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| Contact :William Kearney, Secretary General6 Coolamber Park,Knocklyon, Dublin 16, Dublin, Ireland,D16Y1F7.phone: 00353871007633mail: info@entente-florale.euweb : [www.entente-florale.eu](http://www.entente-florale.eu) | Association Européenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage / aisbl**Press Release** **Entente Florale Europe****Results 2024** |   |
|  Press Release September 7th 2024 | Page 1 of 2 |  |

**The Official Results of the Entente Florale Competition for 2024 have been announced…**

 **Date: 07/09/2024 – 20.00 hrs**

**Entente Florale Europe 2024 – background and results.**

**Entente Florale Europe – A. E. F. P.**

The *Association Europeenne pour le Fleurissement et le Paysage* (AEFP) - the European Association for floral enhancement and landscape is an international, non-profit association.

The overall aim of the Association today is the social and cultural development and enhancement of the quality of life of urban dwellers, primarily through sustainable planning, landscape and development and green initiatives.

To support its aims, **the Association organises an international awards scheme known as Entente Florale Europe** to promote a greener and more pleasant environment in European towns and villages and to establish international contacts among the participants.

**Entente Florale Europe - The Awards Scheme**

The Entente Florale Europe awards scheme is the principal means through which the AEFP achieves its aims. In the year 2024, seven different countries have participated giving a total of 11 entries to the scheme. An international jury carried out an ‘in situ’ assessment of the candidate town/city and villages.

**Criteria**

The international jury – coming from the member countries - assessed the candidate towns and villages according to 10 criteria based on the following considerations:

* Quality of landscape and vegetation: seasonal and permanent planting of flowers, trees, shrubs; respect for landscape and landscape policies; promotion of biodiversity and ecologically friendly maintenance and management.
* Quality of natural and built environments including sustainable waste management, water management, heritage, quality of streets and buildings and cleanliness. Participation and cooperation by local voluntary bodies and organisations. Contribution and role of local statutory authorities. The successful implementation of sustainable environmental and climate change mitigation measures is also taken into account.
* Education and schools - ecology and the green dimension. Other educational endeavours promoting the aims of the AEFP.
* Attractiveness and presentation - tourism and leisure policy and facilities, information and communication to local people and to the public at large - preparation and presentation of the town and village for the on-site assessment visits.

**Entente Florale Europe Results and Awards 2024**

The below awards are based on overall marks achieved. This year the jury awarded 4 silver and 7 gold awards.  All participants receiving gold or silver awards have achieved a very high standard overall and can take pride in their communities’ achievements this year.

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| The Village | **Ballinahown** | Ireland | Gold |
| The Town | **Carlow** | Ireland | Gold |
| The Village | **Chorušice** | Czechia | Gold |
| The City | **Debrecen** | Hungary | Silver |
| The Town | **Höxter** | Germany | Gold |
| The Village | **Meinheim** | Germany | Gold |
| The Town | **Miercurea Ciuc** | Romania | Silver |
| The Town | **Písek** | Czechia | Silver |
| The City | **Velenje** | Slovenia | Gold |
| The Village | **Vlčany** | Slovakia | Silver |
| The Town | **Zalakaros** | Hungary | Gold |

 **The jury also awarded the following special awards:**

**Special Awards**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Award** | **Project** | **Participant** |
| **President’s Prize** | **For the development of local ‘Rain Gardens’ built around the centre of Carlow town.** | **Carlow, Ireland** |
| **Herbert Titz Memorial Prize** | **For the ‘Mary Garden’ with the medicinal and herbal plantings, as well as intensive voluntary involvement.** | **Miercurea Ciuc, Romania** |
| **Green Space Award – with World Urban Parks** | **The highest (average) score for the criterion ‘Green Spaces’.** | **Vlčany, Slovakia**  |

**Special Characteristics (Outstanding activities).**

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| --- | --- |
| **Participant** | **Special Characteristic** |
| **Miercurea Ciuc, Romania** | For the promenade area and local involvement in the flower market |
| **Debrecen, Hungary** | For the annual and perennial planting schemes in the city centre |
| **Zalakaros, Hungary** | For exceptional water resources management |
| **Velenje, Slovenia** | For the exceptional tourism and leisure facilities |
| **Vlčany,** **Slovakia** | For the new green spaces and inclusion of blue-green infrastructure |
| **Hoxter, Germany** | For the beds and displays on the banks of the river Weser |
| **Meinheim, Germany** | For the climate change mitigation and the use of local biogas and PV panels as well as the water management |
| **Carlow, Ireland** | For the Delta Sensory Garden |
| **Ballinahown, Ireland** | For the energy, enthusiasm, and involvement of the local community |
| **Písek. Czechia** | For the Lily planting beds in the streetscape |
| **Chorušice Czechia** | For the wide range of activities in landscape restoration, especially with the use of traditional fruit tree varieties. |

For further information please contact [www.entente-florale.eu](http://www.entente-florale.eu)