

#ZeroCon22: International Conference featuring Innovations in the Accessibility space

The Zero Project Conference – ZeroCon22 – will take place from February 23-25, 2022.

Vienna – During the Zero Project Conference (February 23-25, 2022) innovations in the accessibility space will take centre stage. 250 participants from across the globe are expected at the United Nations Office in Vienna, and a further 5,000 participants are expected to join the conference via livestream.

#ZeroCon22 will span three days and cover around 100 hours of discussions, workshops, presentations, and conversational formats that centre around this year's theme of Accessibility. Renowned experts with and without disabilities, and international partner organizations will discuss innovative solutions that have been selected in an extensive peer-reviewed process, with respect to their impact, innovativeness, and scalability.

Highlights, topics, and well-known personalities

Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General/ Executive Director of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)/ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will open the conference at 10:00AM CET on Wednesday, February 23. Caroline Casey, Founder of The Valuable 500, and Martin Essl, Founder of the Zero Project will be holding the keynotes during the opening.

Throughout the conference, 76 innovators – the Zero Project Awardees – will present solutions to create accessibility for all. Their proven solutions cover a broad range of topics, from public transport, to health care in rural regions, and technology-based innovations to remove barriers in the digital world. The Zero Project Awardees come from 35 countries, with most of them from Europe (31), followed by the Asia Pacific region (22), and Latin America (10).

Sara Minkara, United States Special Advisor on International Disability Rights in the U.S. Department of State will hold a keynote during the Award Ceremony, and Google, Microsoft, Yahoo!, and amazon.com will discuss their accessibility strategies in a dedicated session. Across the three days, #ZeroCon22 will see involvement from all sectors of society: Atos, Toyota Europe, the International Labour Organization, The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement, The New York Times, Washington Post, UN ESCAP, and many other organizations.

The Zero Project Conference's purpose is to create visibility for proven innovations that remove barriers for persons with disabilities and connect innovators with potential partners to scale or replicate their solutions. The basis for #ZeroCon22's mission is the UN Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). In addition to the conference, the Zero Project also supports different initiatives, such as the Zero Project Impact-Transfer programme in cooperation with Ashoka, to support the implementation of the UN CRPD.

#ZeroCon22 is livestreamed online for free

The Zero Project Conference 2022 is livestreamed on YouTube; free to join without registration; and committed to democratize access to disability inclusion. The Zero Project expects 5,000 participants to join online. The live conference will be attended by 250 participants.

The livestream can be found on [Zeroproject.org/zerocon22](https://zeroproject.org/zerocon22).

For the detailed agenda in an accessible format, go to zeroproject.org/zerocon22/agenda.

Zero Project: for a world with zero barriers

The Zero Project Conference is organized by the Essl Foundation that was founded in 2007 to identify, share, and support social innovation and projects that focus on the rights of people with disabilities

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