



Green Cities Europe Award - 2023

Successful, ambitious, inspiring and innovative
green infrastructures projects

GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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Compelling projects for Greener Cities in Europe!

Price winning projects that let green excel in its positive impact on urban welfare

The Green Cities Europe Award is one of the highlights in the “More Green Cities for Europe” campaign. Every year it rewards the most inspiring green urban project selected out of 13 top candidates representing each of the 13 European participating countries*. Winners are announced at a dedicated Award ceremony.

The Green Cities Europe Award started in 2020 with a first edition in The Netherlands. Belgium was the host in 2021. In 2022, the Award Ceremony took place in Paris, France. In 2023 the ceremony will take place in Brussels.

* Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, The Netherlands and Sweden

Rewarding compelling green infrastructures projects

The European Green Cities Award challenges and encourages successful, ambitious, inspiring and innovative green infrastructures projects.

What projects participate?

All inspiring projects that make optimum use of the added value of green infrastructures in the living environment can participate.

For imaging some examples:

- Interior planting of a school
- A new residential area with public gardens
- A business garden with workplaces
- A hospital with green treatment rooms
- A new city park with sports and play facilities
- A green renovated industrial estate

Participating projects need to be fully realised and put into use no more than 5 years ago.

Who is the participant?

Any person involved in the project can initiate an application. The official submitter is ultimately the party that financed the project.

Any costs?

Participation in the competition is free of charge. If you incur costs yourself, for example for submitting your project or for your presence at the prize-giving ceremony, these will be at your own expense.



Green Cities Europe Conference 2022 © Paul Ras



Alkmaar © Paul Weidema



Budolfi Plads, Aalborg © Aalborg Municipality

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Join the European contest for Greener Cities!

The process with timeline

3 April, 2023	Start national competitions (website, press release and submitting form updated)
2 June, 2023	End of (national) submitting period*
30 June, 2023	Check by the organising country of correctly and fully completed forms and appropriate projects and start national judging process *
4 August, 2023	All scores must be submitted, the National winner can be selected *
18 august, 2023	Submit the best national project to the organising country (for preparing 12/10)
3 October, 2023	Start Publicity about the national winning project

2nd half Oct-1st half Nov, 2023 International Award ceremony in Brussels

All the dates are fixed except for the marked (*) dates. They are an advisory.

The judging process

- The application forms of the 13 nominated projects are shared with all the members of the jury
- Based on the supplied information and the public available information about the project, every member of the jury individually rates the judging criteria with 0-10 points (higher is better), including a short rationale for the scores. **(Judging Criteria – see page 4)**
- The members of the jury are allowed to request more information from the participants
- The members of the jury may visit projects and consult with each other. This is not compulsory.
- After all scores are submitted, the organising country will share the scores with all members of the jury.
- The project with the highest score will be selected as a winner. In the situation that two projects score the same, the jury will vote for the winner.

Award ceremony

The winner will be announced at the award ceremony, which will take place in Brussels, in or near the Parliament building.

The prize

The prize consists mainly of honour. A lot of attention for the project in the (printed and social) media is expected. In addition, the winning project receive a 'trophy'.

Who to contact?

If you have any questions, or need more details, don't hesitate to contact the organisation. Each participating country also has a local contact. The members of the jury cannot be contacted unless they ask for it.

Central organisation: GreenCitiesAward@enaplants.eu (In English)

Belgium: marie.arnauts@vlam.be	Ireland: Michal.Slawski@BordBia.IE
Bulgaria: taniagarden@hotmail.com	Italy: info@anve.it
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France: emmanuelle.bougault@valhor.fr	The Netherlands: info@degroenestad.nl
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Hungary: info@diszkerteszek.hu	

Thank you for mentioning "Green Cities Award" in the subject line of your e-mail.

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The judging criteria

- Greenery (A double weighting shall be applied to this criterion!)**
 The greenery will be assessed on the right assortment for this application. Quality and diversity are taken into account. Special and unique applications may contribute to a higher appreciation.
- The overall design (landscape and optional associated buildings)**
 The most important point of assessment is the integral design in which the elements in the project match each other, and how the project connects to its surroundings. The uniqueness of the design is an added advantage.
- The contribution to the well-being of users**
 Depending on the type of project, visitors, patients, students, residents or employees benefit from the added value like welfare, productivity and social cohesion. The size of the expected effect and the size of the group of profiteers determine the rating.
- The impact on the climate**
 For the valuation, the impact of the project is estimated on the following components: Rainwater collection and discharge and temperature regulation.
- The impact on the environment**
 Materials used are assessed for environmental impact during production and for circularity. If the project has a logical effect on the perception of noise nuisance and on the capture of CO₂, NO_x and particulate matter, this may be taken into account, as well as an expected impact on biodiversity.
- The impact on economic factors**
 For the assessment, an estimate is made of the relationship between the investment (construction and maintenance) and the revenues. This may include an estimate of the effect on property value in the surrounding area and positive impact on local economy (for shops, restaurants...).
- Construction materials used**
 It will be assessed on the right product choice for this application. Quality is taken into account. Special and unique applications may contribute to a higher appreciation.
- Innovativeness and reproducibility**
 Innovativeness is appreciated. A good reproducibility of the entire project, or parts of it, improves the score.

Important remark!

The set-up of the award does not allow all criteria to be fully researched and factually substantiated. These cases are judged subjectively by the judges on the basis of their insights and experience and on the basis of the information provided by the participant. Only the jury chooses the winner. No correspondence is possible outside the jury about the content of the assessment process.