This is Aalesund Futurelab – U4SSC ip

Aalesund Futurelab - U4SSC ip (United for Smart and Sustainable Cities implementation program) is part of the UN’s implementation program for smart and sustainable societies. The lab is situated in the main cluster of expertise in Sunnmøre, at the Norwegian Maritime Competence Centre (NMK) on the university Campus NTNU in Ålesund.

The Futurelab is organized as a partnership of participants from public sectors, academia, industry and commerce who want to accelerate sustainable development. Based on the UN’s sustainability measurement, the lab and the partners will point out contributing priority areas and projects.

Through the membership in U4SSC ip, Aalesund’s Futurelab takes part in a global network where cities in the world exchange their knowledge and strengths to find sustainable and smart solutions. The Futurelab is established and operated by the municipality of Ålesund but is also depending on contributions from partners as defined in partnership agreements.

About the U4SSC’s implementation program

16 UN organizations stand behind the development of a measuring tool that makes it possible to evaluate the performance of cities and communities in every country, as well as where they have the best conditions for smart and sustainable development and value creation. This regards each location individually, but primarily together with other partners across sectors and countries.

Ålesund as the first region

The last three years, 100 cities in the world have been evaluated with this tool. The new municipality Ålesund consisting of five former municipalities, Sula and Giske was the first regional city to be included in this network. Using the measuring tool, a team of international and local experts have collected data – KPIs, to develop the smart city profile – an analysis of the region’s standing linked to the use of smart technologies and sustainability. Among others, they study people’s health as well as how well the health care system works, water loss, public transport, organized outdoor areas, education, equality and more. The project has all along recognized the fact that it will not be possible to reach the sustainability goals without a close cooperation with private businesses and academia.

The municipalities Asker, Baerum, Trondheim, Bodø, Rana, Stavanger, Haugesund, Narvik, Karmøy, Molde and Kristiansund are currently performing their KPI analyses.

About the Futurelab

The Futurelab is an arena of cooperation, where public institutions, private businesses and academia can co-create solutions and use their experiences to create a better society for our citizens while maintaining financial sustainability.
The ship simulator is UN's official tool

The Offshore Simulator Centre (OSC) at Campus Ålesund, NMK, has used their expertise and the technology from the ship simulator to simulate for example emergency situations of fire engines in Ålesund and how possible it is to lower response time without constructing new roads. This visualization technology will also be important for the planning and development of cities. The tool has become the official tool for UN to simulate city development for all cities in the world. OSC is a part of Ålesund municipality’s Futurelab.

The U4SSC implementation program will help cities and societies all over the world to transform the sustainable goals into actions and results. In 2020, the program will work actively to create a solid national framework for local development.