

## **Zero Project receives 522 #ZeroCall25 nominations from 90 countries**

**The Zero Project Call for Nominations 2025 (#ZeroCall25) has come to a close. The focus of this cycle was on Innovative Solutions in Inclusive Employment and ICT. A total of 522 nominations from 90 countries worldwide were submitted for a Zero Project Award 2025.**

Vienna, Austria – July 12, 2024 – The Zero Project is an initiative committed to the global implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Accordingly, the Zero Project Call for Nominations 2024/2025 aimed to identify innovative solutions in the fields of inclusive employment and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

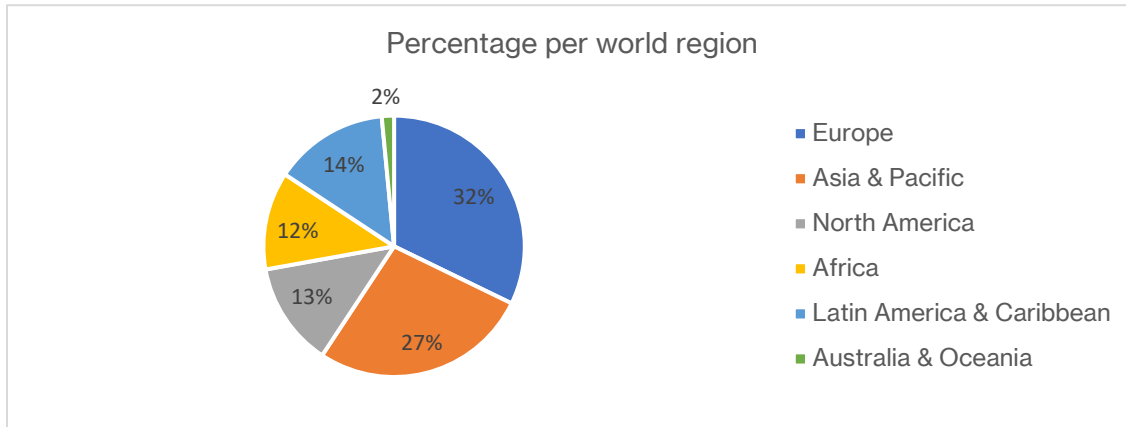
The nomination process, which ran from early May to the end of June 2024, set out to identify outstanding solutions in terms of innovation, impact and scalability. The Zero Project research covers nominations from civil society, the public sector, the business sector, and the interdisciplinary ICT sector.

In total, the Zero Project received 522 nominations from 90 countries, marking a record for the focus topics of Employment and ICT (the previous record was 475 in 2020/2021). The nominations covered an array of topics from entrepreneurship to supported employment, and vocational training. ICT nominations also included a range of different solutions, for instance, web accessibility and AI-based applications.

### **Nominations from 90 countries and all regions of the world**

Nominations originated from 90 countries, providing a truly global representation across all continents:

Africa:	64 nominations (12%)
Asia & Pacific:	143 nominations (27%)
Australia and Oceania:	8 nominations (2%)
Europe:	170 nominations (32%)
Latin America & Caribbean:	75 nominations (14%)
North America:	62 nominations (13%)



The Top 20 countries by number of nominations (countries of domicile of the nominated solutions):

1.	United States of America	43
2.	India	42
3.	Chile	29
4.	Austria	26
5.	Israel	21
6.	Spain	19
7.	Germany	16
	United Kingdom	16
9.	Canada	14
	Kenya	14
11.	Colombia	11
	Mexico	11
	Pakistan	11
14.	France	10
	Tanzania	10
16.	Brazil	9
	Poland	9
18.	Argentina	8
	China	8
	Japan	8
	South Africa	8

As in the past years, the highest number of nominations were received by organizations domiciled in the United States. But for the first time, nominations from India (42) almost came in equal. Nominations from Chile (29), the home country of Zero Project Latin America Partner Fundación Descúbreme, and from Austria (26), the Zero Project's home country, came in in third and fourth positions respectively.



Underlining the global outreach of the Zero Project, countries from five different continents rank among the top 10 (with the sixth continent represented by Australia and New Zealand, also adding up to 8 nominations).

For the first time, China ranks among the top 20-countries of origin for nominations, as do Poland and Argentina.

### **Civil society, public sector, business sector and ICT-related solutions**

The 522 nominations were received by organisations from all sectors of society:

Civil Society: 236 nominations (45%)

Business Sector: 123 nominations (23%)

Public Sector: 22 nominations (4%)

ICT (cross-sectoral): 141 nominations (27%)

### **Next steps in the selection process**

The Zero Project Team, alongside its close partners and peer-review network, is currently shortlisting nominations. Each submission is evaluated on three key criteria: innovation, impact, and scalability. Around 150 nominations will make it to the shortlist and approximately 75 will become Zero Project Awardees.

The Zero Project Awardees 2025 will be announced on December 3, 2024, and invited to present at the next Zero Project Conference (#ZeroCon25) at the United Nations Office in Vienna from March 5 to 7, 2025.

### **Contact**

Judith Hermetter, Head of Communications

[press@zeroproject.org](mailto:press@zeroproject.org)