That was the Zero Project Conference 2019

Vienna 25th February 2019:

The Zero Project Conference took place last week between 20th and 22nd February. More than 600 people from over 80 countries descended on the United Nations in Vienna, Austria to discuss, exhibit and present models that improve the ability for persons with disabilities to live independently and to take part in politics. But what actually happened over these three action-packed days?

**Over 30 conference sessions discussed independent living**

Throughout the three days, more than 30 sessions, including presentations of innovations, couch discussions and specialised forums discussed the many sub-themes of independent living and political participation. All three rooms were filmed and will be shared on the Zero Project YouTube channel in the coming weeks.

**Videos from ReelAbilities**

Two short films were presented to open days 1 and 2 of the Conference, courtesy of [ReelAbilities Film Festival](https://reelabilities.org/). “The Conference” showed us all how not to run a disability event, and “Guest Room” took us through the emotions of unplanned pregnancy for a young lady with down syndrome. ReelAbilities also joined us for the final session where they took part in the discussion on good practice in videos and media.

**Accessible Pilates**

Anastaysia Gerets guided participants into day 3 of the Conference with a session of accessible Pilates. She had the audience stretching, twisting and breathing to feel calm and energised for the final day of #ZeroCon19.

**Over 70 projects collected their awards**

More than 70 projects were in Vienna in person to collect their award from Martin Essl at the dedicated award evening, plus give their backstage comments to the waiting camera crews.

The videos were online on the Zero Project Facebook page within 24 hours of the ceremony and have been watched more than 50,000 times!

**Creative performance from Lumos Foundation**

Young self-advocates from Lumos Foundation expressed their own feelings and experiences of deinstitutionalisation through a creative piece, performed on the final day in the main room.

Stay tuned over the next few weeks while we bring you all the best bits from the Conference, with clips, photos and sessions soon to be available online!

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