



Ricerche di Pedagogia e Didattica  
Journal of Theories and Research in Education

## CALL FOR PAPERS

***Rethinking educational, social and health services for inclusion: enhancing cross-sectoral collaboration for reducing socio-cultural inequalities.***

### Guest Editors

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A quarter of European children and teenagers are still at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and the risk of Italian children and teenagers falling victim to poverty and social exclusion is 30%, well above the EU average of 24.4%<sup>1</sup>. According to data released by ISTAT (2023), absolute poverty in Italy has reached an all-time high during the pandemic, affecting as many as 1.4 million children - equal to 14.2% - and 762 thousand families with children<sup>2</sup>. This situation has repercussions also on families' access to essential services, including quality healthcare and education for their children, decent housing conditions and adequate nutrition, in line with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)<sup>3</sup>.

In this sense, the need for investing in better cooperation among the sectors of education, social services, early intervention and health to reduce inequalities has been strongly affirmed in the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee (2021)<sup>4</sup>. The aim of European Child Guarantee funding is to support Member States in developing integrated policies to prevent and combat social exclusion by ensuring access of children in need to high quality ECEC and school-based activities, healthy nutrition, healthcare as well as adequate housing conditions. Member States are called to develop integrated family policy strategies guaranteeing free and effective access to key services to children living in complex circumstances.

Along the same line, the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021)<sup>5</sup> sets actions to fight poverty, promote inclusive and child-friendly societies, health and education systems, in order to achieve

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<sup>1</sup> European Commission: Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Frazer, H., Guio, A. and Marlier, E., *Feasibility study for a child guarantee – Final report*, Frazer, H.(editor), Guio, A.(editor) and Marlier, E.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/772097>

<sup>2</sup> [istat.it/storage/rapporto-annuale/2023/Rapporto-Annuale-2023.pdf](https://istat.it/storage/rapporto-annuale/2023/Rapporto-Annuale-2023.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [Convention on the Rights of the Child | OHCHR](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021H1004>

<sup>5</sup> European Commission: Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, *EU strategy on the rights of the child*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2838/313794>

greater socio-economic equity reaffirming the potential of educational services to become hubs of inclusion for children and families from diverse backgrounds and socio-economic conditions (Action Plan for integration and inclusion, 2021-2027)<sup>6</sup>.

This special issue aims at exploring the conditions that can enable success for different types of co-ordination or integration across education, social and health policies and services, as well as the challenges to achieving alignment. Ideally, the proposed contributions will provide empirical evidence on how to promote innovative policy approaches capable of promoting greater coordination across sectors, as well as cutting-edge practices fostering inter-professional collaboration and development.

The Call welcomes Italian and international research contributions on the proposed topic, with specific reference to:

1. theoretical, foundational, epistemological issues
2. results from empirical research encompassing interdisciplinary and pluri-methodological approaches
3. reasoned and critical analysis of educational projects and practices.

Languages accepted: English only

Submissions received will be evaluated according to a double-blind peer review system, consisting of a two-stage process:

- 1) Submission of a long abstract consisting of an introduction making explicit the context and theoretical framing of the study (600 words), a methods section (400 words), conclusions (300 words) and references (400 words)

**Deadline for the submission of long abstracts: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Abstract should be submitted to the following addresses, by mentioning the title of the Special Issue in the subject of the email:

[arianna.lazzari2@unibo.it](mailto:arianna.lazzari2@unibo.it)

[Str00041.rpd@unibo.it](mailto:Str00041.rpd@unibo.it)

*The long abstracts will be internally evaluated and selected by the editors: notifications on the outcome of the internal peer-review process will be sent to authors by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.*

- 2) The selected contributions should be submitted in the form of an extended manuscript (up to 8,000 words in length, including 150 words abstract, notes and bibliography). For editorial criteria, please refer to the editorial standards found on the Journal's website.

**Deadline for submission of full articles – which must be uploaded to the Journal's OJS platform upon registration of the author(s) – is 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

*All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review by external reviewers.*

**Expected publication date of the Special Issue: December 2026.**

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<sup>6</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bb47d489-a2b1-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>