

PRESS RELEASE

The European Week for Waste Reduction rewards its best actions implemented in 2021

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For immediate release

The annual EWWR Awards Ceremony took place on 9 June in Brussels and revealed the names of the most outstanding awareness-raising actions on waste reduction implemented in November 2021.

Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Françoise Bonnet, Secretary General at ACR+ and Tjisse Stelpstra, member of the European Committee of the Regions and member of the Council of the Province of Drenthe, opened the ceremony and welcomed the participants to this great celebration of the European Week for Waste Reduction. We not only met the finalists and discovered the winners of the 2021 edition, but also discovered the next steps of the campaign. We discussed with Chiel Berends from the EU Commission the new EU strategy for a circular and sustainable textile, which aims to reduce the huge impact of this sector on our planet and to build a new circular textile and clothing industry. Moreover, we presented the new thematic focus of the new edition: "Circular and sustainable textiles".



Winners and finalists of the EWWR 2021 Awards

























Members of the EWWR Steering Committee

Six winners were awarded, one in each of the following categories: publication administration and organisation, business/industry, association/NGO, educational establishment, citizens, as well as a European Special Prize for the action that showcased the most marked European spirit.

As a recognition, the winners received the EWWR trophies crafted in Balearic Islands by the hands of a local artist who works with reused materials.



Trophies of the EWWR 2021 Awards - by Sol Courreges Boné























For the second year in a row, the EWWR Secretariat awarded an additional action voted by the participants of the Ceremony. The best action for the EWWR audience will receive as special prize a tree planted in an area experiencing the dangerous phenomenon of desertification, named after the winning action.

The EWWR 2021 Award winners

Out of the 16 finalists pre-selected by the EWWR Jury in April 2022, six actions were awarded during the ceremony. They are:

1. Public administration and organisation category – awarded by Tjisse Stelpstra, CoR.

Oil down the drain, not even a little bit! (D'oli a la pica, ni mica!), implemented by Badalona City Council. An action focused on improving the recycling of domestic oil. The municipality started a collaboration with the association of local restaurants "Forguilla Badalona", who volunteered to collect domestic oil in their 32 associated restaurants and subsequently recycle it. When citizens delivered the oil in one of the restaurants, they received a soap made from the oil delivered, thus promoting the concept of circular economy.

2. Business/industry category – awarded by Lina Konstantinopoulou, Eurochambres.

Today's dinner could be tomorrow's lunch, implemented by Parque Nascente, in Gondomar. This action to fight food waste took place in several shopping centres where, since July 2021 consumers could save their leftovers by using provided take-away boxes. During the EWWR more than 275,529 visitors entered the Parque Nascente and had access to this service and to the communication material promoting a more responsible consumption of food.

3. Association/NGO category – awarded by Andrea González, EEB.

Repair caffe Re-Geppetto – circular community and art, implemented by Green Istria Association, in Pula. In this action, the Green Istria Association joined climate change with creativity. They organized different workshops to provide all interested citizens with the space, tools and advice they need in order to repair small household appliances, items, furniture, clothes and toys on their own or with the help of volunteers and the workshop manager. They hosted two local artists that talked about the importance of engaged art for a more sustainable future.

4. Educational establishment category – awarded by Sandra Federici, EPALE.

ReUZ – See your utensils in a different way, implemented by Laboratory of Special Vocational Education of Agios Dimitrios, in Athens. In this action, the students visited the neighboring schools of formal education promoting their actions for a less-waste world. They collected used household utensils and produced new useful objects such as lamps, frames, hangers, pots, etc. The activities also included thematic sketches and karagiozis' performances, videos, songs and various environmental events in the context of socially oriented























entrepreneurship. They have placed special collection bins in the partner schools for reusing household utensils and tools in order to promote the motto "give them a second chance".

5. Citizens category – awarded by Franc Bogovič, European Parliament.

Zero Waste Walking Tours, implemented by Zero Waste Nederland, in 17 cities of The Netherlands. These zero-waste Tours guided citizens around their own city or neighborhood thought 5 locations with various focus points, such as: buy in bulk / dry foods, fresh supply / deli / vegetables, lunchroom / coffee place. The goal was to show participants how they can start their low-waste lifestyle, to support sustainable entrepreneurs, and to inspire the building of circular communities.

6. European Special Prize category – awarded by Chiel Berends, European Commission.

Otro contenedor, igué marrón! – Ecoval Sudoe, implemented by Ángela Muñiz Varela from FEUGA in Spain, France & Portugal. The goal of the Ecoval Sudoe project was to inform about the correct waste sorting and to increase citizens' commitment to recycling. Many communication and learning material were produced and translated in different languages, with a special focus on organic waste.

7. The best action for the EWWR audience – awarded by Anja Van Campenhout, Brussels Environment.

With the same percentage of votes, the winners of this year's Additional category are: **Changing** *Our Ways*, implemented by St Benedict's college – Middle School, in Kirkop; and *Sustainable sidewalk*, implemented by Axular Lizeoa, in Donostia.

For more information, videos and pictures about the EWWR Awards winners and finalists, please have a look at our comprehensive press file.

The EWWR – A key event in waste prevention

The 13th edition of the EWWR took place between 20 and 28 November 2021. This edition reached interesting results: 12,489 EWWR actions were implemented in 30 countries thanks to the contribution of **38 coordinators**. Since 2009, the EWWR's network of public authorities and stakeholders has been growing and showing its commitment and interest in the field of waste prevention. For its 13th edition, the EWWR put an emphasis on the topic of <u>circular</u> communities, under the slogan "Jump on board for a less-waste world!", highlighting the sense of solidarity and collaboration that is needed among individuals believing in a society that stops producing waste and, which act together to promote a circular economy and reach a sustainable























development, by maintaining a good balance between the underlying environmental, social and economic pillars.

We are now looking forward to the next EWWR edition from 19 to 27 November 2022, which will focus on circular and sustainable textiles. We warmly invite you to join the EWWR in your region and become an action developer yourself. Who knows, you may become the next EWWR winner!

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