

BBVA reaches final of award for transparency in corporate responsibility practices

“Sustainability Reports at Spanish Firms” is awarded by ICJCE & AECA

The “Sustainability Reports at Spanish Firms” award is the only one of its kind in Spain. It forms part of a Europe-wide system of recognition in this area which was first set up 11 years ago. BBVA reached the final of the seventh edition of the award, together with Gamesa and Endesa. This year's winner was Red Eléctrica de España.



BBVA won the award two years running in 2005 and 2006, and reached the final in the previous edition. This evidences the high standard of the Group's sustainability reports over the years.

The award is granted by two independent professional bodies: ICJCE (the Spanish Institute of Chartered Account Auditors) and AECA (the Spanish Association of Business Accounting and Administration), and means recognition not only in Spain but also in Europe via the ESRA (European Sustainability Reporting Association) network, which publishes the names of the winning firms in the various countries each year and examines the salient points of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) reports.

Over the six previous editions the number of companies trying for the award has increased significantly as the culture of social responsibility has become more widespread in business.

ICJCE is a public law corporation closely linked to the Ministry of the Economy, though it has its own legal personality. It has been working to develop, improve and dignify the profession of account auditing since 1942.

AECA is the only Spanish professional body that issues generally accepted accounting principles and regulations. It draws up studies and issues pronouncements on best practices in business management and the public sector.

BBVA's actions in the field of sustainability have been recognized on many occasions, and the Group received various awards last year:

- Recognition for *Concemfe*, the group's association for disabled people
- Among the “Best companies to work for”, according to the *Merco Personas 2008* report
- *Prince Felipe Award for Renowned Brand Management*, granted by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade

- *Empresa Familiarmente Responsable Certificate*
- Second best corporate responsibility report of 2006, awarded to BBVA by the CSR Observatory

This recognition belongs to the Group as a whole, as the corporate responsibility report is merely a reflection of Group policy, which has just been organised with the approval of the Corporate Responsibility and Reputation Strategic Plan. Management efforts in the obtaining of information were also recognized in this award from an organisation which is a true classic of the financial world.