

Sustainable Development – UEPG showcases the best of daily practices in the European Aggregates Industry

Promoting good practice – Going beyond what is expected – Providing examples others can follow. With this motto, UEPG presented and celebrated 41 entrants at a prestigious Ceremony on 16 November in the Brussels Centre of Fine Arts showing that **aggregates producers are strongly committed to sustainable development.**

Opened by UEPG President **Jesús Ortiz**, followed by a key note speech from Rastislav Rybanič, the Director-General of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic currently holding the EU Council Presidency, the achievements of all the 41 companies were recognised by presenting each case and handing over the UEPG certificate. The 41 best examples of Europe are published in a [brochure available on the UEPG website](#).

Moderated by **Peter Woodward**, of Quest Associates, an independent company specialising in sustainable development programmes, the examples of excellence were presented for Environment, Social Progress, Economic contribution and achievements for Biodiversity.

The very difficult task for the independent Jury was to select the eight “Best of the Best”. Members of the UEPG Sustainable Development Awards 2016 Jury were **Angelo Caserta**, Regional Director, Birdlife Europe; **Dr Jonas Satkūnas**, Director of Lithuanian Geological Survey, EuroGeoSurveys; **Jean-Pierre Damm**, Vice-Chair of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee Extractive Industry – SSDCEI, industriAll (European Trade Union); **Sirpa Hertell**, Member of the Committee of the Regions and the Espoo Council in Finland; **Dr Robert Galler**, Head of the Institute for Subsurface Engineering, Montanuniversität Leoben and Chairman of ITA CET Steering Committee, International Tunnelling Association Communication Education Training.

The eight “**Best of the Best**” were:

Environmental best practice – Wopfinger Transportbeton, Austria; Nature Transformation Master Plan for Untersiebenbrunn Quarry

Restoration – Hanson Quarry Products Europe, UK; Middleton Quarry, Restoration to multiple uses

Local community partnership – Lafarge Granulats France; Consultation and convergence of local actions

Health & Safety best practice – FYM-HeidelbergCement, Spain; Quarry fall protection system

Economic contribution/added value to society – Kieswerk Maas Roeloff, Germany; Aqua Solar Village

Operational best practice, process or product innovation – FAMSA, Switzerland; Gravel that generates energy for 100 households

Best practice in innovation, recycling and manufactured aggregates – Promotora Mediterránea – PROMSA, Spain; ARIBLACK project on slag aggregates

Special Award for Biodiversity – Rudus part of CRH, Finland; Rudus Lumo Programme



Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats
Europäischer Gesteinsverband
European Aggregates Association



UEPG Sustainable
Development Awards

Nigel Jackson, UEPG Vice-President and CEO of the Mineral Products Association (MPA), described the European Aggregates Industry as the “great dynamo of the economy”, involving 15,000 companies, 25,000 operations, and the production of 2.7 billion tonnes of material a year, while also engaging with and employing 200,000 people. No other sector can get even close to these figures making the Aggregates Industry by far the biggest non-energy extractive sector supplying essential materials to our European Society.

UEPG launched the first European Restoration Award scheme in 1997. In 2005, UEPG enlarged the scope to include all facets of sustainable development, creating the current Sustainable Development Awards format promoting the spread of best practice that goes well beyond what is required by planners or regulators.

Facts & Figures:

Aggregates are sand, gravel and crushed rock and may be natural, manufactured or recycled. Natural aggregates are from mineral sources which have been subjected to nothing more than mechanical processing. Manufactured aggregates are of mineral origin resulting from an industrial process involving thermal or other modification. Recycled aggregates are resulting from the processing of inorganic material previously used in construction. Aggregates are used to construct Europe’s essential infrastructure including homes, roads, railways, schools and hospitals. More than 2.7 billion tonnes per year of aggregates are produced by 15,000 companies (the majority of which are SMEs) on 25,000 extraction sites, providing jobs for more than 200,000 direct and indirect employees. UEPG now represents national aggregates associations and producers in 29 European countries.