

The winners of the Access City Award 2024

Easy-to-read version

Easy-to-read is information
that is written in a simple way
so that all people can understand it.

You can find more information at:

www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read.



The Access City Award is a prize we give every year to cities that work hard to be accessible.



A city is accessible when all people can live in it and use all things and services without problems. This is important for all people, and especially for persons with disabilities and older people.



For example, a city is accessible when all people can easily:

- Get the bus or the metro to go to work;
- Use ticket machines to buy a ticket;
- Go around the streets or get in public buildings, like hospitals and city halls;
- Get information in ways that they can read and understand.



Every year, a city comes first in the competition and wins the Access City Award.



There are also awards for the 2 cities that came second and third in the competition.



Lastly, there are special mentions for other 2 cities that are on the right path to become accessible.

The winners are selected by groups of people who have experience in accessibility.



Persons with disabilities and older people are part of these groups.

The winner of the Access City Award 2024: **San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain**

The city that won the Access City Award for 2024 is **San Cristóbal de La Laguna** in **Spain**.



Amongst others, this is because in San Cristóbal de La Laguna:

- The city centre is accessible to walk.



- Most public buildings, like the cityhall, are accessible so that all people can get in without problems.
- All trams and most buses are accessible so that people can use them to get around.
- There are accessible paths that allow persons with disabilities to enjoy nature.
- Playgrounds, outdoor events and activities are accessible so that everyone can enjoy them.
- People who make decisions for the city ask for the views of persons with disabilities on how to make things better for them.



Second place of the Access City Award 2024: Łódź, Poland

The city of **Łódź** in **Poland** won the second place in the Access City Award 2024.



Amongst other reasons, this is because in Łódź:

- Many public spaces and buildings are accessible for all people. For example, the building of the city hall is accessible.



But there is also a service at home for people who cannot go to the city hall.

- Roads and public transport like buses and bus stops are accessible for people with different disabilities. That makes it easier for all people to get around the city.



- The city has an office that focuses on making information accessible for persons with disabilities. For example, information in simple language so that persons with intellectual disabilities can also understand it.



- The city works closely with organisations of persons with disabilities and listens to the views.



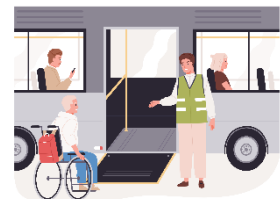
Third place of the Access City Award 2024: Saint-Quentin, France

The city of **Saint-Quentin** in **France** won the third place in the Access City Award 2024.



Amongst other reasons, this is because in **Saint-Quentin**:

- More and more public areas and buildings become accessible.
For example, schools and playgrounds.
- Many crossings and traffic lights are accessible.
For example, traffic lights may make a sound to warn blind people when it is time to cross the street.
- All buses and most bus stops can be used by persons in wheelchairs and other persons with disabilities.
- People who work for the city get training on how to make information accessible for persons with disabilities.
For example, how to use simple language that persons with intellectual disabilities can understand.
- The city organises events that bring together people with and without disabilities.



- The city asks for the views of persons with disabilities when they make decisions that can affect their lives.



Special mention: **Tübingen, Germany**

Tübingen won a special mention in the Access City Award 2024.



Amongst other reasons, this is thanks to its impressive new bus station.

The city worked closely with an organisation of persons with disabilities to make sure that the new bus station would fit their needs.



All entrances of the bus station are made without steps.

This way persons with disabilities and all people can get in easily.

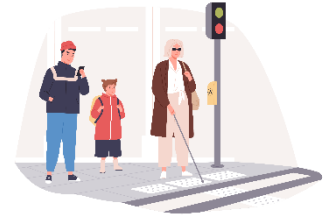


In the station, all people can get about easily.

They can also find information in accessible ways.

Also, in Tübingen:

- More and more schools become accessible for children with disabilities.
- The old town is accessible so that persons with disabilities can get about like everyone else.
- Many house entrances and shops are accessible for persons with disabilities.
- In many cases, there are signs and information in accessible forms.
For example, easy-to-read for persons with intellectual disabilities and Braille for blind people.



Special mention: **South Dublin County, Ireland**

South Dublin County in Ireland is the other city that won a special mention in the Access City Award 2024.

Amongst other reasons, this is because South Dublin County:



- Has an accessible website that all people can use to find useful information and services of the city.



- Works to make information accessible. For example, easy-to-read for persons with intellectual disabilities.



- Works to make public buildings, like the city hall, accessible for more people.



- Works to make sure that its public libraries fit the needs of persons with intellectual disabilities.

- Works to make schools and playgrounds accessible so that all children can learn and play together.



- Asks people with disabilities for their views when making decisions that affect their lives.



- Uses accessible ways to communicate with the public. For example, sign language for people who cannot hear.



More information

You can find more information about the Access City Award at: www.ec.europa.eu/social/accesscityaward.

For any questions, you can send us an email at: secretariat@accesscityaward.eu.

