

## Call for Papers

### **13<sup>th</sup> VSSN / NCVO “Researching the Voluntary Sector” Conference**

**5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007, University of Warwick, UK**

In the tradition of its predecessors, the 2007 NCVO/VSSN research conference will bring together researchers from academia and professionals from across the voluntary sector. The conference will give the opportunity to discuss the major themes of interest to researchers and practitioners, with thought-provoking plenary lectures and a wide-ranging set of parallel sessions giving researchers the opportunity to share their ideas and research findings.

#### **THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE:**

The 2007 Conference is expected to present a range of parallel sessions, workshops and panel sessions, discussing themes such as:

- **civil renewal and active citizenship**, including: the role of VCOs in building participation; volunteering; campaigning; the role of faith and BME groups
- **the relationship with government**, including: independence of VCOs; public service delivery; government funding; localism and its implications; national and local Compacts; charity law; funding for campaigning
- **income and accountability**, including: philanthropy and giving; donor motivation; balance of grants and contracts; accountability and transparency; measurement issues; international comparisons; the use of unclaimed assets
- **infrastructure and management**, including: collaboration; contracting and procurement; workforce and skills; ICT; ChangeUp and capacity building; volunteer management; innovation
- **security issues**, including: the independence of civil society; the relationship between security and international development
- **assessing value**, including: methods of measuring outcomes and impact.

This list is illustrative and submissions are not limited to the topics suggested.

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

You can submit a proposal for either a single paper presentation or for a whole session. There is also a special session for new researchers. In all submissions, please be sure to include your name, organisation and email address. The deadline for all submissions is the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

**1 SINGLE PAPER:** Parallel sessions will offer a balance of presentations and discussion time. Typically, each ninety minute session will include three presentations, each of 12-15 minutes, allowing time for a substantial discussion. All papers presented in the parallel sessions will also be available in the conference proceedings, so that, where appropriate, more detail can be provided.

**Submission:** *You should send us a 400 to 600-word summary of your research project. We welcome submissions discussing preliminary findings as well as those on completed projects. There is no need to include references at this stage.*

*If your submission is successful, we will ask you to send us a longer 2000 to 2500-word paper for inclusion in the conference proceedings. We will give details on the preferred format of the paper when we confirm acceptance of your submission.*

**2 SPECIAL SESSIONS:** There is also scope in the conference for panel sessions and workshops. In panel sessions, prominent researchers and practitioners will discuss a theme, with extensive audience participation. Submissions for panel sessions should list panel members and give a clear idea of the topic to be discussed.

Workshops should present specific ideas and techniques relevant to research in the sector. Workshop submissions should give a clear idea of the objectives of the workshops and the methods by which these will be achieved.

**Submission:** *please submit a 400 to 600-word proposal for a whole session. This might be a workshop, debate, panel or structured discussion on a particular theme, or a suite of two or three papers on related topics.*

**3 NEW RESEARCHERS' SESSION:** On the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a special session for those who are relatively new to the field of voluntary sector research, whether as post-graduate students or researchers within the sector. Previous delegates have found this very useful for meeting other new researchers, discussing research and sharing ideas. This session is run in conjunction with the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR). Delegates attending **only** the New Researcher session may do so **free of charge**.

**Submission:** *To present in the New Researchers' Session, please send an abstract of 200 to 400 words to Joanna Machin (Joanna.machin@volunteeringengland.org). Presentations are typically of 10 minutes, with a further 10 minutes for discussion. You need not discuss a completed project – discussion of a work in progress or preliminary findings would be welcome. Papers on methodologies or issues faced carrying out research are also welcome.*

## AFTER SUBMISSION

If your proposal is accepted you will still need to book and pay for a place at the conference. Booking forms will be available in March.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract of 400-500 words to be submitted	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2007
Notification of accepted submissions	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2007
Open for bookings	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2007
Deadline for Early Bird rates	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
Full paper of 2000-2500 words to be submitted	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
The conference	5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> September 2007

## CONTACT DETAILS

Please send submissions for Single Paper sessions and special sessions to Greg Piper at [greg.piper@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:greg.piper@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

For the New Researchers' session, please send submissions to Joanna Machin at [joanna.machin@volunteeringengland.org](mailto:joanna.machin@volunteeringengland.org)