



Awards for Best Belgian  
Sustainability Reports

# Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports



Edition 2016



## Report of the Jury

29 November 2016



IBR-IRE



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## Introduction

The Institute of Registered Auditors (**IBR-IRE**) organises for the 18th time the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports (“the Awards”).

The Awards 2016 are organised with the support of the Federal Institute for Sustainable Development (**FIDO/IFDD**) and this year the event is hosted by ING group. The organiser would like to thank ING group for its hospitality 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), **MVO Vlaanderen**, 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) and the **Flemish network of enterprises** (VOKA) for their cooperation and ongoing support.

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 comment 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 2016 edition of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports rewards the best report in four distinct categories, i.e. the category “large companies”, the category “medium-sized companies”, the category “small companies” and the category “other organisations”, such as NGOs, universities and schools, socio-economic organisations and governmental institutions.

The goals of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports 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 the 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 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 take into consideration the other two 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 past 17 years, the following organisations have received an award for their efforts in sustainability reporting:

- ANTWERP WORLD DIAMON CENTRE (2014)
- ARCELOR (2003)
- BEFIMMO (2014)
- BELFIUS (2005)
- BAC (Brussels Airport Company) (2001)
- BNP PARIBAS FORTIS (2007)
- BOPRO (2012 and 2014)
- CAP CONSEIL (2015)
- C&A (2010 ex aequo)
- CBR (Heidelberg Cement) (1999)
- DE DUURZAME DRUKKER (2011)
- DELHAIZE GROUP (2009, 2011 and 2012)
- ELECTRABEL (Tihange) (2002)
- INDAVER (2002)
- KBC GROUP (2008)
- LOKALE POLITIE ZONE SINT-PIETERS-LEEUV (2013 ex aequo)
- OPNIEUW & CO (2011)
- PORT OF ANTWERP (2012)
- PROTOS (2013)
- PRO NATURA (2013 ex aequo and 2015)
- SIDMAR (2000 and 2003)
- SOLVAY (2013 and 2015)
- STRUIK FOODS BELGIUM/CHILLFIS (2013)
- TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE (2010 ex aequo)
- UMICORE (2001, 2006, 2008 and 2012)
- VOLVO CARS (1998)
- VREDESEILANDEN (2014)



## 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, as well as journalists and registered auditors. For the last few years now, the winners of the previous edition have also accepted to participate in the Jury for the next edition (as they are not allowed to participate in the next edition of the Awards) and have all mentioned the enriching formula of such a process in terms 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 Linde BREWAEYS, BRAND SENSE
- Mrs Karine CERRADA, LOUVAIN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, (UCL)
- Mr. Jo COBBAUT, FD MAGAZINE
- Mrs Marie d'HUART, CAP CONSEIL
- Mr. Harry EVERAERTS, IBR-IRE
- Mr. Christian FERDINAND, FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE FOR ECONOMY
- Mrs Deborah FISCHER, IBR-IRE
- Mr. David LEYSSENS, THE SHIFT
- Mr. Fernand MAILLARD, IBR-IRE
- Mr. Marc MICHILS, KOM OP TEGEN KANKER
- Mr. Serge PATYIN, ABAF/BVFA
- Mr. Herwig PEETERS, FORUM ETHIBEL
- Mr. Jean-Marie POSTIAUX, WWF BELGIUM
- Mrs Iris VAN DER VEKEN, 32BE
- Mr. Chris VAN DOORSLAER, CARTAMUNDI
- Mr. Gert VAN EECKHOUT, MVO VLAANDEREN
- Mr. Luc VAN LIEDEKERKE, ANTWERP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL
- Mr. Roland VAN MALDERGHEM, UNICEF
- Mr. Dieter VANDER BEKE, FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Mr. Michel WASHER, SOLVAY
- Mr. Ignace WILS, OLIVIA & JULIUS BVBA





## Participants & categories withheld

Consistent with last year's edition, 4 categories of organisations were withheld. The organizer has however decided to change the allocation of categories in order to:

- merge NGOs and others organisations;
- add a category between large organisations and the SMEs, allowing a category for very Large companies and for Small companies.

The new 4 categories were defined as:

- Large companies:** +250 employees
- Medium-sized companies:** 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 which case it will by default be categorized as a "large company".

- Small companies:** a company that does not exceed two of the three following criteria:
  - balance sheet total: EUR 4,500,000;
  - turnover: EUR 9,000,000;
  - average number of employees (full-time equivalents): 50;
 unless the company has more than 50 employees, in which case it will by default be categorized as a "medium-sized company".

- Other organisations:** include non-profit organisations (ASBL/VZW), international non-profit organisations (AISBL/IVZW) or foundations, which are based in Belgium and operate in or outside the Belgian territory, together with schools, federations, public sector, etc.

As there were not enough small companies to make a category (only one), the jury decided to reallocate this company into the Medium-sized company category which became the "Small and Medium-sized companies" category below.

The jury would like to thank all organisations and companies that participated in the 2016 edition of the Awards for Best Belgian Sustainability Reports.

## 29 LARGE COMPANIES


**9** SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED COMPANIES

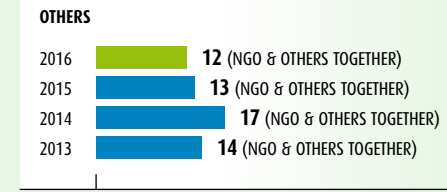
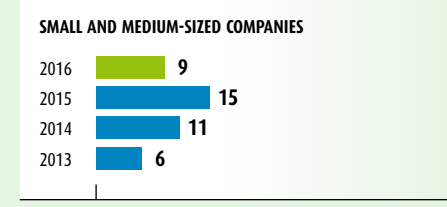
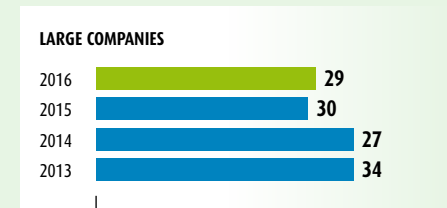


**12** OTHER ORGANISATIONS



The Jury noted a decrease in the number of participating reports (50) this year, particularly important in the category of Small and Medium-sized companies.

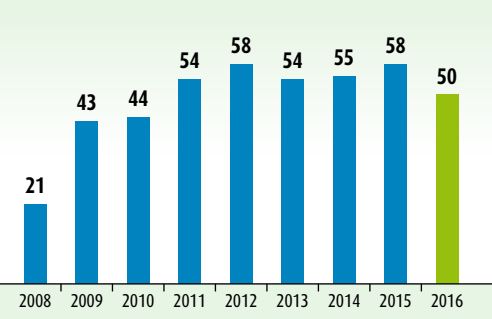
OVERVIEW IN TERMS OF CATEGORIES, ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS



This is partly due to the fact that more and more companies (especially the SMEs) decided to publish a report every two, three or even five years. Another reason is that the timing of the Awards (reports to be introduced by the end of August) does not always correspond to the timing of the finalisation of the sustainability reports (some companies have their report ready only in October-November). Eventually, 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.

Over the years, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Disclosure Database, that tracks sustainability reports submitted by companies, demonstrated also 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





## Selection process and criteria

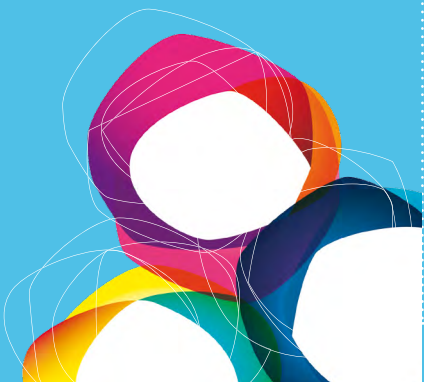
The Jury evaluates the reports received in two phases (which are described below) and uses evaluation criteria based on the [Global Reporting Initiative guidelines 4 \(GRI G4\)](#) as these are commonly accepted guidelines which provide for clear criteria and therefore for a strong basis for the Jury to deliberate on. As the new sustainability agenda for the period up to 2030 was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 in the form of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the voluntary guidance for the Jury members in view of the selection criteria has been modified to take them into account. The impact of the SDGs has been included in the Sustainability Context and Strategy and in the Completeness sections of the voluntary guidance of the Report content criteria (for more information, see the [criteria and voluntary guidelines for the Jury members](#)).

The 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 and for a few years now, the evaluation of the reports was once again conducted in two phases.

The large number of Jury members (25 this year), allows to keep objectivity in the process: during the first phase, the 50 reports received were distributed among the Jury members, so that 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 7 to 8 reports in this first phase 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 (five Large organisations, one Small and Medium-sized company and four Other organisations). As already mentioned, there were not enough Small companies to make a category (only one) so that the Jury decided to reallocate the company into the Medium-sized category which became a Small and Medium-sized company category.



During the second phase, the Jury members read as such all 10 reports coming out of the first phase of the Jury process and 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		15 %

These principles are made public in the [Code of Participation](#) of the 2016 edition, available on the website: [www.sustainabilityreports.be](http://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 were chosen. With only three categories left, the Jury however choose only two winners (within the category "Large companies" and "Other organisations"), and no winner has been elected in the category "Small and Medium-sized companies" as the jury considered that a further growth in reporting maturity is advisable within this category.



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

## An honest view on the whole organisation, with clear linkage to the Sustainability Development Goals

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

A special focus was also made this year on how organisations can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 for building a better world by 2030. The 17 goals adopted cover very varied themes, such as climate change, health, employment, innovation, and even the development of transparent institutions and justice for everyone. For the sake of clarity they are divided into 5 groups: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships.

In the evaluation, the Jury was invited to take into account for the highest quotation the reports where sustainability context and strategy on sustainability are included in the report and are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals. Top performers articulate a broader understanding of the sustainability impacts of their operations as well as impacts up and down their value chain.

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 organisation 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 organisation) fails to respond to this underlying question. Reports should therefore seek to present performance in relation to broader concepts of sustainability. Organizations should identify the risks and opportunities in developing the long-term business strategy based upon their analysis of the sustainability mega trends (e.g. climate change & resource scarcity, demographics & social change, accelerating urbanisation, shift in global economic power and technological breakthroughs). Moreover, it is advised to mention, at least in the management statement, the context of the year when the report is published (e.g. today's economic and competitive context with its impact on employment and environmental issues).



## Frequency on the edge of timeliness?

According to the Jury, the following organisations have well described the sustainability context, made clear links to the SDGs and included targets: [Alpro](#), [essenscia](#), [Protos](#), [Recticel](#), [UCB](#) and [Vanheede Environment Group](#).

Other reports contained a clear reference to the SDGs, as for example the reports of [Ikea Belgium](#), [Theuma](#) and [Vanden Broele Group](#).

Some reports seem to be “good news show” rather than a balanced sustainability report, which complicates the assessment of real sustainability performance. The Jury would expect more balance in the information provided and would also like to read the bad news, besides the good news, and what are the applied or projected solutions or remedies. Celebrate success, but don't gloss over negative impacts – instead explain how improvements will be made.

Appreciated reports for their honesty on positive and negative issues/facts were the reports of [essenscia](#), [Recticel](#) and [Umicore](#).

According to GRI G4, the organisation should report on a regular schedule so that information is available in time for stakeholders to make informed decisions. The usefulness of information is closely tied to whether the timing of its disclosure to stakeholders enables them to effectively integrate it into their decision-making. The timing of release refers both to the regularity of reporting as well as to its proximity to the actual events described in the report.

Timeliness was the second best criteria evaluated in average by the Jury members in the first round and as mentioned above, stating of the context of the year when the report is published is important. The Jury found it quite difficult to assess reports with facts and figures quite outdated, and as more and more companies, especially SMEs, decide to publish their sustainability report every two, three or even five years, up-to-date information will become even more important. It is also important to clearly identify in the report when it was published.

The Jury appreciated in particular the efforts of [Umicore](#), [Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen](#) and [UCB](#).



## Benchmarking to sector and peers for more transparency

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

As mentioned each year for a few years now, 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 information reported should be presented in a manner that enables stakeholders to analyse changes in the organisation's economic, environmental and social performance over time, and that could support analysis relative to other organisations.

Good examples are the report of Umicore for its comparison on the targets and result and Vanheede Environment Group which includes the impacts of their activities with comparisons to previous years.

The Jury would also like to mention the sector reports as the one from essenscia which includes a comparison with the sector and Belgian data and hopes that such sector reports will be further used as a basis for sector comparison.

## Governance and ethics, still to improve

Like last year, 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 organisation's purpose, and how this purpose relates to all dimensions, whether economic, environmental or social.

The Jury therefore strongly advises organisations to describe in more detail their values, principles, standards and norms and internal and external mechanisms for seeking advice on ethical and lawful behaviour.

Good examples on governance this year are to be found in the reports of Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen, Recticel, Rosy Blue and Umicore.

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

Fully in line with the GRI G4 guidelines, the criteria focus on materiality (inform on "what matters, where it matters"), including the supply chain, and stakeholders' involvement. Also for integrated reporting, improving transparency on materiality and applying this concept in a rigorous way is key.

The Jury encourages organisations not only to mention a stakeholders' engagement but also to organise a feedback. Stakeholders' engagement was indeed the third weakest criteria in the first round.

The Jury is pleased to mention some good examples as the reports of EDF Luminus (for clear materiality matrix challenged by stakeholders' engagement), Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen (for its complex stakeholders' mapping and materiality process description and for the involvement of the stakeholders right from the start), Protos (for its well-explained stakeholders' engagement and materiality exercises), Recticel (for its good stakeholder engagement, via interviews notably), Rosy Blue (for its detailed materiality process and stakeholders' engagement and for the exercise of mapping the supply chain and the expression of the challenges of the diamonds tracking) and Umicore (for its good description of its stakeholders).

## Innovation in lay-out as long as readable

The Jury welcomes the innovation in the lay-out of reports as many reports are online or even in the format of a website entirely dedicated to the subject. It makes it often more user-friendly, with sometimes good videos and explanations or other interaction possibilities.

The Jury appreciated in particular the very dynamic reports of Graphius, the interactive presentation of essenscia, Vanden Broele Group and Rosy Blue.

Other reports are well structured and clearly presented with a lot of well-chosen pictures which motivates the reader to further read the reports (e.g. the reports of Protos and Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde van Antwerpen).

Nice to read report were also the reports of, for instance, Carglass, King Belgium and Theuma.

The Jury was pleased that clarity was one of the criteria scoring highest on average in the first round and second round. According to GRI G4, clarity means that the organisation 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 organisation's performance.

The Jury also noticed a trend towards shorter reports and highly appreciated this evolution.

The Jury was really pleased to see that the exercise of drafting a clear and concise sustainability report was successful for a small organisation as Mydibel. Other very clear reports are the ones of Protos and Rosy Blue.





## Enhancing the credibility and reliability of non-financial information: external assurance

The criteria on reliability has been assessed in average better than last year by the Jury and is no longer anymore amongst the weakest average criteria: more than the half of the large entities entering in the Awards competition obtained external assurance on (a part of) their sustainability report (last year it was only one third). According to GRI G4, the organisation should gather, record, compile, analyse and disclose information and processes used in preparing of a report in a way that they can be subject to examination and that establishes the quality and materiality of the information. Including of a verification statement is an important aspect of report credibility and confidence of the stakeholders in the veracity of its content.

Reference to independent studies, external benchmarking and independent assurance is essential to enhance the credibility of non-financial information.

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 that they understand what the verification exactly means (scope and level of assurance).

The Jury appreciates the (continued) commitment to obtain external assurance with clear indication of the scope and level of assurance by **Umicore** and **UCB**.

## Regulation of non-financial information soon into force in Belgium

A draft legislation implementing the EU Directive of 2014 on disclosure of non-financial information and diversity information in the annual report ("NFI Directive") in Belgium is currently under approval. This new legislation will impact 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 directors.

The time limit to implement the NFI Directive is 6 December 2016 and the national legislation will apply to the financial year starting on 1 January 2017 or during that same calendar year.

As a result of this legislation, it can be expected that the number of 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. This new legislation will also impact other organisations, even if not directly concerned.

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) in 2015. The Jury especially appreciated efforts made by the Federal Council for Sustainability (FRDO/CFDD) to apply for the Awards for the second time and second year. The other institutions which participated last year have mentioned their will to report every two or three years. The Jury encourages them and the other public institutions in doing so.



## Slow but steady progression from combined to integrated reporting

The implementation of the NFI Directive in Belgium will apparently leave the possibility to the very large companies concerned to combine or integrate their reports.

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 the financial results or information in the report. This implies that the majority of reports is still more "combined" than "integrated", although also here a move towards more integration is certainly noted.

Internationally, integrated reports are no longer the exception but have become a more widely - accepted benchmark of top-quality reporting and many organisations are demonstrating their journey towards integrated thinking.

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 apply the G4 guidelines as criteria for the Jury.

The Jury is pleased to announce that 82 % of the reports introduced this year are based on GRI, amongst which 97 % 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.

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 shortlisted reports of **Telenet** and **Umicore** are good examples of reports integrated or combined with the annual report, at the Belgian level.





## Main Sustainable Development Goals referred to in the reports or mentioned by participating organisations

The organiser of the Awards wanted to know which top 3 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 were the most relevant for the participating organisations and why.

According to the responses, the organisation's main SDGs are as follows:



*"We are striving for a more sustainable food system with the aim of preserving the world's ecosystems and services for future generations. Throughout many programs we share information and raise awareness on responsible, plant-based food consumption to a wide audience of consumers, policy makers and businesses."* **Alpro**

*"We always invest in high-tech equipment to produce more efficiently and more sustainably. Graphius was one of the very first to start with a press that prints entirely alcohol-free."* **Graphius**

*"We test new potato varieties and use eco-agronomy."* **Mydibel**



*"We implemented tools to understand the environmental footprint of our products and activities (e.g. LCA, GHG emission). We steer upon innovation to address resource scarcity."* **Ontex**

*"Together with our stakeholders we seek new solutions to lower the consumption of raw materials in production processes. We maximise the re-usability of products and raw materials and minimise value destruction in the future."* **Vanheede Environment Group**

*"Our ultimate goal is to contribute to feeding the growing world population, without burdening our planet. We work with all actors in the food chain (from farmers, over wholesalers, processors and retailers, to consumers) to support them in their role in order to achieve this goal."* **Vredeseilanden**



*"The fact that we started measuring Barco's environmental footprint two years ago and our annual submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project demonstrate our intention to reduce our impact on the environment and our climate."* **Barco**

*"By signing the COP21 engagement letter, we commit to take voluntary action to reduce environmental and carbon footprints. We implement this by setting targets to reduce our current own GHG emissions and/or energy consumption, while also collaborating in supply chains and at sectorial levels."* **Befimmo**

*"bpost has set its voluntary CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target to -45% by 2020."* **bpost**

*"Cofinimmo aims to improve the average consumption of its buildings, and will increase its efforts in this direction, in full collaboration with its tenants."* **Cofinimmo**

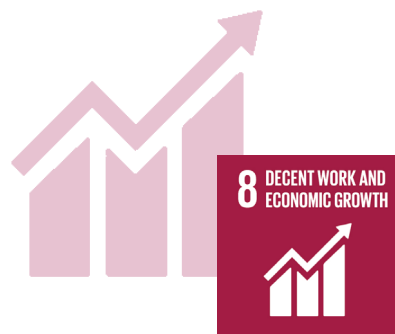


*"All our products facilitate urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."* **Rockwool**

*"At Telenet we are taking our responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment by reducing our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions throughout the value chain, by recycling our electronic devices and by taking actions to substantially reduce the electricity consumption at the customer's homes. Thanks to these efforts and to investments in CO<sub>2</sub> compensation, we have reached our goal of climate neutral operations in 2015."* **Telenet**

*"Historically Triodos Bank financed renewable energy long before other banks did and has never stopped since."* **Triodos**





**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

"We are busy with a program called "healthy growth" and we believe in the exchange between organisations and our talents." **Argenta**

"We are active in employment and training of people who have difficulties in finding a transition to the labour market." **De Winning**

"Much of the products we sell, in all countries, are locally-sourced; we work with many SME suppliers to bring innovative products to our stores and to promote sustainable consumption and production. In addition, we provide job opportunities to young people in our countries, including programs to employ people with disabilities." **Delhaize**

"Indicators illustrate that working in the sector of chemicals, life science and plastics is much safer than average in the Belgian industry, thanks to the continuous investment in process safety and in on-the-job training." **essenscia**

"Our Vision 2015 strategy including ambitious sustainability targets articulated around three main themes of eco-efficiency, making Umicore a great place to work and stakeholder engagement, that we could achieve for most of them." **Umicore**



**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

"We understand that diet and calorie intake, including calories in our products can have an impact on health and wellbeing. We will play our part by reducing calories across our portfolio in Belgium and Luxembourg by 10% between 2012 and 2020". **Coca-Cola**

"Around 80 % of our employees are motivated and 70% feel concerned by the organisation." **Theuma**



**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**



"We organized in 2015 an annual forum on cities in transition where a movie about local climate initiatives was shown." **Conseil Fédéral du Développement Durable/Federale Raad voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling (FRDO/CFDD)**

"EDF Luminus has already signed several partnership agreements with cities working to reduce their ecological footprint. Services proposed include energy efficiency, e-mobility, improvement of public lighting, etc." **EDF Luminus**

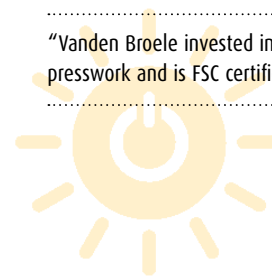


**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**

"EDF Luminus intends to invest 600 million euros from 2015 to 2018, primarily in renewable energy and in energy efficiency services. EDF Luminus is already the number 1 in onshore wind energy in Belgium." **EDF Luminus**

"One of our global goals is to produce as much renewable energy as the energy we consume by August 2020. Every IKEA Building in Belgium uses solar panels on the roof. The solar energy we produce is mostly used in our buildings." **Ikea Belgium**

"Vanden Broele invested in various CO<sup>2</sup> neutral presswork and is FSC certified." **Vanden Broele**



**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

"Almost 900 companies are active in the Port of Antwerp. Therefore as international leading Industrial, logistic and maritime cluster, goal 9 is directly linked to the core activities of the Port of Antwerp." **Port of Antwerp**



## Winners & Finalists

### ① Large companies



Winner

**Cofinimmo**  
together in real estate



*Cofinimmo has been selected as the best sustainability report within the category "large companies".*

The Jury found the report of **Cofinimmo** very well structured and clearly presented. Cofinimmo provides for a good example of interactive website (with video) and pdf presentation (for instance key performance indicators are reported on the website). The Jury especially appreciated the materiality matrix (mention of which topics have become more important since 2014, which less and why they are or not covered in the report) and the thorough discussion of the stakeholders (detailed description of the stakeholders, their expectations and how Cofinimmo provides an answer). Objectives are well-defined. The report sets clear ambitions and contains an extensive explanation of the context in the words of the CEO, with clear explanations of each committee's governance structure and responsibilities. The influence in the value chain is shared with the audience in a transparent way. The Jury also appreciates the continued commitment to obtain external assurance.

However, the Jury encourages Cofinimmo to clarify the comparison with peers and include its weaker points and the road blocks (not only positive points). The Jury regrets that targets are mostly qualitative and lack of performance. Concerning ethics and governance, the Jury would have liked to see a description of whistleblowing measures, board evaluation and evidence of the Board involvement in sustainability matters.

The Jury wants to congratulate Cofinimmo on its "Best Belgian Sustainability Report" and on its exemplary role in terms of materiality within the category "large companies".

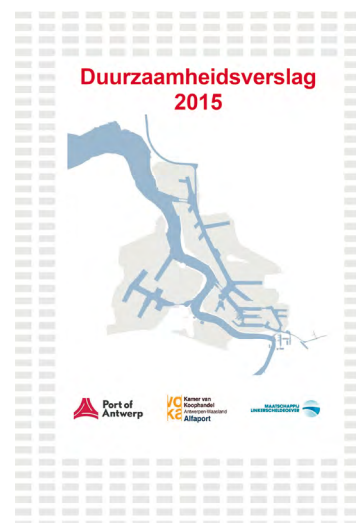
[http://www.sustainabilityreports.be/sites/default/files/reports/cof\\_3828-002\\_rapport\\_csr\\_2015-en.pdf](http://www.sustainabilityreports.be/sites/default/files/reports/cof_3828-002_rapport_csr_2015-en.pdf)

### ② Other organisations



Winner

**Port of Antwerp**



*Every year, the reports of this category are a matter of debate for the Jury since they pursue different objectives. The Jury recognises this difficulty.*

The Jury considers the **Port of Antwerp's** report as an impressive sectorial report, which provides for a transparent reporting process and a good overview of the materiality process with materiality matrix. The Jury appreciates the clear description of the stakeholders' dialogue, combined with actions that Port of Antwerp takes to satisfy the stakeholders. The report does already make a first bridge towards the SDGs. Moreover everything is backed up with data and the report contains an impressive number of accurate indicators.

However, the Jury encourages the Port of Antwerp to clarify for who the report is meant (audience), to identify clear ambitions and to explain the target of a port in terms of sustainability. The Jury would have liked to see information on governance, ethics and integrity and to read more balanced information (not only positive). The Jury encourages the Port of Antwerp to better select key material topics (only what matters) and to provide an executive summary to enhance the accessibility of the report.

The Jury wants to congratulate Port of Antwerp for its report as winner within the category 'other organisations' and for its role as a federation in encouraging other companies into sustainability.

[http://www.sustainabilityreports.be/sites/default/files/reports/duurzaamheidsverslag\\_2015.pdf](http://www.sustainabilityreports.be/sites/default/files/reports/duurzaamheidsverslag_2015.pdf)

#### Small and medium-sized companies

The Jury decided not to nominate a winner in this category; however the Jury is confident that if these companies further mature in sustainability reporting and take actions in line with the recommendations from the Jury listed in the trends above they will achieve the threshold to become a winner in this category in the short term.

## 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, even if reports come out only every two or three years or in a timing which makes it difficult to participate every year.

Even if [Triodos](#) and [Rockwool](#) were out of the scope as from the first round (no sufficient reporting on the Belgian activities), the Jury found their reports very inspiring and would like to encourage organisations to have a look at what our neighbours do. As for Rockwool, it is unique that a company measures the social impact so highly. The Belgian standards for social impact measurement are far behind in comparison with other European countries. As for Triodos this nice report contained nice graphics with impact numbers.

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 efforts of a large majority of 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 and of efforts made, 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,
- 🍃 balancing the information provided to avoid to good news show, and
- 🍃 transparency on the full value chain of the organisation.



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

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 9 organisations that entered in the Awards competition for the first time this year:

- 🍃 [Ardo](#)
- 🍃 [Barco](#)
- 🍃 [Compaan](#)
- 🍃 [E. VAN WINGEN](#)
- 🍃 [Infrabel](#)
- 🍃 [Graphius](#)
- 🍃 [Modulyss](#)
- 🍃 [Mydibel](#)
- 🍃 [Recticel](#)

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





Awards for Best Belgian  
Sustainability Reports

**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  
(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 following website,  
a unique database on Belgian sustainability reports:

**[www.sustainabilityreports.be](http://www.sustainabilityreports.be)**



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