

the **NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

Imagine walking into a place where everyone—regardless of age, background, or status—has a voice. A place that's always open, designed not just for community gatherings but for shaping the future, together. This is the **Neighbourhood House**: a local, inclusive hub where democracy becomes a lived experience.



In this vision, **Neighbourhood Houses** are physical spaces woven into Europe's urban and rural landscapes — open to **everyone**.



These hubs aren't just community centres; they're **engines of grassroots democracy**, accessible for everyone and **open 24h every day**. Step through the door, and you enter a shared space designed with inclusivity at its core.

Residents are involved from the very first steps:

early involvement in local planning and decision making builds agency and community

fosters a sense of ownership over the future of the neighbourhood

users are empowered because this is a grassroots project, a partnership between equals

The house is designed with rooms that have different functions to serve different needs, including more specific interests.



Imagine a comfy knitting corner for the elderly to unwind...



...a vibrant gaming room for teens to challenge each other in democracy games...


...a cosy café where parents could have political dialogues while children played...



...and a tech-equipped room for virtual meetings and online discussions.



In addition, the House connects public and private services with the citizens: **Bureaucratic procedures**—what often creates distance between governments and citizens—are broken down here into clear, understandable steps.

A black and white photograph of a row of brick houses, likely in a historic neighborhood. The houses have multiple windows and a prominent chimney. A large tree is on the left side. The image is overlaid with a teal color and a yellow border. Two paragraphs of text are positioned in the upper half, and a yellow banner with a question is in the lower half.

What makes this idea so practical is its resourcefulness. Neighbourhood Houses don't reinvent the wheel; they make better use of what's already there. They utilize existing physical spaces and involve local organizations and clubs.

Importantly, the main principles for the Neighbourhood House, as recorded in the charter, are to act in the common interest of the community – no political colours nor personal interests, and to foster a circular economy conscious of the planetary limits.

WOULD YOU JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD?