

VREF Global Summit – 40 years of transport research

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS (NORDIC) – DEADLINE 1 APRIL 2025

Dear research colleagues,

As you know, Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) will be hosting an international research conference “Global Summit – 40 years of transport research”, which will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden on 26-28 May 2025.

The purpose of the conference is to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary knowledge exchanges, debates, and networking among leading international researchers in the areas of mobility, access & transport (broadly defined), as well as relevant stakeholders in these areas. We are looking forward to exciting days with lively scientific discussions!

We have identified you as a researcher at a Swedish, Norwegian or Danish university/research institute who is currently carrying out high-quality research on issues related to mobility, access & transport which has high relevance for the international research community in these areas.

With this letter, **we would like to invite you to present a paper at the conference**, which means that you will be given the opportunity to present your ongoing or recent scientific work in a thematic research-oriented session that is relevant to your area of research. The conference will also provide you with the chance to meet and discuss with other leading researchers within VREF’s international community (where researchers from 30+ countries have already confirmed their participation in the conference).

To assist you in clarifying what type of contribution that we foresee from you, please see the following guidelines.

Research presentations at VREF conference – guidelines in relation to research roles

If you are....	...we welcome a presentation on...
project leader of a VREF research project/special study (current, recently completed)	your ongoing work (current project/study) or your results (completed project/study)
Researcher in area of mobility, access, transport at a Nordic university (not currently engaged with VREF)	your choice of your current (or recent) research which has strong relevance for the global community in mobility, access, transport; your research passion
project leader/living lab leader in a IRP PRISM or ARP-MAC	your program/lab plans – overview of research problem, purpose, approach, preliminary insights
researcher in a project/program/network in cooperation with (or with close links to) VREF	your ongoing work and future plans with focus on research activities, links to VREF
Researcher, partner, or other resource person affiliated with VREF through previous CoE/project/other engagement	your choice of your current (or recently completed) research which has strong relevance for the global community

As a confirmation of your acceptance to present at the Global Summit, please submit before Tuesday 1 April a title and short abstract about your proposed presentation as follows (please use the "Form for submission of abstract" at the end of this letter).

- Title of presentation: should include key words about scientific content (NB: this title can fruitfully be identical to the title of your VREF project/study)
- Abstract: should consist of a maximum of 300 words (including e.g. background, purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, preliminary results)
- Title and abstract must be written in English
- NB: the stipulated timeframe for your presentation will be strictly 15 minutes, so please adjust the scope of your abstract/presentation accordingly.

Please send your abstract to Fabienne Niklasson, secretariat@vref.se, with the heading "abstract to VREF Global Summit". **The deadline for submitting your abstract is Tuesday 1 April.** Please do not be late!

We hope that you are looking forward to sharing and discussing your work with other colleagues at the conference. Looking forward to meeting with you and discussing your work in Gothenburg!

Sincerely,

Henrik Nolmark, VREF Director

Jane Summerton, VREF Scientific Advisor

Form for submission of abstract:

Name of presenter Aliaksei Lareshyn
University affiliation, including department, etc Lund University, Faculty of Engineering, LTH, Department of Technology and Society, Transport and Roads
Country Sweden
E-mail address and telephone number to the presenter aliaksei.lareshyn@tft.lth.se +46 73 67 80 851
Title of presentation Building traffic safety knowledge capacity in low- and middle-income countries
Abstract (max 300 Words): As highlighted by Godthelp et al. (2024), one of the major problems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is that the resources for traffic safety improvements, quite sparse to start with, are not used efficiently. The information on how to do things right is quite available, and it is regularly 'sent' to the LMICs in form of handbooks, short courses, and demo-projects. However, the real bottleneck is the amount of safety specialists who can 'receive' this information, process it, and adjust it to the local circumstances. Building this knowledge capacity—the critical mass of experts with scientific-based mindset and experience of evidence-based traffic safety work—is suggested to be the priority for the global traffic safety community (and the global funders). The practical experiences underlying this presentation are coming from the Horizon Europe project AfroSAFE. One of the project's most important outcomes is the AfroSAFE Academy, a network promoting scientific activities such as conferences and webinars, academic education in traffic safety, knowledge sharing activities, etc. While there is a big interest from the African academic and professional traffic safety communities, it is also very difficult to work strategically with 'several years ahead' perspective, as people continuously drop in and out. The challenges are partly of financial character (e.g. researchers may not have funds to travel to conferences), but even more important is the lack of a tradition to have scientific activities that HIC researchers take for granted, such as regularly attending scientific events and spending time on professional networking. Often, the value of these activities is not obvious since the rewards are indirect and often delayed. However, we could also see the change in attitudes after getting the first real-life experiences.