PRESS RELEASE

European Commission reveals first-ever European capitals of diversity and inclusion

29 April 2022 – *The European Commission has awarded eight local authorities across Europe for their efforts to promote inclusion and diversity in their communities.*

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.

In a **ceremony held in Brussels** on 28 April, eight local authorities from **Croatia, Germany, Romania, Spain and Sweden** shared nine awards across three categories.

Germany's **Cologne** won the Gold award in the category of local authorities above 50,000 inhabitants, for the City's 'Cologne's Perspectives 2030+' Strategy which structures a plan for enhancing diversity and inclusion. The Silver award went to Sweden's Gothenburg and the Bronze to Spain's Barcelona.

Croatia's **Koprivnica** was the Gold winner of the local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants category for implementing an effective strategy to support persons with disabilities, as well as national minorities. The Silver winner in this category is Germany's Ingelheim am Rhein while Spain's Antequera won the Bronze award.

For the Roma category, Spain's **Andalucía** won the Gold award for initiating the Plan for the Inclusion of the Roma community among other things. The Silver award went to Sweden's Gothenburg and the Bronze to Romania's Gardinari.

More about the winners and the awards can be found [here].

The ceremony was attended by the **European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency, Věra Jourová** and the **European Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli**.

European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency, **Věra Jourová** said: "We have seen that in times of crisis, vulnerable groups face increased risks. Today, we honour these cities that are leading by example in protecting the dignity and freedom of everyone in our 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."

European Commissioner for Equality, **Helena Dalli** said: "Congratulations to all the winners of the first European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award, as well as to all 82 local authorities that responded to the European Commission's call to promote and support diversity. Today, these local authorities have showcased in the best possible way how together we can uphold equality and diversity and strive to be inclusive for all."

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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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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