



Awards for Best Belgian
Sustainability Reports

Edition 2015

Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports

Report
of the Jury

24 November 2015*



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IBR-IRE

Content

 Introduction	3
 Historical background of the Awards	4
 Composition of the Jury	5
 Participants	6
 Selection process and criteria	8
 Trends and specific comments of the Jury concerning sustainability reporting	10
 Winners and finalists	16
① Large organisations	16-17
② Small and medium-sized enterprises	18-20
③ NGOs	21
④ Other organisations	22-23
 Concluding comments by the Jury	24

Introduction

The Institute of Registered Auditors (**IBR-IRE**) organises for the 17th time the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports.

The Awards 2015 are organised with the support of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (**FIDO/IFDD**) and this year the event is hosted by KBC group. The organiser would like to thank KBC group for its welcome and the **FIDO/IFDD**, as well as **The Shift**, the **Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs** (UNIZO), the **Union of the Middle Classes** (UCM), the **Antwerp Management School** (AMS), the **Walloon Union of Companies** (UWE), the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Wallonia** (CCI Wallonie), the **Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry** (Beci), the **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Eupen, Malmedy and Sankt Vith** (IHK), **MVO Vlaanderen** and the **Flemish network of enterprises** (VOKA) for their cooperation and support to this initiative.

Every organisation that issues a sustainability report on its activities in Belgium and beyond – regardless of the size of the organisation or its industry – can participate in the Awards. The report has to communicate on the activities of a Belgian legal entity or on the Belgian activities of a foreign entity. To be eligible, the report on the Belgian activities of a foreign entity must set clear sustainability objectives and provide sufficient information on the basis of certain selected criteria

(targets, results etc.) for Belgium. The organisation has to report on its economic, social and environmental activities and performance.

The 2015 edition of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports rewards the best report in four distinct categories, i.e. the category “large organisations”, the category “small and medium-sized enterprises”, the category “NGOs” (non-governmental organisations) and the category “other organisations”, such as universities and schools, socio-economic organisations and governmental institutions.

The goals of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports are:

-  to stimulate organizations to report on their activities with regard to sustainable development and to propose guidelines on best practices in this respect;
-  to encourage external assurance of non-financial information by a registered auditor listed with IBR-IRE;
-  to increase organizations' awareness of the use of reporting on sustainability issues as a tool to help them engage in a transparent and effective dialogue with stakeholders;
-  to boost integration of societal responsibility beyond organisations and to reward transparent and relevant communication on sustainable development.

Historical background of the Awards

The Awards, originally intended to celebrate the best environmental reports, evolved and now also takes into consideration the two other key pillars of sustainability, namely the social and environmental factors.

Originally, only large entities took the initiative to communicate on their sustainability impact. Now, NGOs, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the public sector as well as governmental organisations, schools and federations are also convinced of the added value of sustainability reporting.

Over the last 16 years, the following organizations have received an award for their efforts in sustainability reporting:

- ANTWERP WORLD DIAMON CENTRE
- ARCELOR
- BEFIMMO
- BIAC (Brussels Airport)
- BNP PARIBAS FORTIS
- BOPRO
- C&A
- CBR (Heidelberg Cement)
- DE DUURZAME DRUKKER
- DELHAIZE GROUP
- DEXIA
- ELECTRABEL (Tihange)
- INDAVER
- KBC GROUP
- LOKALE POLITIE ZONE SINT-PIETERS-LEEUV
- OPNIEUW & CO
- PORT OF ANTWERP
- PROTOS
- PRO NATURA
- SIDMAR
- SOLVAY
- STRIJK FOODS BELGIUM/CHILLFIS
- TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE
- UMICORE
- VOLVO CARS
- VREDESEILANDEN



Composition of the Jury



PRESIDENT

Mr Marc Daelman

REGISTERED AUDITOR WITH IBR-IRE
WITH AN ADVISORY VOTE

The Jury is made up of representatives of the academic world, economic actors, representatives of the social profit world and the public sector, as well as journalists and registered auditors. Since a few years, the winners of the previous editions have also accepted to participate in the Jury for the next edition and have all mentioned the enriching formula of such a process in term of mutual sharing of experiences.



JURY MEMBERS

- Mr. Wouter Achten, UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS (ULB)/IGEAT
- Mr. Pierre-Hugues Bonnefoy, IBR-IRE
- Mr. Jan Boulogne, UNIZO
- Mrs. Lies Bouten, IESEG MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
- Mrs. Nele Claeys, VREDESEILANDEN
- Mr. Jo Cobbaut, FD MAGAZINE
- Mr. Gunther De Backer, COMFI
- Mrs. Emilie Delacroix, BEFIMMO
- Mr. Harry Everaerts, IBR-IRE
- Mr. Christian Ferdinand, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ECONOMY
- Mrs. Déborah Fischer, IBR-IRE
- Mr. Peter Garre, BOPRO
- Mr. Michael Geelhand de Merxem, AWDC
- Mrs. Eva Geluk, UNGC BELGIUM & THE SHIFT
- Mr. Paul Jacquet de Haveskercke, DURABILIS
- Mr. Jordi Lesaffer, VIGEO
- Mr. Fernand Maillard, IBR-IRE
- Mr Marc Michils, VLAAMSE LIGA TEGEN KANKER
- Mr. Serge Pattyn, ABAF/BVFA
- Mr. Herwig Peeters, FORUM ETHIBEL
- Mr. Jean-Marie Postiaux, WWF BELGIUM
- Mrs. Valérie Swaen, LOUVAIN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, (UCL)
- Mr. Luc Van Liedekerke, ANTWERP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
- Mr Roland Van Malderghem, UNICEF
- Mr. Dieter Vander Beke, FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Participants

The Jury would like to thank all organisations and enterprises that participated in the 2015 edition of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports.

LARGE ORGANISATIONS		NGO'S ²
Altran	Securex	Broederlijk Delen
Argenta Bank en Verzekeringgroep	Solvay	Close the Gap International
Care	Spadel	Cunina
Coca-Cola Enterprises Belgium & Coca-Cola Services	Telenet	De Winning
Cofinimmo	UCB	ProNatura
Delhaize Group	Umicore	Protos
Delta Lloyd Life	Vanheede Environment Group	
EANDIS		OTHER ORGANISATIONS
EDF Luminus	SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES ¹	Federal Council for Sustainability (FRDO/CFDD)
Electrabel	Alsico	FEVIA – Belgian Food Industry
Hamon	Alterfin	Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO/IFDD)
IKEA Belgium	Breydel	Federal Public Service (FOD/SPF) Chancellery of the Prime Minister
Indaver	CAP conseil	KMDA
Initial	Corma	OVAM
IRIS Group	Ecopower	Federal Public Service (FOD/SPF) Economy, SME, Middle Class and Energy
Janssen Pharmaceutica	Funds For Good	
KBC Group	Harzé J.- Van Est.	
Lidl Belgium GmbH & Co	JSR Micro	
Lyreco Belgium	Nieulandt Recycling	
Ontex	Pomuni	
Proximus	Triodos Bank	
Rockwool	Van Laethem	
Rosy Blue	Veiling Hoogstraten	
	Warnez	

1/ An SME is a company that does not exceed two of the three following criteria:

- > balance sheet total: EUR 17,500,000
 - > turnover: EUR 35,000,000
 - > average number of employees (full-time equivalents):250
- unless the company has more than 250 employees. In this case, the organisation belongs by default to the category “large organisations”.

2/ NGOs are non-governmental organisations (non-profit organisations, international non-profit organisations or foundations), with a non-profit purpose (e.g. social or humanitarian), that are based in Belgium and operate in or out of Belgian territory.

The number of participating reports (58) has grown steadily over the years until 2012, and has been fairly stable over the last 5 years. That is partly due to the fact that some entities choose not to publish a report every year. Another reason is that since 2012 winners cannot take part in the following year's award. They are invited to get involved in the event, for instance by participating in the jury. In any case, between 2008 and 2011, and confirmed in 2015, the number of participating reports has almost tripled.

Over these years, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Disclosure Database, that tracks sustainability reports submitted by companies, demonstrated an important growth, especially for Belgium. This means that the Belgian trend is fairly consistent with the international trend. In addition, more and more reports show (signs of) integrated reporting following the IIRC guidelines.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING REPORTS SINCE 2008

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
21	43	44	54	58	54	55	58



Selection process and criteria

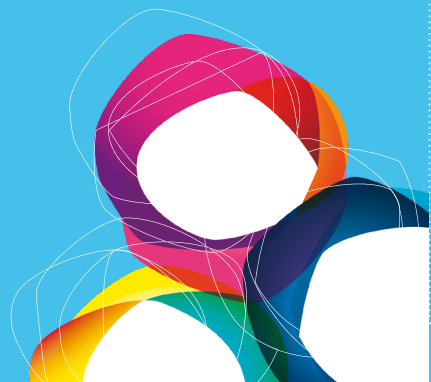
The selection criteria are based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines as these are commonly accepted guidelines which provide for clear criteria and therefore for a strong basis for the Jury to deliberate on. In order to align with the G4 guidelines as adopted in May 2013 by the Global Reporting Initiative, the selection criteria have been further modified for this year edition. As such the definitions of the principles are now fully based on GRI G4 guidelines. Sustainability context, stakeholders, materiality, including supply chain are now fully receiving the emphasis required by GRI G4 guidelines.

The new criteria are specified below, including how much weight the Jury attaches to each of them in the selection and deliberation processes.

In order to facilitate the Jury's task, the evaluation of the reports were once again conducted in two phases this year.

The large number of Jury members (25 this year), allows to keep objectivity in the process: during the first phase, the 58 received reports were distributed among the Jury members, so each report was read and evaluated by three to four Jury members from different sectors (academic world, economic sector, social sector, journalism and registered auditors). Each Jury member has evaluated in this first phase 9 or 10 reports using the criteria specified below.

On the basis of this first assessment and after discussions and deliberations, the Jury members have short-listed the reports that achieved the highest ratings in each category (six large organisations, four SMEs and three other organisations). For the NGO category the winner was already agreed on at the end of the first round.



During the second phase, the Jury members were divided in various groups of 4 or 5 to read 3 reports of large organisations, 2 reports of SMEs. All Jury members read the 3 reports of other organisations (8 in total). They re-evaluated these reports on the basis of the same criteria as those of the first phase, namely:

REPORT CONTENT		5 criteria
1	SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT AND STRATEGY	10 %
2	STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVENESS AND ENGAGEMENT	10 %
3	MATERIALITY AND BOUNDARIES	15 %
4	COMPLETENESS	10 %
5	GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY	10 %
		55 %

REPORT QUALITY		6 criteria
PRINCIPLE 1	BALANCE	5 %
PRINCIPLE 2	COMPARABILITY	5 %
PRINCIPLE 3	ACCURACY	5 %
PRINCIPLE 4	TIMELINESS	5 %
PRINCIPLE 5	CLARITY	5 %
PRINCIPLE 6	RELIABILITY	5 %
		30 %

OVERALL IMPRESSION		
PRINCIPLE 1	BALANCE	15 %
		15 %

These principles are made public in the Code of Participation of the 2015 edition, available on the website: www.sustainabilityreports.be as from the opening of the competition. The Jury members also received **additional guidance** on how to assess the various criteria. This additional guidance was provided for illustrative purposes and was not mandatory. It is also available on the website.

The outcome of the evaluations of the Jury members for this second phase was discussed in a second meeting of the Jury. In this meeting and after intense and interesting discussions and deliberations, the winners & finalists were chosen.



Trends and specific comments of the Jury concerning sustainability reporting

An honest view on the whole organisation

Transparent sustainability reporting is at the core of the Global Reporting Initiatives' vision and mission. This has been continuously reflected in the criteria used by the Jury to evaluate the reports as sustainability context has received the emphasis required by [GRI G4 guidelines](#).

The Jury would like to insist on the importance for organisations to mention the context they are facing, as information on performance should be placed in context. The underlying question of sustainability reporting is how an organization contributes, and/or aims to contribute in the future, to the improvement or avoid the deterioration of economic, environmental and social conditions, developments, and trends at the local, regional or global level. Reporting only on trends in individual performance (or the efficiency of the organization) fails to respond to this underlying question. Reports should therefore seek to present performance in relation to broader concepts of sustainability. It is advised to mention, at least in the management

statement, the context of the year when the report is published (eg. today's economic and competitive context with its impact on employment, environmental issues).

According to the Jury, the following organisations have well described the sustainability context in their reports: [Cofinimmo](#), [Telenet](#) and [Solvay](#).

Some reports seem to be "good news show" rather than a balanced sustainability report, which complicates the assessment of real sustainability performance. It is difficult and sensitive to report on weaknesses but very useful as regard to transparency and also as indicator to make changes in the organization of an entity that will contribute to its long-term success.

The Jury appreciated the report of [Umicore](#) for its strong and honest CEO statement, its integration of sustainability in the overall company strategy and the fact that it addresses the mega challenges and how they can contribute to resolve them. Other appreciated reports for their honesty on positive and negative issues/facts such as the reports of [FEVIA](#), [Harzé J.- Van Est](#), [JSR Micro](#), [Pro Natura](#) and [Spadel](#).



Comparability to sector and peers allows true transparency

The Jury noticed that few organizations compare their performances to the ones of their competitors or within their sector. Comparison with peers or with the sector is indeed one of criteria which reached the weakest scores in the evaluations of the Jury in the two rounds.

Like mentioned last year, even if gathering comparable data seems to be a rather difficult exercise for most organisations, especially when starting to report, one should not forget that it is necessary for evaluating performance. Organization should therefore select, compile and report information consistently. The reported information should be presented in a manner that enables stakeholders to analyze changes in the organization's economic, environmental and social performance over time, and that could support analysis relative to other organizations. This is again echoed in recent studies which indicate that stakeholders find information about comparison with peers the most relevant when assessing sustainability performance of reporting organizations.

Good examples are the report of [Umicore](#) which includes a comparison with others in the sector and [Cofinimmo](#) which refers to external sources in this respect. The Jury also appreciated in reports that some figures have been tracked for several years, which leads to an acceptable level of comparability.

The Jury would also like to mention the sector reports as the one from [FEVIA](#) and hopes that such sector reports will be further used as a basis for sector comparison.

Governance and ethics, slowly on the way

The second criteria evaluated in average by the Jury members as one of the weakest dimensions in the two rounds is governance and ethics. More transparency on the governance structure and on the composition of the related boards and/or committees is important to ensure the accountability of the relevant bodies and individuals. According to GRI G4, the report has to describe how the highest governance body is established and structured in support of the organization's purpose, and how this purpose relates to all dimensions, economic, environmental and social.

We strongly advise organisations to describe in more detail their values, principles, standards and norms and internal and external mechanism for seeking advice on ethical and lawful behaviour.

Good examples on governance this year are to be found in the reports of [Solvay](#) and [Umicore](#).



Improved disclosure on stakeholders, stakeholder engagement and materiality, including supply chain – in accordance with GRI G4

As already stated above, the evaluation criteria used by the Jury this year are now fully in line with **GRI G4 guidelines** in its emphasis on materiality (inform on “what matters, where it matters”), including the supply chain, and stakeholder involvement. Also for integrated reporting, improving transparency on materiality and applying this concept in a rigorous way is key.

Some good examples are the reports of **Cap Conseil** (with a well done materiality analysis and stakeholder voices well integrated all along the report), **Cofinimmo** (with a complete and well detailed materiality analysis and a very good stakeholder engagement description), **FEVIA** (with a strong dialog with stakeholders), Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (**FIDO/IFDD**) (with an interesting materiality approach and matrix, a strong stakeholder inclusiveness and consultation), **Harzé J.- Van Est.**, (with a nice stakeholder matrix), **EDF Luminus** (for its very clear table for stakeholders), **Rosy Blue** (with a well detailed materiality matrix), **Telenet** (with a good materiality exercise and strong connection with stakeholders) and **Veiling Hoogstraaten** (with an original materiality matrix and solid methodology).

Although not yet on GRI G4, the following report is worth mentioning for its very good analysis of the supply chain: **JSR Micro**.

Original format – on the edge of readability ?

A growing number of reports have an online and even interactive format such as websites that are entirely dedicated to the subject to make an easier-to-digest sustainability report and sometime

to provide for good videos and explanations, and for interactions possibilities. The Jury also appreciated the report of **Ontex** : as a first report, it is easy to read and gives in a comfortable way access to what their business is about.

Other reports are simply nice to read with a nice format of presentation and a lot of well-chosen pictures which motivates the reader to further read the report (report of **Ikea**). Not only big companies are having nice lay-out and features but also other organisations do: like the reports of **Cap Conseil**, **JSR Micro** and **Veiling Hoogstraaten** as for SMEs, and of the Federal Public Service Chancellery of the Prime Minister (**FOD/SPE**) and the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (**FIDO/IFDD**) as for other organisations.

Even if the Jury is well aware that certain reports will be quite technical because of the sector the organisation is operating in, the choice between short and concise reports, easy to read but sometimes lacking detailed, technical information on the one hand and very long reports, sometimes extremely technical and not easy to read but complete on the other hand was a challenge this year. The Jury has tried to reward both efforts at least in the category of big organisations, as is further detailed below.

The Jury also appreciates innovative formats but would like to remind that the success of the sustainability reporting process relies more on content than on form and that it should be ensured that for instance a web-based approach does not make it more difficult to get an overall view or to gather the relevant information. The Jury regrets that some organisations use the opportunity of sustainability reporting to have one more promotion brochure and not a well-balanced presentation of the organisation.

The Jury was however pleased that clarity was one of the criteria scoring highest on average in the first round and the criteria accuracy similarly in the second round. According to GRI G4, clarity means that the organization should make information available in a manner that is understandable and accessible to stakeholders using the report. Information should also be sufficiently accurate and detailed for stakeholders to assess the organization’s performance.

A good example of a concise, clear and easy to read report is the one from **Spadel**.

The Jury also was really pleased to see that the exercise of drafting a clear sustainability report was successful for small organisations as **Harzé J.- Van Est.** and **JSR Micro**.

Towards increased reliability of the reports : external assurance

One of the three weakest average criteria in the evaluations of the Jury this year remains reliability : about one third of the large entities entering in the Awards competition obtained external assurance on (a part of) their sustainability report. Though external assurance of non-financial information is not yet mandatory for sustainability reports, it is an important risk management exercise that should be continued and extended to all sustainability reports in a similar way as the certification of the organisation’s financial statement. The GRI encourages external assurance and there is evidence that investing in assurance is a wise decision as it enhances the credibility surrounding positive disclosures.

The Jury stresses the importance of a high quality certification and when it is done, to communicate the content of the verification and the name of the external expert clearly to the stakeholders so they understand what the verification exactly means.

The Jury appreciates the (continued) commitment to obtain external assurance by the short listed entities, **Cofinimmo**, **Solvay** and **Umicore**.

First steps in regulation of non-financial information and two interesting voluntary initiatives

On 5 December 2014 the EU Directive on disclosure of non-financial information and diversity information in the annual report entered into force. It impacts certain large companies with more than 500 employees which will have to include a non-financial statement in their annual report. This will contain information relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, and anti-corruption and bribery matters. Large listed entities also have to disclose their policy on diversity for the board of director. In this context, the EU recognises international guidelines such as the UN Global Compact.

This Directive is aimed at increasing the transparency of European companies’ performance on environmental and social matters. Member states have to implement this Directive in their national laws by 6 December 2016. These national provisions will apply to the financial year starting on 1 January 2017 or during that same calendar year.

The mandatory application of this EU Directive is still on the way. Even if not mandatory today, 80% of BEL 20 companies already publish this information (or part of it) in a separate report or in their annual report.

As a result of this legislation, it can be expected that the number of reports will increase the upcoming years, bringing about a reinforced role for external assurance of sustainability reports, if organisations want to show their report is credible and reliable.



The transposition of the Directive will also impact other organisations, even if not directly concerned.

Initiative of the government

In Belgium, the public sector has been taking a step forward in sustainability reporting with a pilot project initiated by the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO/IFDD). Six federal agencies have joined the experiment: the Federal Public Service Chancellery of the Prime Minister (FOD/SPF), the FPS Personnel and Organisation, the FPS Finance, the FPS Economy, the FPS Justice, and of course the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development. Five of these institutions have issued a sustainability report according to GRI G4 guidelines.

The Jury especially appreciated the effort done by the Federal Council for Sustainability (FRDO/CFDD), the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO/IFDD), the Federal Public Service (FOD/SPF) Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the FPS Economy, which participated in the Awards. The Jury hopes that other public institutions will follow the path of these entities.

Another initiative from the FPS Economy resides in an article that aims to attract the interest of entrepreneurs for sustainable development and to inform them about the latest success stories of those years. For more information, the article is available with the following link http://economie.fgov.be/fr/modules/publications/general/developpement_durable_-_les_awards_de_l_economie_durable.jsp (French) or http://economie.fgov.be/nl/modules/publications/general/developpement_durable_-_les_awards_de_l_economie_durable.jsp (Dutch).

Sector passports initiative

And last but not least, the Jury would like to underline the initiative on the sector passports as this has already encouraged certain SME's to report without the immediate need to execute an in-depth stakeholder engagement, which is the case for many new participants in the SME category (see the reports of Breydel, Corma, Harzé J.- Van Est, Nieulandt Recycling NV, Pomuni, Van Lathem, and Warnez). The Jury hopes that it will continuously inspire other SMEs in the sector passports to start reporting and additionally also inspire all the sectors to conduct a similar exercise.

Slow but steady progression from combined to integrated reporting

In reading the submitted reports, the Jury noted that sustainability information is often presented in a separate chapter or section in the annual report and, accordingly, is not yet connected to financial results or information in the report. This implies that the majority of reports are still more "combined" than "integrated" reports, although also here a move towards more integration is certainly noted.

The successful company of tomorrow will have an integrated strategy to achieve financial results and create lasting value for itself, its stakeholders and society. The value created by this company cannot be expressed by isolated financial and sustainability reports, with no clear links between the "single bottom line" and the sustainability impacts caused, avoided or projected.

It is the Jury's belief that the application of the G4 guidelines on sustainability reporting, issued by the *Global Reporting Initiative* in 2013 with an increased focus on the key sustainability issues and on transparency, will help companies make steps forward to integrated reporting and transparency on their integrated business models. It is also the

reason why the evaluation criteria have been adapted to fully apply the G4 guidelines as criteria for the Jury.

The Jury is pleased to announce that 74 % of the reports introduced this year are based on GRI, amongst which 64 % already on GRI G4.

The initiative at global level aiming at developing (reporting) standards in this area, is taken by the *International Integrated Reporting Committee* (IIRC), whose purpose is to create a generally accepted reference framework for integrated reporting.

Indeed, integrated reporting is the key that allows enterprises to make more sustainable decisions and the investors and other stakeholders to understand how an organisation operates efficiently and to get, in accordance with the materiality criteria, a more complete yet focused picture of the organisation.

The Jury is satisfied that more and more organisations and enterprises operating in Belgium or reporting on their activities in Belgium take the step towards a sustainability report integrated or combined with the annual report. This strategic vision constitutes the essential foundation of a high quality sustainability report.

In that respect, the short listed reports of Telenet en Umicore are good examples of reports integrated or combined with the annual report, at the Belgian level.

Motivations to report

For the first time this year, the organiser of the Awards wanted to know the motivations of the organisation to make a sustainability reporting. All participant entities had the opportunity to mention their motivation(s).

According to the responses, organisations main motivations to report on non-financial information are:

- 👉 link to the long term future;
- 👉 transparency on the culture and vision of the organisation;
- 👉 part of our genes, and so logically that we conduct our business in this way;
- 👉 basis for strategic management;
- 👉 to be transparent on progress in the same way to all stakeholders;
- 👉 tool in the engagement with (internal/ external) stakeholders;
- 👉 none financial information is equally important as financial information;
- 👉 what gets measured, gets done – opportunity to continuously improve;
- 👉 to be an inspiration to others.

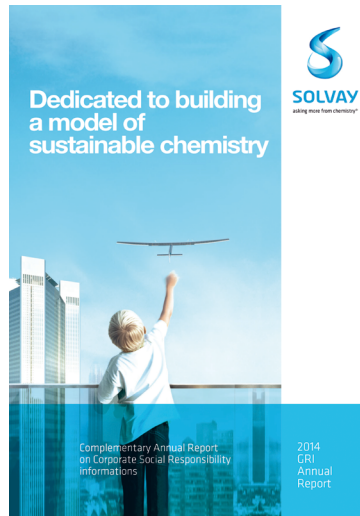


Winners & Finalists

1 Large organisations



Winner



Solvay has been selected as the best sustainability report within the category «large organisations».

The Jury congratulates Solvay for its very complete, clear, attractive and well-structured report, based on GRI G4. The report is strong on all important issues, specifically on strategy and context. The Jury appreciated the materiality, the stakeholder engagement, the detailed data for all indicators, the external assurance and the nice focus on social impact matters. The Jury especially appreciated the strive to continuous improvement over the years.

However, the Jury wants to emphasise that, given the length of the report and its technicality, a clear summary of the results, targets, and progress against targets as well as a clear, balanced statement of the CEO integrating the results over the different aspects of the business would make it more accessible for a large(r) group of interested readers. As large leading company it is important to continuously share vision and explain shared value to all stakeholders. The Jury encourages Solvay to move further and provide a benchmark with other companies of the sector and to clarify the stakeholder engagement for defining materiality.

The Jury wants to congratulate Solvay on its “Best Belgian Sustainability Report” and on its exemplary role in terms of reliability and completeness within the category “large organisations”.

<http://www.solvay.com/en/binaries/2014-SOLVAY-GRI-Annual-Report-218210.pdf>



1 Large organisations



Finalist



Spadel wrote a remarkable report in terms of readability and materiality. The Jury wishes to underline the good work on GRI table, the clear long-term perspective and the benchmark with the score of the past years. The Jury appreciated the good balance in the report, which makes it easy to understand and to the point.

The Jury encourages Spadel to have an external verification and as such further enhance its credibility and reliability. The Jury regrets that stakeholder engagement had not been performed this year also and that there is no benchmark with other company from the sector.

The Jury congratulates Spadel for this concise and clear report and its effort to integrate.

<http://www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be/sites/default/files/rapports/spadel-verslag-duurzaam-ondernemen-2013-2014.pdf>

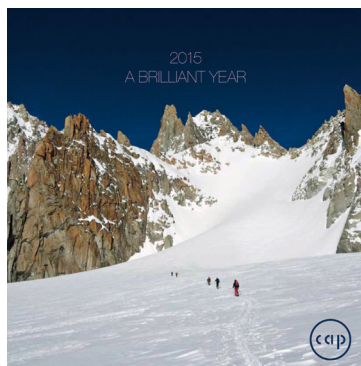


Winners & Finalists

② Small and medium-sized enterprises



Winner



The Jury has recognised the report of **Cap Conseil** as the best sustainability report within the category “small and medium-sized enterprises”.

This second report shows a further improvement in comparison to the first one, which was already very good and nominated by the Jury in 2012. It is very good quality report for such a small structure, with an original lay-out that is actually a very pedagogical tool. It is fun to read and touches the very important point for this sector of activities. The Jury finds that the materiality analysis is very well done and that the stakeholder voices are well integrated all along the report. The Jury also appreciated the fact that the report gives a clear image of what Cap Conseil is and what they do and that in a short report, Cap Conseil succeeded to adopt balance discourse.

The Jury encourages Cap Conseil to further develop governance and ethics and comparison with other companies of the sector, to have an external verification and to set more clear targets for the next year(s).

The Jury wants to congratulate Cap Conseil on its “Best Belgian Sustainability Report” and on its exemplary role towards integrated sustainable development within the category “SMEs”.

<http://www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be/sites/default/files/rapports/CAPConseil%20version%20light.pdf>



② Small and medium-sized enterprises



Ex-aequo finalist



The Jury nominated two joint finalists this year within the category “Small and medium-sized enterprises”: **Harzé J.- Van Est** and **JSR Micro**.

The Jury especially appreciated the first report of **Harzé J.- Van Est**, which is very clear, well-structured, easy to read and balanced. It has a nice lay-out and represents an impressive process for such a small company. The Jury also appreciated the information on the progress of the goals, the nice stakeholders matrix and the structure that is kept for each priority.

The Jury encourages Harzé J.- Van Est. to provide more information on corporate governance, on materiality and on the results of the companies with growth data and also to seek external assurance. The Jury would expect more key performance indicators to be reported in over the next years and would like to read more about their long term strategy.

http://www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be/sites/default/files/2015/rapports_formulaires/DZHV%20Harze%20lowres_spreads.pdf



Winners & Finalists

② Small and medium-sized enterprises



Ex-aequo finalist



The Jury really appreciated also this first report, very well written and clear. This honest report addresses also difficulties on the road toward a sustainable company. The Jury wishes to emphasize the strengths of the report which asks for feedbacks, provides for an innovative and pleasant feature in the links to movies, provides an impressive timeline and very good analysis of the supply chain. The format has a nice lay-out and graphics.

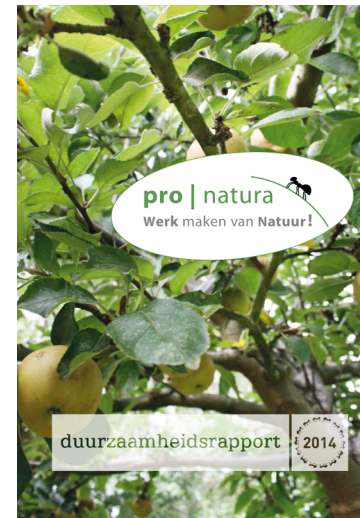
The Jury also wishes to encourage JSR Micro to seek for external assurance, to further elaborate on governance and ethics, to further define detail targets for material topics and to clarify how they (will) give a response to stakeholder feedback. The Jury would recommend to enter into a benchmarking with sector entities and to explain the materiality defining process. With the use of GRI G4, the Jury is convinced that this report would stronger develop.

The Jury congratulates Harzé J.- Van Est. and JSR Micro for their first, clear and balanced reports.

③ NGOs



Winner



The Jury has recognised Pro Natura's report as the best sustainability report within the category "NGOs".

The Jury was impressed by this report, as it is complete, really clear and well-balanced. Pro Natura is being honest and sincere (e.g. admitting failures and mentioning projects that have been put on hold) which makes its report authentic. Stakeholder engagement is embedded in the company's practices and the report provides for a high degree of comparability over time.

The Jury points out that ProNatura could further improve its report if it could more clearly indicate what the material issues are, how they have been determined and how they are linked to the different chapters of the report. This would also have a positive effect on the structure of the report. The Jury encourages ProNatura to set clear targets and to provide for more information on governance and on how the social audit was done and who advised.

The Jury wants to congratulate Pro Natura on its "Best Belgian Sustainability Report" and on its exemplary role towards integrated sustainable development within the category "NGOs".

Winners & Finalists

④ Other organisations



Ex-aequo finalist

FEVIA

Federatie Voedingsindustrie
Fédération de l'Industrie Alimentaire



**For the sake of transparency, independence and impartiality, it has to be mentioned that the two following members of the Jury from the public sector did not evaluate nor participate to the debate concerning the other organisations: Dieter Vander Beke, from FIDO/IFDD and Christian Ferdinand from the Federal Public Service (FOD/SPF) Economy. The mention of the "Jury" in this particular section is to be understood with the exclusion of these two members.*

<http://fevia-duurzaamheid.be/en/>

The Jury* wants to especially congratulate **FEVIA** and the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (**FIDO/IFDD**) this year which are both on a good way to winning the Awards.

However, the Jury* was pleased by these two reports, for very different reasons. Both organisations have different means and different target audiences. The Jury* recognises that this is the difficulty of the category "other organisations". Every year, the reports of this category are a matter of debate since they pursue different objectives.

The Jury* considers the FEVIA's report as well-balanced between positive and negative facts. It is a sectorial report which provides very interesting comparisons and content with a materiality matrix. The report shows a real commitment from the sector and clarifies the issues for the sector. The Jury* appreciates the large consultation of stakeholders, the strong focus on children and the concrete presentation of its governance.

The Jury* points out that they preferred the online report above the website version (not user friendly).

The Jury* would have liked to see a comparison with the first report and a demonstration of the progress. The Jury* encourages FEVIA to improve the transparency on its governance structure and ethics (what is the commitment towards companies?) and to improve the timeliness as results provided are mostly outdated (data up to 2012 and 2010). The Jury* recommends to increase the professionalism in the design and structure of the report and to provide for more targets for the forthcoming years and for summary tables. An external assurance would also increase reliability and credibility of the report.



④ Other organisations



Ex-aequo finalist

Institut fédéral pour le
**Développement
Durable**

Federaal Instituut voor
**Duurzame
Ontwikkeling**



The Jury* found the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development's report (**FIDO/IFDD**) clear and very easy to read. Its main strength lies in the stakeholder inclusiveness and consultation. It provides for a realistic picture of where they are (lack of budget and people) and for an interesting materiality approach and matrix. The Jury* considers this report as an excellent start (work in progress – needs more stability to measure real impact) and a good example for the public sector. If FIDO/IFDD could manage to assist all governmental bodies to write such a report, this would definitely be a huge achievement. It is clearly leading in this category in terms of readability and content.

The Jury* encourages FIDO/IFDD to clarify the governance (who is responsible for the vision: FIDO/IFDD, the government or the administration?) and the strategic view and to improve the description of its mission, the structure and the content of its impact toward sustainability. A description of the GRI indicators in the tables would make it easier to understand and external assurance would increase credibility. A benchmark with other organisation of the public sector would certainly be an added value.

The Jury* wants to congratulate FEVIA and FIDO/IFDD for their respectively first and second report as finalists within the category 'other organizations'. The Jury* concluded not to nominate any winner in this category, however the Jury* is confident that if these organizations further mature in sustainability reporting and take actions in line with the recommendations from the Jury* listed above they will achieve the threshold to become a winner in this category in the short term.



http://www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be/sites/default/files/2015/rapports_formulaires/007079_Fido_FR_2.pdf
http://www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be/sites/default/files/2015/rapports_formulaires/007079_Fido_NL_05052015.pdf



Concluding comments by the Jury

The ongoing participation in the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports proves that sustainable development is increasingly part of an organisation's business strategy.

The Jury members congratulate all participating entities and encourage them to keep on establishing quality sustainability reports that become more and more integrated. Some enterprises have already acquired a high maturity in sustainability reporting and others are on their way to establishing high quality reports. The Jury also appreciated the effort of a large majority of the participants to have chosen to report based on GRI guidelines and already on G4.

Although the Jury is aware of the high level of quality of the reports, it would like to encourage participants to keep on striving for further improvement of their reports, particularly in the following areas:

- ✎ benchmarking with other organisations and sector comparison;
- ✎ transparency on the governance structure and on their composition;
- ✎ (further) engaging in external assurance of non-financial information;
- ✎ transparency on the full value chain of the organisation.

The Jury is pleased to see that reports are more and more describing a sustainability context and tend to be really complete, covering material aspects, sufficient to reflect significant economic, environmental and social impacts, and to enable stakeholders to assess the organization's performance in the reporting period.

The Jury would like to stress once again the growing development of integrated or combined reporting and is very proud that some Belgian entities are increasingly moving towards integrated reporting.



The Jury congratulates them in particular on their efforts in this respect.

The Jury members would also like to congratulate the 21 organisations that entered in the Award competition for the first time this year:

- ✎ Alsico
- ✎ Breydel
- ✎ Corma
- ✎ Ecopower
- ✎ Federal Council for Sustainability (FRDO/CFDD)
- ✎ Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO/IFDD)
- ✎ Federal Public Service Chancellery of the Prime Minister (FOD/SPF)
- ✎ Federal Public Service Economy, SME, Middle Class and Energy (FOD/SPF)
- ✎ Hamon
- ✎ Harzé J.- Van Est.
- ✎ Initial
- ✎ IRIS Group
- ✎ JSR Micro
- ✎ Lidl Belgium GmbH & Co
- ✎ Nieulandt Recycling
- ✎ Ontex
- ✎ Pomuni
- ✎ Rockwool
- ✎ Securex
- ✎ Van Lathem
- ✎ Warnez

The Jury notes that new comers are growing since 2013 (13 new reports), and 16 last year.

The Jury hopes that other organisations will follow the path of these entities.





Awards for Best Belgian
Sustainability Reports

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**ONLINE INFORMATION ON
SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING**

GRI-Global Reporting Standard Initiative
www.globalreporting.org

AccountAbility – AA 1000
www.accountability.org

**Duurzaamheidsverslaggeving
(sustainability reporting)**
www.duurzaamheidsverslaggeving.be

International Integrated Reporting Committee
www.theiirc.org

More information on the Awards and the participating reports can be found on the new website,
a unique database on Belgian sustainability reports :

www.sustainabilityreports.be



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