

Shaping innovation for inclusive employment and ICT globally

The Zero Project Conference 2025 reunites changemakers with and without disabilities from every corner of the world to discuss and replicate innovative solutions.

Vienna (Austria), February 17, 2025

From March 5-7, 2025, innovators, experts, and decision-makers from over 90 countries will convene at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria, on the occasion of the Zero Project Conference 2025. This year, the annual conference focuses on the topics of inclusive Employment, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), with sessions revolving around 77 innovative solutions from 45 countries that receive a Zero Project Award for their work in removing barriers for persons with disabilities.

Innovation, Impact, and Scalability

The Zero Project is an initiative by the Austrian non-profit Essl Foundation. Every year, the Zero Project calls on its global network of 10,000 experts to nominate innovative and scalable solutions with proven impact. 522 nominations from 90 countries were received as part of the Zero Project Call for Nominations 2025 on Employment, and ICT.

This year's selection process amounted to more than 300 hours of review and fact-checking, and the involvement of more than 350 experts with and without disabilities from around the world. This year's cohort of Zero Project Awardees 2025 emerged from this multi-step selection process as the most promising innovations to advance the implementation of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), based on their innovation, impact, and scalability.

Advancing the implementation of the CRPD

The Zero Project Conference 2025 is a unique global meeting place where these outstanding innovative solutions for disability inclusion are showcased. With more than 1,000 participants from around the world, the conference attracts changemakers from every sector of society who seek collaboration for the implementation of the CRPD.

With the goal of replicating and advancing scalable solutions, innovators and experts delve into specific topics in more than 120 sessions. The topics range from low-cost prosthetics and AI-driven software solutions, to large company strategies and women entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Global collaboration and targeted initiatives

In targeted initiatives, the Zero Project advances innovation processes between local and global stakeholders through strategic partnerships. At the conference, the "Parliament Event" at the Austrian Parliament will see Members of Parliament pledge to support selected



Awardees in bringing their solutions to Austria. The Zero Project Technology Forum will feature pitches by 22 select innovations to a high-level audience of investors and multipliers, such as Microsoft, Google, UniCredit Bank Austria, The Seneca Trust, and the World Bank. The Zero Project Scaling Solutions Programme that is supported by the Essl Foundation, Fundación Descúbreme, GIZ, EnAble India, and Atos, will present promising solutions that are ready to scale globally.

The Zero Project's strategic partners Fundación Descúbreme from Chile, the Indian organizations Youth4Jobs and EnAble India, and SG Enable from Singapore will use the conference to build bridges between the global disability inclusion community and innovators from their respective world regions.

Live and accessible broadcast for all

As an inclusive event, several sessions will be broadcast live and free-of-charge with English captioning and International Sign. More sessions will become available on-demand on YouTube after the conference. The conference agenda and livestream links are available on zerocon25.zeroproject.org.

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.

The Zero Project's approach is research-driven and aims to identify, curate, and share inclusive solutions, as intended and encouraged by Article 32 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). To achieve this objective, the Zero Project engages with a worldwide cross-sectoral network of innovators, decision-makers, and opinion leaders.

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