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**Brighton and Hove, Gijon and Ljubljana
award winners of EURO CITIES 2013**

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The cities of Brighton and Hove, Gijon and Ljubljana have won the EURO CITIES 2013 awards. The awards took place last night in Ghent to reward cities for their efforts in developing smart cities and engaging with smart citizens. The awards are part of the EURO CITIES annual conference which is taking place in the Belgian city on 27-29 November.

Freya van den Bossche, Flemish Minister for Cities, Housing, Energy and the Social Economy, presented the awards to the winners and said:

“The truly smart city is one that works with its citizens to improve quality of life. The many, impressive entries for this year’s awards have shown us that that this is happening here and now in cities all over Europe. I hope that the examples of Brighton and Hove, Gijon and Ljubljana will inspire all other cities to keep on developing even more innovative ways of engaging with their citizens.”

Gijon, Brighton and Hove and Ljubljana won in three separate categories:

Gijon (in smart governance): Citizen Card

Gijon’s Citizen Card is an access and payment card that holds the key to a wide range of services across the city. Developed in 2002, the scope of the card has continued to grow and it now provides cardholders with access to anything from electric vehicle sharing and public toilets to libraries and sports facilities. Today, 80% of Gijon’s population holds a Citizen Card.

Brighton and Hove (in smart jobs): Brighton Employability Advice and Careers Hut (BEACH)

BEACH is the go-to website for young people looking for employability advice in Brighton & Hove. The city brought together a group of school students to discuss employability skills and employers’ expectations. The students spoke to potential employers around Brighton & Hove to explore employment opportunities. The result is a collection of film clips, advice and information available on the BEACH website, which is targeted at students but which is also used by parents and teachers.

Ljubljana (in smart living): Providing safe & equal opportunities in traffic for children & people with disabilities

Ljubljana has been working with schoolchildren, parents, and disabled citizens to make travelling around the city easier, safer and more convenient. For schoolchildren, the city developed a web portal mapping transport options to different schools and identifying danger hotspots to help plan journeys. Ljubljana has developed a range of services to help citizens with disabilities travel by public transport, including a change in legislation and providing drivers with special training.

EURO CITIES members submitted 27 projects for this year’s awards. Entries were judged by an independent jury comprising one representative each from the EU institutions,

academia, the non-governmental sector, the media and the conference host city.

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Notes to editors:

- EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities towards the European institutions. We network the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries (www.eurocities2013.eu).
- For more information on the award winners
Gijon: <http://en.gijon.es/page/8519-citizen-card>
Brighton and Hove: www.brightonandhovejobs.com/beach
Ljubljana: www.civitas-initiative.org/index.php?id=66&sel_menu=35&city_id=87
- EUROCITIES awards: <http://bit.ly/1cs1pUu>
- EUROCITIES 2013 annual conference in Ghent: <http://www.eurocities2013.eu/>
- EUROCITIES on Twitter: @EUROCITIESweet
- EUROCITIES 2013 on Twitter: @eurocitiesghent
- The hashtag for this event is #eurocitiesghent