



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND GEORGIA

#StrongerTogether

November 2022



The EU and Georgia signed an Association Agreement in June 2014, which entered fully into force in July 2016. This agreement provides the foundations for political association and economic integration.

Key benefits from this relationship include a **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)**, which opens the EU market to Georgian business and product and **visa free travel** to the Schengen area for Georgian citizens since 28 March 2017.

The EU is Georgia's largest donor and provides around €100 million of grant money annually to support Georgia's ambitious reform agenda. The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument –**

Global Europe (NDICI) is the main instrument for the EU's cooperation with external partners, including Georgia, for the period 2021-2027. The EU's grants to Georgia for 2021-20224 amount to **€340 million** and will be complemented by other regional and thematic programmes as well as funding in the forms of loans and guarantees.

On 3 March 2022, Georgia presented its application for **EU Membership**. **The European Commission adopted its Opinion on 17 June, recommending the European Council to grant a European perspective to Georgia. On 23 June 2022, the European Council endorsed this recommendation and Georgia should get candidate status once the twelve priorities are fulfilled.**

ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN

The EU supports Georgia with concrete investments to help **further strengthening resilience, modernising its economy enhance connectivity** and improve the lives of Georgian citizens under the principle of **“build back better”**. In the coming years, the EU will invest in the following **flagship projects**:



Electricity cable through the Black Sea to strengthen trade potential of renewable energy and data cable



Support to 80,000 SMEs



High-speed internet for 1,000 rural communities



Ferry connections in the Black Sea



Cleaner air and energy efficiency for 1 million people

The EU is **Georgia's main trading partner**, with a 21% share of its total trade in 2021. Total bilateral trade between the EU and Georgia has increased by 15% since the entry into force of the DCFTA. In 2021, Georgia received one of the highest levels of EU grant assistance per capita in the world.

Over 1,150,000 **Georgian citizens** have travelled to the EU **without a visa** since the introduction of the **visa liberalisation** in 2017.



The EU continues its **firm support of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity** within its internationally recognised borders, including through the efforts of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia (EUSR), the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and through the European Peace Facility (**€12.75 million**) to help strengthen the Georgian Defence Force's medical, engineering and logistics units.



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