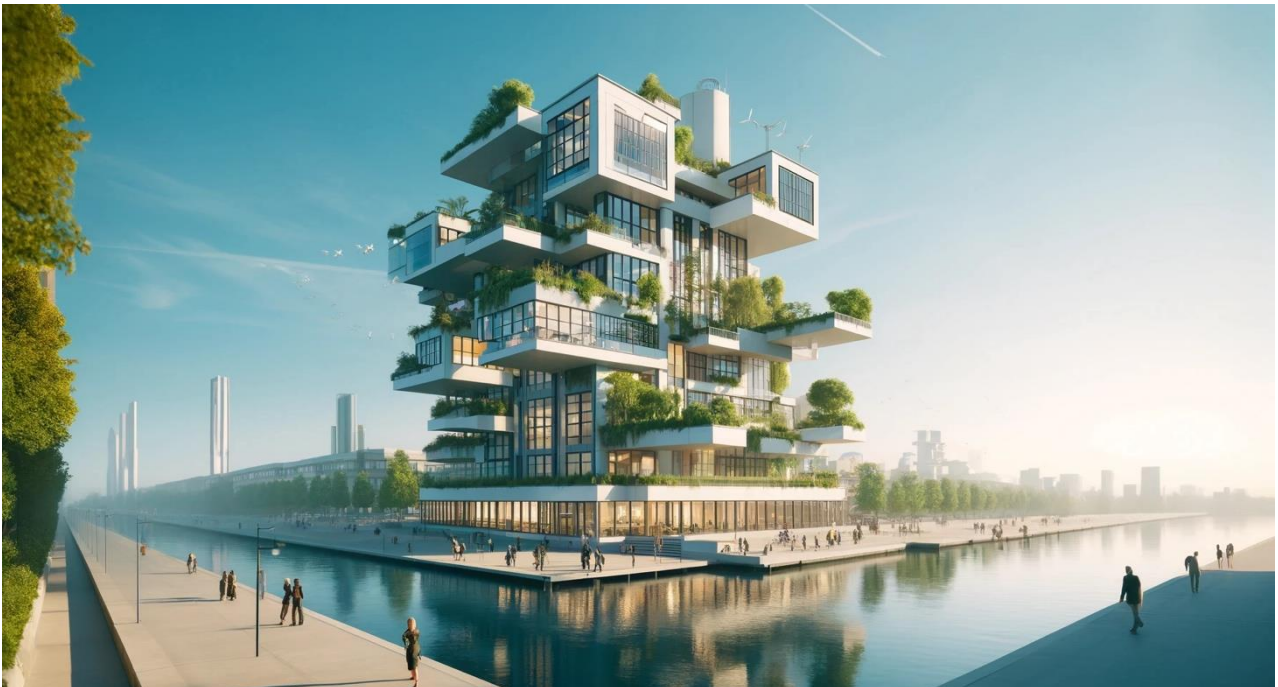


**NEBA - “Supporting the integration of New European Bauhaus values and principles into the regional planning processes”**

## **REGIONAL REPORT**

### **ELVERUM MUNICIPALITY (NORWAY)**



This Regional Report has been developed with the support of the Advisory Partner of the Interreg Europe programme project “Supporting the integration of New European Bauhaus values and principles into the regional planning processes (NEBA)”. The research group is led by Gabriella M. Racca, Full Professor of Administrative Law at University of Turin (Dept. of Management “Valter Cantino”) and composed by Prof. Silvia Ponzio, Dr. Mara Demichelis, Dr. Paola Colla, Dr. Matteo Pignatti.

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## REGIONAL REPORT

### Elverum Municipality (Norway)

#### Introduction

The NEBA staged approach is based on four steps of learning and exploration. The first step, “Understanding”, includes the development of regional reports aiming at identifying the current policy setup relevant to the NEBA project theme, as well as identifying challenges such as knowledge and experience gaps. This will help identify possible policy learning synergies among project partners and regions and provide areas of interest for good practice investigation.

This report has been drafted by NEBA project staff from Elverum Municipality (Norway), namely Daria Dyresen (project Coordinator), Siw Monika Niva (Subject Advisor), and reviewed by the Advisory Partner, University of Torino (UNITO). Also, UNITO carried out the state-of-the-art analysis included in Section 5.

#### 1. Internal (organisational) factors

##### 1.1. Expertise of the organisation on NEB’s topics

In 2023, Elverum Municipality region appointed a dedicated **project leader for climate and energy** in the Sør-Østerdalen. This role is crucial for **implementing the municipality climate and energy plan**, with a focus on **integrating NEB**. The Department of Agriculture and the project manager bring significant **environmental expertise**. Additionally, the Department of Culture provides **cultural expertise**, and several departments have **substantial experience in social inclusion**. Notably, Møteplassen (The Meeting Point) exemplifies cooperation between the municipality and NGOs.

Moreover, the project coordinator holds a law degree, **and the Building Department possesses legal expertise in planning and building law**. The Planning Department is well-versed in **urban regeneration and development**, alongside legal expertise in planning and building law.

##### 1.2. Level of organisational knowledge of the NEB initiative, its characteristics and related knowledge gaps

The knowledge of NEB is **not well spread in most parts of the organisation**. However, **the principles of NEB are somewhat familiar within the Planning and Building Department**. These principles are **integrated into the planning system** and are addressed during the planning and building processes.

Several departments focus on **inclusion and activities, though not specifically connected to sustainability and aesthetics**. Volunteers and NGOs are actively involved in inclusion efforts. The “Meeting Place” (Møteplassen) is a notable example, owned and funded by various NGOs in collaboration with the municipality.

Møteplassen is a meeting place for everyone who wants social interaction with activities, training, and cultural offerings. Møteplassen aims to be a driving force for both city and rural areas in developing activities that contribute to a better quality of life. Through collaboration, the support associations will contribute with creativity, activities, and practical implementation.

The history of Møteplassen Elverum actually dates back to the late 1960s with the establishment of the Seniors' Club in 1970. The organization Møteplassen itself was founded in 2010, and at the turn of the year 2010/2011, it merged with the Seniors' Club into one organization.

Møteplassen Elverum is essentially a modern form of what many would call a senior center, care center, or activity center. The history of its development has several stages, and it is still a work in progress. The individual steps will eventually be integrated into a complete whole.

Møteplassen aims to:

- Be a meeting place for everyone seeking information, development, and social interaction through shared activities and interests.
- Provide service and cultural offerings.
- Create a sense of belonging, safety, and well-being.
- Combat isolation and loneliness.
- Contribute to preventive health work in collaboration with Elverum municipality.
- Create a meeting place for social interaction, active participation, and engagement.
- Create opportunities for learning and development.
- Provide care and positive experiences.

### 1.3. Main sources of information on NEB's topic

Elverum Municipality is a **member of the Oslo Region European Office**, based in Brussels. This organization comprises counties, municipalities, and research and education institutions from the capital region of

Norway. Their mission is to **create opportunities for members by increasing knowledge, participation, and visibility in European processes**. They serve as our eyes in Brussels, and our initial encounter with the New European Bauhaus was through them. Most of our information about NEB comes from their Brussels office.

The New European Bauhaus Compass and examples from other projects have provided valuable insights.

Stavanger Municipality in Norway is part of the **EU lighthouse project NEB-STAR** (New European Bauhaus - Stavanger) for the period 2022-2025 and gave information on this topic.

**NEB principles are highly emphasized among Norwegian municipalities with an international focus.**

#### **1.4. Key challenges related to the integration of NEB values and principles into regional/urban planning**

Elverum Municipality may face several challenges when integrating NEB values and principles into regional and urban planning:

- **Understanding Their Importance:** It is crucial for everyone involved to understand why NEB values matter in planning. Without this understanding, it is difficult to prioritize them.
- **Commitment in Work and Planning:** Adhering to NEB principles in our planning processes can be challenging. It requires dedication and effort to ensure these values are consistently considered.
- **Local Relevance:** As a small municipality, Elverum may struggle to see how global issues like the European Green Deal directly affect it. Overcoming this mindset and recognizing our impact on the world requires education and community engagement.
- **Community Conviction:** On a general level, it can be challenging to convince the residents of Elverum that an international project is valuable for the municipality.

## **2. External Factors**

### **2.1. Integration of environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, social sustainability and social inclusion in the Elverum's policies and planning processes**

There are **national legal policies and guidelines for including sustainability and aesthetic** into Elverum Municipality's **urban planning documents**: it's mandatory to include the citizens in the process of planning, but **the level of inclusion can differ from time to time, or from municipality to municipality**.

The Planning and Building Act in Norway is a key tool for planning and developing communities, emphasizing both sustainability and aesthetics as important principles in all planning and building processes. Here are the main points of what the Act says about sustainability and aesthetics:

#### **1. Sustainability**

The Planning and Building Act aims to promote sustainable development that meets the needs of both current and future generations. This involves considering the environment, climate, resource use, and social factors in planning and construction matters.

§ 1-1 (Purpose of the Act): The Act shall promote sustainable development for the benefit of individuals, society, and future generations. This means that climate and environmental considerations should be integrated throughout the planning and construction process.

§ 3-1 (Tasks and considerations in planning according to the Act): Planning should contribute to reducing climate emissions, optimizing resource use, and promoting sustainable community development.

## 2. Aesthetics

The Act also emphasizes aesthetics and good architectural solutions in the development of buildings and outdoor areas. The goal is to ensure that new buildings and structures contribute positively to their surroundings and the urban landscape.

§ 29-2 (Requirements for the visual qualities of the project): Any project, such as buildings or facilities, must have good visual qualities and be adapted to the character of the location. This applies to both aesthetic and functional qualities, and the project should contribute to a cohesive design of the area.

§ 12-7 (Requirements for design, aesthetics, and environment): When developing zoning plans, requirements for aesthetics and design that safeguard the environment and good architectural quality should be established.

These sections demonstrate that the Planning and Building Act prioritizes sustainable solutions and sets standards for aesthetic quality, aiming to create environmentally friendly, functional, and visually appealing communities.

### 2.2. Integration of three core values of the NEB (i.e. sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion) in urban and regional development strategies

As of now, **the core values of NEB are not being effectively addressed in urban and regional development plans.** However, concepts like **sustainability and aesthetics are included in national, regional, and local strategies through a commitment to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** While NEB principles are mentioned broadly, they lack specific implementation in current plans. It's needed to make sure that NEB's core values are put into action more practically in urban and regional development in Elverum Municipality.



### 2.3. Integration of NEB's three key principles (combination of global and local dimensions, participation, transdisciplinarity) in urban and regional development strategies

The Municipal Council has adopted a **plan for international work in Elverum**, recognizing its role as an international municipality. One of the strategies is to **actively participate in selected European projects** within the EU and EEA.

Elverum municipality has developed an international plan to strengthen its international engagement and cooperation. The international plan is a strategic document that defines the municipality's goals, priorities, and measures related to international collaboration and development.

#### Measures and Strategies:

- Measures include strengthening cooperation with sister cities, participating in EU projects, and developing partnerships with international organizations.
- Increased participation in international networks for municipal development and sustainable solutions.
- Promoting international competence among the municipality's employees and residents through courses, exchanges, and project participation.

#### Sustainability and Climate Focus:

- The plan emphasizes promoting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and integrating them into local development efforts.
- Focus on climate and environment, with aims to participate in international initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote green technology.

**The climate and energy plan** operates not only within Elverum itself but also within the collaborative communities in the region. This regional cooperation, involving six municipalities, features **individual climate and energy plans**.

Elverum municipality's Climate and Energy Plan is a strategic document outlining the municipality's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote energy efficiency, and facilitate sustainable development. The main content of the plan includes goals, strategies, and specific measures to meet both national and international climate and energy requirements. Here are the key points of the Climate and Energy Plan for Elverum municipality:

- **Vision and Objectives:**

The overarching goal of the plan is to contribute to sustainable community development that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and promotes renewable energy.

One of the main objectives is to reduce the municipality's total greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets and the Paris Agreement.



- **Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions:**

Reducing emissions from the transport sector by promoting public transportation, cycling, walking, and the use of electric vehicles.

Energy efficiency measures in municipal buildings and facilities, including upgrading existing buildings and implementing energy management.

Reducing emissions from agriculture by promoting sustainable farming methods and better utilization of biological waste.

- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:**

Increased use of renewable energy sources such as solar energy, bioenergy, and district heating.

Encouraging energy efficiency in households and businesses, including support schemes and guidance for energy measures.

Facilitating local energy production and the use of green technology in business development.

- **Climate Adaptation:**

Measures to adapt the municipality to changing climate conditions, including stormwater management, flood prevention, and strengthening biodiversity. Risk assessment of climate change impacts on critical infrastructure and emergency planning.

- **Collaboration and Participation:**

Emphasis on collaboration with residents, businesses, and other public actors to create a collective effort in climate work.

Campaigns and information to raise awareness about energy efficiency and climate-friendly choices among the population.

- **Monitoring and Reporting:**

Implementing systems to monitor and report on goal achievement and the effectiveness of measures.

Regular evaluation and revision of the plan to ensure it adapts to new challenges and technological opportunities.

The plan is an important tool to make Elverum more environmentally friendly and sustainable, laying a solid foundation for future environmental and energy initiatives in the municipality.

These plans incorporate a blend of **global and local considerations**, emphasizing **participation and a transdisciplinary approach**.

## 2.4. Guidelines and framework integrating NEB into Elverum Municipality policy

The goal is to implement the NEB principles in local/regional planning in the future, also thanks to the NEBA project.

## 2.5. Potential funding opportunities

There is a **national funding opportunity through “Klimasats”**, a funding program by the Norwegian Environment Agency that supports climate projects in local municipalities and counties. Its goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help transition to a low-emission society.

The country authority (Innland County) also provides funding.

## 2.6. Management of Local Innovation Processes for Regional and Local Development in Elverum Municipality

One way to achieve this is by joining a regional initiative called the **Climate Partnership**. This cooperation aims to create active partnerships **between the public and private sectors**.

## 2.7. Experiences of social and territorial inclusion, based on citizens' participation and co-creation in Elverum Municipality

Not of knowledge.

## 3. NEBA Project stakeholders

Elverum Municipality has carefully selected the members of the NEBA project stakeholder group, whose experience, expertise, and fields of activity will bring value to the common goal of integrating NEB initiatives. The following stakeholders are directly involved in NEBA project activities:

- **Regional Cooperation for Climate and Energy Planning**

The regional cooperation for climate and energy planning involves the municipalities of Elverum, Våler, Åmot, Stor-Elvdal, Engerdal, and Trysil. All these municipalities are actively participating in this project with the aim of integrating NEB (Nature, Environment, and Biodiversity) values into their planning systems.

- **Elverum Vekst**

Elverum Vekst, a company owned by the Elverum municipality, is dedicated to fostering growth and development in the region. Serving as the municipality's business arm, they focus on enhancing business, housing, and tourism attractiveness. Their activities are guided by the sustainability goals outlined by the UN.

- **Naturvernforbundet**

Naturvernforbundet, a national environmental organization, has a local office in Elverum. They work on

environmental issues at both the national and local levels, contributing to conservation efforts in the region.

- **Youth Council of Elverum**

The Youth Council of Elverum comprises children and young individuals appointed by the municipal council/county council to provide insights into the concerns and priorities of the younger population. Empowered to express opinions on matters concerning youth within the municipality/county municipality, the Youth Council autonomously decides which issues to address and can initiate discussions on its own.

## 4. Other references and suggestions: policies examples and the overarching goal for NEB in Elverum

### **Interreg Europe Project: Smart Circular Procurement - CircPro**

Elverum participated in the Interreg Europe project “Smart Circular Procurement - CircPro,” which focused on the circular economy and public procurement. The participating countries shared knowledge, and Elverum contributed expertise in timber construction and municipal planning. Inspired by the project, an extension to Elverum Lower Secondary School was constructed. This extension, made of wood, is movable and easy to dismantle, contrasting with the rest of the building, which is made of bricks. We believe that today this might be linked to NEB principles.

### **Integrating NEB Principles**

**The main goal is to make Elverum Municipality more sustainable, inclusive, and visually appealing by integrating the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) into its climate and energy plan.** Our objective is to implement these principles practically by **creating innovative projects in Elverum**. We have numerous areas and buildings where NEB concepts can be applied and tested.

## 5. State of the Art Analysis

### 5.1. Methodology

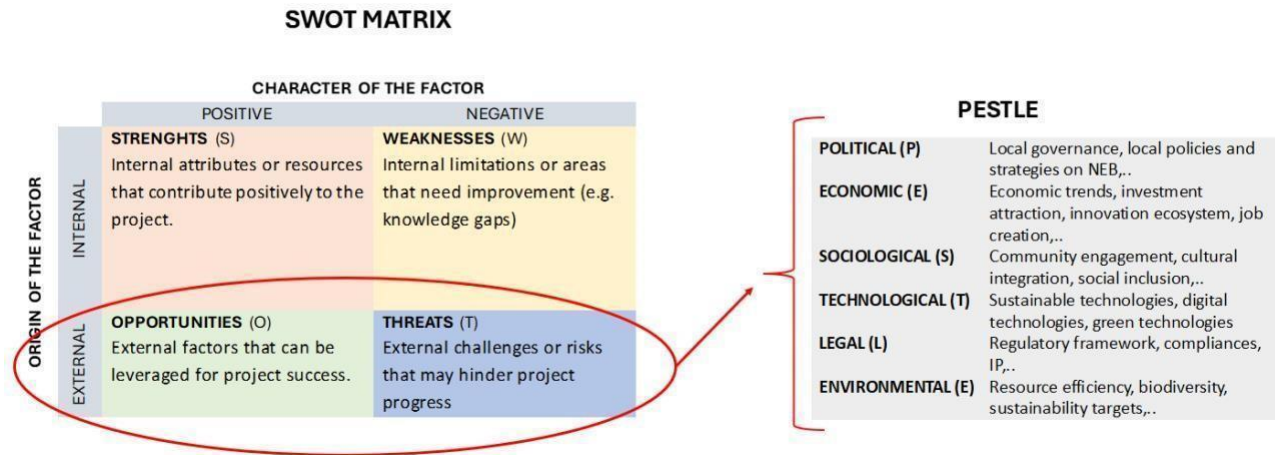
This section focuses on analysing the regional situation at the Elverum Municipality level. The analysis follows the Methodology for Regional Situation Analysis and is based on the SWOT Analysis Framework applied to the findings presented in sections 2-4 of this report.

The SWOT analysis examines the interrelations between the internal and external environments of Elverum Municipality concerning NEB’s topic area, identifying:

- Strengths (S): Internal attributes or resources that may contribute positively to the project.
- Weaknesses (W): Internal limitations or areas that need improvement (e.g., knowledge gaps).
- Opportunities (O): External factors that can be leveraged for project success.

- Threats (T): External challenges or risks that may hinder project progress.

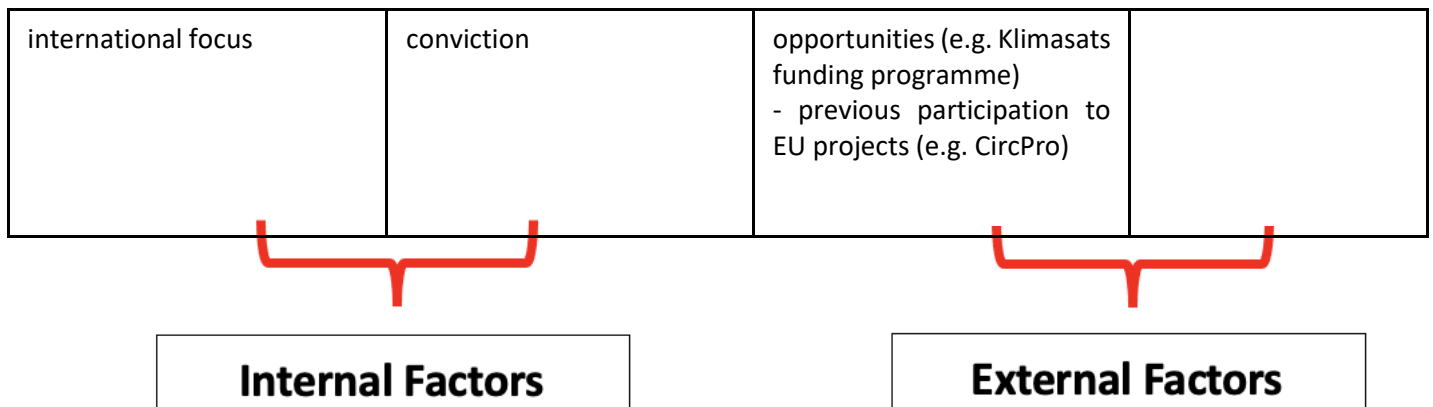
PESTLE factors related to political, economic, sociological, technological, legal and environmental aspects are covered, when available, within the opportunities and threats part of the matrix.



### 5.2. SWOT Analysis



Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
- High level of expertise in sustainability and environmental issues - Familiarity of the NEB principles within the Planning and Building Department - Membership with the Oslo Region European Office - High emphasis of NEB principles among Norwegian municipalities, with an	- Lack of knowledge of NEB principles - Sustainability, aesthetic and inclusion issues not directly connected to NEB - High commitment in Work and Planning - Struggle to see how global issues like the European Green Deal directly could affect Elverum - Challenges in Community	- National legal policies and guidelines of including sustainability and aesthetic into Elverum Municipality's urban planning documents - Elverum international attitude to be considered as a leading Municipality to experiment new approaches and plans - National and local authorities funding	- Different levels of citizens' inclusion - Lack of specific implementation of NEB principles in current plans



### 5.3. Conclusions

#### 5.3.1 Main findings

In Elverum, the knowledge of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) is not widely spread, but the core values and principles are somewhat familiar within the Planning and Building Department, as they integrate these into the planning system and building processes. Moreover, several departments focus on inclusion and social activities, though not specifically connected to sustainability and aesthetics (e.g., “Meeting Place”, Møteplassen).

NEB principles are highly emphasized among Norwegian municipalities with an international focus (Elverum Municipality is a member of the Oslo Region European Office). However, they may face several challenges when integrating regional and urban planning, such as the general understanding of NEB’s importance, the required dedication and effort, the local relevance of the EU Green Deal, and community conviction.

Currently, the core values of NEB are not being effectively addressed in urban and regional development plans. However, there are national legal policies and guidelines for including sustainability and aesthetics in Elverum Municipality’s urban planning documents (e.g., mandatory inclusion of citizens in planning processes). As a current policy, the Municipal Council adopted a plan for international work in Elverum, recognizing its role as an international municipality. The climate and energy plan operates not only within Elverum itself but also within the collaborative communities in the region.

The Municipality joined a regional initiative called the Climate Partnership, aiming to create active partnerships between the public and private sectors.

#### 5.3.2 Possible learning synergies within the NEBA consortium

At this stage of the project, Elverum Municipality can exchange and develop learning synergies within the NEBA consortium. For example, concerning the effective implementation of the NEB core values in Elverum urban planning documents, the Municipality could use a case-study approach, as the feasibility study of

Panevėžys Municipality (see *Panevėžys Municipality - Regional Report*), to identify and map potential future development sites. So, additional resources on environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, social sustainability and inclusion topics for development purposes could be provided. For more information on areas of interest for good practice investigation please refer to the State of the art analysis at Consortium level. In addition, further areas of interest for good practice investigation may be identified during the planned thematic workshops.