



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 Makharashvili – 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 Trebucq – 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vidur Chopra – Early Childhood Education Specialist, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, <i>"Inclusive Early Education Systems"</i> 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, <i>"Global Education Policy and Advancement of Georgia's Early Education System"</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Natia Jokhadze – Head of Education Section, UNICEF Georgia, <i>"UNICEF Georgia for Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care"</i> 4. Masahiro Kato – Early Childhood Education Advisor, JICA and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, <i>"Overview of Access to ECEC and ECD Outcomes in Georgia: Equity Gaps between Population Groups"</i> 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, <i>"Listening to the Voices and Expressions of Young Children across Services, Care and Preschool Education"</i> 6. Giorgi Meskhidze – Board Member, "Civitas Georgica"; Nino Tsintsadze – Associate Professor, Director of the Child Development Institute, Ilia State University, <i>"Diversified preschool education in Georgia"</i> <p>Q & A</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
<p>13:30 – 14:45 Main Conference Hall</p>	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nancy Frey – Professor of Educational Leadership, San Diego State University; James Marshall – Professor of Educational Leadership, San Diego State University, <i>"Empowering Early Childhood Education through Cross-Sectoral Integration"</i> 2. Lia Kurtsikidze – Early Education Specialist, Ilia State University; Tamar Laferadze – Independent Researcher, Sociologist, <i>"Research on National Services to Support Early Childhood Development"</i> 3. Ana Janelidze – Early Childhood Education Consultant, UNICEF, JICA, <i>"Early Childhood Education and Care System and Services in Georgia for Children 0-2"</i> 4. Alexandra Duda – Early Childhood Development Specialist, UNICEF Poland, <i>"Spynka Program: Bridging Gaps in Early Childhood Education and Inclusion for Ukrainian Refugee Children in Poland"</i> 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>Maternal and Child Health Handbook; "A Brief Overview of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) System of Georgia and MCH Handbook Project"</p> <p>Q & A</p>
14:45 – 16:15	Parallel Sessions	<p>1.1 Diversified Services for Ensuring Inclusion (Main Conference Hall)</p> <p>1.2 Importance and Practices of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration (Auditorium #59)</p> <p>1.3 Early Inclusive Education System and Policy (Auditorium #55)</p> <p>1.4 Strategies for Ensuring an Inclusive Environment (Auditorium #60)</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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tamta Grigolia – Bilingual Education Program Manager, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, "A Model of Bilingual Education: The Path to Full Integration Beginning from the Preschool Level" Svetlana Belova – Multilingual Education Specialist, ESTDEV, Estonia; Natalja Mjalitsina – Multilingual Education Specialist, ESTDEV, Estonia, (Online), "Early Multilingual Education, Estonian Experiences" Francesco Calcagno – Chief of Education, UNICEF Poland (Online), "Integrative Educational Strategies for Migrant and Refugee Children: Insights from the Accessible School for All' Project in Poland" Maia Nasrashvili – President, "Civitas Georgica", "Left Behind Children at Kindergarten" Urszula Markowska-Manista – Professor, PhD, University of Warsaw, Research Laboratory on Diversity (Online), "Children with Migration Backgrounds and Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the Polish Context of Inclusion" <p>Q & A</p>
18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception	<p>Small Yard of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>



27 September

9:30 – 10:00	Registration	
10:00 - 10:20 Main Conference Hall	Keynote speech	Fabio Dovigo – Professor, PhD, Northumbria University, UK, <i>"ECEC Workforce Professionalization; A Global Overview"</i>
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	<p>Ivan Ivanov – Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Georgia</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Khatuna Dolidze – Associate Professor, Head of Early Childhood Education BA, Ilia State University, (Online), <i>"Higher and Vocational Education – realities and perspectives"</i> Nino Khitarishvili – Head of Early and Preschool Education and Care Quality Assurance Department, LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, <i>"Professional Identity and Continues Professional Development"</i> Nino Labartkava – Manager of Preschool Education and Care Program, National Center for Teacher Professional Development, <i>"In-Service Training Process for Early and Preschool Education Specialists"</i> Kakhaber Lazarashvili – Rector of East European University, <i>"The Role of EEU in developing Preschool BA Programs in Georgia"</i> Nino Jijavadze – Invited Lecturer, Ilia State University, <i>"Professional Needs of Preschool Practitioners and Administration to Provide Inclusive Education"</i> <p>Q & A</p>
11:35-13:00	Parallel Sessions 2	<p>2.1 Practices of Implementing Diverse Inclusive Tools (Main Conference Hall)</p> <p>2.2 Inclusive Communication at the Early and Preschool Education Stage (Auditorium #60)</p> <p>2.3 Child-Centered Inclusive Environment (Auditorium #55)</p> <p>2.4 Services to Ensure Inclusive Early and Preschool Education (Auditorium #59)</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tamar Jakeli – Coordinator for the Development of the National Curriculum (Non-Georgian Language Schools), Ministry of Education, Science and Youth, <i>"The Invisible Foundations of Access to Educational Content"</i> Tamar Gagoshidze – Professor, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Head of the Consultancy and Training Center, <i>"Prevention of Reading Disorders in Preschool Age"</i>



		<p>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, <i>"Musical Friend from a Therapeutic Perspective"</i></p> <p>4. Nino Jijavadze – Invited Lecturer, Ilia State University; Tamta Kukhaleishvili – Specialist, Child Development Center, Ilia State University, <i>"Using Picture Books to Promote Acceptance of Diversity and Individualism in Early Childhood"</i></p> <p>5. Ana Lagidze – Education Expert, Save the Children International, Georgia Country Office, <i>"Expressive Arts for Early Inclusion"</i></p> <p>6. Sarah Garrity – Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Child and Family Development, San Diego State University, College of Education, <i>"Using Video to Support ECE In-service Teacher's Understanding of Child-Centred Practices that Support the Inclusion of All Children"</i></p> <p>Q & A</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:00 – 17:30	Parallel Sessions 3	<p>3.1 Professional Development (<i>Main Conference Hall</i>)</p> <p>3.2 Practices of Implementing Inclusive Curriculum (<i>Auditorium #60</i>)</p> <p>3.3 Community and Family Engagement (<i>Auditorium #55</i>)</p> <p>3.4 Methodology for Inclusive Education (<i>Auditorium #59</i>)</p>
17:30 – 18:00 Main Conference Hall	Summary and Conference Closing	<p>Tamar Makharashvili – Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia</p> <p>Maia Khajishvili – Minister of Education, Culture and Sport of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara</p> <p>Jesper Moller – UNICEF Representative in Georgia</p> <p>Masahiro Kato – Early Childhood Education Advisor of JICA and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia</p> <p>Merab Khalvashi – Rector of Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>