commission, nd. Q) and asked for educational contributions (i.a. courses, materials, workshops) from people working within education or training in the forefront of sustainable construction. (EU Commission, 2023 B). The contributions were evaluated by relevant experts coordinated by the NEB Team at the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (EU Commission, 2023 B).

The need for the NEB Academy was identified during the co-design phase as:

*“The lack of skills and knowledge in the construction ecosystem was a major obstacle to the transition towards a sustainable, digital, and inclusive future, but also a big opportunity to accelerate the needed change”* (EU Commission, 2023 B, p.2).

The main activity of the NEB Academy is to spread knowledge and awareness of sustainable construction situated within the framework of NEB. By infiltrating the learning environments future, or current professionals within sustainable constructions will get to learn about the NEB values first hand, potentially breaking from some old schools of thought. If successful will the knowledge of sustainable construction as situated by the NEB values become part of the common practice in future professional careers affecting even more people.

## 3.8 Conceptualizing NEB

This chapter reflects on the authors' journey in trying to conceptualize NEB and comprehend the complexity of NEB.

When embarking on the journey of grasping the complexity of NEB, the intuitive response was viewing NEB as a set of actions started by the EU Commission (or their associated partners). This study started off with trying to understand NEB through the lens of being "a set of actors and actions." Thinking, that if the study could explain what main activities and actors was a part of NEB – then NEB would take form based But NEB proved to be more than a set of planned activities, administrative work, and actors. During the three phases, explained above, NEB becomes more of an actor with agency. NEB evolves from being something people want to create to something with its own set of values and goals (Ryan, 2004).

Some actors in the network have more agency than others - more power and legitimacy. And the network is not fixed or stabilised - at least not yet. This study has only investigated some parts of a large network of networks, and even more actors and activities are involved.

To express some of the complications the authors of this study have had in analysing NEB, a metaphor is applied: NEB is a journey and a destination.

### 3.8.1 NEB as a Journey

NEB as a journey is the *planning process* and the structures. How the EU Commission decided to open their planning process for the people of Europe to co-design, or at least come with a variety of inputs, to their initiative. It is not common for the EU Commission to invite so many, and so openly, to help decide the direction of a political initiative. It is quite an ambitious



endeavour, to try and make a co-creational project work on a scale like the EU. When investigating NEB, one can investigate NEB as a political initiative being formed. Understanding what the EU Commission is going to do and how. It raises questions like: How are they conducting this co-creation process? Who are they inviting? Is this a democratic process?

### 3.8.2 NEB as a Destination

But NEB is also an initiative striving towards something. The goal of the initial stages of NEB was about defining what NEB is, what makes something NEB, and where NEB is headed. Which resulted in NEB core values, the NEB principle that through the NEB compass is still an ongoing process of defining NEB (EU Commission, 2022 B). The main goal of NEB is to become a movement. A cultural change for better living across Europe (EU Commission, 2023 C). To integrate its core values and principles into practices across Europe. This idea of integrating values and principles is what gives the journey mentioned above direction and the actions happening surrounding NEB perspective. NEB has managed to form a set of concepts, a mindset, and a goal of where it wants the EU to end up - the destination. A future where we can live within the planetary boundaries, and still have a beautiful life. A place with strong social inclusion where everybody has influence on what makes their life beautiful in their local community. This is the vision and the destination of NEB.

What can make the investigation of NEB hard to navigate is when the lines between NEB as a journey and as a destination is blurred - which they often are because NEBs destination became a feedback loop into the journey.

## 4. Funding and political ecosystem

To be able to discuss what could potentially happen to the NEB going forward, it is necessary to understand what NEBs political ties and financing. This chapter will analyse NEBs relation to the NextGenerationEU recovery fund and investment plan and discuss how NEB is being funded.

### 4.1 EU budget and NextGenerationEU

NEB has been connected to the NextGenerationEU since the State of the Union Address September 16th, 2020. The NextGenerationEU is a recovery fund with a correspondent investment plan, which was made extraordinarily as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The recovery fund was merged with the EU's long-term budget for 2021 to 2027, called the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The MFF consists of approximately 1,211 trillion EUR. And with the addition of the 806,9 billion EUR in recovery funds, the total funds in the EU budget are significantly increased to a total of approximately 2,018 trillion EUR (Directorate-General for Budget, 2021). The increased budget is financed through loans and bonds, which are breaking away from EUs usual customs. (Borberg, 2021) While the details of the annual budget are subject to annual negotiations, the overall structure and guiding principles of the EU budget are established in the MMF (Borberg, 2021).

#### 4.1.1 Allocation of the budget

The shared budget has been divided into spending categories, and their coherent EU programmes and funds. (Directorate-General for Budget, 2021, p. 12). The political area of *Cohesion, Resilience and Values* have been favoured with roughly 60% of the budget allocated to these political areas. (Borberg, 2021). There have also been allocated a substantial amount to research and innovation, especially through the *Horizon Programme* (Directorate-General for Budget, 2021).

Even though the values of NEB are highly compatible with the vision of the NextGenerationEU, NEB has not been earmarked in the budget. Physical transformation projects, such as those NEB are trying to encourage, have been expected to be funded through various funds as part of shared management (EU Commission nd. D), which is when national authorities manage

the funding together with the commission. This further highlights the role of the Member States in integrating NEB into national settings.

When discussing NEB projects, it needs to be noted that some projects are local transformation projects, creating more tangible change on the ground. While other NEB projects are the projects answering to an EU call as explained in chapter 3.6.1. An example of these projects are the first five lighthouses, which are formally projects under a Horizon Europe *Coordination and Support Action*-call. Which means they work to improve cooperation between actors and/or supporting strengthen a given research area, in this case related to demonstrating and piloting how NEB can be used to create local transformations (EU Commission, 2022, A). The EU Commission seems to plan the integration of NEB into multiple other programmes, but especially Horizon (Schellnhuber et al., 2022), which is likely due to the large part of the budget allocated to the Horizon programme along with multiple of its missions matching well with NEBs goal of creating local sustainable transformations (EU Commission, 2021 E).

Another way the EU Commission has tried to integrate NEB into other parts of the EU regulations and policies is through an EU Commission-led project under NEB Lab called “Regulatory analysis and experimentation”. Which was created with the intension to analyse how European, national, regional and local regulatory frameworks can support the development of projects carrying the NEB values (EU Commission, nd. E).

## 4.2 Synergies between existing policies

The EU Commission points out in its evaluation of NEB in relation to the political ecosystem, that many current EU policies already focus on tackling some of the same challenges that NEB wants to address in their thematic axes (explained in chapter 3.5.3). Other EU policies might only focus on some of the parts that NEB focuses on, but the mere fact that there is some overlap contributes to enabling conditions for NEB’s development as a movement (EU Commission, 2021 F).

In the beginning NEB was introduced as being a bridge between the Green Deal and people’s everyday life, bringing culture, arts, and aesthetics into the programmes such as the Renovation Wave (A program regarding renovating and energy optimising buildings across

Europe). It quickly evolved into an initiative transcending the different silos of political strategy areas of EU. According to the EU commissions communication from September 2021 NEB is triggering the issues which “cannot be adequately addressed by a single instrument and which often “fall between the cracks” (EU Commission, 2021 A, p. 11). Highlighting how NEB is fulfilling a very real need of the EUs political ecosystem. The EU Commission visualise this by showing NEB as non-sharply defined mass that transgresses the different EU regulations, programs, and other initiatives, see image 5.



Image 5 is a copy of a figure shown in a Communication from the EU Commission 15.01.21. The image visualises different strategies and dimensions as silos, and how NEB (the blue shape) spans across all the strategy areas. (EU Commission, 2021 A).

NEB going across different political areas was seen on September 15th, 2021, as it was announced that 86 million EUR would be dedicated to New European Bauhaus projects from EU programmes in 2021 – 2022, including the Horizon programme, the LIFE programme, and the European Regional Development Fund. As of January 2023, around 100 million EUR has been allocated to NEB projects from other EU funding instruments and programs, which they want to scale up further with a 106 million EUR dedicated in Horizon Europe funds for 2023-24 (EU Commission, 2023). Furthermore, not all NEB activities was driven by the EU Commission, as e.g., European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) launched a 5 million EUR scheme under the Horizon Europe program, to support projects and entrepreneurs that are integrating sustainability, aesthetics and social inclusion (Naujokaityté, 2021). Showing how other parts of the EU ecosystem takes co-ownership of the NEB initiative.

## 4.2.1 Funding NEB

As it is the Commission who proposes the budgets for negotiation with the Council of the EU and Parliament, it can be questioned why NEB was not established as a proposed programme or fund, with its own earmarked funding. There could be multiple reasons for this including bad timing or lacking parliamentary support but is unknown to this study.

In The European Parliaments Report (A9-0213/2022) it is mentioned how the NEB initiative have issues with not having stable and reliable funding, and it have been debated within the parliament - a discussion which could resurface when the budget is revised halfway through the budget period (EU Parliament, 2022). It is also mentioned how:

*“A real need has emerged for new types of funding schemes, less classified in silos and more capable of crossing over into a large array of sectors. The NEB should support a more eco-systemic approach, going beyond the segmentation of knowledge and mobilising all relevant disciplines.”* (EU Parliament, 2022, p.20).

Showing that NEB have pointed out an issue of silo-thinking within the European funding structures, which is not flexible enough to address the complexity of the issues the modern whole phases, as an eco-systemic approach is needed.

NEB being a programme with its own earmarked funding, will create stability for the future of NEB, which would make it possible to better make long term plans and begin new phases of activities experimenting and implementing actions creating sustainable transformations on the ground.

It must however be mentioned that NEB received success while not having stable funding, and parts of its success in transcending different political areas, was likely enforced by the need to do so. If NEB was to become a programme, is it important that NEB do not end up being its own new political silo, but keep collaborating across different strategy areas, sectors, and disciplines. Instead, there must be found a way where NEB and the people working with it, can find stability while keep being fluid and cross-cutting as visualised on image 5.

## 4.3 NEB in the future

This chapter will discuss the future of NEB. Firstly elaborating in the role of the EU Commission, and then the importance for a deep cultural and/or systemic changes for NEB to continue, either in its current form or a new.

### 4.3.1 EU Commission's continuation of NEB

NEB however do have strong ties to the EU Commission and especially the von der Leyen's, which seems to have made NEB part of her legacy. Her engagement in NEB have most likely helped the success of NEB. how it has been welcomed politically and how it has been received by the potential *partners* and *friends* of NEB. (appendices B). Von der Leyen's engagement also highlights the priority NEB have had internally in the EU Commission, as she might emphasises the importance of ensuring NEB as her legacy and are interested in making it have a lasting impact on EU.

There is, however, the risk that the moment regarding NEB will dim down if von der Leyen does not get re-elected for the presidency for the next term, which is expected to be some time in the later part of 2024 (Council of the European Union, 2023).

If she continues, it is likely that she and the EU Commission will continue supporting the initiative. If she does not continue, the NEB could continue being supported by the EU Commission, but the new President might not have the same drive for pushing a project that would act as the former Presidents Legacy. Which is one reason why NEB would need to be established within formal political structures to ensure its continued existence. Especially as it would be in the next term that the next MMF would have to be negotiated, and NEB could receive funding directly or indirectly.

Ultimately the EU Commission is an executive arm, and NEB should be a way to accomplish the ambitions of the legislative organs of the EU. If they choose to shift gear, the EU Commission would need to comply. However, are there nothing within the scope of this study suggesting that any parts of the EU are in a disagreement with what NEB is setting out to do.

### 4.3.2 The depth of the cultural and systemic changes

Whether or not NEB can continue without the support of the EU Commission is highly dependent on the depth of the cultural and systemic changes NEB can manage to enforce. Cultural change in the form of how well the NEB values, principles and processes have anchored itself in the member states, local communities and in the NEB community. Systemic changes in how well the NEB has been integrated into the EU programmes and strategies and made lasting changes regarding sustainable transformations.

NEB could continue, with or without the continuous management from the EU commission, if the NEB community continues the work. NEB sets some ideals, which the NEB community, and all the actors across Europe can choose to continue regardless. If the co-creation of what NEB entails, is truly co-created, it should reflect what the NEB community themselves find to be true and wants to continue. Maybe the values were even present before NEB was established, and NEB was merely the arena where the ideas were being consolidated into shared concepts. The stronger the co-design process, the more likely is the cultural movement to gain traction and be spread by the people partaking in the NEB community.

On the other hand, NEB is also a platform for co-creation, and an actual *meeting place* for co-creating, online or offline - and someone would need to take responsibility for continuously running the platform and facilitating the conversations, workgroups etc. It is not unthinkable that some of the organisations would agree to take this task, but it is a heavy task to carry out both in terms of time, money, and organisational skills. Furthermore, the interest in being part of the conversations might be lesser if the link to the EU is not there.

Even though the NEB partners are doing a great job, it must not be forgotten that most of them are organisations or businesses, and whether they are for profit or not, they all have a core business they need to take care of. Which is why NEB needs to be continuously relevant for the Community to keep it alive. Its relevance could be as simple as having the right conversations with the right people.

It could also be argued that the momentum that NEB currently has is partly due to the incentives the EU Commission makes to push the initiative forward. For example, the prizes

are an incentive currently creating interest around NEB (see section 3.4.3 and 3.6.3). If the support from the EU Commission towards NEB should come to an end, an incentive such as the NEB prizes would most likely also be lost, meaning that the cultural movement must be strong enough to live on without the incentives created by the EU. For this to happen the key actors who are carrying out the projects of sustainable transformations, must be able to see the value of NEB and be willing to take the risk of using the principles in their projects. Which is why there is a need for a cultural movement and mindset - but also systemic changes removing or lowering the political obstacles present, which makes it harder than necessary to carry out the sustainable transformation projects, which is the goal of NEB.

While NEB as *a journey* (see chapter 3.8) might slow down, or end, without the EU commission's support, the end goal of NEB, *the destination*, might live on. NEB wants to inspire local actors and projects to create sustainable transformations locally, and have produced values, principles, and strategies to help achieve these local transformations. These local projects are already blossoming and could potentially use the NEB guidelines for many years to come. An example of this being when the NEB community comes together to produce local projects of transformation or collaborate in projects and working groups.



## 5 Discussion: Planning NEB

The theoretical framework presented in *chapter 2 theory and Methods* briefly mentions the role of the planner within the context of critical pragmatism. However, when examining NEB, the personification of the planner remains unidentified. Although some names were mentioned there is a lack of clarity regarding who oversees what. The EU President von der Leyen has actively engaged in some of the activities and the political decisions, but it is hardly her writing the reports. Within the Commission and in EUs Joint Research Centre there are people doing administration work of updating the websites, writing communications, making visual design etc. but if they are conducting strategic planning or rather fall into the category of civil servants blindly operating the system is unknown.

This lack of knowledge about the planner is partly due to the research design and methodologies not adequately investigating the NEB from an angle allowing this information to rise. Instead, the official documents have represented the work of a personified planner. Therefore, the study will be investigating the planning rather than the planner. Not denoting that real individuals are conducting the planning.

The official public documents, mainly consisting of *EU Communications, press releases*, and reports have been written by civil servants and experts within the EU offices. Their work is however, highly affected by the political decisions made further up in the chain of commands. Where the one type of planning starts, and the other stops is not transparent for this study.

Another type of planning process being conducted is the mediating process going on when facilitating the specific NEB activities. This was especially seen in the co-design processes.

Through the mediating process the planning becomes a 'mediating layer' or translator between the multiple individuals (Allmendinger 2017). When mediating and collecting inputs a translation process happens which can lead to mistranslation for example through analytic simplifications or misunderstandings. The analytic simplifications can be made on purpose to ensure the multiple different represented realities takes a certain form, but in this process, something is often lost. One element is the physical mediator's ability to mediate, another is

what structures have been put on the mediating process. This will be elaborated in section 5.1.

Another planning aspect happening within NEB is the more concrete planning of activities and deliveries, which happens largely in the NEB community. First as part of the co-creation event feeding back into the establishment of NEB, but later also in its own clusters of planning activities. As an example, each lighthouse demonstrator has been through a planning and coordinating phase leading up to writing a response for the EU call, and then afterwards they each have a manager coordinating their activities. The lighthouses also engage in dissemination and network activities between them, also including the EU commission (appendices B). The planning within specific organisations and projects have not been the focus of this study but are still part of the planning process in the NEB network.

The subsequent chapter will discuss some of this *planning*. Starting with a section regarding how the co-design process and establishment of NEB was influenced by the structures already being established before the co-design began.

Then the lack of transparency in much of the planning process will be discussed and the collaborative planning aspects of the planning will be considered. Finally, the chapter will comment on the deliberative democratic aspects of NEB before the report concludes.

## 5.1 pre-decided structural decisions

As mentioned in sections 3.2 some decisions regarding NEB were made before the co-design phase officially started. The EU Commission were setting the structures of the co-design phase having both the power of mediating, setting the agenda, and choosing who to invite, all decisions affecting how the co-design phase progressed and subsequently the results thereof. The EU Commission did invite multiple actors and voices to take part in shaping NEB, but the participation process was steered top down, and not bottom up. Though the discussion and inputs from the participating actors in the co-design did reflect their individual views, the discussion was already framed by the pre-decided concept of NEB as being Beautiful, sustainable and inclusive (EU, nd. B). So, while the NEB community was invited to partake in the establishment of what NEB should and could be, there were some predefined limitations on the conversations. Which can both be seen as a limitation, but also a tool to keep the

conversations on track with what the EU Commission wanted to grant from them and ensuring input valuable for the future development of NEB.

Where this notion of NEB being *Beautiful, Sustainable* and *Inclusive* comes from is unclear, but from an interview with project manager of the DESIRE lighthouse project (appendices B) it was understood that *rumours had it* that BAUHAUS Erde - also called BAUHAUS Earth - had been a great inspiration to New European Bauhaus and von der Leyen. BAUHAUS Earth confirms on their webpage that:

*“Bauhaus Earth was instrumental in establishing the New European Bauhaus initiative, we continue to advise and support its rollout and implementation.”*

(Bauhaus Erde, nd.).

Which is also confirmed by the fact that Joachim Schellnhuber, founder and Managing Director of Bauhaus Erde, is continually involved as a member of the HLRT. Joachim Schellnhuber and have been co-rapporteurs together with another BAUHAUS EARTH colleagues on the Horizon Europe and New European Bauhaus NEXUS report (Schellnhuber et al., 2022). It is unknown to this study when Bauhaus Erde and the EU Commission first started to collaborate, and how far back their influential contribution to the process goes. But it is clear many of the ideas of what NEB should become have been heavenly influence in a process taking place before the co-designing phase. Which have had an influence on which directions the co-design phase could go.

Similarly, the HLRT members were recruited based on how they related to the NEB values, which then must have been defined to some extent even earlier in the planning process. Even though the values and content of NEB still can evolve.

Creating some structures of what NEB should be and controlling who are involved in the process, could be seen as a pragmatic planning approach. It allows for a more controlled co-designing planning process which is more in line with what the EU Commission wished, as the participants are less likely to co-design outside of the parameters allowed by the EU Commission. Thus, creating deeper quality of the design, but less inputs challenging the overall structures.

The EU Commission's decisions to create the HLRT before the co-design process further sets a precedent for the tone of the co-creation process from the start. Many of the members of the HLRT have their professional fields within the built environment (EU Commission, nd. D). Which very well could have steered discussions and conversations in directions of the built environment. This prioritising of individuals within the built environment for the HLRT could however be due to the fact that NEB was originally linked more to the built environment, than what it has evolved into today. When NEB was first introduced at the State of the Union Address in 2020, it came in relation to the Renovation Wave, which is an initiative under the Green Deal concerning renovating buildings across Europe. While it has later been clarified that NEB is to embrace every sector, and work cross sectoral, the focus in the beginning was quite heavy on the built environment, urban planning and additionally also circular economy. This has most likely affected who engaged in the co-design of NEB, and subsequently what conversations and conclusions were being made. This claim is backed up by the HLRT having an overweight of members working within the built environment such as architects and professors within urban environments.

### 5.1.1 NEB as a collaborative process

NEBs planning approach has clear similarities with the pluralistic concept of critical pragmatism, and its focus on the importance of communicative and collaborative planning (see chapter 2.2). The collaborative element of NEB is seen in how NEBs ambitions is to include multifaceted perspectives and voices in designing local transformation projects, especially focusing on the people who are part of the community, but also actively working cross disciplinary focusing on including the voices which are often not involved. Thus, creating *sustainable* lives, which are *beautiful* for the people living them, *together* with the people liking them. Thus, both focus on EUs goal of investing in projects which can further the goals of the Green Deal, merging technical solutions with social and cultural perspectives. Within collaborative planning there is a notion that actors across different fields of knowledge should be invited into the planning process where they can share their different opinions, and through a properly mediated session(s) can reach a consensus on the debated subject. (Allmendinger, 2017). Healy states in her work "Shaping places in fragmented Societies", that within collaborative planning there are no voices more prominent than others (Healey, 2006).

In the case of NEB, each session might have been seemingly equal in how prominent each 'voice' has been, but this is not the general case of NEB, where some actors seem to hold more weight than others and experts have been extraordinarily invited. If no voice is more prominent than others, the understanding that expert knowledge is more important than other inputs get rejected (Allmendinger, 2017). So, while the co-design phase in design has been a collaborative process, it can hardly be seen as a collaborative *planning* process. The inclusion of the HLRT (a literal group of experts), and its close collaboration with the EU Commission, makes it seem like EU Commission has prioritised expert knowledge in the co-design phase - and especially in the phase before the co-design phase where the structure of how the phase should play out was made. While it could be argued non expert views and inputs were allowed through the *Free form* and *short stories*, is it hard to see that these should have had a bigger impact on the process than the voices of the HLRT. An example of this is the HLRT being invited to partake in conversations and regular discussion with the EU Commission, whereas the input on the free form and short stories only were a one-way input. The co-design phase did allow non-experts to participate through the *Free Form* and *Short Stories* contributions. But as compared to the HLRT and NEB partner, being invited to partake in conversations and regular discussion with the EU Commission, these inputs are a one-way conversation. Furthermore, it is unclear how the *Free Form* and *Short Stories* contributions were analysed and how much actually was taken up when formulating the *results* from the co-design process.

According to the EU Commission all inputs and applications were treated with the same amount of attention (EU Commission, 2021 B). This is however not the same as they were all equally weighted in the process of consolidating and defining NEB. For example, the *NEB Conference*, a central event for defining the three core values, only invited individuals from the HLRT and the official NEB-Partners (EU Commission, 2021 C). Furthermore, both the members of the HLRT and the official NEB-partners were resp. Handpicked and/or screened by the EU Commission, to be within the "scope of NEB" - before this NEB had even been defined within a co-designing process. Indicating the clear distinction in how inputs are weighted.

The inclusion of only official partners and members of the HLRT has potentially led opposing views to be lost or unchallenged.

How the *free form* and *short stories* seem to be prioritised less, is also seen in how there have not been published an analysis or summarization of what points from the contributions that was brought further. The Free form contributions can be downloaded on the EU webpage, but the files are not organised or even named, while the short stories have been summarised in diagrams that while still being hard to navigate still show a more systematic approach (EU Commission nd. B). The NEB *Conference* was at least followed up by a set of *visual harvesting* which documents the highlights from the sessions (EU Commission, 2021 D).

The lack of summarizations of the contributions can however also be a result of an overwhelming number of contributions and materials. In addition to the unquantifiable amounts of discussion and conversation held across the NEB community, a total of 1800 contributions were collected from the short-stories and 200 contributions were made in the free form (EU Commission, 2021 B). Analysing and making reports of this material would be an extensive task taking man hours away from other important tasks. It does however leave questions for how the contributions were used, or if they were just a database where the EU Commission could cherry pick inputs supporting the decisions they have already made. This argument is of course speculative, but for example, are only a few of the 1800 contributions on the short stories showcased as part of the report on the co-design process (EU Commission, 2021 B).

## 5.2 Planning approach and local projects

The previous discussion is not trying to devalue the positive aspects of what NEB is trying to do, and the changes it is trying to make culturally and systemically across the EU. While it is exciting that the EU Commission has been reaching out and experimenting with more collaborative approaches, transparency is still important for democratic processes, which they even state themselves. In their report on the co-design phase, in relation to analysing the data inputs from the co-design its written that:

*“For the process to be fully open and participative, it is necessary for it to be consistently transparent”* (EU Commission, 2021 B, p. 6)

When discussing democracy in regard to NEB, it is important to note the difference between NEB as an EU initiative, and what NEB tries to achieve in transformation on local sites. NEB

wants the local sites to engage in sustainable transformations using the values and principles defined in the co-design phase, and subsequently also in the NEB Compass. These processes are encouraged to be taking a Transdisciplinary approach, using participatory process, while having a multilevel engagement. (EU Commission, 2022 B). Which is seemingly in contrast to some of the processes being conducted within the establishment of this framework.

NEB holds aspects of a more deliberative democratic approach in its mission, as it wants local transformation projects to be designed together with the citizens going to use them. There is however quite a difference between the deliberative planning approach, which is encouraged locally, and the democratic approach within the EU itself. It needs to be noted that NEB does not use words such as 'deliberative democracy', but they are focusing on including the local voices in an inclusive way, going across gender, age, religion etc. Furthermore, NEB focuses on being transdisciplinary and includes fields such as arts and culture actively in the process of designing the local projects. While all the needed presuppositions of an ideal deliberative arena are not established, the planning process is pushed more towards that direction. Using the metaphor of NEB as a destination, the *destination* of NEB in its local transformations are driven in a more deliberative direction.

Within the EU level of NEB, the deliberative elements have a harder time gaining traction, as the power dynamics is clear. The Community can however be an important input to the political institutions and decision makers within the EU, and they can foster and create actual change on the ground through their work. Another very important role of the Community is their ability to work as the link between

The NEB Community could be seen as the link between the pluralistic viewpoints of multiple local actors, sites and projects – and the EU ecosystem through the EU Commission. The NEB community are ambassadors of NEB, but they are also ambassadors of the test sites and people they engage with. They bring NEB to the national, regional and local levels, but they also take the input back to the community. In the community knowledge and ideas are shared, work groups are formed, and new experiments are planned, and the results disseminated. This knowledge works feedback into the EU as inputs to areas which need attention and policy recommendations. This is especially important when the NEB community can communicate

what obstacles and missed opportunities are experienced throughout Europe by the people having to conduct the local sustainable transformations.

NEB is also a platform for deliberative discussions of where Europe and the EU are, culturally but also what specific systemic obstacles actors experience. The NEB Community thus becomes a filter and a translator between the complex 'real' world presenting the EU Commission with the real world's complexity put into policy recommendations and inputs they can understand within the NEB framework. When conducting such translation work, parts of the complexity will be lost, but it also makes it more actionable.



## 6 Conclusion

When reviewing the planning process of New European Bauhaus, it becomes apparent that there is a difference in the planning processes conducted when NEB was being established (*the journey*), and in the way NEB encourages other projects and especially sustainable local transformation projects to be planned (*the destination*). The difference between the two is likely due to the difference in planning level. On the one hand is the EU Commission, executing the EUs strategies and representing the EU, having to adhere to the political and legislative structures of the democratic institution. And on the other hand, is the local transformation projects, planning level is much closer to the people being planned for.

This study has been examining the planning process happening in the span between the two-planning levels, seen through the lenses of critical pragmatism. Besides the point already established, the following points will be concluding the study.

NEB is collaborative, but not idealistic collaborative planning. The planning, especially in the beginning was steered top down and seemed to emphasized collaboration with certain actors (professionals and experts) and lacked transparency, which is essential to ensuring democratic processes. Furthermore, the planning processes was heavily mediated, and the structures of the NEB was presented before an open co-design process, meaning the involved actors did have potential to co-design the structures of the framework, but more likely helped fill the framework out.

While the approach to the co-creation may not have lived up to the collaborative ideals, the co-design process still managed to receive inputs from all over Europe. Thus, sparking conversations and discussions that might not otherwise have occurred and encouraging a more deliberative approach of planning on the local scale. The co-designing also functioned to create awareness of the movement while it was being established.

Furthermore, apart from generating tools and testing ways to create actionable solutions and value through activities (such as the Lighthouse and NEB Lab), conversations and knowledge-sharing networks, the NEB community possesses the potential to serve as a vital tool for

translation and dissemination. The NEB community could be the translational bridge between the European Commission and the diverse realities experienced by Europeans, by becoming an inter-European community, capable of translating the pluralistic array of views and voices from all corners of Europe. The other way around has the NEB Community the potential to facilitate the creation of cultural movements across its networks by translating EU and NEB concepts and training.

Additionally, The NEB have highlighted the need for holistic and cross cutting planning internally within the EUs ecosystem of political strategies and funding.

NEB did successfully manage to create synergies between multiple political strategies and collaborated with multiple different programmes and funding opportunities.

to the citizens of Europe. Both in supporting and assisting in crating tools and principles for planning and executing local sustainable transformation, but also by helping overcome the systemic challenges, as for example identified within lacking education

The future of NEB remains uncertain, and it is partly dependent on if there will be a continuous political commitment driving NEB forward, both by the EU Commission, but also in the legislative orans of EU as they would decide if NEB should be earmarked in the funding.

In this regard the study highlight how NEB have managed to point out the need for holistic strategic planning programmes. It should be added that is NEB to continue, the authors stress the need for NEB to not become another silo in the EU system but have it as a focus point to stay flexible and collaborating across of silos.

Furthermore, NEB might not continue as an initiative, but the conversations and ideas NEB have already voiced and spread will not disappear simply because EU changes its focus. Likewise, the connections and network established trough the NEB Community, will not be undone, even if the NEB Community and its platforms are dissolved.

## 7 Perspective

This study focused on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative and reviewed the planning process in the span between the planning level of the EU and the local projects. The study has not investigated what the common practices of co-designing within the EU is or compared how NEB is differentiated. The study lightly touches on the complex network which is the EU institutions and how strategies, funding and political interest forms the creation and continuations of initiatives such as NEB. A better understanding and deeper analysis of the EU ecosystem would have uncovered additional layers to the critical review of the planning processes behind NEB. Which are likely to be more political than what have been uncovered for this study. Similarly, the study would have revealed new perspectives of the inner working of the initiative by the addition of more interviews or observations of the people actively working with NEB within the EU or more representatives from the NEB community.

This study investigates the planning processes of NEB and how it has created a framework for fostering local transformations projects. The study is based on official documents provided by the EU Commission, as part of their work in disseminating the initiative. This approach has led to the study, and its conclusions, to be more focused on the how planning have been conducted by the EU commission, or at least in EU level. The study has not been investigating how NEB is received on a local level and if it is valuable to the people and projects it seeks to support and encourage in a change.

For this study to excel even further the next step would be to take what have been learned through this study, and test how it has been received by local practitioners.

Another route this further research could take is within the field of *research and development*. It has been identified how NEB seems to successfully create synergies with other strategic areas of EU, collaborating with different programs and funding opportunities. If this trend continues, the field of professional trough out Denmark (and any EU member states really) should be prepared for the new opportunities within funding. How the narrative of e.g., Horizon Europe calls might gradually shift towards including the NEB values and principles. Or how construction buildings wanting to gain European traction needs to be framed within the

NEB compass. Understanding where EU is headed strategically, and being able to adapt, before the EU have finalized the written text in their calls could give the Danish actors an advantage, or at minimum a preparedness, in not losing out on funding opportunities and/or potential collaborations.

## 8. Bibliography

Allmendinger, Philip (2017) *Planning Theory* 3rd edition. (London: Palgrave)

Allmendinger, Philip. *Planning Theory*. 3rd edition., Palgrave, 2017.

Andersen, I. 2014. *Den skinbarlige virkelighed - vidensproduktion i samfundsvidenskaberne*, 5. ed. samfundslitteratur.

Bauhaus Erde, nd. *Work; Think tank; The Labs; Learning network*, <https://www.bauhauserde.org/work>, last accessed 31th of May 2023.

Bauhaus Kooperation, 2023, *Bauhaus Weimar 1919 – 1925*, <https://bauhauskooperation.com/knowledge/the-bauhaus/phases/bauhaus-weimar/>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Borberg Z. 2021, *EU – et overblik*. Multivers. 3 ed.

Bowen GA. 2009, *Document analysis as a qualitative research method*. Qualitative Research Journal 9: 27–40.

Council of the European Union, 2023, *Datoer for valget til EUROPA-PARLAMENTET I 2024*, [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64416/338\\_23\\_statement\\_da.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64416/338_23_statement_da.pdf), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Danish Ministry of Justice, 2011, *Hvor meget påvirker EU den danske lovgivning?*, *Folketinget EU-oplysningen* <https://www.eu.dk/da/faq/alle-faqs/hvor-meget-paavirker-eu-den-danske-lovgivning>, last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

digiNEB, nd., *Digital Solutions for the New European Bauhaus*, <https://digineb.eu/>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Directorate-General for Budget, European Commission, 2021, *The EU's 2021-2027 long-term budget and NextGenerationEU – Facts and figures*. Publications Office of the European Union. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2761/808559> last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Earth Overshoot Day, Global Footprint Network (EOD), 2022; *How the date of Earth Overshoot day 2022 was calculated*, <https://www.overshootday.org/2022-calculation/>, last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU Commission 2021 I, *New European Bauhaus: New actions and funding to link sustainability to style and inclusion*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_4626](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4626), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission nd. A, *Recovery plan for Europe*, [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en - documents](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/recovery-plan-europe_en - documents), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU Commission nd. B, *Co-design process and contributions*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions_en), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission nd. C, *New European Bauhaus About the initiative*, [About the initiative \(europa.eu\)](#) last accessed the 30th of May 2023.

EU Commission nd. D, *New European Bauhaus High-level roundtable*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/high-level-roundtable\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/high-level-roundtable_en), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 A, *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS (COM(2021) 573)*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29\\_573\\_EN\\_ACT.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29_573_EN_ACT.pdf), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 B, *Report on the co-design phase, ANNEX (COM(2021) 573)*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29\\_573\\_1\\_EN\\_annex.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29_573_1_EN_annex.pdf), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 C, *New European Bauhaus Conference Programme*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/co-design/conference/conference-programme\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/co-design/conference/conference-programme_en), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 D, *Visual harvesting New European Bauhaus Conference*, [Visual harvesting NewEuropeanBauhaus Conference 22-23042021.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 E, *Mobilising EU programmes Annex (COM(2021) 573)*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29\\_573\\_2\\_EN\\_annex.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM%282021%29_573_2_EN_annex.pdf) last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 F, *The New European Bauhaus policy ecosystem ANNEX (COM(2021) 573)*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM\(2021\)\\_573\\_3\\_EN\\_annex.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2021-09/COM(2021)_573_3_EN_annex.pdf), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 G, *New European Bauhaus: Commission launches design phase*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_111](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_111), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 H, *New European Bauhaus Prizes 2021*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/2021-prizes\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/2021-prizes_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2021 J, *Funding & tender opportunities (SEDIA); Support the deployment of lighthouse demonstrators for the New European Bauhaus initiative in the context of Horizon Europe missions (HORIZON-MISS-2021-NEB-01-01)*, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2021-neb-01-01;callCode=HORIZON-MISS-2021-NEB-01;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=callTopicSearchTableState>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2022 A, *New European Bauhaus: five lighthouse projects to be financed across Europe*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_2780](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2780), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2022 B, *New European Bauhaus Compass*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/NEB\\_Compass\\_V\\_4.pdf](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/NEB_Compass_V_4.pdf), last accessed 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2022 C, *First-ever New European Bauhaus Festival starts today in Brussels and around Europe*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_3486](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3486), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2022 D, *New European Bauhaus: applications open for the 2022 Prizes*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_347](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_347), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2022 E, *New European Bauhaus: applications open for the 2023 Prizes*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_7414](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7414), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2023 A, *REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS; New European Bauhaus progress Report (COM(2023))*, <https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/CP-003 - Report from the Commission %28EN%29 Part 1.pdf>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2023 C, *New European Bauhaus a major catalyst of the European Green Deal, funding to be scaled up further*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_23\\_203](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_203), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, 2023, B, *The New European Bauhaus Academy; Upskilling for bio-based materials, circularity & sustainability in construction; Call for Contributions*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/Call\\_for\\_Contribution-NEBAcademy\\_12.04.2023.pdf?](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/Call_for_Contribution-NEBAcademy_12.04.2023.pdf?), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. D, *New European Bauhaus Frequently asked questions*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/frequently-asked-questions\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/frequently-asked-questions_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. E, *New European Bauhaus Official partners*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/official-partners\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/official-partners_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. E, *New European Bauhaus; Project NEB Lab: Regulatory analysis and experimentation*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-regulatory-analysis-and-experimentation\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-regulatory-analysis-and-experimentation_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. F, *New European Bauhaus Become a Partner*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-partners\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-partners_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. G, *New European Bauhaus Co-design process and contributions*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. H, *New European Bauhaus Overview of examples*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/overview-examples\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/overview-examples_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. I, *New European Bauhaus Overview of Ideas*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions/overview-ideas\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions/overview-ideas_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. J, *New European Bauhaus Overview of Challenges*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions/overview-challenges\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/co-design-process-and-contributions/overview-challenges_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. K, *New European Bauhaus Delivery*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/delivery\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/delivery_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. L, *Research and innovation, EU Missions in Horizon Europe*, [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. M, *New European Bauhaus; The NEB Lab*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/neb-lab\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/neb-lab_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. N, *New European Bauhaus; Project NEB Lab: Labelling strategy*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-labelling-strategy\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired/inspiring-projects-and-ideas/neb-lab-labelling-strategy_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. O, *New European Bauhaus Become a Friend*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-friends\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/call-friends_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. P, *New European Bauhaus National Contact Points (NCP)*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/national-contact-points\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/national-contact-points_en), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Commission, nd. Q, *New European Bauhaus, NEB Academy*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/neb-academy\\_en?](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/neb-academy_en?), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU nd. A, *NextGenerationEU; make it real*, [https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://next-generation-eu.europa.eu/index_en), last visited 30th of May 2023.

EU nd. B, *New European Bauhaus: Beautiful, Sustainable, together*, [https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU nd. C, *EU institutions; European Commission*, [https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/search-all-eu-institutions-and-bodies/european-commission\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/search-all-eu-institutions-and-bodies/european-commission_en), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU nd. D, *Types of institutions and bodies*, [https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/types-institutions-and-bodies\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies/types-institutions-and-bodies_en), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

EU nd. E, *Types of legislations*, [https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/law/types-legislation\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/law/types-legislation_en), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.



EU, nd. F, *New European Bauhaus prizes 2021 Finalist*, <https://2021.prizes.new-european-bauhaus.eu/finalists>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

EU Parliament, Ehler C. Sempere M, 2022, *Report on the New European Bauhaus (A9-0213/2022)*, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0213\\_EN.html-section1](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0213_EN.html-section1), last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Schellnhuber, H., Widera, B., Kutnar, A. et al., 2022, *Horizon Europe and new European Bauhaus NEXUS report – Conclusions of the High-Level Workshop on ‘Research and Innovation for the New European Bauhaus’, jointly organised by DG Research and Innovation and the Joint Research Centre*. Publications Office of the

European Union. <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/49925> last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Forrester, John (1989) *Planning in the Face of Power* (London: University of California Press)  
Galaz V. et.al, 2012, *Global environmental governance and planetary boundaries: An introduction*. Ecological Economics volume 81 pages 1-3  
[https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800912000870?casa\\_token=60n8KRqfwasAAAAA:NyhWby6iWkhiYaU487EYwzVzrelNhN7-sAqlrCCEuLt5RLyOfllcQUofVJ6r1MHbLyQhcUoigBM](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800912000870?casa_token=60n8KRqfwasAAAAA:NyhWby6iWkhiYaU487EYwzVzrelNhN7-sAqlrCCEuLt5RLyOfllcQUofVJ6r1MHbLyQhcUoigBM), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

Healey P., 2009, *The Pragmatic Tradition in Planning Thought*, Journal of Planning Education and Research 28 p. 277-292, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Healey, Patsy. *Collaborative Planning : Shaping Places in Fragmented Societies*. 2. ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

IPCC, 2023, *Synthesis report of the IPCC sixth assessment report (AR6)*, [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syrr/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6syrr/pdf/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

Latour B., 1996, *On Actor-Network Theory: A Few Clarifications*, Soziale Welt 47, no. 4 p. 369-81. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40878163>.

Latour B., 1999, *Circulating reference; Sampling the soil in the Amazon Forest*, Pandora's Hope; Essays on the reality of Science Studies, Harvard University Press, ISBN 0-674-65335-1

Naujokaityté G. 2021, *EIT Launches €5M New European Bauhaus scheme*, <https://sciencebusiness.net/climate-news/news/eit-launches-eu5m-new-european-bauhaus-scheme>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Papazu, Irina et Winthereik, Brit Ross *Aktørnetværksteori i Praksis* (2021) 1st edition (København: Djøf forlag)

Prior L. 2003. *Using Documents in Social Research*. London: SAGE.

Ragin C. C., 1992, *What is a Case?; Exploring the foundations of social inquiry*, Press syndicate Cambridge university. ISBN-0-521-42050-4 [1992 Ragin What is a case chapter.pdf](https://www.miguelangelmartinez.net) ([miguelangelmartinez.net](https://www.miguelangelmartinez.net))

Raworth K., 2017, Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century. Times Higher Education (2302) p.47–.

RockStörm J. et.al., 2009; *A safe operating space for humanity*, Nature vol. 261, Macmillian Publishers limited <https://www.nature.com/articles/461472a.pdf>, last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

Rønholt N. nd., *Rambøll; Enhancing quality of life*, <https://www.ramboll.com/news/ramboll-part-of-new-european-bauhaus?>, last accessed the 31th of May 2023.

Rorty, R., 1982, *Consequences of pragmatism : essays 1972-1980*. Brighton: Harvester.

Ryan M., 2004, *ACTOR NETWORK THEORY*, A-Ritzer-Encyclopaedia p. 1-20.

Sarah L Dalglish and others, Document analysis in health policy research: the READ approach, *Health Policy and Planning*, Volume 35, Issue 10, December 2020, Pages 1424–1431, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czaa064> last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

United Nations, 1987, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: note/by the Secretary-General, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/139811>, last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.

Von der Leyen, 2020, *State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary*, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH\\_20\\_1655](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH_20_1655), last accessed on the 30th of May 2023.