

# AALBORG UNIVERSITY ON A MISSION

**MISSION DRIVEN RESEARCH & INNOVATION AS A  
RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THE NEED TO  
FIND COMMON SOLUTIONS**

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Technology (CRP)**

*The university's role to improve global health and well-being*

National University of Science and Technology

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# ONE UNIVERSITY – THREE CAMPUSES

## AALBORG

18,250 students and 3,125 staff

## COPENHAGEN

2,500 students and 400 staff

## ESBJERG

400 students and 80 staff



# AALBORG UNIVERSITY (AAU)

## 1974 The answer to a regional challenge

- Regional need for education, growth and employment
- Approx. 2,100 students and 250 researchers
- Humanities, social sciences, engineering and natural sciences
- Business collaboration = basis of AAU's DNA
- Problem-based, project-organised learning (PBL)

## 2024 AAU provides "Knowledge for the World"

- AAU makes up 9% of the Danish sector - measured on revenue
- 21,000 students, 2,258 researchers/teachers and 1,441 administrative staff
- Humanities, Social Sciences, Engineering and Science, IT and Design, and Medicine
- Education and business collaboration across Denmark
- The preferred collaboration partner of the Danish business sector
- Internationally recognised for our problem and project based learning
- Interdisciplinary focus
- No. 35 among the world's best young universities (under 50 yrs) (Times Higher Education 2023)
- No. 4 among the world's best engineering programmes (MIT report 2018)
- Best engineering university in Europe and no. 11 in the world (US News 2023 ranking)
- No. 9 (2023) in the world on sustainability (Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2023)

# RESEARCH AT A HIGH INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



## **THE BEST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR ENGINEERING**

U.S. News & World Report names AAU the second best university in Europe in the field of Engineering and the world's 16<sup>th</sup> best.



## **AAU IS AMONG THE WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES**

According to Times Higher Education, Aalborg University is ranked 201-250 (no. 236) in the overall world university ranking. AAU is ranked no.9 in the world on sustainability.



## **AAU IS THE BEST YOUNG UNIVERSITY IN SCANDINAVIA**

According to Times Higher Education AAU is ranked 35<sup>th</sup> of the world's top universities under 50 years old, making AAU the highest ranked young Scandinavian university. QS ranks AAU no. 34 in the QS Top 150 under 50 ranking.

# AAU VISION 2026

**We are internationally recognised as a mission-oriented university that contributes to sustainable development.**

- Outstanding foundational, transformative and interdisciplinary research.
- Graduates with in-depth, discipline-specific knowledge and a focus on holistic thinking
- Developing our problem- and project-based learning model with a focus on e.g., digitalization and entrepreneurship
- An attractive partner for private companies and public sector authorities and institutions.
- Sustainability is a central theme.

# AAU: A MISSION-ORIENTED UNIVERSITY

## Missions 2023:

- A Sustainable Energy System in Denmark by 2045.
- Improving the Physical, Mental and Social Wellbeing of Children and Youth

## Mission 2024:

- Shaping the Future Health Care System, using Digital Solutions.

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Examples:

- Changes in our climate and eco-systems
- Changes in geo-political and democratic structures
- **The health and wellbeing of populations as an inevitable resource for security, change and progress**

# HEALTH & WELL-BEING AS A RESOURCE

Well-being is a positive state experienced by individuals and societies. Similar to health, it is a resource for daily life and is determined by social, economic and environmental conditions. **Well-being encompasses quality of life and the ability of people and societies to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose.** Focusing on well-being supports the tracking of the equitable distribution of resources, overall thriving and sustainability. **A society's well-being can be determined by the extent to which it is resilient, builds capacity for action, and is prepared to transcend challenges** ([WHO Glossary of Terms 2021](#)).



# THE MISSION-ORIENTED APPROACH

- **Rethinking** government and the capacity to shape societies across public and private sectors
- **Restructuring** and strengthening institutions, relationships and investments
- **Promoting** a solution-based economy focused on the most ambitious goals that matter to people and the planet

(cf. Mazzucato, 2021, xxiv)

# AALBORG UNIVERSITY ON A MISSION

- **Taking responsibility** for cooperating and finding solutions to global challenges
- **Forming partnerships** across academic disciplines and sectors in society to find common solutions
- **Accumulating** resources, skills and knowledge and creating synergies enabling us to find better answers – and to find them faster.

## AN AGILE FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH

- **Integrating** strategic aspirations with the freedom to pursue scientific goals and groundbreaking research.
- **Facilitating** collaboration: break down academic silos and barriers
- **Rethinking** traditional monodisciplinary approaches shifting the focus from solely asking; **what we can discover to the more critical question how can we make a difference?**
- **Leveraging** the capacity to incorporate new sources of funding
- **Accelerating** impact and market effects

**MISSION** IMPROVING THE  
PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL  
WELLBEING OF CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH



**THE MISSION:**  
**IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**KEY CHALLENGE I:**  
IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN & YOUTH BY PREVENTING NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF AN INCREASE IN DIAGNOSES & SPECIAL SERVICES

**(PREVENTING)**

**KEY CHALLENGE II:**  
IMPROVING CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH'S PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL WELLBEING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

**(LEARNING)**

**KEY CHALLENGE III:**  
CREATING DIGITAL WELLBEING AMONG CHILDREN & YOUTH AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**(CREATING)**

**KEY CHALLENGE IV:**  
IMPROVING YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING THROUGH INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND PATHWAYS TO EDUCATION & LABOUR MARKET

**(PARTICIPATING)**

**A portfolio of transdisciplinary mission project targeted at:**

- ✓ Reducing waiting lists and ensure timely and specialized examination, support and/or treatment
  - ✓ Reducing social segregation and exclusion of children from day care and schooling
  - ✓ Increasing well-being among children and youth in school and education
- ✓ Creating digital wellbeing and competences – from consumer to critical user and creator
- ✓ Increasing well-being and creating equal opportunities for children & youth with disabilities
  - ✓ Increasing the sense of belonging, opportunities and democratic voice for young people
- ✓ Creating inclusive and effective pathways for young people – reduce the number in the NEET-group

## TO SUM UP

- We can **join forces and find common solutions** to the global challenges of our time
- **Health and well-being is a resource for transcending challenges**
- The mission-oriented approach encourage societies to **rethinking, restructuring and promoting new solutions**
- Universities can **take responsibility, form partnerships and break down academic and institutional barriers** to **accumulate resources, skills, knowledge and synergies** enabling us to find better answers – and to find them faster
- **An agile framework** integrating, facilitating , rethinking, leveraging and accelerating strategic and scientific efforts within a reasonable time schedule is needed
- **A selection of mission projects that matter to people and the planet**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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