



Conference theme

What’s the purpose of adult education and lifelong learning in the times of crises?

In a world facing climate change, AI disruption, disinformation, social polarisation and forced migration, adult education is more vital than ever. This conference invites us to revisit the role of adult education as a public good, a foundation for democracy and inclusion, and a response to global challenges.

At the same time, increasing emphasis on employability and market demands urges us to rethink and rearticulate the purpose of lifelong learning. What kind of adult education do we need in times of crisis?

Who should attend?	Programme highlights	Organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early career and senior researchers</li><li>• Adult educators and trainers</li><li>• Policy professionals and decision-makers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keynote speeches by leading Nordic and international scholars</li><li>• Thematic paper sessions and panels</li><li>• Interactive dialogue and networking opportunities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The conference is organised by the University of Turku, Department of Education and the Finnish Society for Research on Adult Education</li></ul>

Read more: [nordicadulthoodeducation26.fi](https://nordicadulthoodeducation26.fi)



Welcome to Nordic Adult Education 2026!

We warmly welcome you to the Nordic Adult Education 2026 conference in Turku, Finland!

This unique joint event brings together two established Nordic research conferences:

- **Aikuiskasvatuksen tutkimuspäivät (AITU)** – the Finnish Research Days on Adult Education
- **NAEL – Nordic Conference on Adult Education and Learning**

In 2026, these two traditions are united in Turku to offer an exceptional platform for dialogue, exchange, and collaboration across the field of adult education.

Important dates

- Call for thematic sessions opens - 15 September 2025
- Call for thematic sessions ends - 15 October 2025
- Abstract submission opens - 1 December 2025
- Registration opens - 15 December 2025
- Abstract submission ends - 16 January 2026
- Early bird registration ends - 6 March 2026
- Registration closes - 4 May 2026







## Call for Thematic Sessions

**Deadline for submission: 15 October, 2025**

Notification of session acceptance: 14 November, 2025

**THEMATIC SESSIONS** aim to highlight current adult education research. Thematic Sessions will consist of papers connected by a unifying theme that should be broad enough to include different perspectives related to the theme (Please note that a Thematic Session is not a Symposium).

The conference organisers will select a number of proposed Thematic Sessions based on scientific quality and originality. In the abstract call presenters will be asked to name a Thematic Session where they would like to present their paper. The Thematic Sessions will run in parallel and will be held in person.

## Guidelines for the submission

To propose a Thematic Session:

Please send the proposal to the conference organisers by email:

[nordicadulthoodeducation@utu.fi](mailto:nordicadulthoodeducation@utu.fi)

In the PDF of your proposal, please include the following information that will also be published on the conference website.

- Name(s) of the Thematic Session's organiser(s)
- Proposed title of the Thematic Session
- A 100-word description of the Thematic Session

## Guidelines for Thematic Sessions

- Thematic Session organiser(s) must attend Nordic Adult Education 2026 and to chair the specific Thematic Session.
- Thematic Session organiser(s) must review and select paper presentations for the Thematic Session.
- Thematic Session organiser(s) must organise the initial schedule of the group and send it to the conference organisers by 31 January, 2026.
- Thematic Session organiser(s) are also fully responsible for ensuring that the contributors are aware of and follow the guidelines below.
- Multiple paper presentations are not allowed. Hence, if a paper is accepted for presentation in a Thematic Session, its presenter will be excluded from any other group.
- There are no earmarked financial resources to support Thematic Sessions. All Thematic Session organisers and nominated presenters in a Thematic Session have to pay the conference registration fees. Please, read further information at [nordicadulthoodeducation26.fi](https://nordicadulthoodeducation26.fi)

## Further information

For further information, please contact us at [nordicadulthoodeducation@utu.fi](mailto:nordicadulthoodeducation@utu.fi)