

## EC Award for Accessible Cities, 2010



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<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=882&langId=en>



Provided by the European Network for Accessible Tourism asbl.

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The European Commission has launched two awards to promote accessible cities:

- for individual cities – the **Access•City Award**
- for networks of cities or organizations promoting accessibility in cities – the **European Champion for Accessible Cities Award**

Entries must be submitted by 23 September 2010, using the on-line application forms.

The Awards will be presented in Brussels on 2-3 December 2010.

**Entry forms** are only available online. See: "**Practical Information**" on Web page 15 in this document for the links.

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**You may also like to visit the ENAT webpage for "Accessible Cities":**

<http://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.accessible-cities>

(Note: The ENAT webpage is not connected with the EC Award)

Main European Commission web page:

## Award for Accessible Cities

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=882&langId=en>

It is estimated that around 80 million European have a disability. This puts a great responsibility on our cities which house four out of every five Europeans, to improve the urban environment to ensure that all persons with disabilities can participate fully and live an independent life with full access to municipal services.

The statistics on disability are also strongly linked to the ageing population as some 70% of those with disabilities are above 60 years of age.

As the average age of the population continues to increase, it is clear that the issue of accessibility in the urban environment will continue to grow in importance and will make action by city authorities even more essential.

As part of the European Commission's commitment to ensuring equal access for those with disabilities, it has launched two awards to promote accessible cities:

- for individual cities – the **Access•City Award**
- for networks of cities or organizations promoting accessibility in cities – the **European Champion for Accessible Cities Award**

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Web page 2

## 1. Access City Award

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=883&langId=en>

Europe is now an essentially urban society, with four out of five Europeans living in towns and cities. Retaining the pleasure of city living while these become ever more congested is a challenge for all. But especially persons with disabilities, elderly people, and those with reduced mobility or other types of temporary impairments risk to be effectively excluded from significant parts of city life and to suffer marginalisation, exclusion and isolation.

Limiting a city's access to just a part of the population, and ignoring another significant part, is economically, socially and politically unsustainable. What's more, it is simply not fair. For all people to enjoy their human rights, allowing access to the conditions necessary to enjoy a full life is imperative. Moreover, everybody will benefit from greater accessibility in cities, whether as residents or as visitors. The European Commission is promoting greater accessibility in cities so that all people can be included in all aspects of city life.

One manifestation of the European Commission's commitment to ensuring equal access for persons with disabilities to a full city life is the new European Award for Accessible Cities. This will celebrate the progress that individual cities have made in this area.

## Aim

Four European cities will be selected as finalists for the **Access•City Award** ceremony to be held in Brussels, 2-3 December, 2010.

The Award will be given to the city that:

- has demonstrably improved accessibility in fundamental aspects of city living: the built environment and public spaces; transport and related infrastructures; information and communication, including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); public facilities and services;
- is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further improvements in accessibility;
- can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices to all other European cities.

In parallel, a second Award will be given to a **network of cities or organisations** that have been outstanding during 2010 in championing accessibility in the urban environment.

The **European Champion for Accessible Cities Award** will reward the work of a network of cities or organisations that have shown outstanding spirit in championing city accessibility and are having a demonstrable impact on the improvement of accessibility in cities and / or their engagement to do so.

### *Rewarding efforts to improve accessibility*

It has long been recognised at EU level that local authorities play an important role in improving the living conditions of people in urban areas.

Their high level of commitment and willingness to innovate have already been clearly in evidence in the areas of environment and mobility development through projects such as the European Green Capital Award and the European Mobility Award.

The **Access•City Award** has been conceived in a similar way, as an initiative to promote and reward efforts to improve accessibility in cities for persons with disabilities.

The Award marks a city's wish, capability and efforts to ensure accessibility in order to guarantee equal access to rights, improve the quality of life of its population and ensure that everybody - regardless of age, mobility or ability - has equal access to all the pleasures and resources cities have to offer.

It aims to provide an incentive for cities to inspire one another to innovate and share best practices.

Through the vehicle of a friendly competition, cities across the European Union can become role models for one another and stimulate a positive expansion of accessibility initiatives.

The net result will be greater accessibility for persons with disabilities, enabling them to go about their daily business independently like the rest of the community.

## Accessibility

Accessibility is a broad concept that addresses the removal and prevention of barriers that cause problems for persons with disabilities when using products, services and public infrastructure. Successful action can enable them to live on equal terms as those without disabilities.

The accessibility challenges facing society today are most visible in urban areas. And the solutions for improving accessibility are most in evidence in those forward thinking cities that are demonstrating commitment and innovation in changing the urban environment to allow all people to fully enjoy city life.

Identifying the best ideas and solutions and spreading information and examples to other local authorities will allow them to learn from each other and develop plans best suited to their own municipal environment.

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## EU policy

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=888&langId=en>

Accessibility is one of the pillars of the European Disability Action plan. Since 2003 actions have been undertaken in the areas of the built environment, transport and new technologies, including the internet.

There are also accessibility provisions in EU sectoral legislation such as, for example, transport and electronic communication services. There are also actions related to accessibility that are not of a legislative nature but are related to research, standardisation and policy support measures.

The European Union and all the 27 Member States have signed the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** which came into force in 2008. This is helping to mainstream disability issues into relevant policies relating to accessibility.

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## European champion for accessible cities award

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=905&langId=en>

The European Champion for Accessible Cities Award will reward the work of a network or organisation which has a demonstrable impact on the improvement of accessibility in cities and/or on cities' engagement to do so. The winner will also demonstrate the sustainability of the initiatives it has undertaken, and the commitment to further accessibility action in close cooperation with the European Commission.

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## Aim

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=906&langId=en>

The **European Champion for Accessible Cities Award** will be presented to a **network** of cities **or an organisation** that has shown outstanding spirit in championing city accessibility during the year 2010.

The organisation of this competition is similar to the main Award, with slightly modified criteria and a [separate application form](#).

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## Participation rules

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=886&langId=en>

The **Access•City Awards** ceremony will be held on 2-3 December 2010 in Brussels. You can find in this section all you need to know about the eligibility and evaluation criteria in order to participate.

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## Access-city award

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=890&langId=en>

The European Commission has defined the eligibility and Evaluation criteria to be respected in order to participate in the **Access•City Award**:

- Eligibility criteria
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Award Process
- 

## Eligibility criteria

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=907&langId=en>

For competition applications to be eligible:

- the submitting body must be a government authority of a city of over 50,000 inhabitants in an EU Member State. In small Member States such as Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta urban areas composed by more than one town but with the required number of inhabitants shall be considered;
  - the applicant should present the work implemented and planned to improve the accessibility for persons with disabilities in their city environment, including actions, policies and initiatives. The initiative must have been launched within the past 5 years, be ongoing and demonstrate (or will demonstrate) improved accessibility for persons with disabilities in all four key areas:
    - accessibility to the built environment and public spaces
    - accessibility to transportation and related infrastructures
    - accessibility to information and communication technologies
    - accessibility to public facilities and services
  - the applicant must show evidence of having improved accessibility for persons with disabilities (i.e. evidence should be benchmarked);
  - applications are to be submitted preferably in English (but French and German will be accepted);
  - applications must be made by completing the online application form by the deadline of 23 September 2010;
  - all applicants will be notified on the status of their application. However, due to the large number of expected applications the notification will not include an individual reply with the grounds of rejection.
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# Evaluation criteria

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=908&langId=en>

## 1. **Scope of the actions/initiatives**

The applicant shall provide a description of actions/initiatives covering all four Award areas whether already implemented or at the planning stage. The successful applicant is expected to demonstrate a global approach and an ambitious vision for the future in tackling accessibility in the city.

## 2. **Ownership, level of commitment**

The applications should demonstrate that the actions/initiatives in these different areas are part of a global strategy or policy framework, rather than just ad-hoc projects. The accessibility strategy, following design-for-all, should be included in the city's policies and its regulations. Appropriate resources (staff, budget, etc...) should be allocated to implement these policies.

## 3. **Impact**

The city's policies/initiatives should have a demonstrable impact on the everyday life of the city and persons with disabilities. The applicants should therefore include qualitative and quantitative data to support claims of success. Planned initiatives and policies will be considered for their coherence and potential impact.

## 4. **Quality and sustainability of results**

The quality of results is defined in terms of improvements made to the level of accessibility and its compliance with standards and legislation.

Delivering sustainable results to ensure the full accessibility requires continuous efforts, the establishment of a sound structure and monitoring mechanisms (for regularly checking accessibility, notifying and repairing problems, handling complaints etc.).

## 5. **Involvement of persons with disabilities and relevant partners**

Active and clear involvement of persons with disabilities, their representative organisations, and accessibility experts should be demonstrated in both the planning, implementation and maintenance of city's policies and initiatives aimed at increased accessibility.

## Award process

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=909&langId=en>

Applications will be screened by the Award Secretariat for eligibility and forwarded to National Juries for evaluation.

The role of the Award Secretariat is to ensure that the competition rules and procedures are adhered to and that the process is open and transparent.

It is responsible for the organisation of national juries, supports their work and submits national nominees to the European Jury.

The Award Secretariat also provides ongoing assistance to applicants.

**Four cities** will be selected by the European Jury to be presented at the Award Ceremony which will take place during the European Day of People with Disabilities Conference on 2-3 December 2010 in Brussels, where the winner will be announced.

The European Jury will make its decision based on a **standard set of evaluation criteria** to ensure there are consistency, transparency and equity in the process.

The criteria used and their weight are specified in the table below. The applicants who at the national level do not obtain at least 60 points cannot become national nominees and they will not be admitted to the European level of the competition.

Criterion	Minimum No. of points	Maximum No. of points
1. Scope of the initiatives/actions (Action across the four Award areas)		25
2. Ownership, level of commitment		25
3. Impact		25
4. Quality and sustainability of results		25
5. Involvement of persons with disabilities and relevant partners		25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## Jury

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=892&langId=en>

The Award Secretariat receives all the applications forms, and checks them according to the eligibility criteria. All applications for the Access City Award which conform to the eligibility criteria will then be sent to the national juries.

All eligible applications for the European Champion for Accessible Cities Award are submitted by the Award Secretariat directly to the European Jury for assessment.

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## National Juries

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=913&langId=en>

The Award Secretariat receives all the applications forms, and checks them according to the eligibility criteria. All applications for the Access City Award which conform to the eligibility criteria will then be sent to the national juries.

All eligible applications for the European Champion for Accessible Cities Award are submitted by the Award Secretariat directly to the European Jury for assessment.

National Juries, made up of representatives of national Disability Councils, national authorities and accessibility experts will select from among the applicants up to **three cities** that they wish to go forward in the competition to European level as their National Nominees.

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# The European Jury

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=914&langId=en>

The short list of national nominees will be sent by the National Juries to the Award Secretariat and transferred to the European Jury members who will put forward a shortlist of four finalists and then choose the winner. The finalists and the winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony on 2-3 December 2010.

The applications of the National Nominees will be evaluated by the European Jury and a score given on the basis of the grid below.

The European Jury also selects one winner of the European Champion for Accessible Cities Award for the ceremony.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Minimum No. of points</b>	<b>Maximum No. of points</b>
1. Scope of the initiatives/actions (Action across the four Award areas)		25
2. Ownership, level of commitment		25
3. Impact, quality and sustainability of results		25
4. Involvement of persons with disabilities and relevant partners		25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## Practical information

The **Access•City Awards** ceremony will be held on 2-3 December 2010 in Brussels. You can find in this category all you need to know about the milestones of the Awards and the way to apply.

### Key dates

#### Deadline for applications

You must submit the online application form by the deadline date of 23 September, 2010.

#### National Jury meetings

The applications of the National Nominees will be submitted to the Award Secretariat by 15 October 2010.

#### European Jury

The European Jury will select the four finalists to be presented at the Award Ceremony.

#### Award Ceremony

The winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony in Brussels on 2-3 December, 2010.

### Application procedure

The application form for **the Access•City Award** is available [HERE](#). (<http://form.accesscityaward.eu/> ) The application may be completed in English (preferably), French or German.

The application form for **the European Champion for Accessible Cities Award** is available [HERE](#). ( <http://form2.accesscityaward.eu/> ) The application may be completed in English only.

Kindly complete the relevant sections of the application using for guidance the information provided above on the Award Criteria.

You are invited to provide the Award organisers with a short presentation about your work and plans which is suitable for publication.

## Application form

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=896&langId=en>

Kindly complete the Application Form as carefully as possible and submit together with supporting documentation before 23 September, 2010.

- [Access•City Award](#)
- [European Champion for Accessible Cities Award](#)

## Access-cities

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=897&langId=en>

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### Our language policy

Our website adheres to the general language guidelines set out for EUROPA. We try to publish as much information as possible in 22 EU languages. However, due to translation constraints and the fact that certain items (eg news) are time sensitive, some information is only available in English, French and German.

Legislation and other official documents are available in all EU languages from the European Commission's EUR-Lex site.

**Yes, this is the text of this webpage as downloaded on 29/7/2010.**

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## National nominees

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=898&langId=en>

The list of National Nominees will be drawn up by 15 October 2010.

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## Finalists

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=899&langId=en>

Four European cities will be selected as finalists for the Access•City Award. The Award will be given to the city that:

- has demonstrably improved accessibility in fundamental aspects of city living - the built environment and public spaces; transport and related infrastructures; information and communication, including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT); public facilities and services;
  - is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further improvements in accessibility;
  - can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices to all other European cities.
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## Web page 20

# Winners

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=900&langId=en>

The winner of the Access.City Award will be announced on the 2-3rd of December, more information soon on the finalists.

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# Award Ceremony

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=901&langId=en>

The Award Ceremony will take place during the European Day of People with Disabilities Conference.

**Where?** Brussels

**When?** 2-3 December 2010

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## Web page 22

# Press

### Press kit

- [Invitation](#) (PDF)
- [Leaflet](#) (PDF)

### Latest press releases

- [Launch press release](#) (PDF)
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## Web page 23

# Contact

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=903&langId=en>

For general enquiries, please contact:

Rafaela Gracio –02/533.95.83 – [secretariat@accesscityaward.eu](mailto:secretariat@accesscityaward.eu).

Media interested in learning more about the Awards or wishing to attend the event should contact the Media Desk: [secretariat@accesscityaward.eu](mailto:secretariat@accesscityaward.eu)

For media information about the **Access•City Award**, you can visit the press area.