

Highlights from the 2015 Best LIFE Awards



10 June 2016 The annual Best LIFE Awards ceremonies took place in Brussels on 31 May 2016. Held during **EU Green Week** – the biggest annual occasion to debate European environment policy – the awards celebrated outstanding LIFE projects completed in 2015. Eleven projects from the Nature, Environment and Information & Communication strands of the LIFE programme were awarded the coveted 'Best of the Best' accolade.

Best LIFE Environment projects feted

At the ceremony for Best LIFE Environment and Information & Communication projects, a total of 25 projects received Best awards at the ceremony. Of these, five were selected as Best of the Best projects by a committee of EU Member State representatives. These comprised:

- **HEO** –Highly Efficient Ovens through eco-friendly, energy efficient sol-gel enamelling process (**LIFE11 ENV/IT/000103**)
- **EDEA-RENOV** – Development of energy efficiency in architecture: energy renovation, innovation and ICTs (**LIFE09 ENV/ES/000466**)
- **Odourless casting** – Odour and hazardous emission abatement of foundries (**LIFE10 ENV/FI/000059**)
- **ACUMEN** – Assessing, capturing & utilising methane from expired and nonoperational landfill (**LIFE11 ENV/UK/000402**)
- **SEWeb** – Scotland's environmental web (**LIFE10 ENV/UK/000182**)

The LIFE Citizens' Award - chosen by public vote - went to the project **POLYMIX** - Polymer Wastes in Asphalt Mixes: a Way to Increase Sustainability of Roads Infrastructures (**LIFE10 ENV/ES/000516**).

The full list of Best Environment project award winners is [available from the LIFE programme website](#).

The European Commission's Director-General for Environment, Daniel Calleja Crespo, introduced the ceremony. Highlighting the 'investing for a greener future' theme of this year's EU Green Week, he said green investments would play a key role in the transition to a circular, resource-efficient economy and stressed the importance of the LIFE programme in achieving this goal.

"Since 1992, LIFE-funded projects have created profitable green businesses, sustainable jobs and new approaches to meet our environmental challenges," Mr Calleja noted. The programme has helped finance over 2 400 environmental and information projects since its inception, with €1.7 billion in co-funding mobilising investments totalling almost €5 billion for the environment.

Over its lifetime LIFE, "has evolved in order to meet the new challenges of our economy," the Director-General added, highlighting new tools such as the Natural Capital Financing Facility, Private Finance for Energy Efficiency, the European Fund for Strategic Investments and Integrated Projects. "All these are examples that show we can develop new, innovative financial solutions," that do, "more and more every year for the environment". Mr Calleja concluded by congratulating the winning projects, adding that their results, "show that preserving the environment is not incompatible with economic development."