



## **DbI Global Education Campaign “LET ME IN”**

### **Global Research Initiative: Call for Research Project Proposals**

#### **Invitation**

##### **Every child has the right to an education!**

That is the central theme of the upcoming World Conference of Deafblind International DbI and the World Federation of the Deafblind WFDB, which will be held in Switzerland in July 2027, as well as the focal point of **DbI's Global Education Campaign**: [Global Education Campaign – Deafblind International](#)

A key component of this campaign is the **Global Research Initiative**, which aims to promote **research into the education of children with deafblindness in the three focus regions of the campaign: In Africa, Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean.**

**Therefore, DbI invites scientists, practitioners and/or family members to submit research proposals that focus on the education of children with deafblindness in Africa, Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean.**

In doing so, DbI uses the Nordic definition of deafblindness as a point of reference. According to this, deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing impairment of such severity that it is hard for the impaired senses to compensate for each other. Thus, deafblindness is a distinct disability.

You can learn more about the Nordic definition of deafblindness following this link [Nordic definition on deafblindness](#).



## **General Topic, Specific Themes and Subthemes**

While Dbi invites proposals on any research relevant to the education of children and youth with deafblindness up to the age of 25, the following themes and subthemes are of particular interest:

### ***Theme 1: Education of Children and Youth with Deafblindness***

*(Deafblindness might also involve Auditory Processing Disorder APD, Cerebral Visual impairment CVI or Brain Related Auditory and Visual Impairment BAVI)*

*Possible subthemes:*

- *The state of early intervention programs/support for children with deafblindness*
- *Challenges, approaches and evidence-based strategies in the education of children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Interdisciplinary approaches in the education of children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Assessment of local policies and practices in relation to the education of children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Deafblindness involving APD, CVI or BAVI: Consequences for learning*
- *Educational assessment of children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Planning education for children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Inclusive education of children and youth with deafblindness*

### ***Theme 2: Training and Preparation of Early Childhood Educators and Teachers***

*Possible subthemes:*

- *The state of training and preparation of early childhood educators for children with deafblindness*
- *Assessment of (regular and/or special needs) teacher training programs in relation to the education of students with deafblindness*



### **Theme 3: School-to-Work Transition**

*Possible subthemes:*

- *The state of school-to-work transition programs/support for youth with deafblindness*
- *Implementation of school-to-work transition programs*
- *The roles of parents, teachers and community in school-to-work transition programs/support for youth with deafblindness*
- *Work-readiness skills*
- *Internship and work experience*
- *On-the-job support*

### **Theme 4: Parent-Teacher-Community Collaboration in the Education of Children and Youth with Deafblindness**

*Possible subthemes:*

- *Parent-teacher engagement, empowerment strategies and practical solutions to related challenges*
- *Dynamics of parent-child-teacher conferencing and the best approaches for children and youth with deafblindness*
- *Approaches in the provision of community support in the education of children and youth with deafblindness*
- *The impact of community initiatives in the education of children and youth with deafblindness*



## Grants

Successful researchers will get a research grant of EUR 500 (half of it after the selection of the projects, the other half after the approval of the first draft) and an advisor to help them with their work if their research proposals are accepted.

Successful researchers will also receive funding, to be determined, to present their research at the 19th DbI World Conference in Switzerland, if they submit their work in time.

## Important Points for Submission

- Non anonymous research proposals should be submitted through Oxford Abstracts using this link <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/77364/submitter>
- The research proposal should not be longer than 2 pages, in 12-point type, single-line spacing and 2.5 cm margins, 500 words maximum.
- The research proposal should include a brief description of the goals, the parties and roles involved, the research plan and the expected outcomes. Further information on how to structure your research proposal can be found on the last page.
- The research proposal must be submitted in English. DbI recommends the use of AI-driven translation tools.
- The research proposals should include the contact address of the submitter.
- The research proposal must be relevant to the education of children with deafblindness and can focus one of the themes/subthemes provided.
- The same research proposal cannot be submitted more than once.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Chair of the scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. Pawlos Kassu, at [pawlos@deafblindinternational.org](mailto:pawlos@deafblindinternational.org)

## Assessment of Research Proposals

- Each research proposal will be reviewed by three reviewers.
- All research proposals submitted will be assessed for their relevance to the education of children and youth with deafblindness, where applicable for their relevance to the themes/subthemes of this research initiative and for their scientific quality.
- Details of the assessment will be available online for the researchers to view.



## Deadlines

- Submission of research proposals on <https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/stages/77364/submitter> is possible from January 16, 2025.
- Research proposal submission deadline 15th March 2025
- Announcement of selected research proposals: 10th July 2025
- Deadline for submission of first draft 30th July 2026
- Submission of final paper October 2026
- Announcement of recipients of travel and world conference participation grants December 2026



## Structure of the Research Proposal

### 1. Title

The title should clearly convey the topic of your research. You may revise it when preparing the final version of your research project.

### 2. Context

- **Aim of your research:** What is the focus of your study? What specific problem or research question are you aiming to address?
- **Rationale:** Why is this topic worth studying? Explain the significance of the problem within your field of study.
- **Objectives:** How do you plan to structure your study? Outline the objectives that will guide your research in addressing the research question.
- **Subjects/Participants:** Who will be the subjects of your study? Describe the individuals or organizations that will be involved in your research.

### 3. Methods

- **Type of study:** What type of study will you conduct (e.g., quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods)?
- **Data collection:** What methods will you use to gather data for your study (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations, experiments, case studies)?
- **Data analysis:** What methods will you use to analyze the data (e.g., descriptive statistics, content analysis)?

### 4. Outcomes

- **Results:** What results do you expect to achieve from your study?
- **Impact:** How will the results influence or contribute to your field of study and the practice?