

CULTURE & CREATIVITY CLUSTER

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026

JULY 2026 UPDATE

CLUSTER DESCRIPTION AND KEY PRIORITIES

ERRIN's **Culture and Creativity Cluster** includes the activities of the [Culture, Heritage & Tourism](#), and the [New European Bauhaus and Creativity Working Groups](#), aligning their efforts to address key EU priorities and strengthen the R&I capacities of the regional innovation ecosystems of the ERRIN members. Operating as a Cluster enables the Working Groups to deliver more impactful messages with a collective voice, enhancing their influence on key EU strategies and initiatives. The cross-sectoral perspective further fosters innovative, holistic approaches to complex challenges while enhancing collaboration.

The Cluster actively monitors and engages with major EU priorities and strategies in the field of culture and creative industries, cultural heritage, tourism, and the New European Bauhaus (NEB), including the **Culture Compass**, **Horizon Europe Programme** (Cluster 2 and NEB Facility R&I component), **European Partnerships**, the **NEB Facility**, the new **NEB Communication** and **NEB Council Conclusions**.

Key workstreams of the Cluster in 2026 include: **EU culture policy and funding**, including culture in the future **Multiannual Financial Framework** (Horizon Europe, AgoraEU) and **project development** (Cluster 2 and NEB Facility calls); the **New European Bauhaus**, pursued in collaboration with the **Affordable Housing** workstream of the Low Carbon Cluster, with a focus on inclusion, youth policies and implementation of the NEB Facility; **Culture, health and wellbeing**, developed in collaboration with the Health Cluster; **Innovation and skills** for the digital transition and to strengthen resilience and sustainable tourism.

Under the CCI Cluster, ERRIN is part of **three projects**: Interreg Europe project **PROSPERO**, placing CCIs in the centre of sustainable and inclusive regional development, **NEB Junction**, a Horizon Europe project setting up a NEB Hub for Results and Impacts, and the newly launched **European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage**, a 10-year programme supporting the Cultural Heritage resilience in connection to climate change.

More details about each Working Group and projects can be found at the end of this file.

CLUSTER CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Responsible
10 Feb	Culture and Creativity Cluster Kick-off meeting	Cluster activity
16 March	NEB Junction Policy Conversations	ERRIN + New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG
25 March	Project development session on CCI-related calls	Cluster activity
9 June	Strengthening NEB governance: the local pathway towards the NEB chapter	Cluster activity

11 June	EU Design Day – Housing as a game-changer	New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG
30 June	Culture, arts and mental health	Culture, Heritage & Tourism WG
8 September	Creative Skills Week 2026: Shaping Creative Ecosystems: How Do Regions Turn EU Skills Agendas into Action?	Cluster Activity
October TBC	European Partnership on Resilient Cultural Heritage – online info session for ERRIN members	Cluster Activity
4 November	NEB and Youth policies	New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG
Nov TBC	Site visit on inspiring NEB solutions	New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG + Smart Cities WG
9 December	NEB Junction Policy Conversations	ERRIN + New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Creative Skills Week 2026: Shaping Creative Ecosystems: How Do Regions Turn EU Skills Agendas into Action?

8 September | 9:00–11:00

Responsible WG: Cluster activity, in cooperation with ICT WG

Responsible co-leaders: Anna Spechtenhauser, Giulia Chiarel

In-person

As part of the Creative Skills Week 2026, ERRIN will contribute to the session ‘Shaping Creative Ecosystems: How Do Regions Turn EU Skills Agendas into Action?’. The session, organised in collaboration with the Creative Pact for Skills, will explore how local and regional ecosystems can translate European skills agendas into concrete partnerships and implementation models. Participants will discuss the role of local skills partnerships, ecosystem intermediaries and cross-sector collaboration in connecting education providers, industry, SMEs, policymakers and communities. Through interactive exchanges and practical examples, the session will showcase approaches that help strengthen regional skills ecosystems and address emerging skills needs.

ERRIN's participation reflects the ongoing work of the Culture and Creativity Cluster's Skills Workstream, which supports knowledge exchange and collaboration on skills development, lifelong learning and talent attraction across European regions. The session will provide an opportunity to share regional experiences and discuss how place-based partnerships can contribute to the implementation of European skills initiatives.

European Partnership on Resilient Cultural Heritage – Info session for ERRIN members

October | TBC

Responsible WG: Cluster activity, ERRIN Secretariat
Online

ERRIN's online information session aims to provide information to interested ERRIN members about the newly launched European Partnership on Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH). The session will introduce the objectives of the Partnership, which aims to strengthen the preservation of Europe's cultural heritage while harnessing heritage-based knowledge, practices and innovations to support climate adaptation, sustainability and resilience. Participants will also gain an overview of ERRIN's role in the initiative and the opportunities it will create for regional and local stakeholders.

The event will highlight how ERRIN members can engage in the Partnership, including contributing to the mapping of regional good practices and initiatives, building connections across regions, and preparing for upcoming funding opportunities and calls. It will also provide insights into the Partnership's strategic priorities and its ambition to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, support evidence-based policymaking, and develop innovative solutions for resilient cultural heritage across Europe.

NEB and Youth policies

4 November | 14:00–16:30

Responsible WG: New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG

Responsible co-leaders: Giulia Chiarel, Nadia Galluzzo, Roberta Negriolli

In-person

As the New European Bauhaus (NEB) progresses from vision to implementation, there is an increasing need to involve citizens not only as beneficiaries, but also as co-creators of sustainable, inclusive and aesthetic living environments. In this context, young people represent a key yet underutilised stakeholder group: while disproportionately affected by challenges such as climate change, housing shortages and spatial inequalities, they are also important drivers of innovation, creativity and social engagement. EU youth policy frameworks, including the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 and recent initiatives to strengthen youth participation in policymaking, underline the importance of embedding youth perspectives across relevant policy areas.

Despite this progress, links between NEB implementation and structured youth policy instruments remain limited. Awareness of NEB opportunities among young people is uneven, while policymakers often lack dedicated spaces to systematically integrate youth perspectives into NEB-related planning and governance. This event will address this gap by focusing on the regional level and on the NEB tools and actions available to strengthen youth participation.

Site visit on inspiring NEB solutions

November | TBC

Responsible WG: Smart Cities WG and New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG

Responsible co-leaders: Marie-Laurence Com, ERRIN Secretariat

The ERRIN Smart Cities and NEB & Creativity Working Groups will organise a joint study visit to a New European Bauhaus (NEB)-related site in Brussels or its wider vicinity. The visit will showcase an

inspiring example of how the green transition can be combined with high-quality design, aesthetics and improvements to the living environment.

Participants will explore concrete, place-based solutions that integrate sustainability, innovation and social value at local level, and engage in exchanges with local actors and project representatives. The visit will foster peer learning and reflection on how NEB principles can be translated into urban and regional practice, highlighting people-centred approaches to sustainable urban development.

NEB Junction Policy Conversations

9 December | 9:00–17:00

Responsible WG: New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG

Responsible co-leaders: ERRIN Secretariat

In-person

NEB Junction – a NEB Hub for Results and Impacts is a Horizon Europe project in which ERRIN participates as a project partner and Work Package leader. Within this framework, ERRIN will organise the second in a series of three planned **high-level policy events** in Brussels, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders from across the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative – including national, local and regional authorities, key NEB projects and initiatives, local communities, National Contact Points, local chapters and representatives from the construction sector and cultural and creative industries – to engage in a direct dialogue with representatives of the European Commission.

The event will focus on the implementation of the current NEB programme and the NEB Facility, addressing challenges, bottlenecks, Research and Innovation gaps and emerging needs. Discussions will also explore impact assessment of NEB projects and other relevant actions within the NEB initiative, with the goal to formulate recommendations for the future development of the NEB Facility.

PAST ACTIVITIES

Culture and Creativity Cluster Kick-off meeting 2026

10 February | 14:00–17:30

Cluster activity

Responsible co-leaders: all leaders

In-person

The first official meeting of the CCI Cluster offered an opportunity for all ERRIN members active in the Cluster topics to come together, network and learn about the planned **2026 activities** of the Culture, Heritage and Tourism and New European Bauhaus and Creativity Working Groups.

The event began with a **presentation from representatives of the European Commission (DG EAC, JRC, DG RTD)**, who shared the latest developments in **EU Cultural Policy**, including updates on the **Culture Compass** and the **new NEB Communication**, as well as the funding for culture in the new **MFF**.

Following this, the **Cluster Annual Work Plan 2026** was presented, giving an overview of the sessions planned for the cluster in 2026, including EU Design Days and a project development session, as well as key workstreams for the year ahead.

NEB Junction Policy Conversations

16 March | 12:00–19:30

Responsible WG: New European Bauhaus & Creativity WG

Responsible co-leaders: ERRIN Secretariat, Giulia Chiarel

In-person

NEB Junction – a NEB Hub for Results and Impacts is a Horizon Europe project in which ERRIN participates as a project partner and Work Package leader. Within this framework, ERRIN organised the **first in a series of three planned high-level policy events** in Brussels, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders from across the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative – including national, local and regional authorities, key NEB projects and initiatives, local communities, National Contact Points, local chapters and representatives from the construction sector and cultural and creative industries – to engage in a direct dialogue with representatives of the European Commission.

The event focused on the implementation of the current NEB programme and the NEB Facility, addressing challenges, bottlenecks, research and innovation gaps and emerging needs. Discussions also explored expectations related to the NEB Communication and then-forthcoming Council Conclusions and formulate recommendations for the future development of the NEB Facility.

Project development session on CCI-related calls

25 March | 10:00–12:00

Cluster activity

Responsible co-leaders: Katinka Sætersdal Remøe, Andreea Leru, Loriane Henninot

Online

The Culture and Creativity Cluster organised a project development session on [the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Cluster 2](#) and [New European Bauhaus calls](#) for proposal. The session took place online, targeting a wider regional participation of stakeholders and practitioners from across the CCI sector and beyond. This online event included a pitching session where stakeholders can present their project ideas.

Based on the Expression of Interests received through the Project Development Tool on ERRIN's website, the working group leaders selected the calls that were discussed during the session.

The matchmaking continues through the Project Development Tool after the session, where members and their local stakeholders can submit expressions of interest, outline their expertise and partner needs and connect directly with others working on the same calls.

Strengthening NEB governance: the local pathway towards the NEB chapter

9 June | 13:00–18:00

Cluster Activity

Responsible co-leaders: Nadia Galluzzo, Annamaria Cosattini

In-person / Hybrid – Workshop and Networking reception

This event explored the role of territories and local stakeholders in strengthening New European Bauhaus (NEB) governance, with a particular focus on the development and implementation of NEB Local Chapters. It will bring together regional and local authorities, practitioners and other relevant actors to reflect on how multi-level cooperation and participatory approaches can support the effective translation of NEB ambitions into local practice.

Discussions examined the NEB Local Chapter instrument as a mean to foster collaboration among public authorities, local communities and other stakeholders and to reinforce inclusive, place-based governance processes. Particular attention was given to the integration of NEB principles into regional and local policies, including their contribution to the regeneration of public spaces and buildings – such as social housing and schools – and to improving the quality of life of neighbourhoods and communities more broadly.

The event was organised by the Liguria Region, in collaboration with the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, and with the support of ERRIN's NEB & Creativity Working Group, in the context of the NEB Festival 2026.

EU Design Day

Housing as a Game-Changer – Affordable Living through the New European Bauhaus: Social Inclusion, Urban Regeneration and the Power of Regions

11 June | 9:00–17:30

Responsible WG: NEB & Creativity

Responsible co-leaders: Anna Spechtenhauser, Giulia Chiarel, Marie-Laurence Com, Roberta Negriolli

In-person

The 14th edition of the EU Design Day (EUDD) focused on affordable housing as a key societal challenge, exploring the role of regions in shaping inclusive, sustainable and high-quality living environments through the lens of the New European Bauhaus. The event focused on four key thematic dimensions:

- The first session focused on inclusive and social housing and the built environment, showcasing innovative approaches from Italy and Czechia
- The second session explored sustainable housing and climate adaptation solutions, highlighting projects from Denmark and Spain that integrate environmental resilience into residential development.
- The third session examined culture-driven place development through inspiring examples from France and Sweden, illustrating how culture-led initiatives can strengthen local identity and revitalise communities.
- The fourth session focused on participatory urban regeneration in the Netherlands and Czechia, highlighting the importance of citizen engagement in shaping more inclusive and responsive urban environments.

Through a series of keynotes, breakout sessions, and networking, participants from different backgrounds – regional stakeholders, policymakers, designers, architects – shared their experiences, reflected on challenges and learnt from success stories on the topic of housing. More information about the speakers and their project can be found on the [booklet](#).

Culture, arts and mental health

30 June | 14:00–16:30

Responsible WG: CCI Cluster in cooperation with Health WG

Responsible co-leaders: Martina Hilger, Roberta Negriolli

In-person

Each year, nearly one-in-four people are affected by mental health disorders, significantly impacting on people's quality of life, social cohesion and the labour market. As noted in the Commission's Communication on A Comprehensive approach to mental health, participation in cultural activities can positively impact mental health by enhancing social connections, a sense of belonging and self-esteem, while helping to address isolation, stress and loneliness and to strengthen resilience.

This contribution of culture to health and well-being was more recently further underlined in the Culture Compass, notably its chapter on health and well-being, and in the [Open Method of Coordination \(OMC\) report on culture and health](#), which emphasise the added value of cultural participation, particularly at local and regional level.

The meeting, organised in collaboration with ERRIN's Health WG, explored best practice case studies and activities at a regional level around culture and mental health, as well as EU policies relating to this topic and options for future activities funded by the EU.

OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTPUTS IN ERRIN PROJECTS

In 2026, ERRIN is part of **four projects** under the CCI Cluster:

PROSPERO

[PROSPERO](#) is an INTERREG EUROPE project that aims to enhance policy innovation at regional level, leveraging the CCI as drivers for substantiable regional development, contributing to efforts in climate adaptation, competitiveness of SME's, social services, digitalisation, NEB and funding and investments. ERRIN is working with several members involved in the pilot schemes, collecting good practices and facilitating peer-learnings. The project started on 1 May 2025.

As part of PROSPERO Project, ERRIN Secretariat is taking part in two different activities this year:

- **22–23 April:** [PROSPERO Interregional Meeting \(PIM\) 3 in Sarajevo Canton \(BiH\)](#)
- **21–22 October:** PIM4 in South-West Oltenia (RO)

The interregional meetings consist of interactive but structured exchange sessions involving experts and practitioners from culture and creative industries, representatives of other sectors and policy areas and experts in cross-cutting topics.

NEB Junction

ERRIN is a proud partner of [NEB Junction](#), a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action, whose core objective is to establish a NEB Hub for Results and Impacts. The project collects, packages and validates stakeholder knowledge into '**Knowledge Gems**', to be made publicly available via an **AI-supported, accessible IT Portal**. NEB Junction engages a broad range of stakeholders—including those not yet involved or traditionally excluded – through **multi-stakeholder sessions, learning journeys and stakeholder assemblies**. Its Monitoring System will integrate **cultural, creative, environmental, economic, social, health and governance perspectives**, making sustainable solutions more relatable and actionable for **policy makers, public authorities, construction ecosystems and local communities**.

Within ERRIN's task, the project specifically focuses on **connecting public administration, construction sector and local community stakeholders with the NEB Facility**, identifying **R&I gaps, needs, and opportunities** and supporting the development of **pathways and a Roadmap for NEB implementation**. ERRIN's work ensures that NEB knowledge is **inclusive, co-designed and relevant** for regional and local authorities and communities, supporting the long-term effectiveness of the NEB Facility.

Key opportunities for the involvement of ERRIN members:

- **NEB Junction Policy Conversations** – following the successful [first in-person interactive policy-focused meeting](#) which took place on 16 March 2026, the second meeting will be organized on **9 December 2026**. The meeting will focus on R&I Gap Analysis, impact assessment of NEB projects, and other relevant topics, with the goal of providing recommendations for the future NEB Facility. Aside from public authorities, the event will gather key stakeholders from relevant NEB projects, partners and initiatives. Number of spaces is limited, and there will be an open call for ERRIN members.
- **NEB Junction Stakeholder Assemblies** – online wide-range participation format, collecting opinions, evidence and recommendations for the further development of the platform and engagement with the NEB. The first Stakeholder Assembly session took place in Jan/Feb 2026, with the second round taking place on 26-27 October and 5-6 November respectively. Open call for participants will be launched in September 2026.
- **NEB Junction Platform** – the NEB Junction project launched the [online platform](#) i.e. NEB Hub for Results and Impacts. The first version of the platform is online and provides initial mapping of more than 500 EU-funded NEB projects, as well as an initial collection of NEB Gems. Further outreach activities will be organized to user-test the platform and open the possibility for input and suggestion of NEB Gems.

Innovation for Place-based Transformation

Additionally, the ERRIN secretariat works on the [EU Preparatory Action 'Innovation for Place-based Transformation'](#) that offers ERRIN members a concrete opportunity to engage in place-based innovation experimentation and cross-sectoral learning. In the context of this action, ERRIN has been involved in the implementation of the NEB Experimentation Journey since September 2025, with a group of territories from across Europe. The objective of the Experimentation Journeys is to use

innovative tools and methodologies to tackle specific challenges that the territories are facing and achieve transformation in policies and practice in line with the principles of the New European Bauhaus. In addition to online session, two project-related events took place in person:

- **2–3 March:** In-person workshop of the [NEB Experimentation Journey in Florence](#) (closed event)
- **2 June:** [Presentation of the Preparatory Action at the European Parliament](#) and announcement of new thematic Experimentation Journeys

The NEB Experimentation Journey comes to a close in September 2026.

EU Partnership on Resilient Cultural Heritage

ERRIN is participating in the [European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage \(RCH\)](#), a ten-year initiative bringing together funding agencies, ministries, public authorities, researchers, heritage professionals and citizens to strengthen European cooperation in research and innovation at the intersection of cultural heritage and climate change.

ERRIN will play a key role in ensuring that regional representation and voices are heard, included and documented throughout the Partnership. ERRIN is co-leading a task dedicated to mapping regional and national ecosystems in the field of resilient cultural heritage. This work will collect and structure information on relevant research and professional communities, projects, initiatives and networks working at the intersection of cultural heritage and climate change.

ERRIN's involvement will also ensure that members receive **first-hand information on the Partnership's results, activities and opportunities**, while helping to embed regional and local perspectives across its different tasks and activities.

OTHER ISSUES/TOPICS TO BE MONITORED:

Further strategic and policy initiatives of interest to the Cluster:

- Continued active engagement in the **EC Expert Group on Cultural Heritage**
- Following and engaging with the activities of the **Large-scale Skills Partnership on CCI**, including **Working group on Regional Skills Partnerships** and taking an active role in the **Creative Skills week** to take place from 7-9 September in Brussels
- Following the work of the **EIT Culture and Creativity KIC** – activities and opportunities for ERRIN members
- Further tightening collaboration with relevant DGs following Culture and NEB: DG EAC, DG RTD, JRC – NEB Unit, DG REGIO, etc., as well as NCPs
- Following implementation or discussions on following policy documents:
 - the **Affordable Housing Act**
 - the **Sustainable Tourism Strategy**
 - the **AI strategy for CCI**

MORE INFORMATION ON LEADERS AND WORKING GROUPS

New European Bauhaus & Creativity Working Group



In light of the growing relevance of NEB policies across wider EU initiatives, the decision has been taken to merge the NEB Task Force with the Design and Creativity Working Group as of 2026. This new '[NEB and Creativity Working Group](#)' reflects the central role that design and creativity play within the NEB initiative. The **Working Group** supports the development and implementation of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) in line with the latest EU policies and the NEB Communication, placing design and creativity at the core of the initiative. It follows EU-level NEB developments while showcasing concrete local and regional activities that demonstrate how design- and creativity-driven approaches can deliver sustainable, inclusive and beautiful solutions in practice, helping to build momentum towards a stronger and more actionable NEB across Europe.

The Working Group strengthens members' understanding of the NEB framework and enhances their capacity to engage with it by mobilising local ecosystems and fostering cross-sector collaboration between designers, creative professionals, policymakers, businesses and civil society. As a NEB partner, ERRIN uses the Working Group as a platform to reinforce policy dialogue with EU institutions, driven by members most active on NEB-related topics, while creating opportunities for project development, knowledge exchange and the visibility of members' ideas, stories and ongoing activities within the wider EU NEB community.

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Culture, Heritage and Tourism Working Group



The [Culture, Heritage and Tourism Working Group](#) has three main lines of action: Sustainable Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and wider Cultural policy, and the policies and actions that link these areas. In this context, the Working Group investigates R&I-related measures to mitigate touristic flows' environmental and social impact and encourage the transition towards sustainable tourism and cultural policies and practices. To this end, the Working Group supports ERRIN members in the uptake of digital technologies and the development of skills/competences in the Culture, Heritage and Tourism sectors, facilitating exchanges of good practices and developing new projects.

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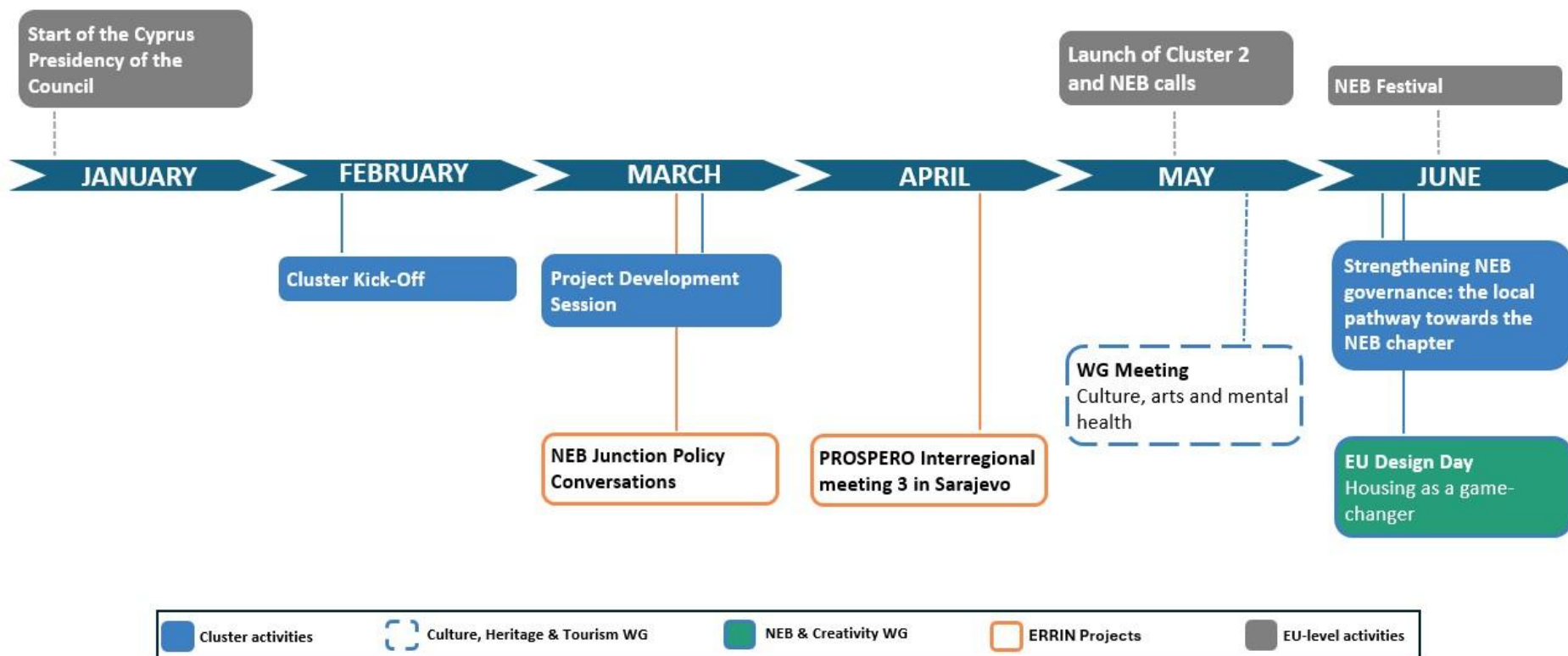
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CULTURE & CREATIVITY CLUSTER 2026 TIMELINE



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