Invitation

From Vision to Action: Co-Creating Rural Futures

Freistaat **Thüringen**

stiftung **baukultur** thüringen

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

25 June 2024
14:30 – 19:00
@L42 (Rue de la Loi 42, Brussels)
Register **here**

Objective

The development and connectivity of rural areas, along with their interaction with urban regions, is a critical concern for Thuringia and many European regions. Over the past 10 years, the IBA Thüringen (International Construction Exhibition) has gained valuable experience in shaping rural spaces. These experiences, combined with interdisciplinary research on rural areas at the Bauhaus University Weimar, strongly link to the values and principles of the New European Bauhaus. We aim to share our experiences and recommendations with other European regions and institutions to contribute to the discussion on future policy development. This is particularly relevant given the new commission's focus areas and the upcoming funding period from 2028-2035.

This event aims to initiate a co-design process in collaboration with like-minded European regions. We invite you to share your experiences, discuss, and contribute to the thematic topics of the World Café sessions: (1) Buildings as a Resource, (2) Mobility and Digitalisation, and (3) Community and Society.

The event's outcome will be the **development of joint recommendations**, demands, and ideas for the **future development of rural spaces in Europe**. These will provide valuable input for future discussions at the EU, national, and regional levels. Ideally, such co-designed action recommendations will serve as a concrete manifestation of the ten goals of the EU's Vision for Rural Areas and the associated EU Rural Pact, which European regions can endorse.

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Agenda

14:30   **Welcome and Introduction**
- Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff, Thuringian Minister Culture of and European Affairs
- Peter Benz, President of Bauhaus University Weimar
- Moderation: Natasha Foote

14:50 – 15:15   **10 years ahead in the transformation in rural areas: Learnings from the IBA Thüringen**
- **Katja Fischer**, Managing Director Stiftung Baukultur Thüringen

15:30 – 16:30   **World Café - Let's co-create rural futures**
What's needed for the development of rural areas – Co-designing ideas and demands for future rural policy making on regional and European level around three topics
- Buildings as a Resource
- Mobility and Digitalisation
- Community and Society

16:50   **Introducing the main results from World Café- session**
- *Moderators of World-Café-topics*

Panel: Discussing the future - What comes next on European level
- Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff, Thuringian Minister Culture of and European Affairs
- Peter Wehrheim, European Commission, DG RTD, Bioeconomy
- Silvia Nanni, European Commission, DG AGRI, Rural areas & networks
- Alina Ujupan, JRC, New European Bauhaus

18:00   **Networking-Apéro**

19:00   **End**

World Café – Let's co-create rural futures

TABLE 1. Buildings as a resource

Our building stock is the central resource for a climate-friendly future. Not only in rural areas it is a collective memory, a reserve of space, a reservoir of materials, with potential for new utilization and economic value. In rural areas we often find vacant, unused buildings. In this context *Baukultur* means working with the potential of existing buildings, finding ways for creative further developments and engage where existing buildings and vacancies are located. At the same time, buildings that can no longer be reused offer the opportunity to reuse the materials and components to start a sustainable cycle.

Moderation:
Jessica Christoph, IBA project „Sommerfrische Schwarzatal Haus Bräutigam"

Participants from Thuringia:
- **Elke Bergt**, Head of Building Division, Protestant Church of Central Germany - IBA project „2.000 churches"
- **Christine Dörner**, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Heritage Conservation and Architectural History
- **Sebastian Schröter**, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Practices of Sustainability

TABLE 2. Mobility and Digitalisation

Digitalisation has an impact on almost all areas of life: from work, mobility and social interaction to economic production and health. Integrated approaches for digital rural regions open up opportunities to compensate for locational disadvantages through innovative solutions such as telemedicine, alternative mobility concepts or other.

Moderation:
Peter Benz, President of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Participants from Thuringia:
* **Oliver A. Bucklin**, ETH Zürich, Architecture and digital fabrication - IBA project „Timber Prototype House", Apolda
* **Alexandra Hunger**, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Transport System Planning und Projekt European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH)
* **Maurice Jakesch**, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Computational Social Science

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TABLE 3. Community & Society

Not only people in rural areas are stressed by the climatic and economic challenges and our need for social transformation. Here, however, it is linked to the feeling of being left behind. Equal living conditions have become a question of spatial justice. What can we do? Support people to implement their idea of a good life and to participate in the development of their areas, create meeting places and support engagement in an easy way.

Moderation:
Ulrike Kuch, Vice President of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Participants from Thuringia:
- **Hanka Giller**, City of Saalfeld, Head of Office for Youth Work, Sport, Social Affairs - IBA project „Arrival StadtLand - Werkhaus Saalfeld"
- **Jörn Hintzer** and **Jakob Hüfner** – Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Cross-media Moving Image
- **Katrin Hitziggrad** - IBA project „LeerGut-Agentinnen und –Agenten"
- **Sigrun Langner** – Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Landscape Architecture and Planning