

Competition and call for projects on

Best practice award Pan-European Children's Environment and Health

The Government of Austria generously invites groups involved in promoting children's environmental health in Europe to participate in a contest of best project activities. The objective is to bring attention to some of the excellent projects that are helping to reduce the harm to children from environmental hazards, such as unsafe water, polluted air, injuries and chemicals. A fifth award will go to the best project managed by young people.

Prizes: Five awards of 1,000 Euros each will be made during the Vienna Intergovernmental Mid Term Review Conference, 11-15 June 2007, hosted by the Austrian government and held under the auspices of the World Health Organization. Fifteen entrants will be selected and invited to attend the meeting to present their work and to participate in various promotional activities. The travel and expenses of these 15 entrants will be paid by the organizers.

Eligibility: Those who are eligible to take part in this contest include European, national and local non-governmental and governmental organizations, including youth groups, professional associations, trade unions and local authorities. The activity should be either already completed or in current operation.

Contest categories: The "best practice" project should focus on one of the four "Regional Priority Goals" of the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) or represent an example of youth participation in promoting children's environment and health.

RPG I: Water and sanitation	Gastrointestinal diseases – Improve drinking water and sanitary conditions for European children.
RPG II: Accidents and injuries	Accidents, injuries, trauma, obesity – Work for a better and healthier physical, or "constructed environment" for our children.
RPG III: indoor and outdoor air pollution	Respiratory Health – Ensure cleaner indoor and outdoor air for our children.
RPG IV: chemicals	Intoxication and chronic disease – Prevent and reduce chemical and physical hazards that endanger the life and health of European children.
Youth participation	Cooperation across generations – Involve the younger generation in the Environment & Health Process in Europe.

Selection criteria: Projects will be scored 0 (inadequate) to 5 (excellent) on the basis of:

- **Relevance:** how well the project relates to children's environment & health in Europe
- **Concrete outcomes:** how the project demonstrates tangible benefits to children's environment & health
- **Information & awareness raising:** how the project has contributed to inform and raise awareness on children's environment and health

*For more information, please contact Marta Koltay at the
Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL) secretariat : E-mail : marta@env-health.org;
Tel : +32 2 234 3647; 28 Blvd Charlemagne, 1000 Brussels, Belgium*

- **Partnership/Multi-sectoral approach:** how well the project has been able to involve other groups or bodies and other sectors
- **Transferability:** whether the project could be “scaled up” (extended) or replicated (copied) in other countries
- **Originality:** whether the project is novel and innovative
- **Cost-effectiveness** of the project

The best project in each of the five categories will be awarded a prize of 1,000 Euros during the opening ceremony of the Intergovernmental Mid Term Review Conference in the presence of the European Environment Commissioner and other health and environment ministers. All of the 15 successful project partners will also be asked to participate in various media work and on the NGO CEHAPE website. The top five project winners may be asked to participate in a press conference.

Arrangements: A jury composed of international experts from the health and environment sectors will first select the top three projects in the following five categories for a total of 15 projects, and the top five award winning projects to be announced in Vienna on 13 June.

Important Dates:

Friday, 11 May: The names of the top 15 entrants will be announced through electronic communication (email message) or fax. These 15 successful entrants will then be required to provide additional material for the preparation of a poster and power point. They will also be invited to attend the Vienna Intergovernmental Mid Term Review Conference, 11-15 June.

Friday, 25 May: Deadline for submission of additional material from the 15 projects.

Monday, 11 June (in Vienna): The 15 entrants will be asked to present their project at an NGO side event of the Conference. The jury will then select the top project in each category.

Wednesday 13 June: Award ceremony and press conference in Vienna.

Conditions: Submission of the project report must be received by Friday, 27 April 2007 (to marta@env-health.org). The application form can be obtained from HEAL's website or by contacting the HEAL secretariat.

The applicant must be available to participate in the Vienna IMR and preparatory meetings (11th to 15th June 2007). If selected among the 15 short-listed candidates, he or she will be asked to prepare a project poster (roll-up) and power point presentation.

Award organizers and sponsorship: The contest and award for best practice in Pan-European Children's Environment and Health has been developed jointly by ISDE Austria, Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL), Eco-Forum and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF).

The financial support for the organization of the competition, prizes and accommodation of the prize winners has been provided by the Austrian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Water Management and Environment. The coordination has been provided by the HEAL secretariat with the financial support of DG Environment, the European Commission.

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Health & Environment Alliance (HEAL) secretariat : E-mail : marta@env-health.org;
Tel : +32 2 234 3647; 28 Blvd Charlemagne, 1000 Brussels, Belgium**