

The Zero Project announces the Zero Project Award 2025 Shortlist

160 innovative solutions from 61 countries across all six continents have been shortlisted for the Zero Project Awards 2025. This year's Call for Nominations focused on the themes of Inclusive Employment and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Vienna, Austria – August 21, 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 2025 Zero Project Award Shortlist

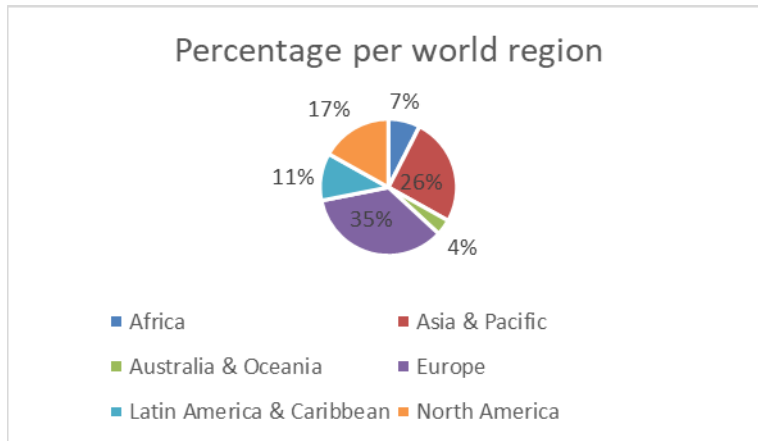
Between the end of June and mid-August, the first stage of the selection process involved more than 100 hours of review by the Zero Project's research team and over 80 experts from the global Zero Project Network. This stage included checking each of the 522 nominations against formal criteria, requesting additional information where needed, and conducting peer reviews in dedicated sessions.

The result of this first stage of the selection process is the Shortlist which consists of 160 innovative solutions from 61 countries and all sectors of society:

Civil Society:	59 nominations
Public Sector:	15 nominations
Business Sector:	51 nominations
ICT Innovations:	30 nominations
Related to the Arts:	5 nominations

160 Good practices and policies – 61 countries – 6 continents

Africa:	12 nominations (7%)
Asia & Pacific:	41 nominations (26%)
Australia and Oceania:	6 nominations (4%)
Europe:	56 nominations (35%)
Latin America & Caribbean:	18 nominations (11%)
North America:	27 nominations (17%)



The Top 15 countries by number of nominations (countries of domicile of the nominated solutions):

1.	United States of America	20
	Austria	9
3.	India	9
4.	Spain	7
5.	Germany	6
	Canada	5
	Chile	5
	Colombia	5
	Israel	5
	Japan	5
	Pakistan	5
	United Kingdom	5
13.	Australia	4
	France	4
	Netherlands	4
	Poland	4

The top 15-of shortlisted countries changed substantially compared to the year before, with Pakistan and Poland joining this group for the first time, and Canada, France, Germany and Netherlands re-entering the top positions.

This year, 21 countries are new to the Shortlist compared to the previous year. Guinea and Guyana are represented on this year's shortlist for the first time ever.

All 160 shortlisted nominations will receive the Zero Project Shortlist badge, certifying their achievement of reaching the Shortlist stage in the 2025 Zero Project Call for Nominations.

Moreover, all the nominees will receive an exclusive invitation to the annual Zero Project Conference 2025, which will be hosted at the United Nations Offices in Vienna from March 5 – 7, 2025.



Next steps in the selection process

Starting from late August 2024 the Zero Project's ecosystem and network will be given the opportunity to engage with – and vote – on the Shortlist of Innovative Solutions. Based on these votes, the Zero Project Team will announce the Zero Project Awardees on December 3, 2024, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The global Zero Project Conference 2025 will revolve around these innovative solutions, with the overall aim of supporting their replication. Zero Project Awardees will also be published in the Zero Project Report 2025.

Find the full list of shortlisted nominations here:

<https://zeroproject.org/news/article/meet-your-zerocall25-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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