



THE EU AND GEORGIA

Membership status: candidate country

#StrongerTogether
#EUEnlargement



February 2024

On 3 March 2022, Georgia applied for EU membership. On 17 June 2022, the European Commission presented its Opinion on the application. Based on the Commission's Opinion, the European Council acknowledged the European perspective for Georgia on 23 June 2022 and expressed readiness to grant the country candidate status.

On 8 November 2023, the European Commission recommended that the European Council grants Georgia candidate status on the understanding that nine steps are taken.

On 14 December 2023, the European Council decided to grant the status of candidate country to Georgia, on the understanding that the relevant steps are taken.

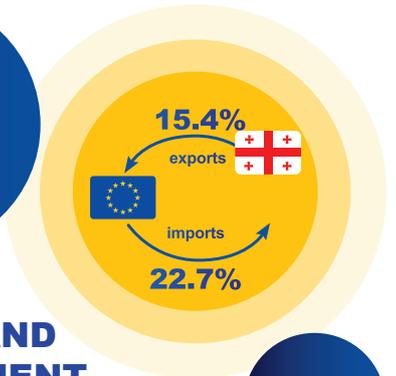


EU FUNDING

The EU is the largest provider of financial assistance to Georgia. The EU supports socio-economic development and reforms in Georgia, with financial and technical assistance through the **Neighbourhood Development and Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)**.

For 2021-2024, **€340 million** in funding are planned for Georgia. The priority areas cover economy, institutions, rule of law, security, environment and climate resilience, digital transformation, gender equality and inclusive society.

The EU is Georgia's biggest trade partner



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

in 2022

Total EU Foreign Direct Investment in Georgia reached €819 million in 2022.

Total volume of trade in goods with the EU was €4.2 billion in 2022.

Source: Eurostat

KEY MILESTONES





HUMAN CAPITAL AND INNOVATION

Since 2021, over 6,500 students and professionals have taken part in exchanges between the EU and Georgia in the areas of education, training, youth, and sport under ERASMUS+. In addition, 92 Georgian students have been selected for an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship.

The EU has supported civil society in Georgia with 22.5 million between 2015-2023.

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



ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT PLAN

Launched in 2021, the Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) for the Eastern Partnership aims to mobilise up to €17 billion in cooperation with international financial institutions until 2027. Under the EIP, the EU has already mobilised **€1.9 billion** in investments in Georgia, out of which €205 million in grants.

For instance, the flagship investments will help:

- support for 80,000 Georgian SMEs
- place submarine fibre optic and electricity cables in the Black Sea
- set up a regular ferry line across the Black Sea to connect the EU and Georgia
- renovate public and residential buildings to make them more energy efficient
- develop high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural areas

The EU helped build the Qartli wind farm in Georgia, first in the Caucasus region, through specialised Green for Growth Fund aimed at mitigating **climate change** and promoting **sustainable economic growth**.



SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

Between 2021 and 2023, a total of **€63 million were mobilised under the European Peace Facility** to help strengthen the Georgian Defence Force's medical, engineering, logistics and cyber-defence capabilities.

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) and the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM).

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