THE BASQUE DECLARATION

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS TO CREATE
MORE PRODUCTIVE, SUSTAINABLE
AND RESILIENT CITIES

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1994
The Aalborg Charter

2004
The Aalborg Commitments

2016
The Basque Declaration
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 AND GLOBAL AGREEMENTS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PARIS2015
CONFÉRENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES
COP21-CMP11
THE BASQUE DECLARATION

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.

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

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THE BASQUE DECLARATION

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 liveable and inclusive Europe. 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
- Climate change
- Urban mobility
- Public space
- Biodiversity
- Housing
- Greenfield land and natural space
- Social inclusion and integration
- Water resources and air quality
- 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. 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
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
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

Follow us on @sustain_cities european.sustainable.cities

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### The Basque Declaration

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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?

WHERE ARE WE AT?

WHAT DO WE NEED TO CHANGE?

HOW CAN WE CHANGE IT IN A QUALITATIVE WAY?

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

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

10 LOCAL AGENDAS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

INCLUSIVE
PRODUCTIVE
RESILIENT
SUSTAINABLE
LIVEABLE

BASQUE DECLARATION
15 pathways

Socio-cultural transformation
Socio-economic transformation
Technological transformation

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TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS DATABASE

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Transformative Actions Database
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

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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?

- 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
HOW ISTRANSFORMATION 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
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
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10. Local economies and employment

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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
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?

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

10 LOCAL AGENDAS

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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

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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?

- Have more modern lights
- Have more efficient lights
HOW IS TRANSFORMATION CARRIED OUT?

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
3. Encourage local private and civic engagement

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
6. Capitalise on local economy and production
8. Apply innovative financial approaches

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 tCO$_2$
- **Refund for energy cost savings:** Approx. €69,000/year
- **Cooperative shareholders receive annual interest on shares**
THE BASQUE DECLARATION

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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.
• 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 reinvestment.

- 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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Local Governments for Sustainability

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HOW IS TRANSFORMATION CARRIED OUT?

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TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION
11. Wisely select and apply smart technologies
The Luichtsingel 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 Luichtsingel we reconnect the Central District with the North and the North with the Bananenrotte. Besides that the Luichtsingel is a catalyst for economic growth.

It also consists of the following projects:

- A wooden pedestrian bridge of 390 meters
- The Dak/Admeer on the Schieland
- A public area at the former station Hofplein
- A park Pippengracht

For more information on the project, please visit our FAQ page.

De Luichtsingel verbindt Rotterdam reuzen met het centrum en brengt nieuwe leven in een vergaten gebied met een lange, een dubbele, een evenwichtentrein en een park.
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 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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