



Jury Report

European Green Leaf 2015

June 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE ROLE OF THE JURY

The Jury's role is to select the winner(s) of the European Green Leaf competition, which recognises cities that are leading the way with environmentally friendly urban living, on the basis of the technical assessment work and proposals provided by an Expert Panel and a video produced by each shortlisted city together with the information provided as part of the Jury Assessment.

1.2 JURY MEMBERS

The Jury is composed of representatives from key European and international organisations in the environmental field and is chaired by the European Commission (Directorate-General for the Environment). Jury members cover a wide range of expertise and have in-depth knowledge of the issues involved. The Jury for European Green Leaf 2015 includes the following organisations and their representatives:

- European Commission: Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, DG Environment and President of the Jury
- European Parliament: Giovanni La Via, Chairman of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Committee of the Regions: Ilmar Reepalu, Municipal Commissioner of the City of Malmö, Sweden
- European Environment Agency: Katja Rosenbohm, Head of Communications
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability: Stefan Kuhn, Deputy Regional Director for Europe
- Covenant of Mayors Office: Frédéric Boyer, Head of Office
- European Environmental Bureau: Mikael Karlsson, President

1.3 EUROPEAN GREEN LEAF 2015 – JURY ASSESSMENT

The Jury received the Technical Assessment Report, as prepared by the Secretariat and the Expert Panel in April 2015. The Jury considered this report and noted the technical comments and proposals as presented by the Expert Panel. The Jury expressed its appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Expert Panel.

On the 17th June 2015, the Jury was shown the videos produced by the four finalist cities showcasing the efforts of their City in the area of Sustainable Urban Development.

The Jury assessed these cities based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Demonstrates a good environmental record & green growth commitment;
- Engages citizens in environmental awareness;
- Can act as a green ambassador to other cities.

2. JURY FINDINGS

2.1 LUDWIGSBURG

The Jury was impressed with the establishment by Ludwigsburg of a dedicated interdepartmental unit for Sustainable Urban Development and their governance approach of planning, structuring and organising. Part of the city strategy involves innovative collaborations with private businesses which the Jury found interesting. The Jury commended the city for their initiatives in the area of biodiversity and land use and quality of air.

2.2 MIKKELI

The Jury noted that Mikkeli is a city with a rich natural environment, that the city has developed in harmony with their natural conditions and they preserve the environment in a sustainable way. The services and amenities provided by the city encourages citizens to use low carbon options in their daily activities. The Jury commended the water quality in Mikkeli with 90% being classified as good or excellent.

2.3 MOLLET DEL VALLÈS

Mollet del Vallès demonstrated a strong overall performance across the range of environmental categories. The Jury lauded their citizen involvement and stakeholder participation and in particular the work carried out raising children's environmental awareness. The city was also praised for the activity in mobility, nature and waste separation.

2.4 TORRES VEDRAS

Torres Vedras has a strong focus on behavioural change to improve the environment. They have developed an impressive Environmental Education Centre which is used for a range of environmental awareness raising activities spanning the different environmental categories. The centre is used by citizens of the city with a strong focus children's awareness.

3. JURY CONCLUSION

The Jury would like to commend all cities shortlisted for European Green Leaf 2015 for their demonstrated excellence in a number of the environmental categories assessed.

Concluding its deliberations, the Jury decided to award the recognition of European Green Leaf 2015 to Mollet del Vallès and Torres Vedras. The Jury considers that these cities will be good European Green Leaf ambassadors and will fulfil their new role as the inaugural Laureates.

Note: The winning and non-winning cities are listed in alphabetical order.