

Rules for the 8th Edition of Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies

February 3rd, 2025, Madrid



Premios **DISCAPNET** a las Tecnologías Accesibles



grupo social **ONCE**



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1. Overview

The ONCE Foundation for the Cooperation and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter ONCE Foundation) announces the 8th edition of Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies.

The Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies aim to recognize the best ICT-based initiatives and actions carried out to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. The awards also acknowledge companies, entities or organization with a continuous work within the field of technology accessibility.

2. Categories

The Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies include the following categories:

- Category A. Recognizes the best-ICT based product or service designed to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. The nominated product or service must already be available in the market to qualify for this award.
- Category B. Recognizes an individual, company, entity, or organization with an outstanding work trajectory within the field of accessible technologies.
- Category C. Recognizes the best business venture project with greater social impact and a focus on improving the quality of life of people with disabilities through technology.
- Category D. Recognizes media outlets with an outstanding work in disseminating information on accessible ICT-related initiatives, projects, products and services.

A single award will be granted to each category regardless of the field of application. In other words, there will be a total of 4 awards.

3. Evaluation Criteria

In order to select a winner for Category A, the jury shall follow the general evaluation criteria stated below:

- a) Accessibility in technologies and solutions used.
- b) The innovative nature and global quality of results obtained.
- c) Application to multiple environments, target groups and geographical areas.

In order to select a winner for Category B, the jury shall follow the general evaluation criteria stated below:

- a) Scope, continuity and coherence of actions carried out.
- b) The innovative nature and global quality of results obtained.

- c) Contribution to technical and methodological development of technology accessibility.

In order to select a winner for Category C, the jury shall follow the general evaluation criteria stated below:

- a) Prototype quality
- b) Scope of solution
- c) Business model

In order to select a winner for Category D, the jury shall follow the general evaluation criteria stated below:

- a) Number of contents published about ICT based initiatives, projects, products and services.
- b) Innovative nature and global quality of disseminated content.
- c) The nominated media outlet's contribution to the social inclusion of people with disabilities through the development of best practices.

4. Jury composition and Verdict

A single competent jury will be established for the resolution and verdict regarding categories A, B, C and D awards. Jury members will be selected and appointed by the ONCE Foundation, including the President and will comprise seven members, including the President. Members may be employees of the ONCE Social Group, the Government of Spain as well as renowned professionals with an outstanding national and international trajectory in the field of technology, communication and social responsibility.

The jury will be advised by a technical commission comprising experts in ICT accessibility that will perform a prior assessment of submissions received following the evaluation general criteria established for each category.

Each jury member will have a right to speak and vote. Jury decisions will be taken by the majority of votes. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

The jury, whose decisions shall be final, will interpret and complete the awards rules by filling in the gaps and resolving doubts that may arise.

The ONCE Foundation reserves the right to declare an award void for one or more of the categories if the jury decides that nominations submitted do not meet the evaluation criteria.

5. Submissions

Any person, company, entity, and institution in agreement with the Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies' goals may present a submission. Submissions can also be made by a person or entity other than the holder of the submission's ownership or rights.

Given the international nature of the awards the required documentation may be presented in Spanish or English.

To apply for the awards, candidates must complete the standardized application form made available by the ONCE Foundation, which must be sent before April 30, 2025 through the channels and procedures set up for that purpose. Candidates may include any additional materials (written justifications, reports, graphic or audiovisual materials) they deem necessary to support their submission.

Applications may be submitted preferably through telematics means by completing the form available for each category at the web address: <https://premios.discapnet.es>.

Exceptionally, if candidates have unavoidable difficulties to complete and send the application form through the procedures stated above, they may print it and present it in person along with the supporting materials and a valid ID at ONCE Foundation headquarters located at Calle Sebastián Herrera, 15, 28012, Madrid by including on the envelope "Premios Discapnet a las Tecnologías Accesibles" and the name of the category selected (A, B, C or D).

The Discapnet Awards staff will review all submissions and supporting materials to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled. If a requirement is missing or not appropriately fulfilled, the staff will contact the nominator requesting a correction which shall be sent within a given deadline. If no answer is received within deadline or the correction is insufficient, the submission will be discarded and archived without being reviewed by the jury.

The jury may contact candidates to request a clarification or more information if they deem it necessary to emit a verdict.

Jury members and the institutions they represent are allowed to submit a nomination to any category by completing and sending the required forms and documentation.

6. Awards

Categories A, B and D award will consist of a cash prize of € 5,000 to each of the winners.

The category C award consists of a cash prize of € 15,000, which must be fully allocated to the development of the winning business venture. The winner must provide the ONCE Foundation with a receipt of payment, and both a financial and social report within a

period 12 months as proof that the full amount awarded has been effectively invested in the business proposed. If the winner fails to provide the requested reports, the ONCE Foundation may claim the return of the prize, and in this case the winner is required to refund the prize money to the ONCE Foundation.

Category A, B, and D winners will receive their prize money by bank transfer within 30 calendar days after the date of the Awards ceremony upon presenting proof of bank account ownership. If they prefer, winners have the option to donate the amount to an accessibility project developed by the ONCE Foundation for people with disabilities by signing the corresponding waiver and donation request.

The award ceremony may be held in public or private, at a physical or virtual venue, at a time and date decided by the ONCE Foundation. If the winners fail to show up at the Award ceremony, the ONCE Foundation reserves the right to revoke the award winning status

7. Personal Data Protection

In accordance with the provisions contained in Article 12 and subsequent Articles thereof of the EU Regulation 2016/689 General Data Protection (RGPD), participants are thus informed and grant their express and unequivocal consent to the ONCE Foundation for Cooperation and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities to file the personal information they provide and use it to manage their nominations during the entire evaluation process and awarding of prizes and, in the event of being selected winners, to disseminate it, including their image at the ONCE Foundation and Discapnet's websites and publications. Participants also authorize the Foundation to send them information about future awards announcements.

Forms fields marked with an asterisk are mandatory in order to use the information as stated above. If some of these fields are left empty they cannot be used with the aforementioned purpose.

Candidates must guarantee the accuracy and veracity of the personal data provided and agree to keep them up to date and to communicate the ONCE Foundation of any change that may occur.

The ONCE Foundation is the sole responsible for managing and processing all personal as a part of Discapnet Awards and for this purpose is the appointed Data Protection Delegate. The contact email address is dpd@fundaciononce.es (Article 6.1 RGPD)

All personal data collected shall be blocked once they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were collected. However, they will remain at the disposal of the court of laws, public prosecutor's office and other competent authorities in the event of a breach of responsibilities arising from the personal data processing during the statute of

limitations. Once this period ends, the data controller will proceed to delete the personal information collected.

Under no circumstances the personal data collected will be transferred to third countries.

Candidates may exercise their rights of access, rectification and deletion, opposition, limitation, portability, revocation of consent and not to be subjected to a decision based solely on an automated data processing at any moment. These rights may be exercised by sending a written communication to Calle Sebastián Herrera, noº 15, 28012, Madrid or an email with an acknowledgment of receipt and review to protecciondatos@fundaciononce.es. In any case, candidates have the right to file a complaint before the Spanish Data Protection Agency.

If a submission made by a natural or legal person other than the owner is shortlisted or selected winner, the staff will obtain the owner's authorization for the procedures stated above. If such authorization is not given, the award will be considered rejected and the jury can select a new candidate.

Note: The corresponding withholding will be applied to the amounts indicated.

8. Terms and Conditions

Participation in the VI Discapnet Awards for Accessible Technologies means the full acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in this document. The non-acceptance of any the provisions will result in automatic exclusion from the awards and, if appropriate, the loss of winner status.

The ONCE Foundation is exonerated from any liability resulting from the failure of a candidate in complying with the terms and conditions stated above.