

Contract number:



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Coordination of Programmes
Deputy Director-General

- Options **[in roman in square brackets in grey]** are to be kept as they are or deleted.
- Comments **[in italics in square brackets in grey]** are to be deleted and replaced by relevant data as appropriate.

EXPERT CONTRACT

CONTRACT NUMBER — **[to be completed]**

This Contract ('the Contract') is between the following parties:

on the one part,

The European Union ('the Union'), represented by the European Commission ('the contracting party'), represented for the purposes of signing this Contract by Nicola De Michelis, acting Deputy Director-General for Implementation of Regional and Urban Policy Directorate General,

and on the other part,

[Family name]

[First name]

[Full official address]

[Email address]

The parties referred to above have agreed to enter into this Contract under the terms and conditions below.

By signing this Contract, the expert confirms that s/he has read, understood and accepted the Contract and all its obligations and conditions, including the Code of Conduct set out in Annexe 1, the Terms of Reference set out in Annexe 2 and the Declaration of absence of conflict of interests and of confidentiality set out in Annexe 3.

The Contract is composed of:

Terms and conditions

Annexe 1 Code of Conduct

Annexe 2 Terms of Reference

Annexe 3 Declaration of absence of conflict of interests and of confidentiality

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CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL

ARTICLE 1 - SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

The subject of the Contract is assistance to the contracting party with opinion and advice regarding the quality of submitted applications, as regards of six fields, based on the three values (sustainability, aesthetics, inclusiveness) and three working principles (participatory process, multi-level engagement, transdisciplinary approach) of the New European Bauhaus (NEB).¹ Full selection of criteria will be included in the evaluation grid.

Option 1:

The expert is supposed to assess the applications submitted in response to the call for applications for the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025.

The expert must deliver a report on each application assessed, using the evaluation grid provided by the Contractor, and including a short justification for the given points.

Option 2:

The expert is tasked to act as one 'jury member'. The role of the jury is to review the documentation related to the finalist applications, consider additional criteria specified in the contract, and propose a ranking of the winning applications.

ARTICLE 2 - WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The experts may not under any circumstances start work before the date on which this Contract enters into force in accordance with Article 22.

Option 1:

1. The expert's work cannot exceed *[insert number]* working days.

The expert shall assess the applications for NEB Prizes 2025 as described in point 5 of the Terms of Reference. The expert shall complete and send the evaluation grids duly filled in, including a short justification for the given points.

2. The indicative planning for accomplishing the tasks are as follows:

- The expert must perform the tasks between the date of entry into force of the contract and 17 April 2025.
- The expert must perform all tasks in accordance with Annexe 2.

Option 2:

1. The expert's work cannot exceed *[insert number]* working days.

¹ More information about the NEB: https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en and in the Communication: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/qanda_21_4627/QANDA_21_4627_EN.pdf.

The expert is expected to fulfil tasks of a jury member as described in point 5 of the Terms of Reference.

2. The indicative planning for accomplishing the tasks are as follows:
 - The expert must perform the tasks between the date of entry into force of the contract and 27 June 2025.
 - The expert must perform all tasks in accordance with Annexe 2.

CHAPTER 2 - FEES, ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

ARTICLE 3 - FEES

Option 1:

1. The expert is entitled to a fee of EUR 450 (four hundred and fifty) for each working day in accordance with Article 2.
2. The total amount of the fees is calculated on the basis of a number of days worked.
3. The maximum amount of fees paid under the Contract is limited to the maximum number of working days in accordance with article 2.1, i.e., EUR [*insert amount (insert amount in words)*].

Option 2:

1. The expert is entitled to a fee of EUR 450 (four hundred and fifty) for each working day in accordance with Article 2.
2. The total amount of the fees is calculated on the basis of a number of days worked.
3. The maximum amount of fees paid under the Contract is limited to the maximum number of working days in accordance with article 2.1, i.e., EUR [*insert amount (insert amount in words)*].

ARTICLE 4 - ALLOWANCES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

1. The contracting party does not:
 - a) reimburse travel expenses,
 - b) pay daily allowances,
 - c) pay accommodation allowances,
 - d) reimburse operating costs for participating in a videoconferences.
2. Other expenses will not be reimbursed either, in particular:
 - a) costs of purchasing equipment or other material needed by the expert to accomplish its tasks;
 - b) expenses already declared by the expert under another EU or Euratom contract or grant (including grants awarded by a Member State and financed by the EU or

Euratom budget and grants awarded by bodies other than the Commission for the purpose of implementing the EU or Euratom budget);

- c) reckless or excessive expenses.

CHAPTER 3 - RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

ARTICLE 5 - PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

1. The expert must perform the Contract in compliance with its provisions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.

The expert must do so fully, within the set deadlines and to the highest professional standards.

The expert must, in particular, ensure compliance with:

- the Code of Conduct (Annex 1); and
- applicable national tax and social security law.

The terms and conditions of this Contract do not constitute an employment agreement with the contracting party.

2. If the expert cannot fulfil their obligations, s/he must immediately inform the contracting party.

ARTICLE 6 - KEEPING RECORDS — SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The expert must keep records and other supporting documentation (original supporting documents) as evidence that the Contract is performed correctly. These must be available for review upon the contracting party's request.

The expert must keep all records and supporting documentation for five years starting from the date of the last payment. If there are on-going checks, audits, investigations, appeals, litigation or pursuit of claims, the expert must keep the records and supporting documents until these procedures end.

ARTICLE 7 - REQUEST[S] FOR PAYMENT

1. To obtain its fees the expert must submit electronically a request for payment/invoice and include all the required supporting documents.
2. The request for payment/invoice and other financial information must be sent by e-mail to: REGIO-GREFFE@ec.europa.eu, with the internal reference of the file: **CCI No...**, or failing this by post to: European Commission Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy, Greffe REGIO, B - 1049 Brussels, with the internal reference of the file: **CCI No...**

The request for payment/invoice shall include the following:

- (a) The creditor's identification (including VAT number if applicable)

- (b) The amount
 - (c) The currency
 - (d) The date
3. The request for payment/invoice must be submitted within 30 days of the date(s) for submitting the report(s) or deliverable(s) specified in Article 2, or after the last day of the meeting or remote evaluation session, whichever comes latest.
 4. For experts considered as supplying a taxable service under the applicable national tax regime, the request for payment must take the form of an invoice.

The Expert shall include the following statement in his invoice: "VAT Exemption / European Union/ Article 151 of Council Directive 2006/112/EC".

ARTICLE 8 - BANK ACCOUNT

Payments shall be made to the expert's bank account denominated in euro, identified as follows:

Name of bank:

Full address of branch:

Exact designation of account holder:

Full account number including bank codes:

IBAN² code:

ARTICLE 9 - PAYMENTS

1. The contracting party will make payments within 30 calendar days of receiving the completed payment request(s) unless Article 13 applies.
2. Payments are subject to the contracting party's approval of deliverable(s) or report(s), and of the payment request(s). Approval does not mean recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness or correctness of content.
3. Payments will be made in euros.
4. Payments will be made to the bank account specified by the expert in the payment request referred in Article 7.
5. The contracting party's payments are deemed to be carried out on the date on which its account is debited.
6. On expiry of the payment period specified in paragraph 1 and without prejudice to Article 13, the contractor is entitled to interest on late payment at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations in Euros (the reference rate), plus 3.5 points. The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment period ends, as published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union.

² BIC or SWIFT code for countries with no IBAN code.

The suspension of the payment period in accordance with Article 13 may not be considered as a late payment.

Interest on late payment covers the period running from the day following the due date for payment up to and including the date of actual payment as defined in paragraph 5.

However, when the calculated interest is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it must be paid to the contractor only upon request submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

ARTICLE 10 - OWNERSHIP AND USE OF THE RESULTS (INCLUDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS)

1. The Union must fully and irrevocably acquire the ownership of the results under this Contract including any rights in any of the results listed in this Contract, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, as well as all technological solutions and information contained within these technological solutions, produced in performance of the Contract. The contracting party may exploit them as stipulated in this Contract. The Union must acquire all the rights from the moment the results are delivered by the expert and accepted by the contracting party. Such delivery and acceptance are deemed to constitute an effective assignment of rights from the expert to the Union.
2. The Union must acquire ownership of each of the results produced as an outcome of this Contract which may be used, for the following purposes of:
 - (a) giving access upon individual requests without the right to reproduce or exploit, as provided for by Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents;
 - (b) storage of the original and copies made in accordance with this Contract;
 - (c) archiving in line with the document management rules applicable to the contracting party.
3. The Union may use, publish, assign or transfer these results as it sees fit, without any limitations (geographical or other), unless intellectual property rights already exist.

ARTICLE 11 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Processing of personal data by the contracting party

The contracting party will process all personal data included in the Contract according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.

Such data will be processed by the unit Budget and Financial Management of the Directorate Budget Communication and General Affairs of Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy ('data controller') only to perform, manage and monitor the Contract.

The data may also be sent to persons or bodies responsible for monitoring or inspections in application of EU law.

The expert has the right to access its personal data and to correct it. Any questions about or corrections to the expert's personal data must be sent to the data controller.

The expert has the right of recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

2. Processing of personal data by the expert

If the Contract requires the expert to process personal data, the expert may only act under the supervision of the data controller identified above. This is the case in particular for determining why personal data should be processed, what categories of data may be processed, who will have the right to access the data, and how the data subject may exercise its rights.

The expert must put in place appropriate technical and organisational security measures to address the risks inherent to data processing and:

- (a) prevent unauthorised people from accessing computer systems that process personal data, and especially the:
 - (i) unauthorised reading, copying, alteration or removal of storage media;
 - (ii) unauthorised data input, disclosure, alteration or deletion of stored personal data;
 - (iii) unauthorised use of data-processing systems by means of data transmission facilities;
- (b) ensure that a data-processing system's authorised users can access only the personal data to which its access right refer;
- (c) record which personal data have been communicated by the expert, when and to whom;
- (d) ensure that personal data being processed on behalf of third parties can be processed only in the manner prescribed by the contracting party;
- (e) ensure that, during communication of personal data and transport of storage media, the data cannot be read, copied or deleted without authorisation;
- (f) design its organisational structure in a way that meets data protection requirements.

ARTICLE 12 - CHECKS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS

1. The contracting party may carry out checks and audits to ascertain compliance with the proper implementation of the tasks (including assessment of deliverables and reports) under this Contract and whether the expert is meeting its obligations.

It may do so throughout the Contract's validity and up to five years after the last payment is made. The expert must provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted. The expert must allow access to sites and premises on which the tasks specified in this Contract are performed.

2. Under Regulation No 2185/96³ and Regulation No 883/2013⁴ (and in accordance with its provisions and procedures), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) may — at any moment during implementation of the Contract or afterwards — carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, to establish whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity under the Contract affecting the financial interests of the EU.
3. Under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 161 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012⁵, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may — at any moment during implementation of the Contract or afterwards — carry out audits.

The ECA has the right of access for the purpose of checks and audits.

4. Findings in checks, audits or investigations may lead to the reduction or rejection of fees, rejection of claims for allowances and expenses in accordance with Articles 14, or recovery of undue amounts in accordance with Article 15.

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

CHAPTER 4 - EFFECTS OF BREACHING CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

ARTICLE 13 - SUSPENSION OF THE PAYMENT TIME LIMIT

1. The contracting party may at any point suspend the payment time limit if a request for payment cannot be processed because it does not comply with the Contract's provisions.
2. The contracting party must notify the expert of the suspension and the reasons for it.
3. The suspension takes effect on the day notification is sent by the contracting party.
4. If the condition for suspending the payment time limit as referred to in paragraph 1 is no longer met, the suspension will be lifted — and the remaining period will resume.

If the suspension exceeds two months, the expert may ask the contracting party if the suspension will continue.

5. If the payment time limit has been suspended due to the non-compliance of the reports or deliverables in accordance with Annex 2 point 7 and the revised report or deliverables or payment request is not submitted or was submitted but is also rejected, the contracting party may also terminate the Contract as referred to in Article 16.

³ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspection carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996).

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248).

⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L218, 26.10.2012).

ARTICLE 14 - REDUCTION OF FEES OR REJECTION OF FEES, CLAIMS FOR ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

1. The contracting party may reject:
 - (a) (parts of) the fees if the expert does not fulfil the tasks set out in Article 2;
 - (b) The contracting party may reduce the fee if the expert is in breach of any of its other obligations under the Contract (including the obligations set out in the Code of Conduct).
2. The contracting party must formally notify the expert of its intention, include the reasons why, and invite him/her to submit any observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the contracting party does not accept these observations, it will formally notify confirmation of the rejection or reduction.

ARTICLE 15 - RECOVERY OF UNDUE AMOUNTS

1. The contracting party may recover any amount that was paid but was not due under the Contract.
2. The contracting party must formally notify the expert of its intention, include the reasons why and invite him/her to submit any observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the contracting party does not accept these observations, it will confirm recovery by formally notifying a 'debit note' that specifies the payment terms and date.

3. The expert must repay the amount specified in the debit note to the contracting party.
4. If the expert does not repay the requested amount by the date specified in the debit note, late-payment interest will be added to the amount to be recovered.

The interest rate used will be the same as the rate applied by the European Central Bank (ECB) for its main refinancing operations in euros ('reference rate'), 3.5 points. The reference rate is the rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment deadline specified in the debit note expires, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

5. If the expert does not repay the requested amount by the date specified in the debit note, the contracting party may recover the amounts due by offsetting them against any amounts owed to the expert by the EU institutions or an executive agency (from the EU or Euratom) budget without the expert's consent.

ARTICLE 16 - TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT

1. The contracting party may at any moment terminate the Contract if the expert:
 - (a) is not performing its tasks or is performing them poorly; or
 - (b) has committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, or is in serious breach of its obligations under the selection procedure or under the Contract, including false declarations and obligations relating to the Code of Conduct.

2. The contracting party must formally notify the expert of its intention, include the reasons why and invite him/her to submit any observations within 30 days of receiving notification.

If the contracting party does not accept these observations, it will formally notify confirmation of the termination.

3. The termination will take effect on the date the notification is sent by the contracting party.
4. The expert may at any moment terminate the Contract if s/he is not able to fulfil its obligations in carrying out the work required as referred to in Article 5.
5. The expert must formally notify the contracting party and include the reasons why by giving 15 days' notice.
6. The termination will take effect on the date the contracting party will formally notify confirmation of the termination.
7. Only fees for days actually worked before termination may be paid subject to Article 14. The expert must submit the payment request for the tasks already executed on the date of termination within 30 days from the date of termination.
8. On termination of the Contract, the contracting party may hire another expert to carry out or finish the work. It may claim from the expert all extra costs incurred while doing this, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it may have under the Contract.

ARTICLE 17 - LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

The contracting party cannot be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by the expert or a third party during or as a consequence of performing the Contract, except in the event of the contracting party's wilful misconduct or gross negligence.

ARTICLE 18 - FORCE MAJEURE

1. 'Force majeure' means any situation or event that:
 - prevents either party from fulfilling its obligations under the Contract;
 - was unforeseeable, exceptional and beyond the parties' control;
 - was not due to error or negligence on its part and
 - proves to be inevitable in spite of exercising due diligence.
2. A force majeure must be immediately and formally notified to the other party.
Notification must include details of the situation's nature, likely duration and expected effects.
3. The party faced with a force majeure will not be held in breach of its contractual obligations if the force majeure has prevented it from fulfilling them.

CHAPTER 5 - FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 19 - COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES

1. Communication under the Contract must:

- be made in writing and
- bear the Contract's number;

Formal notifications must be made by registered mail with return receipt or equivalent, or by equivalent electronic means.

2. Communications to the contracting party must be sent to the following address:

For the Commission:

For technical matters:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
Unit REGIO.DDG.02 - Coordination of Programmes
CSM1-9th floor
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium
e-mail: REGIO-NEB-EXPERTS@ec.europa.eu

For financial and administrative matters:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
Unit REGIO.A.3 - Budget and Financial Management
TA Cell
CSM1-2nd floor
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium
e-mail: REGIO-CONTRACTS@ec.europa.eu

For the Expert:

Mrs/Mr. ...

[Full official address]

[Email address]

3. Electronic communication is considered to have been received by the parties on the day of dispatch of that communication provided it is sent to the e-mail addresses as stated on the beginning of the Contract for the expert and in paragraph 2 of this Article for the contracting party.

Dispatch must be deemed unsuccessful if the sending party receives a message of non-delivery. In this case, the sending party must immediately send again such communication to the e-mail address provided in this Contract. In case of unsuccessful dispatch, the sending party is not held in breach of its obligation to send such communication within a specified deadline.

Electronic communication must be confirmed by an original signed paper version of that communication if requested by any of the parties provided that this request is submitted

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without unjustified delay. The sender must send the original signed paper version without unjustified delay.

4. Formal notifications are considered to have been received by the receiving party on the date of receipt indicated on the return receipt or equivalent.
5. Mail sent using the postal services is deemed to have been received by the contracting authority on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible.

ARTICLE 20 - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONTRACT

1. In justified cases — and provided that the amendment does not entail changes to the Contract which would call into question the selection procedure — any party may request an amendment. Amendments must be made before new contractual obligations are enforced.
2. The party requesting an amendment must formally notify the other party the requested amendment together with the reasons why.

The party receiving the request must formally notify its agreement or disagreement, within 30 days of receiving notification.

ARTICLE 21 - APPLICABLE LAW AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

1. This Contract is governed by Union law and is supplemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium.
2. Disputes concerning the Contract's interpretation, application or validity that cannot be settled amicably must be brought before courts of Brussels.

ARTICLE 22 - ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Contract enters into force on the day on which the last party signs.

Done in two copies in English.

Expert:

[insert full name and function if a Cie]

Date:

Signature:

For the Commission,

Nicola De Michelis

Acting Deputy Director-General

Date:

Signature:

ANNEXE 1 - CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPERTS

ARTICLE 1 - PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACT

1. The expert works independently, in a personal capacity and not on behalf of any organisation.
2. The expert must:
 - (a) carry out its work in a confidential and fair way;
 - (b) assist the contracting party or relevant service to the best of its abilities, professional skills, knowledge and applying the highest ethical and moral standards;
 - (c) Follow any instructions and time-schedules given by the contracting party or relevant service and deliver consistently high quality work.
3. The expert may not delegate another person to carry out the work or be replaced by any other person.

ARTICLE 2 - OBLIGATIONS OF IMPARTIALITY

1. The expert must perform its work **impartially**. To this end, the expert is required to:
 - (a) inform the contracting party or relevant service of any conflicts of interest arising in the course of its work;
 - (b) confirm there is no conflict of interest for the work s/he is carrying out by signing a declaration (Annexe 3).
2. **Definition of the conflict of interest:** a conflict of interest exists if an expert:
 - (a) has any vested interests in relation to the questions upon which s/he is asked to give advice;
 - (b) or its organisation stands to benefit directly or indirectly, or be disadvantaged, as a direct result of the work carried out;
 - (c) is in any other situation that compromises its ability to carry out its work impartially.

The contracting party or relevant service will decide whether a conflict of interest exists, taking account of the objective circumstances, available information and related risks when an expert is in any other situation that could cast doubt on its ability to carry out its work, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.

3. **Consequences of a situation of conflict of interest:**
 - (a) If a conflict of interest is reported by the expert or established by the contracting party or relevant service, the expert must not carry out the work;

- (b) If a conflict becomes apparent in the course of its work, the expert must inform immediately the contracting party or relevant service. If a conflict is confirmed, the expert must stop carrying out its work. If necessary, the expert will be replaced.

ARTICLE 3 - OBLIGATIONS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The contracting party and the expert must treat confidentially any information and documents, in any form (i.e. paper or electronic), disclosed in writing or orally in relation to the performance of the Contract.
2. The expert undertakes to observe strict **confidentiality** in relation to its work.

To this end, the expert must not use or disclose, directly or indirectly confidential information or documents for any purpose other than fulfilling its obligations under the Contract without prior written approval of the contracting party.

In particular, the expert:

- i. must not discuss its work with others, including other experts or contracting party or relevant service staff not directly involved in its work;
- ii. must not disclose:
 - any detail of its work and its outcomes for any purpose other than fulfilling its obligations under the Contract without prior written approval of the contracting party;
 - its advice to the contracting party or relevant service on its work to any other person (including colleagues, students, etc.).
3. If material/documents/reports/deliverables are made available either on paper or electronically to the expert who then works from its own or other suitable premises, he/she will be held personally responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of any documents or electronic files sent and for returning, erasing or destroying all confidential documents or files upon completing its work as instructed.
4. If its work takes place in premises controlled by the contracting party or relevant service, the expert:
 - (a) must not remove from the premises any copies or notes, either on paper or in electronic form;
 - (b) will be held personally responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of any documents or electronic files sent, and for returning, erasing or destroying all confidential documents or files on completing its work as instructed.
5. If the expert seeks further information (for example through the internet, specialised databases, etc.) to complete its work, he/she:
 - (a) must respect the overall rules for confidentiality for obtaining such information;
 - (b) must not contact third parties without prior written approval of the contracting party.
6. These confidentiality obligations are binding on:
 - (a) the contracting party (see Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC), laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other

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Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community;⁶

- (b) the expert during the performance of the Contract and for five years starting from the date of the last payment made to the expert unless:
 - i. the contracting party agrees to release the expert from the confidentiality obligations earlier;
 - ii. the confidential information becomes public through other channels;
 - iii. disclosure of the confidential information is required by law.

⁶ OJ 45, 14.6.1962, p. 1385.

ANNEXE 2 - TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **[Name of Expert: *[insert name]*]**
2. **Context and background information**

The contract is related to the call for expressions of interest, set up a list of external experts to evaluate applications participating in the 2025 edition of the New European Bauhaus Prize competition. The NEB Prizes is open to projects and concepts implemented in the EU, in the Western Balkans⁷, or in Ukraine.

This call is aiming at selecting experts able to assess the applications from the angle of **six fields**, based on the three values and three working principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB).⁸

- a) NEB values:
 1. **Sustainability** (understood as environmental sustainability, including climate issues, circularity, biodiversity, etc.);
 2. **Aesthetics and quality of experience** (design, arts, culture, architecture, etc.);
 3. **Inclusiveness** (equal opportunities, accessibility, affordability).
- b) NEB working principles:
 1. **Participatory process** (involvement of communities affected by the project in the design, decision-making and implementation phase, empowerment of local communities, etc.);
 2. **Multi-level engagement** (effective exchange both horizontally – with peers – and vertically – with others operating in different scales; to connect stakeholders from different levels who share similar purposes);
 3. **Transdisciplinary approach** (engagement of practitioners and knowledge from different fields).

Additionally, the call aims to select experts able to assess grassroots initiatives submitted by small municipalities, in the early stages of project development, with a focus on the built environment. The call also seeks experts with the expertise to evaluate projects providing sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing solutions.

The call is open to persons with educational and/or professional background in at least one NEB value, but at the contracting stage priority will be given to those who have relevant education and/or experience in at least two of the NEB values indicated above,

⁷ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁸ More information about the NEB: https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en and in the Communication: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/qanda_21_4627/QANDA_21_4627_EN.pdf.

or relevant education and/or experience in at least one of the NEB values and one of the NEB working principles mentioned above.

Experts will assess eligible applications submitted for the Prizes.

The New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025 will be awarded in **two strands**:

1. **Strand A** (New European Bauhaus Champions): for existing and completed projects with clear and positive results.
2. **Strand B** (New European Bauhaus Rising Stars): ideas and concepts from young talents (aged 30 years old or less).

In each strand, the Prizes will be awarded in **four categories**:

1. Reconnecting with nature;
2. Regaining a sense of belonging;
3. Prioritising the places and people that need it the most;
4. Shaping a circular industrial ecosystem and supporting life-cycle thinking.

Following the objectives of the European Parliament Pilot Project Proposal titled "Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects", the NEB Prizes 2025 will award grassroots initiatives submitted by small municipalities, with a focus on the built environment, demonstrating a strong commitment to take an ambitious co-creation and participatory approaches. In addition, the NEB Prizes 2025 will contribute to the EU's efforts to address the housing crisis by awarding special prizes to completed projects providing sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing solutions in line with NEB values and principles. The specificities of these two special prizes, including information on additional relevant selection, eligibility and award criteria, will be described in the 'Guide to Applicants' of the NEB Prizes 2025.

The 'Guide to Applicants' containing the rules of the NEB Prizes 2025 contest will be published in the NEB Prizes 2025 platform and communicated to the experts and jury members before the assessment starts.

3. Purpose, objectives and scope

The subject of the contract [*One option to be selected for each contract*]:

Option 1: Assessment of individual applications submitted to NEB Prizes 2025.

Option 2: Work as a member of the jury. The role of the jury is to review the documentation related to the finalist and shortlisted applications, consider additional criteria specified in the contract and propose a ranking of the winning applications to the Commission's Evaluation Committee.

4. Working approach and methodology

Option 1: The expert shall evaluate the applications for NEB Prizes 2025 following the criteria as explained below, as well as all other criteria and information provided in the

‘Guide to Applicants’ of the NEB Prizes 2025 (the ‘Guide to Applicants’ will be published on the platform of the NEB Prizes 2025 and communicated to the selected experts before the assessment starts).

A maximum of 100 points will be awarded for the quality of the proposal. A minimum score of 50 % is required for each criterion. Only the proposals meeting this quality thresholds can be shortlisted and put onto the finalist list. The distribution of the maximum number of points per each evaluation criterion will be published in the ‘Guide to Applicants’ of the competition, and the selected experts will be informed about it before the assessment starts.

Evaluation criteria for all strands (A and B) - to be detailed in the evaluation grid, to be available at the NEB Prizes 2025 platform:

- a) Exemplary, state of the art character of the project in the selected award category. Projects shall demonstrate how all three core values of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion have been pursued and combined in an exemplary way in relation to the specific category.
- b) Exemplary character of the projects in the selected award category in terms of the three main working principles of the New European Bauhaus. Projects shall demonstrate how all three main working principles of the New European Bauhaus of participatory process, multi-level engagement and transdisciplinary approach have been pursued and combined in an exemplary way in relation to the specific category.
- c) Innovative dimension as compared to mainstream practices.
- d) High potential for transferability and replicability of the project to different contexts, based on clear documentation, communication of methodology and principles.

Specific evaluation criteria for the New European Bauhaus Champions (Strand A) - to be detailed in the evaluation grid:

- e) Demonstrated results, outputs or impacts of the proposal in relation to its objectives, and to what is expected in the context of the respective category. This includes also benefits from the project for direct and indirect beneficiaries. The concepts should offer local solutions to global challenges.

Specific evaluation criteria for the New European Bauhaus Rising Stars (Strand B) - to be detailed in the evaluation grid:

- e) Relevance, quality and credibility of the development plan of the concept, with a particular attention to the steps envisaged in the year following the application. The plan should include the scope of envisaged results and benefits from the implementation of the concept for direct and indirect beneficiaries. The results and benefits should be specified in relation to the objectives of the concept, and to what is expected in the context of the respective category. The concepts should offer local solutions to global challenges.

The evaluation criteria for the two special prizes indicated in point 2 will be available in the ‘Guide to Applicants’ of the competition, and the selected experts will be informed about it before the assessment starts.

Option 2: The jury member shall jointly prepare a list of best projects in each category in each strand (places 1-3), taking into account the ranking of projects assessed by individual experts, and in addition the **following criteria:**

- i. geographical diversity;
- ii. balance between applications referring to physical transformation of the built environment and other types of transformations;
- iii. diversity of contexts (rural/urban, small scale/bigger scale, etc.); and
- iv. All other criteria specified in the ‘Guide to Applicants’ of the NEB Prizes 2025, including (but not only) other specifications and rules on geographical diversity and selection of winners. The ‘Guide to Applicants’ will be published on the platform of the NEB Prizes 2025 and communicated to the selected jury members before the assessment starts.

The jury also will propose a ranking of at least 4 best applications to be proposed to the Commission’s Evaluation Committee and considered to be awarded prizes to projects providing sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing solutions in line with the NEB. Additionally, the jury will propose a ranking of 20 best applications submitted by small municipalities.

The selection of these projects should follow the relevant information and criteria described in the ‘Guide to Applicants’ of the competition.

5. [Work of the expert]

Option 1: The expert shall:

- Evaluate six applications per working day for NEB Prizes 2025 (the applications will be attributed in the platform; the link of the platform will be shared with the expert before the assessment starts);
- Fill in the evaluation grid in the above-mentioned platform, including the points for each criterion and a justification for the points given in each criterion.

Option 2: The jury member shall:

- Review the documentation related to the finalist and shortlisted applications attributed in the NEB Prizes 2025 platform, and prepare an individual ranking of the top 3 winning applications in each category and strand, as well as winners for the two special prizes indicated in point 2.
- In the assessment, the jury member shall observe the award criteria described in point 4, the assessment of the applications made by the experts, and verify for cases of severe misalignment between the experts’ evaluation and the quality of the application;

- Participate in at least two (opening and closing) online meetings of the jury (the need for additional meetings may be decided among the jury themselves);
- Agree with the other members of the jury on a ranking of winners to be proposed to the Commission's Evaluation Committee. In case of impossibility of agreement by consensus, a simple majority voting system will be used in the decisions of the jury.

6. Meetings, reporting and deadlines

Option 1: The expert shall by 17 April 2025:

- Send a short report to the Contracting authority, reporting on the completion and number of the completed assessments, as well as on any problems encountered during the process, together with a relevant payment request/invoice.

Option 2: The jury member shall by 27 June 2025:

- Prepare and send to the contracting authority an individual ranking of the top 3 winners in each category and strand;
- Prepare and send to the contracting authority an individual ranking of a minimum of top 4 applications to be proposed to the Commission's Evaluation Committee and considered to be awarded prizes to projects providing sustainable, inclusive, and affordable housing solutions in line with the NEB.
- Prepare and send to the contracting authority an individual ranking of the top 20 applications to be proposed to the Commission's Evaluation Committee and considered to be awarded special prizes to small municipalities;
- Participate in online meetings of the jury;
- Contribute to and sign a joint report of the jury proceedings, to be sent by its chair to the contracting authority from the undertaken steps and results of the work;
- Send a relevant payment request/invoice.

7. Deliverables and conditions to submit request for payments

Payment will follow after the approval of the Commission that the tasks have been delivered following the terms of contract.

ANNEXE 3 – DECLARATION OF ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Conflict of interests

I, the undersigned [*FAMILY NAME, first name*], with ID or passport number [*insert number*], having been appointed as an expert for the call for Expressions of Interest to Set up a List of External Experts to Evaluate Applications Participating in the 2025 Edition of the New European Bauhaus Prize Competition, declare that I do not fall under any of the following circumstances in which a conflict of interests might exist. I confirm that, if I discover before or during the performance of my tasks that a conflict of interests exists, I will declare it immediately to the contracting party.

1. Disqualifying conflict of interests:

- Direct benefit in case of advice on development of a new policy;
- Involvement in the preparation of the application(s);
- Direct benefit in case of acceptance of the application(s);
- Close family relationship with any person representing a participating organisation in the application;
- Director, trustee or partner of a participating organisation;
- Current employment by a participating organisation;
- Current involvement in a contract or collaboration with a participating organisation;
- Any other situation that compromises my ability to evaluate the application impartially.

2. Potential conflict of interests:

- Employment by one of the participating organisations within the previous three years;
- Involvement in a contract or collaboration with a participating organisation within the previous three years;
- Any other situation that could cast doubt on my ability to evaluate the applications impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of a third party (*Ex. Past or current personal relationships, nationality, political affinity, etc.*).

I hereby declare that I fall under one or more of the above circumstances (please specify which and explain)*:

**Ex. In case of employment by a structure including different departments or institutes, please specify the degree of autonomy between them.*

Contract number:

I hereby declare on my honour that the disclosed information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Confidentiality and personal data protection

I confirm that I have read, understood and accepted the code of conduct for experts established in Annex 1 to the contract sent by the contracting party.

I also confirm that I will keep all matters entrusted to me confidential and will process the personal data I receive only for the purposes of the performance of the present contract. If unnecessary or excessive personal data are contained in the documents submitted during the implementation of the contract I will not process them further or take them into account for the implementation of the contract. I will not communicate outside the panel or the expert's group any confidential information that is revealed to me or that I have discovered. I will not make any adverse use of information given to me.

Expert: [insert full name]

Date:

Signature:

The declaration is to be signed with:

1. Electronic signature (recommended option):

In case you have the possibility to sign the declaration using a qualified electronic signature (QES), please have it signed electronically. Please note that only the qualified electronic signature (QES) within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) will be accepted.

Before sending back your electronically signed document, please check the signature and validity of the certificate with one of the following tools:

- *DSS Demonstration validation tool available at <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/DSS/webapp-demo/validation> can help you check the validity of a certificate by indicating the number and type of valid signatures in a document.*
- *EU Trusted List Browser can be consulted in order to check whether the electronic signature provider and the trust service it provides are part of European Union Trusted List: <https://esignature.ec.europa.eu/efda/tl-browser/#/screen/home>*

To make sure you use a QES compliant to eIDAS Regulation, you need to check that both the service provider and the qualified certificate generation service used are included in the EU Trusted List Browser.

2. Handwritten signature:

Contract number:

In case you do not have the possibility to sign the declaration using a qualified electronic signature (QES), please fill it in electronically, then print it and signed and dated it using a hand-written signature.