



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

EU Urban Green Awards for Nijmegen and Galway

Nijmegen's and Galway's commitment to a better urban environment recognised by the European Commission

Ljubljana, 23 June 2016

The **2018 European Green Capital Award** has gone to the Dutch city of Nijmegen.

The title of **2017 European Green Leaf** has been awarded to the city of Galway in Ireland.

The awards, which recognise the efforts and commitments made by municipal authorities to improving the urban environment, were presented by Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General of DG Environment at the European Commission, on 22 June at a ceremony in Ljubljana, the city that currently holds the title of European Green Capital.

Underlining the important contribution cities make to global environmental sustainability, Joanna Drake said: *"Being a 'green city' is about people's health and well-being; it is about cleaner air and water, access to green areas, and it is also about cities taking the lead in tackling bigger issues like climate change and biodiversity loss."*

Both cities gave lively and original presentations, convincing the jury that they will inspire other European cities, leading the way towards sustainable urban development.

Nijmegen presented a clear, integrated environmental vision for their city and impressed the jury with their wide engagement of stakeholders and residents.

The jury particularly appreciated Galway's approach to green growth and support of SMEs, as well as their commitment to education and enthusiasm in becoming a Green Ambassador in 2017 and beyond.

European Green Capital Award and European Green Leaf

The European Green Capital Award and the European Green Leaf Award recognise a city's commitment to a better urban environment. Cities with populations over 100 000 are eligible to apply for the European Green Capital Award. The European Green Leaf is open to cities of between 20 000 and 100 000 inhabitants. Both competitions are open to EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Winners demonstrate well-established records of high environmental standards and a commitment to setting ambitious goals for future environmental progress, underpinned by the practical application of sustainable development. The schemes have a particular focus

on green growth and job creation. Winners act as ambassadors to inspire other cities and to promote best practices in pursuit of sustainable urban development.

Nine cities have now won the European Green Capital Award: Stockholm (2010), Hamburg (2011), Vitoria-Gasteiz (2012), Nantes (2013), Copenhagen (2014), Bristol (2015), Ljubljana (2016), Essen (2017), and Nijmegen (2018).

Three cities have now won a European Green Leaf award. In 2015 – the first year of the competition – Mollèt del Valles (Spain) and Torres Vedras (Portugal) received the award. The European Green Leaf Award 2017 goes to the city of Galway.

The winning cities' application forms are published in full on the European Green Capital website.

More information

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/europeangreencapital>

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