



**9TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TOWNS**

MANNHEIM | GERMANY | 30 SEPT - 2 OCT 2020

**esct2020.eu
ESCT2020**

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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What the #ESCT2020 is all about

The **European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns** is the flagship European conference on local sustainable development. The series is key to driving the development of sustainable, smart, healthy and inclusive cities and towns. The 9th edition of the conference will attract **between 800 and 1000 participants**.

Objectives

ESCT2020 will contribute to rethinking our socio-economic frameworks in order to support a necessary transformational movement in Europe for the benefit of this and future generations.

The world is facing major environmental, economic and social challenges that require a substantial transformation in all aspects of society. By now, awareness and a sense of urgency for action regarding climate change, biodiversity and global resource depletion are widespread. However, implementation of fast and radical transformation has been slowed down for economic and social reasons. Our current socio-economic growth-based system is not fit for a sustainable future.

With the majority of people living in urban areas, local leaders, alongside civil society, politicians, and businesses must fulfil their crucial role in meeting global goals, while offering a livable home to their citizens and fulfilling their responsibilities to current and future generations. In 2020, they will gather in Mannheim (Germany) to discuss, share ideas and bolster their roles in guiding Europe towards a secure and sustainable future, and to transform global goals into local action.

The 9th ESCT will build on the legacy of the previous conferences in

- Aalborg, Denmark, 1994 and 2004,
- Lisbon, Portugal, 1996,
- Hannover, Germany, 2000,
- Seville, Spain, 2007,
- Dunkirk, France, 2010,
- Geneva, Switzerland, 2013,
- The Basque Country, Spain, 2016

The conference will address the following questions:

- How can we prepare and manage a rapid transformation to address global environmental challenges?
- What kind of innovation may support responsible transformation, without driving adverse societal developments?
- How can we create participatory local action that actively transforms our urban societies?
- How can we redefine public, private and civic responsibility and make use of new financing models?
- How can we support citizens in reducing their ecological and carbon footprints?
- How can we strengthen local level governance while keeping a strong European and global perspective in our decision making?
- How can we better integrate the bottom-up perspective into the local level and a stronger voice and impact from local governments into the national and European level?



Why get involved

Present yourself alongside other players who are central to building a sustainable urban future, and taking responsibility and steps towards integrated long-term solutions

- Showcase your organisation's strategies, ideas, policies, products and services.
- Engage with policy makers from local, regional, national and European levels, businesses, and civil society representatives.
- Discuss smart and innovative solutions for pressing issues like energy efficiency, energy production and distribution, green buildings, urban mobility, air quality and many more;
- Identify how public authorities on different levels as well as the general public and business can best cooperate to achieve sustainable solutions whilst creating local economic benefits.

800+ Participants

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

200+ Speakers

Interaction, exchange, networking



Make use of the diverse and interactive programme

1. Engaging plenary sessions, with inspiring keynotes and interactive panel discussions;
2. Focused discussion based sub-plenaries and breakout sessions on key issues;
3. A dedicated exhibition area offering the opportunity to showcase sustainable products and services and the latest European projects;
4. Innovative session formats with discussions in small settings;
5. Inspiring excursions and social events, with room for exchange

Become part of #ESCT2020 now!

Early involvement will give you the opportunity to provide input to the programme and 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.

Organisers and Contact

The conference is organised by the [City of Mannheim](#) and [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#).

STADTMANNHEIM²



Ruud Schuthof

Director Communications and Member Relations

E-mail: ruud.schuthof@iclei.org

Tel.: +49 (0) 761 - 368 92 0

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

European Secretariat

Leopolding 3, 79098 Freiburg, Germany

When and Where?

The upcoming **9th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns** will take place from 30 September to 2 October 2020, with a three-day programme of plenaries, breakout sessions, panels, interactive sessions and study tours. The main conference venue is the [Rosengarten Congress Center](#) in central Mannheim.



Image: Stadtmarketing Mannheim GmbH_Hyp Yerlikova