

Attitudes towards Europe

Below please find some of the main findings from the recent survey on Georgians EU-attitudes, conducted August 1-10, 2009 by EPF/CRRC. These tables are an overview over some of the results.

More comprehensive information will be released in due course (see endnote). Values under 2 percent typically are not noted, so that final numbers may not add up to 100 percent.

q57 If there were to be a referendum tomorrow, would you vote for Georgia's membership of the EU?

Would vote for EU membership	79
Would vote against EU membership	2
Would not vote at all	5
Don't know	13

q50 Do you think that the majority of Georgian citizens support Georgia becoming a EU member state?

Do not support Georgia to be member of EU	5
Support Georgia to be member of EU	67
Don't know	28

q53 In general, what is your perception of the EU?

Very negative	1
Somewhat negative	3
Neutral	36
Somewhat positive	35
Very positive	16
Don't know	9

q65 Perceptions about the EU. The EU...

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	DK
is a democratic organization	44	34	4	1	16
is a source of peace and security in Europe	38	38	5	1	18
supports democracy abroad	29	42	5	1	23
promotes economic development abroad	26	42	6	2	25
is ready to accept any European country	16	24	16	10	34
is a threat to Georgian traditions	7	17	28	20	27
is a new form of empire	7	11	20	26	35

q49 Nowadays, would you say that the relationship between Georgia and EU is ...

Very bad	0
Quite bad	1
Neutral	39
Quite good	40
Very good	4
Don't know	16

q52 Do you think that all the European Union member states would like Georgia to join the European Union?

No	10
Yes	39
Don't know	51

q59 Which, if any, organization should Georgia join first – the NATO or the EU?

NATO	35
EU	37
None	4
Don't know	23

q60 How would you say the EU's enlargement since 2004 affected Georgia's chances of joining the EU?

Decreased significantly	2
Somewhat decreased	5
Had no affect	16
Somewhat increased	22
Increased significantly	12
Don't know	43

q4 Importance of strenthening ties with . . .

	Very important	Quite important	Hardly important	Not important at all	DK/RA
EU	61	24	5	2	9
NATO	57	23	7	4	9
USA	56	27	5	4	7
Russia	51	28	9	6	7
Ukraine	50	34	7	2	7
Azerbaijan	41	35	11	4	9
Turkey	39	37	9	5	9
Armenia	34	33	13	9	10
CIS	29	30	15	14	12

q40 Do you agree with the statement "I'm Georgian, and therefore I'm European"?

Disagree	33
Agree	54
Don't know	12

q75 How do you identify yourself?

Only [Respondent's ethnicity]	61
[Respondent's ethnicity] and European	13
Only European	2
Asian	1
Caucasian	9
[Respondent's ethnicity] and Asian	1
[Respondent's ethnicity] and Caucasian	10
Other	1
Don't know	1

EU Integration**q62 When, if ever, do you think Georgia will be prepared to join the EU?**

In 5 years or less	32
In 5-10 years	21
In more than 10 years	11
Never	2
Don't know	33

q63 When, if ever, do you think Georgia will actually join the EU?

In 5 years or less	31
In 5-10 years	20
In more than 10 years	10
Never	1
Don't know	37

q66(a) Result of EU membership: Change in ...

	Significantly improve	Somewhat improve	Will not change	Somewhat decrease	Significantly decrease	DK
National security	33	35	6	3	2	20
Territorial integrity	32	33	7	2	2	22
Freedom of speech	27	36	12	2	0	22
Number of jobs	27	37	13	2	1	19
Fairness of elections	25	37	11	2	1	23
Pensions	24	38	14	1	1	21
Independence of courts	23	36	11	1	1	26
Quality of education	22	37	13	2	1	24

q66(b): Result of EU membership: Change in ...

	Significantly improve	Somewhat improve	Will not change	Somewhat decrease	Significantly decrease	DK
Property rights	21	36	14	2	1	25
Protection of minorities	17	29	19	2	1	32
Personal income	16	30	19	2	2	30
Affordable healthcare	15	32	15	5	3	29
Number of migrants	14	16	12	20	10	27
Consumer prices	11	17	16	15	7	33
Respect to traditions	8	14	30	15	5	27
Poverty	4	7	14	34	20	20
Corruption	2	3	13	27	27	27

q67: Who will benefit or lose from eventual EU membership?

	Will benefit	Will neither benefit nor lose	Will lose	DK
Businessmen	57	14	2	26
Students	56	16	1	26
Qualified personnel	54	16	2	27
Politicians	52	17	3	28
Unemployed	49	22	2	27
Pensioners	46	25	2	27
Non-qualified personnel	30	27	7	35

q35 What will be the result of "Eastern Partnership" for Georgia?

EU membership	15
Political and economic integration with the EU	9
Improvement of relations with Russia	7
Restoration of territorial integrity	17
NATO membership	8
Don't know	43

q61: is Georgia ready for EU regarding...?

	Absolutely ready	Somewhat ready	Hardly ready	Not ready at all	DK
Minority rights	15	25	21	12	26
Democratic institutions	9	19	27	16	28
Human rights	7	23	29	17	22
Rule of law	6	20	30	17	25
Competitive market economy	6	15	30	17	31
Harmonization of legislation	5	15	27	15	35

q18. Respondent's assessment of political system in Georgia

	Fully agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Fully disagree	DK/RA
Citizens can openly say what they think	30	35	14	5	15
Citizens can establish or join parties	28	28	13	5	27
Citizens can establish or join NGOs	25	29	12	3	31
Minorities can run for political office	22	28	13	6	30
High officials are punished for their illegal actions	10	21	24	19	27
The President can rule the country as he wishes	9	15	23	33	20
TV channels are independent from the government	7	21	29	20	25
Courts are free from political pressure	7	16	26	19	32

q64 If Georgia further deepens cooperation with the EU, how do you think it would impact Georgia's relations with Russia?

Very negative	18
Somewhat negative	29
Will have no impact at all	6
Somewhat positive	16
Very positive	3
Don't know	28

q6 How likely is it that a military confrontation between Georgia and Russia will happen again during the next five years?

Not likely at all	5.1
I don't think it may happen	26.0
May happen	46.3
Will definitely happen	3.4
Don't know	19.1

q5 Who played the most important role in ending the Georgia-Russian war?

UN	2.2
EU	14.3
NATO	2.8
USA	23.8
France	31.1
OSCE	.8
Head of four states visiting Georgia	6.0
None of the above	3.3
Don't know	13.8

Information about the EU**q2 How interested would you say you are in Georgia's foreign policy?**

Very interested	17.8
Quite interested	38.4
Hardly interested	30.7
Not at all interested	11.7

q29 Is Georgia currently a member of the EU?

No	71
Yes	10
Don't know	19

q30 Is Georgia currently a member of the Council of Europe?

No	39
Yes	33
Don't know	28

q31 Have you heard about the Georgia-EU agreement on partnership and cooperation?

No	30
Yes	47
Don't know	22

q33 What does the EUMM do in Georgia?

Supports democratic and market oriented reforms	15
Supports regional cooperation in the South Caucasus	7
Supports strengthening ties with the EU in higher education	3
Supports regulation of situation in 2008 August war sites	39
Don't know	34

q34 What does the EU Special Representative in the South Caucasus do in Georgia?

Supports democratic and market oriented reforms	11
Supports regional cooperation in South Caucasus	11
Supports strengthening ties with EU in education	2
Supports regulation of situation in 2008 August war sites	33
Don't know	42

q36. Do you receive Information on the EU through...

	Very much	Much	Some	Little	None
TV	10	18	35	25	6
Internet	3	5	7	7	26
Friends	3	7	20	30	31
Newspapers	2	4	20	32	26
Workplace	1	2	5	9	28
Georgian NGOs	1	1	7	13	40
Government of Georgia	1	2	9	13	39
EC delegation	1	1	5	9	39
Radio	1	1	8	18	37
Posters	0	1	4	7	39
Embassies/Int. orgs.	0	1	4	5	42
Educational institutions	0	1	5	6	31

q38. What kind of information would you like to get on the EU?

EU's role in conflict resolution	52
Social protection in the EU	31
Georgia-EU trade relations	30
Rule of law in the EU	29
Salaries in the EU	22
The EU healthcare system	19
Job market in the EU	18
The EU education programs	16
Getting a visa to the EU	13
The EU cultural programs	8
The EU institutions	5
Effective energy consumption in the EU	3

q39. By which sources would you like to get information on the EU?

TV	92
Newspapers	49
Radio	21
Internet	19
Friends	11
Government of Georgia	8
EU information centers	7
Embassies/Int. orgs.	5
Workplace	5
EC delegation	5
Georgian NGOs	3
Educational institutions	3
Posters	2

q77. Internet experience

Regularly use the internet	13
I know how to use the internet, but don't use it regularly	12
I have used the Internet previously but use it rarely now	3
I have never used it personally, but asked others to access it for me to get information	8
I have never used it personally and I don't ask anybody to find out information from the Internet for me	55
DK	6

q23 What should be the most important international aid for Georgia?

Simplifying visa and travel procedures	8.3
Improving infrastructure	1.0
Improving protection of environment	1.2
EU membership	8.6
Restoring territorial integrity	42.9
NATO membership	8.2
Creating jobs	19.7
Building democratic institutions	1.2
Don't know	8.6

EU Mobility

q42 Would you like to go to a European country to work?

No	64.1
Yes	29.4
Don't know	5.6

q43 Which country would be your first choice to work? (Answers with less than 1 percent are omitted)

Austria	3
Belgium	1
France	13
Germany	20
Greece	10
Italy	14
Holland	1
Portugal	1
Spain	8
Sweden	4
UK	9
Don't know	10

q44 Would you like to go to a European country to study?

No	76
Yes	18
Don't know	3

q45 Which country would be your first choice to study?

Austria	1
Belgium	1
France	13.9
Germany	19.7
Greece	1.4
Hungary	1.8
Italy	4.1
Luxemburg	1.2
Portugal	1.3
Spain	4.5
UK	39.8
Don't know	5.9

q46 Would you like to permanently settle in an EU country?

No	88.5
Yes	7.8
Don't know	1.9

q47 Which country would be your first choice to settle permanently? (Countries with less than one percent are omitted)

Denmark	1.3
France	15.2
Germany	33.9
Greece	2.6
Hungary	1.4
Italy	14.6
Luxemburg	2.2
Holland	1.3
Poland	1.4
Spain	4.4
Sweden	1.1
UK	13.0
Don't know	3.6
Refuse to answer	2.7

This appendix should be read together with the findings summary, especially for methodological information. It is a short overview over some findings. As always, we urge caution when interpreting specific findings out of context.

The printout of the complete findings is 20+ pages. If you wish to receive the complete printout, please write to nana+eu@crrccenters.org, with “printout” in the subject line. The dataset will also be made available online soon.

In case your organisation has further interest in data, please contact EPF or CRRC at the above address.