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## Amsterdam, Barcelona and Eindhoven win European awards

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The cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona and Eindhoven are the winners of the EUROCITIES awards 2010. The awards recognise the success of city councils in creating and sustaining leading cities. The award ceremony was held at the EUROCITIES Annual Conference, which will run until 6 November in Zaragoza.

Now in its fifth year, the EUROCITIES award scheme celebrates new approaches in local government aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens. Presenting the awards, Elena Allué de Baro, Zaragoza city councillor for promotion and tourism and chair of the awards jury remarked:

"This year's winners demonstrate the capacity of local authorities to define city identity and create a compelling vision for the future. But most of all, the leaders of these three cities have made that vision a reality by listening, involving and innovating."

Being honoured this year are:

- **Barcelona winner of the Innovation award for DO IT IN BARCELONA**, a comprehensive city initiative aimed at attracting talent and entrepreneurship activity to Barcelona. DO IT IN BARCELONA goes beyond traditional city branding by offering a portfolio of landing support services for four target groups: foreign entrepreneurs, qualified professionals, researchers and postgraduate students.
- **Eindhoven winner of the Cooperation award for Eindhoven Brainport - Creating the industries of the future**. Eindhoven joined with public authorities, industry and knowledge institutes to work on boosting the region's economic agenda. Today Brainport Eindhoven is a knowledge intensive industrial region that is both highly ranked in international charts and recognised by the Dutch government.
- **Amsterdam winner of the Participation award for the Free State of Amsterdam**, a new form of open planning that stimulated local democracy towards exploring the city's future. The Free State of Amsterdam combined a programme of exhibitions, narrative and debate. Residents and visitors were encouraged to join the discussion and share their thoughts.

Speaking at the conference, EUROCITIES secretary general, Paul Bevan said:

"Intensifying global competition and today's economic climate demand new approaches to both policymaking and on-the-ground service delivery involving citizens. These winning European cities are leading by example."

Over 50 EUROCITIES members submitted projects for this year's awards. Entries were judged by a five-panel jury comprising one representative each from the EU institutions, academia, the non-governmental sector, the media and the conference host city.

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### Note to Editors

- EUROCITIES 2010 Zaragoza: [www.eurocities2010.eu](http://www.eurocities2010.eu). Established in 1986, EUROCITIES is the network of major European cities. It brings together the local authorities of 140 large cities in 34 European countries. [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
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