



MEDIA BACKGROUND

European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award 2025

The [European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award](#) is an initiative run by the European Commission that recognises and rewards local authorities across the EU that actively promote inclusion and diversity.

Now in its fourth edition, the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award recognises local authorities' efforts to build more inclusive societies and contribute towards a Union of Equality. The Award is part of the European Commission's [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020 – 2025](#) and an [EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020 – 2025](#). It highlights ongoing efforts to promote equality and combat discrimination.

The 2025 edition features a Specific Award for local authorities with initiatives and actions that focus on inclusive housing.

Media Coverage

The media is invited to attend the Award Ceremony **in Brussels or online on 29 April 2025** by expressing their interest to eudiversity_press@vo-europe.eu.

Interviews with award winners and European Commission representatives can be arranged by contacting the Media Team at eudiversity_press@vo-europe.eu.

Award Categories

There are two main categories:

- Local authorities with **less than 50,000 inhabitants**
- Local authorities with **more than 50,000 inhabitants**.

This year, the specific award category is dedicated to **'Inclusive Housing'** Additionally, a **Public Vote Winner** will be awarded during the Award Ceremony.

Recognition of Diversity Initiatives



The Award recognises diversity and inclusion initiatives that comprehensively address different grounds of discrimination (in particular those based on sex, age, disability, ethnic or racial origin, religion or belief and LGBTIQ identity). Demonstrating an intersectional approach is an asset.

The initiatives may have already been implemented or be currently in the process and must originate from local authorities (towns, cities and regions) within the EU-27 that are governed by a city council or a democratically elected governmental body.

Selection Process

Applications for the Award will undergo an eligibility check and pre-assessment by independent experts. A European Jury, comprised of representatives of European non-governmental organisations, will make the final selection in the two general categories and the Specific Award.

Previous Winners

In the 2024 edition, several local authorities across the European Union won the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. You can find the [full list of winners here](#).

- **Zagreb** (Croatia) won the Gold Award in the category of local authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants. It was recognised for its range of initiatives and dedicated strategies on how to support, protect and include women, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants and Roma.
- **Corbetta** (Italy) won the Gold Award in the category of local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants. Its extensive array of actions and initiatives with an intersectional lens and participative approach, particularly in relation to persons with disabilities, women, and LGBTIQ people was highlighted.
- **Ljubljana** (Slovenia) won the Gold Award in the Special Award category for enabling safe towns, cities and regions for women in all their diversity, by addressing violence against women.

Further Context

Despite significant advances, [Eurobarometer data](#) and [recent surveys](#) demonstrate that many EU citizens still experience discrimination.

- 59% of European believe that discrimination based on one's ethnic origin is widespread.



- Skin colour, followed by ethnic or immigrant background, are the most common grounds for discrimination mentioned by respondents of African descent in 2023 survey¹.
- 43% of LGBTIQ people declaring they felt discriminated against in 2019.
- After the pandemic, women earned on average 16% less than men across the EU, compared to an average of 14% gap in 2019.
- People with disabilities face obstacles when accessing essential services, healthcare, education, employment and political life.
- 25% of Roma feel they have been discriminated against in their daily life, including employment and education opportunities.
- Age discrimination is most often felt by the young and elderly.

More information on the current European Commission strategies on equality is found here:

- [EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025](#)
- [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [Strategy for the Rights of persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#)
- [EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020-2030](#)
- [EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life \(2021-2030\)](#)

¹ [Being black in the EU. Experiences of People of African Descent. EU Survey on immigrants and descendants of immigrants](#), FRA, 2023.

More Information

For more information on the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award, visit the official website at europa.eu/eu-diversity-inclusion. You can receive further updates and insights by [signing up for the newsletter here](#) or contacting the media team at eudiversity_press@vo-europe.eu.