



UMCS
UNIVERSYTET MARIII CURIE-SKŁODOWSKIEJ

EXTENDED ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

21 Augusti 2026

Call for Papers

Online Conference – 14 October 2026

Enhancing the Participation of and Ensuring the Right to Education for Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Conference Overview

The online conference *Enhancing the Participation of and Ensuring the Right to Education for Children with Intellectual Disabilities* brings together scholars, practitioners, policy-makers, and civil society actors committed to advancing inclusive and rights-based education systems. The conference provides an international forum for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and critical reflection on how educational systems can move beyond access toward meaningful participation and high-quality learning for children with intellectual disabilities.

Grounded in the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and contemporary research in education, the conference emphasises participation as both a pedagogical and a rights-based concept. Participation is understood not only as physical presence in mainstream classrooms but also as active engagement, a sense of belonging, a voice, and recognition within educational communities. Ensuring the right to education, therefore, requires systemic transformation – including teacher preparation, institutional culture, policy alignment, and collaborative practices involving families and multidisciplinary professionals.

The event is closely connected to the EPERE (Enhancing the Participation of and Ensuring the Right to Education for Children with Intellectual Disability: Developing Capacities and Opportunities) project, an international initiative supported by the Swedish Institute Ukraine Cooperation Programme. EPERE focuses on strengthening professional capacities, generating empirical knowledge about barriers and facilitators to participation, and developing training modules and policy recommendations that promote inclusive practice across diverse educational contexts. The conference serves as a platform to disseminate emerging findings from the project while also inviting broader international perspectives that extend and critically engage with its objectives.

Particular attention will be given to contexts experiencing educational disruption, reform, or post-conflict reconstruction, where inclusive education must be re-imagined under

complex social and institutional conditions. By fostering cross-national dialogue among partners and participants from different educational systems, the conference aims to contribute to sustainable, evidence-informed strategies that enhance participation and secure the right to education for children with intellectual disabilities.

Through keynote addresses, research presentations, practitioner reflections, and discussions, the conference seeks to build a collaborative community committed to transforming education from aspiration to practice.

Conference Themes

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and practice-oriented contributions related (but not limited) to the following themes concerning young people with intellectual disability:

- Early support in pre-school education,
- School-wide approaches to inclusive classroom environments,
- Educational approaches for increasing participation,
- Legal and policy frameworks supporting the right to education,
- Implementation challenges in conflict, post-conflict and poverty contexts,
- Teacher training and professional learning,
- Professional competencies and role of teaching assistants, school psychologists and therapists in education,
- Involvement of self-help initiatives and parents,
- Research strategies and inclusive research,
- Transitions within the education system and beyond,
- Comparative and transnational perspectives.

Types of Contributions

The conference welcomes:

- Research papers (theoretical or empirical)
- Practice-based and case-study contributions
- Conceptual and methodological papers
- Policy-oriented analyses and reflections

Submissions from early-career researchers and self-advocates are particularly encouraged.

Submission Guidelines

- Please use the abstract template that can be downloaded here ([TEMPLATE ON THE WEBSITE](#)).
- Abstracts of 400–500 words.
- Title, author(s), affiliation(s).
- Clearly outline the state of the art, aim of the study, research question(s), theoretical framework, methodology, ethical considerations, key findings, and references where appropriate.
- Abstracts should be submitted in English.
- Please indicate the language of the presentation! (preferably English; alternatively Ukrainian)
- *EXTENDED DEADLINE*: Submit your abstract as a Word file by 21 August 2026 to epere@oru.se

Accepted abstracts will be published on the [EPERE](#) website.

Important Dates

- Extended abstract submission deadline: 21 August 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 31 August 2026
- Registration opens: 1 August 2026
- Latest registration: 7 October 2026
- Online conference: 14 October 2026

Conference Format

The conference will be held *entirely online* (Zoom) and is free of charge. It aims to facilitate cross-border participation, particularly for contributors and participants in contexts affected by conflict, war and displacement.

Conference Language

The working language of the conference is English. All presentations will typically be delivered in English and accompanied by simultaneous interpretation into Ukrainian to ensure broad accessibility for participants from diverse linguistic and professional backgrounds. In exceptional cases, and where thematically appropriate, presentations may also be delivered in Ukrainian with simultaneous interpretation into English.

Organising Institutions

The project partners organise the conference:

- Örebro University (Sweden)
- Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University (Ukraine)
- Melitopol State Pedagogical University (Ukraine)
- Ternopil Volodymyr Hnatiuk National Pedagogical University (Ukraine)
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin (Poland)

Registration

The conference registration is already open. Please, register here:

<https://www.oru.se/EPERE-online-conference-14-october>

Contact

Further information regarding registration and the conference programme will be published on the **EPERE** project website. For enquiries, please contact the conference organisers at Örebro University at epere@oru.se.