CALL / TOPIC DOSSIER

Understanding inhabitant’s experiences of neighbourhoods to support their health and well-being

Beautiful, inclusive and sustainable neighbourhoods for communities

KEY FACTS

Call code	HORIZON-NEB-2026-01
Topic code	HORIZON-NEB-2026-01-PARTICIPATION-03
Programme	Horizon Europe
Status	Open
MGA Type	HORIZON Lump Sum Grant
Action Type	HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions
Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	2026-05-05 00:00:00
Deadline date	2026-12-01 00:00:00
Budget (EUR)	15,000,000.0
No. of grants	3.0
Budget / grant (EUR)	5,000,000.0

EXPECTED OUTCOME

> Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: Robust evidence on how inhabitants experience their neighbourhood [1] and the impact of these experiences on their health and well-being. The research informs policies, strategies, neighbourhood planning and procurement for the green transition [1] of neighbourhoods, including their nature-positive [3] transformation and climate resilience.

SCOPE

Neighbourhoods are human-social constructs and environments. They are shaped by complex inter-connections and interdependencies of human and non-human actors in the natural and built environment [1] they comprise. An increasing body of research is looking at the relationship between people and the built environment, from neuro-architectural aspects of space to atmosphere and ambiance aspects in urban design and planning, influencing also the perception of beauty. Digitalisation is also allowing to understand, map and enhance how inhabitants experience the built environment. Yet, more evidence is needed on how inhabitants react to and identify with their neighbourhoods as well as the effects of these experiences on their physical and mental health and overall well-being. Such insights can help inform spatial planning and regeneration strategies for the green transition of neighbourhoods, including their nature-positive transformation and climate resilience, while delivering positive social and cultural impacts such as sense of community, security and belonging, or cultural identity. This topic will further investigate how inhabitants experience their neighbourhoods, the impact of these experiences on their health and well-being, and how these experiences can be improved through NEB in the context of the green transition. Proposals are expected to address all of the following: Obtain a deep understanding of inhabitants' sensory and emotional experience of their neighbourhood and the impact of these experiences on their health and well-being. Proposals are expected to: Involve in the research a diversity of people and groups, including those in a vulnerable situation and/or marginalised (such as women, children, youth, older adults, people with physical and psychological functional variations and their families/carers, LGTBIQA+ people, migrants and refugees). Assess the extent to which experiences and impacts vary across sociodemographic groups as well as in neighbourhoods with different characteristics. For example, in relation to the geography (e.g. urban, peri-urban, rural, coastal, insular areas); the quality of the built environment, including its accessibility and perceived beauty; social, economic and demographic characteristics (e.g. population density, social mixing, social infrastructure [1] , property census); reputation; access to natural, cultural and artistic spaces and offers. Provide consistent and comparable data across different project sites and populations, making use of, among others, the NEB self-assessment method [6] . Validate the findings in at least three neighbourhoods (in urban, peri-urban and rural areas) located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries. Based on the research evidence, provide recommendations to local authorities and the artistic, cultural and heritage sector in those neighbourhoods on how to: Improve inhabitants' experiences and sense of belonging of/in their neighbourhoods. Support the health and well-being of neighbourhood inhabitants. Guide the green transition of neighbourhoods, including their nature-positive transformation and climate resilience. Proposals are expected to follow a participatory [1] and transdisciplinary [1] approach through the integration of different actors and disciplines. This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) [1] disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities. Proposals are expected to allocate at least 0.8% of their budget for engaging with the Horizon Europe-funded 'New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact' to share their intermediate and final results, findings and learning, as well as to contribute to impact assessment. [1] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [2] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [3] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [4] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [5] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [6] European Commission, 'NEB Self-Assessment Method', New European Bauhaus , accessed 5 August 2025, https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/tools-and-resources/neb-self-assessment-method_en [7] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [8] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27. [9] See definition in the Glossary section of the NEB part of the HE WP26-27.

DESTINATION

> Connecting the green transformation, social inclusion and local democracy (2026-27)

IMPACT POSITION IN THE EC ARCHITECTURE

Policy priorities	New European Bauhaus · Renovation Wave · KSO 1 · The green transition · KSO 3 · A more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe
Expected impact (Destination)	New European Bauhaus – “Place-based, citizen-co-created transformation joining sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion.” (Horizon Europe - New European Bauhaus facility)
Demand signal	55 organisations registered a partner-search on this topic

> Outside the Pillar II clusters this strategic frame is context — expected impacts in this work programme part are not derived directly from the Strategic Plan.

KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS & EC INDICATORS

KIP 6 · Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society (primary)

KIP 4 · Addressing EU policy priorities and global challenges through R&I (secondary)

PATHWAY	HORIZON	INDICATOR TO MIRROR IN §2
KIP 6	short	Projects with citizen / end-user co-creation
	medium	Outreach / diffusion to citizens
	long	Societal uptake of R&I outputs

IMPACT WRITING BRIEF (PER EXPECTED OUTCOME)

1 · Evidence on lived neighbourhood experience

> “Robust evidence on how inhabitants experience their neighbourhood”

Target groups `neighbourhood inhabitants · spatial planners, urban designers and regeneration authorities · public-health and well-being actors`

Narrative `Generate robust evidence on how inhabitants experience their neighbourhood and how that affects health/well-being — drawing on people-built-environment research (neuro-architecture, atmosphere, digital mapping), with inhabitants engaged.`

CANDIDATE KPI	BASELINE SOURCE
Evidence linking neighbourhood experience to health/well-being outcomes	existing (limited) people-built-environment evidence per the scope
Inhabitant cohorts/neighbourhoods covered by the evidence	baseline coverage

2 · Evidence into planning & procurement

> “The research informs policies, strategies, neighbourhood planning and procurement”

Target groups `local/regional planning and procurement authorities · green-transition and regeneration programmes · NEB community`

Narrative `The evidence must inform real planning, strategies and procurement for the green (and nature-positive, climate-resilient) transition of neighbourhoods — make it actionable for authorities, not just academic.`

CANDIDATE KPI	BASELINE SOURCE
Planning/strategy/procurement decisions informed by the evidence	current evidence use in neighbourhood planning
Authorities adopting the well-being-informed approaches	zero baseline

BARRIERS IN THIS DOMAIN (§2.1.2)

BARRIER	WHY IT BITES HERE	MITIGATION ANGLE
Measuring subjective experience and well-being rigorously	the outcome needs robust evidence on lived experience	mixed methods; validated well-being instruments; digital mapping
Translating evidence into planning/ procurement	impact requires authority uptake	co-design with planners; procurement-ready guidance
Equity across diverse inhabitants	experience varies by group	inclusive sampling; intersectional analysis
Transferability across neighbourhoods	neighbourhoods differ	context-tagged evidence; transferable frameworks

Scale frame	How widespread: neighbourhoods, inhabitants and authorities reached by the evidence and informed strategies.
Significance frame	Value of the benefit: healthier, greener neighbourhoods shaped by lived experience — anchor to the New European Bauhaus and green-transition objectives.
KIP 6 claim	Strengthens societal uptake: inhabitant experience shaping neighbourhood transformation (a New European Bauhaus pathway).
KIP 4 claim	Serves NEB and green-transition policy priorities for neighbourhoods.
Dissemination	New European Bauhaus community; planning, urban-health and regeneration networks · open evidence and planning guidance
Communication	inhabitant-facing engagement and feedback
Exploitation	evidence adopted into neighbourhood planning, strategies and procurement
DNSH	Neighbourhood well-being research for the green transition — positively aligned with climate/environmental objectives.

DECODED REQUIREMENTS (10)

REQUIRED (10)

REQUIREMENT	WHAT THE PROPOSAL MUST DO	EVIDENCE (VERBATIM)
Understand sensory/emotional neighbourhood experience	Obtain a deep understanding of inhabitants' sensory and emotional experience of their neighbourhood and the impact on their health and well-being.	Obtain a deep understanding of inhabitants’ sensory and emotional experience of their neighbourhood and the impact of these experiences on their health and well-being.
Involve diverse and vulnerable groups	Involve a diversity of people in the research, including vulnerable and marginalised groups (women, children, youth, older adults, people with functional variations, LGTBIQA+, migrants, refugees).	Involve in the research a diversity of people and groups, including those in a vulnerable situation and/or marginalised (such as women, children, youth, older adults, people with physical and psychological functional ...
Assess variation across groups and neighbourhoods	Assess how experiences and impacts vary across sociodemographic groups and across neighbourhoods with different characteristics (geography, built-environment quality, social/ economic/demographic factors, etc.).	Assess the extent to which experiences and impacts vary across sociodemographic groups as well as in neighbourhoods with different characteristics.
Comparable data using NEB self-assessment method	Provide consistent and comparable data across project sites and populations, using among others the NEB self-assessment method.	Provide consistent and comparable data across different project sites and populations, making use of, among others, the NEB self-assessment method [6] .
Validate in >=3 neighbourhoods, >=3 countries	Validate the findings in at least three neighbourhoods spanning urban, peri-urban and rural areas, in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries.	Validate the findings in at least three neighbourhoods (in urban, peri-urban and rural areas) located in at least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries.
Recommendations to authorities and culture sector	Provide evidence-based recommendations to local authorities and the artistic/cultural/ heritage sector on improving inhabitants' experiences, supporting health/well-being and guiding the green transition.	Based on the research evidence, provide recommendations to local authorities and the artistic, cultural and heritage sector in those neighbourhoods on how to: Improve inhabitants’ experiences and sense of belonging of...
Participatory, transdisciplinary approach	Follow a participatory and transdisciplinary approach integrating different actors and disciplines.	Proposals are expected to follow a participatory [1] and transdisciplinary [1] approach through the integration of different actors and disciplines.
Mandatory SSH integration	Effectively integrate SSH disciplines, experts and institutions to enhance the societal impact of the research.	This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) [1] disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to p...
Allocate >=0.8% budget to NEB hub engagement	Allocate at least 0.8% of the budget to engage with the NEB hub for results and impact, sharing results and contributing to impact assessment.	Proposals are expected to allocate at least 0.8% of their budget for engaging with the Horizon Europe-funded 'New European Bauhaus hub for results and impact' to share their intermediate and final results, findings an...

REQUIREMENT	WHAT THE PROPOSAL MUST DO	EVIDENCE (VERBATIM)
Lump sum grant	Budget the proposal as a lump sum per the 7 July 2021 lump sum decision, using the detailed budget table (HE LS).	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme

Decoded by session — every quote is a verbatim substring of the stored call text.



CANDIDATE COORDINATORS

Track record in this call's thematic area — a shortlist to research, not an endorsement.

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	COORDINATED
UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM	NL	21
THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD	UK	18
FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV	DE	17
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	UK	16
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE	IT	16
KOBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET	DK	15
UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT	NL	14
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN	IE	13

ORGANISATIONS THAT REGISTERED INTEREST (15)

ORGANISATION	COUNTRY	TYPE
TIMELEX	Belgium	Private for profit organisation
SYNYO GmbH	Austria	Small or medium-size enterprise
EURONOVIA	France	Private for profit organisation
MINDS & SPARKS GMBH	Austria	Research Organisation
21C CONSULTANCY LIMITED	United Kingdom	Private for profit organisation
LASER CONSULT MUSZAKI-TUDOMANYOS ES GAZDASAGI TANACSADO KORLATOLT FELELOSSEGU TARSASAG	Hungary	Small or medium-size enterprise
SELCUK UNIVERSITESI	Turkey	Higher or secondary education establishment
INTERNATIONALE ARBEIDSVERENIGING	Netherlands	Non-governmental organization
GRANT GARANT SRO	Czech Republic	Private for profit organisation
ASSOCIAZIONE MAGHWEB	Italy	Non-governmental organization
CERCA TROVA	Bulgaria	Small or medium-size enterprise
INSTITUT FUR ROMA UND MINDERHEITENEV	Germany	Non-governmental organization

RESEARCHER LONGLIST (80)

Evidence-backed matches from the fit-finder engine.

#	RESEARCHER	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	CONF.
1	David Ogilvie	GB	University of Cambridge	high
2	Jenna Panter	GB	University of Cambridge	high
3	Alice Reid	GB	University of Cambridge	high
4	Martin Steinert	NO	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	high
5	Elham Andalib	NO	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	high
6	Alenka Temeljotov Salaj	NO	Norwegian University of Science and Technology	high
7	Mathew P. White	AT	Vienna University of Economics and Business	high
8	Lora E. Fleming	GB	University of Exeter	high
9	Himansu Sekhar Mishra	FI	Tampere University of Applied Sciences	high
10	Simon Bell	EE	Estonian University of Life Sciences	high
11	Nicole van den Bogerd	NL	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	high
12	Lewis R. Elliott	GB	University of Exeter	high
13	Joanne K. Garrett	GB	University of Exeter	high
14	J. Alstan Jakubiec	CA	University of Toronto	high
15	Marianne F. Touchie	CA	University of Toronto	high

CANONICAL SOURCE

EU portal	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-NEB-2026-01-PARTICIPATION-03