



THE EU AND GEORGIA

#Strongertogether
#EUEnlargement

October 2024

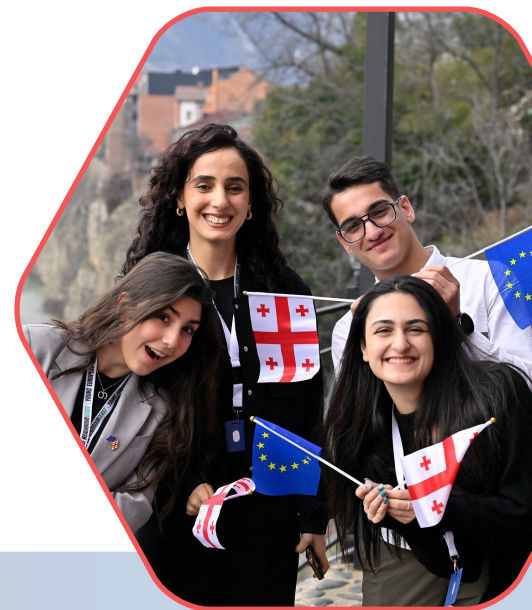


Georgia was granted **candidate status** in December 2023, on the understanding that it takes the nine relevant steps set out in the Commission recommendation of 8 November 2023.



EU support to Georgia

The **EU** is the **largest provider of financial assistance to Georgia**. It offers a variety of programmes and instruments to support Georgia's development and alignment with EU *acquis* and standards.



The EU is Georgia's

✓ largest trade partner

✓ largest investor

✓ largest provider of financial assistance

Neighbourhood Development and Cooperation Instrument- Global Europe (NDICI-GE)

Between **2021-2024** the EU has allocated an indicative **€340 million in non-repayable grants** to Georgia under NDICI-GE. These funds provide financial and technical assistance for socio-economic development and meeting EU standards and norms. This includes:

- €7 million programme focused on **skills development matching labour market needs**, which assisted thousands of Georgians in finding jobs.
- **Initiative to strengthen civil society** across 10 regions of Georgia by linking CSOs with their communities, building networks, and creating regional and national impact.
- €5 million project **bridging the digital gap between rural and urban areas** in Georgia by deploying internet access points in public spaces as well as advancing digital skills in 200 villages.

€121 million was withheld and/or reallocated since June 2024 in reaction to backsliding on democratic standards, in particular following the adoption of the Law on Transparency of Foreign Influence, targeting Georgian civil society and media.

Economic & Investment Plan (EIP)

The EU's **EIP for the Eastern Partnership** supports the investments needed to make the economies of the region more resilient and able to generate concrete benefits for people in areas such as transport, private sector, energy, environment and climate, water and sanitation, digital and human capital. It includes specific flagship projects in each country.

For projects in **Georgia**, since 2021 the EU has mobilised **€2.1 billion in investments thanks to over €270 million in EU funds**. Funds are raised through tools such as the Neighbourhood Investment Platform. This includes:

- Extending **national broadband networks** to 1 000 rural settlements to improve digital connections for more than 500 000 inhabitants.
- Improving **road safety along the East-West highway**, expected to decrease accidents by 30%, improve travel conditions, reduce travel times and open up new economic and trade opportunities.
- Preparing the works for a 1 195 km long **Black Sea electricity submarine cable**, with a total capacity of 1 000 MW, and constructing and deploying a **Black Sea submarine digital cable** to increase interoperability of digital solution in the Eastern Neighbourhood.

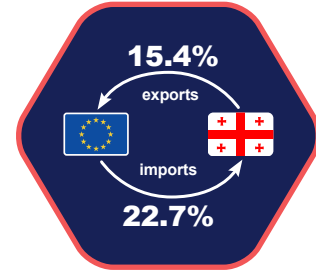




Close trade & investment links

The EU is Georgia's main trading partner. In 2023, the EU accounted for 20.9% of Georgia's total trade. EU exports to Georgia amounted to €3.6 billion in 2023. Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €915.5 million in 2022*.

Since July 2016, EU-Georgia trade relations are determined by the free trade area set up by the **Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area** (DCFTA) part of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.



Foreign & security policy cooperation

Security and defence cooperation continues, but is affected by the political developments in Georgia:

- The EU supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders through the **EU Monitoring Mission** and the work of the **EU Special Representative** for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia. The EU Monitoring Mission is the only international presence on the ground, counting more than 300 personnel.
- In 2021-2023 the EU has mobilised **€63 million** to strengthen the Georgian Defence Force's medical, engineering, logistics and cyber-defence capabilities under the **European Peace Facility** (EPF). The adoption of the 2024 European Peace Facility assistance measure has been suspended as a result of the deteriorating situation observed in the country in 2024.
- Georgia ended its contribution to the EU Training Mission in the Central African Republic in June 2023 and has not offered contributions to any other **EU crisis management missions and operations**.



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People to people contacts

- Since 2017, Georgians benefit from **visa-free** travel to the EU.
- The EU has funded over **6 500 exchanges** between EU and Georgian citizens in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+ since 2021.

* Source: DG Trade