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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **New countries among entries for International Awards for Liveable Communities Finals 2013**

#### **Two new countries join potential finalists for the 2013 International Awards for Liveable Communities.**

**Organisers have confirmed that they have received entries from cities in Macedonia and Indonesia among the potential participants for this year's finals set to take place in China.**

Last year, countries with cities qualifying for the finals included Spain, Belgium, Moldova, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Italy, Finland, France, Poland, Turkey, China, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Jordan, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Brazil, Mozambique and South Africa.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Finals of the 2012 LivCom Awards held in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, UAE, saw the coming together of representatives of more than 60 cities from around the globe.

Finalists were involved in over 100 presentations demonstrating examples of and extending the boundaries of International Best Practice in respect of the local environment.

Now in their 17<sup>th</sup> year, the prestigious LivCom International Awards are devoted to championing and rewarding sustainable development, quality of life and environmental best practice in communities around the world.

The 2013 finals are set to take place in Xiamen, China, 28 November- 2 December.

Alan Smith, Chief Executive and founder of LivCom said: “In each year since LivCom was founded, new countries have joined us at the finals. The continued growth of the event, both as an Awards ceremony and a major learning experience, is a testimony to the importance of the issues covered and the benefits gained by participating communities.

“Finalists quickly appreciate that the challenges that they face are not unique but are the same, or similar to those faced by other communities in other countries and cultures.”

**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 2013 finals is 31<sup>st</sup> May.