

The Zero Project announces the [2023 Zero Project Shortlist](#) on Independent Living & Political Participation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

156 Innovative Solutions from 63 countries on six continents made it to the coveted Shortlist this year!

Vienna, Austria, August 12, 2022: The Zero Project is committed to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) around the world. As such, the 2023 Zero Project Call for Nominations is centered around Article 9 of the UN CRPD, which is dedicated to the theme of Independent Living & Political Participation and ICT-based solutions.

The nomination process spanned from May to early July 2022 and sought to identify innovative solutions from Civil Society, the Public Sector, the Business Sector, and the interdisciplinary ICT sector.

Overall, the Zero Project has received 319 nominations from 78 countries. For the first time, the Zero Project also received nominations from the countries of The Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) and Djibouti.

Results of the 2023 Zero Project Shortlist

From the end of June to early August, the peer-review process defined the Shortlist for the Awardees of the Zero Project, based on its three main criteria: innovation, impact, and scalability. The result of this peer-review process is the #ZeroCall23 Shortlist, which consists of 156 nominations from 63 countries:

- 100 nominations from Civil Society;
- 11 nominations from the Public Sector;
- 5 nominations from the Business Sector and;
- 40 ICT innovations.

156 Practices and policies – 63 countries – 6 continents

Discover the breakdown of the #ZeroCall23 Shortlist that encompasses and represents Innovative Solutions towards creating a world with zero barriers:

Africa	19
Asia & Pacific	48
Australia & Oceania	4
Europe	57
Latin America & Caribbean	14
North America	14

Top 10 countries shortlisted

1.	Israel	17
2.	United States of America	12

3.	Austria	11
4.	Spain	9
5.	India	6
	Chile	6
7.	Kenya	5
8.	Australia	4
9.	Germany	3
	United Kingdom	3
	Brazil	3
	Turkey	3
	Italy	3
	Thailand	3
	Singapore	3
	Sweden	3
	France	3
	Romania	3

All 156 shortlisted nominations will receive the Zero Project Shortlist badge, certifying their achievement of reaching the Shortlist stage in the 2023 Zero Project Call for Nominations. Moreover, all the nominees will receive an exclusive invitation to the annual Zero Project Conference 2023, which will be hosted at the United Nations Office in Vienna from February 22 – 24, 2023.

Next steps in the selection process

Starting from August 12, 2022, the Zero Project's ecosystem and network will be given the opportunity to engage with – and vote – on the 2023 Shortlist of Innovative Solutions. Based on these votes, the Zero Project team will announce the 2023 Awardees in September 2022.

The overall aim is to select 75 Innovative Solutions, to be published in the 2023 Zero Project Report on Independent Living & Political Participation and ICT and to award these during the annual 2023 Zero Project Conference – #ZeroCon23.

The Shortlist also represents an international pool of innovations from which ten extraordinary solutions will be curated and invited to join the Zero Project Impact Transfer – a global program to support the internationalisation of innovative disability solutions for a barrier-free world.

#ZeroCon23 will be hosted at the Vienna International Centre within the premises of the United Nations Office in Vienna and will be organized as a hybrid event from February 22 - 24, 2023.

Find the full list of shortlisted nominations here:
<https://zeroproject.org/news/article/meet-your-zerocall23-shortlist>

About the Essl Foundation

The Essl Foundation MGE gemeinnützige Privatstiftung is an Austrian Foundation established in 2007 by Martin and Gerda Essl, and their children, for social purposes and



scientific research. Its mission is to support social innovation, social entrepreneurship and persons with disabilities.

About the Zero Project

The Zero Project's mission is working for a world with zero barriers. Worldwide, the Zero Project finds and shares solutions that improve the daily lives and legal rights of all persons with disabilities, as intended and encouraged by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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