

NEB SK 2024 DECLARATION

Declaration of the New European Bauhaus Slovakia 2024

PREAMBLE

On April 12, 2024, partners of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) from Slovakia and Central Europe gathered in Bratislava at the initiative of the Manifest 2020 association. This event was part of the NEB festival and connected with organizers in Brussels. **The NEB in Central Europe (Forum for Partners and Friends of the New European Bauhaus)** was held under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic, Mrs. Zuzana Čaputová, the Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia, and the Slovak Chamber of Architects. At the conclusion of the conference, representatives of Slovak initiatives agreed on a joint statement in the form of the NEB SK 2024 Declaration.

CONTEXT

In the fall of 2020, the President of the European Commission introduced the initiative **New European Bauhaus**, building upon the pivotal document outlining Europe's path to carbon neutrality—the European Green Deal. Ursula von der Leyen referred to NEB as the "soul of the European Green Deal." In her State of the Union address in 2020, she stated: "But this is not just an environmental or economic project: it needs to be a new cultural project for Europe. Every movement has its own look and feel. And we need to give our systemic change its own distinct aesthetic – to match style with sustainability." In spring 2021, Manifest 2020 became the first official partner of NEB in Slovakia, and more organizations have since joined. Manifest 2020 organized the first online conference, **New European Bauhaus – Vision for Slovakia**, in April 2021, shortly before the first global conference on NEB by the European Commission.

NEB, as an interdisciplinary initiative and networking platform, connects sustainability with inclusivity and aesthetics. It advances the requirements for high levels of architectural and construction culture as outlined in the 2018 Davos Declaration. By 2024, NEB has over 750 partners worldwide, **encompassing not only architectural and construction culture but also the entire creative sector**, including sustainable resource exploration and the development of new materials.

Since its inception, the New European Bauhaus has become a recognized initiative, and the integration of its three pillars—**environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and new aesthetics (cultural value)**—deserves broad political and media support.

APPEAL

We call upon and request:

The Government of the Slovak Republic,

- To give due attention to the New European Bauhaus initiative, recognizing its societal significance. We urge the government to clearly express political commitment and establish an active contact point for NEB as a reliable information platform in Slovakia, akin to those already established in other EU countries;
- To ensure the development and approval of a policy on architecture and construction culture in Slovakia, following the examples set by other European nations and the European Commission, to define a strategic framework for the country's development in creating a high-quality living environment for its residents. This should ensure high aesthetic standards and cultural values while achieving climate goals through energy efficiency, decarbonization, sustainable mobility, and biodiversity, with consideration for disadvantaged population groups;
- To develop a detailed strategic plan for decarbonizing the construction sector, demonstrating the feasibility of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by 2030 and achieving complete carbon neutrality by 2050, in alignment with Slovakia's commitments;

- To begin implementing the vision and goals of the Slovak Republic's 2030 Culture and Creative Industries Strategy, which includes relevant measures aimed at fostering an inclusive and responsible culture; and to support participation of professional communities in shaping public policies.

Organizers of urban planning, architectural, and design competitions,

- We appeal to you to integrate the principles and goals of the New European Bauhaus into your competitions, aligning them with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The NEB initiative serves as a catalyst for enhancing interdisciplinary sustainable architectural and design solutions, bridging science and research, innovations in materials and technologies, architecture, aesthetics, and the arts. Inclusion aims to ensure access to and utilization of these creations by all. By incorporating these principles, urban planning, architectural, and design competitions can guarantee and promote sustainable development as well as high aesthetic standards and quality in urban areas, landscapes, and overall human-made environments.

Public and private media,

- We urge you, in collaboration with expert communities, to create sufficient space for disseminating information about the New European Bauhaus, its principles, and other European initiatives addressing the climate crisis. Informing the public and fostering transparent public discourse alongside participation are catalysts for effective solutions. The public is interested in being involved in planning processes. In addition to experts and visionaries of development projects, a well-informed public is a significant driving force behind political decisions. The transition from idea to implementation can be significantly accelerated through examples of best practices. Therefore, we appeal for more media coverage dedicated to these initiatives.

Public institutions involved in spatial planning,

- We encourage you, in collaboration with expert communities, to incorporate changes in rainwater management into legislative, methodological, technological, and financial tools to address the climate crisis. This includes measures for rainwater retention, such as green spaces with suitable vegetation and rain gardens, retention basins, and other interventions. One of the most significant impacts on the thermal regime of urban landscapes is the sealing of surfaces and the drainage of rainwater as waste. The creation of heat islands dramatically alters the climate in urban environments. Rainwater that is not retained in the area where it falls does not contribute to its microclimate (cooling). Therefore, managing water in urban and rural environments is essential and must be reflected in laws influencing spatial planning and sustainable development of towns and municipalities.

Educational and research institutions,

- We urge you to engage in collaborative efforts to develop new study programs, innovate curricula, and create educational programs that form an educational ecosystem based on lifelong learning and acquiring new skills focused on mitigating the impact of climate change, adaptation, and mitigation measures. These changes will require both technical and soft skills, which need to be developed equally.
- Furthermore, we encourage you to support interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary cooperation, exchange experiences, educational programs, materials, and educators among institutions within Slovakia and internationally.

Local governments, regions, towns, and municipalities; public organizations; representatives of civil society; the private sector; individuals, investors, and clients,

- We call upon you to take the initiative to integrate the principles of the New European Bauhaus—environmental sustainability, principles of inclusion, and cultural values—into the planning and implementation of your projects. Environmental sustainability and culture require collaboration from everyone.

Partners of the New European Bauhaus in Slovakia:

Manifest 2020

Creative Institute Trenčín (ECoC Trenčín 2026)

Slovak Design Center

Institute of Architecture of Residential Buildings, Faculty of Architecture and Design (Slovak University of Technology)

People and Water

Spolka

You can support the declaration [using the following link](#).

An updated list of organizations, entities, and individuals that have joined the declaration [can be found at this link](#).

Contact: info@manifest2020.sk, www.manifest2020.sk