

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

REGIONAL REPORT

PANEVĖŽYS MUNICIPALITY (LITHUANIA)



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Prof. Gabriella M. Racca’s curriculum and open access publications are available online [at this link](#).

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Index

REGIONAL REPORT	5
Introduction	5
1. Internal (organisational) factors	5
1.1. Expertise of the organisation on NEB’s topics	5
1.2. Level of organisational knowledge of the NEB initiative, its characteristics and related knowledge gaps.....	5
1.3. Main sources of information on NEB’s topic	6
1.4. Key challenges related to the integration of NEB values and principles into regional/urban planning.....	6
2. External Factors.....	6
2.1. Integration of three core values of the New European Bauhaus (i.e. sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion) in urban and regional development strategies	6
2.2. Integration of three core values of the New European Bauhaus (i.e. sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion) in urban and regional development strategies	7
2.3. Integration of NEB’s three key principles (combination of global and local dimensions, participation, transdisciplinarity) in urban and regional development strategies	7
2.4. Guidelines and framework integrating NEB into Panevėžys municipality’s policy.....	7
2.5. Potential funding opportunities	7
2.6. Management of local innovation processes for regional and local development in the Panevėžys Municipality	7
2.7. Experiences of social and territorial inclusion, based on citizens’ participation and co-creation in the Panevėžys Municipality	8
3. NEBA Project stakeholders.....	8
4. Other references and suggestions: policies examples and the overarching goal for NEB in the Panevėžys Municipality.....	8
5. State of the Art Analysis.....	9
5.1. Methodology	9
5.2. SWOT Analysis.....	9



5.3. Conclusions.....	10
5.3.1. Main findings	10
5.3.2 Possible learning synergies within the NEBA consortium	11

REGIONAL REPORT

Panevėžys Municipality (Lithuania)

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 the Panevėžys Municipality (Lithuania), namely Augustas Makrickas (Deputy chief architect, architecture & planning department) 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

Currently, Panevėžys Municipality does not employ a dedicated expert specifically focused on New European Bauhaus (NEB) related projects. However, the municipality will involve **specialists** from the city development, urban planning, and architecture departments in the NEBA project. These **experts** will play a **direct role, ensuring** that NEB principles are **effectively integrated into local initiatives**. Additionally, the municipality plans to hold recurring peer review and suggestion sessions within and beyond its borders during the project implementation.

By leveraging existing expertise and fostering collaboration, Panevėžys aims to create **sustainable and innovative urban solutions aligned with NEB values**.

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

The municipality is **well-versed in the initial knowledge and general concept of the NEB indicative**. The municipality has implemented several Interreg Europe projects (for example “Development of eco-tourism by using resources in Latvia and Lithuania” (<https://projektai.panevezys.lt/projektai/ekologinio-vandens->

[turizmo-skatinimas-tarp-lietuvos-ir-latvijos/](#)), and “Transformation from a neglected space to a cultivated one TRANS-FORM” (<https://projektai.panevezys.lt/projektai/transformacija-is-apeistu-erdviu-i-ispuoseletas/>)). Throughout the NEBA project, the aim is to focus on specific tools and various programs designed for the public sector and communities **to aid in the development of densely populated neighbourhoods within the city.**

1.3. Main sources of information on NEB’s topic

The municipality receives its main resources from **NEB initiative-related ministries**, including the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment, along with their respective divisions. Additionally, **various documents directly linked to the main New European Bauhaus website and project-related data** are provided.

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

Integrating some of the NEB values and principles into the city’s general vision and aligning them with the main short-term and long-term development goals presents **challenges**. These difficulties arise due to the **need to comply with existing laws and regulations**, the **outdated nature of some regional and urban planning documents that lack NEB subtopics**, and, in certain cases, the **additional costs associated with developing innovative and modern solutions.**

2. External Factors

2.1. Integration of three core values of the New European Bauhaus (i.e. sustainability, aesthetics, inclusion) in urban and regional development strategies

In 2022, the city completed the “**Sustainable Panevėžys City Development Strategy**”, a feasibility study aligned with the “**Panevėžys Strategic 2021–2027 Plan**”. This study **detailed and connected goals and aims to specific locations**, also **mapping potential future development sites**. The document **promoted integrated planning and provided additional resources on environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, social sustainability and inclusion topics for development purposes**. Building on this, the “**2023–2029 Panevėžys City Sustainable Development Strategy**” was **created and approved by the city council**. This document outlines an **action plan with the necessary resources to develop selected projects and locations across various NEB-related themes.**

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

Sustainability, aesthetics & inclusion are some of the **most important vision topics and subtopics** both in the “Panevėžys sustainable development strategy”, as well as in the „Panevėžys strategic 2021-2027 plan“. Moreover, all the development projects regarding the provided policy documents include these topics.

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

Currently, the **city planning documents do not include these three key principles specifically**. However, municipality is seeking the ways to implement the intended principles. Global and local dimensions are implemented by **various good practice methods** (for example, we have organised a forum about Rail Baltica integration into city’s layout and invited international and local experts to discuss different level dimensions) or **peer review sessions**. **Participation** is suggested and celebrated throughout all the development projects, with **two municipality employees** assigned to **work with youth & community leaders and followers**.

2.4. Guidelines and framework integrating NEB into Panevėžys municipality’s policy

Panevėžys Municipality does not have or use specific guidelines or frameworks for integrating NEB into policies. However, the municipality is planning **to buy additional implementation studies or experts to advise and find efficient ways to integrate NEB into local policies**.

2.5. Potential funding opportunities

We are looking for them via different funding instruments, but no specific opportunities as we know at the moment.

2.6. Management of local innovation processes for regional and local development in the Panevėžys Municipality

Most of the **Public-Private Partnerships are constructed on public services and infrastructure projects**. However, there are some ideas in Vilnius and Kaunas (for example various Hackatons), on how to work with local development ideas.

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

Panevėžys Culture and Recreation Park is one of the biggest in the city, with the river on one side and the densely populated area on the other. During the planning process to renew the park, municipality initiated the drawing competition in kindergartens and primary schools, with the topic "My Dream Park". Therefore, some of the ideas were involved in the plans and later realised in the renewed park.

3. NEBA Project stakeholders

„Panevėžys Now“

The Panevėžys Development Agency is a team starting a new phase of activity, the goal of which is to discover and reveal the potential hidden in the region. Improving business and investment conditions, promoting tourism development, creating an image and increasing knowledge - all forces are gathered under one roof to help us decide to invest, expand business, travel, study, host or work here in Panevėžys.

As a stakeholder „Panevėžys Now“ will provide communication connections with local business owners, developers and city visitors & tourists. Also, it will provide data of various public surveys, yearly economics & social data review. The organization also works as a think tank for creating public involvement projects, finding and strengthening community leaders.

„Association of Architects, Panevėžys region department“

Lithuanian Architects Association is an independent, voluntary creative organization that unites graduated architects with higher architectural education. The organization promotes and defends creativity, takes care of high-quality preparation of architects, dissemination and promotion of high-quality architecture:

As a stakeholder association of architects provides critique and recommendations with regional & local planning documents, architecture & landscape project review & public project proposal approval, suggestions for improvement of public spaces & insights on city development.

4. Other references and suggestions: policies examples and the overarching goal for NEB in the Panevėžys Municipality

Community initiatives are a **participative budget tool** that provides an **opportunity** for every resident of Panevėžys to realize their creative ideas by improving the city's public spaces - <https://dalyvauk.panevezys.lt/> - <https://lrm.lrv.lt/en/news/new-european-bauhaus-how-cities-of-the-future-will-look/>

NEB core goals and principles are being implemented in national level planning and development procedures and documents.

5. State of the Art Analysis

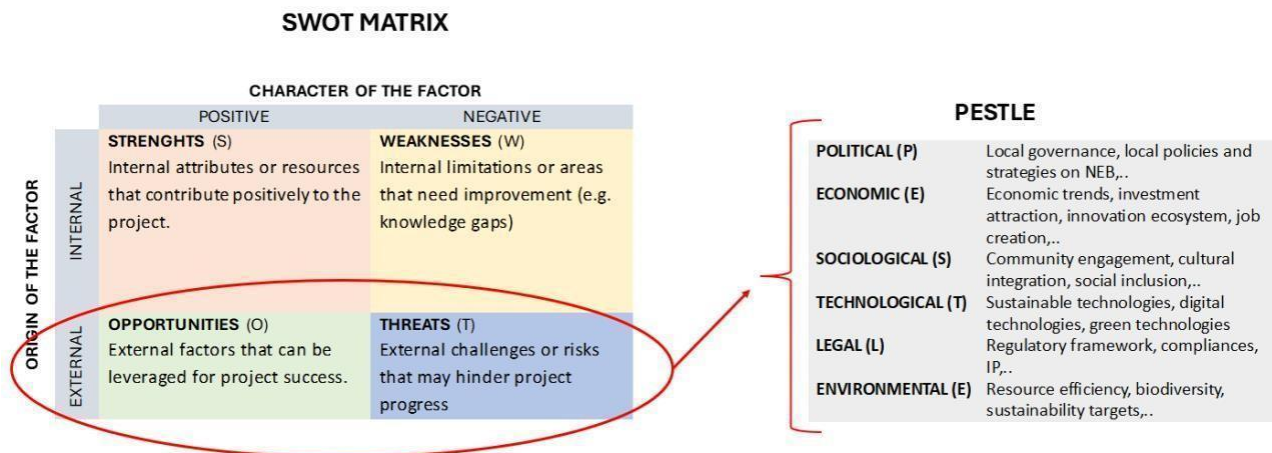
5.1. Methodology

This section focuses on analysing the regional situation at the Panevėžys 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 Panevėžys 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - possibility to involve specialists from city development, urban planning, architecture department - NEB general concept is well-known in the municipality - involvement of the municipality in several Interreg Europe projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lack of dedicated experts on the NEB related-projects - need to comply with existing laws and regulation - outdated nature of some regional and urban planning documents - additional costs associated with developing innovative and modern solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - action plan (“2023–2029 Panevėžys City Sustainable Development Strategy”) which detail and connect goals to specific locations, mapping potential future development sites - necessary resources to develop selected projects and locations across various NEB-themes - possible contracts with experts and studies to deeply integrate NEB values - Involvement of children (primary schools etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - city planning documents do not include specifically the three NEB key principles - lack of guidelines and framework for NEB principles integration

Internal Factors

External Factors

5.3. Conclusions

5.3.1. Main findings

Panevėžys Municipality demonstrates a solid initial understanding and general concept of NEB values, as evidenced by its engagement in several Interreg Europe projects aimed at fostering a sustainable and inclusive urban future.

Throughout the NEBA project, the focus is on specific tools to aid in the development of densely populated neighborhoods within the city.

Panevėžys faces challenges related to compliance with existing laws and regulations, as some regional and urban planning documents lack NEB subtopics. Additionally, the costs associated with developing innovative and modern solutions must be considered.

Current policy practices in Panevėžys include the “Sustainable Panevėžys City Development Strategy,” a feasibility study from 2022, aligned with the “Panevėžys Strategic 2021–2027 Plan.” This plan details and connects goals to specific locations and maps potential future development sites. Based on this study, the “2023–2029 Panevėžys City Sustainable Development Strategy” was created as an action plan with the necessary resources to develop selected projects and locations across various NEB-related themes and core values.

However, the city planning documents do not specifically include the three key NEB principles, and Panevėžys Municipality does not have or use specific guidelines or frameworks for integrating NEB into policies. Despite this, the municipality has implemented projects based on citizen participation and stakeholder involvement (e.g., Panevėžys Culture and Recreation Park).

5.3.2 Possible learning synergies within the NEBA consortium

At this stage of the project, Panevėžys Municipality can exchange and develop learning synergies within the NEBA consortium. For example, the city is developing several projects and case studies on NEB values and principles application: thus, it could be useful to cooperate more with stakeholders to imagine and provide policies and statements of intent to promote Panevėžys as a shining example of city-making in a civic transformation perspective, as done in the Galway Charter (*see Galway City Council - Regional Report*). 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.