



Developing Program for Access of Disadvantaged Groups of People and Regions to Higher Education



DARE International Conference on Inclusive Education, 20th – 21st November, 2017, Tbilisi, Georgia

The Ministry of Education & Science of Georgia (Eka Dgebuadze), Sokhumi State University (Lia Akhaladze), Georgia; University of Haifa (Hanan Alexander), Israel; and European Access Network (Mee Foong Lee), UK, have the pleasure in inviting you to our DARE international conference on inclusive education. The working languages are English and Georgian.

In the constantly changing world, the introduction, research and development of the principles of Inclusive Education (IE) is being increasingly discussed. Embracing and implementing the idea of IE will enable our institutions to increase student diversity, open up opportunities for disadvantaged and under-represented groups to enter higher education, help overcome difficulties in their learning process, and empower them to engage in all areas of public life. The Conference will facilitate the sharing and dissemination of knowledge and experience in IE development in Georgia, Israel, Europe, and beyond. Forum discussions will be arranged around the themes of the papers received.

We now **Call for Submission** of Theses or Reports on the theme of **“Inclusive Education: Socially Vulnerable Groups – Problem Research, Learning/Teaching and Support”** in the following topics:

1. Teaching, research and implementation of Inclusive Education in the learning process
2. National minorities and the challenges for the higher education system
3. Elaboration and implementation of support strategies for students with special education needs
4. Multicultural education
5. Socially vulnerable groups
6. Forms of support
7. Teaching and evaluation

All abstracts must not exceed 1,500-2,000 characters. Font: Acadnux, Sylfaen, Times New Roman

Please note that the work should not be published or read at any other conferences; and the theses should clearly state the results of the study. The results of the conference will be published in the international Georgian-English journal *“Education”*.

Submissions must be sent **electronically** to Prof Lia Akhaladze, Dean of Education Faculty, Sokhumi State University: education@sou.edu.ge

Deadline: 25th October 2017 **Notification of acceptance:** 30th October 2017



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Education inequalities contribute to social divisions and disharmony. Eliminating them is vital. All of us seeking to change the ideas, policies, practices, systems and other factors that support and perpetuate education inequalities are 'advocates for change'. It is a challenging role. It is also a very important role. But we can sometimes find ourselves in a very lonely place. We need more 'equity champions' to join forces with us to effect change. Through 'collective impact' we will find effective ways to achieve results that are otherwise unattainable by working alone and in isolation.

Day 2 "**Inclusive Education – what do we know? Sharing successful strategies in supporting minority students**" will share insights on preparatory courses, diversity, language and curriculum development, integration of subjects, course implementation and cultural sensitivity. It will highlight innovative strategies in student support, an online student assistance programme accessible 24/7 with anonymity. There will be a workshop using 'Lego Serious Play' which incorporates participants experience and background to foster their engagement in designing a student support system adapted to their context.

Conference speakers include:

Eka Dgebuadeze, Head of Inclusive Education Development Division, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Prof Lia Akhaladze, Dean of Education Faculty, Sokhumi State University, Georgia

Prof Michal Shany, Department of Learning Disabilities, University of Haifa, Israel

Lobke Dedrie (Career), **Nele Pierlet** (Diversity), Artevelde University College Ghent, Belgium

Kees Smit, Head of Department (Foundation Programme), VU Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Conference is open to all and participation is **free** except that for Non-DARE Consortium members there is a small charge of £50 (€55) to cover basic costs. Non-DARE participants are also expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Your participation is welcome and you do not have to submit a thesis or report in order to attend. We look forward to welcoming you in Tbilisi!

To register for the Conference please click on [this link](#). For more information about the programme please contact Rachel Pear: rachels.a.pear@gmail.com; or Mee Foong Lee: m.f.lee@roehampton.ac.uk

A BIT ABOUT DARE



DARE is a three-year Erasmus+ programme co-ordinated by University of Haifa, Israel. It has 13 consortium partners from Czech Republic, Georgia, Israel, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and UK; and four NGO associated partners: 2 Georgian and 2 Israeli. The European partners will play a major role in supporting DARE's endeavour to implement higher education strategies that promote equal opportunities and access to inclusive education in partner HEIs in Georgia and Israel. The target groups are:

- Women in socio-economic or geographically disadvantaged situations
- Minority and/or ethnic groups in vulnerable situations
- Students with special needs

The main areas of focus are: raising awareness in diversity and inclusion; institutional capacity building; staff development and training; distance and e-learning; support services for students with physical or learning disabilities; national and institutional development in the principles of inclusive education.

More information about DARE can be found on: <https://dare.erasmus-plus.org.il/>



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