

Interreg  
Europe



Co-funded by  
the European Union

PICOBELLO

PICOBELLO seeks to enhance regional development policies by facilitating the integration of New European Bauhaus principles.

## PICOBELLO Project Newsletter # 5

October 2025 – March 2026

Welcome to the fifth edition of the PICOBELLO Project Newsletter! This issue highlights key project developments, including newly identified good practices, the interregional workshop and study visit in Katowice, and partners' ongoing engagement in activities related to the New European Bauhaus. PICOBELLO continues to translate NEB values into concrete regional actions and policy development.

### WORKSHOP IN KATOWICE

#### *A shared exploration of co-creation and participatory design.*

In February 2026, the PICOBELLO partners met in Katowice, Poland, for their fourth interregional meeting, combining workshops, exchange of good practices and study visits. The event was hosted by the Marshal Office of the Silesian Voivodeship.

The meeting focused on participatory design as a practical approach to implementing the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values. Partners explored how co-creation methods can support policy development and improve the quality of local initiatives. During the workshop session at the Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice, participants tested creative tools such as the “stamping” method, which enabled them to translate ideas into concrete concepts and actively engage stakeholders in the design process.

Study visits included three good practices illustrating how NEB principles can be applied in different contexts:

- **The Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (NOSPR) in Katowice**, demonstrating how a cultural institution can function as an open and accessible public space. Beyond hosting world-class concerts, the venue integrates high-quality architecture with its surrounding urban space, encouraging everyday use by residents and creating a vibrant meeting place that combines culture, design and social interaction;
- **The “Lokal na kulturę” initiative**, presented through several diverse local venues supporting creative entrepreneurship and community engagement. The visits showcased how the city of Katowice provides accessible spaces for cultural and creative activities, enabling grassroots initiatives to grow and respond to local needs while strengthening the cultural ecosystem;
- **The Tyskie Brewery Museum**, showcasing the revitalisation of industrial heritage into a modern cultural and educational experience. The site demonstrates how historical industrial infrastructure can be transformed into an engaging visitor experience, preserving local identity while contributing to tourism, education and regional development.

This workshop in Katowice marked an important step in the PICOBELLO project’s transition towards developing concrete policy interventions and strengthening the role of participatory approaches in regional policies.



## GOOD PRACTICES

### *Progress and Inspiration*

The PICOBELLO project continues to identify and promote inspiring good practices across partner regions. Many have been recognised by Interreg Europe experts and included in the programme-wide database

#### **Herbal Mats – inspired by Vidzeme cultural and natural heritage – Vidzeme, Latvia**

This good practice demonstrates how traditional craftsmanship can be transformed into a socially impactful and culturally meaningful initiative. Herbal mats are made from plants collected in natural meadows and combine traditional weaving techniques with contemporary uses.

The initiative actively engages local communities, including youth and elderly people, through workshops and educational activities.

*“This good practice shows how fostering local traditions can support rural development, strengthen social cohesion and sustainability, while addressing depopulation and identity loss, in line with the Bioeconomy Strategy and the New European Bauhaus.”*

#### **Other selected practices:**

- **Accessible tourism in Vidzeme** – Vidzeme Planning Region
- **New European Bauhaus Accelerator model supporting the ideation of NEB projects** – Regional Council of Lapland
- **“Lokal na kulturę” initiative (Space for Culture)** – Marshal’s Office of the Silesian Voivodeship
- **Happiness Bureau at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Katowice** – Marshal’s Office of the Silesian Voivodeship

Explore all submitted good practices here: [PICOBELLO good practices](#)

## REGIONAL EVENTS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Across partner regions, stakeholders are engaged through events, workshops, and collaborative meetings:

➤ **Greece** – KEPA stakeholder meeting

In October 2025, the 3rd Local Stakeholders Group meeting took place in Thessaloniki, focusing on participatory design and the integration of NEB principles into local and regional policies. Participants explored co-creation tools, including the Participation Ladder, and exchanged cross-sector perspectives. The meeting highlighted the importance of collaborative approaches in shaping sustainable, inclusive and aesthetically valuable local environments.

➤ **Poland** – stakeholder workshop in Katowice

In February 2026, a regional stakeholder workshop was held in Katowice, focusing on the role of social innovation in shaping policies aligned with NEB values. Representatives from public administration, academia, NGOs and the private sector discussed future regional scenarios and the role of participatory approaches in building resilience. The workshop confirmed the strong potential for cross-sector cooperation in the Silesian region and the need to create space for experimentation and testing new solutions.

➤ **Spain** – BCDF open on AI and copyright in the CCIs.

In March 2026, an open discussion on artificial intelligence and copyright in the cultural and creative sectors was organized addressed to creative economy and influential groups. The session responded to a growing and widely recognized need among stakeholders, addressing the rapid transformation that AI is bringing about in creative processes, authorship and intellectual property frameworks. The session was conceived as a space to explore how these emerging challenges may affect the design and implementation of regional policy instruments, particularly in relation to the support and protection of the cultural and creative industries (CCI).

➤ **Europe** – Next Gen Design Open Call 2026

The Barcelona Creativity & Design Foundation, as part of the European project Next Gen Design funded by the Creative Europe Programme, has launched the Next Gen Design Open Call 2026 under the theme “Futures Worth Living”. The initiative is developed in collaboration with leading European design platforms and festivals.

The call targets young creatives aged 18–35 and invites projects addressing pressing social, environmental and cultural challenges. Selected participants will have the opportunity to present their work in a travelling exhibition across Europe and take part in international design residencies, supporting the next generation of designers in shaping sustainable and inclusive futures.

More information and application details: <https://nextgendesign.eu/>

## PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In the coming months, the Picobello project will focus on:

- ✓ **Developing and refining policy interventions**  
Partners will move further into the development phase, working on adapting and embedding good practices into regional policy instruments.
- ✓ **Strengthening peer learning and cooperation**  
Interregional exchange will continue through collaboration, peer reviews and joint reflection on policy solutions aligned with NEB values.
- ✓ **Engaging stakeholders and testing approaches**  
Ongoing work with local stakeholders will support co-creation, experimentation and the validation of proposed solutions in regional contexts.
- ✓ **Preparing for the next interregional meeting in Nantes, France**  
The upcoming meeting will focus on advancing policy development and discussing concrete pilot actions across partner regions.

**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**PICOBELLO**

For more information about the Picobello project, please visit our website: [Picobello Website](#).

Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date with our latest news.