

Enhance NEB 2027 ■ Call for New Partners



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NEB Connect + 2026 ■ Brussels, Belgium

Interact-Us

House of Sustainable Transitions (HOST)
University (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, VUB)
Thematic (Climate)

THE PREVIOUS PROJECT

The challenge:

- Urban Sustainability Challenges in Brussels Capital Region
- Intergenerational perspectives on sustainability

What we implemented:

- A transformative change process “Factor 8” on the topic of intergenerational perspectives and learning
- Tested and applied in an university course

What we achieved:

- Bringing together scientists, youth and older generations
- Develop arts-based approaches for the Factor 8
- An outreach event with an exhibition of the journey and outputs

Read more:

<https://www.house-of-sustainable-transitions.be/factor8>

THE NEW ENHANCE DIRECTION

The new proposal / first ideas:

- Establish further the community of practice consisting of researches, youth and older generations on sustainability challenges
- Further improve the application and usage of arts and arts-based practices
- Engage with local authorities and regional plans on identified sustainability challenges (specifically related to housing, waste, cultural inclusion)

Interested in collaborating?

Please reach out to:

Lode, Maria Luisa (PhD)
Maria.Luisa.Lode@vub.be



WHAT WE BRING

We bring along sustainability expertise in food, economy, building, mobility and energy (more than 200 researchers) and work further on the Factor 8 Process.

We have established connections to different communes in Brussels, students and the university.

LOOKING FOR

Where could a new partner add value?

- Local authorities
- Arts communities, artists, established organisations that support youth and older citizens

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Co-Create 2026 ■ Talamona + Ponte in Valtellina, Italy

Common Sounds

Studio Shift

Benefit Enterprise (micro-SME)

Thematic (Climate)

THE PREVIOUS PROJECT

The challenge:

- Public music spaces were underused and closed to the wider community, with no places to gather around philharmonic music (as a collective heritage).
- Access to music was limited: high costs and few opportunities for kids with cognitive disabilities.

What we implemented:

- A co-creation model with schools, families, local philharmonic societies.
- Two pilot services: the Instrument Library in Talamona and the Music Courtyard in Ponte in Valtellina.

What we achieved:

- Both services were co-created with the local communities and are now implemented. They
- are currently in the testing phase.

THE NEW ENHANCE DIRECTION

- **Replicate the Instrument Library as a “circular goods” strategy:** instruments donated, lent and reused by the community, and as a tool to fight educational poverty by making musical exploration accessible to all.
- **Bring music to more public places.** Music in public space proved to be a powerful driver of intergenerational growth and of attachment and identity. We want to work on other public venues that can host musical events, for example along the river.
- **Strengthen the supporting services, such as video tutorials** on instrument maintenance and instructions that go beyond AAC (autism-friendly) **to address other specific disabilities.**

Interested in collaborating?

Please reach out to:

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WHAT WE BRING

Strong, rooted communities; a tested co-creation methodology; a ready-to-use toolkit to launch an Instrument Library elsewhere, with guidance on which instruments to acquire, ready-made printable forms (also in AAC) and support videos on maintenance for at least 5 instruments.

LOOKING FOR

New implementation sites for the Instrument Library, as a circular-goods and educational-poverty strategy; partners able to work on public spaces equipping them for musical events (placemaking); technical expertise on accessibility, helping us develop instructions and materials for specific disabilities, going beyond AAC.