

*Workshop proposal nr.29*

Title: **Migration and national asylum systems – the role of voluntary organizations**

Organizer(s): Audun Fladmoe, Norwegian Institute for Social Research  
Hilde Lidén, Norwegian Institute for Social Research

Email: [audun.fladmoe@samfunnsforskning.no](mailto:audun.fladmoe@samfunnsforskning.no) and [hli@samfunnsforskning.no](mailto:hli@samfunnsforskning.no)

**Migration and national asylum systems – the role of voluntary organizations**

Voluntary organizations and volunteers have traditionally played important roles in refugee- and asylum systems. National and international voluntary organizations are engaged in different phases of the asylum process, including the early phase of arrival and in the longer process of integration, but also in helping asylum seekers who have been rejected and are returned. In the wake of the recent increased refugee influx, civic engagement has been important in handling the challenges with increased numbers of refugees, both through activities initiated by formal voluntary organizations, and also through more informal and spontaneous ad hoc-initiatives. With this as a backdrop, this workshop invites contributions of papers that shed light on the resources and contributions from the voluntary sector in the current refugee influx. We invite presentations discussing the role of the voluntary sector in different phases of the asylum process, including both formal organizations and more informal and spontaneous volunteer initiatives. Proposed papers may include studies of the role of the voluntary sector in the early phase of arrivals, when staying in reception centers, for resettlements, and returns. Key questions include the role and responsibility of the voluntary sector in the asylum system nationally and internationally; what are the main options and dilemmas, and how is the relation between public authorities and the voluntary sector?