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Webinar Applicant's Guide for the Operations of Strategic Importance

23rd of May | Online, Webex

HORIZONTAL Principles & Issues



HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES & ISSUES



Equal opportunities and non-discrimination



Do no significant harm

Sustainable development



Equality between men and women



Green procurement



New European Bauhaus 



HORIZONTAL Principles & Issues - general aspects (I)

- horizontal principles set in the EU regulations and described in the Programme are: **sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and equality between men and women**
- the project should **describe its specific contributions to the horizontal principles, during all phases of the project lifecycle**, from its design and preparation to its implementation and reporting
- horizontal principles and issues should, to the possible extent, be **integrated in the project activities, outputs and results**, thus ensuring their fulfilment
- the accomplishment of the minimum requirements of the law in the fields of promotion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, **equality between men and women and sustainable development are mandatory** for all projects and will be monitored during project implementation

HORIZONTAL Principles & Issues - general aspects (II)

- the **New European Bauhaus (NEB)** horizontal issue will have to be considered by the applicants and integrated in the projects
- the contribution to the **European Union Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR)**, **EU Green Deal** and **EU Territorial Agenda 2030** must be proven and detailed in the application form, with clear indication of the Priority Area to which the project is contributing
- The project should be in line with the **Do no significant harm** principle (DNSH) for the six environmental objectives, defined by art. 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation
- The **contribution and synergies with the national, regional and local strategies/plans/strategic documents** should be described



HORIZONTAL Principles & Issues - general aspects (III)

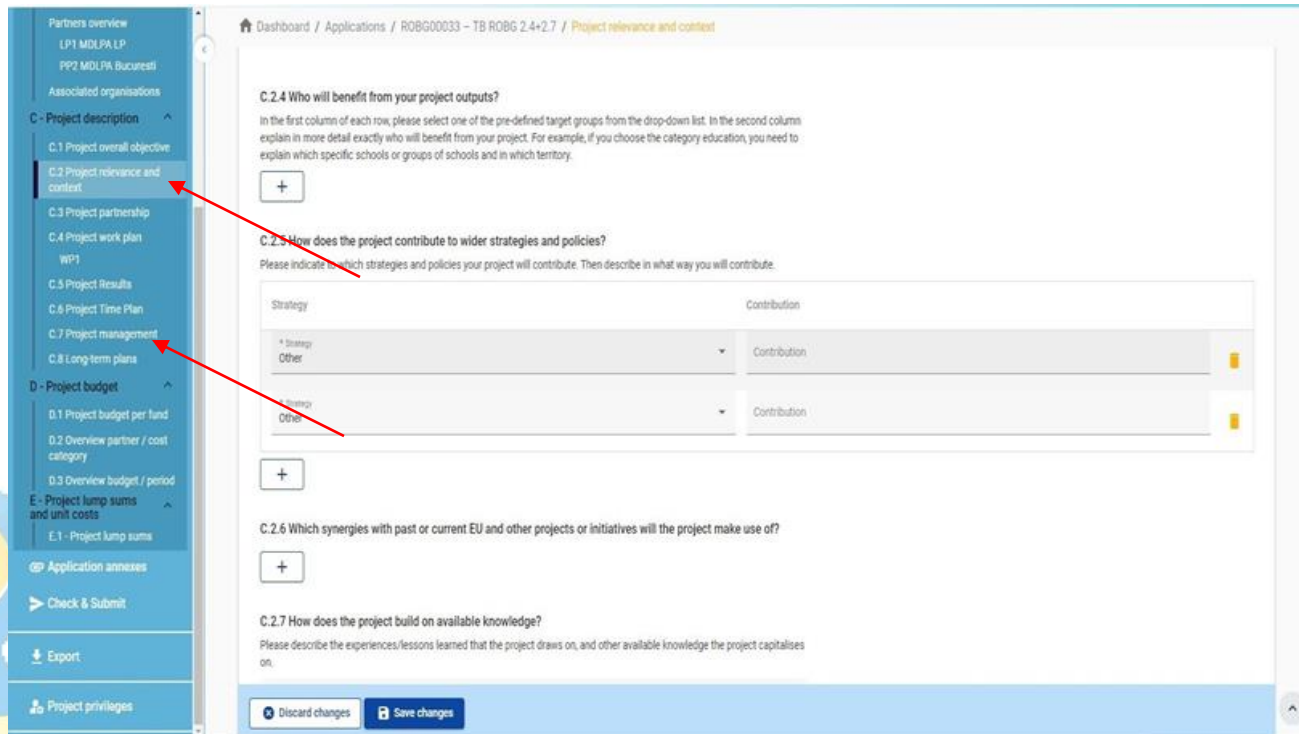
Where to include the contribution of the project to horizontal principles and issues?

Application form:

PART C - Project description.

Section C.2 Project relevance and context. C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies? (EUSDR, EU Green Deal, EU Territorial Agenda 2030, NEB, Green procurement)

Section C.7 Project management. C.7.6 Horizontal principles (Sustainable Development, “Do No Significant Harm”, Equal opportunities and non-discrimination, Equality between men and women)



Dashboard / Applications / ROBG00033 - TB ROBG 2.4+2.7 / Project relevance and context

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?
In the first column of each row, please select one of the pre-defined target groups from the drop-down list. In the second column explain in more detail exactly who will benefit from your project. For example, if you choose the category education, you need to explain which specific schools or groups of schools and in which territory.

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?
Please indicate to which strategies and policies your project will contribute. Then describe in what way you will contribute.

Strategy	Contribution
Strategy	Contribution
Other	Contribution
Strategy	Contribution
Other	Contribution

C.2.6 Which synergies with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?
Please describe the experiences/lessons learned that the project draws on, and other available knowledge the project capitalises on.

Discard changes Save changes

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dimensions:

- **environmental** sustainability - ensuring that natural environment is used in a way that will preserve resources for future generation.
- **economic** sustainability - capacity of future generation to earn an income and allow for economic growth,
- **social** sustainability - future generation having the same or improved access to social resources such as human rights, political stability.










Choosing the **sustainable way means** commitment to preserve and protect the environment from potential harmful effects of human interventions and to enforce the safeguard of social, environmental and climate benefits









Project should follow an “**environmental sustainability by design**” approach. This means that environmental or broader sustainability considerations effects shall be integrated from the beginning into all activities

The project will specify which **possible effects (positive, neutral or negative)** will likely have on the environment by considering among others the following aspects: water, soil, air and climate, population and human health, fauna, flora and biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape

The project should also refer to the **practices, models, solutions, networks and/or knowledge** that shall be created by the project and should live on after the project ends

Greening measures projects can apply to contribute to sustainable development

-  ***Go paperless or if you really have to use paper, make it recycled one;***
-  ***Publications should be printed for external communication purposes (if needed only). For electronic publications, a “printer-friendly” version (less colours, more compact text, less pages) should be made available;***
-  ***Use the Programme electronic system and e-mail for communicating with the Programme structures or your project partners;***
-  ***Information on the greening efforts made at the meeting/event is provided electronically prior to, and after the meeting;***
-  ***Materials produced for the events (such as banners, posters, signs, etc.) are designed and written in a generic way to allow them to be reused for other events;***
-  ***A dedicated area is provided for participants to return material that can be re-used (such as badges);***
-  ***Switch to cloud computing;***
-  ***Consider online meetings instead of face-to-face meetings where possible;***
-  ***Modernize your equipment - updating and upgrading your equipment can make a significant difference in how eco-friendly you are;***

-  *Include environmental criteria in procurement procedures.*
-  *Operate fuel efficient vehicles (electric or hybrid cars);*
-  *Give preference to environmentally-friendly mobility options (in particular for short travel distances);*
-  *Use eco-friendly means of transport or go on foot;*
-  *If possible, all waste produced at the venue of an event is sorted for recycling and sufficient, well-marked bins are provided in both participants and staff areas;*
-  *Consider resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy at all levels;*
-  *Consider near-Zero Energy Building*
-  *Make use of regional supply chains (reducing supply chain length and CO2 emissions).*



Mandatory. Projects aimed at renovation/modernization of existing buildings and/or construction of new buildings must consider the implementation of solutions to improve energy efficiency, as well as the use of renewable sources of electrical/thermal energy.

Green Procurement

• Practicing green procurement involves sourcing goods and services that are produced and supplied in a sustainable way. **When you procure goods/services, give attention to the following aspects or review your procurement policies:**

- **Are manufactured in a sustainable fashion**
- **Do not contain toxic materials or ozone-depleting substances**
- **Can be recycled and/or are produced from recycled materials**
- **Are made from renewable materials**
- **Do not make use of excessive packaging**
- **Are designed to be repairable and not throwaway**
- **Here are some examples of green contracts:**
 - Energy efficient computers
 - Office furniture from sustainable timber
 - Low energy buildings
 - Recycled paper
 - Cleaning services using ecologically sound products
 - Electric, hybrid or low-emission vehicles
 - Electricity from renewable energy sources

DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM

“Do No Significant Harm” is to be interpreted within the meaning of Article 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation.

Thus, an activity is considered to do significant harm:

- to **climate change mitigation** if it leads to significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- to **climate change adaptation** if it leads to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets;
- to **the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources** if it is detrimental to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater, or to the good environmental status of marine waters;
- to **the circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling**, if it leads to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources, or if it significantly increases the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, or if the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term environmental harm;
- to **pollution prevention and control** if it leads to a significant increase in emissions of pollutants into air, water or land;
- to the **protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems** if it is significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems, or detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest.

DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM

- The project will have to promote solutions that are friendly with the environment and observe the “Do No Significant Harm” Principle.
- When developing the application form and the technical annexes, please consider at least the measures identified in the Annex AG_I DNSH Interreg VI-A RoBg, for the corresponding Priority and Specific Objective.

The adaptation measures included in the Annex AG_I DNSH_Interreg VI-A RoBg are mandatory for all projects! Therefore, before designing your project and the technical annexes, please check the adaptation measures identified for the Specific Objective and Priority under the project will be submitted and take them into consideration when developing the application (elements will be included in the descriptive sections of the AP).



SEA Mitigation measures and indicators

- When developing and implementing the projects, the recommendations and the monitoring indicators set by the **Strategic Environmental Assessment Report** must be observed.
- The list of the measures and the monitoring indicators proposed for each type of actions is included in **Annex AG_E SEA mitigation measures and indicators**.
- Identify the corresponding type of action approached by your operation, and:
 - ✓ check the avoidance and reduction measures proposed to be considered during the project implementation. *When developing your application, please consider these measures and include them into your activities,*
 - ✓ check the SEA indicators you have to report after the project implementation and plan the way you will approach them,
 - ✓ check the specific requirements set by the national competent authorities.

Please, consult the provisions of Annex AG_E SEA mitigation measures and indicators and other environmental aspects and consider the proposed measures when developing the project. Details regarding the way these measures were considered by the project partners should be included in the description of the work packages/activities (where relevant).

These aspects shall be assessed by the evaluators or followed during the implementation stage.

The Bulgarian partners must observe also the recommendations generated by the Bulgarian legislation, as mentioned in Annex AG_E SEA mitigation measures and indicators and other environmental aspects.




NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

NEB is an enabler for the green transition of our societies and economy

NEB initiative calls on all of us to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, mind and souls

NEB has become a catalyst for the European Green Deal transformation

Three core inseparable values guides the **New European Bauhaus**:

-  **sustainability**, from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity,
-  **aesthetics**, quality of experience and style, beyond functionality,
-  **inclusion**, valorizing diversity, equality for all, accessibility and affordability.

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

What are the characteristics and features of a NEB Project?

Check the *New European Bauhaus Compass*: A guiding framework for decision and project makers wishing to apply the NEB principles and criteria to their activities

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/NEB_Compass_V_4.pdf

Each NEB value has three **levels of ambition**, to inspire and guide the design of a project from its first stages:

I ambition level sets the baseline

II and III ambition levels build on the starting definitions, expanding them with growing aspirations

Core principles that define a NEB way of working: **participatory process, multi-level engagement and a transdisciplinary approach**

NEB Value: Beautiful

Level of ambitious:

I. to activate

Context re-activation • Sensory experience • Aesthetics

A beautiful project enhances opportunities for meaningful social interactions and collective experiences.

It reinforces a sense of belonging and enriches lives by connecting different places and people. The new attachments that emerge through the project foster openness and mutual care.

II. to connect

Connection across contexts • Collective experience • Sense of belonging

A beautiful project enhances opportunities for meaningful social interactions and collective experiences.

It reinforces a sense of belonging and enriches lives by connecting different places and people. The new attachments that emerge through the project foster openness and mutual care.

III. to integrate

Enabling creation • Restructuring of values • Long-lasting Movement

A beautiful project enables creation, and the collective re-invention of the places, lifestyles, and communities we identify with. It integrates new cultural and social values, notably through the meaningful experience of a broader 'us' (including the non-human world). In doing so, it aspires to anticipate future transformations, and may generate a long-lasting movement.

TEST your NEB ambitious ! Possible Guiding Questions (I)

- Does the project consider the comfort of its users (e.g. in terms of materials, light, air, noise)? How does it integrate it?
- Does the project consider sensory perceptions (visual, auditory, tactile, and olfactory) and emotional sensibility? What experience does it offer?
- Does the project reflect regional/local particularities and call upon local materials and skills? How?
- Does the project make its own aesthetic choices (e.g. in terms of composition, colours, balance, or material compatibility)? How?
- Does the project provide attractive and comfortable spaces that bring people together in diverse settings? How?
- Does the project give a sense of community to people with different backgrounds and perspectives? How does it strengthen this sense of community?
- Does the project give opportunities to learn about new ideas, places, or people? How?
- Is the project interactive? Does it offer opportunities for encounters or discoveries? How can participants interact with the project?
- Can participants question and reimagine their way of life through the project? How can they do so?
- Does the project generate new fulfilling habits? What are these habits, and how do they emerge?
- Is there a reflection on the future needs of the project's users?
- How could the project approach this long-term thinking?
- Does the project have a positive transformative effect on the participants' lives? How does it change lives?

NEB value: sustainable

Level of ambitious:

I. to repurpose

Preservation • Repair, re-use, reduce upgrade, renew

A sustainable project aims to repurpose in order to avoid and reduce environmental impacts and favours durability, adaptability, recyclability. It aims at rethinking services, products and places to reduce pollution and carbon impacts and have minimum use of resources, materials and energy. It looks at the scale of a products' lifecycle. Projects that repurpose are aware of the impact their initiative has on the environment and have the ambition to reduce their environmental footprint.

II. to close the loop

(Industrial) system circularity • Waste transformation

A sustainable project aims to close the loop, reduce linear processes or transform them into circular processes to aim at zero pollution. It looks at the scale of an (industrial) system. Projects that close the loop actively involve all other actors in the cycle of the design, production, use and discarding phase of their initiative.

III. to regenerate

Carbon storing • Enhancing biodiversity • Restoration and expansion of natural landscapes • Paradigm shift, behavioural change

A sustainable project aims to give back more than it takes, enhancing rather than depleting biodiversity, incentivising the restoration and expansion of nature. Regenerative sustainability also considers how contexts and environments influence worldviews, paradigms, and behaviours. It looks at the scale of an ecosystem. Initiatives in this dimension are aware of the complete ecosystem they act in and their project's impact over time and space on biodiversity and natural resources.

Test your NEB ambitious! Possible Guiding Questions (II)

- How could the project solve its needs in a less material intensive way, e.g. by sharing resources?
- Can the use be prolonged, e.g. by renovation or making the project repairable or upgradeable? How would this be done?
- Can the impact on the environment of the project be lowered, e.g. by decreasing the use of energy, water, pesticides, CO2 or other harmful substances? How?
- Can components or elements be replaced by a natural material or other less harmful resources? How?
- Could you prioritize renewable energy solutions favourable to biodiversity? How?
- Does the initiative work with circular economy principles, e.g. with closing the whole material cycle or waste transformation? How?
- Are all stakeholders in the cycle working together? In what way?
- Is there an overview of the carbon impact, material, energy or water waste streams before, during and after the use of a product, building or intervention? How?
- Is there a zero pollution action plan e.g. for air, water & soil? How will it work?
- Does the project look at indirect impacts across time and space and trade-offs between different sustainability measures? How does it tackle this?
- Does the initiative give back more than it takes, e.g. by carbon storage in buildings? How?
- Is there an understanding of the inner working of a (natural) ecosystem that could restore the landscape or biodiversity? How does the project affect this?
- Is there a vision on societal change by behavioural change or a mention of a paradigm shift? How will this be addressed?

NEB value: together

Level of ambitious:

I. to include

Equality • Accessibility •
Prioritising disadvantaged people

An inclusive project grants accessibility (physical, cognitive, psychological, etc.) and affordability for all, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, ability, age or sexual orientation. Equality of treatment and opportunities is essential but cannot be taken for granted, so it is important to prioritise less represented individuals, groups and communities.

II. to consolidate

Overcoming segregation •
Representation and social
stability • Sharing resources and
opportunities

An inclusive project fosters and equalizes relations between users and/or communities, safeguarding the principle of equal treatment and social justice over time. Inclusion and open access to services are secured by formal, structural mechanisms such as funding instruments, business models, planning, policies, regulations and other institutionalization processes.

III. to transform

Fostering shared social values •
Societal development and
collective growth • New ways of
living together

Inclusion inspires new ways of living together, building on solidarity and cooperation, raising awareness of discrimination and injustice. An inclusive project becomes exemplary and replicable, and has the potential to break obsolete social models, create value and bring transformative benefits on a societal level, influencing worldviews, paradigms and social behaviours.

Test your NEB ambitious! Possible Guiding Questions (III)

- Is the project easily and equally accessible? In which sense?
- Is the project affordable ? How can a project become more affordable?
- Does the project consider the needs of less represented communities? Which ones? How?
- Does the project secure social justice over time? How?
- Does the project offer equal resources and opportunities? In which ways?
- Does the project help to overcome segregation between different communities? What kind of instruments can be put in place to reach this objective?
- Does the project promote new ways of living together? What kind of instruments can be put in place to reach this objective?
- Does the project have the ambition to break obsolete and unjust social models? How does it plan to do this?

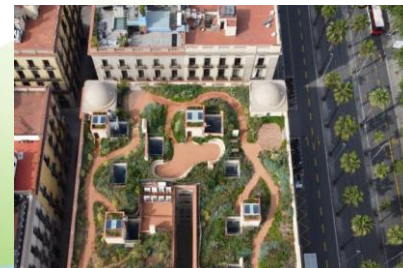
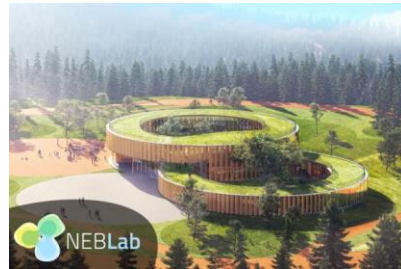


NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

- Explain in your application form how your project will contribute to implement the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Get inspired!

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired_en



SQUARE
in between houses

POCKET
in front of the street

NET
in the back of the garden

Additional information on NEB

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/progress-report_en

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-inspired_en



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON DISCRIMINATION

No one should be discriminated based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Instead, project activities should, where possible, increase the possibilities of all groups to participate in the activities of the society

Examples:

- *Ensure products, goods, services and infrastructures that are open or provided to the citizens are accessible to all citizens including those with disabilities;*
- *Accessibility to the physical environment, transport, ICT shall be ensured in order to promote inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities;*
- *Guarantee that all communication products (websites, electronic newsletters, publications, etc.) are accessible;*
- *Use straightforward language that guarantees cognitive accessibility;*
- *Emphasise social diversity in videos, posters, etc., using people with a variety of profiles to encourage identification among all groups;*
- *Involve members of minority groups in your activities and/or composition of the project team;*
- *Take into account the needs of the various target groups at risk of discrimination.*

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

To make possible that everyone, regardless of gender, has the right to work and support themselves, to balance career and family life, and to live without the fear of abuse or violence

Examples:

- *Take into account findings from gender analyses, gender impact assessment, or stakeholders consultation when planning your project;*
- *Elaborate gender-specific objectives in line with the latest findings and with the objectives of the project and explain how these objectives would be achieved;*
- *Take into account gender-balanced composition of the project team;*
- *Ensure the participation of gender experts in teams or groups;*
- *When organizing events and conferences, give a good balance between women and men speakers;*
- *Give visibility to gender issues and avoid the use of sexist language and stereotypical or discriminatory images;*
- *Take into account to promote gender equality through the goods, services or works being purchased (it means that the buyer and supplier examine the impact of all contracted activities on women's and men's needs, interests and concerns, and design and deliver contracts in a way that reduces inequalities).*

Reference documents:

<https://interregviarobg.eu/en/calls-for-proposals>

<https://interregviarobg.eu/assets/2023/04/applicant-guide-po2-24-27-approved.docx>

<https://interregviarobg.eu/assets/2023/04/ag-e-sea-mitigation-measures-and-indicators.docx>

<https://interregviarobg.eu/assets/2023/04/ag-i-dnsh-interreg-vi-a-robg-level.pdf>

