



Third International Conference "Early Childhood Education and Care"

Inclusive Systems, Services, and Practices for Every Child

26-27 September 2024

Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

Batumi, Georgia

(address: main conference venue, 2nd floor, 1st building, 35 Ninoshvili Street, Batumi)

Conference Programme

*Conference Moderators: Tamar Toloraia, Head of Preschool Education Division, MoESY of Georgia
Natso Beridze Gabaidze, Head of Education Department, MoECS of Adjara AR*

26 September

9:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00-10:10 Main Conference Hall	Welcome	Merab Khalvashi – Rector, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
10:10 – 10:40 Main Conference Hall	Conference Opening <i>Moderator: Natia Jokhadze, Head of Education Section, UNICEF Georgia</i>	Tamar Makhbarashvili – Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia Maia Khajishvili – Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara H.E. Hideki Ishizuka – Ambassador of Japan in Georgia Didier Trebuq – UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia Jesper Moller – UNICEF Representative in Georgia
10:40-11:00 Main Conference Hall	Keynote speech	Tamar Gagoshidze – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Head of the Consultancy and Training Center, <i>"Inclusive early education, early development and child well-being"</i>
11:00 – 12:30 Main Conference Hall	Plenary Session 1 – Inclusive Early and Preschool Education System and Policy (Presentations) <i>Moderator: Natso Beridze Gabaidze, Head of Education Department, Ministry of</i>	Rebecca Lie – Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Norwegian Embassy in Georgia and Armenia 1. Vidur Chopra – Early Childhood Education Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, <i>"Inclusive Early Education Systems"</i> 2. Tamar Toloraia – Head of Preschool Education Division, Department of Preschool and General Education



	<p><i>Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara AR</i></p>	<p>Development, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, "Global Education Policy and Advancement of Georgia's Early Education System"</p> <p>3. Natia Jokhadze – Head of Education Section, UNICEF Georgia, "UNICEF Georgia for Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care"</p> <p>4. Masahiro Kato – Early Childhood Education Advisor, JICA and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, "Overview of Access to ECEC and ECD Outcomes in Georgia: Equity Gaps between Population Groups"</p> <p>5. Angela Scollan – Associate Professor of Early Childhood Studies, Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education, Middlesex University London; Nicky Spawls – Deputy Head of Education (Early Education) Department, Middlesex University London, "Listening to the Voices and Expressions of Young Children across Services, Care and Preschool Education"</p> <p>6. Giorgi Meskhidze – Board Member, "Civitas Georgica"; Nino Tsintsadze – Associate Professor, Director of the Child Development Institute, Ilia State University, "Diversified preschool education in Georgia"</p> <p>Q & A</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:45 Main Conference Hall	<p>Plenary Session 2 – Cross-Sectoral Collaboration to Support Inclusive Early and Preschool Education (Presentations)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Tamar Toloraia, Head of Preschool Education Division, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth</i></p>	<p>Junji Wakui – Representative of JICA Georgia</p> <p>1. Nancy Frey – Professor of Educational Leadership, San Diego State University; James Marshall – Professor of Educational Leadership, San Diego State University, "Empowering Early Childhood Education through Cross-Sectoral Integration"</p> <p>2. Lia Kurtsikidze – Early Education Specialist, Ilia State University; Tamar Laferadze – Independent Researcher, Sociologist, "Research on National Services to Support Early Childhood Development"</p> <p>3. Ana Janelidze – Early Childhood Education Consultant, UNICEF, JICA, "Early Childhood Education and Care System and Services in Georgia for Children 0-2"</p> <p>4. Alexandra Duda – Early Childhood Development Specialist, UNICEF Poland, "Spynka Program: Bridging Gaps in Early Childhood Education and Inclusion for Ukrainian Refugee Children in Poland"</p> <p>5. Aya Hasegawa – JICA Expert, Chief Advisor/MCH, Project for Improving the Quality of Continuum of Care for Mothers and Children through the Introduction of</p>



		<p>Maternal and Child Health Handbook; <i>"A Brief Overview of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) System of Georgia and MCH Handbook Project"</i></p> <p>Q & A</p>
14:45 – 16:15	Parallel Sessions	<p>1.1 Diversified Services for Ensuring Inclusion (<i>Main Conference Hall</i>) 1.2 Importance and Practices of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration (<i>Auditorium #59</i>) 1.3 Early Inclusive Education System and Policy (<i>Auditorium #55</i>) 1.4 Strategies for Ensuring an Inclusive Environment (<i>Auditorium #60</i>)</p>
16:15 – 16:45	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:45 – 18:00 Main Conference Hall	<p>Plenary Session 3 – Educational Strategies and Programs for Equity (Presentations)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Tea Dzotsenidze, Expert for Strengthening Municipal Capacity, Preschool Education Division; Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia</i></p>	<p>Przemysław Pierz – Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi</p> <p>1. Tamta Grigolia – Bilingual Education Program Manager, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, <i>"A Model of Bilingual Education: The Path to Full Integration Beginning from the Preschool Level"</i> 2. Svetlana Belova – Multilingual Education Specialist, ESTDEV, Estonia; Natalja Mjalitsina – Multilingual Education Specialist, ESTDEV, Estonia, (Online), <i>"Early Multilingual Education, Estonian Experiences"</i> 3. Francesco Calcagno – Chief of Education, UNICEF Poland (Online), <i>"Integrative Educational Strategies for Migrant and Refugee Children: Insights from the Accessible School for All' Project in Poland"</i> 4. Maia Nasrashvili – President, <i>"Civitas Georgica"</i>, <i>"Left Behind Children at Kindergarten"</i> 5. Urszula Markowska-Manista – Professor, PhD, University of Warsaw, Research Laboratory on Diversity (Online), <i>"Children with Migration Backgrounds and Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the Polish Context of Inclusion"</i></p> <p>Q & A</p>
18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception	<i>Small Yard of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</i>



27 September

9:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 – 10:20 Main Conference Hall	Keynote speech	Fabio Dovigo – Professor, PhD, Northumbria University, UK, "ECEC Workforce Professionalization; A Global Overview"
10:20 – 11:35 Main Conference Hall	Plenary Session 4 – Professional Development (Presentations) <i>Moderator:</i> Lela Turmanidze , Dean of Exact Sciences and Education Faculty, Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University	Ivan Ivanov – Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia 1. Khatuna Dolidze – Associate Professor, Head of Early Childhood Education BA, Ilia State University, (Online), "Higher and Vocational Education – realities and perspectives" 2. Nino Khitarishvili – Head of Early and Preschool Education and Care Quality Assurance Department, LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement," Professional Identity and Continues Professional Development " 3. Nino Labartkava – Manager of Preschool Education and Care Program, National Center for Teacher Professional Development," In-Service Training Process for Early and Preschool Education Specialists" 4. Kakhaber Lazarashvili – Rector of East European University, "The Role of EEU in developing Preschool BA Programs in Georgia" 5. Nino Jijavadze – Invited Lecturer, Ilia State University, "Professional Needs of Preschool Practitioners and Administration to Provide Inclusive Education" Q & A
11:35-13:00	Parallel Sessions 2	2.1 Practices of Implementing Diverse Inclusive Tools (<i>Main Conference Hall</i>) 2.2 Inclusive Communication at the Early and Preschool Education Stage (<i>Auditorium #60</i>) 2.3 Child-Centered Inclusive Environment (<i>Auditorium #55</i>) 2.4 Services to Ensure Inclusive Early and Preschool Education (<i>Auditorium #59</i>)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30 Main Conference Hall	Plenary Session 5 – Inclusive Practices in Early and Preschool Education (Presentations) <i>Moderator: Nutsa Pruidze</i> , ECEC Hub, Early Education Expert	1. Tamar Jakeli – Coordinator for the Development of the National Curriculum (Non-Georgian Language Schools), Ministry of Education, Science and Youth, "The Invisible Foundations of Access to Educational Content" 2. Tamar Gagoshidze – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Head of the Consultancy and Training Center, "Prevention of Reading Disorders in Preschool Age"



3. **Tamar Zhordania** – Head of the Center for the Development of Inclusive Music Education, Invited Lecturer of Tbilisi State Conservatory in the Direction of Music Therapy, *"Musical Friend from a Therapeutic Perspective"*
4. **Nino Jijavadze** – Invited Lecturer, Ilia State University; **Tamta Kukhaleishvili** – Specialist, Child Development Center, Ilia State University, *"Using Picture Books to Promote Acceptance of Diversity and Individualism in Early Childhood"*
5. **Ana Lagidze** – Education Expert, Save the Children International, Georgia Country Office, *"Expressive Arts for Early Inclusion"*
6. **Sarah Garrity** – Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Child and Family Development, San Diego State University, College of Education, *"Using Video to Support ECE In-service Teacher's Understanding of Child-Centred Practices that Support the Inclusion of All Children"*

Q & A

15:30 - 16:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:00 – 17:30	Parallel Sessions 3	3.1 Professional Development (<i>Main Conference Hall</i>) 3.2 Practices of Implementing Inclusive Curriculum (<i>Auditorium #60</i>) 3.3 Community and Family Engagement (<i>Auditorium #55</i>) 3.4 Methodology for Inclusive Education (<i>Auditorium #59</i>)
17:30 – 18:00 Main Conference Hall	Summary and Conference Closing	Tamar Makhharashvili – Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia Maia Khajishvili – Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara Jesper Moller – UNICEF Representative in Georgia Masahiro Kato – Early Childhood Education Advisor of JICA and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia Merab Khalvashi – Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University