



Danish National Platform - Funding Model -

The Danish national platform for local climate action builds on the success of **DK2020**, an initiative launched through a partnership between Realdania, CONCITO, C40 Cities, Local Government Denmark (KL) and Denmark's five regions. Between 2020-2023, Realdania and partners mobilised **DKK 45 million** to support all Danish municipalities in developing develop Paris-aligned climate action plans.

Since 2023, the platform has evolved into the **Climate Alliance of Denmark** (2023–2028), a nationwide collaboration that supports municipalities in strengthening climate action implementation, monitoring progress, and ensuring long-term alignment with the Paris Agreement. The platform has been instrumental in building capacity, mainstreaming climate work inside local administrations, and establishing a strong municipal support structure.

3 EU Mission Cities

Aarhus
Copenhagen
Sønderborg

Municipal and regional partners

Local Government Denmark (KL)
All Danish regions (until 2025)
All 98 Danish municipalities

Platform Coordination

Operational coordination: Local Government
Denmark (KL)
Knowledge coordination: CONCITO, C40
Strategic/philanthropic support: Realdania

KL leads the overall operation of the Climate Alliance. CONCITO led the initial DK2020 project, and now provides methodological know-how, monitoring services, and support in revising the plans. C40 provides frameworks and methodological resources. The Regions acted as first points of contact for municipalities through regional platform. Since 2025, they had to withdraw and shift priorities due to a healthcare reform.

Funding mobilized for city-facing activities

DK2020 (2020–2023)

DKK 45 million

15 mil. philanthropic funding from **Realdania** (funding CONCITO & C40),
+15 mil. in-kind from **KL and the municipalities** (staff for plan development and follow-up),
+15 mil. in-kind from the **regions**.

Result: nearly all municipalities voluntarily prepared climate action plans; major capacity building across local administrations.

Climate Alliance (initial agreement for 2023–2027)

DKK 82.1 million

22.1 mil. from **Realdania**: 17.1 mil. for CONCITO & C40 and 5 mil. for the **development track**: research and innovation projects addressing structural barriers in climate implementation (underused so far),
+ 30 mil. in-kind from **KL and the municipalities**,
+ 30 mil. from the **regions**: 25 mil. in-kind, 5 mil. for the development track.

Changes in 2025

The regions must withdraw from the Climate Alliance due to an unrelated reform redefining their mandate. To partially make up for this loss of resources, Realdania has agreed to **prolong the project to 2028** and provide an extra **7.4 mil.** to CONCITO and **2.3 mil.** to C40.



Funded by
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's
Horizon Europe Programme under grant agreement no 101203247

Future funding opportunities

Short-term (within project period 2023–2028)

- Revising programme priorities and expanding expert staffing to support plan updates, following the withdrawal of the regions.
- Coordination with NetZeroCities to organize Better Funding Dialogues.

Medium-term

- A large-scale national land-use reform (the *Agreement on a Green Denmark*) may create opportunities for co-financing or joint implementation mechanisms.
- Investigating how to engage private sector partners in climate implementation work.

Long-term

- Exploring a better alignment between the Climate Alliance and national authorities, as there is currently no funding or endorsement from the national level.
- Exploring a viable model for the Climate Alliance when funding from Realdania runs out.

Summary

Denmark's national platform for local climate action represents a strong collaboration between local level, NGOs and philanthropy. Originating from DK2020 and now anchored in the **Climate Alliance**, it has:

- Brought **all Danish municipalities** into coordinated climate planning
- Mobilised **around 120 million DKK** over an 8-year period in combined philanthropic, regional, and municipal resources (including in-kind)
- Created robust systems for climate plan development, monitoring, and revision
- **Built local capacity and mainstreamed climate action** into municipal governance
- Benefitted from strong political buy-in at the local level, due to timing with municipal elections and high initial public interest.

Looking ahead, the platform faces evolving challenges such as the regions' withdrawal, a lack of official coordination or support from national authorities, and long-term financial sustainability outside of philanthropic funding. Yet the structure remains a leading example of how philanthropic funding, expert support and local ambition can accelerate climate transitions.

Around **120 million DKK** (over **16 million EUR**) mobilised over 8-year period

All Danish municipalities benefitted from the platform's support

Robust system for climate plan development, monitoring, and evaluation