

Zero Project receives a record 523 nominations from 97 countries for #ZeroCall24

The Zero Project's nomination process for the 2024 Zero Project Call for Nominations - #ZeroCall24 - has come to a close. The focus of this cycle was on Innovative Solutions in Inclusive Education and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The #ZeroCall24 initiative received a total of 523 nominations from 97 countries worldwide.

Vienna, Austria, July 17, 2023 - The Zero Project is an initiative committed to the global implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Accordingly, the 2023/24 Zero Project Call for Nominations aimed to identify innovative solutions in the domains of education and ICT.

The nomination process, which ran from May to early July 2023, set out to identify trailblazing solutions from four key sectors: civil society, public sector, business sector, and the interdisciplinary ICT sector.

In total, the Zero Project received 523 nominations from 97 countries, marking a record in the project's history (the previous record was 475 in 2020/21). The nominations covered an array of topics including Digital Learning, Early Childhood Intervention, Vocational Training, and Lifelong Learning. ICT-focused topics include Community and Knowledge Platforms, Assistive Technology, and Translation/Conversation Tools.

The peer review process has begun and will continue until October 2023. It involves a comprehensive screening, fact-checking, and shortlisting process, culminating in the selection of the Zero Project Awardees.

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

The distribution of the 523 nominations is as follows:

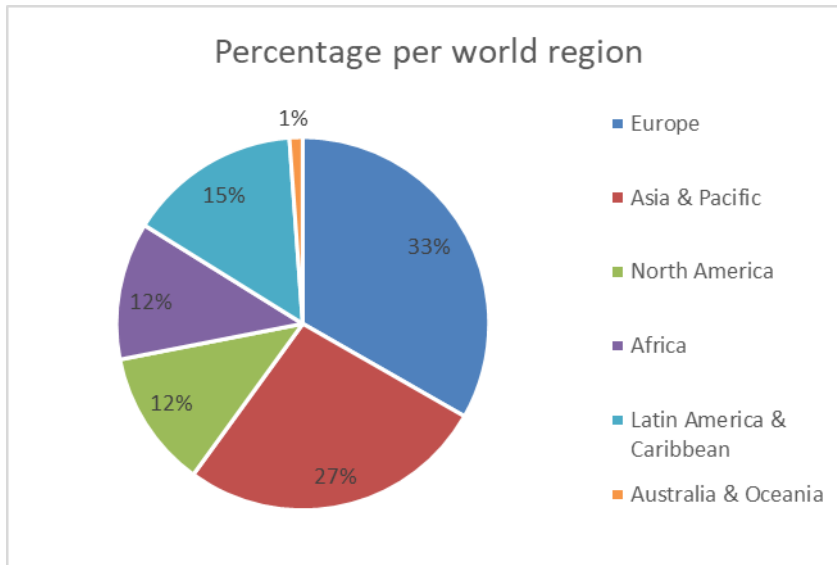
- Civil Society: 309 nominations
- Public Sector: 29 nominations
- Business Sector: 53 nominations
- ICT-related innovations (across all sectors): 132 nominations

Nominations from 97 countries and all regions of the world

The nominations originated from 97 countries, providing a truly global representation:

Africa	63 nominations
Asia & Pacific	140 nominations
Australia and Oceania	7 nominations
Europe	173 nominations
Latin America & Caribbean	78 nominations
North America	62 nominations

With Europe, America (North and South America combined), and Asia & Pacific regions each represented by 25 or more percent, and with Africa represented by approximately 12 percent of nominations, participation in the Zero Project Call for Nominations is more globally diverse than ever before.



The Top 20 countries by number of nominations (countries of domicile of the nominated solutions):

1.	United States of America	49
2.	Austria	34
3.	Chile	32
4.	India	30
	Israel	30
6.	United Kingdom	23
7.	Spain	18
8.	Turkey	13
9.	Brazil	12
10.	Uganda	10
	Colombia	10
	South Africa	10
13.	Mexico	9
14.	Bangladesh	8
	Kenya	8
	Nigeria	8
	Saudi Arabia	8
	Germany	8
19.	Nepal	7
	Japan	7
	Philippines	7
	Netherlands	7

The United States of America comes in first, when nominations are counted by country of domicile, with Austria – home country of the Essl Foundation – and Chile – home country of Fundación Descúbreme, leading the Iberoamerican activities of the Zero Project – in second and third place. India, Israel, Spain, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Turkey have been consistently in the Top 10 nominating countries in the past years, as they are this year. For the first time, Colombia reached the Top 10.



Notably, for the first time, the Zero Project received a nomination from the country of Samoa.

Many of the most populous countries are represented in the Top 20 of this year's Zero Project nomination ranking, like Mexico, Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Japan, and Germany – another indicator supporting the global presence of the Zero Project.

Next steps in the selection process

The Zero Project team, alongside its close partners and peer review network, is currently shortlisting the nominations. Each submission is evaluated on three key criteria: innovation, impact, and scalability. Around 150 nominations will make it to the shortlist and approximately 75 will become Zero Project Awardees. The Awardees will be announced on December 3, 2023, and invited to present at the next Zero Project Conference in February 2024 at the United Nations premises in Vienna.

The Zero Project, an initiative of the Essl Foundation, is dedicated to creating a world with zero barriers. It aims to find and share solutions that improve the daily lives and legal rights of all persons with disabilities, as encouraged by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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