



**8TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**

BASQUE COUNTRY | BILBAO | 27 - 29 APRIL 2016

basquecountry2016.eu

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION: THE POTENTIAL FOR EUROPE

27-29 April 2016, Basque Country, Bilbao



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Welcome!

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the **8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns ‘Transformative Action: the potential for Europe’**, to be held in the Basque Country, on 27-29 April 2016, hosted by [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#), the [Basque Government](#), [Bizkaia County Council](#) and [Bilbao City Council](#), with the involvement of [Udalsarea 21 – Basque Network of Municipalities for Sustainability](#).

The 2016 flagship European conference on local sustainable development will build on the legacy of the previous conferences in Aalborg (Denmark, 1994 and 2004), Lisbon (Portugal, 1996), Hannover (Germany, 2000), Seville (Spain, 2007), Dunkerque (France, 2010) and Geneva (Switzerland, 2013). The conference will demonstrate the pressing need for action by local governments to change current unsustainable pathways and shape Europe’s future.

The event will take place at a crucial time, following the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Climate Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris that should result in a post-Kyoto framework to address climate change. While having to meet global challenges, local and regional governments also face environmental, financial and societal issues in Europe. The conference will reflect the urgency of the challenges and present a way to address them through transformative action.

Goals & Objectives

- Offer local leaders a stage to express ideas, experiences and expectations related to sustainable urban development;
- Look closely at the crucial role of cooperation between local governments, business, civil society and the finance sector in order to implement actions on the ground;
- Explore how strategies and solutions for sustainable urban development can be combined with new economic approaches and social innovation to generate local value, employment and to improve economic resilience;
- Provide local leaders with the opportunity to make a formal joint commitment to take action on sustainable urban development, as well as to formulate their expectations towards European governance in support of their pledge;
- Inform and engage local governments in European and international policy frameworks related to sustainable development, such as the Sustainable Development Goals or the Urban Agenda for the EU, and to explore if and how these frameworks can support and encourage local initiatives;
- Explore how a civic economy can help to address the economic and financial crisis, and re-build the confidence in a united and inclusive Europe from a bottom-up perspective.



Image: Basque Government/Mikel Arrazola



Image courtesy of Basquetour

Latest confirmed



Corina Crețu
Commissioner
Regional Policy
European Commission



Iñigo Urkullu
Lehendakari (President
of the Basque
Government)
Basque Country



Jeb Brugmann
Expert
Urban Sustainability
Planning & Innovation



Ligia Noronha
Director, UNEP Division
of Technology, Industry
and Economics (DTIE)

+ 100 speakers

Programme Overview

The three-day programme will consist of plenaries, a Mayors Session, breakout sessions, panels, networking opportunities and mobile workshops in the Basque Country. A **Declaration** will reflect current challenges and the crucial need to take action at the local level.

				26 April	Registration	Welcome Reception
27 April	Opening Plenary	Plenary 1 The governance framework of transformative actions	Plenary 2 Panel	Plenary 3 Declaration	Breakout Sessions Mayors Session	Sub-plenaries Cocktail Reception
28 April	Plenary 4 The Productive City - a concept for transformative actions	Plenary 5 Innovation Market		Mobile Workshops and social events in the Basque Country		
29 April	Plenary 6 Europe's urban potential	Plenary 7 Reviving the European spirit from the local level. Conclusions		Farewell Lunch		

Registration will open in October 2015!

+ 1000 participants

Politicians and practitioners from local and regional governments, representatives of European and international institutions, multilateral organisations, members of the research community, business leaders, and civil society.



Conference Venue

Palacio Euskalduna

Avda. Abandoibarra, n°4
48011 Bilbao, Basque Country
www.euskalduna.net

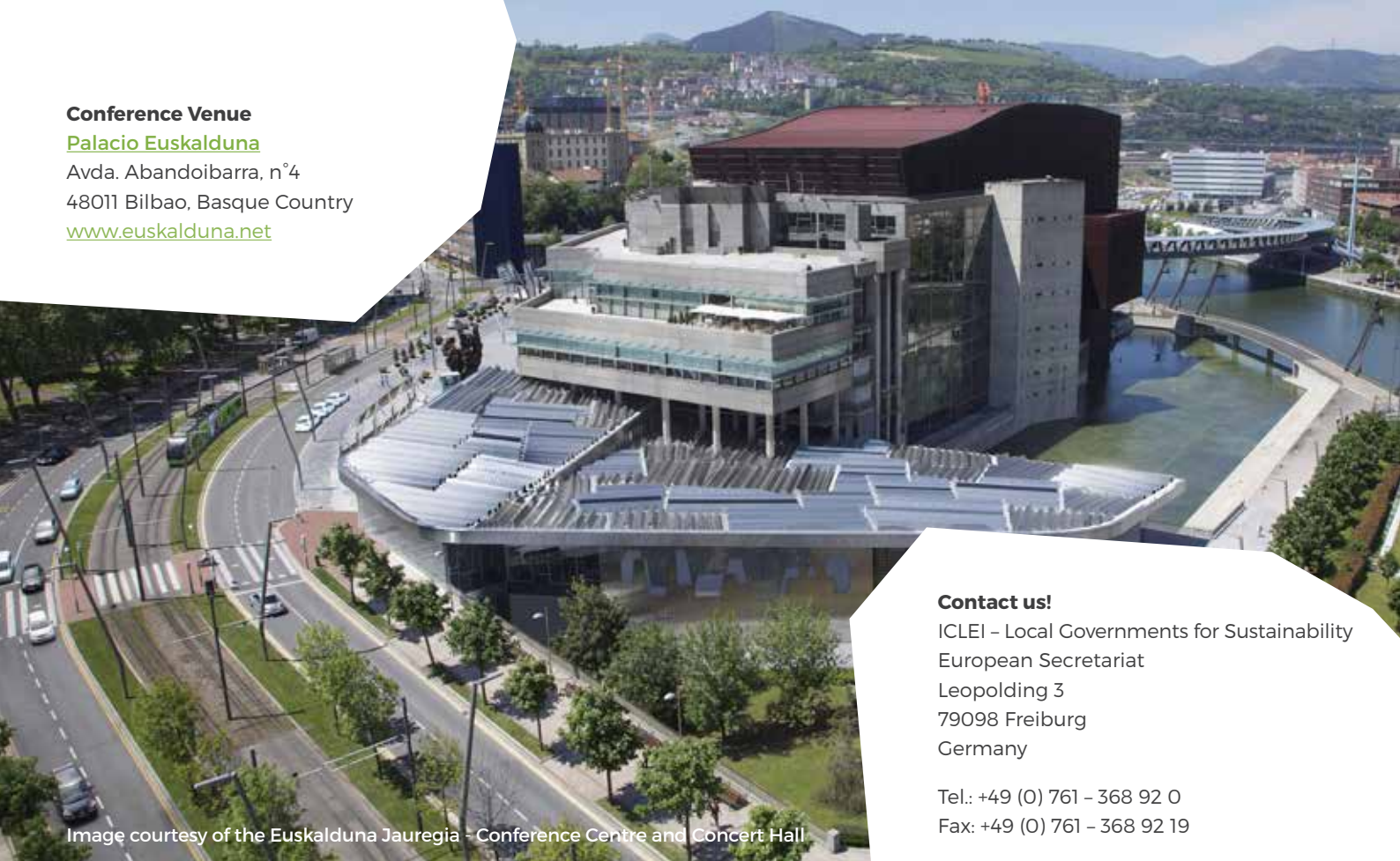


Image courtesy of the Euskalduna Jauregia - Conference Centre and Concert Hall

Contact us!

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The Organisers



ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of over 1,000 local governments. In Europe, ICLEI represents local governments in all relevant EU policy processes for sustainability, working together with European networks, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and many other organisations.



The Basque Country reflects the capacity of European regions to transform, having changed its focus on industry to embrace a modern service-based economy. Its newly adopted Environmental Programme for 2020 shows a firm commitment to improving the environment and aligns with current European and international strategies on job creation, enhancing standards of living and building a low-carbon economy. With the support of Udalsarea 21 - Basque Network of Municipalities for Sustainability, the Basque Country has positioned itself among the leaders of local sustainability, given its long history of coordination and revitalization of Local Agenda 21 in the Basque municipalities.



**BILBAO
BIZKAIA**
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Bizkaia County Council is now among the leaders of the European local movement for sustainable development, after signing the Aalborg Commitments and designing the 'Bizkaia 21 Programme', a global strategy to respond to the environmental challenges of the region.

Bilbao City Council is likewise highly committed to sustainability, and thanks to a long-established Local Agenda 21 process, it has implemented different actions to ensure the ongoing environmental progress of the municipality.

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