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
- Ferry connections in the Black Sea
- Support to 80,000 SMEs
- Cleaner air and energy efficiency for 1 million people
- High-speed internet for 1,000 rural communities
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 over 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.

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%.

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.