

2025



European Social Services Awards

13-14 November 2025
Madrid, Spain



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ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL NETWORK (ESN)



The **European Social Network (ESN)** represents the voice of public social services as employers, managers, funders, planners, deliverers, and inspectors of social services in Europe.

ESN inspires social services leaders to improve the lives of people in the community through the development and exchange of knowledge to improve policy and practice in public social services, including all support and community-based services fighting poverty, promoting social inclusion and autonomy, child protection, protection of people with disabilities, care and support for older people, homeless people, as well as people and families in disadvantaged socio-economic situations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This report has been written by **Ríoghnach Hyland**, *Events Officer*, and edited and designed by **Simon Gibbons**, *Senior Communications Officer*.

With thanks to **Francesco Capuani**, *Development Coordinator*, and **Madrid City Council** for their contributions to this report.

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FOREWORD



It is an honour for the city of Madrid to have hosted the **European Social Services Awards (ESSA)** in this very special edition, marked by the motto '**Social Services: Creating Lasting Change**'. Hosting this meeting has meant much more for our city than holding a ceremony: it has been an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to a modern, innovative, and deeply human social care model.

During these days, Madrid has had the opportunity to welcome professionals, institutions, and representatives from all over Europe who, from their respective fields, work to improve people's well-being and strengthen social cohesion. Their presence in our city has strengthened the exchange of knowledge, helped to promote new alliances, and made visible the collective effort that sustains social services at an especially challenging time.

These awards have provided a privileged space to share experiences and recognise good practices by proposing transformative solutions. For Madrid, they have also been a platform to showcase the progress of our municipal social services system: a system that is close, adapted to the needs of each neighbourhood, and committed to quality care, combining the tradition of public service with social innovation.

This year's motto perfectly reflects the essence of our daily work: creating lasting change. A change built on proximity, on the joint action of professionals, institutions, social entities, and citizens; a change sustained by the conviction that social well-being is an essential pillar for the development of any European city.

The European Social Services Awards 2025 received **135 applications from 28 countries** with **72 projects from 24 countries** selected.

Digital participation was also very high, with more than **27,000 online votes** in this year's Awards. As a result, ESSA remains a powerful platform to recognise excellence and foster collaboration in social services.

The event in Madrid also attracted over 300 delegates, including EU officials and sector leaders, which was double last year's attendance.

I want to express my most sincere gratitude to the **European Social Network (ESN)** and its entire team, to all participating delegations, as well as my congratulations to the finalists and award winners.

Madrid is proud to have been part of the seventh edition of the European Social Services Awards and emerges strengthened thanks to shared learning and the common will to move towards a more inclusive and supportive society.

Our city will continue working so that this spirit of collaboration and continuous improvement not only remains but also inspires a future in which social services continue to be a driver of progress and a guarantee of rights for all people.

From our city, we wish the greatest success to Rome as the future host of ESSA 2026; I am sure that both meetings will be a benchmark for strengthening welfare systems throughout Europe and continuing to build a more inclusive and supportive social network.

Thank you for joining us in Madrid, the place where all paths cross.

**José Fernández Sánchez,
Councillor for Social Policies, Family and Equality
Madrid City Council, Spain**





ABOUT THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS

The annual [**European Social Services Awards \(ESSA\)**](#) acknowledge outstanding achievements in social services, shining a spotlight on successful new approaches and the extraordinary ongoing work of public social services managers, funders, planners, providers, and deliverers of social services.

Since its inception, the Awards have honoured over **320 finalists** from across Europe and the wider international community, and have brought together more than **950 participants**.

ESSA is an initiative from the [**European Social Network**](#) that aims to give visibility to the excellent and innovative work done by social services, and facilitates those working in the field to exchange knowledge and support each other in improving their practice.



2025 EDITION

SOCIAL SERVICES: CREATING LASTING CHANGE

The theme for the 2025 edition of the European Social Services Awards was 'Social Services: Creating Lasting Change.' Under this theme, the Awards recognised the organisations and people that are rethinking their services to provide **impactful**, **long-term solutions** for the people and communities they support, delivering **future-proofed social services** to **break the cycles of disadvantage**.

Any organisation involved in social services with a project demonstrating that it is creating lasting change, is innovative with respect to its context and/or environment, and has a positive impact, could apply.

Award winners were determined in a two-step process that combines an expert judging panel's selection with an online social services public community vote. The winners were announced at the annual European Social Services Awards Ceremony in Madrid, Spain on 13-14 November 2025.

ESSA 2025 IN NUMBERS

**135 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
FROM 28 COUNTRIES**

72 SHORTLISTED PROJECTS

**302 ATTENDEES
FROM 25 COUNTRIES**

**MORE THAN 27,000 ONLINE
VOTES RECEIVED**



EVENT PROGRAMME

The **2025 European Social Services Awards** consisted of an action-packed programme that took place over two days, where some key highlights included:

An **Awards Ceremony** that honoured the achievement of the 2025 winning projects and recognised the excellence of all the shortlisted organisations.



A **celebration dinner** that gave participants the chance to exchange and celebrate the success of their peers.

A **Walking Practice Fair** that allowed participants to connect and network whilst learning more about the shortlisted projects.



The **Innovation Zone** featured presentations led by ESSA Partners **Beam**, **Deloitte**, **Legrand Care** and **Essence**, with 20 Exhibitors also showcasing innovative solutions.



A panel discussion that explored the essential role of social services in creating inclusive communities and highlighted how tailored social services respond to local needs, promote social well-being, and reduce inequality.

Panellists

Jessica Chamba - Partner, Social Services Global Leader, EY
Valentina Ion - Global Lead, Social Services & Public Finance, Microsoft
Craig Martin - Fraud Analytics Lead & Head of Programme, Cabinet Office - Fraud Authority, United Kingdom
Celia Sacristán Viñambres - Deputy Director-General for Integration and Coordination of Digital Cordination, Social Security Treasury (TGSS), Spain
Alfonso Lara Montero - CEO, European Social Network



Social Services: Creating Lasting Change
13-14 November 2025, Madrid

#ESSA2025



Study Visits to Social Projects in the City of Madrid gave participants the opportunity to learn more about how different social services programmes are run in Madrid from the service providers themselves. The following visits were included in the programme:

Casa Familias (Families House/Hub): Integrated hub offering municipal services for families, children and adolescents, including parental support services (CAF), child-neglect prevention (CAI) and supervised family-meeting services (PEF)

“Beatriz Galindo” Shelter Centre for Homeless Women: Resource providing accommodation, basic services and specialised social intervention for homeless women facing gender violence, addictions or mental-health challenges.

Centro de Servicios Sociales “Infante Don Juan”: Primary Social Care centre providing access to social service benefits, guidance, case management and prevention programmes for citizens of all ages.

Centro Intergeneracional “Ouka Leele”: Intergenerational centre combining youth and senior facilities, promoting interaction and shared activities between young people and older adults.

SAMUR Social: Municipal 24/7 emergency social service integrated in Madrid’s emergency network, including HQ, CEMUS, communications and mobile units.

Day Care Centre for the Elderly “Dr. Salgado Alba” (CMAIN): Neuro-cognitive day centre for people with early-onset degenerative cognitive impairment, offering tailored therapies to maintain abilities and support families.

Cibeles Palace (Madrid City Hall): Historic landmark and current City Hall, featuring cultural spaces, exhibition areas, multifunction halls, an auditorium and panoramic viewpoints.

OUR 2025 JUDGES



Ana Buñuel Heras
Madrid City Council,
Spain



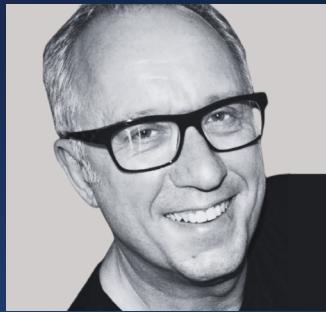
Andrzej Klimczuk
SGH Warsaw School of
Economics, Poland



Chiara Crepaldi
Social Policy Analyst and
Policy Evaluator, Italy



Elena Weber
Regional Council of Istituto
per la Ricerca, la Formazione
e la Riabilitazione, Italy



Vincent Meyer
University of Cote d'Azur,
IMREDD, France



Pascal Bijleveld
ATscale, the Global Partner-
ship for Assistive Technology



Pritesh Mistry
The Kings Fund,
United Kingdom



Robin Miller
University of Birmingham,
United Kingdom



Ruth Paserman
DG Employment, Social
Affairs and Inclusion



Sarah Carlick
MeSafe,
United Kingdom



Toni Codina
iSocial Foundation,
Spain



Viktoria Stein
VM Partners Integrating
Health and Care

Jean Ayoub
Chief Executive Officer,
International Social Service
(ISS) – General Secretariat

“This category is very close to my heart and my own work. I was also very privileged to be part of the judging for this category. Supporting children, young people, and families through safe and inclusive services is not only essential for fostering wellbeing and resilience but for social impact opportunity across our communities.”

Sarah Carlick
MeSafe, United Kingdom

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OUR 2025 PARTNERS



The 2025 European Social Services Awards (ESSA) were hosted by Madrid City Council.

We extend our thanks to the following organisations for their support:



The European Social Services Awards (ESSA) are institutionally co-hosted each year by an ESN Member city or regional authority, reflecting the commitment of local authorities to excellence and innovation in social services.

Recent hosts have included **Brussels** (2021), **Malaga** (2022), **Zagreb** (2023), **Lisbon** (2024), and **Madrid** (2025). The 2026 edition will be hosted by **Regione Lazio**, a longstanding ESN member, and will take place in **Rome, Italy** on **19-20 November 2026**.

ESN extends its gratitude to all partners whose financial contributions make the Awards possible. Their support enables ESN to celebrate and reward excellence in the social services sector while fostering a culture of innovation and collaboration.



For ESN partners, the Awards offer a unique platform for collaboration, inspiration, and professional networking. They provide an opportunity to:

- ◆ Engage with social services professionals from diverse backgrounds and sectors;
- ◆ Explore the latest trends in social policy and practice;
- ◆ Discuss opportunities, challenges, and innovations in the sector;
- ◆ Showcase products, services, and solutions to potential clients.

At the 2025 Awards in Madrid, Spain, the event was financially supported by 20 organisations. These included ESN's long-term partners, such as **Microsoft**, **EY**, **Edenred**, and **Deloitte**, alongside new international companies and Spanish social service providers.

Partners in Madrid:

- ◆ Presented one of the award categories and delivered awards on stage;
- ◆ Organised thematic panel discussions;
- ◆ Showcased social innovation projects and solutions aimed at improving the lives of people in need;
- ◆ Set up booths in the Walking Practice Fair exhibition area to network with delegates.

If you are interested in collaborating with ESN at the 2026 European Social Services Awards in Rome, Italy, please contact our **Development Coordinator, Francesco Capuani**, by email at francesco.capuani@esn-eu.org to set up a meeting.

SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY INNOVATION

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has introduced an **innovative, creative and impactful approach to improving social services delivery in Europe**. The innovation may involve new service delivery reforms, models, or approaches that enhance the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of social care and support, ultimately **enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities**.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Elevating Standards: A Journey through Care in Practice Northern Ireland Social Care Council, United Kingdom

The CiP Framework is a transformative initiative designed to support the professional and career development of over 41,000 social care staff working across the life course including supporting those with complex and/or additional needs. It addresses key sector challenges enabling a workforce to be valued, supported and trained.

To learn more about **Elevating Standards**, please visit [their website](#).

SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY INNOVATION FINALISTS

Working Together; Everyone Benefits

South Eastern Health & Social Care
Trust (SET) Local Engagement
Partnership United Kingdom

[Visit their Website](#)

Customer Experience Effortless Project

Abu Dhabi Social Support
Authority, United Arab Emirates

[Visit their Website](#)

Supporting Social Services Responding to Violence, Harassment & Aggression (VHA)

Child and Family Agency of Ireland
(TUSLA), Ireland

[Visit their Website](#)

Lokaal Signaal – a Digital Tool & Process

Association of Flemish Cities and
Municipalities (VVSG), Belgium

[Visit their Website](#)

Raising Quality in Malta's Social Services through Licensing Innovation Social Care Standards Authority, Malta

[Visit their Website](#)

DOST: A Citizen-Centered, Digitally-Driven Social Innovation

DOST Agency, Azerbaijan

[Visit their Website](#)

Assistive Robotics in Care Homes: Enhancing the Quality of Care

Suara Cooperative, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has **successfully implemented digital transformation and technology-driven solutions to enhance social services across Europe**. By leveraging innovative digital tools, data analytics, AI or welfare technologies, the winning initiative must demonstrate a **significant and measurable impact** on service users, professionals, and the broader social care and social services system.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Bağ-Kart: A Digital Model for Efficient and Inclusive Social Assistance

Bağcılar Municipality and Istanbul Bakers' Association, Türkiye

Bağcılar Municipality is carrying out work on developing new social support models for the more effective and efficient delivery of social assistance.

With a data municipalism approach, Bağcılar Municipality has developed new social support models and, in order to provide assistance in a systematic and innovative way, has integrated social support services with Bağ Kart—a tool of the Digital Citizenship Project that creates a digital link between the municipality and citizens—and ensured the transition from a demand-based to a supply-based understanding of social support.

To learn more about Bağ Kart, please visit [their website](#).

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FINALISTS

Paloma Project: Using AI to Detect Unwanted Loneliness
Government Area of Social Policy, Family and Equality, Madrid City Council, with support of Fundación Telefónica, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

A Solidarity App Connecting Communities through Circular Giving and Tech for Good'
Afrilanthropy, Luxembourg

[Visit their Website](#)

wSocial: Driving Catalonia's Digital Transformation of Social Care
Regional Government of Catalonia - Department of Social Rights, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

SenjoroGO: transparent and smarter home care delivery
VŠĮ Nacionalinis Socialinės Integracijos Institutas, Lithuania

[Visit their Website](#)

DIGISEM: Digital Innovation for Mental Health Support Services
Rey Ardid Foundation, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Tackling Language Barriers in Health and Social Care
Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) United Kingdom

[Visit their Website](#)

CENPOS
Regional Government of Galicia
Department for Social Inclusion, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has made a **significant and lasting impact in strengthening communities and promoting social inclusion**, particularly for the most vulnerable groups such as homeless people, refugees, migrants, and those experiencing extreme poverty or social exclusion.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Bucharest's 6th District Local Food Bank **Bucharest 6th District City Council - General Directorate** **for Social Care and Child Protection, Romania**

The 6th District Local Food Bank turns surplus food into a resource for vulnerable families, tackling hunger, waste, and environmental impact at once.

By working with farmers, retailers, and local groups, it lowers support costs, brings communities together, and raises awareness about sustainable food practices. More than a food bank, this multifunctional hub prepares over 2,500 meals daily, delivers food to vulnerable groups, and runs educational, life-skills, and zero-waste programmes. It combines social inclusion, food waste reduction, and environmental sustainability, serving as a model for other communities in Romania and beyond.

To learn more about Bucharest's 6th District Local Food Bank, please visit [their website](#).

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION FINALISTS

4Empowerent Donegal: An Interagency Initiative Empowering Domestic Violence Survivors
Donegal Domestic Violence Services, Ireland

[Visit their Website](#)

Social Work Accompanies Vital Processes
General Council of Social Work, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Urban Transformation Project of Kazim Karabekir Neighborhood for Social Cohesion
Melikgazi Municipality, Türkiye

[Visit their Website](#)

The Day Center for People with Mental Health Difficulties Štacjon
Association of Centres for Social Work, Slovenia

[Visit their Website](#)

The City and the Long Run
vzw Wieder & Brugge
Dialoogstad, in collaboration with the City of Bruges

[Visit their Website](#)

Cultural Competency Framework for Health and Social Care
Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT), Ireland

[Visit their Website](#)

Local Community Outreach Hubs to Promote Access to Teaching
Dublin City University Educational Disadvantage Centre, Ireland

[Visit their Website](#)

PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATION IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This award recognises a multi-agency partnership between multiple departments within a public authority or between multiple public authorities in a locality, region, country or across countries that has demonstrated **outstanding collaboration across the public sector** to improve social services and **deliver better outcomes for individuals and communities**.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Local Care Ecosystem Department of Care and Social Policy - Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, Spain

The Local Care Ecosystem (LCE) is a territorial strategy developed in the Province of Gipuzkoa (Spain), to strengthen local public systems and improve the quality of life of frail and dependent older people who wish to remain at home. It addresses the unsustainability of traditional care models by promoting collaborative governance, personalised care itineraries, and integrated networks linking social, health, and community services.

The LCE offers a scalable, transferable model to advance integrated, person-centred care and address Europe's ageing challenge.

To learn more about Local Care Ecosystem, please visit [their website](#).

PUBLIC SECTOR COLLABORATION IN SOCIAL SERVICES FINALISTS

Project A106: Collaborative Detection of Social Vulnerability in Barcelona
Barcelona City Council - Institute for Social Services, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Food Redistribution in the Care Region of Bruges
Ruddersstove, Public Centre for Social Welfare of Bruges (OCMW Brugge), Belgium

[Visit their Website](#)

V-I-T: Innovative Paths for Participation in Working Life
Municipal Job Centre in the Groß-Gerau district, State of Hesse, Germany

[Visit their Website](#)

LASTA Screening Model: Ensuring Information Sharing and Multidisciplinary Cooperation
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland

[Visit their Website](#)

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Recognising a public authority, research institution, or collaborative partnership between research institutions and public administrations that has significantly contributed to advancing knowledge, policy, and practice in social services through research and evidence-based work. This award highlights initiatives where data-driven insights, academic research, or applied studies have led to **meaningful improvements in service delivery, social policy, and outcomes for vulnerable populations.**

OUR 2025 WINNER



NUSO – National Follow-up of the Social Services Transition The Swedish Association of Social Services Directors (FSS), The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) and Karlstad University (KAU), Sweden

NUSO is a pioneering research and development initiative combining systematic follow-up with research to build knowledge ahead of the new Swedish Social Services Act (effective July 2025) and to monitor reforms over time. Its focus areas include accessibility, preventive work, equality, and evidence-based practice. Initial work has centred on child welfare, revealing disparities: older children and those with Swedish backgrounds receive more interventions, while children's voices are often under-documented.

To learn more about NUSO, please visit [their website](#).

RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL SERVICES FINALISTS

**Vivir en Casa: Living at
Home Project**
Universidad de Málaga, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

**Evidence-Based Tools on EU
Funding of Social Services**
University of West Attica -
Social Administration Research
Laboratory, Greece

[Visit their Website](#)

**Measuring What Matters:
Comprehensive Evaluation of the
Family Assistance Service**
Riga City Council Welfare
Department, Latvia

[Visit their Website](#)

**Disconnected: The Catalan
Digital Divide Index**
Taula d'entitats del Tercer
Sector Social, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

**REFUGIN: Holistic Community
Approach to Long-Term Integration
of Young Refugees**
Association Les Militants des
Savoirs, France & IPS_Innovative
Prison Systems, Portugal

[Visit their Website](#)

**Enhancing Responsiveness to
Citizen Voices in Social Services
across Europe**
Centrul de Formare si Evaluare
in Asistenta Sociala (CFCECAS),
Romania

[Visit their Website](#)

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has demonstrated **exceptional leadership in advancing accessibility, inclusion, and quality of life for people with disabilities**. It honours initiatives that break down barriers, promote community and independent living, and ensure equal access to social services for individuals with disabilities.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Active Every Day City of Warsaw, Poland

The City of Warsaw has created and implemented the 'Assistant to a Person with a Disability' Programme to strengthen the autonomy and self-realisation of people with disabilities. The City offers services to support people with disabilities with daily life activities, including personal assistant services, free citywide rehabilitation equipment rental service and specialised door-to-door transport services. The city supports its residents in overcoming barriers and provides concrete solutions that make it easier to function in different areas of life.

The services are aimed at people with motor, sensory and intellectual disabilities who have a moderate or severe degree of disability. Approximately 4,000 people benefit from these services annually.

To learn more about Active Every Day, please visit [their website](#).

DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IN SOCIAL SERVICES FINALISTS

Accessible Participant Observation to Assess Satisfaction in Social Care Centres

Regional Government of Madrid -
Department of Family, Youth and
Social Affairs, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Development of Community-Based Social Service Infrastructure in Riga

Riga City Council - Department
for Welfare, Latvia

[Visit their Website](#)

Sonia Tanti Independent Living Centre (STILC) – Adaptive Driving Clinic

Agenzia Sappo, Malta

[Visit their Website](#)

Leaping Together Fuenlabrada City Council, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

INLAV – Integrated Job Support for Individuals with Mental Health Disabilities

Special Public Company “Consorti-
le Comuni Insieme per lo Sviluppo
Sociale” through the Employment
Integration Unit (NIL), Italy

[Visit their Website](#)

The Public Early Care Service of Castilla y León

Regional Government of Castilla
y León - Department for Social
Services, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

DGASPC Arad: Enhancing Cognitive Growth through Sensory and Biofeedback Therapy General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection Arad (DGASPC Arad), Romania

[Visit their Website](#)

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES

Recognising a transformative partnership between public authorities and private sector organisations that has led to tangible improvements in social services. This award highlights initiatives where **co-investment, innovative service models, or shared expertise have enhanced service accessibility, efficiency, and long-term sustainability.**

OUR 2025 WINNER



Empowering Social Workers with AI at Dumfries and Galloway Council Magic Notes in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council, United Kingdom

Dumfries and Galloway Council and Beam are working in partnership to transform the delivery of social work services through Magic Notes, Beam's flagship AI tool.

Developed with and for frontline caseworkers, Magic Notes enables staff to focus on what matters most: providing direct care and support to individuals and families.

Together, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Beam are demonstrating how a strong public-private partnership can ease the administrative burden on frontline staff, improve working conditions, and support retention in the social work profession.

To learn more about the project, please visit [their website](#).

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES FINALISTS

La Botiga: More than just Food
ABD Group in partnership with
El Prat de Llobregat City Council,
Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Bunshin Robot Cafe in Aarhus
OryLab inc., Denmark

[Visit their Website](#)

**Integrated Complex Information
System of the Pension Fund
(ICIS PF)**
Medirent, in partnership with the
Pension Fund of Ukraine, Ukraine

[Visit their Website](#)

**Integrated Pathways for Inclusion
of People with Mental Illness**
Gureak, in partnership with the
Gipuzkoa Mental Health Network,
Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

VORK - Hospitality Training Center
Public Centre for Social Welfare
(PCSW) Kortrijk, Belgium

[Visit their Website](#)

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND YOUTH SUPPORT

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has demonstrated **outstanding commitment to improving the wellbeing, protection, and development of children, families, and young people**. It honours initiatives that provide holistic, preventive, and person-centred support to ensure children and young people can thrive in safe, nurturing, and inclusive environments.

OUR 2025 WINNER



The Miriam Project CPAS Brussels City, Belgium

The Miriam Project addresses the multiple difficulties single mothers and their children face, particularly children between 0 and 6 years old, from impoverished environments, with low education level or with a migrant background in the city of Brussels.

The project addresses these difficulties by intervening with a person-centred and holistic approach which brings together in one single framework support in housing, mental health, legal assistance, labour orientation, early childhood education and peer network support. A multidisciplinary team provides them personalised support, fostering the economic independence of the mothers as well as a safe and protective environment for the children.

To learn more about The Miriam Project, please visit [their website](#).

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND YOUTH SUPPORT FINALISTS

Yeni Hayat Youth Center
Atasehir Municipality, Türkiye

[Visit their Website](#)

From Farm to Table – Lessons from the 300 Least Developed Settlements of Hungary
Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Hungary

[Visit their Website](#)

Programa Escolta Jove: The Youth Listener Programme
Barcelona County Council (DIBA), Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Applying Safe Behaviours
SOS Children's Villages International, Europe

[Visit their Website](#)

The Path to Oneself
Latvian Children's Support Fund, Latvia

[Visit their Website](#)

Adopting a Holistic Approach to Substance Abuse and Addiction Prevention
Agenzija Sedqa, part of the Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), Malta

[Visit their Website](#)

The Boza Project
Samu Foundation, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

AGEING AND LONG-TERM CARE EXCELLENCE

This award recognises a public authority or social services provider that has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving ageing and long-term care. It honours initiatives that provide **high-quality, person-centred, and sustainable care solutions that enhance the wellbeing, dignity, and autonomy of older adults**, particularly those requiring long-term care and support.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Connecting Generations through Fairy Tales Vilnius City Council, Lithuania

This project addresses loneliness and social exclusion among older people and persons living with dementia by creating meaningful intergenerational connections. Seniors, supported by youth volunteers, regularly visit kindergartens in Vilnius, Lithuania, to share fairy tales and life experiences, fostering imagination, empathy, and respect among children.

These sessions provide seniors with a renewed sense of purpose, challenge stereotypes about ageing, and help young volunteers develop social sensitivity and communication skills. The activity also strengthens community ties by bringing together three often disconnected groups: older people, young volunteers, and preschool children.

To learn more about the project, please visit [their website](#).

AGEING AND LONG-TERM CARE EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

A Sustainable Model for Active Ageing: The Mother City Approach
Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Türkiye

[Visit their Website](#)

Connected Supports for Personal Autonomy (ACAP)
ATAM, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Breaking the Mobility Barrier in Healthcare
Lura Care, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Vision Screening for Older People: Supporting Healthy Ageing
Active Ageing and Community Care, Malta

[Visit their Website](#)

Once upon a Time there was Opera
Regional Government of Asturias - Department of Social Rights and Welfare, Spain

[Visit their Website](#)

Balçova Municipality Mature Youth Center
Olgun Genclik Center, Izmir
Balçova Municipality, Türkiye

[Visit their Website](#)

Casanova Building: Solidarity Housing with Bolzano Social Services
Bolzano Social Services, Italy

[Visit their Website](#)

LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This award recognises a policymaker or leader in social services who has demonstrated **outstanding leadership in shaping the governance, strategy, and long-term sustainability of social services**. It celebrates an individual with visionary leadership that has driven systemic improvements, workforce development, and innovative reforms to enhance the effectiveness, accessibility, and resilience of social services across Europe.

OUR 2025 WINNER



Transforming Disability Services in Malta - Oliver Scicluna Agenzija Sapport, Malta

Malta's disability sector was once shaped by institutional models that restricted autonomy and inclusion. Under the leadership of Oliver Scicluna, CEO of Agenzija Sapport, a major shift has taken place toward deinstitutionalisation and rights-based, community-focused support. He has embedded the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) into service provision, ensuring care models now prioritise dignity, independence, and co-production with service users.

His vision has brought about systemic and sustainable change, positioning Malta as a strong model for inclusive disability services.

To learn more about Oliver and Agenzija Sapport's work, please visit [their website](#).

LEADERSHIP IN SOCIAL SERVICES FINALISTS

Redefining Social Services in Romania - Florian Sălăjeanu
Professional Association of Social Assistance (ASSOC), Romania

[Visit their Website](#)

Transforming Social Services in Azerbaijan – Farid Mammadov
The DOST Agency, Azerbaijan

[Visit their Website](#)

Leading Ukraine's Digital Social Response in Times of War - Kostiantyn Koshelenko
Ukraine

[Visit their Website](#)

Inclusive Leadership in the District of Offenbach – Boris Alexander Berner
Pro Arbeit – Kreis Offenbach – (AöR), Kommunales Jobcenter, Germany

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Transforming Brussels CPAS for Social Empowerment – David Weytsman
CPAS Brussels City, Belgium

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Transforming Long-Term Care in Malta – Renzo de Gabriele
Active Ageing and Community Care (AACC), Malta

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ESN is delighted to announce that the eighth edition of the **European Social Services Awards** will take place at the Corsie Sistine in **Rome, Italy** on **19-20 November 2026**.

Regione Lazio, a longstanding active member of ESN, are at the forefront of innovation in social services, and will be our hosts for the 2026 Awards.

Submissions for the **2026 European Social Services Awards** in Rome will open in Spring 2026.

Please visit the [**ESSA website**](#) to find out how you can get involved.



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