

IVCO
THESSALONIKI 2021
16-20 October



IVCO2021 – Inclusive Volunteering for Global Equality

Instructions for Presentation Submissions

Thank you for your interest in submitting a presentation for the International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations' conference (IVCO2021).

The deadline for all submissions is the **18th of June 2021**.

Presentations will be reviewed with notification of the outcome to be issued to all applicants maximum by end of August 2021.

Conference themes:

Volunteerism can be a powerful vehicle for change, and leaders in volunteering for development organisations have a unique opportunity to break down barriers and connect communities to engage in a common purpose. However, to truly foster an inclusive environment for volunteers, we must first understand what diversity and inclusion mean in the context of volunteering and look beyond simple diversification of volunteer teams. This conference aims to present an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to explore what we mean by inclusive volunteering, to recognise and share good practice from our organisations and agree on ways forward, as organisations and as a sector, to improve the quality and impact of our work.

Scope and sub-themes

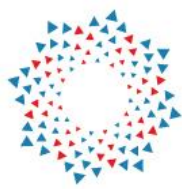
As volunteering for development is a people-to-people development modality, it seeks to share skills and knowledge through mutual respect and trust to build capacity in people, organisations and systems, in order to:

1. Raise awareness on diversity and inclusion, meaning and definitions and how volunteers' inclusiveness can lead to global equality.
2. Identify barriers, challenges, gaps and opportunities for improvement, policy transformations, states and institutions' roles and organisational structures to help in designing a better future for inclusive volunteering.
3. Listen directly to voices from the field, share best practices, and share experiences and personal stories.



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4. Decolonisation, digitalisation and directionality: Inclusive Volunteering in 3D! What to reject and what to keep and improve so that no one is left behind.

IVCO2021 invites abstract submissions for presentations in panel sessions and breakout sessions based on the sessions' themes listed below.

Please note: Each presentation can only be submitted under one theme/session.

Session themes:

❖ **Session 1:** Creating an Inclusive Volunteering Environment for Global Equality

This session will discuss:

- Determining how the different forms of diversity, e.g. age, gender, race, disability, socio-economic backgrounds, are embraced by international volunteering programmes.
- Identifying the barriers and challenges to inclusive volunteering and discussing how organisations can offer greater access and ensure a more equitable participation experience.
- How would inclusive volunteering contribute towards global equality and the achievement of SDGs?

❖ **Session 2:** Voices from the Field

Hear from your peers and volunteers in the field and understand their perspectives. This session will profile a collection of case studies and presentations of good practice on the diversity of volunteer identities, models and assumptions about inclusive volunteering. Presentations will be followed by discussions in breakout rooms to crystallise your takeaways.

❖ **Session 3:** The Role of States and Institutions on Inclusive Volunteering for Development

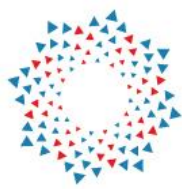
This session aims to explore the impact of public policies on volunteering for development, including:



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- Identifying how volunteer organisations are engaging under different policy agendas and the perceived implications and benefits.
- What are some of the policy barriers for inclusive volunteering?
- How can organisations advocate and influence policy changes?

❖ **Session 5: Decolonisation of International Volunteering**

The connection between colonisation and international volunteering work is undeniable. To challenge colonial legacies and power dynamics, international volunteering agencies will need to address the ways in which international volunteering could undermine the principles of global equity. This session will discuss:

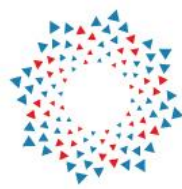
- Effectively tackling the issues of power imbalances between international and local volunteers.
- Has the COVID-19 pandemic provided a good opportunity to further drive the decolonisation of international volunteering with potential changes in the global balance of power?
- Reshaping programme design and practices to take into account the history, culture and context of host communities.
- Decolonising volunteering research and practice – reflecting on and challenging current practices.

❖ **Session 6: Digitalisation and the Future of International Volunteering**

There is no doubt that technology has altered the way we work and communicate. Technology has opened up new pathways for volunteering organisations, enabling a quantitative increase in volunteer opportunities. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has further spurred the sector's digital transformation with many IVCOs now leveraging technology to support international volunteering activities given travel restrictions in place, and e-volunteering has become a trend. This session will discuss the following:

- Does technology promote inclusiveness by providing greater access to volunteering opportunities, or does it exacerbate existing patterns of inequality?
- Shared success through shared strategies - what are some of the tried-and-tested strategies and challenges when leveraging technology for international volunteering during COVID-19? How





can we aim to replicate the well-documented positive impact of in-person volunteering with e-volunteering?

- What are the new digital tools available to mobilise and manage volunteers more effectively?
- What is the impact of the digitalisation of work and employment on volunteering in the post-pandemic era?

❖ **Session 7: Directionality - "Emerging International Volunteering Modalities"**

An increasing number of middle-income countries and emerging economies are both providers and recipients of development assistance, bringing to the table their own unique experiences. Stronger enabling environments across the Global South mean that international volunteering programmes are no longer restricted to traditional donor countries. With significant new actors that send volunteers, the future of volunteering is multi-polar with shared goals but diverse approaches to international volunteering. This session will explore:

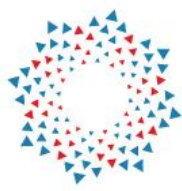
- Building a diverse volunteering ecosystem – What are the strategies to enhance South-North, South-South and reciprocal forms of international volunteering? How can we work towards more reciprocal relationships with partners?
- Which are the challenges organisations face in implementing such programmes and how to overcome them?
- What policy reforms are needed to strengthen and build reciprocal partnerships across the different volunteering modalities?

❖ **Session 8: Directionality - "Community Volunteering and Localisation"**

Local and regional communities are critical to the realisation of the SDGs and have been tasked to accelerate the pace of the much-needed transformations. To upscale these efforts, greater cooperation is needed between both national and international organisations. This session will discuss:

- The status of domestic community volunteering and localisation of the SDGs.
- Building on pre-existing systems to empower local organisations to develop and lead programmes/initiatives which





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support both their own community development and advocate for global equality and justice.

- How can international volunteer organisations bolster local action and accelerate implementation?

General Instructions:

All submissions will be reviewed by appropriate experts and assigned to a suitable session.

- ❖ The conference language is English.
- ❖ IVCOs are professional conferences at a strategic level.
- ❖ Delegates come from volunteer-involving organisations, academia, government and non-governmental institutions from across the globe.
- ❖ IVCOs are about learning. Delegates are expecting not only to explore good practice, but also gain new ideas, tools and practical skills they can apply in their organisations. Include these learning objectives in the intended outcome section of the form.
- ❖ Please read the conditions of submission at the end of this document before submitting.
- ❖ Once you have decided to submit a proposal, please complete the form online at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=f88MK5En5U2DeUpAg64zuDv5D10VQfpBvpr4TtdhhwJUNTkwTFY1M1JTT0lVMFpQN0ZRMDVIVUZSUy4u>

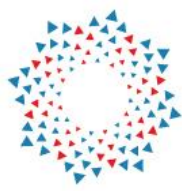
Format guidelines:

Panel Sessions

A panel session provides a structured format for a group of experts wanting to present on a common topic. Topics addressed in panel sessions will be more comprehensive and theme and topic specific with multiple speakers providing opinions, viewpoints, and experiences.

Topics for presentation should be based on the overarching session title and can include global, regional, or country level initiatives and





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the development and outcomes of projects, programmes or campaigns pursuing action on inclusive volunteering in different regions. Panel sessions should engage the conference audience in critical reflection and discussion on key issues, selected from the session titles.

These structured formats will provide delegates with the opportunity to hear from multiple experts on a key issue, leading to an open discussion between presenters and delegates relevant to the topic area.

Please note panel session characteristics below:

- ❖ 60min – 90min duration (15 min for each presenter)
- ❖ Three speakers
- ❖ Q&A/Open discussion after all presenters

Other opportunities:

While formal presentation submissions are only being accepted for the panel sessions, there will be other opportunities to moderate sessions and be involved in interactive workshops and discussions throughout the event. During IVCO2021 there will be opportunities for networking, in a virtual environment, where organisations can discuss their work and case studies with fellow attendees.

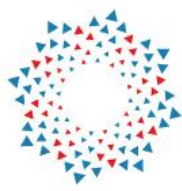
Tips:

- ❖ Focus on practical takeaways and learnings for delegates.
- ❖ Use creative presentation styles and incorporate video, colour and photos into your PowerPoint.
- ❖ Showcase highly successful, innovative or unique practices and frameworks.
- ❖ PowerPoint template, self-recording guidelines and video IVCO background will be provided to the selected speakers from the IVCO2021 support team.

Methodologies, processes or tools;

- ❖ Avoid formal speech or lecture style, long introductions and descriptions, lists of statistics and facts.





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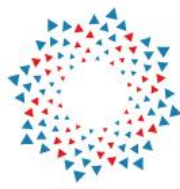
- ❖ Focus on sharing your own insights, analysis, lessons learned and recommendations.
- ❖ All speakers' contact details, biographies and photos should be ready to submit if successful.

Before completing the form, please read the Conditions for Submission below:

I understand that:

- ❖ The Author warrants and represents that they are the sole owner or have the rights of all the information and content ("Content") provided to IVOC2021 (Hereafter: "The Organisers").
- ❖ The Author confirms that they have checked this abstract before submission and that all information is correct.
- ❖ Submission of the abstract constitutes consent to publication (e.g. conference website, programmes, other promotions, etc.) The publication of the abstract does not infringe any third-party rights including, but not limited to, intellectual property rights. The Author grants the Organisers a royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable nonexclusive license to use, reproduce, publish, translate, distribute, and display the Content. The Organisers reserve the right to remove from any publication an abstract which does not comply with the above. The corresponding author is responsible for informing the other authors about the status of the abstract.
- ❖ The submission of an abstract serves as confirmation of the author's availability to attend the Conference; it is the author's responsibility to ensure they are available to pre-record a presentation and deliver it by the deadline; deliver the presentation live at the allocated time; or a mixture of both pre-recording the presentation and being available for a live Q&A session, depending on the type of presentation and session for which they have applied.
- ❖ If the author's proposal is selected, they will send a photo (high-definition headshot) and short biography to be posted on the IVCO2021 website.
- ❖ All information presented at IVCO2021 will be treated as non-confidential and open to public access, so presentations should not contain any confidential or sensitive information. No





material labelled confidential or proprietary will be presented or open to public access.

- ❖ Instructions on the timings and duration of presentations will be given in the result correspondence which will be issued by end of August 2021, if not earlier. If you have not received a result by the end of August 2021, please contact the Organiser. If an abstract cannot be presented at the Conference, the Organiser must be notified in writing in advance to avoid compromise to the professionalism of the conference.

