

Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for New European Bauhaus (NEB) Mentors

24th November, 2025



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1. Call Summary

The aim of this Call for Expression of Interest (CEI), launched under the EIT Community New European Bauhaus (NEB), is to set up a list of independent external experts, hereinafter referred to as “NEB Mentors”.

Topic:	Call for Expression of Interest (CEI) for NEB Mentors
Dates:	Opening Date: Monday, 24th November, 2025 Call Deadline: on an on-going bases with applications first batched on Monday, 22nd December, 2025 and last on Monday, 23rd March, 2026 (23:59 CEST) Evaluation: on an on-going basis Results of the Call for Expression of Interest announced: on an on-going basis Mentorship Assignments: from February 2026 onwards, as follows: Grow NEB: February– September 2026 Catalyse NEB: June – November 2026 Enhance NEB: June – February 2027
Application Form:	https://airtable.com/appaUqHYUEqXBzVPp/pagPNI2u5LVwqcztI/form

2. EIT Community New European Bauhaus

The EIT Community New European Bauhaus (NEB) is committed to delivering the [Green Deal](#) in terms of:

- **Sustainability** (goals to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity);
- **Aesthetics** (quality of experience and style, beyond functionality);
- **Inclusion** (from valuing diversity to securing accessibility, and affordability).

To transition towards a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive society, EIT Community NEB aims at identifying and supporting start-ups, scale-ups, higher education institutions (students) and spin-offs as well as communities (citizens) and public decision-makers, who converge on the common NEB goals.

For a coordinated and joint approach in the abovementioned EU policy areas, EIT Community NEB is led by [EIT Urban Mobility](#) with support from [Climate KIC](#), [EIT Food](#), and [EIT Manufacturing](#).

3. Objective of the Call for Expression of Interest

The objective of this Call for Expression of Interest is to identify independent external experts — **NEB Mentors** — to support EIT Community NEB activities. The Mentors are to “think Bauhaus”¹ and help participants of EIT Community NEB Calls under Horizon Europe as well as related programmes to further integrate the core values of “sustainability”, “aesthetics”, and “inclusion” within the built environment and beyond.

NEB Mentors may be assigned to any of the following EIT Community NEB Calls: **Catalyse NEB**, **Grow NEB**, and **Enhance NEB**. **Mentorships** will be adjusted, as needed, to deliver the desired outcome for:

- [Catalyse](#) the objective of which is to refine the value proposition, go-to-market strategy, and investor pitch of altogether **20 startups** addressing societal challenges with the wider aim of improving the well-being of people and the Planet;
- [Grow](#) the objective of which is to support **9 teams** in prototyping, validating and testing their early-stage social impact solutions with end-users;
- [Enhance](#) the objective of which is to support **4 initiatives** with the potential to scale up (inter)nationally and increase citizens’ involvement in the (urban) planning and design of cities and the communities.

To be able to contribute to a more just society and sustainable forms of living, NEB Mentors are to support the selected Mentees in their transition towards greener and more resilient practices. This means putting the Mentees’ design and entrepreneurial capability into action through combining

¹ See A Practical Guide to the New European Bauhaus self-assessment method and tool JRC139118_01.pdf

analytical tools of systems-thinking with the creative methods of human-centric design to solve many and diverse challenges that our society is facing, along the lines of:

- **Reconnecting with nature:** more awareness and willingness to address climate change and reduce exposure to pollution;
- **Regaining sense of belonging:** building bridges between people, emphasizing the role of cultural and social assets as key factors to make places unique and meaningful;
- **Prioritizing the places and people that need it the most:** affordable and accessible solutions for all, with focus on the most vulnerable groups and individuals;
- **Fostering long-term, life cycle and integrated thinking in the industrial ecosystem:** the need for more circularity to tackle unsustainable use of resources and waste.

For further information on the four thematic axes as well as a guiding framework on the NEB values, please acquaint yourself with the [NEB Compass](#) interface.

4. Eligibility Criteria

NEB Mentors are expected to have minimum 10 years of relevant professional experience as well as a strong grasp of design-led strategy and development processes in at least one of the four challenges defined by the New European Bauhaus initiative, as outlined in Section 3 — Objective of the Call for Expression of Interest.

NEB Mentors must be able to demonstrate the following to apply:

- **Systems Thinking:** communicate complexity in simple ways;
- **Life-Centredness:** articulate a human- and planet-centric approach to NEB;
- **Design-Led Approach:** understand when and how to apply (service) design to solve complex challenges;
- **Savviness:** think strategically and identify a compelling path forward for NEB;
- **Enablement:** be(come) part of social change.

Additionally, **NEB Design Mentors** must have:

- experience in designing products, services, systems and/or experiences that prioritise the principles of (social) sustainability;

- comprehensive approach to design thinking with the ability to address large-scale environmental and climate challenges through design;
- creativity and openness to social engagement, arts and culture;
- a vision of how NEB could help build a fairer and more inclusive society at a time of economic, political, and ecological instability.

NEB Business Mentors must have:

- demonstrable experience taking an idea from (design) research into a market launch as a core member of a start-up, an entrepreneur, and/or a venture capitalist;
- ability to generate new opportunities by thinking creatively about financial impact, risk analysis, and data;
- essential tools for developing environmentally and socially responsible business models that drive positive impact;
- ability to inspire the EIT Community NEB through business and entrepreneurial thinking while recognizing the complementary nature of design and entrepreneurial capacity.

5. NEB Mentorship Assignments

NEB Mentors are expected to carry out a variety of tasks, including: participate in briefing and debriefing sessions; facilitate 1-on-1 mentorship sessions; and report on the assigned Mentorship(s) following the **Mentoring Evaluation Form**. Most importantly, though, Mentors are to help the Mentees to clarify their **Individual Development Plans**; that is, goals, strengths, and areas of desired growth to ground and guide the Mentees as they progress through their Mentorship.

All details regarding each Mentorship Assignment, including working arrangements, and mentorship fees, will be specified in the Mentorship Contract.

6. Selection Criteria and Inclusion into the List of NEB Mentors

Selection of EIT Community NEB Mentors is dependent on:

- the need for a specific NEB Mentor profile as detailed under Section 3;
- recognition of the Mentor's experience as detailed under Section 4;
- if applicable, previous involvement with EIT Community NEB and/or other NEB-led initiative(s).

Applicants will be assessed on a Pass or Fail basis against the following criteria:

- **Experience:** both subject matter expertise and mentorship experience relevant to serving as a NEB Mentor;
- **Personal capability and motivation:** commitment to undertake a Mentorship Assignment, including the (perceived) ability to support a Mentee;
- **Alignment with the New European Bauhaus:** demonstrated understanding of the core values of NEB.

Only applicants who pass all criteria will be added to the list of EIT Community NEB Mentors.

Selection of EIT Community NEB Mentors follows **a two-stage process**. In the first stage, all applications will be reviewed, and applicants will be informed whether they have been accepted into the NEB Mentorship Database. **Inclusion in the database does not guarantee that a Mentor will be assigned to a Mentee.** In the second stage, prior to the start of an EIT Community NEB Programme, Mentors included in the database will be paired with Mentees on a case-by-case basis to ensure the best possible alignment between their profiles and the Mentees' needs.

Notwithstanding any preliminary agreement between the Mentor and the Mentee, no Mentorship Contract will be issued if EIT Manufacturing considers that there is a conflict of interest that may compromise the impartial and objective selection of the Mentee and/or the provision of Mentorship Assignment for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest.

By responding to this Call for Expression of Interest and signing the Contract, Mentors are expected to perform their assignments to the highest professional standards, in compliance with the conditions set out in this Call, as well as the **Terms of Reference**, the **Code of Conduct**, and the **Declaration of Honour**, which will be provided at the time of signing the **Mentorship Contract**.

7. Mentorship Fees

Mentorship Fees are estimated to range between €1,000 and €1,500 per Mentorship Assignment, **net of taxes**.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to update Mentorship Assignments and Fees at the time of signing the Contracts. All fees payable to Mentors will be subject to the completion of the Mentorship Assignment and its approval by EIT Manufacturing as the Contracting Authority.

9. Application Instructions

Expressions of Interest must be submitted fully **in English** via the [Application Form](#).

EIT Manufacturing as the Contracting Authority reserves the right to request additional documents and revise its evaluation based on any original documents submitted by the applicant.

8. Expiry Date of the List Resulting from the Call for Expression of Interest

The list of NEB Mentors resulting from this Call for Expression of Interest is valid until the end of 2027. Those interested in serving as NEB Mentors may submit their Expression of Interest by any of the Call deadlines set by EIT Community NEB.

All decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of Applications is taken by EIT Community NEB — [EIT Urban Mobility](#), [Climate-KIC](#), [EIT Food](#), and [EIT Manufacturing](#) — in charge of the given Call and dependent on the budget available.

9. Other Conditions

Code of Conduct

By replying to this Call for Expression of Interest, and consequently, signing the Mentorship Contract, all applicants undertake to perform their Mentorship Assignments to the highest of professional standards, and in compliance with the conditions set out in this Call, as well as the Terms of

Reference, Code of Conduct, Declaration of Honour, and the Expression of Interest Guidelines, as agreed upon at the time of signing the Mentorship Contract.

Record-keeping

Any records and supporting documentation must be kept, as a proof of compliance, for at least three years after receiving the final payment under a Mentorship Contract.

In the event of any on-going checks, audits, investigations, litigation or, any other claims, records and supporting documentation must be kept until the abovementioned procedures have been concluded.

Exclusion

Only EU residents or residents of countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme are eligible to apply. Applicants who are subject to administrative sanctions in the EU (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision) or, in one of the following situations, will be excluded from receiving the Mentorship Contract:

- bankruptcy, winding up, court-ordered administration, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities or similar procedures;
- in breach of social security or tax obligations;
- guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- accused of fraud or corruption;
- related to criminal organisations;
- guilty of money laundering or terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or, human trafficking;
- show significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar;
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95²
- own an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin;

Mentors will also be refused a Mentorship Contract if it becomes evident that:

- Applicants have misrepresented information required as a pre-condition for them participate at the Call for Expression of Interest or that they have failed to provide information requested in the Call;
- there is a conflict of interest.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A31995R2988>

Ownership and use of the results — IPR

Results arising from the Mentorship Assignments (including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights) will remain the property of the contracting authority; that is, EIT Manufacturing. The rights will be obtained for the full term of intellectual property protection. Delivery and approval of Mentorship Assignments are considered to constitute an effective assignment of rights to EIT Manufacturing.

Data Protection and Privacy Statement

EIT Manufacturing, as the Contracting Authority, acts as the Data Controller for all Applicants' personal data. This data is collected and processed for the purpose of evaluating the Expressions of Interest and managing any resulting Mentorship Contracts.

Applicants have the right to access, rectify, or delete their personal data, as well as to object to or restrict its processing. To exercise these rights, or for any data protection inquiries, please contact: dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu.

Appropriate measures are in place to ensure data security and mitigate potential risks. Further information on the Data Controller and details of data processing activities can be found in the [EIT Manufacturing Privacy Policy](#).

Amendments

Mentorship Contracts may be amended unless the amendment entails changes to the Contract which would call into question the decision of awarding the Contract or lead to the breach of the principle of equal treatment. Amendments to the contract may be requested by both Contract parties in writing. The request for amendment must include the reasons for which it is made and all necessary supporting documents. Unless agreed otherwise, no new tasks can be undertaken until the Amendment has taken full effect, either, then, on the day of the last signature of the Amendment or another date, as agreed by both parties.

Checks, audits and investigations

EIT Manufacturing Contracts may be subject to checks, audits and investigations (not only by the contracting authority, but also by the European Commission, and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and European Court of Auditors (ECA), as

provided for under their constitutive acts³⁾ — both during and after the end of the Mentorship Contract.

Rejection — Reduction — Suspension — Termination — Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Manufacturing, as the Contracting Authority may deny, withhold or reduce Mentorship fees if:

- Mentorship Assignments have not been delivered in accordance with the Mentorship Contract;
- Mentor has committed substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations under the Contract or during the award of the Contract (including in terms of non-compliance with the conditions of the Call for Expression of Interest, false declarations or breach of Terms of Reference or the Code of Conduct).

Contracting Authority may terminate the Contract if Mentor's services are no longer needed or, the Contract cannot or, can no longer, be fulfilled and/or if substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or, serious breach of obligations have been identified under the Contract or during the award of the Contract (including in terms of non-compliance with the Call conditions, false declarations, breach of Terms of Reference or Code of Conduct), in particular if:

- the Mentorship Assignment is not delivered, is delivered poorly, or is delivered late;
- the Mentor has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct.

Liability

EIT Manufacturing, as the Contracting Authority, cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the Mentor (or any third party) as a consequence of the Contract.

Applicable law — Dispute settlement

The applicable law and dispute settlement mechanisms will be detailed in the Mentorship Contract.

³For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 57 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.