

Report of the Jury

# Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report

Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report

Edition 2014

2 December 2014





| Edition 2014

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### Introduction

The <u>Institute of Registered Auditors</u> (IBR-IRE) organises for the 16th time the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report.

The Award 2014 is organised with the support of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (FIDO-IFDD). The organiser would like to thank the FIDO-FIDD, as well as <u>Business & Society Belgium</u>, <u>Kauri</u>, the <u>Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs</u> (UNIZO), the <u>Union of the Middle Classes</u> (UCM), the <u>Antwerp Management School</u>, the <u>Walloon</u> <u>Union of Companies</u> (UWE), the <u>Chamber of</u> <u>Commerce and Industry of Wallonia</u> (CCI Wallonie), the <u>Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry</u> (Beci), the <u>Chamber of Commerce and Industry of</u> <u>Eupen, Malmedy and Sankt Vith</u> (IHK) and the <u>Flemish network of enterprises</u> (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 Award. 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 2014 edition of the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report rewards the best report in four distinct categories, i.e. the category "large organisations", the category "small and medium-sized enterprises", the category "NGOS" (nongovernmental organisations) and the category "other organisations", such as universities and schools, socio-economic organisations and governmental institutions.

The goals of the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report are:

- to stimulate organisations 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 organisations' 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 social responsibility within organisations and of societal responsibility beyond organisations and to reward transparent and relevant communication on sustainable development.

# Historical background of the Award

The Award, originally intended to celebrate the best environmental repor 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 15 years, the following organisations have received an award for their efforts in sustainability reporting:

- ARCELOR
- BIAC (Brussels Airport)
- BNP PARIBAS FORTIS
- BOPRO
- 🖉 🖉
- CBR (Heidelberg Cement)
- 🦽 DE DUURZAME DRUKKER
- DELHAIZE GROUP
- DEXIA
- ELECTRABEL (Tihange)
- INDAVER
- 🦽 KBC GROUP
- LOKALE POLITIE ZONE SINT-PIETERS-LEEUW
- OPNIEUW & CO
- PORT OF ANTWERP
- PROTOS
- PRO NATURA
- SIDMAR
- SOLVAY
- STRUIK FOODS BELGIUM/CHILLFIS
- **TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE**
- 🥟 VOLVO CARS

# Composition of the Jury

The Jury is made up of representatives of the academic world, economic actors, representatives of the social profit world, as well as registered auditors.

#### 👝 PRESIDENT

- Mr Marc Daelman
- → REGISTERED AUDITOR WITH IBR-IRE WITH AN ADVISORY VOTE

#### 👝 JURY MEMBERS

- Mr Pierre-Hugues Bonnefoy
- → IBR-IRE
- Mrs Lies Bouten
- $\rightarrow$  IESEG MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
- Mrs Linde Brewaeys
- Mr Jo Cobbaut
- $\rightarrow$  FD MAGAZINE
- Mr Marc Crispel
- → LOKALE POLITIEZONE SINT-PIETERS-LEEUW
- Mr Gunther De Backer
- → COMFI
- Mrs Oriane De Vroeye
- ightarrow business  $\delta$  society belgium
- Mr Marc Despiegelaere
- $\rightarrow$  PROTOS
- Mr Pierre-Etienne Durieux
- → UCM
- Mr Harry Everaerts
- → IBR-IRE
- Mrs Patricia Everaert
- $\rightarrow$  GHENT UNIVERSITY
- Mrs Brigitte Hudlot
- $\rightarrow$  ICHEC-ENTREPRISES
- Mr Paul Jacquet de Haveskercke
- → DURABILIS

Mrs Patricia Kindt → IBR-IRE Mr Jordi Lesaffer → VIGEO Mr Fernand Maillard → IBR-IRE Mr Serge Pattyn → ABAF/BVFA Mr Herwig Peeters → FORUM ETHIBEL Mr Jean-Marie Postiaux WWF BELGIUM Mrs Valérie Swaen → LOUVAIN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITÉ CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN Mrs Iris Van Der Veken → UN GLOBAL COMPACT Mr Luc Van Liedekerke → ANTWERP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL Mr Dieter Vander Beke -> FIDO-IFDD Mrs Colette Vanstraelen FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ECONOMY Mr Michel Washer -> SOLVAY Mr Ignace Wils  $\rightarrow$  olivia & julius

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### Participants

The Jury would like to thank all organisations and enterprises that participated in the 2014 edition of the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report.

LARGE ORGANISATIONS		NG0 <sup>'</sup> S <sup>/2</sup>
🗢 Argenta	🚁 King Belgium	🗢 Broederlijk Delen
🗢 Befimmo	🗢 NMBS	🥟 Close the Gap International
🗢 Belfius	🖉 SITA Belgium	🥟 De Kringwinkel Antwerpen
🗢 Belgacom	👝 Telenet	👝 De Winning
BNP Paribas Fortis CSR	🥭 Vanheede Environment Group	🖉 KIYO
🗢 bpost	🗻 Veiling Hoogstraten	🥒 Oxfam-Magasins du monde
🗢 Brouwerijen Alken-Maes		🗻 Trias
Brussels Airport Company	SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED	🗢 Vredeseilanden
🗢 Carglass	ENTERPRISES <sup>/1</sup>	
🗢 Coca-Cola	🗢 Alterfin	OTHER ORGANISATIONS
🗢 Cofinimmo	👝 BMA Ergonomics BE	🖉 🖉 Antwerp World Diamond Centre
🥟 Delhaize Group	🗢 Ворго	🖉 🖉 Essenscia
🥟 Delta Lloyd Life	🖉 CERM-HR	🥏 Fost Plus
🗢 Durabilis	🗢 Dak Plus	🖉 🖉 HUB-KAHO/KU Leuven Campus
🗢 EANDIS cvba	👝 Funds For Good	Brussels
EDF Luminus	🗢 ICAB	🖉 🥭 Koninklijke Maatschappij voor
🗢 Electrabel	🥭 Incofin cvso	Dierkunde Antwerpen
🗢 IKEA Belgium	🥭 Theuma	🖉 🖉 OVAM
🗢 Indaver	🥭 Tomato Masters	Port of Antwerp
🥟 Janssen Pharmaceutica	👝 Triodos Bank	👝 Recupel
🗢 KBC Group		🖉 Responsibly Fresh

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

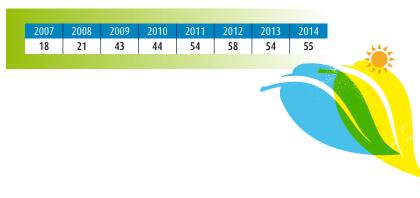
- > balance sheet total: EUR 17,500,000
- > turnover: EUR 35,000,000
- > average number of employees (full-time equivalents): 250

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 (55) has grown steadily over the years until 2012, with a small decline in 2013, partly due to the fact that some entities do not 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 2007 and 2011, and confirmed in 2014, the number of participating reports has almost tripled.

Between 2007 and 2014, the <u>Global Reporting</u> <u>Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Disclosure Database</u>, that tracks sustainability reports submitted by companies, demonstrated an important growth. 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 quidelines.

OVERVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING REPORTS SINCE 2007







Selection process and criteria

The selection criteria are based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) guidelines. In order to May 2013 by the GRI and to answer the need to have more emphasis on materiality, sustainability context and supply chain, the selection criteria have been modified for this year's edition (notably the definitions of the principles are already mainly based on G4 guidelines). This transition period aims also at letting organizations the time to apply this to each of them in the selection and deliberation

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

The increased number of Jury members (26 this year compared to 19 last year) allowed increasing objectivity in the process: during the first phase, the 55 received reports were distributed among the Jury members, so each report was read and evaluated by four Jury members from different sectors (academic world, economic sector, social sector and registered auditors), instead of three last year. Each Jury member has evaluated in this first phase between 8 and 9 reports using the criteria specified

On the basis of this first assessment and after discussions and deliberations, the Jury members have short-listed the reports that achieved the organisations, two 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 read as such all 9 reports coming out of the first phase of the Jury process and re-evaluated them on the basis of the same criteria as those of the first phase, namely:

	REPORT	CONTENT	5 criteria	
1	PROFILE OF REPORTING ORGANISATION AND SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT			
	(INCLUDI	NG SUPPLY CHAIN)	10 %	
2	STAKEHO	LDER INCLUSIVENESS AND ENGAGEMENT	15 %	
3	MATERIALITY		10 %	
4	STRATEGY AND ANALYSIS		10 %	
5	GOVERN	ANCE, ETHICS & INTEGRITY	10 %	
			55 %	
	REPORT	QUALITY	6 criteria	
PRI	NCIPLE 1	BALANCE	5 %	
PRI	NCIPLE 2	RELIABILITY	5 %	
PRI	NCIPLE 3	CLARITY	5 %	
PRI	NCIPLE 4	COMPARABILITY	5 %	
PRI	NCIPLE 5	TIMELINESS	5 %	
PRI	NCIPLE 6	VERIFIABILITY	5 %	
			30 %	
OVERALL IMPRESSION 6 criter				
PRI	NCIPLE 1	BALANCE	15 %	
			15 %	

These principles were made public in the <u>Code of</u> Participation of the 2014 edition, available on the website: www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be. 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 were chosen.

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### Trends and evolutions in sustainability reporting and specific comments of the Jury

### Time for comparability

Comparison with peers or with the sector still needs to be improved for many organisations as gathering comparable data seems to be a difficult exercise, especially when starting to report. It requires time to pass and time to gather information.

Organization should select, compile and report information consistently. The reported information should be presented in a manner that enables stakeholders to analyse changes in the organization's performance over time, and that could support analysis relative to other organizations. Comparability is necessary for evaluating performance: to enable monitoring and benchmarking, organizations should aim for consistency in both the form and content of reporting over time. Stakeholders using the report should be able to compare information reported on economic, environmental and social performance against the organization's past performance, its objectives, and, to the degree possible, against the performance of other organizations.

The Jury appreciated the sector reports as the one from <u>Essenscia</u> and hopes that such sector report will be further used as a basis for sector comparison.

Transparency is on the rise: a growing importance of context and social aspects

Transparent sustainability reporting is at the core of <u>GRI</u>'s vision and mission.

Climate change and demographics are changing the fundamentals of our economy – we need to look forward and use different sets of information to support our decisions. Markets will be threatened by new factors and success measured against tomorrow's needs. The Jury would like to insist on the importance for organisations to mention the context they are facing, even if the report is based on a year before a problem arises. Some reports seem to be "good news shows". It is a difficult exercise to report on weaknesses but very useful as regard transparency. It is advised to mention, at least in the management statement, the context of the year when the report is published (eg. todays economical and competitive context with its impact on employment, environmental issues).

#### **Regulation versus voluntarism**

Sustainability reporting received recently a legal basis at European level. On 15 November the EU's Official Journal published a new directive/<sup>3</sup> enhancing the transparency of companies with 500 employees or more on social and environmental matters. Through a comply or explain approach, companies concerned are asked to disclose information on their activities in the following areas: environmental matters, social and employee-related aspects, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and bribery, and diversity policies. Transposition period of the EU directive into national law is due for 2016. The EU directive will become applicable to companies that fall under the scope in 2017.

The European Commission has also announced for 2014-2015 the development of non-binding guidelines on methodology for reporting nonfinancial information, including non-financial KPIs, general and sectorial, with a view to facilitate relevant, useful and comparable disclosure of non-financial information by EU undertakings. In doing so, the Commission shall consult relevant stakeholders.

3/ Directive 2014/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council. of 22 October 2014 amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards. disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups. A European Action Plan on Integrated Performance and Reporting for a European Hub and local capacity building has also been developed. Its mission is to equip those companies that have to comply with the EU directive with practical knowledge and tools to implement the EU directive and to contribute to the embedding of integrated performance through efficient management and reporting with a view to improve business performance and to comply with and aspire to go beyond legislation.

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The mandatory application of the EU directive is still in process. Although many frontrunners have cleared the path, an extra effort is needed to convince the majority to report on governance, social and environmental impact and non-financial performance.

As a result of this legislation, it is expected that the number of sustainability reports will increase in 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.





In Belgium, performance audit or reporting on performance is starting to grow in the public sector, even if not yet required by law. Large foundations and associations could also be required to report on their activities, which would be best completed by a performance analyses. This would enable large associations and foundations to communicate on the respect of the social objective of the association.

## 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.

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 separating financial from 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 <u>G4</u> <u>guidelines on sustainability reporting</u>, issued by the *Global Reporting Initiative* (GRI) in 2013 with an increased focus on the key sustainability issues, will help companies make steps towards integrated reporting. It is also the reason why the evaluation criteria have been adapted to evolve progressively toward G4 guidelines.

Other initiatives at global level aim at developing (reporting) standards in this area, like the <u>International Integrated Reporting Committee</u> (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 in all aspects 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 within or combined with the annual report. This strategic vision constitutes the essential foundation of a high quality sustainability report.

In that respect, the reports of <u>Argenta</u>, <u>Befimmo</u>, <u>Bopro</u>, <u>Dak Plus</u> and <u>Telenet</u> are good examples of reports integrated or combined with the annual report.

# Improved disclosures on materiality and governance – with GRI G4

<u>GRI G4 guidelines</u> launched in 2013 emphasises on materiality and focusses on stakeholder expectations (inform on "*what matters, where it matters*" but also "*for whom it matters*") and transparency on governance within organisations. Also for integrated reporting, improving materiality and disclosure on governance is essential.

The Jury noticed a real move towards this new trend in this year's Belgian sustainability reports.

Some good examples are the reports of <u>Antwerp</u> <u>World Diamond Centre</u> (with a strong description on how <u>AWDC</u> manages governance and compliance), <u>Argenta</u> (with an extended materiality matrix), <u>Befimmo</u> (with the real estate sector application), <u>Bopro, De Winning</u> (for its GRI G4 framework) <u>Telenet</u> (with a strong materiality matrix), and <u>Responsibly Fresh</u> (although their first sustainability report, covering all aspects of GRI G4 for the association).

Although not yet on GRI G4, following reports are also strong GRI reporting examples: the report of <u>Dak Plus</u> (first sustainability report written already in the spirit of G4) and of <u>Delhaize</u> (with a very good materiality scope).

One challenge is that the growth and sophistication of corporate sustainability reporting is limited, if not undermined, by the tools companies are using to gather the data. Those tools are in general rudimentary, even primitive, compared with those used for the financial reporting.



## Innovative formats: increased attractiveness or readability?

A growing number of reports have an online and even interactive format such as websites that are entirely dedicated to the subject (like the reports of **Delhaize, Essenscia** and **Janssen Pharmaceutica**), to make an easier-to-digest sustainability report. Some organisations have also developed very interesting links between their report (offline) and their website (online) as **Triodos**, however it should be clearly identified if both need to be consulted or not to have a complete view on the report of the year.

On a similar note, SMEs, NGOs and other organisations are showing themselves to be creative in times of economic difficulty, as they demonstrate how sustainability reporting can be both simple and creative when using a one page presentation (report of <u>De Kringwinkel Antwerpen</u>) or other format of presentation which motivates the reader to further read the report (e.g. the report of <u>Dak</u> <u>Plus</u>) or good visual, nice format with a lot of pictures (report of <u>Oxfam-Magasins du monde</u>). Some new dynamic way to get in touch with the stakeholders through videos was also used, making the report quite innovative (report of <u>Port of</u> <u>Antwerp</u>).

If some organisation went for the fully electronic, other went back to print/pdf report.





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The Jury appreciates these efforts towards modernisation but points out that the success of the sustainability reporting process relies more on content than on form and that it should be ensured that the web-based approach does not make it more difficult to get an overall view and to gather the relevant information. The Jury regrets that some organisation missed the opportunity of making a well-balanced, in-depth report, paying too much attention to nice presentation and as such being more a communication to citizens, a promotion, a PR brochure or a celebrity brochure and being only a good news show.

The main objective of the sustainability report must remain (as confirmed by the <u>G4 guidelines</u>) the presentation of clear and relevant information on how the enterprise focuses on the economic, social and environmental factors that are relevant to it. The organization should make information available in a manner that is understandable and easy accessible to stakeholders using the report. Information should be presented in a manner that is comprehensible to stakeholders who have a reasonable understanding of the organization and its activities. In this respect, it is important to properly identify in advance the target audience of the report and to assess if the financial and human investment for drafting such a report is appropriate in relation to the sector or size of the company or organisation.

### External assurance and harmonisation

As organisations are increasingly publishing sustainability reports, analysts expect that public and investor demand for external assurance of sustainability reports will grow. Independent assurance of sustainability disclosures can strengthen the objectivity and reliability of reporting organisations. The GRI encourages external assurance and there is evidence that investing in assurance is a wise decision since it enhances the credibility surrounding positive disclosures.

The Jury appreciates the (continued) commitment to obtain external assurance on at least part of the non-financial information (like the reports of e.g. **Befimmo, Delhaize, Port of Antwerp** and **Telenet**).

Though external assurance is not yet mandatory for sustainability reports, it is an important risk management exercise. As more and more companies issue reports and seek external experts to verify its reports, there might be an increased demand for comparability and alignment across reports. Today, there is already a movement towards harmonisation of reporting guidelines and standards. The GRI framework, for example, aligns with ISO 26000, the UN Global Compact and the <u>Carbon Disclosure Project</u>. Standardisation is absolutely essential as numerous and varying standards lead to confusion among the preparers and users of sustainability reports.

# More remarkable reports

The Jury would also like to make a special mention of the following "remarkable reports" as they also drew the attention of the Jury on certain other aspects not yet mentioned above:

- <u>Broederlijk Delen</u> for the good demonstration of the impact/effect of its programs;
- Brouwerijen Alken-Maes for the nice picture of the chain of responsibility and the clear focus on the important topics for the organisation from the brewery sector (materiality);
- Delta Lloyd Life for its very interesting explanation of the adaptation of the organisation strategy to the evolution, through the development of various scenario and its clear commitment on CSR reporting with clear description of projects and objectives;
- <u>Responsibly Fresh</u> for its first sustainability report that is very impressive, with a high involvement of its members; and
- Theuma for the good example on how a sustainability report must be established for an SME.



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### Winners

### Large organisations



Befimmo



Befimmo has been selected as the best sustainability report within the category "large organisations".

The Jury congratulates Befimmo on its very clear and complete report, that is moving towards a true integrated report. It applies GRI G4 already, with the real estate sector application. It addresses the different expectations of G4: mapping stakeholders per activity, clear objectives, very good materiality matrix, strong on governance, reliability of the data, balance between qualitative and quantitative data, clarity, financial impact of sustainable actions etc. The Jury also especially appreciated continuous improvement over the years. The Jury appreciated the nice graphics showing performance evolution, and the very good, detailed and useful appendices, notably about the action plan and the CSR program.

However, the Jury wants to emphasize that, given the length of the report, a clear summary would have made the reading easier. The Jury encourages Befimmo to provide an external benchmark with other companies of the sector and more information on long term strategy and future challenges of the sector. The Jury also recommends Befimmo to have an external verification every year instead of every two years, further enhancing its credibility and to integrate both shareholders and stakeholders in the same statement in order to broaden the external context.

The Jury wants to congratulate Befimmo on its "Best Belgian Sustainability Report" and on its exemplary role towards integrated sustainable development within the category "large organisations".

### Small and medium-sized enterprises



# bopro®



The Jury has recognised the report of **<u>Bopro</u>** as the best sustainability report within the category "small and medium-sized enterprises".

This second report at Belgian level shows a further improvement in comparison with the first one, which was already very good. It is a comprehensive, short, easy to read and to the point report. It contains an excellent materiality matrix and analysis, a good establishment and justification of main priorities and targets. Interactions with key stakeholders are well explained and stakeholder dialogue is strong. CSR is clearly embedded in company strategy and vision. The Jury appreciated the external verification of at least part of the information provided. According to the Jury, this report is a very good example of good GRI-4 report (index G4 clear, and clear links) and a very good combined report on the verge of becoming integrated.

The Jury encourages **Bopro** to involve more external stakeholders and to give more voices to stakeholders directly inside the report (by using quotations of interview for instance). The Jury recommends Bopro to improve transparency over its long term strategy and related goals.

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

http://www.befimmo.be/sites/default/files/ar13\_befimmo\_en.pdf





### Winners

### Image: NGOs



vredeseilanden



Vrodeeellanden vzu Jaarverslag 2013 The Jury has recognised <u>Vredeseilanden</u>'s report as the best sustainability report within the category "NGOS".

The Jury was impressed by this report, as it is easy to read and demonstrates strongly the impact of the organisation's programs. The Jury was indeed impressed by the way Vredeseilanden reported on how it spends the money received. According to the Jury, transparency towards the money given to them is a key point for NGO's as we are all "shareholders". The report shows a strong materiality and is the only NGO applying a GRI G3 B-level and covering GRI sector supplement.

The Jury encourages Vredeseilanden to pay more attention to stakeholders mapping and involvement and to get the environmental data for the offices in the South. The Jury believes that such information would enable Vredeseilanden to easily move to GRI G4.

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

### Other organisations



NTWERP WORLD

DIAMOND CENTR



The Jury selected <u>Antwerp World Diamond Centre</u> (AWDC) as winner of the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report within the category "Other organisations".

The Jury especially appreciated this first report, that is clear, well-structured and is a very good example of good GRI G4 report. Materiality is very well explained, it contains an excellent stakeholders consultation, it is very strong to show how governance and compliance are managed. The Jury was impressed by the fact that AWDC touches very sensitive issues in the sector in a very transparent way, recognizes its weaknesses and dare to enter in a risk analysis, with attention to the 5th C (compliance). The Jury found it a courageous report and an important signal that AWDC starts to communicate as the Jury is convinced that it will impact the sector.

However, the Jury advises AWDC to involve more external stakeholders, to gather more comparable data (in time and with peers), to clarify the structure of the report (i.e. to give an overall picture), to explain long term strategy and goals, to seek external assurance and to explain even further the environmental and social impact of the sector.

The Jury wants to congratulate Antwerp World Diamond Centre on its "Best Belgian Sustainability Report" within the category "Other organisations".



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### Concluding comments by the Jury

The ongoing participation in the Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report 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 maturity in sustainability reporting and others are on their way to establishing high quality reports.

The Jury believes that, even though this is a commendable effort, the report should be a true sustainability report that goes beyond a succinct statement on some limited aspects of social responsibility such as subjects relating to security or social factors.

The Jury would like to stress once again the growing development of integrated or combined reporting and is very pleased 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 organisations that reported on CSR in a separate / combined or integrated report for the first time this year:

- 👝 <u>Alterfin</u> 👘
- Antwerp World Diamond Centre
- BMA Ergonomics BE
- Carglass
- CERM-HR
- Dak Plus
- <u>De Winning</u>
- Delta Lloyd Life
- EANDIS
- ✓ Fost Plus
- Funds for Good
- CAB CAB
- 🥟 <u>King Belgium</u>
- <u>Responsibly Fresh</u>
- 🥭 <u>Theuma</u>
- 🥟 <u>Tomato Masters</u> 👘

The Jury hopes that other organisations will follow the path of these entities. The Jury is also pleased to note that reporting entities that develop a sustainability report are increasingly doing so in conformity with the GRI standards. 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:

- 🥟 sector comparison;
- (better) linking the management statement with the other parts of the report and the actual context of the entity;
- more transparent identification of and engagement with the key stakeholders (i.e. selection process, interaction and link with the issues addressed in the report);
- materiality assessment and transparency hereon.







Award for Best Belgian Sustainability Report

#### ORGANISER

Institute of Registered Auditors Stéphanie Quintart s.quintart@ibr-ire.be – www.ibr-ire.be

#### ONLINE INFORMATION ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

GRI-Global Reporting Standard Initiative www.globalreporting.org

AccountAbility – AA 1000 www.accountability.org

Duurzaamheidsverslaggeving www.duurzaamheidsverslaggeving.be

International Integrated Reporting Committee www.theiirc.org

More information of the Award and the participating reports can be found on: B.SustainabilityReport@IBR-IRE.BE www.bestbelgiansustainabilityreport.be



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