

Our Preamble

We, the NEBULA (New European Bauhaus In Urban And Rural Areas) team, speak as a united voice of a European generation ready to lead. With hope, courage, and determination, we embrace diversity, celebrate innovation, and rise to address the challenges that our communities face, across borders.



This manifesto is not just a document; it is our call to action, a declaration of our commitment to transform dreams into reality. At its heart, this manifesto recognizes young people as the main actors in the transformation of their communities, driving change with their creativity, resilience, and vision.

Together, we strive for a future where every voice is heard, every effort is valued, and every vision has the power to inspire, especially within the context of European collaboration.

Our Vision

Forgotten Spaces

Transform forgotten spaces. Create hubs of connection. Spark innovation.

Sustainability First

Sustainability is a principle. Guide every action. Ensure a greener future.

Youth Leadership

Empower young people. Inspire community reimagining. Foster thriving ecosystems.

Our learnings

The findings of the NEBULA project underline the transformative potential of empowering young people. The analysis reveals that youth-driven projects thrive when they combine elements of creativity, sustainability, and active community involvement. These principles emerged from workshops, participatory activities, and case studies conducted across diverse European contexts.



1. Sustainability Is Non-Negotiable

Every NEBULA project and initiative highlights the urgent need to prioritize sustainability. From reducing carbon footprints to integrating renewable energy, these initiatives emphasize long-term ecological balance. Why is this important? Because our planet faces escalating environmental crises that impact every aspect of our lives. Sustainability ensures that the resources we use today are available for future generations. This lesson underscores the importance of thinking beyond immediate gains. Whether you're a policymaker, educator, or entrepreneur, embedding sustainability into every decision ensures that your actions contribute to a healthier planet and more resilient communities.

2. Community Engagement Drives Success

Looking back at our research and at all the ideas submitted under the Pitch your NEBULA project contest, we can certainly say that community involvement is not optional—it's essential. Initiatives submitted under the NEBULA umbrella succeeded because they actively involved local residents and stakeholders in planning and implementation. When communities are engaged, they feel ownership over the project's success, fostering long-term commitment and maintenance.

Whether regenerating an urban area or launching a new initiative, engaging those most affected by the project's outcomes builds trust, ensures relevance, and maximizes impact. Communities are not just beneficiaries; they are partners in progress.

3. Youth Leadership Brings Fresh Perspectives

NEBULA demonstrates that when young people lead, innovation thrives. Young leaders bring fresh perspectives and bold ideas to entrenched challenges, often seeing opportunities where others see obstacles so recognize and empower young voices. Involving youth in leadership roles isn't just an investment in the future—it's a recognition of the transformative potential they bring today. Whether through mentorship, funding, or collaboration, supporting youth leadership is vital for meaningful change.



4. Combining Tradition with Modernity Adds Value

Several NEBULA initiatives illustrate the power of blending cultural heritage with modern solutions. By revitalizing traditional crafts and integrating renewable energy, this project honored the past while addressing present challenges. Tradition provides a sense of identity, while modernity ensures relevance and sustainability.

Preserving cultural uniqueness while embracing innovation is an approach setting you for success. Whether designing public spaces or implementing educational programs, merging the old with the new creates deeper connections and more impactful results.



5. Skills Development Is the Foundation for Action

NEBULA's emphasis on practical skills development—such as financial planning, project management, and communication—has been pivotal to the success of its initiatives. These methodologies empower youth to take ambitious ideas and transform them into structured, actionable projects. For anyone leading or supporting youth initiatives, this reinforces the value of skill-building as the foundation for turning vision into reality and fostering tangible community change.



6. Foster Collaborative Networks

Collaboration is a cornerstone of NEBULA's approach, especially within the European context, where initiatives like NEBULA, bring together youth, local authorities, NGOs, and private stakeholders across borders.

This manifesto champions the partnerships that form the backbone of transformative change. By uniting diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise, these collaborations ensure that solutions are inclusive, impactful, and grounded in the unique realities of local communities. This collective effort transcends borders, reflecting the shared commitment of European partners to build stronger, more resilient networks that empower young people to lead.

We believe that the challenges young people face today are not confined to individual communities but resonate across Europe. This shared reality demands collective action. By fostering transnational exchange and cooperation, young leaders can share best practices, adapt successful models, and co-create solutions that address local needs while advancing a shared European vision.

Through the NEBULA project, this manifesto calls for a united effort to harness the energy and innovation of youth to tackle these pressing challenges, ensuring that our collective actions contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive, and connected Europe.

7. Cultivate Creativity Through Ikigai Principles

The Ikigai framework, championed in NEBULA training, encourages individuals to align their passions and skills with the needs of their communities. This alignment fosters a sense of purpose and deep personal fulfillment while driving meaningful societal impact. For anyone inspired by this manifesto, it underscores the value of pursuing work and initiatives that are both personally rewarding and impactful, creating projects that truly resonate with their communities.



Our Stakeholders



Young people

They are our primary agents of change, bringing energy, creativity, and a fresh perspective to the table. Their voices guide the projects we undertake, ensuring that our initiatives resonate with the needs of the communities they serve.



Educators, youth workers and mentors

They are indispensable in this journey. They provide the guidance and expertise that empower young people to develop the skills necessary for effective leadership. Their role extends beyond teaching; they are facilitators of growth, helping youth navigate challenges and turn ideas into actionable projects.



Policymakers and local authorities

They are key partners in creating an enabling environment. Their support in terms of funding, infrastructure, and policy alignment ensures that the principles of the New European Bauhaus can be implemented at scale. Without their collaboration, the systemic changes we envision would remain out of reach.

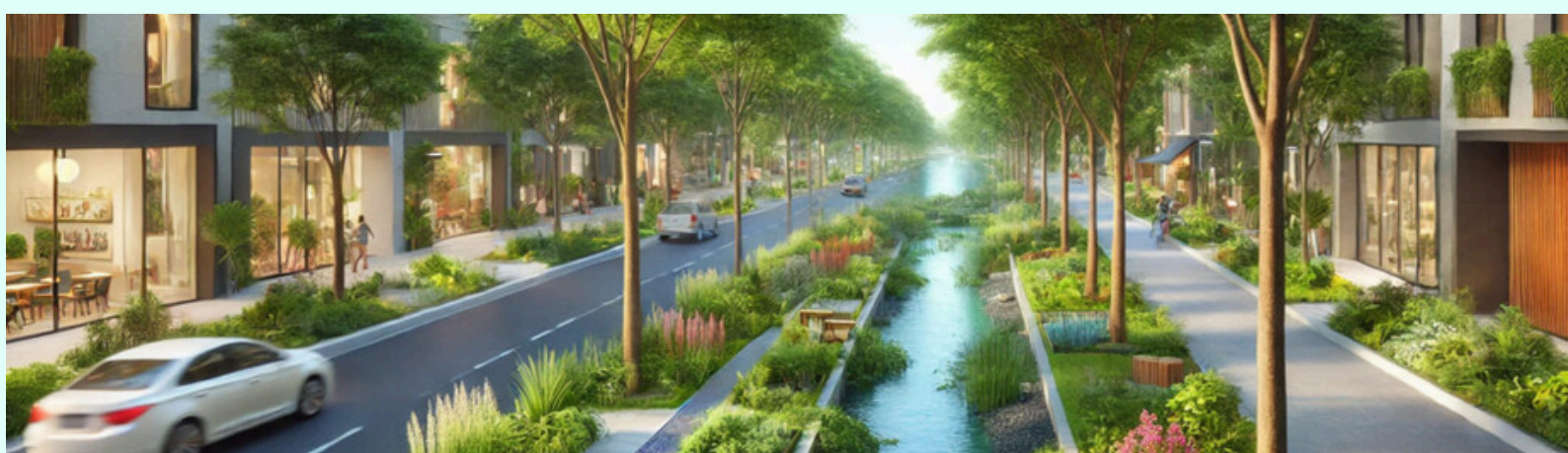


NGOs, community organizations, and private enterprises

They play critical roles in bridging the gap between ideas and implementation. Their grassroots insights and resources amplify the impact of NEBULA projects, while their involvement fosters a sense of shared responsibility. Together, these stakeholders form a robust ecosystem that makes the goals of this manifesto achievable.

Integrating youth voices all over Europe

The "**Pitch Your NEBULA Model**" contest showcased the immense potential and creativity of young people across France, Italy, Ukraine, Poland and Romania. Their ideas reflect a deep understanding of local challenges and an unwavering commitment to improving their communities. These submissions highlight a broad spectrum of needs and aspirations, underscoring the critical importance of youth-led innovation in urban and rural regeneration.



The winner in **Romania** was the "**Fighting for Wellness**" project, that captured the spirit of NEBULA by addressing the core principles of sustainability, accessibility, aesthetics, and inclusiveness. This visionary initiative proposed transforming neglected urban spaces into vibrant wellness hubs, incorporating green areas, artistic expressions, and spaces for community engagement. Its innovative approach earned top marks in the contest, as it met all evaluation criteria, including feasibility, community involvement, and long-term impact.

"Fighting for Wellness" excelled because it was more than an idea—it was a blueprint for meaningful change. By utilizing local resources and engaging community members in the design and implementation process, the project ensured not only its success but its sustainability. This initiative stands as a testament to what is possible when creativity, collaboration, and commitment align.

The need for community engagement was a recurring theme, with proposals highlighting the importance of fostering collaboration among residents, local authorities, and businesses.

The winner in **France** was the “**Happy Deco**” project, faithful to NEBULA's principles of valuing aesthetics and experience over functionality, with a sustainable and inclusive approach. It aims to renovate children's hospital rooms into cheerful, home-like spaces, addressing the lack of child-friendly rooms and helping children feel "at home" during difficult times like long hospital stays or recovery. The project promotes creativity, allowing children to personalize their rooms with bright colors and comfortable furniture. Inclusivity is key, with plans to extend to senior residences.



The creators developed a detailed plan for implementation and cost management, integrating ecological practices by partnering with companies for donations and collaborating with decorators and furniture suppliers to source unsold goods at lower cost. They also designed an operational strategy focused on reuse and innovation to minimize resource use and waste.

A cross-functional approach involved hospitals, care facilities, and families to ensure cooperation, addressing children and elderly people' needs while maintaining efficient operations and preventing staff overload.

The first winner in **Italy** was **Lava Legacy: Building a Sustainable Park inspired by Mount Etna**.

The Lava Legacy project aims to transform a neglected urban area in Catania into a sustainable, educational, and visually striking park. The park will feature a scaled-down replica of Mount Etna, the most important volcano in Europe, made from local lava stone, as its centerpiece.

The goal is to reconnect the community with its natural heritage while promoting sustainability, inclusivity, and environmental awareness. The project will use natural materials and native plants to enhance biodiversity and minimize environmental impact. It will also include educational zones and interactive pathways to raise awareness about the volcano and sustainable living. The park will serve as an accessible gathering space, contributing to the urban regeneration of the San Berillo district, where it should be located.

By creating an inclusive and engaging environment, Lava Legacy celebrates the natural and cultural beauty of Catania.



The second winner in Italy was **Collateral**.

Collateral is a project that revitalizes abandoned or underutilized spaces by transforming them into vibrant locations for immersive Live Action Role-Playing (LARP) events. These spaces, whether in rural or urban settings, are deliberately chosen to spark renewal, becoming arenas for storytelling, collaboration, and play. The themes and narratives of these events are often deeply tied to the local territory, drawing inspiration from its natural and cultural heritage. Participants engage in collaborative, story-driven experiences that blur the lines between game and reality, fostering deep interactions among young people, the local community, and the environment. More than just events, these gatherings create spaces where trust and inclusivity thrive, opening paths for dialogue, shared experiences, and meaningful connections. The result is a blend of urban and rural regeneration, social empowerment, and creative innovation.

The winner in **Ukraine** was “**Dnipro University : Alternative Energy Sources**”

Given the current situation in Ukraine, where the war has significantly damaged the energy infrastructure, there is an acute shortage of electricity, leading to regular power outages. These disruptions severely impact the educational process at our university. By integrating renewable energy, the university can reduce electricity costs, minimize its carbon footprint, and serve as an educational model for sustainability.

The project includes the installation of solar panels and an energy-efficient system, ensuring long-term benefits for the university and the community.

This initiative also aligns with the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB), which emphasizes sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusivity. By adopting renewable energy, the university contributes to environmentally friendly and resource-efficient solutions (sustainability), enhances the visual and functional aspects of the campus infrastructure (aesthetics), and ensures that all students and faculty benefit from a reliable energy supply (inclusivity).



In **Poland**, the winning project was entitled '**Together - European - Safe!**' and was prepared by a team called Change Makers. Safety, awareness, and social engagement combined with aesthetics and sustainability – these are its main pillars, proving that young people can truly make an impact on their surroundings.

The winning concept is not just a response to local needs but also an inspiration for change that will improve pedestrian safety near a busy road intersection – a key area for students and residents. Thanks to this initiative, the area around the school will gain:

- Modern lighting to enhance pedestrian visibility
- Special reflective signage and a creative piano-key-shaped crosswalk, which will not only improve safety but also introduce an artistic element to the urban space
- An educational space – renovation of one of the school's classrooms to create a dedicated, beautiful and modern venue for workshops and lectures on road safety for students and local society.



The idea is very innovative and stands out even on a national scale. It is true that there are pedestrian crossings in Poland in the shape of piano keys, but none of them are illuminated and are not accompanied by additional activities and actions such as community integration or workshops. So this project is more than just infrastructure – it's about building awareness and community engagement! The young initiators are demonstrating that responsibility for our surroundings lies in all of our hands. Moreover, the initiative will be implemented in an environmentally friendly manner, emphasizing the role of sustainable solutions in modern urban planning.

This is a shining example of how creativity, care for others, and a willingness of young people to act can bring great change to our reality.

Our european policy recommendations

Based on research, the identified needs in the Pitch your NEBULA project initiatives and our vision, it is clear that **youth-led projects can serve as catalysts for sustainable development and community empowerment**. We propose a set of actionable policy recommendations aimed at enhancing youth engagement, bridging resource gaps, and fostering sustainable practices:

1. Institutionalize Youth Participation

Establish youth councils and advisory boards within local and regional governance structures to ensure that young people have a consistent and influential voice in decision-making processes. These platforms should enable meaningful contributions to policies and projects, emphasizing inclusivity and accountability.

2. Create Regional Youth Innovation Hubs

Develop dedicated hubs that serve as centers for skill development, networking, and resource sharing. Equipped with advanced tools and facilities, these hubs will empower young leaders to prototype, test, and scale their ideas. By fostering cross-border collaborations, the hubs will promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices, creating a vibrant ecosystem of innovation.

3. Strengthen Financial Support Mechanisms

Prioritize policies that offer tailored funding streams for youth-led initiatives. This includes creating accessible grants, social impact bonds, and fostering public-private partnerships. Simplifying application processes and ensuring transparent allocation criteria will help resources reach the most impactful projects and their young leaders.





4. Promote Interdisciplinary Education

Embed the principles of the New European Bauhaus into educational curricula to cultivate creativity, critical thinking, and sustainability awareness. Implement project-based learning focused on addressing environmental and social issues, equipping students with the skills needed to lead in a complex, interconnected world. By integrating interdisciplinary approaches, education can become a catalyst for impactful societal change.

5. Enhance Knowledge Sharing

Develop robust digital platforms to disseminate resources, tools, and case studies. These platforms should be accessible to all stakeholders, enabling them to learn from successful initiatives, exchange ideas, and avoid common pitfalls. Knowledge-sharing frameworks will build a culture of continuous learning and innovation, empowering communities and individuals alike.

6. Establish Long-Term Mentorship Programs

Pair experienced professionals with young leaders to provide ongoing guidance and support. Mentorship ensures that youth have a steady source of advice and resources, helping them navigate challenges and refine their strategies.



7. Promote Beauty, Sustainability, and Inclusion

The NEB initiative's core values—beauty, sustainability, and inclusion—are fundamental to every action and aspiration within this manifesto. Beauty is not merely aesthetic; it is about creating spaces that inspire and uplift, where design meets functionality to improve well-being. Sustainability ensures that these spaces honor our planet, integrating eco-conscious practices like renewable energy, green infrastructure, and waste reduction. Inclusion ensures accessibility for all, creating environments where diversity thrives and everyone feels valued. By committing to these principles, we align our efforts with the NEB initiative's transformative vision, proving that impactful change can be both practical and inspiring.

Our call to action

This manifesto is more than a document; it is an invitation.

To Policymakers: Prioritize youth engagement by crafting meaningful and inclusive policies that support youth-led initiatives! Create opportunities that ensure that vital funding and resources are readily accessible to all aspiring young leaders, enabling them to turn their ideas into impactful actions that address the needs of their communities.

To Educators: Embrace innovative teaching methodologies that inspire creativity, critical thinking, and open dialogue. Create learning environments that empower every young person to explore their passions and develop their strengths in a supportive, engaging, and culturally responsive manner. Be a conduit for knowledge, enabling your young learners to become tomorrow's agents of change. Your role is essential in equipping the next generation with the skills needed to flourish in an ever-changing world.



To Community Leaders: Create authentic platforms that allow young people to express their ideas, voice their concerns, and present their solutions. Foster a culture of trust, respect, and collaboration and empower youth to become active participants in their communities, driving meaningful change and social impact.

To Young People: Step forward boldly, with confidence and purpose! Seize every opportunity to take initiative, find your voice, and take informed action. Lead transformative projects that bring about the changes you wish to see in your communities and inspire those around you to join this movement of hope and progress. Your actions matter, and collectively, they will catalyze the shift toward a brighter future.



Our commitment

We commit to fostering a culture of learning and innovation that empowers young people to drive sustainable and inclusive change. Through NEBULA, we have seen the transformative power of youth-led initiatives addressing real-world challenges with creativity and determination. Our goal is to expand access to resources, mentorship, and collaboration platforms to enable young leaders to scale impactful ideas.

Sustainability is central to our efforts. By supporting communities in reducing carbon footprints, leveraging renewable resources, and adopting long-term strategies, we aim to ensure measurable, lasting progress. This commitment guides every action we take, empowering a resilient and inclusive Europe while inspiring the next generation to create a better future.



Our conclusion

This manifesto is more than words; it is a movement. By aligning our collective efforts with the core values of beauty, sustainability, and inclusivity, we possess the undeniable power to transform our communities and the world at large. Let this manifesto be the spark that ignites a passionate and unyielding revolution of active, engaged, and empowered youth driving profound societal change. The future is not merely something we inherit; it is ours to shape, create, and inspire within one another—let's get to work with unwavering commitment and enthusiasm!