Conference "Disability and Work: Global Strategies for Equity"

May 4th-5th, 2012
Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel,
Montreal, Canada
Effective Funder Strategies –
Innovation and Partnerships

Dr. Michael Fembek, Essl Foundation
What is the Zero Project?

- The Essl Foundation and its mission
- The World Future Council and its mission
- Comparison via social indicators, finding good practice and good policy
The Founders of the Essl Foundation
### The bauMax company group

**Key facts about bauMax:**

- Sale of home improvement and Do-It-Yourself products (like Home Depot)
- In 9 Countries
  - Austria
  - Czech Republic
  - Slovakia
  - Hungary
  - Slovenia
  - Croatia
  - Rumania
  - Bulgaria
  - Turkey
The bauMax company group

- 1,6 bn € turnover (2011)
- 11,000 employees
- 260 persons with disabilities employed
- Various cooperations with local NGOs
The bauMax company group
The Essl Foundation

Mission:

- Supporting social innovation and social entrepreneurship
- Working for a world without barriers
Major projects of the Essl Foundation

- Zero Project
- Supporting Ashoka in Austria and neighbouring countries
- Supporting Venture Philanthropy in Austria with „Sinnstifter“
The World Future Council

- Founded by Jakob von Uexküll ("Alternative Nobel Prize")
- Bring the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making
- Methodology of spreading Good Practice, e.g. in energy sector: Feed-in tariffs that speed up the development of alternative energy production
The World Future Council

- “Future Justice” as one of its major targets
- Unique worldwide support network: Olivier Giscard D`Estaing, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Jane Goodall, Daryl Hannah, Youssou N`Dour
Mission of the Zero Project

- “For a world without barriers”
- Supporting the implementation of the UN Convention for persons with disabilities (CRPD)
- Improving practices and policies
- Creating data and transparency
- Building platforms and partnerships
240 participants from 30 countries

Parliamentarians, foundations, NGOs, academics, international organisations like UN, ILO etc.

Discussing just 8 good policies from around the world (including Canada, British Columbia)
Organised together with World Future Council and Bank Austria

More than a 100 contributors and partners from 35 countries
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2009: Start of the Zero Project

- 2009: Start of the “Essl Social Index” – measuring and comparing countries with social indicators
- PISA-Study and African Development Index as models to help disadvantaged persons
- Defining fields like homelessness or gender mainstreaming, but starting with disability
2010: The Pilot Study

- Developing social indicators, together with numerous NGOs in 3 workshops
- Partnering with TU Munich
- 44 indicators finally entered the questionnaire
- Answered by experts in 15 countries
- Pilot study published in November 2010
Learnings from the Pilot Study

- Easy to find partners (no financial contribution required, but no payments either)
- Focus on just one field of work: disability!
- Validity of data always an issue
Learnings from the Pilot Study

- Be careful with your messages
- You are never alone with social indicators
- English language
- Huge interest in good practice, which were only a by-product
2011: Partnering with WFC

- Widening the range to Good Practice: systematical selection process with appx. 70 experts asked for nomination

- Partnering with the WFC: Including Good Policy: developing a scientific advisory board for selection
2011: Partnering with WFC

- Planning of the conference, Bank Austria as partner
- Developing “Zero Project” as a brand, to show independence and willingness to cooperate
2011: Zero Project Report

- Experts from 35 countries filled in the questionnaire

- 70 good policies nominated, 27 selected for the Zero Project Report

- 20 Good Policies selected, 8 selected for the report and for the conference
2011: Zero Project Report

- Altogether more than a 100 organisations contributed knowledge
- Zero Project website launched in December 2011, together with the presentation of the Zero Report
We were very proud!
2012: Current Work

- Long Term Partnership between Essl Foundation and World Future Council
- Focusing on one topic of the CRPD every year:
  2012/13: Employment
2012: Current Work

- “Upgrade” of Good Practice in a 2-day-Conference (18/19 February 2013), partnership with Ashoka Network
- Social Indicators for 60 – 70 countries
- Joint presentation of results with renowned and influential partners: European Parliament on June 21.
Possibilities to cooperate

- Contributing data to the social indicator system
- Nominating Good Practices and Good Policies
- Take part in selection processes
- Organise conferences and meetings
- Open to strategic partnerships