



**International Conference**  
**Early Childhood Education and Care**  
The Power of Play: The Central Pillar of Quality Early Childhood Education and Care

BATUMI 2023



ბათუმი 2023

**საერთაშორისო კონფერენცია**  
**აღრეული განათლება და ზრუნვა**  
თემატიკა: ხარისხიანი აღრეული განათლებისა და ზრუნვის საფუძველი



## **Second International Conference on Early Childhood Education and Care 2023**

*The Power of Play: The Central Pillar of Quality Early Childhood Education and Care*

**8-9 June 2023**

**Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Batumi, Georgia**

### **Agenda**

*June 8*

<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>9:30 – 10:30</b> <i>Main Hall</i>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<p><b>Tamar Makharashvili</b> - Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia</p> <p><b>Davit Gabaidze</b> - Chairman of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Adjara</p> <p><b>Maia Khajishvili</b> - Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara</p> <p><b>Archil Chikovani</b> – Mayor of Batumi</p> <p><b>Genrieta Tsitsava</b>-Member of Education and Science Committee of Parliament of Georgia</p> <p><b>Sophie Kiladze</b> - Vice-Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child</p> <p><b>Nino Lortkipanidze</b> – OIC Deputy Representative of UNICEF Georgia (Opening and Moderation)</p> <p><b>Philippe Cori</b> - Regional Director OIC of UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p> <p><b>Masahiro Kato</b> – JICA ECE Policy advisor to the Ministry of Education and science of Georgia</p> <p><b>Merab Khalvashi</b> –Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>
<b>10:30-10:45</b> <i>Main Hall</i>	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>Bo Stjerne Thomson</b> – Vice-President and Chief of Learning through Play, the Lego Foundation
<b>10:45 – 12:00</b> <i>Main Hall</i>	<b>Plenary Session 1</b> - Enabling Environment for Play: National and International perspectives (Panel Discussion)	<p><b>Tamar Siradze</b> – Vice Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (Moderator)</p> <p><b>Eka Lezhava</b> – Deputy Head of Preschool and General Education Development Department of Ministry of Education and Science</p> <p><b>Berika Shukakidze</b> – Head of National Center for Teacher Professional Development</p> <p><b>Kakhaber Lazarashvili</b> – Rector of East European University</p> <p><b>Debbie Jack</b>- Health Education Department, Middlesex University</p> <p><b>Nicky Spawls (Online)</b> - Deputy Head of Education Department (Early Years Education)</p>



**Nancy Fray (Online)** – Professor of San Diego State University

12:00 – 13:00

**Lunch**

13:00 – 14:30

*Main Hall*

**Plenary Session 2 – Play: Theory and Practice (Presentations)**

**Nino Pruidze** – Education Officer, UNICEF Georgia Country Office (Moderator)

**Tamar Gagoshidze** – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili State University

„Play and Neuroplasticity“

**Nino Jijavadze** – Consultant of National Center for Teacher Professional Development

**Tamar Saghinadze** – Consultant of National Center for Teacher Professional Development

“Piloting of Early Childhood Education Curriculum ‘Play’”

**Ayşe Kapukaya**, – Education Officer, UNICEF Türkiye Country Office,

**Işıl Kıran** – Ministry of National Education **Gülcihan Çevik** – Ministry of National Education

“The Colors of Play: Learning Through Play”

**Suna Hanoz-Penney** – Director of International Programs and Partnerships, ACEV/ The Mother Child Education Foundation

“Lessons Learned from a Promising Accelerated Early Childhood Model: Proven Across Geographies”

**Bo Stjerne Thomson** – Vice-President and Chief of Learning through Play, the Lego Foundation

14:45 – 16:15

**Parallel Sessions 1**

**1.1. Observation, Documentation and Assessment of Play** – Moderator: Nani Mamuladze

**1.2. Competencies for Promoting Play-based Learning** – Moderator: Lia Kurtsikidze

**1.3. Play for All** – Moderator: Mariam Khvadagiani

**1.4. Diverse Play** – Moderator: Nino Gurgenidze

16:15 – 16:45

Coffee

16:45 – 18:15

*Main Hall*

**Plenary Session 3 – Municipal governance - existing practices and alternative solutions (Presentations)**

**Tamar Toloraia** – Head of Preschool education division, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (Moderator)

**Tea Dzotsenidze** – Project Coordinator, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia “Strengthening Municipal Capacities in Implementation of Law on Early and Preschool Education and Care and National Standards”

**Nino Tsintsadze** – Director of Child Development Institute at Ilia State University, “Inclusiveness and Improved Access”



19:00 – 20:30

**Webinar – Importance of diversified early childhood education services for well-being of children, their parents and communities**

**Tamar Saghinadze** – Consultant of National Center for Teacher Professional Development, “Supporting Early Inclusive Education in Municipalities”

**Giorgi Meskhidze** – Director, Civitas Georgia  
 “Georgian Perspectives for Alternative and Innovative Approaches in Preschool Education”

**Vidur Chopra** - Early Childhood Development Specialist  
 - Regional Advisor, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

**Tamar Toloraia** – Head of Preschool education division, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia  
 (Moderator)

**Ana Janelidze** – Early Childhood Development Specialist at UNICEF Czech Republic

**Tamar Tchkonია** – Early Childhood Education Component Lead of Georgia Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project, World Bank, Ministry of Education and Science,

**Lela Chakhaia** – Early Childhood Development and Monitoring and Evaluation consultant, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



June 9

9:00 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 11:00 Main Hall	<b>Plenary session 4 - Enabling Environment for Play: Policy implementation</b>	<p><b>Masahiro Kato</b> - JICA ECE Policy advisor to the Ministry of Education and science of Georgia (Moderator)</p> <p><b>Nino Khitarishvili</b> – Head of Early and Preschool Education and Care Quality Assurance Department at National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement “Authorization standards as a tool for promotion and implementation of play-based learning”</p> <p><b>Tamar Tchkonია</b> – Early Childhood Education Component Lead of Georgia Innovation, Inclusion and Quality Project, World Bank, Ministry of Education and Science,</p> <p><b>Nancy Frey</b>- Professor of San Diego State University „Improving Early Childhood Education (ECE) Institution Management System and Enhancing the Quality of Programs across the Country“</p> <p><b>Shinichiro Tanaka</b> - Senior Education Advisor, JICA Headquarters The “Course of Study” for Learning through Play in Japan</p>
11:00 – 12:30 Main Hall	<b>Plenary Session 5 – Parents and Play</b>	<p><b>Lela Turmanidze</b> – Dean of Faculty of Exact Sciences and Education of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University (Moderator)</p> <p><b>Sanja Budisavljevic</b> - Early Childhood Development Specialist of UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p> <p><b>Lia Kurtsikidze</b> – ECE Specialist at Ilia State University “2–5-Year-Old Children’s Social and Emotional Competencies”</p> <p><b>Maia Nasrashvili</b> – Project Coordinator, Civitas Georgica “Left Behind Children Inclusive Participation in Preschool Education Institutions”</p> <p><b>Nino Margvelashvili</b> – Founder, Kaikona “Let's Try On Playfulness”</p> <p><b>Suna Hanoz-Penney</b> - Director of International Programs and Partnerships ACEV/ The Mother Child Education Foundation “Gender Transformative Parenting: The Father Support Program”</p> <p><b>Mihaela Ionescu (Online)</b> – Program Director, International Step by Step Association “Are parent involvement and parenting support optional in a quality ECEC system?”</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	

13:30 – 15:00	<b>Parallel sessions 2</b>	<p>2.1. <b>Supporting Parents</b> – Moderator: Natia Revazishvili</p> <p>2.2. <b>Let's Play Differently</b> - Alternative Education – Moderator: Tamar Toloraia</p> <p>2.3. <b>Play in Preschool Institutions</b> – Moderator: Nana Makaradze</p> <p>2.4. <b>Academic Discussion about Play</b> – Moderator: Iagor Balanchivadze</p>
15:00 - 16:00	Coffee	
16:00 – 17:30	<b>Parallel sessions 3</b>	<p>3.1. <b>Let's Play Everywhere and with Everything</b> – Moderator: Tamta Kukhaleishvili</p> <p>3.2. <b>Outdoor Play</b> – Moderator: Lela Tavdgiridze</p> <p>3.3. <b>Practitioners and Play</b> – Moderator: Tamar Saginadze</p> <p>3.4. <b>Supportive Play</b> – Moderator: Ana Lagidze</p>
17:30 – 18:00 Main Hall	Summary and closing	<p><b>Tamar Makharashvili</b> – Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia</p> <p><b>Nino Lortkipanidze</b> – OIC Deputy Representative of UNICEF Georgia</p> <p><b>David Batsikadze</b> – Chairperson of Committee on Education, Culture and Sports of Adjara Supreme Council</p> <p><b>Merab Khalvashi</b> – Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University Rector</p> <p><b>Masahiro Kato</b> – JICA ECE Policy advisor to the Ministry of Education and science of Georgia</p> <p><b>Maia Khajishvili</b> - Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara</p>
18:00 – 19:30	Reception	