



Jury Report

European Green Capital Award

2016

June 2014

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE ROLE OF THE JURY

The Jury's role is to select the winner of the European Green Capital Award, which rewards 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 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 the European Green Capital Award of 2016 includes the following organisations and their representatives:

- European Commission: Karl Falkenberg, Director-General, DG Environment
- European Parliament: Matthias Groote, Chair of Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- Committee of the Regions: Paula Baker, Member of Environmental Commission
- European Environment Agency: Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability: Stefan Kuhn, Deputy Regional Director for Europe
- Covenant of Mayors Office: Kristina Dely, Head of Office
- European Environmental Bureau: Jeremy Wates, Secretary General

1.3 EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL AWARD 2016 – JURY ASSESSMENT

The Jury received the Technical Assessment Report, as prepared by the Expert Panel in April 2014. 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 23rd June 2014, the five finalist cities presented their vision, action plans and communication strategies to the Jury. The Jury assessed these cities based on the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) Overall commitment, vision and enthusiasm as conveyed through the presentation.
- 2) Capacity to act as a role model to inspire other cities, promote best practices and spread the EGC model further – bearing in mind city size and location.
- 3) Communication actions including:
 - Citizen communication to date in relation to the 12 environmental indicators, effectiveness via changes in citizen behaviour, lessons learned and proposed modifications for the future.
 - The extent of the city's local partnering to gain maximum social and economic leverage.
 - Outline of the city's EGC communications strategy should it win.

2. JURY FINDINGS

2.1 ESSEN

Essen is a city in transformation which has overcome a challenging industrial history and demonstrates strong urban regeneration. Essen has built green and blue corridors within the city. The Jury commended the Essen commitment to investing in green infrastructure which has been demonstrated through the development of the Krupp Belt. The Jury also recognised the contribution which the city has made to the wider metropolitan Ruhr area.

2.2 NIJMEGEN

The Jury appreciated the efforts made by Nijmegen to deliver an engaging presentation. All members valued the approach to governance adopted by Nijmegen specifically in relation to social and territorial cohesion. The city engages with various stakeholders and puts a strong emphasis on inter-generational issues. Nijmegen has implemented a significant adaptation project to incorporate the River Waal within the city.

2.3 OSLO

The Jury was impressed by the way in which Oslo has engaged with NGOs, including Friends of the Earth, Nature and Youth as well as ECO-AGENTS (children's environmental organisation) in its presentation. The Jury recognised the strongly integrated 'OsloGoGreen' strategy which focuses within the inner core on blue-green structures, closed loop cycles and zero emissions. The Jury also commended Oslo for phasing out oil heating in a country which is one of the main providers of fossil fuels to the global market.

2.4 UMEÅ

The Jury respected Umeå's concept of 'co-creating change'. The city endeavours to involve citizens in the promotion of sustainability, to invest in a sustainable transport system (with 65% of electric buses in 5 years) and to be innovative in areas such as green health, green learning and green consumption.

2.5 LJUBLJANA

The Jury was impressed by the significant transformation in sustainability made by Ljubljana over the previous 10 – 15 years. This transformation has been achieved in areas including local transport and pedestrianizing the city centre.

From being a city which was previously dominated by car transport the focus is now on public transport and on pedestrian and cycling networks. The most significant measure that has been taken has been the modification of the traffic regime on the main traffic artery (Slovenska Street).

Progress has also been made in preserving and protecting the green areas which characterise the city and in the revitalisation and transformation of brownfield spaces. Ljubljana has also demonstrated how they have progressed in terms of the treatment of waste and waste water. They have committed themselves to pursuing a zero waste objective.

In addition to this the Jury recognised the example Ljubljana has shown by sharing its experiences and solutions in managing natural disasters. This was demonstrated in recent times by its work with the Balkan Region during the recent flooding crisis.

Overall the Jury concluded that Ljubljana will be a role model to inspire other cities and spread the European Green Capital model further.

3. JURY CONCLUSION

The Jury would like to commend all cities shortlisted for the 2016 European Green Capital Award for their demonstrated excellence in a number of the environmental indicators assessed.

Concluding its deliberations, the Jury decided to award the title of European Green Capital for 2016 to Ljubljana.

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