



PRESS RELEASE

The municipality of Växjö wins two prizes at the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award 2024

26 April 2024 – The municipality of Växjö took home a Silver and Bronze Award as the European Commission recognised its work to reinforce diversity and inclusion.

Commissioner for Equality, Helena Dalli, announced the winners of this year's [European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Awards](#), and kicked-off the annual European Diversity Month during a high-level event hosted in Brussels on 25 April.

Nine winners from five countries shared **Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards** across three categories: authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants, authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants, and a specific award for authorities enabling safe towns, cities and regions for women in all their diversity, by addressing violence against women. Two local authorities took home prizes in two categories.

The municipality of Växjö won a Silver Award in the category of local authorities with **more than 50,000 inhabitants** for its work on diversity and inclusion which covers an impressive breadth of policy fields and a wide range of target groups. A Strategy Plan for Equality underpins all its work. The authority supports Växjö Pride, funds research on older LGBTIQ people in institutional care, helps foreign-born women and young people into the job market and has its own Diversity Prize. Zagreb, in Croatia, won the Gold Award for this category and La Laguna in Spain the Bronze.

The local authority also won a Bronze Award in the **specific award** for local authorities that **enable safe towns, cities and regions for women in all their diversity, by addressing violence against women**. The prize recognises Växjö's systematic approach to protecting all women and the means put in place to do so. The authority has a strategy and department dedicated to this purpose. Ljubljana, capital city of Slovenia, won Gold in this category and Miranda de Ebro in Spain claimed the Silver Award.

For **local authorities with less than 50,000 inhabitants**, the municipality of Corbetta, in Italy, received the Gold Award for its long-term commitment to diversity and inclusion and its work on specific areas of inclusion, such as gender, persons with disabilities and refugees. Corbetta's authorities also strived to make public spaces more accessible. Two Spanish localities took the Silver and Bronze Awards respectively: Miranda de Ebro and Casares.

The public choice award, selected by the participants of the Award Ceremony, is available [online](#).

Commissioner Helena Dalli, said: *"As with previous editions, the 3rd European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award recognises and provides visibility to the work of local authorities that create safe and inclusive spaces, ensure belonging and widen participation. Their commitment to the principle of equality is a source of innovation and progress towards a Union of Equality. I thank the participating cities and towns, and congratulate the winners of this edition. I encourage other European local administrations to draw inspiration from the highlighted best practices."*

[See the full list of winners online.](#)

About the #DiversityCapitals Competition

The European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award marks the launch of the **annual European Diversity Month**, which raises awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace and across our societies. Activities to mark the Month and promote diversity and inclusion take place across Europe throughout May.

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.

Access the [media centre online](#) and read our [media backgrounder](#) to learn more about the Award and how it works.

Find out more about the [winners](#) and get [photos](#) from the Award ceremony online.

Media Contact

For media enquiries or if you'd like to receive our news releases around the Award, please write to: media@eudiversity2024.eu