

European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability: Promoting Social Investment



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The best practices described in this document are originally from the winning and the highly commended project of the second edition of the Award, as well as from the projects that were best valued by the Jury.

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Foreword

by Alberto Durán,

Fundación ONCE Executive Vice-president and ILUNION President

Today, we are living a unique socioeconomic moment in which several social challenges such as the need to strengthen employment and social inclusion must be undertaken. In a time in which Europe's population is also going under an aging process, dynamics like social innovation and social entrepreneurship become key aspects, amongst other factors, to promote a smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive European economy, as intended by the Europe 2020 Strategy.

People with disabilities represent 16% of the EU population, being a great source of talent that cannot be left aside within this EU we want to build. Furthermore, together with their families, people with disabilities form a large consumer sector that creates business opportunities related to the current and future social challenges.

In this context, Fundación ONCE has been working to underline the active role that people with disabilities play and must keep playing to contribute to the European growth model. And joint actions are essential on this path, based on valuable multi-stakeholder partnerships. One of these examples is the European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D), which gathers as founding partners, together with Fundación ONCE, leading organizations representing both public administrations and the business sector, such as Telefónica in Spain, L'Oréal in France, and the Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali in Italy. This Network is furthermore cofunded by the European Social Fund, under the Spanish Operational Programme "Fight Agains Discrimination 2007-2013" running until 2015,



reflecting the solid aliance between Fundación ONCE with the EU that have lasted for more than 15 years.

In the framework of the CSR+D Network, and encouragend by the European Commission itself, Fundación ONCE launched in 2013 the pioneering initiative of the "European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability: Promoting Social Investment", with the mission of identifying, disseminating, recognizing and encouraging projects developed by entrepreneurs, that either have a focus on disability, or are led by a person with disability with an innovative focus.

Following the success of the 1st Edition, Fundación ONCE carried on with a 2nd Edition, launched in October 2014. We were happy to observe a wide European participation with projects coming from 13 different countries and increased initiatives led by entrepreneurs with disabilities. In addition, more partners and sponsors joined the Award, building together a real EUwide partnership of entities of different types, representing business, public sector and civil society, with a common aim: making disability a vector of innovation, growth and inclusion for the EU.

Both editions of the Award were followed by a high level Award Ceremony, with the support and presence of top level representatives of the European Commission.

As we proceeded in the 1st Edition of the Award, we wanted to finish the cycle of the 2nd Edition by diseminating a set of projects, the best valued, as a means of sharing some of the contributions received and of inspiring others and illustrating the potential of the binomial "social entrepreneurship and disability" (SE+D) for the EU.

As Fundación ONCE Vicepresident, and President of ILUNION, the group of social enterprises of ONCE and if Foundation -which employ over 31,000 people, 32% of its staff having a disability-, I am personally convinced of the this SE+D potential, that is already a reality and which is contributing to consolidate the unique European social model.





the 2nd European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability



Fundación ONCE, within the framework of the European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D), an initiative co-funded by the European Social Fund, launched in October 2014 the second edition of the European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability: Promoting Social Investment.

The aim of this Award is to identify and promote social entrepreneurship projects and to contribute to giving people with disabilities a leading role in the European model for sustainable economic growth, in line with initiatives like the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Award counted once again, like in the 1st edition, on the collaboration of the European Commission and the support of L'Oréal (France), Telefónica (Spain) and the Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Italy), – the three founding partners of the CSR+D Network together with Fundación ONCE -, as well as Fundación Triodos (Spain), Kanchi (Ireland) and Essl Foundation (Austria). In addition, two important organizations were incorporated this year: the European Disability Forum and EIDD-Design for All Europe (Ireland). The Jury of this second edition was made-up of one representative from each of these organisations.

The winning project was awarded with prize money of 11,000 Euros -increasing the amount of the 1st edition-, co-funded by Fundación ONCE, L'Oréal, Fundación Triodos and EiDD – Design for All.

The 2nd edition of the Award was a very important participation success, increasing to 13 the number of EU-countries represented in the total of 33 projects that were considered as eligible from all the projects received. Moreover, the participation figure of entrepreneurs with disabilities increased as well.

The social entrepreneur born in Bulgaria, and living in Austria, Kristina Tsvetanova, received the prize of this second edition for her project "BLITAB, First Tablet for Blind and Visually Impaired People".

On the other hand, the project "Marioway" by the Italian social entrepreneur Lorenzo Pompei, was recognised for being highly commended by the Jury.

The Award Ceremony of the second Edition of the European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability was held on 1st July, counting with the collaboration of the European Foundation Centre (EFC), and could not have had a better framework, with the Philanthropy House in Brussels as venue and chaired by the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, together with the Executive Vice President of Fundación ONCE and Ilunion President, Alberto Durán.



The Jury



Alberto Durán Fundación ONCE Executive Vice President and ILUNION President

Lieve Fransen Former Director responsible for Europe 2020, European Commission







L'Oréal **Mikel García-Prieto** Triodos Bank General Director in Spain

International Diversity Manager,

Stéphanie Oueda

and President of Fundación Triodos

Pete Kercher Ambassador, EiDD – Design for All Europe

Sofía Fernández de Mesa Director of Corporate Social Innovation and Social Responsibility, Telefónica





Romolo de Camillis

General Director for the Third Sector and Corporate Social Responsibility, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali Italia

> Michael Fembek Programm-Manager, Essl Foundation





Caroline Casey Founding CEO, Kanchi

> **Gunta Anca** Board Member, European Disability Forum





What the participants say

about the 2nd European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability

The participants of the Award wanted to share in this publication their experience and opinion after participating in this initiative. Here some of the testimonials:





BLITAB (Austria, Winner).

"This Award proves the power and ability of young entrepreneurs in Europe to change the status-quo and to contribute significantly to labour and technological inclusion of people with disabilities".

Marioway (*Italy, Highly commended project*). "Thanks to the European Commission and Fundación ONCE for supporting young companies trying to find innovative solutions to improve quality of life and inclusion of disadvantaged categories of the population".

Tactile Maps for Visually Impaired

Tactile Maps for Visually Impaired-Versoteq (Finland).

"Versoteq participated in the Award in order to raise the awareness about the new possibilities 3D printing has brought to us: The possibility to make the world more accessible for all".

Swap-able (Ireland).

"The European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability is fantastic. We took part because we believe that by sharing knowledge about truly accessible accommodation, people with reduced mobility can play an important and collaborative role in the solution to accessible travel for everyone".



Talk Around It (Ireland).

"The European Award for Social Entrepreneurship and Disability highlights the importance of social innovation to tackle key issues in the field of disability; it is a privilege to be associated with this award".



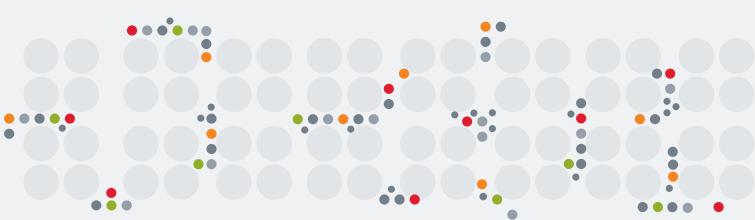
wii-GO (Portugal).

means "Entrepreneurship with Ability".

Handiway (Spain).

"We do believe that people that are putting out good have a lot of good coming back to them. This initiative not only awards the innovation but also the resilience of those who fight for a better world".





Talk

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BLITAB Winner

First Tablet for Blind and Visually Impaired People

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 Austria





BLITAB is the world's first tactile tablet for blind and visually impaired people, the next generation social Braille device for reading and writing based on an innovative technology. BLITAB Technology has developed a unique solution (in IP procedure) to address daily problems of million blind and visually impaired users.

As a creative combination of innovative technology, user-friendly hardware and social design, BLITAB offers to blind and visually impaired the possibility to be independent at work, school and home. It engenders confidence and knowledge of world that is critical to improve the quality of social live. It will open the way for people with sight loss to learn skills and expertise that will enable them to maintain gainful employment.

Existing Braille notetakers currently developed, represent a classic type of assistive product with only one line of Braille text and mechanical elements. BLITAB provides the accessible design and innovative technology in one mobile device allowing cheap production and affordable price. It is like an e-book that instead of using a screen displays small physical bubbles. They rise and fall on demand, composing a whole page in Braille code without any electromechanical pins. It provides an innovative design concept of a Braille multimedia device based on open discussions with blind people. BLITAB enables to read e-books, specialized text forms as well as to display simple images like building plans and routes. BLITAB makes it possible for blind children to learn 3D-geometric forms interactively, use Internet surfing as their seeing peers, and have access to modern technology. Moreover, it motivates young people to learn Braille in such modern way and increase their chance to get good qualifications.

Established in August 2014, the award-winning BLI-TAB has already demonstrated global social impact with more than 2500 signup testers among them 300 children in 34 countries worldwide, and this was the reason why the team was spotted and awarded as social change-maker. BLITAB is changing million lives. It has the potential to reinvent the Braille usage, to increase literacy among children, and to boost labour and technological inclusion of all blind people.

This is a big step to help blind people to manage their own life. Moreover, the tactile display of relief opens a complete new world of content. Routing maps are another useful step to manage everyday life and independence. Therefore, BLITAB is a catalyst for the access of blind people to the world reducing the need of help to receive any kind of information and even entertainment to live an independent and equal life.

"As a creative combination of innovative technology, userfriendly hardware and social design, BLITAB offers to blind and visually impaired the possibility to be independent at work, school and home".

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Marioway Highly Commended Project by the Jury

Innovative electric wheelchair for users with walking impairments

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 Italy





Marioway is an innovative hands-free, two-wheeled, self-balancing, verticalizing, electric wheelchair for users with walking difficulties. It comes from the idea that standard wheelchairs for people with disabilities need to be adapted to modern times. Standard wheelchairs are of another time. While sports cars or beautiful motorbikes have replaced horse carriages in less than 100 years, the wheelchair has stayed the same.

Marioway is an innovative electric wheelchair built on existing, largely available technology (gyroscopecontrolled bases on wheels) that, through its novelties, aims to become a tool of social inclusion, desired also by people without paraplegia, challenging the perception that the society has of disability.

The project started under the leadership and vision of a developmental educator, who has worked for more than 20 years with people with disabilities. He concluded that people with disabilities using wheelchairs still had few opportunities to release their full potential. In particular, they cannot move, use their hands, stand up because of the wheelchair, something they use every day and that squanders their freedom, life quality and relationships with others.

Marioway offers a sustainable, inclusive and smart solution to the society. Currently, there is no wheel-

chair on the market that allows a paraplegic user to:
Ride an electric, hands-free mobility device through a combination of movements of the upper torso, neck, shoulder and arms.

• Interact with the external world from their natural upright body height.

• Customize the device to their body's length of femur, shinbone, and asymmetries.

• Improve their life quality through better breathing, digestion, posture and perform passive gymnastics thanks to an ergonomic position.

Wheelchair standing devices are medically beneficial for wheelchair users and, according to different studies, are often medically necessary. They enable certain individuals to improve functional reach, circulation, mobility and access; promote vital organ capacity, bone health; reduce the occurrence of skeletal deformities; provide numerous psychosocial and quality of life benefits enabling participation in activities of daily living.

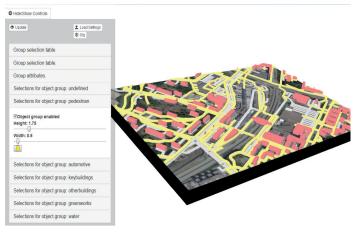
"Marioway is an innovative hands-free, self-balancing electric wheelchair that, through its novelties, aims to become a tool for social inclusion". 10

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3D printed tactile maps for visually impaired people

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The Tactile Maps for Visually Impaired project aims to enhance the independent movement of visually impaired people using 3D printed tactile maps. The objective is to create a global service to provide tactile maps to museums, shopping centres, railway stations and all public locations imaginable, both indoors and outdoors.

Traditionally, design and production of tactile maps supposed high costs. The materials used to do so, such as wood, plastics or metals, made them a poor sustainable, complicated-to-create and very expensive solution.

The new design and fabrication process reduces the price of tactile maps and solves also sustainability matters. This new design process is based on Versoteq's 3D software technology. The automatic map generation software gets satellite and road data and creates a basis for the CAD design. The tool automatically raises the roads and buildings and the user can input details, for example Braille system. If necessary, the map can then be finalized using CAD programs for customer-specific features, or the generated map can be directly 3D printed.

3D Printing gives a lot of competitive edge in both material quality and fabrication cost. Material can be selected between full colour plastics (weatherproof)

"The main benefit of the project is helping blind people move independently; meaning that improving the accessibility is the biggest objective".

or full colour sandstone (high quality finishing). The fabrication cost is lower because 3D printing can be fully automated and needs no manual work like the traditional methods.

The project started with pilot projects in the Helsinki area, in both outdoors and indoors locations. Indoors pilots will be finished later during year 2016. The pilots have proven the technical quality of the products and the excellent quality-cost relation when compared to traditional maps.

The main benefit of the project is helping blind people move independently; meaning that improving the accessibility is the biggest objective. A side benefit is creating new experiences for blind people, as they can "see" the environment in a way that was impossible before.

Tactile Maps for Visually Impaired are thought to be used both by visually impaired people and people with normal vision. For visually impaired people, the maps will help them to see high contrasts of the coloured maps with guiding texts/symbols on them (which was not possible with traditional methods), and they will be able to touch the map to "see" it even better. For people with normal vision, Tactile Maps will appear as more decorative maps.

Tactile Maps Community has been launched for public use at the end of August 2015 in www.tactmap. com. The online service will be free to use for anyone during the beta testing period as new features will constantly be added for live testing. The complete service will be online in December 2015.

Swap-Able.com

The first online community to swap or rent adapted holiday accommodation in Europe

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 Ireland





Swap-Able.com is an online holiday service, which allows people with mobility impairments to swap or rent their adapted properties with other people who have similar accessible needs.

Travel and tourism has become the world's largest and fastest growing industry. Within this market there are currently more than 50 million people with disabilities in the United States and 180 million worldwide, representing the single largest untapped tourist market in the world.

This initiative meets an identified gap within the accessible tourism market and will enhance and expand accessible vacations and travel options for people with reduced mobility.

Swap-Able is the complete holiday accommodation solution for those with impaired mobility, catering for adapted properties, equipment and appliances, advice about local amenities and tourist options thereby taking the barriers out of travel.

This is a free to use platform because it is believed that sharing knowledge about truly accessible accommodation, people with reduced mobility can play an important and collaborative role in the solution to accessible travel for everyone.

It generates trust and provides reassurance through the member's provision of adapted properties, supported by photographs, full descriptions of property, testimonials, reviews and the opportunity to speak directly with the homeowner.

Members and users of Swap-Able.com can also exchange knowledge about their locality such as accessible tourist attractions, places to eat, public toilet facilities, accessible tours, sports event venues and accessible transport.

Swap-Able vision is to grow the concept of 'people helping people' – expanding this online platform by tapping into the wealth of knowledge within this community and saving hours of searching for tried and tested accessible accommodation.

Swap-Able team believes there is no group of people better qualified to assess the accessibility of venues than those affected by access issues and none more highly motivated to provide advice and recommendations for their peers.

The initiative is currently expanding its choices of accessible accommodation to hotels as well as rental properties, so they greatly encourage this sharing of travel information so that others can benefit.

"This initiative meets an identified gap within the accessible tourism market and will enhance and expand accessible vacations and travel options for people with reduced mobility".

Talk Around It

Mobile apps to perform speech and language therapy at home and in a clinical setting

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 Ireland





The Talk Around It project is aimed at providing low cost apps so that people can avail of speech and language therapy at home as well as in a clinical setting. A wide range of conditions including stroke, brain injury, dementia and autism may cause communication problems. There are long waiting lists for speech and language therapists allocated by the state, and private therapy requires high costs. Many people are left without the prospect of improving their ability to communicate, and this often leads to social isolation and depression for the individual and their family caregiver.

Talk Around It apps use key features of the standard therapy used to help people to learn or relearn language in a digital format. In each app, the exercises present over 900 audio and written cues that the users can customise. They also include tests that automatically generate progress reports.

Talk Around It apps provide access to a widely used speech and language therapy. Around the world, therapists are delivering this therapy using pen and paper. The app presents key exercises and tests on a mobile device or computer.

Right now, there is a paradigm shift towards digital rehabilitation and health. Funding cuts in health are

also forcing a move towards home based rehabilitation. This move is being supported by an international shift in health care frameworks to capitalize on emerging digital solutions.

The apps have been recently translated into Spanish and Hindi and it will be localizing in additional languages in 2016. The apps are available on iOS, Android and Windows.

It is unusual to have apps that are rigorous enough to be used by a therapist and easy enough for families to continue their work between sessions or after discharge. Therefore, they form a bridge between the hospital/rehab setting and home. In addition, it is possible for people with many cognitive challenges to do the exercises by themselves. The apps also generate progress reports and help family members learn how to improve interactions. This means that everyone can avail of speech and language therapy, including people who have not had access to a therapist and those waiting for a diagnosis.

"Talk Around It apps use key features of the standard therapy used to help people to learn or relearn language in a digital format".

wiiGO

The autonomous and self-driven shopping cart

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 Portugal





The idea of a simple trip to a supermarket seemed to be quite a defying task for Luís de Matos whom, at the age of 14, saw himself on a wheelchair. With no practical solutions that could help him carry his purchases, he had no alternative but to carry them on his lap. Like him, about 1 million people in Portugal (10% of the population) and more than 600 million people in the world face problems related to reduced mobility – not only people on wheelchair but also elderly, pregnant, or people with any other disabilities.

Efforts have been made in order to address the problem of reduced mobility in commercial surfaces. The most common solutions consist of carts that can be adapted to a wheelchair or the adapted scooters.

In both cases, these solutions prove to be insufficient, as they continue to require additional physical effort to pull a cart (adapted carts) or to move from the wheelchair to an adapted scooter.

This drove Luís to think of a solution that could bring independence for those people whenever they go to a commercial surface. And so the wiiGO was born – an intelligent and self-driven shopping cart that follows a user with reduced mobility or disability, carrying objects in an easy and safe way in supermarkets and shopping malls. The wiiGO uses the latest technology on image recognition, enabling the device to identify and lock on the user and immediately start to follow the user around, no wires attached, no special clothing or sensors in the body. The wiiGO, a state of the art, intuitive technology, will improve the customer's in-store experience like never before, as no efforts are requested.

The concept was first developed in 2011, as a final project of the BSc in Computer Science and Engineering, at the University of Beira Interior, Covilhã. Bearing in mind its potential, Luís gathered a team of 4 other engineers and founded "Follow Inspiration", in 2012. The wiiGO has already been awarded with many important national and international awards (3rd place at Microsoft's Imagine Cup Australia 2012 and winner of the Altran Foundation for Innovation Award 2013, to name a few). The contact with some of the most important players in the retail industry clearly indicates their interest on having the wiiGO in their supermarkets.

The potential of the wiiGO also applies to airports, where the cart can improve the transport of hand luggage on the "air side" (after checking in).

"WiiGO consists in an intelligent and self-driven shopping cart that follows a user with reduced mobility or disability". 14

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Handiway

Online platform that offers leisure experiences ensuring full accessibility for people with disabilities

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 Spain





Handiway is an online platform where you can find deals or coupons of experiences of tourism, leisure and sport, ensuring full accessibility for people with disabilities.

Currently, people with disabilities are out of the tourism, leisure and sport coupons market. They can only find incomplete information about leisure options. Handiway is a site that concentrates the entire accessible offer, the accessible demand, and the user can by his or her best option to enjoy it.

Handiway works through the website www.handiway. com, where it is possible to find affordable deals under the formula of promotions, discounts and coupons. Thus, accessible experiences of tourism, leisure and sport can be offered to people with disabilities, whatever the difficulty, at attractive prices.

The potential market is 83 million people with disabilities in Europe and 6 million people in Spain with a "multiclient" factor (1+1,5...) resulting in 205 million potential clients in Europe.

Manuel is one of the entrepreneurs behind this project; he is a wheelchair user who likes very much tourism, sport and having leisure with family and friends. However, he realized that he had few options of accessible offers and found little information (and sometimes with wrong concepts regarding accessibility) to buy experiences. The other entrepreneur in the project is Veronika, who loves travel, adventure and sport. She is very involved in achieve tourism and leisure without limits and without barriers. Therefore, they decided to create Handiway as a way to gather and find all the options adapted to people with any difficulty, their families and friends.

Handiway guarantees the exercise of the right to tourism, leisure and sport, as a basic and necessary activity for the integral development of individuals with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunities, visibility and active participation, so that their quality of life experiences a substantial improvement. Therefore, it becomes a vehicle of cohesion, integration, development and autonomy. It also improves relations of people with disabilities, while it is a lever for social awareness and economic growth.

Every purchase is a positive social impact, as every purchase means inclusion and improving the quality of life of people with disabilities.

"Handiway consists in a site that concentrates accessible experiences of tourism, leisure and sport for people with disabilities at attractive prices".





About the European Network for CSR and Disability

Fundación ONCE, within the framework of the Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination 2007-2013 X Talento (Multiplying talent), and with the co-funding of the European Social Fund, launched in 2010 the European Network for Corporate Social Responsibility and Disability (CSR+D), with a time horizon until December 2015.

The European Network for CSR+D operates in connection with the most significant milestones within this field at the European and international levels, such as the Europe 2020 Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the EU, the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the European CSR Strategy 2011-2014.

The European Network for CSR+D is part of the Enterprise 2020 Initiative, promoted by CSR Europe and supported by the European Commission. The mission of the European Network for CSR+D is to raise awareness and to promote the inclusion of disability into the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy and business agendas, under a collaborative and multi-stakeholder approach. The ultimate aim is to enhance social inclusion and employment of people with disabilities in Europe, contributing at the same time to the development of responsible competitiveness of business and public administrations.

The European Network for CSR+D has contributed to relevant milestones such as the explicit recognition of the issue of disability, for the first time, in the EC communication on CSR (strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility) as part of the CSR agenda, and the inclusion of the disability dimension in the CSR Reports of the European Parliament issued on January 2013. More recently, within the framework of the European Network for CSR+D, Fundación ONCE together with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) launched the guide "Disability in Sustainability Reporting" in March 2015.

Fundación ONCE (Spain), leads the initiative, with **Telefónica** (Spain), **L'Oréal** (France) and the **Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies** (Italy) as founding partners.





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