

WINNERS OF THE NATURA 2000 AWARD

2020 EDITION ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The six Natura 2000 Award winners were announced by the European Commission at the [Award Ceremony](#), on 14 October 2020.

The six winners have been selected from 79 applications from 26 Member States of the European Union, as well as the United Kingdom. The winners undertake activities on Natura 2000 sites in Finland, France, Belgium, Spain, Bulgaria and a trans-boundary project involving sites in Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania.

The [European Natura 2000 Award](#) was launched in 2014 to reward excellence in the management of Natura 2000 sites and showcase the added value of the network for local economies. Any organization or individual can apply for the Award, as long as their work is directly linked to one or more Natura 2000 sites. From the finalists, the public is invited to vote also their winner for the [European Citizens' Award](#).

The five winners were selected by the high-level Jury from each of the five different categories of the European Natura 2000 Award, showcasing the best success stories in preserving Europe's nature: Conservation, Communication, Socio-economic benefits Reconciling interests/perceptions, Cross-border cooperation and networking. The winner of the European Natura 2000 Citizens' Award was selected in addition to the winners of the five categories.

[The six winners of the 2020 edition of the European Natura 2000 Award](#) are the following projects:

- [Using underwater inventories for the conservation of marine areas in Finland](#), implemented in Finland and led by the Ministry of the Environment, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). [Website](#).
- [Eau la la. Eco-tips for sea and shore](#) implemented in France and presented by Lannion-Trégor Communauté, Guingamp-Paimpol Agglomération, PETR du Pays de Guingamp. [Website](#).
- [Ten keys to co-ownership for nature projects](#) implemented in Belgium and presented by Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, De Vlaamse Waterweg, Gemeente Kruibeke, vzw Kruibeeks Natuurbewoud. [Website](#).
- [Pro-Biodiversidad: shepherds as biodiversity conservators in Natura 2000](#) implemented in Spain and presented by the *Fundación para la Conservación del Quebrantahuesos*. [Website](#).



- [Joint efforts for safe and wildlife-friendly transportation networks in the Carpathians](#) presented by the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic with partners in Romania, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine. [Website.](#)
- The *European Citizens' Award* was won by the project [Partnership for protection of Bulgarian old-growth forests in Natura 2000](#) implemented in Bulgaria and presented by the Executive Forest Agency (EFA), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Bulgaria, WWF Bulgaria, Association of Parks in Bulgaria, Balkani Wildlife Society. [Website.](#)

The [Natura 2000 Network](#) works to ensure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, and is the centre piece of the EU's nature and biodiversity policy. The Network is currently made up of almost 27,000 terrestrial and marine sites, covering more than 18% of land areas and about 9% of the surrounding seas in Europe. The management of the EU Natura 2000 Network of protected areas contributes to the ambitious targets of the [Biodiversity Strategy](#) to ensure that biodiversity in the EU will be on the path to recovery by 2030.

The European Natura 2000 Award also published the [79 applications from 26 countries received under the 2020 edition](#) presenting the experience and giving access to the websites of the respective promoters, showing their stories in preserving Europe's nature while adding value to local economies.

The European Commission invites all interested organization to take part in future editions of the European Natura 2000 Award.

To know more

[News in European Commission website](#)

[Natura 2000 Award Winners - 2020 edition](#)

[Natura 2000 Award 2020 Brochure](#)

[Winners Natura 2000 Award 2018](#)

[Winners Natura 2000 Award 2016](#)

[EU Biodiversity Strategy](#)

