



BE-WoodEN - Buildings and Education in Wood Ecosystem
for the New European Bauhaus

D6.1 SWOT analysis of CB and Innovation lab and Action plan for long- term sustainability strategy WP6/Task 6.1



Partners



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SUMMARY TABLE

Sommario

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. THE CONTEXT.....	3
3. SWOT ANALYSIS.....	5
4. ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY	6
4.1. Introduction	6
4.2. The baseline: Lessons learnt	6
4.3 Description of Key exploitable results.....	8
4.4 Transferability of project results.....	10
4.5 Target audience, partners and stakeholders	11
4.6 Fields of action	12

1. INTRODUCTION

The report explains how BE-WoodEN partners intend to continue the activities carried out within the project beyond its contractual life.

Starting with a SWOT analysis that describes the feedback of the capacity building activities and lessons learnt, the report proceeds with listing the key exploitable results and their transferability potential. Finally the actions to support sustainability of project results will be described for the main areas of: capacity building, policy regulation, supply chain development, communication, networking and NEB community engagement.

2. THE CONTEXT

2.1· Be-WoodEn project

Inspired by the New European Bauhaus principles of sustainability, beauty, and inclusion, the LIFE Be-WoodEN project promoted the use of wood and bio-based materials to make buildings more environmentally friendly. Started in February 2024, in its two-year duration it has tried to overcome cultural/education, technical, and economic barriers by addressing the entire construction lifecycle. It has emphasized professional training through webinars, broad stakeholder engagement based on Challenge Based Learning, and the testing of sustainable building solutions, in Liguria and Emilia Romagna (both in Italy), particularly for social housing for elderly and vulnerable populations.

The project's ultimate goals were to align professional skills with market needs, strengthen local wood supply chains, and demonstrate the environmental and social benefits of timber construction. It targeted a wide range of stakeholders—from professionals and companies to policymakers, academics, students, and citizens. It also establishes the NEB SUD Hub, a new academy hub that contributes to Europe's sustainable construction learning ecosystem in cooperation with existing NEB initiatives.

2.2· Benefits of Using Wood in Construction

The built environment sector accounts for at least 37 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Until recently, both academic research and industry practice have focused on “operational carbon,” which refers to emissions from

heating, cooling, and lighting. As operational emissions are expected to decline in the coming decades, embodied carbon—the total greenhouse gas emissions from the production, transport, construction, maintenance, and end-of-life of building materials—is receiving greater attention.

Embodied carbon can represent more than 50 percent of a building's total life cycle carbon footprint. In the European Union, the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) requires all buildings to achieve Zero Emission Building (ZEB) status by 2050. Using bio-based materials such as wood is among the most effective strategies to reduce embodied carbon and support compliance.

The use of timber in construction offers relevant advantages in terms of embodied carbon mitigation. Wood, as a renewable bio-based material, is able to retain biogenic carbon throughout the building's lifetime while simultaneously replacing materials characterised by higher carbon intensity, such as concrete and steel. When timber originates from sustainably managed forests, its use supports both the reduction of emissions and the storage of carbon within the built environment.

In addition, timber-based building systems are consistent with the principles of the circular economy. Construction solutions based on mechanical connections, rather than chemical bonding, make it possible to dismantle building components, facilitate their reuse and enable material recovery at the end of the life cycle. Design approaches that integrate circularity and design-for-disassembly from the early project phases can therefore lead to a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions over the entire life cycle when compared to conventional construction solutions.

These characteristics highlight the potential role of timber construction in supporting the transition towards more sustainable and low-carbon building practices across different segments of the built environment.

3. SWOT ANALYSIS

The SWOT analysis has been developed on the basis of outcomes of capacity building and innovation labs as reflected in the questionnaires that have been filled in by participants.

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Internal Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asynchronous online courses enable wide dissemination and high flexibility for professionals. ● Courses are offered free of charge, ensuring broad accessibility. ● The Winter School in Italy and the “Field visit” in Slovenia completed online theoretical learning with practical experience. ● Skills acquisition is formally assessed through final tests. ● Courses are available in English, Italian (full translation with lectors), as well as in Polish (subtitles) only for the NEBinars module. ● Strong multidisciplinary approach ● Innovative contents. ● High-profile lecturers with strong academic and professional expertise. ● The programme provides national recognised certification (in Italy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online learning does not always ensure full listener engagement and completion rates remain unsure. ● The practical activities were accessible only to a limited number of listeners and course participants. ● Courses are not available in additional languages (e.g. , Slovenian, Romanian, Bulgarian), limiting wider accessibility (at least during the duration of the project). ● Course translation requires significant resources (time and cost). ● The programme does not provide an internationally recognised certification (e.g. microcredentials or EDC for professionals, ECTS for students), depending on specific countries and Universities. ● Challenges in coordinating the upload and management of courses across different platforms (e.g. NEBinars, webinars).
	Opportunities	Threats
External Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The topics are at the centre of discussion at national and European level. ● The topics may interest different professional categories (architects, engineers, agronomists, wood sector professionals). ● Accreditation by professional associations for the continuing education of members encouraged participation in the course. ● Interest from countries outside the partnership (eg. Romania and Bulgaria, for which a translation has already been planned, registrations also from other European countries). ● Prestige resulting from an initiative within the NEB Academy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rapidly evolving topics that require continuous monitoring of the training material produced. ● Different national regulations for wooden constructions require updates and featuring of the material produced to meet the needs of professionals. ● Accreditation has not been extended to all professional categories interested in the topics covered by the Capacity Building activities. ● Long-term sustainability of the courses requires additional financial resources, particularly for translation and content update costs.

4. ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

4.1. Introduction

Purpose and scope of the action plan for long-term sustainability strategy and support to the NEB Academy and Community is to build on the base of the lessons learned from the project, to continue disseminating and exploiting the results of capacity building actions, implementing the content and NEB methodologies for the design of places, using the toolkit prepared for the local supply chain in the Emilia Romagna Region, and maintaining an active role in the NEB Community and NEB Academy. The actions focus on the following fields:

1. activities in the NEB Community
2. capacity building and training (NEB approach, sustainable buildings, use of wood in construction)
3. NEB approach and Challenge Based Learning in place making
4. Policies and regulations
5. Green Business Models and Market Development
6. Local Supply Chain Management
7. Wooden installation maintenance
8. Communication, dissemination and stakeholders engagement

4.2. The baseline: Lessons learnt

Compared to Deliverable D2.4 “Quality assessment” where we analysed the feedback received from capacity building participants, the evidence presented in this section is updated, by integrating the results of the questionnaires completed by webinars and NEBinars attendants on the Italian training platform up to the end of December 2025 (1.216 forms were filled in). This updated dataset allows for a more consolidated assessment of opportunities, challenges and barriers related to the capacity building and Innovation Lab activities developed within the LIFE BE-WoodEN project. Specifically:

- The overall training experience has been assessed as very positive; the updated feedback on the online training confirms a high level of satisfaction with the overall learning experience. The courses have in fact remained available to members of the professional associations, offering them a free and flexible training opportunity, as participation in the various modules is not mandatory but left to the free choice of the user. This aspect represents an added value, helping to maintain the interest and motivation of the participants.

- Strong positive feedback received: learning facilities (webinars, NEBinars, field trips and winter school) were rated highly in terms of structure, content, and speaker quality providing valuable exposure to research-oriented topics and professional perspectives, particularly in the fields of sustainable construction and timber-based solutions.
- Events widely benefit from strong interactivity and practice-based sessions.
- Early, inclusive and interdisciplinary stakeholder involvement is key to local participation and engagement and rich contextual understanding.
- Design Thinking was very useful and effective to translate NEB values into practical outcomes.
- The participatory model is a replicable framework for future NEB-aligned Labs in other regional contexts.
- The use of wood for building is considered highly interesting and innovative. The updated questionnaires related to webinars and NEBinars further consolidate the strong interest in timber construction topics, confirming their innovative character within professional training offers. At the same time, this growing demand highlights the limited availability of highly specialised trainers, already identified in D2.4.
- There is an opportunity to further structure the online training into progressive learning pathways. The interest shown by participants who followed multiple modules indicates the need for more clearly organised training paths, capable of supporting users with different levels of prior knowledge and experience, while maintaining the flexibility of the modular approach.

Organisations active in the field of social and affordable housing construction responded as follows to the question regarding the effectiveness of capacity building activities. The findings confirm that capacity-building activities are most effective when combined, as digital formats provide flexibility, while in-person activities and practical tools enhance trust (see D6.2 “Transferability analysis”).

- The analysis of survey data shows a broadly positive evaluation of the capacity-building activities implemented within the LIFE BE-WoodEN project. Most respondents considered webinars, innovation challenges, toolkits and study visits to be useful or highly useful. Despite differences in individual preferences, the results highlight the importance of combining multiple training formats in order to respond effectively to diverse learning profiles and levels of experience.
- Webinars were mainly valued for their ease of access and organisational flexibility. Survey data reveal that participants predominantly rated them as moderately or highly useful, a perception also confirmed by interviewees, who emphasised the possibility of accessing content

asynchronously. At the same time, several stakeholders pointed out that work commitments often reduce the time and attention that can be dedicated to online activities, potentially limiting their overall effectiveness.

- In-person workshops and study visits were perceived as particularly relevant due to their practical dimension. Interviewees underlined the benefits of direct engagement with real projects, peer discussion and on-site experience. Study visits, in particular, were described as effective in strengthening trust, since they enable participants to directly observe and experience timber-based solutions. This experiential component was considered crucial in addressing scepticism and internal resistance within organisations.
- Innovation challenges received a generally positive assessment in both surveys and interviews, especially in relation to their educational role and their ability to foster peer learning and cross-disciplinary interaction. Interviewees noted that these activities may be more directly aligned with the needs of students or early-career professionals than with lifelong learning trajectories. Nevertheless, respondents recognised their value in promoting new viewpoints, stimulating collaboration and exposing organisations to innovative practices beyond their usual operational frameworks.
- Toolkits and guidelines were consistently recognised as key reference resources by both survey participants and interviewees. However, it was also emphasised that their effectiveness increases when they are supported by concrete examples and guidance tailored to national regulatory contexts and institutional requirements. In light of the heterogeneity of building regulations and procurement systems across Europe, respondents expressed a preference for national or context-specific toolkits rather than generic EU-level tools.

4.3 Description of Key exploitable results

Capacity building (WP3)	has created resources (recorded NEBinars and Webinars, podcast) that have been published on the project website and made freely available to stakeholders. These resources have been shared through the NEB Academy platform and DigiNEB.eu and also used by the universities for education activities and by professionals for life-long training. The Nebinar platform https://nebinar.eu/ is a long-lasting educational and dissemination tool, planned to continue and be developed alongside new NEB-related knowledge and activities outside the project time frame. This indefinite tool provides translated material (with subtitles) to professional architectural chambers in Europe. International outreach,
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	including to non-European countries (such as the USA, UAE, or India), has sustainable, robust effects. More languages will be available in the future. The first after project end is Romanian.
Toolkit	The toolkit developed in the LIFE BE-WoodEN project represents a useful tool to increase the competitiveness of the companies of the wood supply chain and is a methodological approach that can help companies belonging to all the supply chain phases in the definition of a green business model.
Feasibility study	<p>The study highlighted the obstacles and the opportunities, defining the context and possible measures to overcome the barriers and exploit the opportunities. This activity is a starting point for future actions. In particular, ART-ER will support the Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority to deal with several issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fill knowledge gaps about different phases of the supply chain ● Promote the forestry planning ● Promote the forestry certification ● Promote the valorization of the increase of ecosystem services due to sustainable forest management and to the use of certified wooden materials in the building sector ● Support the use of Green Public Procurement to promote the use of wooden materials in the building sector ● Support the dialogue with companies of the supply chain ● Support the awareness raising on the topic of citizens, public officers, professionals and enterprises
Challenge Based Learning	It is an innovative learning and co-design methodology that has been applied within the pilot action performed in Liguria. The pilot, implemented in the municipality of Imperia, centered on the transformation of a public social housing building owned by ARTE Imperia, with the dual objective of testing CBL in practice and promoting the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The CBL path was developed by looking at the methodology “Hackathon”, a learning model that focuses on challenge and design. The design process lasted approximately 3 months during which the interdisciplinary working groups developed 8 NEB transformation design proposals (1 project proposal for 1 group). The CBL process has been based on an open call for professionals and social innovators, resulting in the participation of 47 individuals from diverse disciplines, organized into eight interdisciplinary groups. Over a three-month period (March–May 2025), these groups engaged in participatory workshops, co-design sessions and technical as well as general monitoring meetings. Each group developed a proposal aimed at reimagining the building’s common spaces to improve habitability, foster social inclusion for elderly residents and strengthen connections with the surrounding neighborhood. Projects emphasized the use of sustainable materials, particularly wood, and were evaluated against

	<p>shared sustainability KPIs including carbon footprint, recyclability, and adaptability. The winning project was selected for further development and implementation, supported by a €50,000 budget. All groups, regardless of outcome, had the opportunity to disseminate their work through interviews and project communication, strengthening the visibility of the initiative. The CBL approach effectively fostered collaboration across disciplines, enhanced participant learning and generated innovative, community-centered design solutions. The pilot also provided valuable insights into methodologies for participatory design, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable urban transformation.</p>
Self-construction methodology	<p>Innovative process that was unexpectedly implemented to perform the wooden renovation works at the Pilot Action in Liguria. Designers themselves built the wooden installations supported by architecture and professional students, volunteers, inhabitants. This turned out as a truly NEB aligned exemplary social experiment, a participatory process and an amazing learning by doing experience.</p>
NEB SUD Hub	<p>The LIFE BE-WoodEN “NEB SUD Hub - Sustainable Design with wood and bio-based material HUB”, created by the University of Genoa, University of Florence and in-house society ART-ER (Emilia Romagna Region, Italy) is focused on technical-professional training and on continuing education for members of professional bodies, sustainable, digital and inclusive transition, communication and dissemination activities. This Hub, the pioneer one in Italy, is dedicated to activities related to wood use and bio-based materials implementation and it cooperates with the NEBAP Hub to create synergies and a long and effective collaboration to promote NEB values and principles, and the NEB Compass. NEB SUD Hub and NEBAP worked together throughout the duration of the project, and NEBAP, thanks to the role it assumed in the NEB Community, was an important point of reference. In particular, NEBAP supported and facilitated discussions with the relevant people for the inclusion in the NEB Academy platform, of the training webinars and audiovisual material that constitute the main result of WP3. NEBAP also promoted the visibility of the SUD Hub within the Alliance, which was formed at around the same time.</p>

4.4 Transferability of project results

As concerns the transferability of the LIFE BE-WoodEN project’s results to the social, public and cooperative housing sector across Europe, with a specific focus on timber construction and the New European Bauhaus framework, we

summarize here the outcomes of the survey carried out and widely described in D6.2 "Transferability analysis".

The analysis showed that timber construction is progressively acknowledged as an effective approach to reducing embodied carbon and promoting circularity in residential building projects. Nevertheless, its diffusion within the social and public housing sector remains strongly influenced by local conditions and differs significantly among EU Member States.

Evidence gathered from surveys and supporting materials indicates that timber is still mainly applied in non-structural components or in low-rise buildings, whereas structural timber solutions are more frequently developed within pilot initiatives or in markets with greater experience in timber construction. Several barriers were identified, including higher initial investment costs, limited technical expertise, regulatory and insurance-related constraints, as well as cautious, sometimes sceptical, attitudes among relevant stakeholders. At the same time, favourable perceptions among tenants, increasing environmental awareness and the presence of supportive policy frameworks in certain countries reveal a substantial potential for broader adoption.

The results suggest that transferability is not primarily linked to the replication of specific technical solutions, but rather to the adaptation of capacity-building initiatives, guidance instruments and collaborative approaches to diverse regulatory, economic and cultural contexts.

In this perspective, financial support mechanisms, dedicated training activities, practical guidance tools and clear regulatory frameworks emerge as key enabling factors for wider implementation.

The assessment further indicates that the New European Bauhaus constitutes an important conceptual reference, particularly in strengthening sustainability objectives. However, some practitioners reported limited familiarity with the NEB framework or difficulties in translating its principles into concrete project applications. In several cases, financial limitations and procurement procedures constrain its practical implementation. Stakeholders also highlighted the need for additional operational tools capable of facilitating the translation of NEB principles into practice.

4.5 Target audience, partners and stakeholders

The BE-WoodEN project was tailored to four overarching target groups, reflecting the project's dual focus on capacity building and real-life demonstration. The involvement of the target audience and stakeholders is described in the D7.2 "Communication Plan":

- Knowledge and training ecosystem: universities, research bodies and educational actors, including students, working on issues related to sustainable building and design practices.

- Professional and industrial actors: design professionals, construction companies, manufacturers and stakeholders operating along the wood supply chain, with a specific focus on organisations active in social housing.
- Institutional and governance actors: public authorities at local and regional levels, housing institutions and administrative bodies involved in policy-making, procurement and urban development processes.
- Societal and local stakeholders: citizens, community groups and actors directly engaged in the pilot initiatives, particularly within social housing contexts.

4.6 Fields of action

In the following paragraphs we describe the activities which the partners commit to carry out in the near future and beyond, to guarantee project sustainability thus showing a continued interest in the promotion of NEB approach and wood as a construction material.

1 Activities in the NEB Community at national and international level

On the occasion of the establishment of the NEB SUD Hub, the University of Genoa highlighted the news through institutional channels, as it was the first national-level hub to be established. During the conferences attended by the partners, emphasis was placed on the new educational centre, for which a website has been launched, containing the main results achieved. In the months following the conclusion of the project, the website will be updated with ongoing activities by the members (in particular ART-ER) (<https://nebsudhub.unige.it/>).

Other activities planned for the future, at national level, include:

- Implementation of the website with activities independent of the BE-WoodEN project and carried out separately by the constituent bodies.
- Actions of Liguria Region, member of the advisory board and the SOUTH Hub, and the forthcoming opening of a NEB local chapter, with the participation of the University of Genoa and other local entities.
- Actions of ART-ER active within the NEB (FRANCO Festival, Urban regeneration forum; interviews and newsletters).
- The presence of University of Genoa in future NEB Challenges, as already done in 2023 (ARCHEO-blue@greenway; LIBERI TUTTI; NEB-BILC; Building Together).

The presence of international figures on the NEB SUD Hub Advisory Board has helped to disseminate the project's activities, for which an article will soon be

published on the CINEA website [News - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#).

Future activities planned include:

- Joining the NEB SOUTH Hub, and therefore the Alliance, as an associate member, for the reasons and according to the procedure described in D2.5 (UNIGE, UNIFI and ART-ER).
- Participation, by invitation, in the 1st New European Bauhaus Academy Conference *Training the European building sector for a regenerative and resilient future* on 27 February 2026, in the session *NEB Academy Hubs: first achievements and success stories* (UNIGE) and participation, as member of the SOUTH Hub of Liguria Region..
- Participation in upcoming networking meetings between LIFE NEB project teams (see list in D2.5) organized by the Project Advisor, the next of which will be on 23rd March 2026 (UNIGE)
- Desirable participation in the NEB Festival in June 2026, for which an application was submitted by UNIGE on 30 September 2025 (currently under final evaluation, after a first positive step). Regione Liguria will organize a 'Satellite event' within the Festival, while ART-ER will organize two events in the NEB Festival within the local NEB Chapters.

With regard to collaboration among the NEBAP and NEB SUD Hubs, Academy Hubs, future activities include:

- joint participation in new calls within the NEB (see D2.5 "Report on Project's impacts") join the NEB Academy and its long-term mission to train, upskill, and reskill the construction ecosystem to achieve a carbon neutral building sector and a beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive transformation of the built environment (see D6.3 "NEB HUB exploitation").

2. Capacity Building and training

The experience gained during the project, in WP3 and WP4 activities, has led some participants, especially those involved in training, to treasure the wealth of experience accumulated and the results achieved and already available to the general public. In particular, the activities planned for the near future are aimed at achieving the following training objectives: increasing knowledge on the subject of design and construction in wood; implementing knowledge on the forms of degradation and ageing of wood used in structural elements of construction that require restoration and consolidation; implementing innovative and participatory forms of teaching; involvement in university training activities of actors linked to the world of production and development

of executive projects ready for the supply of components and construction on site.

The NEBinars and webinars will remain available beyond the duration of the project and will be used mainly by professionals interested in lifelong learning and acquiring professional credits (which, in some European countries, is a mandatory requirement for practising as an engineer or architect).

At the request of the Polish Chamber of Architects, in order to make the NEBinar lecture series more accessible to people who are not fluent in English, a decision was made to translate some of the lectures into Polish. So far, translations (in the form of subtitles) have been made for eight lectures, which, after publication, enjoyed high viewership among Polish architects. Based on this experience, similar discussions have been initiated with the Romanian and Bulgarian chambers of architects. As part of the pilot project, Romanian subtitles were prepared for the first lecture, which will soon be promoted by the Romanian Chamber of Architects' mailing list. Seeing the measurable effects of preparing language versions dedicated to individual countries, work is currently underway to prepare further translations.

Based on this experience, similar discussions have been initiated with the Romanian and Bulgarian chambers of architects. Partners from PWR have provided and will continue to provide translations of the webinars into several languages spoken in Eastern European countries.

The following activities are therefore planned:

- Further translations of the webinars into several languages spoken in Eastern European countries (by PWR).
- Offering NEBinars and webinars to students enrolled in the Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Sciences and Master's Degree in Architecture at the University of Genoa as opportunities to earn credits for other educational activities and, in the Master's Degree programme, as basic material for addressing a specific section dedicated to wood construction (academic year 2026-2026, spring-summer semester).
- Keeping on offering the section of e-learning for professionals in the European and Italian platforms.
- Collaboration with wood experts involved as stakeholders and/or actively participating in the capacity building activities within the BE-WoodEN project and invitation to participate in training activities in the form of lessons and seminars (University of Genoa, Master degree course in Architecture, academic year 2025-2026, in the late spring 2026).
- Collaboration between UNIGE and UNIFI on the organisation of a small training module, with lectures and experiments at the DAGRI

department's wood laboratories, aimed at students of the master's degree course in Architecture at the University of Genoa (academic year 2026-2027, spring-summer semester).

- Collaboration between UNIGE and UNIFI on the organisation of a small training module with the University of Florence, with lectures and practical sessions at the wood laboratories of the DAGRI department, aimed at postgraduate students (graduates) of the School of Specialisation in Architectural Heritage and Landscape at the University of Genoa (post-Graduate Programme). The module will be specifically dedicated to the issues of wood degradation (academic year 2026/2027).
- Additional training for engineers, architects, and other professionals: some workshops, based on the UNIFI "Winter School" experience, will include practical activities to help participants familiarize themselves with the raw material as an example of the replicability of the Be-WoodEN initiatives, addressing the specific needs identified during the meeting in the Emilia-Romagna Region (Wood, sustainable construction, and innovation: opportunities for the supply chain and local development, January 23rd, 2026). The courses will be held in Bologna in four-hour morning sessions for up to 30 participants. Professional training credits (CFP) will be awarded based on agreements with the respective Professional Orders. During the training activities, the Webinars, NEBinars, and Podcasts produced during the project will be presented and promoted to participants.
- Organization of a student competition at the University of Wroclaw, promoting the use of wood in architecture. Students of PWR are invited to participate in the student art competition entitled "Wood as a Renewable Material in Architecture." The aim of the initiative is to illustrate the possibilities offered by the natural raw material – wood – in contemporary architecture and construction. One of the conditions for participation in the competition is to familiarize oneself with the lectures given as part of the project and posted on the Nebinar.eu platform. Students are encouraged to present their concepts and ideas as digital artworks, such as posters, collages, photographs, digital paintings, and computer graphics. Entries should be conceptual, original, and creative in nature, constituting an original manifesto or statement (no AI tools). The competition's decisions will be followed by the exhibition, which will extend beyond the project's timeframe and remain on the university's website for the long term. Due to the new possibility of including students from Ukraine in the competition, the date of the announcement may be in the first days of March.

3. NEB approach and Challenge Based Learning in place making

The BE-WoodEN methodological framework can be transferred and implemented in other territorial contexts through a set of operational directions that allow adaptation to local conditions and priorities. Its flexibility makes it suitable for replication in different geographical areas by adjusting tools, processes and stakeholder engagement models to specific territorial characteristics.

The New European Bauhaus approach can be systematically integrated into design and planning processes, supporting the incorporation of NEB values—sustainability, inclusion and beauty—together with participatory practices, transdisciplinary collaboration and multi-level stakeholder engagement. This approach can be applied across a wide range of spatial contexts, including urban, peri-urban, rural and coastal environments.

The combined application of NEB principles and Challenge-Based Learning (CBL) provides a practical model for multidisciplinary cooperation and community co-design. This model can be implemented in peri-urban areas with tourism-related functions, in territories characterised by high environmental value and potential ecosystem services, in densely populated urban and coastal areas, as well as in contexts with strong cultural and historical identities, such as inland and rural settlements.

On this basis, the methodologies developed within BE-WoodEN constitute a concrete starting point for future European project proposals involving the same or partially modified partnerships. In particular, they can be further developed within upcoming funding opportunities, such as the LIFE 2025 Call and the Horizon NEB Facility 2025, addressing different sectors and application fields. Potential areas of implementation include the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions, placemaking processes and the design of public wooden furniture, through the continued integration of NEB and CBL approaches.

4. Policies and Regulations

Emilia Romagna Region (IT)

ART-ER will support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the policy-making and the governance of forestry and wooden supply chain issues, with activities foreseen in the short and medium period.

Regarding Green Public Procurement, in November 2025 Italian Ministry updated the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM in Italian) for the Building Sector and ART-ER will support the Regional Authority to highlight the new rules related to the use of wooden materials, in terms of opportunities and constraints, with the objective to adopt procurement procedures aimed at wood valorization.

ART-ER will also support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the analysis of potential regulations aimed at the spread of wood use in public buildings. The increase in wood use in the public sector could become a flywheel for the entire building sector and reduce costs.

In the next couple of years ART-ER will support the implementation of a regional registry for the valorization of forestry ecosystem services.

Also forestry planning will be promoted, through communication activities and funding, in order to improve the production of wooden materials for the building sector in Emilia-Romagna.

The recent initiatives of European Commission (Recommendation on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming, Communication on Nature Credits) represent opportunities both for the forestry phase and for the building phase, and ART-ER will support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in being updated and in raising the awareness of local actors, also through networking.

ART-ER will carry out all these activities with its own resources.

Social housing (IT)

During the national round tables of the Italian State-Regions Conference (November 27th 2025), it was decided to allocate part of the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and RDF (Regional Development Fund) funds of the 21-27 Cohesion Policy to the regeneration of social housing buildings, as part of the mid-term review of regional and national development programmes. In Italy ERDF investments in social housing are being planned for the coming years, in line with the affordable housing policy. The results of the pilot project in Imperia can therefore become exemplary and be replicated by the other social housing operators affiliated to Liguria Region (ARTE La Spezia, ARTE Genova, ARTE Savona), and by local stakeholders, and Italy (including through the Federcasa network) and in Europe (Housing Europe, ACE, Euronet) in terms of both models for resident and community engagement and wooden interventions, which will also be financed with ERDF resources, through many dedicated dissemination actions and activities.

NEB reinforces the environmental sustainability requirements of GPP - through CAM - as it broadens the perspective of environmental sustainability criteria in terms of beauty and inclusion; attention is also focused on the quality of building materials and the value chain of the circular economy. Furthermore, the co-design methodologies applied in the project represent an innovative method applicable to buildings and social housing spaces at regional, national and European level. The engagement of citizens in the co-design of public

spaces and housing solutions makes them more inclusive and close to real-world needs.

Moreover, NEB pillars are key elements for new projects on building redevelopment since they promote and strengthen not only accessibility, aesthetics and the centrality of nature, but also the use of bio-based, local, or recycled materials. The support, through ERDF Funds, of the research and the use of bio-based materials encourage the local supply chain and innovation in materials and circularity.

NEB values and principles can be integrated in regional calls (ERDF) as criteria, especially for sustainable urban development strategies and the regeneration of inland areas.

5. Green Business Models and Market Development

The results of the pilot action in Emilia-Romagna demonstrated that the use of wood in the building sector improves the environmental performances and this aspect could be valorized. ART-ER will carry out activities for the diffusion of the toolkit in Emilia-Romagna (communication, funding, networking). In particular it will be presented in a regional working group about forestry-wood supply chain, coordinated by Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority and with the technical support of ART-ER. Other opportunities of dissemination will be Ecomondo Fair in Rimini in the Emilia-Romagna exhibition stand and local events focused on Forest resources valorization as Oltreterra in the Apennines.

The qualification of wood is a strategic step to spread the use of wooden materials in the construction sector, so ART-ER will support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the promotion of FSC and PEFC certification, through communication activities and funding.

ART-ER will carry out all these activities with its own resources.

The series of webinars and NEBinars, together with the podcast series in Italian and English, will be used as training and informational materials for the employees of member companies, with particular reference to the wood construction sector (approximately 200 companies) and the network of architects (approximately 300) who have already been invited to take the accredited course.

6. Local Supply Chain Management

The feasibility study carried out in the LIFE BE-WoodEN project has allowed for the modelling of the supply chain in Emilia-Romagna, considering the forestry phase, the production of semi-finished products, the buildings and the furniture.

The study highlighted also knowledge gaps such as sawmills consistency and wood production potential (see D.5.1), so ART-ER will develop a regional dashboard for the wood supply chain in order to build a framework of existing data available for the public.

ART-ER will support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the management of a regional working group composed by forestry consortia, local bodies and professionals as a place of dialogue between regional government and key stakeholders in the Forestry-Wood supply chain.

ART-ER will carry out all these activities with its own resources.

7. Wooden installation maintenance

ARTE Imperia will play a central role in the post-project phase by coordinating activities, ordinary maintenance and stakeholder engagement. Through this governance framework, ARTE Imperia will contribute to ensuring continuity of use, long-term care of the regenerated spaces and the sustainability of the intervention beyond the conclusion of the LIFE BE-WoodEN project.

ARTE Imperia will carry out all these activities with its own resources.

8. Communication, dissemination and stakeholders engagement

All partners are interested in capacity building, the NEB approach and the implementation of wood in the construction sector therefore they will continue to communicate and disseminate results through their own channels. Future occasions include:

- Ecomondo Fair in Rimini (Italy) in the Emilia-Romagna exhibition stand (BY ART-ER)
- local events focused on Forest resources valorization as Oltreterra in the Apennines (by ART-ER)
- scientific publications by UNIGE, UNIFI, UP and PWR

In September 2026, the city of Wroclaw, where PWR headquarters are located, will host Placemaking Week Europe 2026 (organization Placemaking Europe). It is a great opportunity to showcase the project's achievements and products. Even if possible, recreate in the small scale the project's achievements. The event will host around four hundred experts and practitioners. The city of Wroclaw has fully joined the Cities in Placemaking programme following a joint declaration signed in The Hague in February 2025.

4.7 Summary of sustainability strategy actions

TYPE	WHAT	DESCRIPTION	WHERE	WHO	WHEN	€
NEB Community at national and international level	NEB SUD HUB website	https://nebsudhub.unige.it/	online	UNIGE	ongoing	own sources
	Liguria NEB Chapter	Regione Liguria will set up the Liguria NEB chapter composed of local stakeholders participating in the NEB community and UNIGE	online and in presence, Liguria	Liguria Region	ongoing	own resources
	Emilia Romagna NEB chapter	organization of and participation in NEB promotion activities in Emilia Romagna	online and in presence, Emilia Romagna	ART-ER	ongoing	own resources
	NEB Challenges	submission of initiatives to yearly NEB challenge	to be defined	Liguria Region	ongoing	own sources
	NEB Academy	- participation, by invitation, in the 1st New European Bauhaus			UNIGE	27th Feb 2026

		<p>Academy Conference <i>Training the European building sector for a regenerative and resilient future</i>, in the session <i>NEB Academy Hubs: first achievements and success stories</i></p> <p>- joining the NEB Academy</p>				
	LIFE NEB projects networking	participation to networking events	online	UNIGE	ongoing, next 23rd March	own sources
	NEB Festival	submission of proposals for participation to NEB Festival: an application was	in presence	UNIGE, ART-ER, Regione Liguria	june 2026	own sources

		submitted by UNIGE on 30 September 2025 (currently under final evaluation, after a first positive step). Regione Liguria will organize a 'Satellite event' within the Festival, while ART-ER will organize two events in the NEB Festival within the local NEB Chapters				
	NEB Alliance participation	the NEB SUD hub joining the NEB SOUTH Hub, and therefore the Alliance, as an associate member, with the aim of better connecting their respective communities (educators, trainers, researchers, innovators,	NA	NEB SUD Hub	ongoing (signature of the MoU process)	own resources

		designers, builders, etc. etc.), expanding the scope of action, content offerings, and opportunities for students, trainers, and stakeholders to obtain official NEB recognition.				
Capacity building	webinars and NEBinars	the platform will keep the courses alive and accessible and further language translations will be implemented	online	PWR, ACE, UNIGE		own sources
	wood focus at University courses as a collab between UNIGE and UNIFI	organisation of training modules with lectures and practical sessions at the wood laboratories of the DAGRI department, aimed at: - postgraduate students in the School of Specialisation in Architectural Heritage and	in presence	UNIGE-UNIFI	academic years 2025-2026, 2026-2027	own sources

		Landscape at the University of Genoa - students of the master's degree course in Architecture at the University of Genoa (academic year 2026-2027, spring-summer semester).				
	students competition at PWR	organization of the student competition "Wood as a Renewable Material in Architecture": concepts and ideas as digital artworks, such as posters, collages, photographs, digital paintings, and computer graphics.	in presence	PWR	academic year 2025-2026	own sources
	Vocational training in Bologna	Additional training for engineers, architects, and other professionals: 4-hour workshops, based on	Bologna	UNIFI, ART-ER	2026	own sources + private contribution

		the UNIFI “Winter School”.				
Green business model and market development	Toolkit	The toolkit will be presented in a regional working group about forestry-wood supply chain, coordinated by Emilia-Romagna Regional Authority	in presence, Emilia Romagna	ART-ER	2026-2027	own sources
Policy and regulation	Wood supply chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the policy-making and the governance of forestry and wooden supply chain issues, application of CAM - support the implementation of a regional registry for the valorization of forestry ecosystem services - support the Emilia-Romagna regional authority in the 	in presence, Emilia Romagna	ART-ER	2026 and beyond	own sources or within a technical support service contract with the Regional Government

		promotion of FSC and PEFC certification				
	NEB and Place making	NEB values and principles can be integrated in regional calls (ERDF) as criteria, especially for sustainable urban development strategies and the regeneration of inland areas. RL will promote these principles to the ERDF Management Authority	not applicable	RL	2026 and beyond	own sources
	Affordable housing	promotion of replication of the pilot in Imperia by other social housing operators	not applicable	RL	2026 and beyond	own sources, scouting of other sources for implementation
Pilot installation	Maintenance and stakeholder engagement	ARTE Imperia will keep maintaining the pilot wooden installation at the social house and will promote further stakeholder	works	ARTE Imperia	ongoing	own resources

		engagement				
communication and dissemination	scientific publications	scientific publications telling project results and related research	online and on paper	academic partners (UNIGE, UNIFI, PWR, UP)	2026 and beyond	own sources
	participation in other dissemination events and fairs	conferences and fairs with focus on linked topics such as sustainability, forestry, etc. for example ECOMONDO environmental fair in Italy	online and in presence	ART-ER, PWR, other partners	2026 and beyond	own sources
Innovation lab NEB/CBL	Scouting of other funding sources to continue cooperation and study/work on NEB/CBL topics	participation in EU and partner countries calls for proposals, with the same partnership or other cooperations	not applicable	partners	during and after project end	own resources



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