

Bydgoszcz, Zaragoza and Rotterdam win European awards

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The cities of Bydgoszcz (PL), Zaragoza (ES) and Rotterdam (NL) are the winners of the EUROCITIES awards 2011. The awards recognise outstanding achievements by city councils in pioneering urban regeneration projects with a focus on 'people' as much as on 'place'. The awards ceremony was held during the EUROCITIES annual conference, which runs until 5 November in Genoa, Italy.

Now in its sixth year, the EUROCITIES awards scheme celebrates initiatives by local authorities aimed at improving the quality of life for citizens. Presenting the awards, Paolo Pissarello, Vice-Mayor of Genoa and chair of the jury, remarked:

"This year's winners demonstrate the capacity of local authorities to design and implement urban regeneration initiatives responding directly to the needs of citizens. By planning for people we are creating more liveable cities."

Being honoured this year are:

Cooperation 'The Mill Island', Bydgoszcz

Participation 'Esto no es un solar - this is not a plot', Zaragoza

Innovation 'Do-it-yourself houses', Rotterdam

Speaking at the conference, EUROCITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan, said:

"Cities are about people, not just about buildings. These award winners are leading by example, showing how urban development that responds to citizens' needs creates civic pride and ownership."

Over 50 EUROCITIES members submitted projects for this year's awards. Entries were judged by a five-panel jury comprising one representative each from the EU institutions, academia, the non-governmental sector, the media and the conference host city.

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Note to editors

- EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities, www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES 2011 Genoa, www.eurocities2011.eu
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