

# Zero Project receives 381 nominations from 86 countries this year

**The Zero Project has completed the nomination process for Innovative Practices and Policies 2021/22 in the field of accessibility. It has received a total of 381 nominations for Innovative Practices and Policies from 86 countries around the world.**

Vienna, Austria, July 14, 2021: The Zero Project is committed to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) around the world. As such, the 2022 Zero Project Call for Nominations was centered around Article 9 of the UN CRPD – the theme of accessibility.

The nomination process spanned from May 2021 to June 2021 and sought to identify Innovative Practices and Policies from civil society, the public sector, the business sector and the interdisciplinary ICT sector.

Overall, the Zero Project has received 381 Nominations from 86 countries. The nominations were of great quality and covered a wide variety of topics such as public transport; infrastructure; built environment; smart homes; tourism; sign language; easy language; orientation systems; communication platforms, learning tools; and many more innovative and impactful solutions dedicated to accessibility.

The international peer-review process of thoroughly screening, shortlisting, voting, and finally selecting these Innovative Practices and Policies has begun and will continue until September 2021.

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

The Call for Nominations of Innovative Practices and Policies resulted in the following breakdown:

- 184 nominations from civil society,
- 39 nominations from the public sector,
- 72 nominations from the business sector, and
- 88 ICT-related innovations (across all sectors),

## **Nominations from 86 countries and all regions of the world**

Nominations this year came from 86 countries, and all regions of the world are represented:

Australia and Oceania	4
Caribbean	5
Central America	4
Central and Eastern Europe	20
CIS and Associated States	7
MENA Region (Middle East and Northern Africa)	56
North America	57
Northern Europe	10

South America	41
South Asia	29
Southeast Asia	31
Sub Saharan Africa	35
Western Europe	82

The Top 10-countries in numbers of nominations:

1. United States	43
2. Spain	21
3. Israel	20
4. Austria	18
5. United Kingdom	17
6. Brazil	14
7. India	13
8. Chile	12
9. Turkey	10
10. Canada	9
Uganda	9

For the first time, the Zero Project also received nominations from the countries of Barbados, Mongolia, and Sierra Leone.

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

The Zero Project team, with the help of its close partners and trusted peer-review network, is currently shortlisting all nominations, which evaluates each nomination on the three criteria: innovation, impact, and scalability.

In August 2021, the Zero Project's wider network will be given the opportunity to vote on the Shortlist of Innovative Practices and Policies, and based on these votes, the Zero Project team will select the Awardees in the course of September 2021.

The overall aim is to select up to 75 Innovative Practices and Policies, to be published in the Zero Project Report 2022 on Accessibility and to award these during the 2022 annual Zero Project Conference – #ZeroCon22.

#ZeroCon22 will be hosted at the Vienna International Centre within the premises of the United Nations Vienna and will be hosted as a hybrid event – in accordance with local and international COVID-19 protocols – from February 23 - 25, 2022.

### **For further information, please contact:**

**Michael Fembek**

Zero Project, Director

Essl Foundation

[m.fembek@zeroproject.org](mailto:m.fembek@zeroproject.org)

[www.zeroproject.org](http://www.zeroproject.org)