



PRESS RELEASE

European Commission unveils winners of the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award 2023

27 April 2023 – The European Commission has awarded nine local authorities across Europe for their plans and initiatives to reinforce diversity and inclusion in their respective communities.

In a high-level ceremony in Brussels, **Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli** together with **Vice-President Věra Jourová** and **representative of Committee of Regions Kate Feeney** announced the winners of this year's [European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award](#).

Nine local authorities from seven countries shared **Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards** across three categories.

In the category of **local authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants**, the Gold Award went to the city of Terrassa in Spain for its strong intersectional and cross cutting strategy around inclusion and diversity. The Silver prize was awarded to Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium and the Bronze to the capital of Finland, Helsinki.

In the category of **local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants**, the Spanish town La Zarza received the Gold Award, for its initiatives, spreading across communication, training, employment, sports, accessibility, awareness, transport and public space. The Croatian town of Labin won the Silver Award and the municipality of Fundao in Portugal won the Bronze award.

The Gold award in the **special category for fostering LGBTIQ equality** was won by Gdansk in Poland for its numerous initiatives which involve inclusive public services, support for victims of discrimination, and raising awareness. The Silver award went to Catalonia, Spain and the Bronze award to the city of Reggio Emilia in Italy.

Commissioner Helena Dalli, said: *“Today we celebrate European cities and local communities fostering a sense of belonging and the sharing of common values. Where diversity and inclusion are elevated as a priority, it is also a source of wealth and innovation. Congratulations to all winners and candidates who applied for the Award. Your dedication, efforts and outstanding work are an inspiration for others.”*

Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission, who attended the ceremony, said: *“Thank you to everyone who applied. At a time when decades of progress in protecting some of the most vulnerable groups in our societies is at risk, these local authorities are going above and beyond to protect and promote dignity and freedom for everyone in their communities. As we celebrate the winners, we are reminded of the importance of such initiatives in support of the values which represent our union, at whichever level that may be.”*

The European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award marks the launch of the **annual EU Diversity Month**, which raises awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and across our societies.

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About the #DiversityCapitals Competition

The Award recognises the work done by cities, towns, or regions in the European Union to promote inclusion and create discrimination-free societies.

The competition is a chance for local authorities to showcase policies and initiatives that create more diverse and inclusive spaces for their citizens.

It covers initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in terms of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and LGBTIQ equality as well as intersectionality, the interconnected relationship of different forms of social categorisation.

Read our [media backgrounder](#) to learn more about the Award and how it works.

Media Contact

For media enquiries or if you'd like to receive our news releases around the Award, please write to: media@eudiversity2023.eu