

# The Zero Project announces its 71 Zero Project Awardees of 2023

**Vienna, Austria, December 2, 2023:** The Zero Project has announced the Zero Project Awardees 2023, centered around Independent Living & Political Participation, and ICT. 71 Innovative Solutions from 38 countries will receive the Zero Project Award at the Zero Project Conference 2023 in Vienna, Austria.

## **2023 Research Theme: Independent Living and Political Participation**

The Zero Project is committed to supporting the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), by researching, identifying, communicating, and supporting Innovative Solutions globally and across all sectors of society. The Zero Project 2023 annual research cycle was dedicated to the theme of Independent Living & Political Participation, and ICT.

Independent Living emphasizes that persons with disabilities have the right to choose where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others, as stipulated by Article 19 of the CRPD. This includes access to residential support services, including personal assistance, and support to prevent isolation from the community.

Political Participation – as highlighted in Articles 21 and 29 of the CRPD - stipulates that persons with disabilities have the right to express their opinions and participate in political and public life. This includes both their right to vote and be voted for during elections as well as the protection of their votes and their identity as voters.

## **The Innovative Solutions of Awardees 2023**

From cooperative personal assistance models to inclusive election guides; from co-design toolkits to entrepreneurship programs; from supported housing models to pioneering deinstitutionalization initiatives; from accessible music programs to theatre for all; from assistive technology to rights-based approaches – the Awardees 2023 provide a wide variety of innovative solutions, many using ICT-based approaches, towards a world with greater independent living, political participation for all, and zero barriers.

Please find the full list of Awardees here: [Announcing the Zero Project Awardees 2023! | Zero Project](#)

## **Global representation from all sectors of society**

The 71 Awardees come from 38 different countries and from all six continents, with Europe (23 Awardees), followed by Asia & Pacific (19), North America (14), Africa (8), Latin America & Caribbean (6), and Australia & Oceania (1).

The countries with the highest numbers of Awardees are the United States of America (12); Israel (8); Austria (5); Chile, Kenya, and Spain (3 each); and Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, Sweden, and Turkey (2 each). For the first time, we have awarded an innovative solution from Djibouti.

These Innovative Solutions come from all corners of the globe and all sectors of society: 45 Awardees come from civil society, 1 from the business sector, 6 from the public sector, and 19 are mainly ICT-based approaches.

## **Zero Project Research Process**

Zero Project's annual research cycle is centered around four main areas of research: independent living and political participation; accessibility; employment; and education. ICT-related innovations are specifically covered each year and receive dedicated attention within the Zero Project research cycle.

The Zero Project's research process is marked by its commitment to an extensive peer-review process and the three main criteria: innovation, impact, and scalability. Thanks to its vast global network, the Zero Project organizes a multi-step nomination, evaluation, and selection process, which culminates in the announcement of the annual Awardees. The Awardees receive the opportunity to showcase their innovative work at the Zero Project Conference and receive dedicated space in the annual [Zero Project Report](#) that will be shared online and in print with disability inclusion experts.

## **Zero Project Conference 2023**

After the announcement of the Awardees of 2023, the Zero Project will present and promote these during the invitation-only Zero Project Conference 2023 – #ZeroCon23 – at the United Nations Office at Vienna. This global gathering will be broadcast live and for free from Vienna from February 22 to February 24, 2023. For more information about #ZeroCon23, please visit: [zeroproject.org/zerocon23](https://zeroproject.org/zerocon23)

To celebrate its Awardees of 2023 leading up to #ZeroCon23, the Zero Project will showcase thematic groupings of Awardees on all social media platforms, sharing these impactful solutions globally. Ultimately, the Awardees 2023 will join the free online [database of innovative solutions](#) hosted by the Zero Project.

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

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