

PRESS RELEASE

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Ukrainian bursary winner completes project with help of LivCom Awards

A project to help create a safer, friendlier environment for future generations in the town of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, has been completed thanks to the support of a bursary from the LivCom Awards.

The town in the Carpathian Mountains landed the £10,000 bursary award at LivCom 2010 held in Chicago, USA. Delegates from the Ivano-Frankivsk impressed judges with their energy and approach in dealing with their town's problems as well as the scope of their project which aimed to help revive the fortunes of a community which had been once at the centre of the Soviet Union's defence industry.

The project aimed to engage school children, teachers and parents in a waste recycling scheme with the slogan 'Just Count To Three' covering the three categories of waste materials to be sorted, paper, plastics and glass.

As well as producing a short film with the help of Halychyna, the local TV channel and leaflets, the project co-ordinators called on two local theatres for support in showing the film to audiences. School pupils were then invited to take part in a competition to create stories around waste and to highlight the experiences of their parents in respecting and caring for the natural world.

LivCom Chief Executive Alan Smith said: “One of the key LivCom Awards criteria looks at finalists’ focus on involving and empowering the community. This was at the heart of this busary project by the team from Ivano-Frankivsk. The dedication, will and drive they showed to overcome their community’s problems was truly humbling and they were worthy recipients of this award.”

The city of Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, is set to play host the 2012 finals of the International Awards for Liveable Communities (22nd-26th November).

At the awards finals, which have been held every year since 1997, judges evaluate the approach to individual criteria for sustainable development – enhancement of the landscape, heritage management, environmentally-sensitive practices, community sustainability and planning for the future.

The finals, which see representatives of the various towns and cities make their case to an international jury, last for five days, culminating in an awards ceremony. The closing date for entries to the 2012 finals is 31st May.