



**30th Anniversary
Edition**

10TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS

AALBORG | DENMARK | 1 - 3 OCTOBER 2024

#Aalborg2024

WHY AALBORG2024?

LOCAL POWER FOR A WORLD IN CRISIS

To solve the interconnected climate, biodiversity, resource and social inequality crises, holistic solutions and actions are needed at all levels. International, EU and national levels have set paths for solving these challenges. To be successful, these paths must reflect local action, be translated into ambitious local policies and programmes, and local leaders must ensure that communities support these bold visions. How do we make certain that local authorities have the political will and legitimacy to prioritise and speed-up addressing crises, while securing social cohesion and public support for bold action?

DEMOCRACY IS KEY

Combining bold environmental action with social cohesion is a prerequisite to achieving sustainable transformation. The local level holds the highest democratic potential, involves people directly in decision-making, and allows people to experience the impacts of political decisions first hand.

THE DEAL CONTINUES

The European Green Deal has laid an important foundation for a climate-neutral continent and must continue beyond the European elections in 2024! We want to make sure that all the good work catalysed by the European Green Deal will be taken forward in the next European term, and that its legislative packages get implemented across all governing levels.



Image: Aalborg Kommune

WHAT MAKES AALBORG2024 UNIQUE?

EMBRACE THE DIFFICULT TOPICS

Simplifying our challenges is a useful tool for communication, but simple solutions can often fall short. The Aalborg2024 mission is to ask and discuss the hard questions, look at how things are truly connected, and bring you along on the journey to find solutions.

THINK BEYOND YOUR SILO

It is important to acknowledge that urban challenges usually do not stand alone, but are related to several topical areas, thereby demanding an integrated response. The knowledge needed to address ongoing crises is out there, but solutions might not always lie where we first expect to look for them.

CONVERSATIONS NOT PRESENTATIONS

We want to speak with you, not at you. Inspiring talks are only the starting point. They need to be followed by challenging questions and collaborative thinking. We want you to be part of conversations that matter.

WE HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE

We have been walking the talk since 1994. Outcomes of the European Sustainable Cities and Towns conferences have been influencing political agendas and driving actual policies and urban transformation for three decades.

CONNECTING PEOPLE

Aalborg2024 is all about bringing together cities, partners, and experts from across Europe. We provide the topics, inspirations, platform and local experiences, and you fill the discussions with life.

WHAT WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT – THE BIG TOPICS

MAKING THE DEAL LOCAL!

Implementing the EU Green Deal on the local level is crucial to its success. Local and regional governments better understand local challenges, needs and context, and are therefore best positioned to find solutions that fit. They can activate a wide variety of stakeholders, including in the private sector, and provide more opportunities for social economy approaches, civic investment, and local value capturing. In the past years, governance tools such as **Local Green Deals** and **Climate City Contracts** have been developed to help local and regional governments bring stakeholders together and integrate their ambitions. Aalborg2024 will take a look at local experiences with these tools so far, and what support is needed from the EU decision makers incoming in 2024.

PAYING THE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BILL

To tackle the climate and biodiversity crises, cities need to make enormous investments in infrastructure, green technology and public services in a comparatively short time. How can these be managed when public budgets often struggle to cover the maintenance of existing public infrastructure and services that bolster a strong social system? This mismatch demands that we rethink our approaches to financing. Funding needs to become more strategic and overarching, instead of focused on single projects or topics. Local governments must have the capacity to develop specific facilities

HOW WE APPROACH OUR PROGRAMME

Our programme works like a funnel. We ask the most pressing questions at the start and then work through them with you, using experiences from cities from all over Europe. We want you to leave the conference not only inspired but with a clear mission in mind.

to manage incoming funds and investments in an integrated manner – including beyond their municipal boundaries.

GROW LESS, THRIVE MORE

It is often politically easier to put emphasis on technological solutions over restrictive policies. However, we realistically can't continue with our highly consumptive lifestyles while only adjusting the means of production or relying on insufficiently tested technological solutions. Societies as a whole need to focus more on efficiency, sufficiency and circularity rather than constant consumption. But how can we manage these changes so that they go beyond the individual level, and how do we approach these questions in a just and equitable way?

A LOCAL SEAT AT ALL TABLES

Ambitious transformation strategies demand agile and responsive governance structures at all levels to be able to overcome potential hurdles and obstacles resulting from regulatory and fiscal frameworks. This means that local governments need more and better dialogues and exchanges with upper levels of government, which meaningfully drive relevant regulation and legislation. The conference will call for ensuring – and open channels to explore how we can ensure – open and continuous exchange.

WHY ARE WE MEETING IN AALBORG?

Aalborg does not do things halfway. Hosting the conference for the third time, the city has been an inspiration for many, not only since it started the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign in 1994. This 10th edition of the European Sustainable Cities & Towns conference will be no different. It will celebrate 30 years of the Aalborg Charter, and will be embedded in a week-long sustainability festival that will showcase what both the city and the region of North Denmark do to advance sustainability transformation. If you want to learn about the inclusion of citizens in sustainability efforts, the municipality's Local Green Deals, or including social equity and justice in your own sustainability efforts, then Aalborg is the place to be.

BECOME A PARTNER NOW!

Partners of the conference can enjoy a row of benefits, such as high visibility speaking slots and exhibition space, free passes or reduced fees for you and your network, and access to exclusive events. Early involvement will give partners the opportunity to actively shape the conference. Partners can contribute with direct financial or in-kind contributions to the success of the conference. We are happy to discuss a tailor-made package that meets your needs!

For more information, contact us at:

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or check out:

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#Aalborg2024

Organisers



**Aalborg
Kommune**