The House of European History in Brussels established a new award scheme, the European Democracy Sites. This distinction is exclusively symbolic and consists of a plaque to be displayed at the respective site. The goal for 2022 is to nominate one historical site per member state of the European Union. Being awarded the European Democracy Sites award will support the visibility of a historical site and its efforts to connect with other historical sites and educational institutions. The 2022 Special Focus Theme will be “Free Elections”.

**OBJECTIVES**

• strengthening citizens’ sense of commitment to the principles of democracy and unity;

• emphasising the connections between the advancement of European unity and the development of democracy in Europe;

• fostering peace, solidarity, equality, and cross-continent understanding;

• giving visibility and recognition to the sites;

• increasing EU citizens’ understanding of the history of Europe and the roots of European unity.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The site shall meet at least three of the following criteria:

• pan-European significance in linking European democracy and European unity, including relevant links to specific historical events, phenomena, or personalities;

• influence in fostering and promoting the values, principles and goals of the European Union on a local, regional, national or transnational basis;

• contribution to peace, intercultural dialogue, equality, and cross-border solidarity;

• commitment to being accessible to and engaging with a variety of audiences in the promotion and advancement of European democracy;

• commitment to the principles of historic objectivity and accuracy.

The distinction is open for nomination. Nominations need to be submitted via a dedicated form to

heh-democracysites@europarl.europa.eu

The final decision on the selected sites will be made via an independent jury, followed by award ceremonies.