

press release

French team won the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 international house building innovation competition

The teams, all with ties to Hungary, altogether received awards in 5 categories as well as special prizes

Szentendre, 28 July 2019 – The international innovative home building competition for universities, based on the aggregated results - after a very close contest - was won by the French Habiter2030 team. The SOMEShine Team, which was created by a consortium of universities from Pécs, Miskolc, and Algeria, received an award in the Architecture and Energy Efficiency category and it won the special prize of the ÉVOSZ, as well as the Community Special Prize, while the Hungarian koeb team consisting of students from the BME received the special prize of Speed Peer Review.

Altogether 10 teams entered into the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 international innovative home building competition, where more than 400 university students had to build so-called zero-energy homes in less than two weeks. In line with the key theme of the competition organised in Hungary, the participants focused on the renovation of existing buildings. With the help of their residential building prototypes, which can be viewed both from the inside and the outside, the university students showed how they imagine the buildings of tomorrow.

On the awarding ceremony of the competition, held on 28 July, the participants and the competing teams were first greeted by **dr. László György, secretary of state for economic strategy and regulation at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology**. The secretary of state expressed his satisfaction with both the organisers, the Hungarian Non-Profit Limited Liability Company for Quality Control and Innovation in Building (ÉMI) ., and the participants. He told the audience that he learned a lot from the competing teams over the course of the event and those visiting the prototype homes of the exhibition, which was extended until the end of September, can also learn a lot from both the residential and construction industry aspects of these projects.

Adrienn Buday-Malik, director of development at ÉMI, pointed out the following in her speech: *“I would like to greet the competitors on behalf of the organiser, ÉMI, having shared in their excitement for the past few eventful weeks. The support of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the Municipality of Szentendre, and the BME University as well as the contributions from the United States Embassy, the Department of Energy of the United States government, and those of our sponsors meant essential assistance during the organisation of the competition. Seeing the enthusiasm and innovative approaches of the university students standing before me, I can say with conviction that the sustainability and future of our built environment is in good hands.”*

Based on the assessment and aggregated points awarded by the professional jury, the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 international housing innovation competition was won by the Habiter2030 team (France), while the second place was taken by the MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands), and the Over4 team (Romania) came third.

The winners of the ten separate events of the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019, broken down by categories:

“Comfort requirements” category

3rd place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

2nd place: KMUTT Team (Thailand)

1st place: Solar Decathlon Team of University of Seville (Spain)

“Residential functionality” category

3rd place: Habiter2030 (France)

2nd place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

1st place: Solar Decathlon Team of University of Seville (Spain)

Energy balance category

3rd place: Team Ghent University - The Mobble (Belgium)

2nd place: Over4 (Romania)

1st place: Habiter2030 (France)

Architecture category

3rd place (shared): Habiter2030 (France)

3rd place (shared): TO (Spain)

2nd place: SOMeshine Team (Hungary)

1st place: Solar Decathlon UPV Team (Spain)

“Communication and social awareness” category

3rd place: Team Ghent University - The Mobble (Belgium)

2nd place: Over4 (Romania)

1st place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

“Circularity and sustainability” category

3rd place: TO (Spain)

2nd place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

1st place: Habiter2030 (France)

Energy efficiency category

3rd place: SOMeshine Team (Hungary)

2nd place: Solar Decathlon UPV Team (Spain)

1st place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

“Innovation and feasibility” category

3rd place (shared): KMUTT Team (Thailand)

3rd place (shared): Habiter2030 (France)

2nd place: Over4 (Romania)

1st place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

“Integration into town structure and added value” category

3rd place: KMUTT Team (Thailand)

3rd place: Team Ghent University - The Mobble (Belgium)

2nd place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

1st place: Habiter2030 (France)

“Engineering and implementation” category

3rd place: Solar Decathlon UPV Team (Spain)

2nd place: MOR Team TU Delft (Netherlands)

1st place: Team Ghent University - The Mobble (Belgium)

Audience award

KMUTT Team (Thailand)

Speed Peer Review Award

koeb (Hungary)

ÉVOSZ (National Association of Construction Industry Companies) special award

SOMeshine Team (Hungary)

Tungsum smart house special award

Team Ghent University - The Mobble (Belgium)

Community special award

SOMeshine Team (Hungary)

Richard King, the founder of the Solar Decathlon praised the European organisation and the organiser, ÉMI in his video message. He considers energy usage a personal responsibility, saying that everyone can decide for themselves how they join the effort for the popularising and everyday use of renewable and sustainable energy sources.

Louise Holloway, director of the Energy Endeavour Foundation, the organisation entrusted with the brand protection of the Solar Decathlon Europe, said in her closing speech that the commitment of the university students and their striving for perfection in their work were inspiring. In her opinion, the creative solutions implemented during the event offer solutions to real problems and call attention to the most modern challenges faced by our built environment.

The closing ceremony continued with the signing of a strategic agreement between the ÉMI and Valor Hungariae and a guided tour through the 10 prototype homes. The announcement of results ended with a speech by **dr. Károly Matolcsy, the competition director of the SDE19**, who noted that not ten but one big team was participating in the competition, that was forged into a family over the course of these weeks.

The “Solar Village”, showcasing the prototype homes of the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 is open to the public until 29 September on Szentendre, in the Science and Industrial Technology Park of the ÉMI.

Entry is free of charge and only requires a quick on-site registration during opening hours. The site of the exhibition is easily accessible by car, public transport and even by bicycle. Further information is available on the [official website](#) and social media pages of the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019:

[Facebook page](#)

[Instagram page](#)

[YouTube playlist](#)

About the Solar Decathlon

The Solar Decathlon has become the most significant international construction industry competition for university students in the world. The main goal of the initiative is to promote cooperation between university researchers and industry partners and sponsors taking advantage of the creativity and innovative thinking of young students and designing innovative, energy-efficient homes that can serve as show houses demonstrating sustainability with the help of renewable energy sources and the conscious use of energy.

The first Solar Decathlon was organised in Washington in 2002, which was followed by 7 other occasions within the USA (the last one was held in Denver in the autumn of 2017). Solar Decathlon Europe was launched in Madrid eight years later, in 2010, and was held in the Spanish capital again in 2012, where the team of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics achieved great success with their prototype home project called Odoo. The European series of the Solar Decathlon continued in Versailles in 2014. University students from around the world could compete once again on our continent after five years: the project plan submitted by ÉMI won the tender for the organisation of the event; therefore, the well-known and popular construction industry competition is going to be held in Szentendre, Hungary, in the summer of 2019.

Solar Decathlon have been held in Asia, namely in China (2013) and South-America (2015) as well. In 2018, two events (China, United Arab Emirates) and in 2019, three events (Hungary, Morocco, Columbia) are going to be organised.