



# Georgians want to see more EU involvement

## Poll shows increasing relevance of human rights

An **increasing number of Georgians see the European Union as an important player**, with the majority (55%) having a positive image of the EU, a rise of 6% in just six months.

These findings are drawn from the third in a series of opinion polls carried out at six-month intervals between December 2009 and November 2010. The polls questioned 400 members of the Georgian general public, as part of an **EU-funded survey of attitudes towards the EU**, carried out across the Neighbourhood partners.

The November 2010 survey also finds **honesty, peace and security and human rights topping the list when respondents are asked to rate their most important values**, identical to the previous polls. One value which has seen a steady rise in relevance is human rights. Over nine in ten respondents in Georgia say that religion is important and more than two thirds say that it is very important. More and more Georgians also identify securing healthy economic growth (83% - 19% more than a year earlier) and providing security and defence (62%, up from 58% in December 2009) as key challenges for the country.

### Good relations

**Most respondents feel that Georgia and the EU have a good relationship.** Four in five (81%) describe them as very or fairly good, identical to the results of June 2010. Three in four (76%) respondents say that the country has benefited from the EU's current policies, a rise of 9% from June 2010. Among those, there is a greater appreciation of the areas in which the EU has helped, with most pointing to peace and stability, but increasing numbers aware of investment, infrastructure, aid and education.

All top five **characteristics that best represent the EU**, according to respondents, have shown a linear progression over twelve months. These are: **peace and security** (61%, a steady rise over 12 months from 52% in December 2009 to 58% in June 2010), **economic prosperity** (58%, up from 40% in December 2009 and 56% in June 2010), **democracy** (57%), human rights (55%, up from 48% in December 2009 and 53% in June 2010), rule of law and transparency (42%, compared to 33% in December 2009 and 39% in June 2010).

At the same time only 20% of respondents deem honesty to be representative of the EU, a lower factor than the ENPI East average (26%).

### EU involvement in Georgia

**An increasing number of Georgians feel the EU has an appropriate level of involvement in their country** (63% in November 2010, compared to 54% in December 2009 and 56% in June 2010). More than eight out of ten respondents affirm that the EU can help bring peace and stability to Georgia (81%), identical to the previous two polls. The majority of respondents (76%) say **the EU helps the promotion of democracy through its cooperation activity**, while more than seven out of ten (72%) agree that Georgia and the EU have sufficient common values to be able to cooperate.

The majority of respondents would prefer the EU to play a greater role in three main fields in Georgia: economic development (90%), security and defence (81%), refugees and displaced persons (79%), external policy and foreign affairs (78%).

### Knowledge of the EU

The third wave shows about one quarter of respondents saying they are familiar with the EU, its policies and institutions, a similar figure to those observed in the preceding two waves.

As before, some facts about the EU are more widely known than others in Georgia. In November 2010, **a large majority of respondents are aware that the EU had its own flag** (87%). As in previous waves, a vast majority (75%) incorrectly believe that the Euro is the common currency of all the Member States. Similar to previous waves, few are able to correctly identify whether the EU consists of 25 Member States (16%).

### About the project

The results are part of the EU-funded **Opinion Polling and Research (OPPOL)** project, funded under the 2007-2010 ENPI regional information and communication programme. Three quantitative waves of opinion polls were carried out; the first quantitative wave was carried out in December 2009; the second wave took place in June 2010 while the third took place in November 2010. They summarize the outcomes of **400** interviews with members of the general public in **Georgia**.

The project aimed to generate better information about awareness, understanding and perception of the European Union and the role it plays in the partner countries. These reports were carried out across the countries benefiting from the [European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument \(ENPI\)](#) – the main financial mechanism through which assistance is given to the [European Neighbourhood Policy \(ENP\)](#) Partner Countries, as well as Russia.

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# Georgia

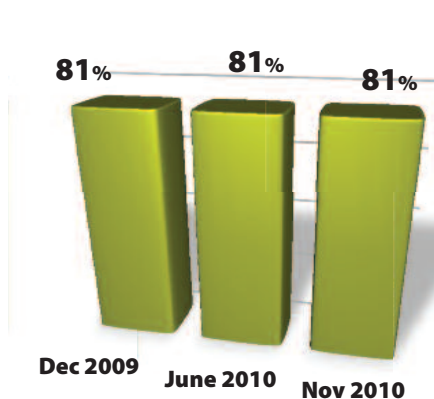
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## Evolving attitudes towards the EU

### Relations with the EU

Appraisal of the role of the EU in Georgia

% Agree



	Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010
The EU can help bring peace and stability to Georgia	81%	81%	81%
The EU and Georgia are good neighbours	79%	80%	78%
The EU is an important partner of Georgia	79%	82%	77%
The EU helps the promotion of democracy through its cooperation activity	75%	83%	76%
The EU finances development projects in Georgia	71%	80%	75%

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How has Georgia benefited from EU policies?

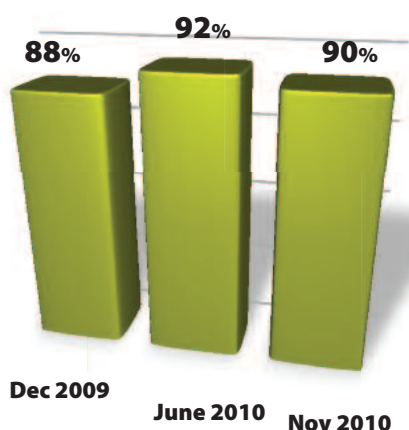
	Dec 09	June 10	Nov 10
Promotes peace and stability	66%	66%	57%
EU investment in Georgia	33%	33%	43%
Contributes to development of infrastructure	14%	22%	23%
Allocates aid development	15%	26%	23%
Improves education	5%	11%	17%
More people visit Georgia	11%	11%	16%
Promotes good government	8%	12%	10%
Promotes trade	9%	10%	8%
Gives access to more products and services	3%	4%	6%
Improves employment	4%	8%	5%



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In which areas should the EU play a greater role?



	Dec 09	June 10	Nov 10
Economic development	88%	92%	<b>90%</b>
Security and defence	84%	85%	<b>81%</b>
Refugees / displaced persons	80%	86%	<b>79%</b>
External policy and foreign affairs	80%	84%	<b>78%</b>
Democracy	78%	85%	<b>76%</b>
Trade	64%	72%	<b>68%</b>
Education	61%	61%	<b>58%</b>
Regional cooperation	69%	59%	<b>56%</b>
Migration	58%	57%	<b>54%</b>
Environment and climate change	51%	50%	<b>53%</b>
Energy security	55%	59%	<b>53%</b>
Freedom of expression of the media	65%	59%	<b>51%</b>
Transport	42%	43%	<b>44%</b>
Equality between men and women	46%	49%	<b>43%</b>
Culture	50%	34%	<b>40%</b>

## Personal values

Religion remains the most important value but politics is of ever greater significance, rated as important by 44% of respondents, compared to 39% a year earlier.

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### Important values

	Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010
Politics	39%	37%	<b>44%</b>
Religion	96%	96%	<b>93%</b>

## How do personal values match up to the perceived values of the EU?

The polls found a link between Georgian personal values and those they say are most representative of the EU. Respondents consistently rated peace and security as the most or one of the most representative values of the EU, which was also the value consistently placed as the most important.

	EU values			Personal values		
	Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010
Peace and Security	1	1	<b>2</b>	2	1	<b>2</b>
Economic prosperity	4	3	<b>1</b>	3	3	<b>3</b>
Human Rights	3	5	<b>3</b>	-	-	-

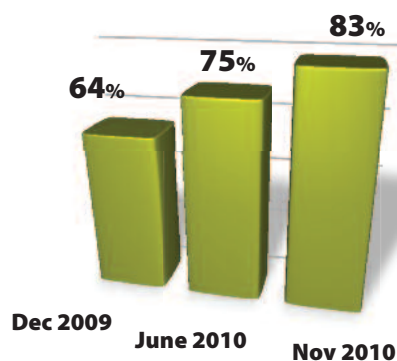


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## Challenges for Georgia

What do you consider to be the major challenges facing Georgia?



	Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010
Ensuring healthy economic growth	64%	75%	83%
Establishing security and defence	58%	69%	62%
Refugees and Internal Displaced People	50%	63%	47%
Rule of Law / Functioning State	47%	48%	46%
Providing education to all citizens	34%	47%	42%

## Knowledge of the EU

Percentage of respondents giving the correct answer to true/false questions about the EU

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	Correct answer	% who provided a correct answer		
		Dec 2009	June 2010	Nov 2010
The EU currently consists of 25 Member States	False	21%	19%	16%
The EU has its own flag	True	79%	87%	87%
UNICEF is an EU institution	False	23%	22%	16%
The Euro is the common currency of all EU Member States	False	14%	21%	13%

The ENPI Info Centre is an EU-funded Regional Information and Communication project highlighting the partnership between the EU and Neighbouring countries. The project is managed by [Action Global Communications](#).