

*Nonprofit  
Enterprise and  
Self-sustainability  
Team (NESsT)*



Grupo para la  
Sustentabilidad  
de las Organizaciones  
de la Sociedad Civil

*Nonprofit  
vállalkozással  
a hosszútávú  
fenntarthatóságért*

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## **NESsT Among Finalists For 2009 Innovation Awards in Chile**

*Avonni 2009 Awards recognize organizations  
developing innovative projects while creating social value*

**SANTIAGO, CHILE** [SEPTEMBER 3, 2009] – **NESsT** today announced it was selected among the four finalists of the prestigious Avonni 2009 Innovation Awards which recognize organizations and individuals in Chile for developing innovative projects while creating social value.

The Avonni 2009 Awards, organized by national newspaper *El Mercurio*, Chile's national television station Televisión Nacional de Chile (TVN) and el Foro Innovación, promote the innovative capacity of those who are making a difference to the country, through innovation while contributing to quality of life and economic well-being of Chile.

Over 20 categories are selected for the award each year, including Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries, and Culture and Education, among others. NESsT was nominated finalist for the Social Innovations category where over 60 applicants participated. The winner of the competition under the same category was Elemental, with its project for housing for low income communities.

“We are delighted to have made it in the top four, and congratulate the winner for this award. This recognition for NESsT greatly attests to our commitment to the success of social enterprises,” said Nicole Etchart, NESsT Co-Founder & CEO. “NESsT’s support for social enterprises creates employment and extends economic and social benefits to communities in need across Chile and the other regions where we function.”

NESsT uses the term social enterprise to refer to businesses designed to solve a critical social problem. Social enterprises not only solve critical problems but do so in a financially sustainable manner to create lasting benefit.

NESsT is currently providing capacity support to an early-stage portfolio of 120 organizations in 10 markets around the world. The idea is to enable them to complete a rigorous process to

test the feasibility of their enterprise ideas and complete business plans for their social enterprises.

**About NESsT:** NESsT works to solve critical social problems in emerging market countries by developing and supporting social enterprises that strengthen civil society organizations' financial sustainability and maximize their social impact. Since its founding in Budapest in 1997, NESsT has provided financial and business mentoring support to nearly 2000 social enterprises in 40 countries. The NESsT Venture Fund currently operates in 10 countries across Europe and Latin America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Hungary, Peru, Romania and Slovakia. NESsT is a registered nonprofit in the UK and USA. Visit: [www.nesst.org](http://www.nesst.org).