



PRESS RELEASE

MORE THAN 20 EU LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHORTLISTED FOR THE EUROPEAN CAPITALS OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AWARD

29 March 2022 – *More than 80 cities, towns and regions across the EU responded to the European Commission’s call to compete for the first-ever European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award.*

In these trying times for the people of Ukraine, the EU’s fundamental values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights are more relevant than ever.

The European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award competition welcomed a large amount of applications from local authorities across the EU. All the candidates demonstrated a high level of commitment to promoting and supporting inclusion and diversity in their local communities.

Twenty-two of them made it to the shortlist, getting closer to winning one of the nine prizes in three categories: local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants, local authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, as well as local authorities promoting Roma inclusion.

A list of all shortlisted candidates is available [here](#)

The shortlisted candidates will go through a jury evaluation and the final winners will be announced in an award ceremony in Brussels on 28 April 2022, hosted by Commissioner for Equality, **Helena Dalli**.

Commissioner Dalli said: *“We are grateful to the eighty-two European cities, towns and regions that showcased their diversity initiatives and work for an equal society. Their submissions to the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Awards are a testament to Europe’s value of equality and a clear indication of support to the Commission’s efforts to reinforce the principle of inclusion and diversity across European Union policy. The success of the call for applications of these Awards is an excellent prelude to this year’s European Diversity Month”.*

The European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award complements the annual EU Diversity Month, which raises awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and across our societies. The opening event of EU Diversity Month will take place on 29 April 2022, the day after the award ceremony.

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Background

Organised by the European Commission Directorate-General Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), the [European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award](#) recognises the work done by cities, towns, or regions in the European Union to promote inclusion and create discrimination-free societies.

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

The award covers diversity and inclusion initiatives that tackle various grounds of discrimination (sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation) and intersectionality.

Join the conversation on social media using **#DiversityCapitals** and follow DG JUST on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

For more information:

- Media toolkit: <https://eudiversity2022.eu/the-award/media-centre/>
- Award media backgrounder: https://www.eudiversity2022.eu/media/a3lkkh0r/eu-capitals-of-inclusion-and-diversity_media_backgrounder_en.pdf
- EU Diversity 2022 initiatives and Award website: www.eudiversity2022.eu

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