

LETTER CIRCULAR - Institute for Education

Date: 21th January 2026

Ref: IfE 05/2026

From: Research and Development – School of Research

To the attention of: Heads of College Networks, Heads of Schools, All Educators and Public

Subject: Call for Papers Extension: Institute for Education Symposium 2026

Application Link: [Call for Papers](#)

Extended Deadline: 18th February 2026

Call for Papers: From Silos to Synergy: Building a Culture of Shared Responsibility for Education 2026

The Malta Journal of Education is a peer reviewed journal published by the Institute for Education highlighting recent research in the field of education and teacher training and its relevance for policy and implementation. Its aim is to create synergies between researchers, educators, school leadership and policy makers. It is directed at education researchers to present their recent research that can contribute to the further development of the Maltese education sector.

Proposals are being sought for papers submitted by an individual or group of authors. Accepted papers will have to comply with the deadlines set out in the attached Call for Papers and the author guidelines by the Institute for Education.

Abstract or Presentation proposals will be received until 18th February 2026

via: <https://forms.office.com/e/NThFvtagRT>

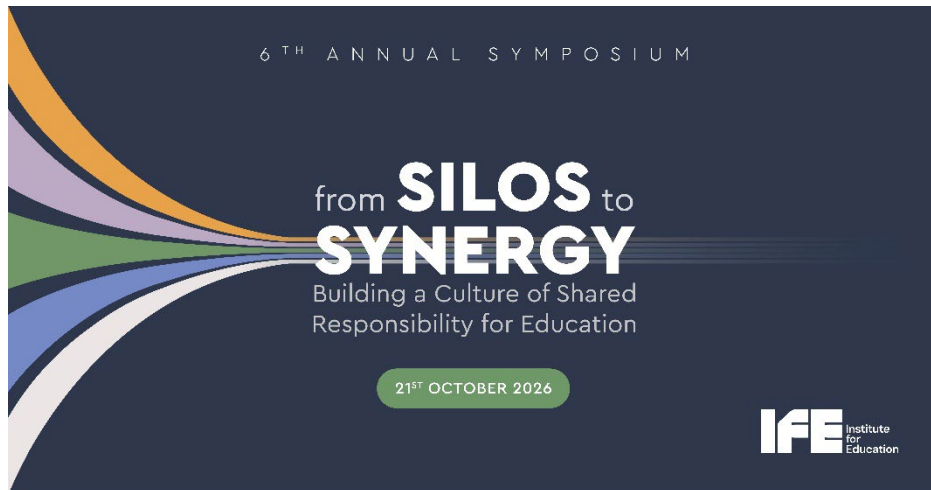
For more information, kindly contact us on ife.research@ilearn.edu.mt or 25982073

Thank you,

Janice Darmanin
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Call for Papers: Institute for Education Symposium 2026

From Silos to Synergy: Building a Culture of Shared Responsibility for Education



The 6th Annual Symposium of the Institute for Education will be held on **21st October 2026**. It will focus on the theme ‘From Silos to Synergy: Building a Culture of Shared Responsibility for Education’. Education is, at its heart, a shared endeavour. Across classrooms, schools, communities, and systems, educators, leaders, families, students, and partners work every day to create rich learning experiences and more just futures. Much of what is most powerful in education already happens when people come together – when teachers co-plan, when leaders listen, when students’ voices shape decisions, and when communities stand alongside schools.

From Silos to Synergy invites us to build on these strengths and explore how collaboration can be deepened, broadened, and made more sustainable. The symposium foregrounds shared responsibility as a way of organising our work so that no single actor; teacher, school leader, parent, policymaker, or researcher is left to carry the weight of educational quality and student success alone. At the same time, we recognise that educational work is still too often carried out in isolation: teachers behind classroom doors, departments with disconnected priorities, support services at the margins, and policy decisions that can feel distant from practice. This fragmentation limits our collective impact and places increasing strain on the wellbeing of educators, leaders, students, and families. The symposium therefore proposes a shift from silos to synergy by focusing on how cultures of collaboration, partnership, and distributed leadership can be intentionally cultivated. Such cultures are the conditions that allow school communities to protect and nurture the wellbeing of all stakeholders in sustainable ways. When schools and institutions align their efforts through coherent leadership, professional learning communities, inter-professional teams, student and parent voice, and research-informed decision making, they create structures that share cognitive, emotional, and



practical load. The Institute for Education Symposium 2026 invites contributions that examine how collaboration, partnership, and shared responsibility are enacted in concrete practices and policies across different educational levels and contexts. Proposals are being sought for individual paper presentations and poster presentations. Poster presentations are open to schools wishing to showcase good practices, and participating schools will be awarded vouchers for the school library and professional development opportunities for the educator.

A proposal may be submitted by an individual or by a group of authors. Accepted proposals will be invited to present their work at the Symposium and to develop it into a journal article for publication in the *Malta Journal of Education* following a peer-reviewed process. A proposal can be submitted by an individual or group of authors. Accepted papers and posters will be invited to present their research at the 6th Annual Symposium.

Submission requirements

The proposal should be in the form of an **abstract with a length of not more than 150 words (excluding references)**, which will be used to judge the merits of the proposed paper or presentation. The proposal should clearly outline the issue being explored or the area of research/practice being reported on, the conceptual underpinnings of the work, its findings (where applicable), and its conclusions or implications.

Where relevant, the proposal should address the following as applicable:

- Objectives or purpose
- Perspective(s) or theoretical / conceptual framework
- Methods, techniques or modes of inquiry
- Data sources / evidence
- Results and conclusions / points of view
- Educational importance of this study for theory, practice, and/or policy
- Connection to the theme *From Silos to Synergy: Building a Culture of Shared Responsibility for Education* and to one of the thematic streams listed above

Authors should also:

- Indicate **3–5 keywords**; and
- Provide a **short biographical note** of not more than 100 words for each author.

Submissions of paper proposals that are currently under consideration elsewhere or submitted for publication in other journals will **not** be accepted. Authors of accepted proposals will be informed by 6th March 2026. Submitted abstract will be made available on the Symposium website should the proposal be accepted.



Evaluation of proposals

Proposals will be evaluated in terms of:

- Their contribution to educational theory, policy, research, and/or practice
- The clarity and coherence of the presentation
- The appropriateness and robustness of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches
- The strength of results, analysis, and conclusions (for completed or ongoing studies)
- The extent to which they engage meaningfully with the theme *From Silos to Synergy: Building a Culture of Shared Responsibility for Education* and the selected thematic stream

Key dates for proposers

Proposals will be received until 18th February 2026. Accepted proposals shall be presented during the 6th Annual Symposium of the Institute for Education held on 21st October 2026. Accepted proposals shall also be published as peer reviewed articles in the Malta Journal of Education by the Institute for Education. Journal articles shall have a length of not more than 5,000 words excluding references. Insufficient standard of the paper or failure to adhere to the timeline may result in the exclusion of the paper from the journal. Please submit your draft paper via: <https://forms.office.com/e/NThFvtagRT> Selected papers are to adhere to the following timeline.

Date	Milestone
18 February 2026	Deadline for submission of proposals
6 March 2026	Notification of accepted proposals
12 June 2026	First draft of paper
29 July 2026	Feedback from peer reviewers
27 September 2026	Draft presentation for the 6 th Annual Symposium
11 October 2026	Feedback on the draft presentation
21 October 2026	Presentation at the 6 th Annual Symposium
6 December 2026	Final draft of paper
31 January 2027	Confirmation of approval and inclusion in the journal
7 February 2027	Proofreading of papers

7 March 2027	Design and print of journal
9 May 2027	Publication of the journal