



THE DECADE TO CHANGE:

Steps to Deliver the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development



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Volvo Research and Educational Foundations
in collaboration with Walk21 Foundation

Invitation to participate

Pre-conference Workshop to Walk21 Ireland
The 22nd International Walk21 Conference on Walking and Liveable Communities

FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS FOR WALKING

Monday 19 September 2022
2:00-5:00 PM EPIC Museum, Dublin Ireland

Introduction

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) inspire, initiate and support research and educational activities promoting sustainable transport for equitable access in urban areas. We aim to nurture processes of change and transformative capacity in cities as well as in businesses. In 2001 VREF launched its program Future Urban Transport – How to deal with the complexity of urban transport? (FUT). Since then the program has functioned as an umbrella for VREF initiatives such as Centers of Excellence (CoE), research programs and projects, events, publications and networking activities.

In December 2020, the VREF Board decided on a program for supporting research and education in the area of Walking as a mode of transport. The program was launched in June of 2022 with a Call for Applications and is intended to run at least until 2026.

VREF's preparatory work in surveying the status of current knowledge, identifying knowledge gaps, and mapping existing research capacity with regard to Walking as a mode of transport has indicated that the current research landscape lacks vital knowledge and is relatively fragmented in terms of both thematic directions, disciplinary orientations, and research capacity. While walking more generally (including e.g. walkability; health benefits of walking) has been a research topic for many years, we believe work on walking as a mode of transport has not yet developed into a cogent research direction, subject or "field" in itself.

The VREF program 'Walking as a mode of transport' has four core themes:

- Theme 1: Conceptualizing and critically appraising walking as a mode of transport
- Theme 2: Walking as transport in everyday urban life; equity issues
- Theme 3: Governance, policy and urban planning for walking as a mode of transport
- Theme 4: Services, tools and business models to facilitate walking as a mode of transport.

Full information about the program can be found here: www.vref.se

Workshop

The workshop in Dublin will include a presentation of the program's aim, themes and design – followed by a joint talk and discussion based on the themes of the program. Further details on the workshop program and setting will be provided to the workshop attendees before the event.



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Participants

We invite PhD students, early-career researchers and others with an interest in research on walking to join a discussion on future research needs on this topic.

Registration:

Registration for the workshop and the conference will be through the conference portal. The workshop is part of the conference program and thus you do need to be registered for the conference to attend.

Scholarship applicants can register once support is approved and a registration code is issued.

As numbers for the workshop are limited, please register your interest in attending with the Secretariat at VREF initially - stating your academic affiliation and title.

Travel Grants available

There is a limited number of travel grants to attend the workshop and be part of the Walk21 Ireland Conference. Early career academics, esp from Lower and Middle Income Countries (LIMC) are invited to apply for this support. Support includes €1000 towards travel and subsistence costs and a full ticket to the Walk21 conference.

Applicants for the grants need to submit:

A brief CV, max 2 pages (including country, academic institution and background, current academic status, short publication list and summary of other work and activities) along with a short letter of application outlining their bio and motivation for attending the workshop (max 300 words).

VREF criteria for travel grants:

- The applicant should be PhD student or early career researcher (within 5 years from graduating), affiliated to a university or a research institute of academic standing
- The applicant should currently be (or recently have been) active in research or educational activities, which are relevant to the VREF program 'walking as a mode of transport' and aligned with the four themes.
- The applicant shall participate in both the pre-conference workshop and the Walk21 Ireland Conference

Please send your application to secretariat@vref.se by 19 July 2022

Applicants will be reviewed and selected by VREF and Walk21, with successful applicants advised by 31 July.

Any Questions:

Any questions on the workshop or the research program can be sent to secretariat@vref.se.

Any questions about Walk21 Ireland can be sent to ireland@walk21.com