

EU Diversity Month 2026: Building Inclusive Labour Markets for All

Brussels, 16 April 2026

The European Commission celebrates May as [European Diversity Month](#), inviting companies and organisations across Europe to promote and advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace and beyond. This year's theme of “**Building inclusive labour markets for all**” emphasises the need to ensure equal opportunities in employment and to remove barriers that prevent people from getting a job.

Despite strong EU legislation guaranteeing fair treatment, data show that discrimination persists. For instance, over 5.23 million women in the EU report feeling discriminated against at work (source: [Eurostat](#)). Having a disability (43%), skin colour (39%) and ethnic origin (34%) different from that of the majority of people are also among criteria that EU citizens identify as a potential hindrance for job opportunities (source: [Eurobarometer](#)).

An inclusive labour market is one where everyone is equally valued, included and given a chance to thrive, regardless of their gender, age, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, whether they belong to the LGBTIQ+ community or have a disability. This ensures that diversity is not just embraced, but celebrated, paving the way for equal opportunities and equitable growth for all.

“Diversity is not a cost or a compromise. On the contrary, it is Europe’s competitive edge, the fuel for innovation. When people with different stories, genders, ages, nationalities, and experiences sit around the same table, innovative ideas spark to life and better decisions follow. Inclusive hiring is good for business. It is how we build stronger societies where everyone gets a fair shot to succeed,” says Hadja Lahbib, European Commissioner for Equality.

Showcasing initiatives across Europe

Throughout the month of May, private companies, public organisations, and non-profit associations can take part by organising events and activities that promote diversity and inclusion. Organisations are invited to register their activities on the [online map of events](#). The map highlights both internal and external initiatives happening across Europe and provides visibility to organisations building equal and inclusive environments.

Opening event in Brussels on 22 April

The EU Diversity Month 2026 will officially **kick off in Brussels on 22 April**, bringing together policymakers, business leaders, public authorities and civil society representatives. Media representatives are invited to attend the opening event.

Background on the EU Diversity Month

The EU Diversity Month is organised by the European Commission together with the EU Platform of Diversity Charters, which brings together more than 17,500 signatories committed

to promoting equality and inclusion. The signatories represent more than 17 million employees across private and public organisations, NGOs and trade unions. Now in its seventh year, the EU Diversity Month raises awareness on the value of diversity while encouraging organisations to take concrete steps to build more inclusive workplaces.

Press contact

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Newsletter

To be added to our newsletter for updates on the latest developments regarding the EU Diversity Month, please register [here](#).

Further information

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