Video script – Winning cities of the 2016 Access City Award: introduction

The Access City Award was launched in 2010 to raise awareness of disability and promote accessibility initiatives in European cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants.

Since then, 259 cities have entered the competition and 31 municipalities have received awards for their efforts to offer equal access to city life for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Five cities this year will be recognised for having risen to the challenge of making accessibility a priority.

These cities have made it possible for disabled and older people to fully participate in their communities and their ambitious initiatives and resolute progress towards creating accessible cities should inspire the thousands of other cities across Europe to make similar efforts.

This year, the European Commission has created two new special mentions and we are pleased to honour cities who are pioneers in achieving accessibility in the key areas of smart cities and access to work.

The jury also created a new special mention to reward one European city's commitment to improvement.

Learning from these best practices, we hope that cities across the European Union will work to improve the active inclusion of disabled and older people.