

PARTNER PORTFOLIO

Diocese of Graz-Seckau

Demonstration & Delivery Partner for the

New European Bauhaus

Heritage · Energy · Community · Climate Resilience

SEEKING CONSORTIUM PARTNERS FOR

Horizon Europe · LIFE · Interreg · Creative Europe · Erasmus+

AN INVITATION TO CONSORTIA

The Diocese of Graz-Seckau is opening seven historic, heritage-protected parish houses across Styria as real-life demonstration sites for the New European Bauhaus and adjacent EU calls. We seek interdisciplinary consortium partners — research institutions, architects, technology providers and municipalities — to co-develop and pilot beautiful, sustainable and inclusive renovation, energy and community-transition solutions.

DEMO SITES	SETTINGS	HERITAGE	REGION
8+ across Styria	3 urban · peri-urban · rural	17th–20th c. protected ensembles	AT-22 Styria, Austria

About the Diocese of Graz-Seckau

The Diocese of Graz-Seckau is one of the largest institutional property owners in the Austrian region of Styria. We manage a diverse portfolio of heritage buildings, parish houses, educational institutions and community facilities. Many of our buildings are historically protected and play a defining role in regional identity, social life and the cultural landscape of Styria.

Our properties are living buildings: they accommodate parish administration, education, youth work, cultural programmes, pilgrimage activities and community gatherings. They sit at the intersection of heritage, daily public use and the climate-transition imperative — the precise terrain that the New European Bauhaus calls on Europe to transform.

Strategic priorities

- **Energy-efficient and climate-resilient renovation** of heritage and parish buildings, balancing conservation requirements with decarbonisation targets.
- **Beautiful, sustainable and inclusive design** aligned with the three core NEB values, applied to ensembles in daily community use.
- **Community-based transformation** models that activate parish networks for co-creation, participation and long-term stewardship.
- **Circular construction and craft revival** rooted in regional materials, traditional Styrian building techniques and local trades.
- **Replicable approaches** for Europe's broader stock of religious, civic and heritage buildings facing the same transition challenges.

Why partner with us

Real, occupied buildings Our parish houses are not test labs — they are in daily use as administrative offices, educational centres, cafés and meeting points. Pilots are evaluated under genuine operating conditions with real user groups.	Heritage at scale A portfolio of seven listed and historically sensitive buildings (17th–20th c.) provides representative cases for retrofitting Europe's protected building stock — a key NEB and Renovation Wave priority.
Three settlement typologies Urban (Feldbach), peri-urban (Bad Gleichenberg, Fernitz) and rural / alpine (Pöllau, Irdning, Hirschegg, St. Stefan) sites enable cross-typology comparison within a single regional consortium partner.	Community as partner Each site is anchored in an active parish community — volunteers, youth groups, cultural associations and pilgrimage networks — enabling participatory design, citizen engagement and long-term social uptake.

What we offer to consortia

The Diocese acts as a Demonstration and Delivery Partner: we contribute physical sites, real users, building data, regional networks and trusted dissemination channels. We are open to a wide range of partner roles — from passive site host to active co-developer of community-engagement work packages.

Access to demo sites: Physical access for surveys, monitoring, sensor installation, retrofit interventions and visitor programmes — coordinated through a single diocesan point of contact.

Building data: Floor plans, heritage documentation, energy consumption history and condition assessments to support digital twins, simulation and baseline studies.

User communities: Established networks of parish staff, volunteers, youth and senior groups, schools and cultural associations for co-creation, surveys and behavioural studies.

Local & regional networks: Established working relationships with Styrian municipalities, Diocese property management, regional heritage authorities (Bundesdenkmalamt) and craft trades.

Dissemination reach: Diocesan communication channels, parish bulletins, cultural events and tourism programmes provide trusted, region-wide visibility for project outputs.

Co-funding readiness: Capacity to contribute building maintenance and renovation budgets as match funding or in-kind contribution within EU co-financing structures.

Partner roles we can take

- **Demonstration site host** — physical infrastructure for pilots, monitoring and visitor programmes.
- **Delivery / implementation partner** — operational delivery of retrofit interventions, community activities and dissemination.
- **Living-lab partner** — iterative testing of solutions in occupied, heritage-protected, community-anchored buildings.
- **End-user / community partner** — access to parish communities for co-creation, citizen science and behavioural studies.
- **Replication & dissemination partner** — scale-out across the diocesan portfolio and the wider network of Austrian dioceses and faith-based property owners.

Relevant EU programmes

Our portfolio is positioned for a range of European calls in which heritage retrofit, community transition and the NEB values converge. We are particularly interested in joining consortia for the following programmes:

Horizon Europe — NEB <i>Cluster 4 · NEB-Driven Calls</i> Demonstration of beautiful, sustainable, inclusive renovation in heritage settings; participatory design with parish communities.	Horizon Europe — Cluster 5 <i>Climate, Energy, Mobility</i> Built Environment & Construction calls: energy-efficient retrofit of historic buildings, district decarbonisation, climate adaptation.
LIFE Programme <i>Clean Energy Transition · Climate Adaptation</i> Community energy, near-zero-energy retrofit for protected buildings, climate-resilient heritage strategies.	Interreg / Cross-border <i>Central Europe · Alpine Space · AT-SI / AT-HU</i> Cross-border knowledge transfer on heritage retrofit and community-led transformation, building on existing diocesan partnerships.
Creative Europe <i>Culture Strand</i> Cultural heritage activation, audience development, NEB synergies for historic ensembles and cultural meeting places.	Erasmus+ · EU City Facility <i>Capacity Building · Investment Support</i> Training and replication; pre-investment assistance for parish-house renovation portfolios at municipal scale.

OPEN CALL TO COORDINATORS

If your forthcoming proposal needs a credible heritage demonstration site, an engaged community partner or a delivery partner with regional reach in Austria, we would welcome a conversation. We are equally open to early-stage concept co-development and to joining consortia at a later stage.

Demonstration sites at a glance

Eight heritage parish houses across Styria — spanning three settlement typologies, four centuries of building history and a wide range of architectural conditions. Each site is documented, accessible, and supported by an active community of users.

DEMONSTRATION SITE	DISTRICT	TYPOLGY	ERA
Pöllau Castle Parish House	Hartberg-Fürstenfeld	Rural	17th/18th c.
Irdning Parish House	Liezen	Rural	1629
Monastery & Parish House Bad Gleichenberg	Südoststeiermark	Peri-urban (spa town)	1843
Feldbach Parish House	Südoststeiermark	Urban	19th/20th c.
Hirschegg Parish House	Voitsberg	Rural / alpine ~950 m	18th c.
Fernitz Parish House	Graz-Umgebung	Peri-urban	Baroque
St. Stefan im Rosental Parish House	Südoststeiermark	Rural / peri-urban	18th c.
St. Jakob im Walde Parish House	Oststeiermark	Rural	18th c.

Portfolio characteristics

- **Geographic spread** across all of Styria, from alpine Hirschegg (~950 m) to the urban district capital Feldbach and the southeastern Rosental.
- **Temporal depth** from the 17th-century Baroque (Pöllau Castle, Irdning) through 19th-century construction (Bad Gleichenberg) to 20th-century renovations (Feldbach).
- **Typological range** including monumental castle complexes, alpine vernacular construction, urban district buildings and rural parish ensembles.
- **Functional diversity** covering administration, education, youth work, pilgrimage, hospitality, café operation and cultural events.

Site profiles

Each profile summarises the location, classification, year of construction, current usage and architectural character of the site, as a starting point for consortium discussions and site visits.

HARTBERG-FÜRSTENFELD • **RURAL**

Pöllau Castle Parish House



BUILT 17th/18th c.

USE Parish office, culture, education, tourism

ARCHITECTURE Baroque four-winged castle complex with arcade courtyards

LIEZEN • **RURAL**

Irdning Parish House



BUILT 1629

USE Pastoral care, administration, culture, meeting point

ARCHITECTURE Stately historical ensemble with church and sexton's house

SÜDOSTSTEIERMARK · PERI-URBAN (SPA TOWN)

Monastery & Parish House Bad Gleichenberg



BUILT 1843

USE Spiritual centre, cultural heritage, community

ARCHITECTURE Clear lines, exposed hilltop location, unit with church

SÜDOSTSTEIERMARK · URBAN

Feldbach Parish House



BUILT 19th/20th c.

USE Administration, youth, education, parish café

ARCHITECTURE Solid masonry, inviting courtyard, near modern church tower & historical Tabor

VOITSBERG · RURAL / ALPINE ~950 M

Hirschegg Parish House



BUILT 18th c.

USE Administration, pilgrimage, community meeting

ARCHITECTURE Solid alpine construction, heritage-protected ensemble

GRAZ-UMGEBUNG · PERI-URBAN

Fernitz Parish House



BUILT Baroque

USE Administration, pilgrimage, youth & events

ARCHITECTURE Traditional Styrian building, unit with late-Gothic church

SÜDOSTSTEIERMARK · RURAL / PERI-URBAN

St. Stefan im Rosental Parish House



BUILT 18th c.

USE Pastoral care, community, cultural traditions, education

ARCHITECTURE Dignified rural Baroque architecture

OSTSTEIERMARK · RURAL

St. Jakob im Walde Parish House



BUILT 18th c.

USE Pastoral care, community, cultural traditions, education

ARCHITECTURE Typical rural rectory with a functional building structure; simple, locally rooted architecture with a historically evolved fabric and a clear integration into the village context.

Contact

For consortium enquiries, site visits, NDA-protected exchanges or detailed building documentation, please contact:

GET IN TOUCH

We welcome enquiries from coordinators, applicants and consortium partners.

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