

Belgium winner of 1st European Green Cities Award

In recent years, Beringen (Belgium) has been transformed from an industrial mining town into a green gem. Many hectares of industrial heritage have been redeveloped as a tourist-recreational project. The layout of the outdoor space and the use of green connects the urban functions such as living, working and shopping in a balanced way.

With this, Beringen has created a future-proof city. A city in which the green outdoor space provides a healthy living environment, popular retail properties, recreation, climate adaptation and other important values. The way in which Beringen has realised this is an example for Europe, which is why the jury selected this project as the winner.

The award ceremony took place during a meeting on the successful application of green space in the urban environment. Because of the pandemic, the viewers attended the event digitally.

Six EU countries

Beringen competed in the international finals against five projects from five other countries:

- The Netherlands: Grotestraat Nijverdal (Climate-adaptive city centre)
- France: Le quartier du Ramponneau (Urban renewal program / landscaping project)
- Bulgaria: Art center 'Rila Renesans' (Social infrastructure and education)
- Denmark: The Climate City in Middelfart (Climate adaption and urban development)
- Germany: Taylor Park (Green industrial zone)

The international competition was preceded by national competitions in the various countries.

Additional info about the projects:

<https://thegreencity.eu/award/>



International Jury

The chairman of the jury is Mr Jan-Dieter Bruns from Germany, president of ENA, the European Nurserystock Association. Furthermore, the jury is composed of the following members:

- Mr. Rudi Geerardyn (Landscape Architect), Deputy director VVOG, Belgium
- Ms. Kirsten Lund-andersen (Landscape Architect), Citygardner in Aalborg, Municipality and chairman of Park- og Naturforvalterne in Denmark
- Ms. Velyana Naidenova (Landscape Architect), Chairman of the Board - Union of Landscape Architects in Bulgaria
- Mrs. Catherine Muller (Landscape Contractor) Member of the board of VAL'HOR in France
- Mr. Tom Bosschaert (Engineer / Architect), Except Integrated Sustainability in The Netherlands
- Mr. Yasin Otuzoglu (Landscape Architect), representing ELCA
- Ms. Diana Culescu (Landscape Architect), representing IFLA Europe

Green Cities for a Sustainable Europe

The Award is an initiative of Green Cities for a Sustainable Europe. This is a campaign, funded by CHAFEA (EC) that stimulates the greening of public space by providing innovative ideas, information based on scientific research and technical expertise. The activities of this platform focus on certain themes: wellbeing, climate, economy, biodiversity, and social cohesion. For more information about the platform and about the projects, please visit www.thegreencity.eu

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Mr Leon Smet, chair of the ENA Promotion WG, with the Prize for Beringen (Belgium)

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