



EU - GEORGIA

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: SUPPORTING REFORMS, PROMOTING CHANGE



Fundamentals of the relationship

EU-Georgia relations date back to early 1990s, shortly after Georgia declared its sovereignty following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Bilateral relations have further intensified since 2003, as consecutive governments have undertaken ambitious programmes of political and economic reforms. In June 2014 the EU and Georgia signed an Association Agreement, which includes a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (AA/DCFTA). The Agreement significantly deepens political and economic ties with the EU in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.



**EU Georgia
Association Agreement**
- signed in June 2014
- provisionally applied
since 1 September 2014

EU support for reforms and economic development

The EU supports Georgia's reform agenda through financial and technical cooperation. More than 100 projects are currently being carried out in Georgia. On 18 July 2014, Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding fixing the priorities for EU cooperation for the period 2014-2017. Cooperation is focussed on reforms in public administration and justice sectors, as well as on agriculture and rural development, with complementary support being planned for capacity development in support of EU-Georgia agreements as well as for civil society.

The total financial envelope for this period will be between €335 and €410 million. Furthermore, special measures were decided in May 2014 allocating €30 million to Georgia through the "More for more" mechanism of the European Neighbourhood Instrument to reward progress in democratic reforms.

EU support for conflict resolution

The EU continues to support Georgia's efforts to overcome the consequences of internal conflicts in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia dating back to the early 1990s as well as to stabilise the situation following the outbreak of hostilities in August 2008. It remains firmly committed to its policy of supporting Georgia's territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders as well as engagement with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in support of longer term conflict resolution. EU Monitoring Mission since September 2008 helps in monitoring the situation in the vicinity of the administrative boundary lines.

Involvement in the EU's crisis management operations

A Framework Agreement on participation of Georgia in CSDP operations entered into force in March 2014 and Georgia is already contributing to two operations: EUFOR RCA with 150 light infantry troops (as second largest contributor), and with two experts to EUTM Mali.



Closer people-to-people involvement

In 2014, Georgia participated in the Tempus programme with 35 ongoing projects. 491 students and staff were selected for mobility within partnerships supported by Erasmus Mundus and 2 students were selected for joint master's degree. 19 researchers and 132 staff members benefited from Marie Curie actions and 2 applications were selected for funding under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)



under 'Horizon 2020'. Georgia also participated in the eTwinning plus action with 68 schools. Young people and youth organisations benefited from Erasmus+, with 2111 participants in mobility projects and 145 taking part in the action for young people and decision-makers in the field of youth.

In 2014, the Georgian Parliament unanimously adopted a national human rights strategy and action plan, largely based on recommendations made by EU Special Adviser Thomas Hammarberg in his report 'Georgia in Transition'. The implementation of selected areas of the strategy and its action plan will be supported by EU funding.

Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements since March 2011.

Visa liberalisation

EU-Georgia Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements are in force since March 2011. The EU launched visa liberalisation dialogue with Georgia in June 2012. Georgia's progress so far has been significant and broadly in line with most benchmarks of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.