

## **Search for the EU's most inclusive cities: Local authorities invited to apply for the 2026 European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award**

Brussels, 8 December 2025

The [European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award](#) is open for applications for its 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

Launched in 2020, the Award recognises cities, towns and regions of all sizes that harness the power of diversity and foster inclusive communities through their innovative initiatives, policies, and programmes. The competition is a chance for local authorities to showcase policies and initiatives that create more diverse and inclusive spaces for everyone.

The European Commission will unveil the winners at a ceremony on 21 April 2026 in Brussels. The high-level event will gather mayors, national officials, diversity and inclusion enthusiasts and policymakers.

This Award showcases the great efforts of the EU cities, towns and regions that are committed to building inclusive, equitable societies. Celebrating those who champion diversity and inclusion helps elevate standards and inspires others to foster environments where everyone can thrive. This year's specific focus on inclusive labour markets for all underscores the importance of equal opportunities on the workplace and in the job market at large.

The Award recognises Gold, Silver and Bronze winners in two main categories:

- local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants
- local authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants

In 2026, a specific award will be dedicated to inclusive labour markets for all.

The European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award is open to all local authorities in the EU. It is a chance to showcase policies and initiatives that build fairer and more inclusive societies by tackling discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or LGBTIQ identity.

Applications can be submitted through the [Award website](#) until 30 January 2026.

Shortlisted candidates will be announced on the [official website](#), while the winners will be revealed during the Award ceremony on 21 April 2026 in Brussels.

### **Previous Award editions**

Get to know the [2025 Award winners](#) recognised for their contribution to a more equal and inclusive Europe.

### **Press contact**

For media enquiries or to be added to our media list for the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award or the European Diversity Month, please contact:

[eudiversity\\_press@vo-europe.eu](mailto:eudiversity_press@vo-europe.eu)

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#### **Further information**

For more information on the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award and the European Diversity Month, visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media.

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