

PRESS RELEASE

A world without barriers: Inclusion is a human right

World Future Council and Essl Foundation decide on long-term cooperation

Hamburg / Vienna, 12th April 2012. Far too often persons with disabilities are being excluded from society. In order to change this situation, many countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. However for those concerned, the implementation is not satisfactory. For this reason, the Essl Foundation and the World Future Council have decided to co-operate to help improve the legal situation of persons with disabilities worldwide. With a long-term cooperation, the two organizations want to work together to achieve the UN goals for inclusion of persons with disabilities. "To protect and to implement the rights of persons with disabilities, it is important to know the best laws and to promote their widespread implementation. Therefore, we look forward to working closely with the World Future Council," said Martin Essl, Chairman of the Essl Foundation. The World Future Council identifies laws that successfully promote sustainability and human rights worldwide and advises politicians on how to implement these laws.

The two organizations have already collaborated successfully in the past. Together, they brought 250 decision-makers to the international Zero Project Conference on Good Policies for Persons with Disabilities on 22-23th January 2012 in Vienna and then launched the Zero Project to monitor the national implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities all around the world.

"The Essl Foundation initiated, under the leadership of Martin Essl, an ambitious project – the Zero Project. We truly look forward to further cooperation," said Jakob von Uexkull, Chairman of the World Future Council. "We now need to identify the right laws quickly and effectively promote them."

The Essl Foundation and the World Future Council signed a five-year partnership agreement. In 2012 the Zero Project focuses on the right of persons with disabilities to work.

Note to the editors

The Zero Project – For a World without Barriers

The Zero Project was launched by the Essl Foundation and the World Future Council at the international Zero Project Conference on Good Policies for Persons with Disabilities on January 22-23, 2012 in Vienna, Austria. With its global outreach, the Zero Project monitors the national implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

around the world. In addition, with a yearly thematic focus, it identifies and highlights exemplary policies and practices, which actively protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. The Zero Project maintains a social-media platform, and, each year, it publishes the Zero Project Report and presents its findings at the Zero Project Conference. More information on www.zeroproject.org

The Essl Foundation

The purpose of the Martin and Gerda Essl Social Prize Private Non-profit Foundation is to support people in need and to promote public awareness about the necessity of support for those in need and to provide the individuals concerned with the appropriate training. Good practice is at the heart of the Essl Foundation's mission and the foundation believes strongly that social innovation is heavily dependent on entrepreneurs to create change. The present project has grown out of the work the Essl Foundation continues to undertake around the situation of persons with disabilities. For more information, please visit www.esslfoundation.org

The World Future Council

The World Future Council aims to be a global advocate for the concerns of future generations in international politics. The Council consists of 50 respected personalities from around the world who have already successfully promoted change in various and diverse fields. Their activities range from advocating human rights and sustaining the planet to promoting political, scientific, cultural and economic justice. The WFC's mission is to inform decision makers about the challenges facing future generations and to provide them with practical policy solutions. The WFC identifies and promotes successful policies that can be implemented as laws, policy standards, and international agreements. To achieve this, the WFC draws on its networks of parliamentarians, institutions and organisations around the globe. For more information, please visit our website www.worldfuturecouncil.org

Contact: Anne Reis, +49 40 3070 914-16 or [anne.reis\(at\)worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:anne.reis(at)worldfuturecouncil.org)