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Edinburgh, Gothenburg and Milan recognised for projects on sustainable growth & quality of life

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The cities of Edinburgh, Gothenburg and Milan were revealed last night as the winners of the 2015 EUROCITIES awards at a ceremony in Malmo. The cities were selected by an independent jury for their projects on sustainable growth and quality of life.

Edinburgh, Gothenburg and Milan won in three separate categories, which address: sustainable, quality jobs; modal shift in urban transport; and partnership models to increase investment in cities, respectively. They are:

Cooperation- Entrepreneurial Västra Hisingen, Gothenburg: A three-stand project to develop entrepreneurial capacity, targeting young people and existing entrepreneurs. The programme offers courses, support and networks in various languages and for specific groups.

Innovation - Fewer cars, more shared spaces, better quality of life for all, Milan: An initiative to address Milan's high level of private car ownership and improve local air quality. Made up of three phases, including the flagship Area C congestion charge zone, which has helped reduce traffic in the city centre by nearly 30%. Milan also operates a successful bike and car sharing scheme, with scooters soon to be added.

Participation - Edinburgh in Bloom, Edinburgh: Bringing together individuals and organisations to help make Edinburgh more sustainable. Community participation is an important aspect of the initiative, which funds community projects and helps set up groups and mobilise volunteers. For example, the 'garden share' scheme allows people without a garden grow food and flowers.

Kent Andersson, chairman of Malmo City Council and leading the jury, said:

"Sharing experiences like these between cities is very important. You can never copy what others have done but examples like these can be a great inspiration for finding new solutions in cities. Innovation happens in cities, and these projects demonstrate how much can be achieved at local level."

The annual EUROCITIES awards recognise outstanding achievement by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices that improve quality of life for citizens. The awards ceremony marked the opening of EUROCITIES 2015 Copenhagen/Malmo, on 4-6 November.

Entries were judged by an independent jury representing the European institutions, the academic community, NGOs and the host cities.

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Notes to editors:

- EUROCITIES: www.eurocities.eu
- EUROCITIES 2015 Copenhagen/Malmo: www.eurocities2015.eu
- More information on the awards winners & shortlisted cities: <http://bit.ly/1L9klwd>
- Twitter: @EUROCITIEStweet via #EUROCITIES2015