

# rethinking salesian education

150 Years

After Don Bosco's Preventive System



VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
VADEMECCUM  
**VADEMECCUM**  
VADEMECCUM

Guidelines for filling in the  
questionnaires

## Research project promoted by



**Università  
Pontificia  
Salesiana**



**PONTIFICIA FACOLTÀ DI  
SCIENZE DELL'EDUCAZIONE  
«AUXILIUM»**

**Rome, 2026**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **01**

What is Rethinking Salesian Education?

## **02**

The meaning of the research: why participate?

## **03**

The target : who has to fill in the questionnaire?

## **04**

Sampling criteria and proportionality

## **05**

Method of administration: practical advice

## **06**

Instructions for the ones filling in the questionnaires

# 1 WHAT IS “RETHINKING SALESIAN EDUCATION”?

Rethinking Salesian Education is an international research project aimed at investigating the current state and future prospects of Salesian education in the world. The research is part of the process launched for the three-year period 2025-2027, a global reflection that will culminate in the year 2027 with the International Congress. The survey is part of a broader scientific process that includes in-depth seminars, the analysis of the Provincial Youth Ministry Projects and the holding of territorial focus groups.

## **Why is this important?**

The research takes on a symbolic and profound value on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Don Bosco's Preventive System. We celebrate this heritage as a living charism, capable of questioning its contemporaneity.

It is not a simple statistical survey, but a process of scientific and charismatic discernment. The data collected will make it possible to "rethink" Salesian education so that it can continue to be an effective and meaningful response for the young people of the twenty-first century.

**[LINK TO THE PROMOTIONAL VIDEO](#)**

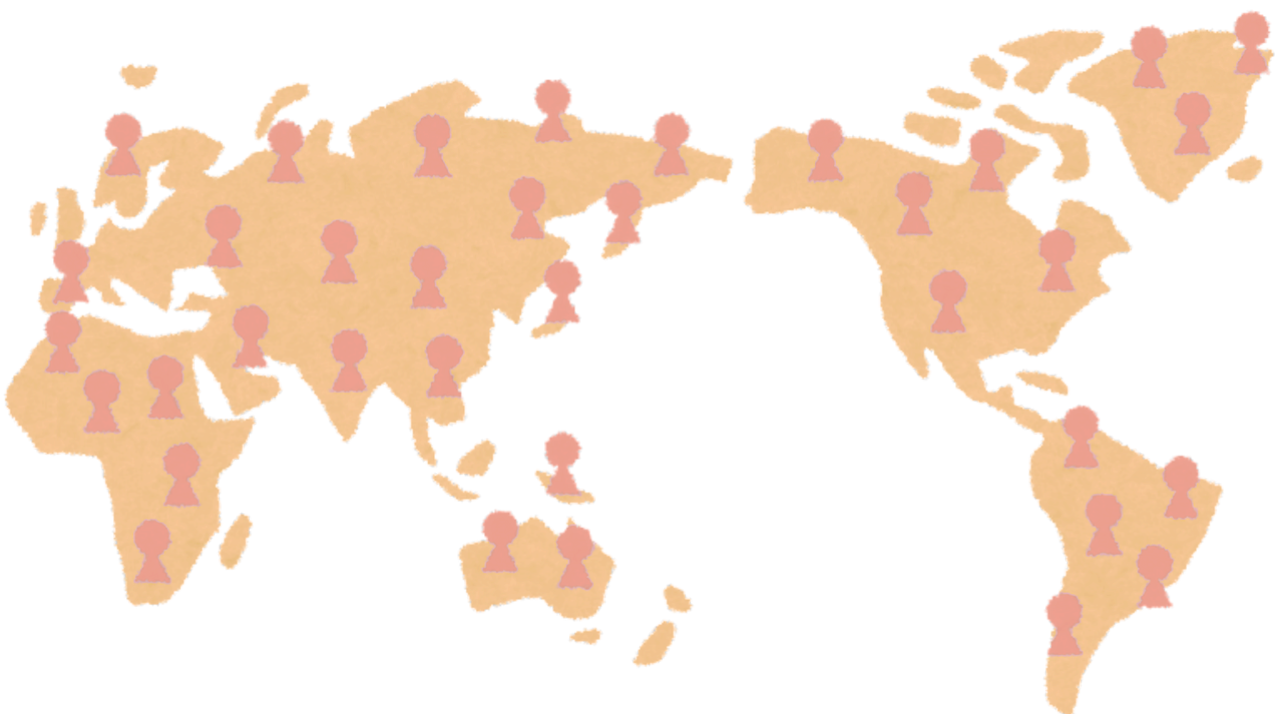
**[LINK TO THE ARTICLE RSE](#)**



# 2 THE MEANING OF THE RESEARCH: WHY PARTICIPATE?

The research "Rethinking Salesian Education" aims to investigate how the Preventive System is embodied today in the different cultures of the world. Participating with significant numbers is not only a scientific contribution, but a pastoral opportunity:

- Each Province will receive an updated "photograph" of its own reality.
- It will allow you to build a coherent narrative of your educational places, based on real data and not just on perceptions.
- It will help to understand how Salesian values are perceived and lived today by young people and adults.



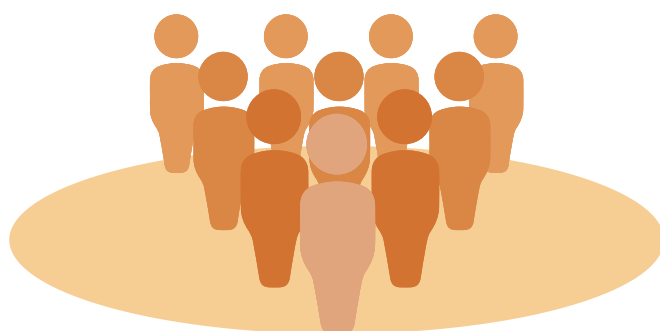
# 3 THE TARGET: WHO HAS TO FILL IN THE QUESTIONNAIRES?

It is essential to select the recipients correctly so as not to affect the validity of the sample:

- **YOUTH Questionnaire:** girls and boys aged 13 to 25 who attend Salesian works (SDB, FMA, lay people), but who do NOT hold educational roles or formal responsibility;
- **Questionnaire EDUCATORS:** Reference adults (20-99 years old) with educational roles of formal responsibility (teachers, senior animators, managers, formators, consecrated persons...).



**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
13-25 YEARS OLD**

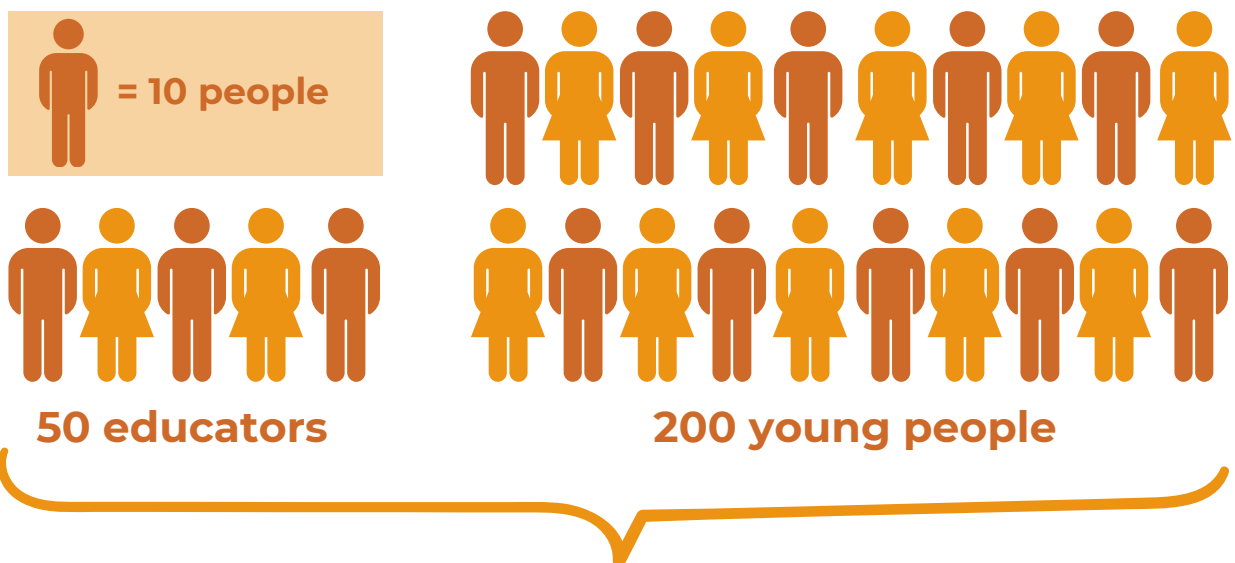


**QUESTIONNAIRE  
EDUCATORS  
20-99 YEARS OLD**

# 4 SAMPLING CRITERIA AND PROPORTIONALITY

For the data to be reliable, we ask the Youth Ministry Delegates/Coordinators to monitor the origin of those who will compile the questionnaires:

- **Minimum numbers required:** at least 200 young people and 50 educators for each Province.
- **Proportionality Criterion:** data collection must reflect the real distribution of the works in the province.
- **Example:** if a Province has 30% schools and 70% oratories, the questionnaires collected should respect these percentages (30% from students, 70% from those who attend the oratory).



Minimum sample required  
of each SDB/FMA Province

## **Territorial and cultural heterogeneity of sampling**

Sampling will have to ensure a balanced representation of the different territorial realities. Educational works located in the main urban centers, such as the capital, but also works located in different provinces or regions, enhancing the plurality of geographical, social and cultural contexts.

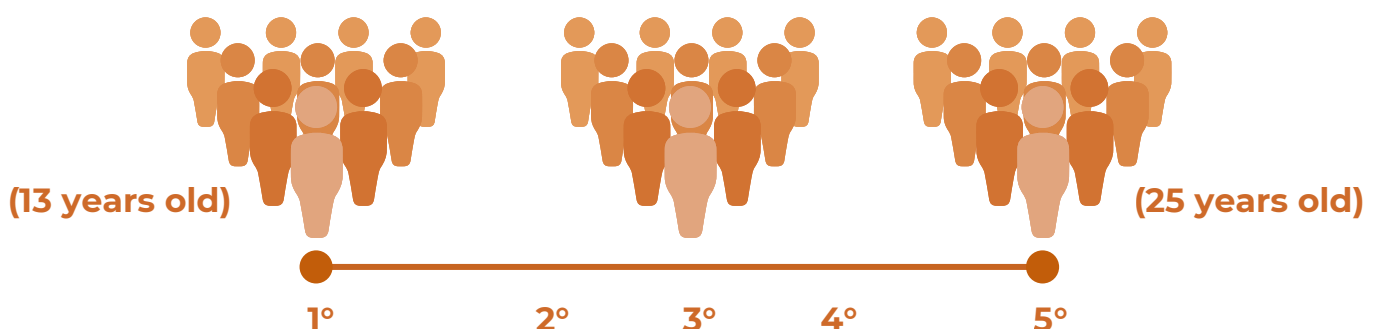
For example: in a given country, the sampling may include an educational work located in the capital and two works located in the province, one in the north and one in the south of the territory, in order to ensure proportionality not only in terms of numbers but also in terms of culture and geography.



## **Diversification of age groups**

The sampling should include young people from different age groups between 13 and 25 years old. In the selection of educational works, it is required to avoid concentration on a single class or precise age, instead ensuring the presence of participants in different phases of the formative programmes.

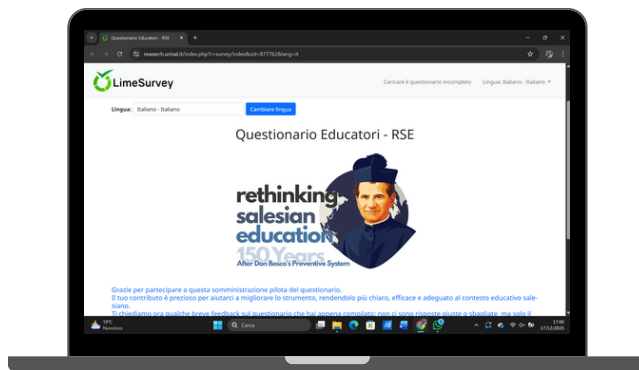
By way of example, students from all classes, from the first to the fifth, may be involved in the sampling of an upper secondary school, in order to ensure a balanced distribution of age groups.






# 5 METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION: PRACTICAL ADVICE

The questionnaires can be completed from both smartphones and PCs



- **Presence of the Supervisor:** it is strongly suggested that a person responsible (professor, oratory coordinator, group contact person) be present during the compilation of the questionnaires. His/her role is twofold:
  1. **Motivator:** Encouraging to complete the entire process.
  2. **Facilitator:** Responding to any doubts or difficulties in understanding the questions.
- **Compilation in a group:** Where possible, it is good to compile the questionnaire in groups (in the classroom, in the courtyard or in the meeting room). Compiling the questionnaires together significantly increases the likelihood of getting to the last question.

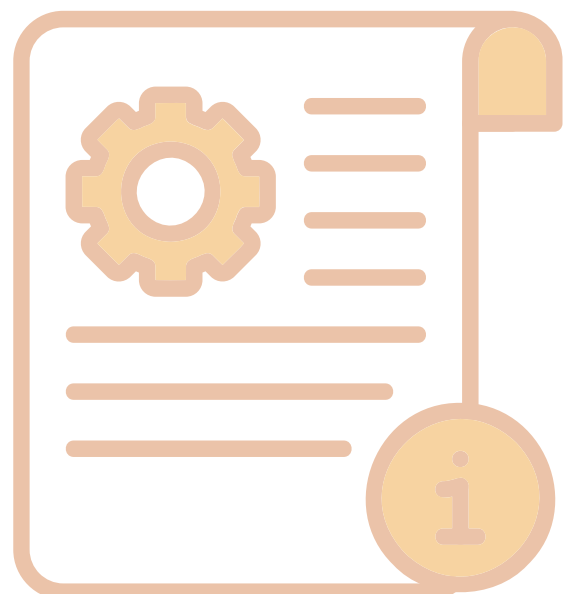
- **Territorial identification:** the administrators should assist the young people in choosing the correct acronym of the SDB or FMA Province from the drop-down menu. An incorrect insertion of the acronym would compromise the correct attribution of the data and the subsequent "photograph" of the local reality.
- **Sharing channels:** You can use WhatsApp, email or QR Code.
- **Translation:** do not use automatic browser translations, but the official ones provided in the Lime Survey platform.

 **ATTENTION:** *It is good to avoid the link becoming public or reaching those who do not attend Salesian works. Dissemination must remain within the educational community so as not to distort the results.*

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPILERS

Before starting, it is important to give some indications:

- The Compiling of the questionnaires can be interrupted and be resumed at a later time, but it is advisable to avoid interruptions.
- **Spontaneity:** In questions about values, there is no "right" or "wrong" answer from the side of the of researchers. We ask you to answer,"in one go", following your instinct and your inner truth.
- **Time:** It takes about 30 minutes to complete. It is a precious time that we ask for as a gift to improve Salesian education in the world.





# CONTACT & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**For technical support, questions and info write to**  
**[salesianedu@unisal.it](mailto:salesianedu@unisal.it)**

**For other resources:**  
**[www.salesian.online/rse](http://www.salesian.online/rse)**