

## THE WINNERS OF THE NATURA 2000 EDITION 2024 ANNOUNCED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



On the 10-year anniversary of the Natura 2000 Award, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, and high-level jury members [announced the winners of the 2024 edition of the Natura 2000 Awards](#). The six winners include initiatives from Estonia, Italy, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain.

The high-level Jury chose the winner for each of the five categories, and the winner of the European Citizens' Award was chosen by the public. The European Natura 2000 Award rewards excellence in the management of [Natura 2000](#) sites, and showcases the network's added value of conserving nature for local communities and economies across the European Union.



[The winners of the 2024 edition of the Natura 2000 Award have been the following practices](#)

2024 edition - Citizens' Award Winner  
[Best practices for the conservation and management of the black stork in Poland](#), a project that implemented an impressive series of actions to improve the protection of the black stork.



2024 edition - Conservation on land - Winner  
[Conserving and restoring mire habitats in Estonia](#), which achieved the restoration of natural water conditions over nearly 8,000 hectares of mires



2024 edition - Communication - Winner

[From the woods to the web and back: communicating to promote community engagement and citizen science in Northern Italy](#), protecting the Natura 2000 'Boschi di Muzzana' site, through communications and community action.



2024 edition – Working together for nature – Winner

[Ground-breaking agri-environment payment scheme for farmers in Natura 2000 areas in Ireland](#), an extremely convincing demonstration of how farmers can be paid fairly and effectively to protect Natura 2000 sites and habitats.



2024 edition - Marine conservation - Winner

[Reforestation of the sea: conservation and restoration of "blue forests" in the Sado Estuary, Portugal](#), engaging the local fishing community, decision-makers and scientists in conserving and restoring threatened seagrass meadows.



2024 edition - Cross-border cooperation - Winner

[Grazing to preserve Natura 2000 habitats and species: a Pyrenees example from France and Spain](#), this initiative has built capacity amongst local authorities and directly restored 1,670 hectares of mountain grassland areas.



The Natura 2000 network means a commitment to nature, with over 27 000 land and marine protected sites across Europe. The Natura 2000 Award has been won by 108 organisations and partnerships since the Award's launch in 2014, involving 620 applicants and 171 finalists from across the European Union. The

[Natura 2000](#) network protects a wide array of threatened habitats and species across the European Union. The people and organisations protecting and managing the network deserve to be recognised for their efforts. The Natura 2000 Award was launched with this aim: to celebrate these Natura 2000 heroes and bring them into the spotlight.



In the 10 years the Natura 2000 Award, including this edition, have seen exceptional commitment of public authorities, stakeholders and local communities to ensure the network continues to flourish and provide vital ecosystem services for future generations.

**To know more**

[News Announcement winners Natura 2000 Award](#)

[2024 winners of Natura 2000 Award](#)

[Meet the Natura 2000 heroes](#)

[More information Natura 2000 Award 2024](#)

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