

## **Conference INVALSI 2026 “Evaluation and Research in Education” - 4-6 November 2026, Lecco**

INVALSI, in collaboration with Politecnico di Milano, invites the national and international scientific community to submit Panel proposals for the Conference “Evaluation and Research in Education”, to be held from 4 to 6 November 2026.

Analysing educational systems is currently a key issue in scientific, political and institutional debates, particularly in light of the significant changes affecting the social, cultural and economic context of the country. Against this backdrop, there is an urgent need to encourage an extensive and systematic dialogue between different theoretical approaches, research methodologies and empirical sources, with the aim of achieving a nuanced, complex and multifaceted understanding of the Italian educational system and its potential future trajectories.

The body of information generated through INVALSI National Assessments and International Surveys is a valuable resource for identifying the strengths and critical issues of the education system. It provides a basis for reflecting on strategies for improvement, enhancement and support. These data become even more valuable when integrated with additional sources. The availability of longitudinal datasets, indicators and metadata enables investigation of educational processes at micro, meso and macro levels, and exploration of how such processes acquire specific characteristics when examined alongside social, territorial and economic factors.

In light of these considerations, the Conference aims to provide a space for discussion and exchange within the field of contemporary educational research. It seeks to foster dialogue among different theoretical approaches, disciplinary perspectives and methodologies.

In line with the Conference theme, preference will be given to proposals based on evidence-based educational research, emphasising the use of empirical evidence to enhance our understanding of, and improve, educational systems.

Panel proposals should meet the following criteria:

- **Multidisciplinary approach:** Panels should include contributions from different disciplines (e.g., pedagogy, sociology of education, economics of education, psychology, statistics, and data science), to promote the integration of multiple perspectives.
- **Methodological plurality:** Contributions should employ a variety of methodologies, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches, paying particular attention to the triangulating evidence.
- **Centrality of evidence-based research:** Panels should address issues related to the use of empirical data in education, including analyses based on different types of data (e.g.; educational big data, experimental data, sample surveys, and case studies).

- Comparative dimension: Proposal for panels conducting comparative analyses – both national and international – are especially encouraged, as they contribute to a deeper understanding of educational dynamics in different contexts.

Topics for which Panel proposals are invited include, but are not limited to:

- Digital competences, learning, and citizenship
- Macro- and micro-territorial inequalities
- Gender, stereotypes, and achievement gaps
- Artificial intelligence as a support for educational research
- Migration, citizenship, and educational pathways: new challenges for equity
- Social mobility, family background, and educational trajectories
- Educational poverty: indicators, intersections, and policy responses
- The role of teachers in complex school contexts
- Integrated use of data
- A multidimensional perspective on equity in educational opportunities.

### **Guidelines for Proposal Submission**

Panel proposals must include the following information:

- Identification of one or two panel proponents (no more than two), who will act as Scientific Coordinator(s) and will be responsible for selecting the submitted contributions in order to ensure the quality of the session;
- Title of the session;
- Three keywords;
- A description of between 250 and 500 words.

All panel proposals must be submitted by email to [invalsi\\_conference@invalsi.it](mailto:invalsi_conference@invalsi.it) by 1 June 2026.

### **Evaluation of Proposals**

Proposals will undergo a blind review process based on the following criteria:

- scientific quality;
- relevance to the Conference themes;
- degree of innovation;
- ability to integrate different disciplinary and methodological approaches.

### **Session Organization**

Following acceptance, the Scientific Coordinator(s) will be expected to promote the proposal within their own professional networks and oversee the organization of the session.

Each session must include at least four presentations. In the case of a larger number of contributions, presentations may, where possible, be distributed across multiple sessions. Conversely, if fewer contributions are received, the organizing committee reserves the right to reallocate the contributions.