

## Call for Nominations:

# “Innovative Practices in Early Childhood Intervention”

Deadline to submit nominations: **January 24<sup>th</sup> 2016, 23:59 CET**

Submit to: Ms Sabrina Ferraina, [sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu](mailto:sabrina.ferraina@easpd.eu)

## INSTRUCTIONS

**Zero Project** and **EASPD** collaborate in a study to identify best practices in the field of Early Childhood Intervention concerning children with disabilities. The results will be published in a report with a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 practices, which give an in-depth insight into the various projects. The report will describe their method, their unique success and their ability to be transferred into a different surrounding. The written report will be illustrated as well, to target a broad and diverse audience. The results of the study will also be presented during the EASPD conference taking place in Moldova on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2016 and will be available for wider publication after that.

**Early Childhood Intervention** is a system of coordinated services that promotes the child's age-appropriate growth and development and supports families during the critical early years. The mission of Early Childhood Intervention is to assure that families who have at-risk children in this age range receive resources and support that assist them in maximizing their child's physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development while respecting the diversity of families and communities (cited from <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=32009>).

**The Zero Project and EASPD are looking for innovations in this field.**

### Who can nominate?

Anyone can nominate. **Self-nominations** are also possible. There is only one exception: Public policies cannot be nominated by the responsible government, parliament or administration.

### What do we mean by Early Childhood Intervention?

**Our research will focus on the following services:**

- Assistive technology devices and services - equipment and services that are used to improve or maintain the abilities of a child to participate in such activities as playing, communication, eating or moving.
- Audiology - identifying and providing services for children with hearing loss and prevention of hearing loss.



- Family training - services provided by qualified personnel to assist the family in understanding the special needs of the child and in promoting the child's development.
- Mental health counselling for children, parents, and families.
- Occupational therapy - services that relate to self-help skills, adaptive behaviour and play, and sensory, motor, and postural development.
- Parent training; parenting education.
- Physical therapy - services to prevent or lessen movement's difficulties and related functional problems.
- Psychology services - administering and interpreting psychological tests and information about a child's behaviour and child and family conditions related to learning, mental health and development as well as planning services including counselling, consultation, parent training, and education programs.
- Service coordination - someone who works in partnership with the family by providing assistance and services that help the family to coordinate and obtain their rights under the Early Intervention Program and services agreed upon in the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- Social work services - preparing an assessment of the social and emotional strengths and needs of a child and family, and providing individual or group services such as counselling or family training.
- Special instruction - includes designing learning environments and activities that promote the child's development, providing families with information, skills, and support to enhance the child's development.
- Speech-language pathology - services for children with delay in communication skills or with motor skills such as weakness of muscles around the mouth or swallowing.
- Therapeutic early childhood classrooms, providing developmentally appropriate learning environments, and staffed by trained Early Interventionists
- Vision services - identification of children with visual disorders or delays and providing services and training to those children.



## What are the selection criteria?

### Innovation

Nominations that **pioneer change and improve existing solutions**. The nomination has to be innovative, at least in the **context** where it is currently implemented (thus including also e.g. **less developed countries, rural areas**, etc). Or it may be more cost-efficient, become more **broadly available** or more **accessible** than existing models.

### Output and impact

**Data, facts and figures** that prove the benefit for society, such as numbers of beneficiaries, numbers of services provided, etc. Refer also to **evaluations** and any other **documentation** of output and impact. Also **testimonials** can underline the benefit, as can **news articles** and **awards** that have been won.

### Transferability and cost-efficiency

Nominations that have the potential to **grow**, to **be copied** or **transferred** in the future. Nominations

- that are **cost-efficient**,
- that have **a clear strategy**
- that can be **easily explained**
- that can be **simply adopted/adapted** by other organizations or in other countries.

## What are the criteria for exclusion?

- **Non coverage of** Early Childhood Intervention;
- **Incomplete forms**;
- **Discrimination against any disadvantaged group** (e.g. indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, or certain types of disabilities) or that do not respect other principles of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**;
- **Lack of a comprehensive strategy**;
- **Scientific research** without work "on the ground"; pure **publicity, advocacy or advertising campaigns**; and **ideas** that have not been implemented.

## Why should you submit a nomination?

- Nominated organizations as well as their nominators will be invited to become part of the Zero Project and EASPD expert **network**.
- Representatives of the selected Innovative Practices will be invited to present at the **EASPD Conference** taking place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2016 in Moldova.



## What happens after the nomination?

- All nominators will be informed whether their nomination has been shortlisted by the end of February 2016 at the latest.
- All representatives of the shortlisted nominations will be contacted by the Zero Project Team for further research.

## Information on the organisers

### The Zero Project

The Zero Project – For a World without Barriers ([www.zeroproject.org](http://www.zeroproject.org)) – officially launched in 2011 by the Essl Foundation ([www.esslfoundation.org](http://www.esslfoundation.org)), advocates the rights of persons with disabilities internationally. With its global outreach, the Zero Project monitors the national implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and highlights innovative practices and policies. The project is organised in partnership with the World Future Council ([www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)) and the European Foundation Centre ([www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be)).

### Who are the partners of the Zero Project?

Last year the Zero Project has cooperated, for example, with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Disabled People's International (DPI), Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), European Network for Independent Living (ENIL) as well as many others. The Zero Project is currently expanding its partnerships. Visit our partner website to learn more: <http://zeroproject.org/about-us/partners/>

For any further questions, please contact: Ms Doris Neuwirth, [office@zeroproject.org](mailto:office@zeroproject.org), +43 2243 410 ext 9101.

## EASPD

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) is a non-profit European umbrella organization, established in 1996, and currently representing over 11.000 social and health services for persons with disabilities. EASPD advocates effective and high-quality disability-related services in the field of education, employment and individualised support, in line with the UN CRPD principles, which could bring benefits not only to persons with disabilities, but to society as a whole. EASPD is accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

For more information please contact: [info@easpd.eu](mailto:info@easpd.eu), [www.easpd.eu](http://www.easpd.eu).

