

Zero Project receives 319 nominations from 78 countries for #ZeroCall23

The Zero Project has completed the nomination process for the Zero Project Call for Nomination 2023 - #ZeroCall23 - that is centered around Innovative Practices and Policies in the field of Independent Living & Political Participation, and ICT. #ZeroCall23 received a total of 319 nominations from 78 countries around the world.

Vienna, Austria, July 14, 2022 - The Zero Project is committed to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) around the world. As such, the 2022 Zero Project Call for Nominations sought to identify innovation solutions in the field of Independent Living & Political Participation, and ICT.

The nomination process spanned from May to early July 2022 and sought to identify innovative solutions from civil society, the public sector, the business sector, and the interdisciplinary ICT sector.

Overall, the Zero Project has received 319 nominations from 78 countries. The number of nominations is the third highest in the history of the Zero Project (with a record of 475 in 2020/21).

The global nominations are marked by quality and cover a wide variety of topics such as Supported Living, Self-Employment /Micro Finance or Early Childhood Intervention; those focusing on ICT had a focus on Community and Knowledge Platforms, Assistive Technology, and Translation/Conversation Tools.

The international peer-review process of thoroughly screening, shortlisting, voting, and finally selecting the Awardees of the Zero Project has begun and will continue until September 2022.

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

#ZeroCall23 nominations were received as follows:

- 190 nominations from civil society;
- 23 nominations from the public sector;
- 27 nominations from the business sector, and
- 79 ICT-related innovations (across all sectors).

Nominations from 78 countries and all regions of the world

Nominations this year came from 78 countries, and all regions of the world are represented:

Africa	34 nominations
Asia & Pacific	99 nominations
Australia and Oceania	10 nominations
Europe	109 nominations
Latin America & Caribbean	31 nominations
North America	36 nominations

The Top 25-countries in numbers of nominations (countries of domicile of the nominated solutions):

1. Austria 26 nominations
- Israel 26 nominations
- United States 26 nominations



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4.	India	14 nominations
5.	Spain	12 nominations
6.	Australia	10 nominations
7.	Germany	9 nominations
8.	Chile	8 nominations
	Kenya	8 nominations
	United Kingdom	8 nominations
10.	Brazil	7 nominations
	Turkey	7 nominations
13.	Canada	6 nominations
	Philippines	6 nominations
	Saudi-Arabia	6 nominations
16.	Indonesia	5 nominations
	Italy	5 nominations
	Palestine	5 nominations
	Thailand	5 nominations
20.	Egypt	4 nominations
	Ireland	4 nominations
	Jordan	4 nominations
	Mexico	4 nominations
	Nepal	4 nominations
	Pakistan	4 nominations
	Singapore	4 nominations
	Sweden	4 nominations
	Uganda	4 nominations

Austria, Israel and the United States share the top spot in this ranking with 26 nominations each. From 28 countries, the Zero Project received four or more nominations.

For the first time, the Zero Project also received nominations from the countries of The Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) and Djibouti.

Next steps in the selection process

The Zero Project team, with the help of its close partners and a trusted peer-review network, is currently shortlisting all nominations, which evaluates each nomination on three key criteria: (1) innovation, (2) impact, and (3) scalability.

In August 2022, 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 2022.

The overall aim is to select up to 75 Awardees of the Zero Project, to be published in the Zero Project Report 2022 on Independent Living & Political Participation, and ICT and to present all the Awardees at the Zero Project Conference 2023 – #ZeroCon23.

#ZeroCon23 will be again hosted at the Vienna International Centre within the premises of the United Nations Offices at Vienna and will be organized as a hybrid event – in accordance with local and international COVID-19 protocols – from February 22 - 24, 2023.

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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