



Zero Project Conference 2017

DETAILED SCHEDULE

All times, all topics,
all speakers.

February 22–24, 2017

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

12.15–12.30 **M1** Opening of the Zero Project Conference

Christine STIX-HACKL, *Permanent Austrian Mission at the U.N. in Vienna, Austria*
Martin ESSL, *Essl Foundation, Austria*
Jakob VON UEXKÜLL, *World Future Council, United Kingdom*
Moderator of the Zero Project Conference: Caroline CASEY, *binc global, Ireland*

12.30–12.45 **M1** Opening Keynote Speech

Daniela BAS, *UN DESA/DSPD/SCRPD, United States*

12.45–13.00 **M1** Opening Keynote Speech

Minister Alois STÖGER, *Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria*

13.00–13.15 **M1** Opening Keynote Speech

Attitude is key!

Julian HADSCHIEFF Co-Founder and CEO of PremiQaMed Group Austria

13.15–14.00 **M1** Accommodating the workplace: Where to look at for the most advanced solutions

Workplace accommodation, accessibility of the workplace, assistive technologies – many approaches promise not only to make workplaces more accessible, but also to create jobs after all. This discussion helps to identify the best solutions that are currently available, in low as well as in high developed countries.

Mukhtar AL SHIBANI, *GAATES - Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments, Saudi Arabia*

Inmaculada PLACENCIA PORRERO, *European Commission - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Belgium*

Natalia AMELINA, *UNESCO IITE, Russia*

Christopher LEE, *AMAC - Accessibility Solutions & Research Center, United States*

Moderator: Thomas H. BUTCHER, *Essl Foundation, United States*



14.30–15.45 **M1** **International Policymaker Forum on advancing inclusive vocational training and employment**

Policymakers from international parliaments, governments and international organisations on their approach and experience on how to effectively promote inclusive vocational training and employment.

Chair: Stefan TROEMEL, *International Labour Organization, Switzerland*

Daniela BAS, *UN DESA/DSPD/SCRPD, United States*

HRH Mired Ra'ad Zeid AL-HUSSEIN, *Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordan*

Shuaib CHALKLEN, *African Disability Forum, South Africa*

Marek PLURA, *European Parliament, Poland*

Ita MIRIANASHVILI, *Council of Europe, France*

Joseph JONES, *The Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement, United States*

14.30–15.45 **M3** **Comprehensive employment models from Sub-Saharan Africa**

Broadly based solutions supporting people to find employment, comprehensively, involving many different stakeholders and mostly using step-by-step approaches. These steps often include education and vocational training, mentoring, internships or job placement as well as cooperation with employers and other stakeholder groups, often supported by government policies like financial support or quota.

Chair: Johanna MANG, *Light for the World Austria*

Co-Chair: Yetnebersh NIGUSSIE, *Light for the world Ethiopia*

Marna de BRUYN, *Living Link, South Africa*

Thomas BEZUIDENHOUT, *Cape Mental Health, South Africa*

Robert RANSOM, *ECDD - Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, Ethiopia*

14.30–15.45 **M6** **Successful rehabilitation strategies: Taking care of your workforce**

Practices and policies in this session focus on rehabilitation after work-related accidents, injuries or severe illnesses - working towards ensuring the employability of these people, with their former or with new employers.

Chair: Hans-Horst KONKOLEWSKY, *ISSA - International Social Security Association, Switzerland*

Paz GARCIA, *Mutual de Seguridad, Chile*

Ann HOY, *Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Canada*

Mohammed Azman BIN AZIZ MOHAMMED, *Social Security Organisation Malaysia*

Ana MOHEDANO ESCOBAR, *Ibero-American Social Security Organization, Spain*

16.00–17.15 **M3** **Employment strategies especially for the blind and visually impaired**

Projects and activities in this session are tailored for the needs of blind or visually impaired people.

Chair: Klaus HOECKNER, *Hilfsgemeinschaft der Blinden und Sehschwachen Österreichs, Austria*

Johannes Antonius WELLING, *International Council For Education Of People With Visual Impairment, Netherlands*

Florence ORBAN, *Royal London Society for Blind People, United Kingdom*

Le VAN-NGA, *Nhat Hong Center for The Blind And Visually Impaired, Vietnam*

**16.00–17.15 M1 European Policymaker Forum on advancing inclusive vocational training and employment**

Policymakers from European parliaments, governments and international organisations on their approach and experience on how to effectively promote inclusive vocational training and employment.

Co-Chair: Silvia BALMAS, *EFC - European Foundation Centre, Belgium*

Co-Chair: Ingrid HEINDORF, *WFC - World Future Council, Switzerland*

Martin CONWAY, *Seanad Eirann, Ireland*

Franz-Joseph HUAINIGG, *MP of the Austrian Parliament, Austria*

Ignacio TREMINO, *MP of the Spanish Parliament, Spain*

Helene JARMER, *MP of the Austrian Parliament, Austria*

17.15–17.30 M1 Closing Keynote of the Day

Graeme WHIPPY, *Channel 4 Television, United Kingdom*

18.30–19.30 M1 TechShow: Showcasing technologies that make a conference more accessible

The TechShow brings selected technology providers on stage, most of them also exhibiting their products and services, and supporting the Zero Project Conference with assistive technologies and ICT for all participants.

Thursday, February 23, 2017

9.30–9.45 M1 Keynote Speech

Achieving equality of employment for persons with disabilities

via Video: Judy HEUMANN, *International Disability Advisor, United States*

Technology Accelerating Employment and Business impact

Patrick ROMZEK, *Cisco, United States*

9.45–10.00 M1 Keynote Speech

The importance of tri-sector collaborations - best practices from a wide scope in the US and Israel

Shira RUDERMAN, *Ruderman Family Foundation, Israel/United States*

10.00–10.45 M1 Creating Change: Success factors for initiating employment models

It is a universally acknowledged fact that most innovations fail. Experts in this panel discuss their approach in defining, creating, supporting and steering projects that successfully create employment with a focus on countries with low and medium development.

Charlotte V. McCLAIN-NHLAPO, *World Bank Group*

Leah MAXSON, *USAID - United States Agency for International Development - Democracy, Human Rights and Development Center, United States*

Gaetane BLEHER, *Handicap International, France*

Moderator: Michael FEMBEK, *Essl Foundation, Austria*

**11.00–12.15 M1 Inclusive business strategies of multinational companies**

The focus of this session is on multi-national businesses that follow an inclusive strategy within their company.

Chair: Suzanne COLBERT, *Australian Network on Disability, Australia*

Samir GADGIL, *Wipro Infotech, India*

Hector MINTO, *Microsoft Inc. UK, United Kingdom*

Nadine VOGEL, *Springboard Consulting LLC, United States*

Beáta GAL-SZEKER, *IBM Hungary, Hungary*

11.00–12.15 M2 Transition models that start in secondary school and high school

Solutions in this session involve projects and activities supporting people with disability in secondary or high-school, preparing students much better for the transition to work and employment in the open labour market.

Chair: Katherine GUERNSEY, *International Disability Rights Attorney, United States*

Desmond HENRY, *WALK, Ireland*

Lauren LINDSTROM, *University of Oregon, United States*

Karen ROYSTON, *Georgia Committee for the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Inc., United States*

11.00–12.15 M3 Matchmaking platforms: How to connect job seekers and employers successfully

Projects, partnerships and services that act as matchmakers between job seekers and employers, mostly using technology platforms, but also going beyond by entering into direct dialogue with employers, transforming the community employment system, providing comprehensive advice regarding resources, assisting individually and removing workplace barriers.

Chair: Luk ZELDERLOO, *EASPD - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities, Belgium*

Maria Jose CABEZUDO, *Fundación Saraki, Paraguay*

Don GALLANT, *CACL - Canadian Association for Community Living, Canada*

Helen GREEN, *Department of Social Services, Australia*

Mehmet KIZILTAS, *Engelsizkariyer, Turkey*

11.00–12.15 M6 Bad Practices: the challenges of realizing rights'-based employment

An open conversation to explore values, policies and practices. How do charitable and medical models of disability interact with employment of disabled people? What are the ways we can make sure we are supporting rights'-based employment and how do we go forward?

Chair: Peter FREMLIN, *Independent consultant, Switzerland*

Marcia RIOUX, *Disability Rights Promotion International, Canada*

Doha YAHFOUFI, *Occupational therapist & Disability and inclusion consultant, Lebanon*

Undere DEGLON, *Disability Workshop Development Enterprise South Africa, South Africa*

13.30–14.45 M6 Against all odds: Successful models of scaling up innovations

Scaling up promising practices is a challenge well-known for many people who work on themes as different as early childhood intervention, accessibility or employment. In this session, successful ways to scale up are presented.

Tara DOHENY, *Genio Trust, Ireland*

Jean JUDES, *Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel*

Moderator: Michael FEMBEK, *Essl Foundation, Austria*

**13.30–14.45 M1 Engaging with employer associations and company networks**

Practices in this session feature company networks that engage in e.g. forming synergies, exchanging experiences or setting minimum standards related to employing people with disabilities, or generally inclusive and accessible corporate strategies.

Chair: Susan SCOTT-PARKER, *BDI - Business Disability International, United Kingdom*

Jane LU, *Standard Chartered Bank Limited, Taiwan*

Ramez MAHER, *Helm, Egypt*

Fernando RIAÑO ILUNION, *Spain*

Lourdes MARQUEZ DE LA CALLELA, *Fundación ONCE*

13.30–14.45 M3 Microfinancing to kickstart self-employment of persons with disabilities

Solutions in this session focus on projects and activities that offer microfinancing to people with disability, allowing self employment with small credit financing, mostly for women.

Chair: Joshua GOLDSTEIN, *Microfinance Advisor, United States*

Vashkar BHATTACHARJEE, *YPSA - Young Power in Social Action, Bangladesh*

Retta Getachew DIMISSE, *ECDD - Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, Ethiopia*

John ALEX, *Equitas Holdings Limited, India*

Mohammad Salim MASTOOR, *Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Afghanistan*

13.30–14.45 M2 Focusing on skills and abilities of special people

Practices in this session focus on the skills, but also needs of a clearly defined group of job seekers with disabilities such as autism or epilepsy.

Chair: Colin ALLEN, *IDA - International Disability Alliance, Finland*

Shirley KENNY, *Avnei Derech Mechina, Israel*

Elisabeth PLESS, *LEA - Institut für Epilepsie IfE, Austria*

Tashi WIDMER, *Deaf Can! Coffee, Jamaica*

Selver YOLSEVER, *Down Syndrome Association, Turkey*

Jolien SMIS, *Konekt vzw - Lets Co!, Belgium*

15.00–15.15 M1 Keynote Speech

Next level political participation - lessons from the first female deaf Member of the European Parliament

Helga STEVENS, *MEP, Member of the European Parliament, Belgium*

15.15–16.15 M1 Taking successful models across borders

Discovering Hands and Specialisterne are employment models that put the abilities and structuring the workprocesses in the middle of their employment models, and have succeeded in growing them internationally. In this session, both models present and discuss their internationalisation strategies: What works, but also: what does not work?

Frank HOFFMANN, *Discovering Hands Germany*

Marisa MÜHLBÖCK, *Discovering Hands Austria*

Thorkil SONNE, *Specialisterne Foundation Denmark/U.S.*

Elisabeth KRÖN, *Specialisterne Austria*

Ana BOTERO, *CAF Corporación Andia de Fomento, Columbia*

Moderator: Michael FEMBEK, *Essl Foundation Austria*

**15.00–16.15 M2 Promising reforms in technical and vocational education and training**

Essential in ensuring the country's competitiveness in the global labour market and ensuring decent work for all, this session presents recent reforms that the governments of Bangladesh, Chile and Egypt have undertaken, with the help of partners, to design and implement inclusive skills development policies.

Co-Chair: Yetnebersh NIGUSSIE, *Light For The World Ethiopia*

Co-Chair: Sandor SCHOT, *Light For The World*

Ashoke Kumar BISWAS, *Ministry of Education of Bangladesh, Bangladesh*

Minister Alejandra KRAUSS VALLE, *Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Chile*

Abeer SHAKWEER, *Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt (MCIT), Egypt*

Dina HATHOUT, *Misr Elkheir Foundation, Egypt*

Kishore SINGH, *ILO Bangladesh*

15.00–16.15 M3 Economic empowerment: Supporting entrepreneurship, self-employment and start-ups

Solutions furthering entrepreneurship and self-employment of persons with disabilities are often based on training, advice and support for business development, access to financial services or even contracts to buy products and services (public procurement). This approach may also include cooperation with supportive companies, microfinancing or special skills training.

Chair: Rana KOTAN, *Sabancı Foundation, Turkey*

Yogendra GIRI, *Karuna Foundation, Netherlands*

Mohammad Monjurul HABIB, *CDD - Centre for Disability and Development, Bangladesh*

Minister Santiago LEON, *MIPRO - Ministry of Industry and Productivity, Ecuador*

Sabina LOBATO, *Fundacion ONCE, Spain*

Dinesh RANA, *CBM - India, India*

15.00–16.15 M6 Comprehensive employment models from the Middle East and Northern Africa

Broadly based solutions supporting people to find employment, involving many different stakeholders and mostly using step-by-step approaches. These steps often include education and vocational training, labour intermediation, mentoring, internships or job placement, support during the labour integration, as well as cooperation with employers and other stakeholder groups, often backed by government policies like financial support or quota.

Chair: Mukhtar AL SHIBANI, *GAATES - Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments Saudi Arabia*

Heidi ALASKARY, *Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF), Saudi Arabia*

Madeleine AZMY, *SETI Centre for Training and Studies on Disability, Egypt*

Silvana LAKKIS, *LPHU - Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union / DPI Arab region, Lebanon*

Mervat TASHKANDI, *Ministry of Labour, Saudi Arabia*

16.30–17.45 M1 Give it a try - the power of internships and summer jobs for creating jobs

Projects and activities in this session such as e.g. internships or summer camps have a definite period of time, allowing people with disability and employers to get to know each other without the commitments of working contracts.

Chair: Galia GRANOT, *Ruderman Family Foundation, United States*

Peter FURLONG, *KARE, Ireland*

Erin RIEHLE, *Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, United States*

Susie RUTKOWSKI, *Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, United States*

Laura STOKLEY, *Community Living Sarnia, Canada*

**16.30–17.45 M2 Handicraft training that “works”**

Projects and activities in this session focus on handicraft training provided to people with disability. This solution is often combined with self employment or microfinancing.

Chair: Joana KINBERGER, *Diakonie - Brot für die Welt, Austria*
Ola Abu ALGHAIB, *Leonard Cheshire Disability, United Kingdom*
Sangita PANT, *EPSA - Entire Power in Social Action, Nepal*
Ishita SANYAL, *Jhankar, India*
Tracy VAUGHAN GOUGH, *Sightsavers, United Kingdom*

16.30–17.45 M3 The DisAbility Talent Program – connecting high-potentials with disabilities with companies

Austrian Top-Companies are on the search for talents with the DisAbility Talent Program! Students with disabilities get support to present themselves as high-potentials. The companies are eager to show, that they are the best employers for this talent group.

Chair: Michael AUMANN, *Disability Performance Austria, Austria*
Heidemarie EGGER, *Disability Performance Austria, Austria*
Victoria DOPPLER, *Caritas Vienna, Austria*

18.45–19.15 M1 Opening and Keynote Speeches of the Award Ceremony

Richard BERNSTEIN, *Justice of the Supreme Court in Michigan, United States*
Martin ESSL, *Essl Foundation, Austria*
Jakob VON UEXKÜLL, *World Future Council, United Kingdom*

19.15–20.30 M1 Award Ceremony for all Innovative Practices and Policies 2017

Friday, February 24, 2017

9.30–10.00 M1 Friday Opening

Bart WEETJENS, *The Wellbeing Project, Belgium*
Amelie SAUPE, *Zero Project, Japan*
Shinji SUDO, *People Design Institute, Japan*

10.00–10.45 M1 How to integrate persons with intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties

Persons with intellectual disabilities and learning difficulties face specific barriers to find decent workplaces. This discussion highlights existing pathways towards full inclusion in the labour force.

James CROWE, *EASPD - European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities, UK*
Walburga FROEHLICH, *atempo GmbH, Austria*
Germain WEBER, *Universität Wien, Fakultät für Psychologie, Austria*
Jyrki PINOMAA, *Aspa Foundation, Finland*
Moderator: Thomas BUTCHER, *Zero Project, United States*

**11.00–12.15 M2 Comprehensive employment models from South America**

Broadly based solutions supporting people to find employment, involving many different stakeholders and mostly using step-by-step approaches. These steps often include education and vocational training, labour intermediation, mentoring, internships or job placement, support during the labour integration, as well as cooperation with employers and other stakeholder groups, often backed by government policies like financial support or quota.

Chair: Leah MAXSON, *USAID - United States Agency for International Development - Democracy, Human Rights and Development Center, United States*
Carola RUBIA DURAN, *Fundacion Descubreme, Chile*
Wilson Marcelo PASTOR MORRIS, *Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN in Vienna Ecuador*
Monica HONORES, *MIMP - Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations, Peru*

11.00–12.15 M1 Comprehensive employment models from South and Southeast Asia

Broadly based solutions supporting people to find employment, comprehensively, involving many different stakeholders and mostly using step-by-step approaches. These steps often include education and vocational training, mentoring, internships or job placement as well as cooperation with employers and other stakeholder groups, often supported by government policies like financial support or quota.

Chair: Meera SHENOY, *Youth4Jobs Foundation, India*
Radhika AGARWAL, *v-shesh - opportunity to ambition, India*
Gopal GARG, *Youth4Jobs Foundation, India*
Cees VAN BREUGEL, *Woord en Daad, Netherlands*

11.00–12.15 M3 Peer education models: Persons with disabilities as teachers and trainers

Peer education involves projects where people with disabilities train or teach other people, with or without disabilities, using their special expertise in fields like inclusion or accessibility.

Chair: Jamie BOLLING, *ENIL - European Network of Independent Living, Belgium*
Tove Linnea BRANDVIK, *Uloba - Independent Living Norge SA, Norway*
Mampoi THEKO, *Ministry of Education and Training, Lesotho*
Jan WULF-SCHNABEL, *Stiftung Drachensee, Germany*

12.30–13.45 M2 Personal leasing instead of hiring: the lean way to engage with employers

Persons with disabilities are employed, at open labour market conditions, at personal leasing companies, who have consulting or service contracts with companies.

Chair: Marie RINGLER, *Ashoka Österreich, Austria*
Thorsten GRAF, *alsterarbeit, Germany*
Peter HERBITSCHKEK, *Chance B Hausmasters GmbH, Austria*
Laila ONU, *Pentru Voi Foundation, Romania*

**12.30–13.45 M1 Crafting successfully transitions from sheltered employment settings into the open labour market**

In many countries sheltered workshop settings or non-work programmes are a widespread reality. The focus of this session will be on models that advance the transition from sheltered workshops and the integration of people with disabilities into the open labour market.

Chair: Klaus LACHWITZ, *IDA - International Disability Alliance, Germany*
Lisa CULBERTSON, *State of Vermont's Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, United States*
Elizabeth SIGHTLER, *State of Vermont's Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, United States*
Bryan DAGUE, *University of Vermont - Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, United States*
Irak EICHLER, *Shekulo Tov, Israel*
Andreas JESSE, *autArk Soziale Dienstleistungs GmbH, Austria*
Alfred LEITNER, *Lebenshilfe Salzburg, Austria*
Cerasela Nicolet, *PREDESCU, PRO Act Support, Hungary*

12.30–13.45 M3 Cooperating with universities to open up the labour market

Projects and activities supporting students with disabilities and support them to find jobs after graduation, or cooperating with training courses where University degrees adds credibility and chances to find jobs.

Chair: Siri KOCH-LARSEN, *City of Oslo, Department of Primary Health and Social Affairs, Norway*
Jana BAUER, *Universität zu Köln, Germany*
Antonio MARTINEZ-PUJALTE, *University Miguel Hernandez, Spain*
Jan WULF-SCHNABEL, *Stiftung Drachensee, Germany*
Joseph JONES, *The Harkin Institute for Public Policy United States*

14.45–16.00 M1 Live show: Training and hiring at work

In this session, several performances show how training, hiring and working really “works” for persons with disabilities.

Chair: Susan SCOTT-PARKER, *BDI - Business Disability International, United Kingdom*
Michal RIMON, *Access Israel, Israel*
Katya BALEN, *Mainspring Arts, United Kingdom*
Miranda PRAG, *Mainspring Arts, United Kingdom*
Petra PLICKA, *Graphic Facilitation of the Zero Project Conference 2017 Austria*

14.45–16.00 M2 Comprehensive employment models from Central and Eastern Europe

Broadly based solutions supporting people to find employment, comprehensively, involving many different stakeholders and mostly using step-by-step approaches. These steps often include education and vocational training, mentoring, internships or job placement as well as cooperation with employers and other stakeholder groups, often supported by government policies like financial support or quota.

Chair: Silvia APOSTOL, *IM - Individuell Människohjälp - Swedish Development Partner, Moldova*
Oksana CHUCHUNKOVA, *Perspektiva - Regional Society of Disabled People, Russia*
Hripsime NAZARETYAN, *Bridge of Hope, Armenia*
Anahit YERNJAKYAN, *Save the Children Armenia, Armenia*



16.00–17.00 **M1** **Farewell and Lookout to 2017/2018**

Co-Chair: Ingrid HEINDORF, *WFC - World Future Council, Switzerland*

Co-Chair: Silvia BALMAS, *EFC - European Foundation Centre, Belgium*

Eric Guozhong ZHANG, *UN DESA/DSPD/SCRPD, United States*

Kathryn TOWNSEND, *Barclays Bank, United Kingdom*

Robert KASPAR, *Special Olympics Austria*

via Video: Victor PINEDA, *Victor Pineda Foundation, United States*

Bastienne PALIZ, *Ecuador For All, Ecuador*

Claudia WERNECK, *Escola De Gente Brazil*

More speakers from different countries, sectors and organizations with their personal summaries and outlooks