



# Aalborg2024 Conference Report



**10<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**

AALBORG | DENMARK | 1 - 3 OCTOBER 2024

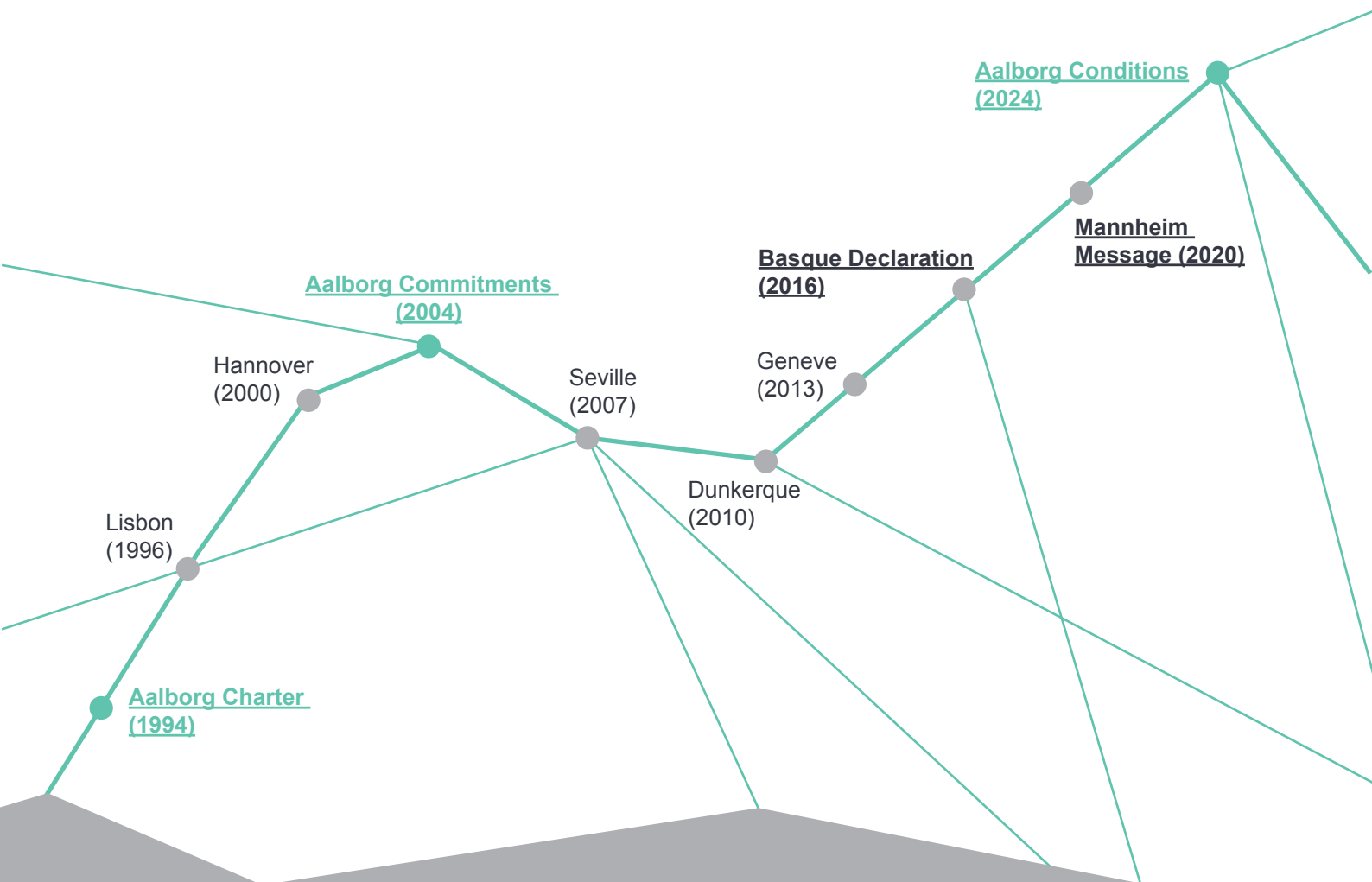


# What was Aalborg2024 all about?

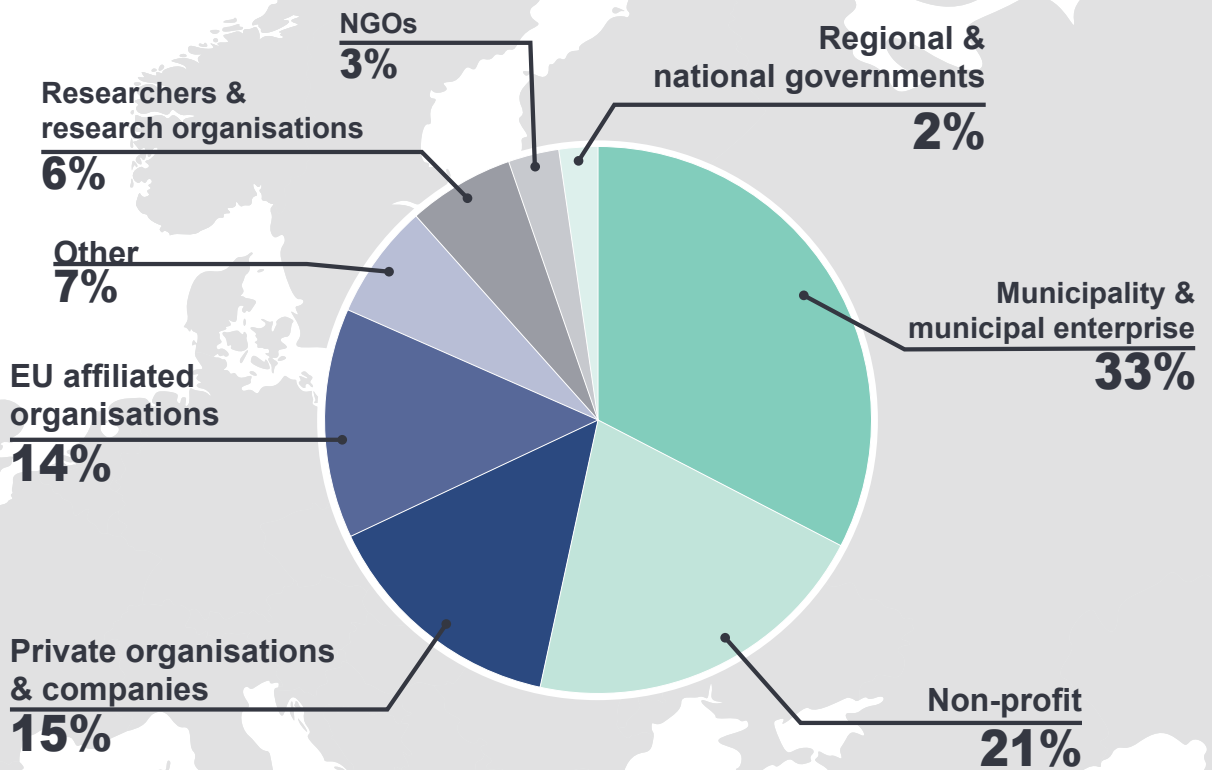
For the last 30 years, the European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns (ESCT) has offered cities and urban stakeholders a **platform for inspiration, action and commitment to take sustainability to the next level**. Held every three years, the conferences, organised by ICLEI Europe and a selected host city, call for **stepping up the sustainability transformation**.

The **10th edition of the conference, Aalborg2024**, took place on 1-3 October 2024 in Aalborg, Denmark. Aalborg2024 continued to call for core systemic changes and key policy shifts needed to bring a European transformation, addressing the most **pressing issues urban sustainability** experts are facing today. The conference dove deep into the key topics of **shared governance, integrated finance and cohesive transition**.

Cities, partners and experts seeking to **contribute to the sustainable transformation across Europe** attended this celebratory event, as it also marked the 30th Anniversary of the [Aalborg Charter](#) and the 20th Anniversary of the [Aalborg Commitments](#). Based on a continuous European Sustainable Cities movement over the past 30 years the [Aalborg Conditions](#) have been developed in response to global and European agreements and policies.



# 500 participants 100+ speakers



**163**  
cities from  
**33** countries

**30**  
mayors and  
deputy mayors

**4**  
high-level  
plenaries



**34**  
expert pitches

**3**  
deep-dive  
sessions

**16** workshops



**13**  
site visits



**A Mayors' only  
programme**

**21**  
exhibitors

**37**  
partners



**Watch the  
final conference  
video!**



**10TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**  
AALBORG | DENMARK | 1-3 OCTOBER 2024

# Voices from Aalborg2024



“In Aalborg, we don’t wait for solutions — we create them together. **Connecting communities** across different contexts accelerates the green transition. Cities must lead, and I’m proud Aalborg is hosting this 10th edition of the conference.”

Lasse Frimand Jensen, Mayor of Aalborg (Denmark) host City of Aalborg2024, and Vice President of ICLEI Europe

“The window of action to address crises like climate change is closing. We must take bold actions and make immediate investments to prevent further harm. To empower cities like never before, we must have a clear **focus on collaboration** across all levels of government putting **people** at the heart of the transition.”

Martin Horn, Lord Mayor of Freiburg (Germany) and President of ICLEI Europe



“The **local level** is crucial. If we don’t let the local level deliver, our national governments can never deliver on the Paris Agreement or on the SDGs. So, the local level is where people live. And when we talk about greenhouse gas emissions, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions globally stem from **urban areas** so the work must be done at the local level.”

Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö (Sweden) and President of ICLEI



“Leaving no one behind is so important, and it’s our **responsibility** as well. By **empowering** our citizens and encouraging our businesses, we can really create something which lasts forever. And we can prioritise both our citizens and the environment. **Good. Fantastic. Now we have to.**”

Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku (Finland) and Vice President of ICLEI Europe



“Without **cities**, there is no change. There is no transition. There are no action plans that can be implemented on European scale and scope and stage. So as mayors, we know what to do. We have our climate city contracts. It can be **multiplied**. It can be put in the region and states, but also in the whole Europe.

Jakub Mazur, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław (Poland) and ICLEI Europe Regional Executive Committee Member



# Conference Outcome: The Aalborg Conditions

The Aalborg Conditions, **built on 30 years of legacy**, mark an effort to **escape the spiral of inaction**, define conditions to step up local action, and call for shared governance, integrated finance and cohesive transition.

The Aalborg Conditions call for:

## 1. Shared Governance

A true collaboration ensuring **all government levels** jointly develop and implement EU sustainability policies and legislation. This approach ensures **local authorities' meaningful involvement** in policy design that effects their work.

## 2. Integrated Finance

An alignment of **financing programmes** across sectors and government levels that supports **ambitious, long-term and large-scale projects** at the local level. The accommodation of a higher share of private financing is key for achieving sustainability goals.

## 3. Cohesive Transition

Ensuring **societal cohesion and justice** in the transition to sustainability. A **coherent and positive narrative** and **enhanced participation** approaches should support that all societal groups engage in and benefit from the green and digital transition.

The Aalborg Conditions provide a strong foundation for an ambitious sustainability agenda for cities. ICLEI Europe calls on cities and citizens to support the principles outlined above by [endorsing the Aalborg Conditions](#) today.

## Endorse The Aalborg Conditions

AMBITIOUS POLICY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



are built on the legacy of multiple milestones



are an effort to escape the spiral of inaction



are defining conditions for improving and accelerating local action



affirm the importance of shared governance, integrated finance, and a cohesive transition

## Organisers



# Aalborg Kommune

## Partners



The European Commission's  
**INTELLIGENT CITIES  
CHALLENGE**



CreativeDenmark



## Media partners



**10<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**

AALBORG | DENMARK | 1 - 3 OCTOBER 2024

## Contact us:

[conferences.sustainablecities.eu](https://conferences.sustainablecities.eu)



ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, European Secretariat  
Leopoldring 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany

Telephone +49-(0)761-368920