Theme and Subthemes

In considering of the theme of the event, we recognize that volunteering takes place in many ways and, across all sectors and within a multitude of structures. However, we believe that the underlying values of good practice makes volunteering valuable, sustainable and beneficial for everyone. There are underlying values that need to be in place for volunteering to be valuable, sustainable and beneficial to the volunteer, the organization and to the wider community.

Under the theme **"UNLOCKING THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING"**, this theme aims to explore all possibilities of creating an enabling environment of volunteering promotion and finding the keys to enhance recognition of the value that volunteers bring as well as improving accessibility of volunteering opportunities.

This theme presents an opportunity for IAVE members and the wider volunteering for development sector and beyond 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.

The theme of unlocking the power of volunteering will be explored through five subthemes:
1. **Make the invisible visible**: The hidden power of informal volunteering

    a. Recognition and estimation of the power of volunteering, addressing that many more volunteering activities that are in grassroots level contributing to real change in community however not as recognized or visible.

    b. Case studies and researches highlighting the power of community participation and ownership and the change that sustain in the community.

2. **Simple but not simpler**:

a. This is said to be the quote of Albert Einstein mentioning about his physics theory. In this context, it gives the meaning as one can describe 'Don't overcomplicate your thinking, but don't "under-complicate" it at the expense of being incorrect'

b. By being simple we can encourage more organization and people to volunteer

c. Yet ensuring that that volunteering is responsible and impactful

3. **Stronger together**

a. Roles of different targets and sectors / collaboration across sectors or targets to promote volunteering Developing and implementing quality standards in volunteering for development

b. Global-local, Role of youth-, corporate-, national-, international-, -senior, people in community

4. **Flipping SDGs conversation**

a. Instead of ask 'what is SDGs?', ask 'what makes the life of disadvantaged people better?'

b. What does 'leave no-one behind' mean for volunteering today? – how is volunteering reaching into the lives of the poorest people

5. **Unlocking the lock**

a. What are the existing challenge or barriers of volunteering, what is holding transformative change back from happening?

b. Cultivating national, international networks and partnerships across civil society, private sector and government and unlock the power of volunteering

We want people to leave the conference with inspiration that together we can create change to the region and better understanding of quality in volunteering for development, with tools and ideas for working towards quality practice.