



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND GEORGIA

#StrongerTogether



The EU and Georgia signed an **Association Agreement** in 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 products, and **visa free travel** to the Schengen area for Georgian citizens since 28 March 2017.

The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI)** is the main financial instrument for the EU's cooperation with external partners, including Georgia. The EU is Georgia's largest donor. The EU's grants to Georgia for 2021-2024 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.

Over 680,000 Georgian citizens have travelled to the EU **without a visa** on a total of almost 1.5 million trips since the introduction of **visa free travel** in 2017.

The EU is **Georgia's main trading partner**, with a 21% share of its total trade in 2021.

ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN

The EU supports Georgia with concrete investments to help post-pandemic recovery and improve the lives of Georgian citizens. In the coming years, the EU will invest in the following **flagship projects**:

INSTITUTIONS

- Over 90,000 people in remote areas have access to 200 public and banking services thanks to 76 community centres, which the EU helped establish.

ECONOMY

- The EU is supporting 19,000 SMEs, 24% run by women, through the EU4Business programme in Georgia. This has led to the creation of 10,000 jobs, while over 90,000 jobs were sustained during the pandemic.



GREEN

- Thanks to the EU's investment, Georgia is now home to the first commercial wind farm in the Caucasus.

RECOVERY RESILIENCE REFORM

SOCIETY

- Over 11,000 students and academic staff exchanges have taken place between Georgia and the EU within Erasmus+ since 2014.

DIGITAL

- Under EU4Digital, the EU and Georgia are piloting solutions to increase cross-border e-commerce with the EU by 50%.



Reliable internet through a Black Sea data cable and electricity cable



Ferry connections in the Black Sea



Support to 80,000 SMEs



High-speed internet for 1,000 rural communities



Cleaner air and energy efficiency for 1 million people



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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.