

	Expression of Interest
Project Title	Call for Expressions of Interest for Georgian Universities/Academic institutions: Development of an Academic Course on Inclusive Social Protection
Project Location	Georgia
Issued by	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Georgia
Sectors and Area of Specialization	Social Protection, Development Economics, Education Inclusive Social Protection, Social Policy, Child Rights, Disability Inclusion, Public Economics, Poverty Reduction, Public Administration, Shock-responsive Social Protection
Project Background	<p>Inclusive social protection systems are central to reducing poverty, addressing deprivations and inequalities, and promoting human capital development. They play a critical role in protecting children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations from social and economic risks, while fostering social inclusion and resilience.</p> <p>Georgia has made progress in strengthening its social protection system; however, UNICEF Georgia's engagement with national stakeholders consistently highlights limited conceptual and analytical understanding of social protection among decision-makers and mid-level managers at both central and local levels. The absence of a shared conceptual capacity constrains evidence-informed policy dialogue, programme design, and implementation of reforms.</p> <p>In response, UNICEF Georgia is supporting the development of an academic course on Inclusive Social Protection within Georgian universities as an initial step toward strengthening national academic capacity. Building on UNICEF's earlier experience supporting the development of a Master's programme in Child Rights, the initiative envisages collaboration between Georgian universities and an international academic institution that will provide technical assistance and methodological leadership for the course development process.</p> <p>Through this Expression of Interest, UNICEF Georgia seeks to establish a Georgian Academic Team composed of interested universities, academic institutions, and faculty representatives who will serve as national academic counterparts throughout the course development process.</p> <p>The Georgian Academic Team will work collaboratively with the selected international academic institution and UNICEF Georgia to co-develop, contextualize, review, and strengthen the course content and teaching materials to ensure relevance to the Georgian higher education and policy context.</p> <p>Participation in the Georgian Academic Team is voluntary and intended as a professional and institutional collaboration opportunity. Participating institutions will benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to internationally developed and fully adapted teaching and learning materials; • participation in curriculum co-development and peer learning processes; • capacity development opportunities; • strengthened institutional capacity in inclusive social protection teaching; • access to a complete course package that can be incorporated into existing academic programmes; • trained academic personnel capable of delivering the course in the future
Objective	To co-develop and facilitate future institutionalization of an academic course on Inclusive Social Protection that strengthens national academic capacity and equips future professionals with foundational knowledge and analytical competencies to design, implement, and assess inclusive social protection systems.
Expected Results	<p>Result 1: An academic course on Inclusive Social Protection developed and ready for integration into existing Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes;</p> <p>Result 2: A package of teaching and learning resources developed, including a syllabus, reading materials, case studies, facilitator guidance, assignments, and recommended literature, to support high-quality course delivery.</p> <p>Result 3: Involved academic personnel have the knowledge, skills, and teaching materials required to effectively deliver the Inclusive Social Protection course.</p>

<p>Partnership Model</p>	<p>UNICEF Georgia will provide overall coordination, technical guidance, access to global evidence and good practices, and support engagement with an international academic institution.</p> <p>The international academic institution selected separately by UNICEF Georgia will provide technical leadership and methodological guidance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needs assessment and competency framework development; • curriculum and syllabus design; • development of teaching and learning materials; • mentoring and capacity development of the Georgian Academic Team. <p>Selected Georgian universities and academic institutions will collectively form the Georgian Academic Team.</p> <p>The Georgian Academic Team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in consultations and needs assessment processes; • nominate academic focal points and faculty members; • contribute local academic, policy, and contextual perspectives; • review and contextualize draft curriculum and teaching materials; • participate in workshops, mentoring, and co-development activities; • strengthen local ownership and sustainability of the course; • explore opportunities for future integration of the course into existing accredited academic programmes. <p>Participation in the Georgian Academic Team does not create a legal obligation for universities to institutionalize the course at this stage. However, participating institutions are expected to demonstrate genuine academic interest and willingness to explore future incorporation of the course within relevant programmes.</p> <p>UNICEF Georgia and the international academic institution will support the Georgian Academic Team through technical mentoring, collaborative development processes, and access to international expertise and resources.</p> <p>Participating universities will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a complete package of developed teaching and learning materials; • curriculum and syllabus documentation; • facilitator guidance and assessment materials; • capacity development and mentoring support for nominated faculty members. <p>The final course materials will be considered a public good.</p>
<p>Eligibility and Requirements</p>	<p>Interested public or private university or consortium of universities of Georgia should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of the initiative with institutional mission and strategy; • Experience in social policy, social protection, public economics, public administration, public policy, or related fields; • Availability of qualified academic staff; ability of the staff to communicate and explore English language materials; • Institutional willingness and capacity to support course development and delivery; • Willingness to actively participate in the Georgian Academic Team and contribute academic expertise, faculty time, and institutional engagement throughout the course development process; • Demonstrated experience in curriculum development or academic programme design; • Ability to integrate the course into existing accredited programmes. <p>Previous collaboration with international organizations or involvement in social policy and social protection initiatives will be considered an asset but is not mandatory.</p> <p>At this stage, a formal commitment to integrate the developed Inclusive Social Protection course into the University's academic programme is not required, although such commitment would be considered an asset.</p>

<p>Submission Requirements and Timeline</p>	<p>Interested universities should submit:</p> <p>a) An official letter (in Georgian or English) signed by an authorized representative confirming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interest in participating in the initiative; • commitment to engage in the course development process; • willingness to explore integration of the course into existing university programme(s). <p>b) A completed Expression of Interest Form (Annex 1)</p> <p>For consultations and the requests for clarification before the submission please contact Ketevan Melikadze, Social Policy and Economic Specialist at kmelikadze@unicef.org; email title "Expression for interest"</p>
<p>Prepared by: Ketevan Melikadze, Social Policy and Economic Specialist</p>	<p>Ketevan Melikadze</p> <p>Digitally signed by Ketevan Melikadze Date: 2026.05.14 23:14:31 +04'00'</p>
<p>Reviewed and endorsed by: Alexandru Nartea Deputy Representative</p>	<p>Alexandru Nartea</p> <p>Digitally signed by Alexandru Nartea Date: 2026.05.18 16:16:27 +04'00'</p>
<p>Approved by: Isabella Castrogiovani Representative</p>	<p>Isabella Castrogiovani</p> <p>Digitally signed by Isabella Castrogiovani Date: 2026.05.22 00:32:12 +04'00'</p>