

Special session on Fostering Digital Innovation Ecosystem for Accessible Europe

Zero Project Conference 2021

10 February 2021 | 17:00 – 18:00 CET | Virtual

ITU will facilitate a **Special Session** on “**Fostering Digital Innovation Ecosystem for Accessible Europe**”, which will be held virtually as a co-conferencing session (Channel 3) of [the Zero Project Conference 2021](#), on **10 February 2021 from 17:00 to 18:00 CET**. This session is held within the framework of the [Accessible Europe](#) initiative, more precisely its work stream on fostering of the ICT centric innovation ecosystem and “[Regional Competition for Innovative Digital Solutions for an Accessible Europe 2021](#)”.

ICTs have a vital role for ALL people's empowerment and represent an enabler for inclusion in society. For persons with disabilities (PWDs), accessible, innovative digital solutions remove barriers and assist this community in gaining independence in their daily life. The current pandemic reveals the pre-existing inequalities faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) and highlights the increasing importance of ICTs accessibility as barrier removers which help PWDs live an independent life, participate in cultural events or political processes, benefit from education or entertainment, or obtain a job.

Five European innovators will present their innovative solutions and will join this interactive panel discussion to explore what is needed to further strengthen the ecosystem supporting the development of the ICT accessibility innovations. It will also explore and cover the types of issues, solutions and challenges these organizations faced when starting up, adhering to this year's conference theme of ICT & Employment to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced in developing Accessible ICT solutions.

SESSION AGENDA

17:00 – 17:05 Introduction from Zero Project

17:05 – 17:20 Introduction and setting the context

- Mr. Jaroslav K. Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe

17:20 – 17:55 Presentations from European Innovators on digital solutions benefitting persons with disabilities (PwD)

- Mr. Christoph Jo. Müller, Executive Vice President, CSS MicroSystems GmbH
- Ms. Rut Turró Pascual, CEO, Moving Mood
- Mr. Yves Cornu, Managing Director, FACIL'iti
- Mr. Steffen Helbing, Board Member, World in Sign EU GmbH
- Mr. Claudiu, Leverenz, CEO, Munevo

Q&A Session

17:55 – 18:00 Concluding remarks and closing

