

THE BASQUE DECLARATION
TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS TO CREATE
MORE PRODUCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE
AND RESILIENT CITIES

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

**Historical
Background**

**The Basque
Declaration and
global agreements**

**Transformative
actions**

**The process of a
transformative
action**

**Transformative
actions in the
Sustainable Cities
platform**

**Other
transformative
actions**

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



THE AALBORG CHARTER

European cities for sustainability

The signatory cities and territories pledge to:

- Participate in local initiatives from the United Nation's Agenda 21,
- develop programmes for sustainable development, and
- launch the European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign

The Aalborg Charter was initially signed by 80 European local authorities and 253 international organisations, national governments, scientific centres, advisors and individuals.

THE AALBORG COMMITMENTS

The Aalborg Commitments were the result of the 4th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns.

They were designed to:

- Strengthen ongoing local efforts on sustainability and revitalise Local Agenda 21,
- raise awareness and highlight the need for Europe's local governments to act in an integrated way to address sustainability challenges, and
- be a practical and flexible tool for local actions and achievements.

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

New roadmap for European cities and towns to achieve productive, sustainable and resilient municipalities for a liveable and inclusive Europe

The Basque Declaration was adopted by the 900 participants at the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, held in the Basque Country in April 2016.



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THE BASQUE DECLARATION

THE BASQUE DECLARATION AND GLOBAL AGREEMENTS



THE BASQUE DECLARATION AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORKS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
On September 2015, member states adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. These are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT
In December 2015, at the Paris climate conference (COP21), 195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, legally binding global climate deal. The aim is to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

HOW CAN CITIES CONTRIBUTE WITH THEIR NATIONAL LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

APRIL 2016
The Basque Declaration was adopted at the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns held in the Basque Country.

WHAT IS THE BASQUE DECLARATION?
It is an inspirational document to create productive, sustainable and resilient cities for a livable and inclusive future. It focuses on HOW local and regional governments can contribute to the global goals.

1. THE BASQUE DECLARATION TRANSLATES THE SDGs AND THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT INTO 10 AGENDAS AT LOCAL LEVEL

- Decarbonisation
- Urban mobility
- Biodiversity
- Greenfield land and natural spaces
- Water resources and air quality
- Climate change
- Public space
- Housing
- Social inclusion and integration
- Local economies and employment

2. THE BASQUE DECLARATION DEFINES THREE TYPES OF TRANSFORMATION NEEDED FOR CHANGE

- 1 SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
- 2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
- 3 TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

3. THE BASQUE DECLARATION OUTLINES 15 PATHWAYS TO INSPIRE TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

- 1 SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION**
 - 1. Ensure equal access to municipal services
 - 2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
 - 3. Encourage local private and civic engagement
 - 4. Promote social innovation supporting inclusion
 - 5. Nurture a sharing economy
- 2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**
 - 6. Capitalise on local economy and production
 - 7. Create and close local value chains
 - 8. Apply innovative financing approaches
 - 9. Implement sustainable procurement principles
 - 10. Pursue a shift towards a circular economy
 - 11. Wisely select and apply smart technologies
- 3 TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION**
 - 12. Accelerate sustainability and innovation through public procurement
 - 13. Guarantee equal access to information/digital services
 - 14. Support open data standards
 - 15. Prepare policies for socio-cultural changes due to innovation

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN INTEGRATE AND COMBINE THESE PATHWAYS

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS
PRODUCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE CITIES AND TOWNS PUSHING THE SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS FORWARD

For further information, visit www.sustainablecities.eu

Aalborg Kommune | BASQUE COUNTRY | ICLEI

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#BasqueDeclaration

THE BASQUE DECLARATION AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORKS



On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. These are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In December 2015, at the Paris climate conference (COP21), 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The aim is to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

**PARIS
CLIMATE
AGREEMENT**



HOW CAN CITIES CONTRIBUTE WITH THEIR NATIONAL LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

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- ✓ Urban mobility
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Greenfield land and natural space
- ✓ Water resources and air quality
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Public space
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Social inclusion and integration
- ✓ Local economies and employment

THE BASQUE DECLARATION



10 LOCAL AGENDAS

- 1 Decarbonisation
- 2 Urban mobility
- 3 Biodiversity
- 4 Greenfield land and natural space
- 5 Water resources and air quality
- 6 Climate change
- 7 Public space
- 8 Housing
- 9 Social inclusion and integration
- 10 Local economies and employment

2. THE BASQUE DECLARATION DEFINES THREE TYPES OF TRANSFORMATION NEEDED FOR CHANGE



- ① SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
- ② SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
- ③ TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

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SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

1. Ensure equal access to municipal services
2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
3. Encourage local private and civic engagement
4. Promote social innovation supporting inclusion
5. Nurture a sharing economy
6. Capitalise on local economy and production

2

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

7. Create and close local value chains
8. Apply innovative financing approaches
9. Implement sustainable procurement principles
10. Pursue a shift towards a circular economy
11. Wisely select and apply smart technologies

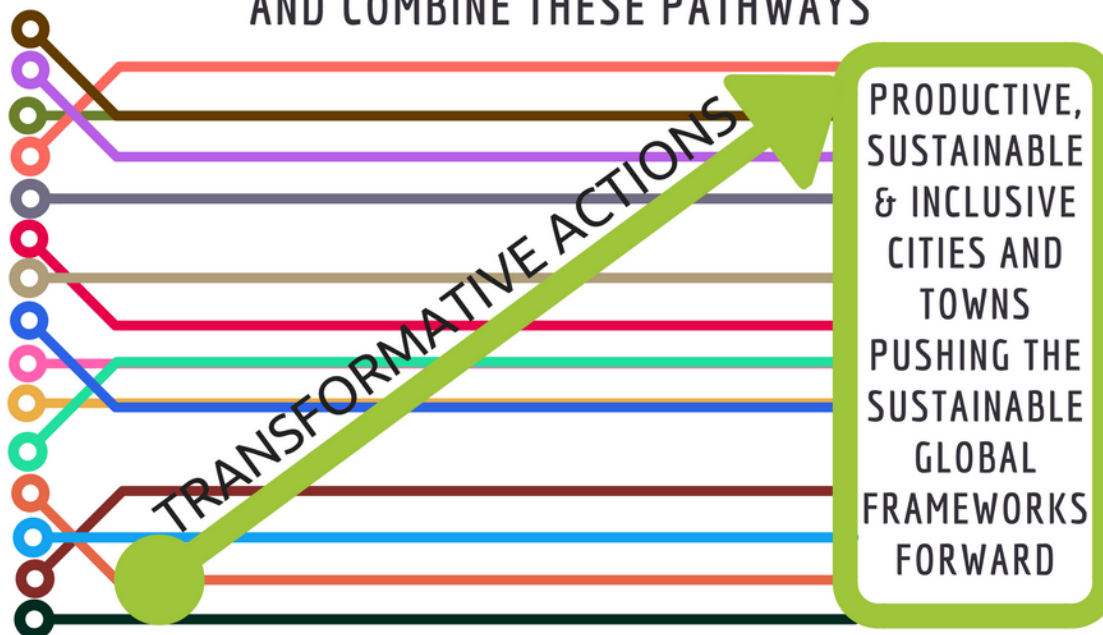
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TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

12. Accelerate sustainability and innovation through public procurement
13. Guarantee equal access to information/digital services
14. Support open data standards
15. Prepare policies for socio-cultural changes due to innovation

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN INTEGRATE
AND COMBINE THESE PATHWAYS



For further information, visit www.sustainablecities.eu



**Aalborg
Kommune**

**BASQUE
COUNTRY**



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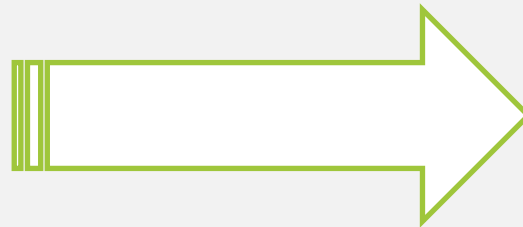
TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

TRANSFORMATION:

Action and effect of transforming

TRANSFORM:

1. Make someone or something change form
2. Transmute something into something else.



TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

What should be taken into account?

- 1) RESULT
- 2) PROCESS
- 3) RECIPIENTS OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

- Are actions based on an inspiring document, the Basque Declaration
- Are qualitative actions rather than quantitative
- Are actions that involve as many agents as possible
- Are actions that combine different patterns
- Are actions that require “imagination” and “the desire of doing things differently”

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THE BASQUE DECLARATION

HOW SHOULD CITIES IMPLEMENT THESE AGENDAS?



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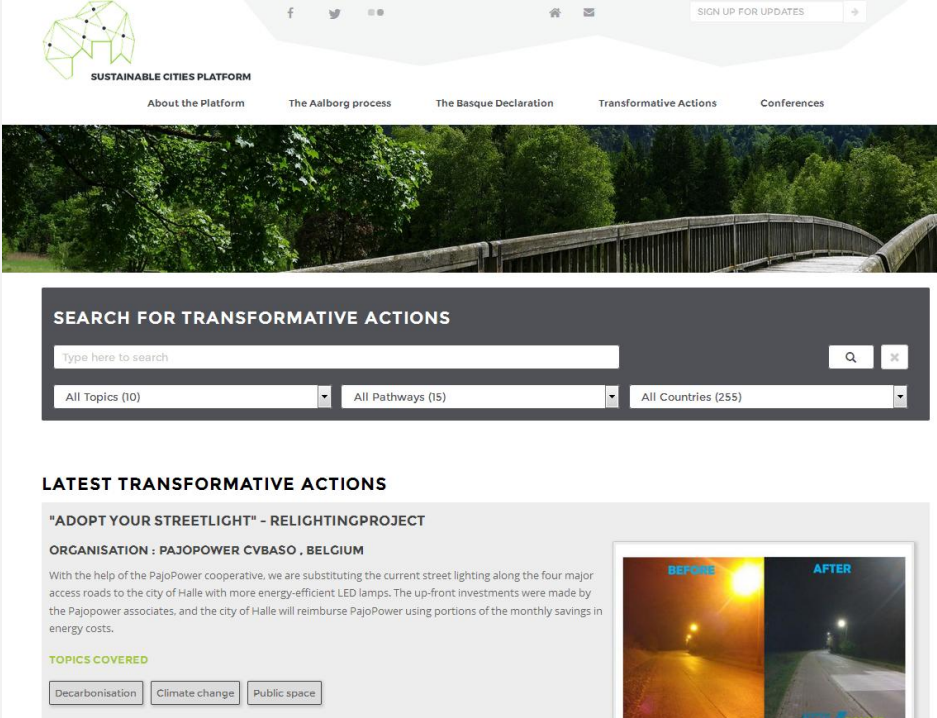
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TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS DATABASE

www.sustainablecities.eu

Transformative Actions Database



The screenshot displays the Sustainable Cities Platform website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the platform's logo, social media icons, and a 'SIGN UP FOR UPDATES' button. Below the navigation bar, a menu lists 'About the Platform', 'The Aalborg process', 'The Basque Declaration', 'Transformative Actions', and 'Conferences'. The main content area features a large image of a bridge over a river. Below this, there is a 'SEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS' section with a search bar and three dropdown menus for 'All Topics (10)', 'All Pathways (15)', and 'All Countries (255)'. The 'LATEST TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS' section highlights the 'ADOPT YOUR STREETLIGHT* - RELIGHTING PROJECT' by PAJOPOWER CVBASO, BELGIUM. It includes a description of the project, the topics covered (Decarbonisation, Climate change, Public space), and a 'BEFORE' vs 'AFTER' image showing the results of the relighting project.

VITORIA-GASTEIZ: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

VITORIA-GASTEIZ: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

CITY : VITORIA-GASTEIZ CITY COUNCIL , SPAIN

Vitoria-Gasteiz has embarked on a process to design and implement an Urban Green Infrastructure Plan. This process aims to explore the usefulness of different urban green infrastructure solutions in mitigating climate change and promoting adaptation in the city, and will involve the study of ecosystem services, the concept of multifunctionality and its associated benefits. The outcomes are expected to lead to a better understanding of the city's urban dynamics and a better appraisal of the potential to integrate such measures into land use planning.

TOPICS COVERED

- Urban mobility
- Biodiversity
- Greenfield land and natural space
- Water resources and air quality
- Climate change
- Public space
- Local economies and employment

PATHWAYS FOLLOWED

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

- Ensure equal access to municipal services
- Involve citizens through participatory implementation
- Encourage local private and civic engagement

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- Apply innovative financing approaches





WHERE ARE WE AT?

WHERE ARE WE AT?

Vitoria-Gasteiz has a green peripheral belt of 645 ha. with wetlands:

- Problem of degraded areas
- Disconnected green corridors



**WHAT DO WE WANT TO
ACHIEVE?**

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Improve degraded areas
- Connect the green corridors
- Naturalise newly developed urban areas
- Integrate issues related to mitigation and adaptation to climate change using nature based solutions





WHAT DO WE NEED TO
CHANGE?

HOW CAN WE CHANGE IT IN
A QUALITATIVE WAY?

HOW IS TRANSFORMATION CARRIED OUT?

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

1. Ensure equal access to municipal services
2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
3. Encourage local private and civic engagement

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

8. Apply innovative financial approaches

- The **citizens** participated in the process of reflection and development, and at the time of planting vegetation
- The **private sector** was involved, both in the development and in the financing
- Spatial and ecological connectivity were improved
- Furthermore:
 - Air quality was improved
 - Shaded areas were increased
 - Raised awareness for adaptation and mitigation of climate change
 - Mobility, biodiversity, energy and public space were integrated

10 LOCAL AGENDAS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ✓ 1 Decarbonisation | 6 Climate change | ✓ |
| ✓ 2 Urban mobility | 7 Public space | |
| ✓ 3 Biodiversity | 8 Housing | |
| ✓ 4 Greenfield land and natural space | 9 Social inclusion and integration | |
| ✓ 5 Water resources and air quality | 10 Local economies and employment | ✓ |

BILBAO: ZORROZAURRE, AN ISLAND IN THE CITY TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

ZORROZAURRE: AN ISLAND IN THE CITY TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CITY : CITY OF BILBAO , SPAIN

The Zorrozaurre project is the latest major urban regeneration operation in Bilbao. It represents a sustainable and integral plan to recover a degraded space and convert it into a new district of Bilbao. The district will be easy to reach, with affordable housing, areas for environmentally-friendly businesses, and cultural and social facilities.

TOPICS COVERED

Climate change



PATHWAYS FOLLOWED

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- Capitalise on local economy and production

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

- Accelerate sustainability and innovation through public procurement

[VIEW DETAILS >](#)



WHERE ARE WE AT?

WHERE ARE WE AT?

Bilbao faces the challenge and impact of urban flooding, caused both by heavy rains and by a possible rise in sea level - a result of climate change.





**WHAT DO WE WANT TO
ACHIEVE?**

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Develop concrete measures to respond to urban floods.
- Develop a risk management plan to be prepared for potential floods





WHAT DO WE NEED TO
CHANGE?

HOW CAN WE CHANGE IT IN
A QUALITATIVE WAY?

HOW IS TRANSFORMATION CARRIED OUT?

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

6. Capitalise on local economy and production

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

12. Accelerate sustainability and innovation through public procurement.



- The decision was made to **open a canal**, which would transform Zorrozaurre into an island
- **Infrastructure** was built **to reduce flooding** and a remote control system was implemented to reduce the risk of leakage and rupture of pipes.
- **Citizens were involved** to discuss the uses of certain infrastructure - changes were introduced to the initial project.
- The decision to **create pedestrian zones** along the canal was made.
- **Public and private uses will be combined** on the island, with 25% of the space devoted to economic activity, to promote balanced urban development.

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HALLE, BÉLGICA: “ADOPT YOUR STREETLIGHT”

"ADOPT YOUR STREETLIGHT" - RELIGHTING PROJECT

ORGANISATION : PAJOPOWER CVBASO , BELGIUM

With the help of the PajoPower cooperative, we are substituting the current street lighting along the four major access roads to the city of Halle with more energy-efficient LED lamps. The up-front investments were made by the Pajopower associates, and the city of Halle will reimburse PajoPower using portions of the monthly savings in energy costs.

TOPICS COVERED

Decarbonisation

Climate change

Public space



PATHWAYS FOLLOWED

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

- Ensure equal access to municipal services
- Involve citizens through participatory implementation
- Encourage local private and civic engagement
- Nurture a sharing economy

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

- Capitalise on local economy and production
- Create and close local value chains
- Apply innovative financing approaches
- Implement sustainable procurement principles
- Pursue a shift towards a circular economy

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

- Wisely select and apply smart technologies
- Guarantee equal access to information/digital services
- Prepare policies for socio-cultural changes due to innovation



WHERE ARE WE AT?

WHERE ARE WE AT?

The lighting of the main access streets in the city of Halle needed to be replaced. The old lights were obsolete and quite inefficient. The city decided that it was necessary to replace the old lamps as well as those that consumed excessive energy.



**WHAT DO WE WANT TO
ACHIEVE?**

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Have more modern lights
- Have more efficient lights





WHAT DO WE NEED TO
CHANGE?

HOW CAN WE CHANGE IT IN
A QUALITATIVE WAY?

HOW IS TRANSFORMATION CARRIED OUT?

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

- 2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
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SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

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TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

- 11. Wisely select and apply smart technology

- As a cooperative, PajoPower made it possible for anyone to acquire a minimum of one share for € 250, and up to a maximum of 20 shares per shareholder (€ 5,000). The initiative is promoted under the slogan "adopt your street lamp".

DATA

- **Total investment:** €225,000
- **Energy saving:** up to 400,000 kWh
- **Emissions reduction:** 92 tCO₂
- **Refund for energy cost savings:** Approx. €69,000/year
- **Cooperative shareholders receive annual interest on shares**

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HIGH SCHOOL, STAUDINGER (FREIBURG, ALEMANIA)

- First case of citizen investment in this type of energy contract in Germany
- ECO-Watt raised € 280,000 from teachers, families and citizens of Freiburg and invested capital in energy-saving technologies (20% electricity, 30% heating and 36% water)
- 8-year contract with the City of Freiburg: during this period, saving energy and water was to the benefit of ECO-Watt.

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

- All measures implemented were carried out by SMEs in the region
- More than half of the investment was earmarked for labor

DATA:

- Shareholders benefited from an interest rate of 6%. Part of the savings (€78,000) was shared with the school for re-investment.
- Energy savings of up to 200,000 kWh per year and 5.4 million kWh of heat reduction were achieved.
- Reduction of CO2 emissions by about 300 tonnes / year. The City of Freiburg reaped a total economic benefit of around 1 million euros, without making any investment.

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Inbox (8,646) - wolfgang.te... x ICLEI - Local Governments ... x About Luchtsingel | luchts... x European Sustainable Citi... x Luchtsingel by ZUS is an el... x

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LUCHTSINGEL

zoek

ABOUT LUCHTSINGEL LOCATIONS CURRENT VISIT PARTICIPATE MEDIA

ABOUT LUCHTSINGEL




The Luchtsingel connects Rotterdam North to the center and revitalizes a forgotten area. This part of the city did not count for years and was dominated by vacancy and neglect. With the realization of the Luchtsingel we reconnect the Central Station with the North and the North with the Binnenrotte. Besides that the Luchtsingel is a catalyst for economic growth.

It also consists out of the following projects:


- A wooden pedestrian bridge of 390 meters
- The DakAkker on Schiedblock
- A public area at the former station Hofplein
- A park Pompenburg

For more information on the project, please visit our F.A.Q. page.


4 STAGES OF THE BRIDGE




PARTNERS




ORGANIZATION



THE IDEA



THE CITY INITIATIVE



De Luchtsingel verbindt Rotterdam noord met het centrum en brengt nieuw leven in een vergeten gebied met een brug, een dakakker, een evenemententerrein op de Hofbogen en een park.

I MAKE

THE LUCHTSINGEL BRIDGE (ROTTERDAM, PAÍSES BAJOS)

- The bridge is part of an urban regeneration project based on the Rotterdam City Council Initiative, an instrument of public participation to foster change and reform.
- 4 million euros were allocated to support the implementation of the project.
- The project is led by the Luchtsingel Foundation. There is a working group composed of representatives from the Department of Urban Development of the City of Rotterdam and of different municipal districts; Rotterdam Central District and Station Hofbogen.

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

- The bridge connects the centre of Rotterdam with the northern part.
- The general project also includes a roof garden, a public park and some start-up activities.
- The initial financing for the bridge was raised through crowd-funding. Citizens could pay €25 to write their name or a message on the bridge. A total of 8,000 people invested 25 euros (€200,000). The remaining money came from the city council.

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