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## “Halage” wins Land and Soil Management Award 2024

Brussels, March 26, Adrien Rogissart from the French project “Halage” has been honored as the winner of the prestigious Land and Soil Management Award 2024. The award was presented during the Gala Dinner of the Forum for the Future of Agriculture held on March 26, under the chairmanship of Prof. Martin H. Gerzabek, President of the Jury.

Since 2008, the Land and Soil Management Award has recognized and rewarded outstanding projects in the areas of land use and soil management practices mitigating soil threats such as soil degradation, erosion, reduction of organic matter content, diffuse contamination, compaction, and the reduction of soil biodiversity and salinization, sealing, flooding and landslides.

["Halage"](#) was celebrated for its remarkable contributions to soil health and biodiversity through innovative practices. Operating within L'Île-Saint-Denis, the sole urban river island city in France, "Halage" has been instrumental in revitalizing soil on a former industrial wasteland. Their eco-innovative activities not only focus on soil remediation but also prioritize social, environmental, and ecological benefits. By fostering biodiversity and engaging in public awareness and education initiatives, "Halage" demonstrates a holistic approach to sustainable land management.

The jury was particularly impressed by "Halage's" commitment to soil health remediation on a contaminated site, the potential for scaling up experimentation on-site, their monitoring of the results, and their inclusive approach to addressing regional needs through social inclusion and community engagement.

The jury rewarded also two additional proposals with a diploma of recognition to:

- **Bokrijk Soil and Heritage Conservation** led by Jeroen Franssens from Belgium. The project oversees a 420-hectare domain encompassing forests, meadows, swamps, peatland, and old fish ponds. Sustainable harvesting technologies, aimed at minimizing environmental impact

typical of harvesters and forwarders, have been adopted, alongside efforts to enhance soil water storage capacity by fortifying its natural sponge effect.

- **Le Jardin des Saveurs** led by Sandrine de Moerloose & Arnaud van der Straten from Belgium. The project focuses on sustainable cultivation, abstaining entirely from chemical usage, including fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides. Prioritizing biodiversity, they have installed birdhouses for tits, insect hotels, swallow nests, and bat boxes as part of their initiatives.



*From left to right: Arnaud van der Straten and Sandrine de Moerloose (diploma of recognition: Le Jardin des Saveurs), Adrien Rogissart (winner: Halage), and Jeroen Franssens (diploma of recognition: Bokrijk Soil and Heritage Conservation).*



*From left to right: Jonathan Halstead (co-founder representative), Arnaud van der Straten & Sandrine de Moerloose (diploma of recognition: Le Jardin des Saveurs), Thierry de l'Escaille (jury member and co-founder), Adrien Rogissart (winner: Halage), Luis Sanchez Alvarez (jury member representative DG AGRI), Elodie Champseix (soil award coordinator), Jeroen Franssens (diploma of recognition: Bokrijk Soil and Heritage Conservation), Max Newbert (jury member), Martin H. Gerzabeck (jury president), Ion Codescu (jury member DG ENVI).*

[More information on the Land and Soil Management Award on ELO website](#)

By showcasing winning projects as good practices at European level, the Award also sheds light on outstanding achievements and promotes effective and sustainable land and soil management practices. Aiming to encourage new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management and enhance awareness of the importance of land and soil functions.



Univerza v Ljubljani



The award is supported by the European Landowners' Organization, the European Commission DG ENVI and DG AGRI, the Joint Research Center, Syngenta, the University of Ljubljana, the University of KU Leuven and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

**Media Contact**

Marie Orban

Communication Manager

Email: [media@elo.org](mailto:media@elo.org)

**About the European Landowners' Organization (ELO)**

The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) is a leading voice representing the interests of landowners, rural entrepreneurs, and rural land managers in Europe. ELO promotes sustainable land management practices, fosters innovation, and advocates for the recognition of landowners' crucial role in shaping Europe's landscapes and rural areas.

