



Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General

Gino Van Begin is the Secretary General of ICLEI, the leading global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Gino has been working for ICLEI for around 25 years. In his roles as Regional Director for Europe (since 2002), Deputy Secretary General (since 2007) and Secretary General (since 2013), he has consistently worked towards ensuring ICLEI's quality as a not-for-profit, responsible and forward-looking local government organization serving its members worldwide.



Over his years at ICLEI, Gino has witnessed cities becoming home to over half of the world population while simultaneously facing more and more challenges. At the same time, he had a privileged view over the capacity of cities to respond to these challenges despite their limited means. Without waiting for national states to take action, they have started looking for local solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change, to increase their resilience, to become less dependent on fossil fuels and, overall, to increase their sustainability.

In his position as Secretary General of a global network of cities, towns and regions, Gino also ensures that ICLEI takes every opportunity to decisively influence global negotiation processes and increase local and regional governments' presence on the global stage, in order to promote the sustainability agenda at all levels.

Gino Van Begin was born in Belgium and graduated from the University of Brussels as a lawyer. Before joining ICLEI, Gino worked in Russia for seven years as an advisor and as Team Leader at the EU-funded Environmental Centers for Administration and Technology in Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg. Prior to that, he worked in Brussels for five years at the European Commission, DG Environment.

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