EU NEIGHBOURS east

ANNUAL SURVEY REPORT: GEORGIA

4thd Wave (Spring 2019)

OPEN Neighbourhood — Communicating for a stronger partnership: connecting with citizens across the Eastern Neighbourhood

MAY 2019

STRONGER TOGETHER

ECORYS

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The surveys have been carried out in the six Eastern Partner countries by ACT LLC and their network partners

1. Background

Between February and March 2019, a fourth wave of annual surveys was carried out across the six Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). The research was conducted within the framework of the EU-funded 'OPEN Neighbourhood — Communicating for a stronger partnership: connecting with citizens across the Eastern Neighbourhood' ('**EU NEIGHBOURS east**') project.

The **EU NEIGHBOURS east** project aims to increase the understanding of EU support in the Eastern Partner (EaP) countries through improved communication. The **overall objective** of the project is to contribute to the improvement of public perception of the EU, as well as to a better understanding of European policies and their impact through the regional and bilateral EU support and cooperation programmes in the EaP countries.

The project develops information and communication materials, carries out public diplomacy, awareness-raising and information campaigns, and assesses the perception of the EU and its support through opinion polling and media monitoring.

The purpose of the annual surveys is to investigate the opinion and the level of information that citizens of the EaP countries have on the EU in general and, in particular, on EU-funded cooperation and development programmes/projects. In order to monitor changes over time, the surveys are being carried out annually from 2016 until 2019.

This document presents the results of the **4th wave of annual surveys** (spring 2019) conducted in **Georgia**[1] and is organized around four main sections:

- **General perceptions of the EU**
  This section looks at how citizens perceive the EU's image, the relationship between their country and the EU, their awareness of the EU's financial support and their opinion of its benefits, as well as their level of trust towards the EU, also compared with the role of other foreign institutions. During the third wave, a new set of questions that touched upon perceived myths about the EU, was also added, in order to gather greater insights on how the EU is perceived by citizens.
- **Sources of information**
  This section looks at the main sources of information in the country, both in the national language and other foreign languages. Specific focus is placed on EU-related information, programmes financed by the EU and its institutional communication instruments.
- **Country evaluation and future expectations**
  This section provides an assessment of how citizens view their country's and their personal future. Specific focus is placed on current functioning of democracy and most pressing concerns.
- **Profiling attitudes towards the EU**
  This section is dedicated to profiling citizens with a positive and a neutral stance towards the EU. Attitudes are profiled against a comprehensive set of indicators, such as the main socio-demographic characteristics, passive and active exposure to EU-related information, awareness and effectiveness of EU's financial support, level of trust towards the EU and other foreign institutions, perceptions of the country's and personal future and main concerns, and common beliefs about the EU.

All sections, together with an analysis of the results of the 4th wave of the survey, also provide comparisons between the findings of the 2018, 2017 and 2016 surveys where relevant.

[1] A similar report has been produced for each Eastern partner country. In addition, a macro-area/regional overview report that compares the results across the region is available.

2. Research methodology in brief

The survey was conducted in February - March 2019, following the same methodology adopted in the previous rounds of data collection (spring 2018, 2017 and 2016): 1,000 face-to-face interviews were carried out and respondents were randomly selected according to the sampling strategy described below. To estimate the characteristics of the target population (i.e. general population aged 15 and over and living in the country), the sampling weights were calculated by applying a specifically designed estimation procedure.

Sampling strategy

The survey used a two-stage sample design, with settlements as primary sampling units (PSUs) and individuals as secondary units.

In the first stage, the sample was composed of 30 units (cities/towns) and stratified by unit size, expressed in terms of population, level of urbanisation and geographical area. Three groups of settlements[2] and three areas[3] were used for a total of nine strata. Within each stratum, three or four sample units were randomly selected, with the probability of their selection proportional to their size. A compromise between an equal allocation and a proportional allocation was applied in order to distribute the secondary sampling units (1,000 individuals) by strata. In each selected settlement, a minimum of 20 interviews were carried out. The additional interviews that were carried out were distributed proportionally to the PSU's size.

The second-stage sample was also stratified. In this case, gender and age[4] were considered for a total of six strata. In each selected settlement, secondary sampling units were distributed proportionally among strata.

The individuals to be interviewed were selected randomly, according to the random walk[5] principle.

Estimation phase

An estimation procedure was carried out in order to estimate the characteristics of the target population from the survey respondents. The technique used for the construction of the survey estimator (i.e. sampling weights) was based on the predictive approach to regression estimator. In particular, a calibration estimator was built based on the general category of model-assisted estimators (Deville and Särndal 1992). The procedure included the computation of a sampling design weight for each sampled respondent by calculating the inclusion probability of both primary and secondary sampling units (i.e. settlements and individuals) and the calibration of the sampling design weights to known population totals. The calibration variables were the same as those used in the previous wave (settlement size, gender, age, employment status, geographical area, education level, religious faith and mother tongue).

[2] Groups of settlements: 1) Small settlements (less than 20,000 inhabitants); 2) Medium-sized settlements (20,000-150,000 inhabitants); 3) Large settlements (above 150,000 inhabitants) / Capital.
[3] Geographical areas: 1) West (Ajara, Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi & Kvemo Svaneti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti; 2) Centre (Imereti, Kvemo Kartli, SamtskheJavakheti, Shida Kartli; 3) East (Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Tbilisi).
[4] Age groups: 1) 15-34 years; 2) 35-54 years; 3) 55 or more years.
[5] This technique is based on very precise instructions for the interviewers. First, a starting point should be selected for each cluster. Second, it is necessary to define a step. A step can be defined according to the size of the cluster. The third important consideration is the movement route. Each interviewer should have detailed instructions on how to follow the route in rural settlements and urban areas. Each interviewer should begin from the starting point, according to the predefined step size and route, and contact a total predefined number of households.

3. Survey findings

3.1. Executive summary

General perceptions of the EU

- **Half (50%) of Georgians have a positive image of the EU**, **43% feel neutral about it and only 4% hold a negative view**. Positive perceptions have remained stable compared to 2018, after the peak recorded in 2017 when the visa-free short-term travel to the Schengen countries was granted. The share of Georgians who have no opinion or have never heard of the EU continues to be minimal (3%) and three times less than it was in 2016 (9%).
- The comparison between the values which are strongly associated with the EU and the three most important personal values show that **Georgians attach paramount importance to the economy (64%) and security (55%), both of which are closely associated with the EU (78% and 73% respectively)**. All other elements are linked with the European Union by most of the population. For the fourth year in a row, 'absence of corruption' is the value least associated with the EU (51%).
- **The EU is the most trusted foreign institution**, with 71% of the population tending to trust it and only 14% of individuals who did not feel confident enough to express their opinion. On the other hand, the EEU continues to have the lowest level of trust, with only 23% of Georgians oriented towards trusting it and 12% who have never heard of the institution.

EU relations with Georgia and awareness of EU financial support

- Trust towards the EU is mirrored by an appreciation of the relations between Georgia and the EU. **80% of Georgians describe them as 'fairly good'** (73%) or 'very good' (7%). A very slight shift from positive to negative opinion was recorded and currently 13% of individuals rate the relations as 'bad' (9% last year).
- **Acknowledgement of the EU's financial support displays an upward trend since 2017 (up 16%) and currently around three quarters (74%) of citizens know that the EU provides financial support to Georgia**. The share of **people who consider the EU's financial support to be effective is consistent with last year's findings (62%)**. However, **there has been a huge increase in the share of citizens who know about specific EU-funded programmes in Georgia (61%, up 14% since 2018)**. The most well-known EU-financed programmes relate to the fields of 'education', 'infrastructure development' and 'health care and medicine'.
- The strengthening of tourism continues to be well perceived by Georgians: 85% of the population cited it among the areas that have benefited 'very much' or 'fairly' from EU support (up 4 percentage points since 2018). Around 55% of the population also acknowledges the positive effects on the judiciary and the health care systems and on the infrastructure (possibly due to the increase in the awareness of infrastructure development programmes financed by the Union).

Media usage as sources of information

- **Television continues to be the most popular source of information in Georgia** – only 7% of the population never watches it. However, compared to 2018, frequent and exclusive usage of social media or the Internet (51%) has surpassed that of only traditional media (37%). Overall around one in ten individuals do not rely frequently on any media (12%).
- Nearly all Georgians – 56% 'always', 22% 'often' and 12% 'sometimes' – use national media in Georgian. The habit of frequently relying upon media in foreign languages other than Russian has seen a slight decrease since 2018 – down 5 percentage points – and it is currently equal to that of relying upon media in Russian (13%).

- Trust levels towards different media sources are similar to the usage patterns of media: the majority of the population trust TV (69%) and national media in Georgian (67%). Around one in two citizens trust new media and word of mouth (49% for 'word of mouth', 45% for 'Internet' and 42% for 'social media').

Sources of information about the EU

- **Around one third of Georgians have seen or heard information about the EU in the last three months (35%)**. The trend of this indicator – which is at its lowest since 2016, after recording a peak in 2017 (65%) – could be linked to the widespread coverage of the presidential campaign and elections in autumn 2018 on national media which may had impact on the exposure of international news.
- Passive exposure stems mostly from television (76%), though much less than last year (down 11%). In fact one in four of the Georgians who heard or saw information about the EU did so through Internet (26%) and 16% through social media.
- **Around 60% of the population feels that the EU is presented positively in the national media** with no change since 2018. This findings aligns with the more neutral of fairly positive view of the Union recorded in these last two years. One in two individuals rated the EU-related information as useful.
- Frequent access to information on the EU has recorded a slight decrease since 2018 (13%, down 4%) confirming the downward trend started after the peak recorded in spring 2017. Again, this finding may be linked to the decrease in media coverage of EU-related information. Nearly all individuals access information about the EU in Georgian (82%); around one in ten individuals use Russian (9%) or English (8%).
- Georgians who actively seek information focus their searches on 'the relations between Georgia and the EU' (39%), 'general information about the EU' (32%), 'educational and cultural programmes' (31%) and 'economic news' (28%). Only one in ten individuals are interested in knowing more about its relations with EaP countries. However, this reflected an increase of 4 percentage points when compared to 2018
- **Nearly 80% of Georgians find the information on the EU to be 'very' or 'quite' accessible (77%)**. Its quality – in terms of its user-friendliness, comprehensiveness, reliability and trustworthiness – was rated positively by slightly less individuals (around 65% each). These assessments were also slightly less positive than in 2018, with a difference of around 10 percentage points for each characteristic.

View of Georgia's current situation

- **Georgians do not share a great deal of trust in their institutions**, and this situation is largely consistent with previous years' findings, although the level of distrust has decreased in favour of a more uncertain view. Currently, 46% of individuals trust regional and local public authorities, 41% the Government, 37% the Parliament, and only 25% trust the political parties. **The only institution trusted by nearly 70% of the population is the country's religious authority.**
- Accordingly, **77% of Georgians are 'dissatisfied' with the way democracy works in their country** (up 3% since 2018), with 24% 'absolutely dissatisfied'. As a result between one third and half of the population feel that all assessed democratic indicators do not apply to their country. 'Corruption', 'governance' and 'independence of the judiciary' seem to be particularly problematic areas.
- Overall **59% of Georgians are optimistic about their country's future**, confirming the historical downward trend (down 2% compared to 2018 and down 12% compared to 2016). Views about their personal future are more positive, with 72% of citizens either 'very' (18%) or 'slightly' optimistic (54%) and no significant change when compared to 2018.
- **The most commonly cited pressing problems are 'unemployment' (79%), 'economic crisis' (38%), 'low living standards and poverty' (34%), 'low salaries and pensions' (27%) and 'high**

prices and taxes' (26%)[6]. Although less pressing, concerns over security issues continue to be voiced out: 22% of individuals named 'territorial conflicts' and 4% 'security issues and war'. All findings are consistent with 2018 and previous waves.

Profiling attitudes towards the EU: positive versus neutral

- In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, holders of a positive and neutral view of the EU – who represent 50% and 43% of Georgians respectively – are to be found equally among all sub-groups of the population. However, some peculiarities may be highlighted, mainly linked to level of education, passive and active exposure to EU-related information and preferred media source.
- As for **EU-supporters**, the first characteristic that stands out is their level of education: 36% of those who have a positive image of the EU are highly educated – versus 29% in the general population. Nearly one out of two EU supporters live in eastern Georgia, which includes Tbilisi, the capital city.
- Positive perceptions are also linked to the level of active and passive exposure to information about the EU. Around 45% of EU supporters had seen or heard information about the EU in the three months preceding the survey (versus 35% in the general population); and only 36% never look for/access information on the EU (versus 49%) – with 21% accessing it 'frequently'. EU supporters are keen users of new media as a source of information – which they tend to use more frequently than the general population (60% versus 51%).
- If searching for EU-related information, they prefer to do so in Georgian (82%), and they are slightly keener to look for/access information in English (9%) or foreign languages other than Russian – such as German (1%) and Spanish (1%). Their interests are varied with a stronger focus on 'EU relations with Georgia' (44%, the most searched), 'education and cultural programmes' (33%) and 'EU's relations with Eastern Partner countries' (13%) compared to the general population
- A positive image of the EU is also linked to a higher level of confidence in the EU and all foreign institutions, except the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Nearly all positively oriented individuals have a positive image of the relations between Georgia and the EU (88%), acknowledge the EU's financial support (85%) and rate it as 'effective' (70%).
- When it comes to the assessment of common beliefs, EU supporters tend to share a much stronger and positive vision of the EU than the general population, with around one in three individuals strongly agreeing with all the proposed statements. EU supporters are also much more confident in sharing their beliefs as attested by the lower share of 'don't know' responses.
- A more optimistic attitude, especially regarding the country's future, is clearly linked with a positive image of the EU. EU supporters also seem to be slightly less concerned about economic issues than the general population, though these are indeed problematic. On the other hand, 'territorial issues', 'the quality of education', 'the absence of the rule of law' and 'migrations' are more an issue for them.
- As for **neutrally oriented Georgians**, they are more concentrated among women (59%), individuals with a low to medium level of education (77%) and in the centre of the country (41%). Over 6 out of 10 Georgians with a neutral image of the EU live in settlements with less than 20,000 inhabitants.
- 'Neutrality' is linked to lower levels of both passive and active exposure to EU-related information. Three fourths of those holding a neutral stance have not heard any information about the EU in the three months preceding the survey (versus 46% of EU supporters) and 61% have never looked for/accessed any information on the EU (versus 36%). Compared to EU supporters, holders of a neutral view are also more likely to rely only on traditional media (41%) or never use any media (15%), or frequently use media in Russian (14%).

[6] In 2017, Georgia had the second highest unemployment rate (11.5%) in the EaP region – second only to Armenia. See Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 2018, https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/

- Neutrally oriented citizens seem less prone to trust all foreign institutions than EU supporters. **However, lower levels of trust do not necessarily match higher levels of distrust but rather higher levels of indecision** – aligning with lower levels of passive and active exposure of neutrally oriented citizens on EU-related matters.

- In fact, when it comes to acknowledging and evaluating the EU's financial support, neutral citizens are twice as likely not to be familiar with these issues than EU supporters – the share of 'don't know' responses is 26% and 12% respectively. Neutrally oriented citizens are also more critical with regard to the effectiveness of EU support, still 77% of neutral citizens would describe the relations between Georgia and the EU as 'good' – a figure very close to that of the general population (80%).

- When it comes to the assessment of common beliefs, neutral individuals are again less likely to express their opinion, as well as sharing a strong and positive vision of the EU. The highest share of strong approval was recorded for the statement 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' (16%); whereas only 6% of neutrally oriented citizens strongly agree with the fact that 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society' and it 'provides tangible benefits to citizens in everyday life'. Given that neutrally oriented citizens are more prone to be users of Russian media, it is highly likely that they are more influenced by an anti-western narrative conveying the message that Europeanisation is a threat to Georgian culture and identity.

- Neutral individuals are less optimistic regarding their personal future (57%) than EU supporters (64%). In fact, they seem particularly concerned about the economic situation; among the main issues 82% cited 'employment', 44% 'the economic crisis', 37% 'the low living standards and poverty' and 22% 'the unaffordability of healthcare'. Their concerns seem to echo the increase in poverty levels due to the significant increase in consumer prices (food, healthcare, transport) and the depreciation of the national currency, which has particularly impacted on low-income families.

3.2. Perceptions of the European Union

One in two Georgians have a positive image of the European Union (50%), 43% feel neutral about it and only 4% hold a negative view*. The situation is stable when compared to 2018, and the share of Georgians who have no opinion or have never heard of the EU continues to be minimal (3%) and three times less than it was in 2016. The* ***EU continues to collect the highest levels of trust (71%)*** *compared to other international institutions, with 80% of Georgians positively assessing the relations between their country and the Union.* ***The acknowledgement of the EU's financial support is also very high (74%, up 14% since 2016)****, especially with regard to EU-funded programmes in the field of education, infrastructure development and medicine. The strengthening of tourism and the benefits on education and trade continue to be well perceived by Georgians; however one out of two citizens would favour more support to economic development and employment opportunities, mirroring their concerns about the rising levels of poverty in the country.*

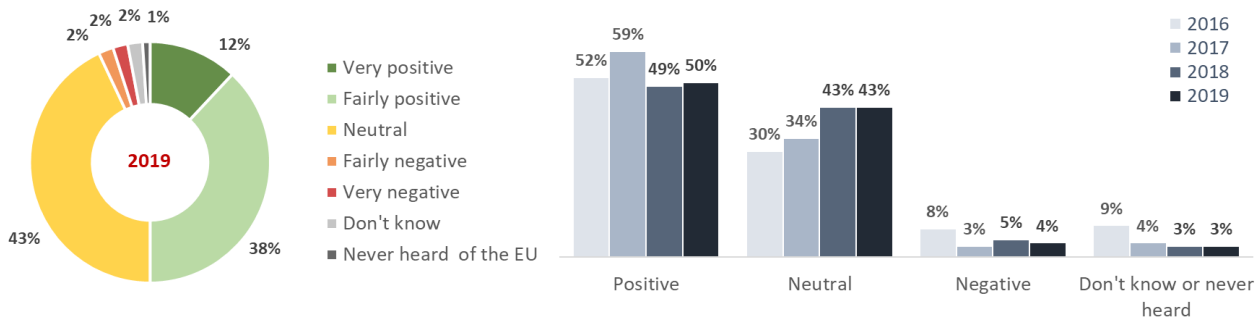
This section looks at how Georgian citizens perceive the EU's image and their opinion of the benefits of the EU's financial support, also compared with the role of other external organisations.

3.2.1. General perceptions of the EU

Half of Georgian citizens (50%) have a positive image of the European Union (EU), 43% feel neutral about it and only 4% hold a negative view. Compared to 2018, positive perceptions have kept stable, after the peak recorded during spring 2017, when the visa-free short-term travel to the Schengen countries was granted. Likewise the share of Georgians who have no opinion or have never heard of the EU continues to be minimal (3%) and three times less than it was in 2016 (9%).

Likewise in 2018, the attitude of Georgians towards the EU appears to be directly related to the level of education: nearly two thirds (63%) of highly educated individuals have a positive image of the EU, compared to 44% of those with medium and low levels of education. Residents of medium (58%) and larger cities (54%), and eastern residents (where Tbilisi, the capital city, is located) are also more likely to feel more positive towards the EU than other socio-demographic groups.[7]

FIGURE 1 – Do you have a 'very positive', 'fairly positive', 'neutral', 'fairly negative' or 'very negative' image of the European Union? (Q2.1)



The comparison between the values which are strongly associated with the EU and the three most important values at a personal level[8] show that **Georgians attach paramount importance to the economy and security (64% and 55% respectively), both of which are closely associated with the**

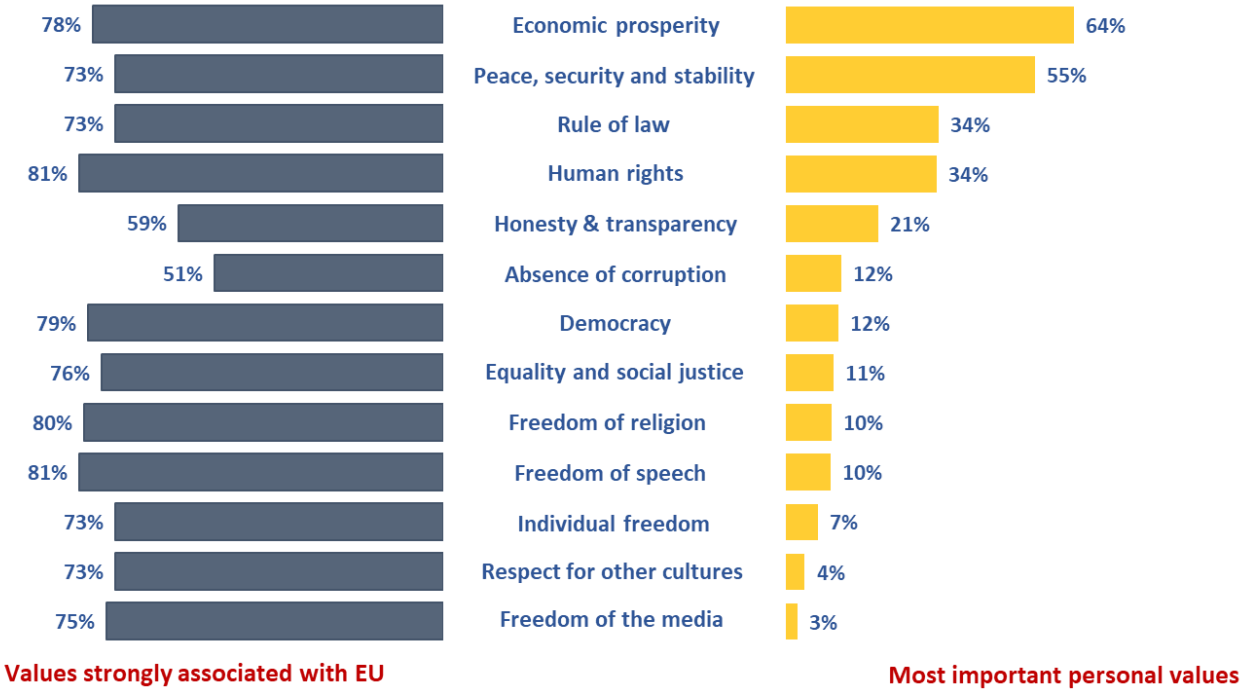
[7] More details on the distribution according to main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 1.
[8] Respondents were asked to choose and rank the three most important personal values from a list of 13 items.

European Union. At a personal level, 'rule of law' and 'human rights' come in second position (34% each) followed by 'honesty and transparency' (21%), with all other elements ranking very low (below 12%)[9].

Positive associations with the EU appear consistent with the 2018 findings. In general 'freedom of speech' and 'human rights' have the strongest association (81%), followed closely by 'freedom of religion' (80%), 'democracy' (79%) and 'economic prosperity' (78%). All other values were 'strongly' or 'very strongly' associated with the EU by around three quarters of Georgians, apart from 'honesty and transparency' (59%) and 'absence of corruption' (51%), which is the value least associated with the EU for the fourth year in a row. Between 5% and 21% of citizens could not provide a definite opinion on the issue.

FIGURE 2 – Values 'strongly' or 'very strongly' associated with the EU (Q2.3) & Three most important personal values (Q4.7)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



Compared to 2018, less Georgians are confident that 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in their society' (46%, down 13%)[10]. More specifically 12% of Georgians 'strongly' agree and 34% 'somewhat' agree with the above statement, whereas 18% are 'not really' and 17% 'not at all' convinced by it (up 11 percentage points since 2018) and 19% do not have a definite opinion on the issue. This shift towards more negative views could be linked to the rise of the narrative that Europeanisation is a threat to Georgian culture and identity, through which ultra-conservative forces continued to press anti-western messages during 2018[11].

[9] More details are provided in the Annex – Table 2.

[10] The third wave saw the introduction of a new set of questions, targeted at gaining greater insights into how the Union is perceived by the citizens. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following set of statements according to a five-grade scale ('strongly', 'somewhat', 'not really', 'not at all', or 'don't know'): 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society', 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives', 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption', 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' and 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability'.

[11] See Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 2018, https/eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/ and Anti-Western Propaganda, Tamar Kintsurashvili, Media Development Foundation, 2018, http://mdfgeorgia.ge/uploads/library/89/file/eng/AntiWest-2017-ENG.pdf

FIGURE 3 – 'The EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society'.
To what extent do you agree with this statement about the EU?
(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard about the EU)

Perceptions of the EU were also assessed through an open-ended question, whereby respondents were asked to name the first issues that came to their mind when thinking of the EU. Nearly 40% of Georgians did not answer the question, either because it was too hard to answer, or they had nothing to say. The most common association was with economic prosperity/high standards of living (26%, up 12 percentage points since 2018). On the other hand visa liberalisation and especially European integration, were mentioned less frequently than last year (8%, down 3% and 0.1%, down 8.9% respectively), reflecting the fading effect of the entry into force of the visa liberalisation. Only 1.5% of individuals spontaneously stated that they wanted Georgia to join the EU (down 1.5% since 2018) whereas 7% of Georgians acknowledged the issue of 'different values'.

Georgia is a member of several international organisations, including the United Nations (UN). It has signed an Association Agreement with the EU, is a participant in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and an observer to the EEU. Among these, **the European Union is the most trusted foreign institution, with 71% of the population** tending to trust it and only 14% of individuals who did not feel confident enough to express their opinion. These findings are consistent with 2018 wave. On the other hand is the EEU, which continues to have the lowest level of trust, with only 23% of Georgians oriented towards trusting it and 12% who have never heard of the institutions.

Highly-educated individuals, eastern residents and inhabitants of large cities, females and younger citizens tend to be more confident in the EU than other socio-demographic groups (all between 74% and 81%). With the only exception of females, these group also display a higher level of information – less than one in ten individuals in these groups answered 'don't know'. Despite a low level of 'don't know' responses average (10%), males seem to be particularly critical: 24% of them openly distrust the Union[12].

[12] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 3.

FIGURE 4 – Trust towards different institutions (Q2.11)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

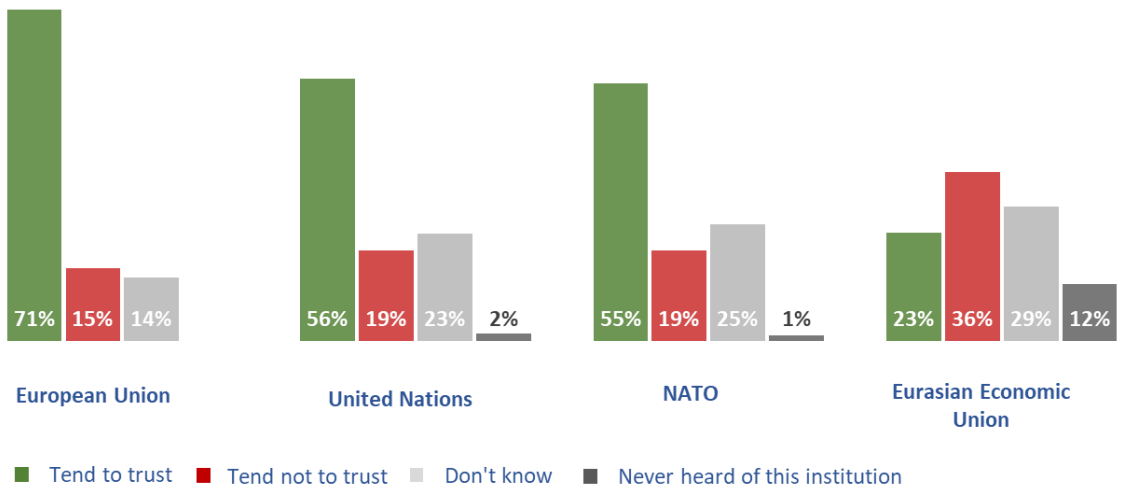
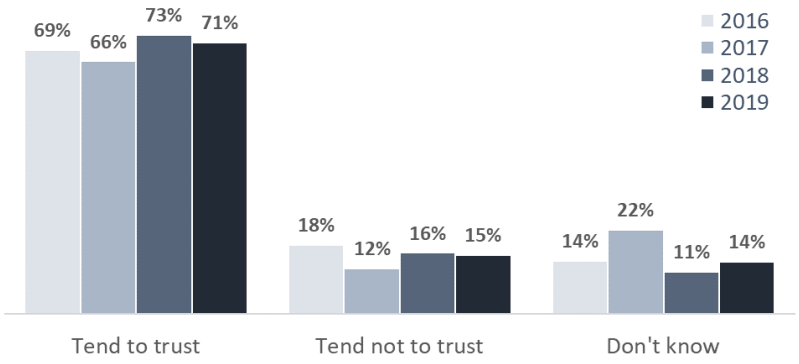


FIGURE 5 – Trust towards the EU (Q2.11)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



3.2.2. EU relations with Georgia and awareness of EU financial support

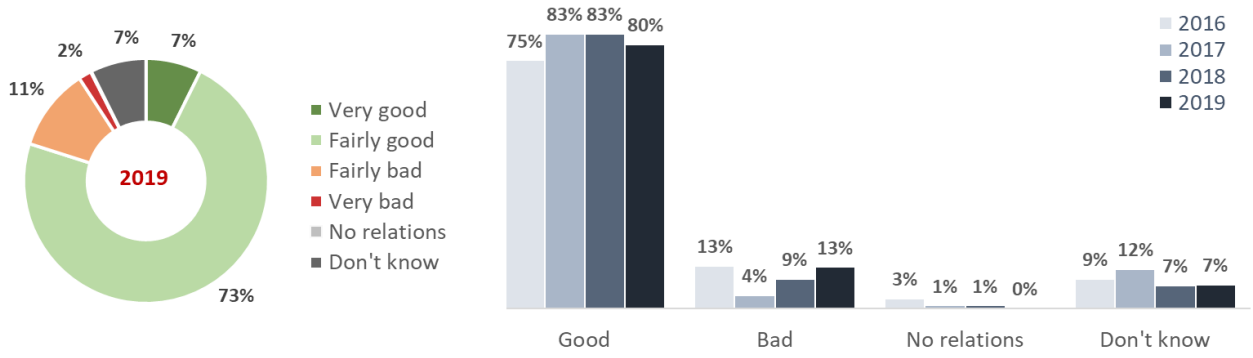
Trust towards the EU is mirrored by the appreciation of the relations between Georgia and the EU. 80% of Georgians (a figure consistent with 2018) describe them as 'fairly good' (73%) or 'very good' (7%). A very slight shift from positive to negative opinion was recorded and currently 13% of individuals rate the relations as bad (9% last year).

Most critics were found among those sub-groups which on average are more likely to distrust the EU, such as males (17%) and residents of the centre (16%)[13].

[13] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 4.

FIGURE 6 – In general, how would you describe the relations that the European Union has with your country? (Q2.4)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



Compared to 2018, slightly more Georgians (63%, up 3 percentage points) perceive the EU as an independent actor in foreign relations, with only 16% – 'not really' (13%) or 'not at all' (3%) – agreeing with the statement. Accordingly, a slight decrease in the level of 'don't know' responses was also recorded (21%, down 5%), aligning with figures for the other newly introduced questions[14].

FIGURE 7 – 'The EU is an independent actor in foreign relations'. To what extent do you agree with this statement about the EU?

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

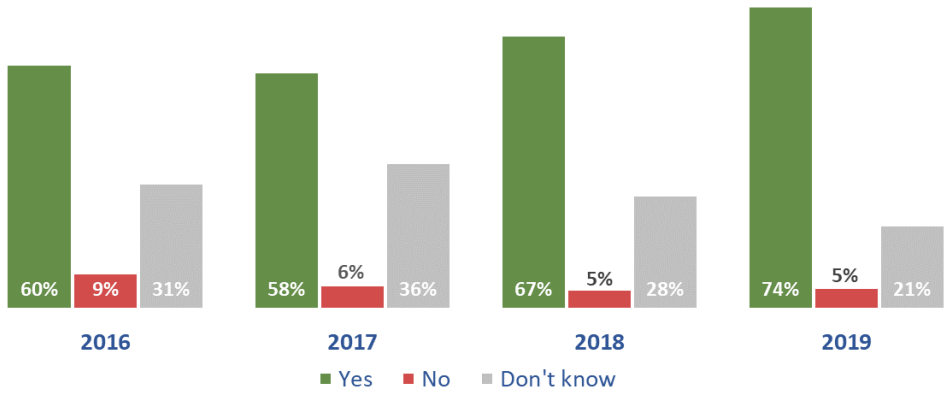
Acknowledgement of the EU's financial support displays an upward trend since 2017 (up 16%) and currently around three quarters (74%) of citizens know that the EU provides financial support to Georgia. Also, the share of Georgians who do not know whether the EU supports their country has declined: it was 36% in 2017 and it is now 21%. Unemployed individuals (29%), people living in the western part of the country (28%) and smaller city residents (25%) are the least informed on the issue and show the lowest levels of positive responses, although their knowledge has increased compared to last year following the general trend[15].

[14] The third wave saw the introduction of a new set of questions, targeted at gaining greater insights into how the Union is perceived by the citizens. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following set of statements according to a five-grade scale ('strongly', 'somewhat', 'not really', 'not at all', or 'don't know'): 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society', 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives', 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption', 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' and 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability'.

[15] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 5.

FIGURE 8 – As far as you know, does the European Union provide Georgia with financial support? (Q2.5)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

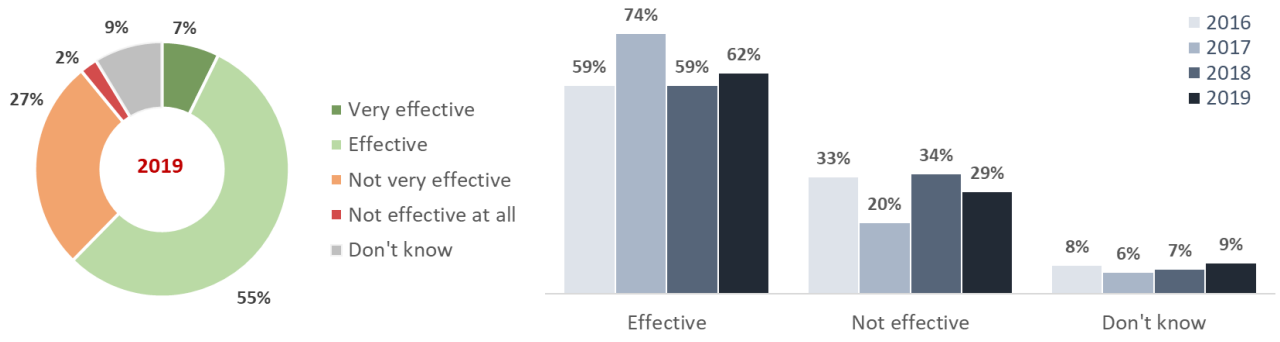


As shown in Figure 9, the share of people who consider the EU's financial support to be effective is consistent with last year's findings (62%) after recording a peak in 2017 (74%). Nearly 30% of those who are aware of the EU's financial support deem it not to be effective (29%) – again consistent with the 2018 findings.

The most sceptical groups regarding the effectiveness of EU support are residents of medium-sized settlements (45%, versus a non-appreciation rate of 30% for residents of larger cities and 24% for residents of smaller cities). Males are also less likely to evaluate EU's financial support in a more positive manner than the females (35% versus 24% respectively), mirroring a drift that generally sees men much less positively disposed towards the Union than in previous years[16].

FIGURE 9 – How effective do you think the support has been? (Q2.5.1)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who were aware of the EU's financial support)

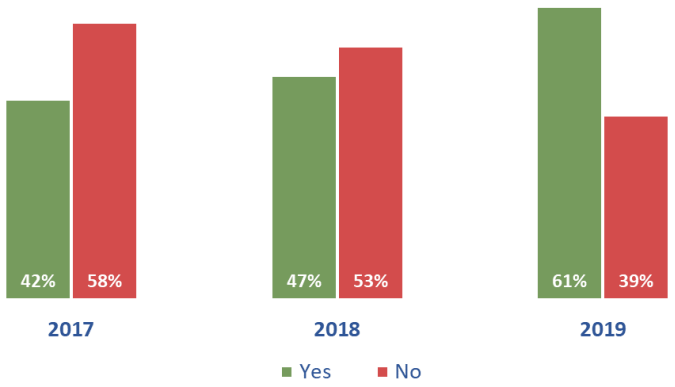


Over 60% of those who are aware of the EU's financial support know about specific EU-funded programmes in Georgia (61%) – a huge increase from 2017 (42%, up 19%). In fact highly educated individuals (74%) are, on average, the most informed on the issue. Males (67%) and employed/self-employed citizens (66%) are also more informed than females and unemployed individuals.[17]

[16] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 6.
[17] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 7.

FIGURE 10 – Do you know of any specific programmes financed by the European Union in Georgia? (Q2.6)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who were aware of the EU's financial support)



The most well-known EU-financed programmes in Georgia relate to the field of 'education' (41%), followed shortly by programmes related to 'infrastructure development' (40%, up 19% since 2018) and 'health and medicine' (38%). The widespread knowledge of education programmes financed by the EU may be linked to the introduction of visa-free travel, which has impacted on student and academic mobility. Between one fifth and one quarter of the population are aware of 'agricultural and rural development programmes' (25%) and 'economic reforms/business promotion programmes' supported by the EU. Georgians are less familiar with the Union's financial support to the sectors of 'culture' (10%, down 18% since 2018), 'justice and policy reforms' (8%) and 'energy efficiency' (2%).

Around 5% of Georgians have personally been (or know someone who has been) involved in recent EU-funded projects (it was less than 2% in 2017).

FIGURE 11 – Which specific programme(s) do you know? (Q2.6.1, multiple answers possible)

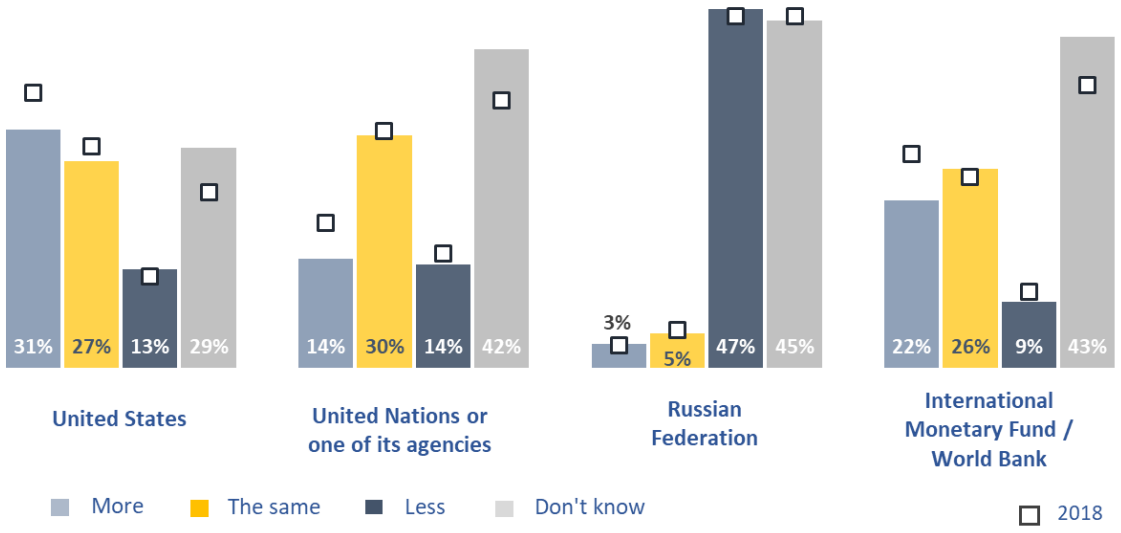
(Percentages refer to Georgians who were aware of specific programmes financed by the EU)

Between 35% and 44% of the respondents are convinced that the Union financially sustains their country to the same extent or more than the United Nations and its agencies (44%), the United States of America (40% and the International Monetary Fund/World Bank (35%). Among the four institutions, the United States (and its agencies) are perceived as a bigger donor to Georgia than the EU by nearly a third of citizens (31%). Around half of Georgians perceive the European Union as a greater provider of financial support than the Russian Federation (47%), but almost one in two Georgians had no definite opinion on the issue (45%).

In fact, the percentage of individuals who did not provide a definite answer may be used to judge the level of confidence in answering this question. Compared to 2018, the share of those who don't know has considerably increased and now stands at 29% for the United States and at around 45% for each of the other three institutions, pointing at a widespread lack of information regarding the issue.

FIGURE 12 – As far as you know, for each of the following international institutions, would you say that it provides 'more', 'the same', or 'less' financial support to your country than the European Union? (Q2.7)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



Around 55% of Georgians 'strongly' or 'somewhat' agree that 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens' everyday life'[18]. Compared to 2018, a shift from positive to very negative reactions to the statement were recorded and currently one in ten citizens 'totally' disagrees with the statement. In line with last year's findings, less than one in five individuals did not provide a definite answer to the question (19%).

FIGURE 13 – 'The EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives'. To what extent do you agree with this statement about the EU?

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

The strengthening of tourism continues to be well perceived by Georgians: 85% of the population cited it among the areas that have benefited 'very much' or 'fairly' from EU support (up 4 percentage points since 2018). Around 55% of the population also acknowledges the positive effects on the judiciary and the health care systems and on the infrastructure (possibly due to the increase in the awareness of infrastructure development programmes financed by the European Union).

Around half of the population also acknowledges the positive effect on 'access to products and services' (49%) and 'education' (48%, again possibly due to the increase in the awareness of education programmes financed by the Union). Around 40% cited the benefits on 'trade' (43%) and 'democracy' (42%), whereas the benefits on the economy in general are less evident than in 2018 – 'greater economic

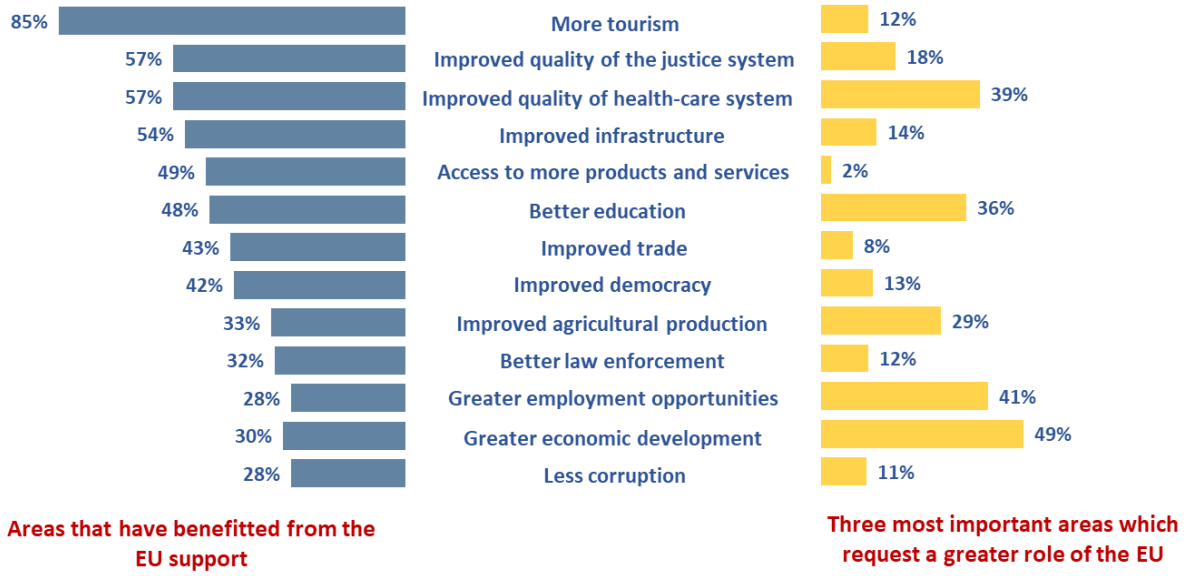
[18] The third wave saw the introduction of a new set of questions, targeted at gaining greater insights into how the Union is perceived by the citizens. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following set of statements according to a five-grade scale ('strongly', 'somewhat', 'not really', 'not at all', or 'don't know'): 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society', 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives', 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption', 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' and 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability'.

development' (30%, down 7%) and 'greater employment opportunities' (28%, down 2%). In fact, nearly half of Georgians would favour more support from the EU in these areas (49% and 41% respectively)[19]. It should be noted that 'economic development' is citizens' most important personal value and 'unemployment' and the 'economic crisis' are their primary concerns, hence the request for greater involvement from the EU.

Over a third of citizens would favour more support from the EU in the fields of healthcare (39%) and education (36%) and 29% in agricultural production. As with previous waves, corruption is among the areas that have benefitted less from EU support (28%), although only 11% of citizens would request a greater involvement of the European Union to tackle the issue. This low figure seems more linked to the fact that 'corruption' is not one of Georgians' priorities – hence when asked about the perceived benefits stemming from integration with the EU, other concerns come to their mind first[20].

FIGURE 14 – Areas that have benefited 'very much' or 'fairly' from EU support (Q2.8) & three most important areas in which Georgians request a greater role of the EU (Q2.9)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



When directly asked if the EU is committed to fighting corruption[21], 62% of Georgians 'strongly' (18%) or 'fairly' (44%) agree, only 14% did not support the statement and 24% did not have a definite opinion on the issue. Compared to 2018, positive opinions have decreased by 10 percentage points.

[19] Respondents were asked to name and rank the three most important areas in which the EU should play a greater role.

[20] More details are provided in Annex – Tables 8 and 9.

[21] The third wave saw the introduction of a new set of questions, targeted at gaining greater insights into how the Union is perceived by the citizens. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following set of statements according to a five-grade scale ('strongly', 'somewhat', 'not really', 'not at all', or 'don't know'): 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society', 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives', 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption', 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' and 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability'.

FIGURE 15 – 'The EU is committed to fighting corruption'.
To what extent do you agree with this statement about the EU?
(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

Nearly 70% of Georgians are convinced that integration with the EU will increase the country's security and stability and this finding is consistent with opinions observed in 2018[22]. Considering that security is the second most important personal value, it is more than likely that Georgians view the process of integration as a path towards the solution to their biggest problems.

FIGURE 16 – 'Integration with the EU increases country's security and stability'.
To what extent do you agree with the former statement about the EU?
(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)

[22] The third wave saw the introduction of a new set of questions, targeted at gaining greater insights into how the Union is perceived by the citizens. Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with the following set of statements according to a five-grade scale ('strongly', 'somewhat', 'not really', 'not at all', or 'don't know'): 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society', 'the EU provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives', 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption', 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' and 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability'.

3.3. Sources of information on the EU

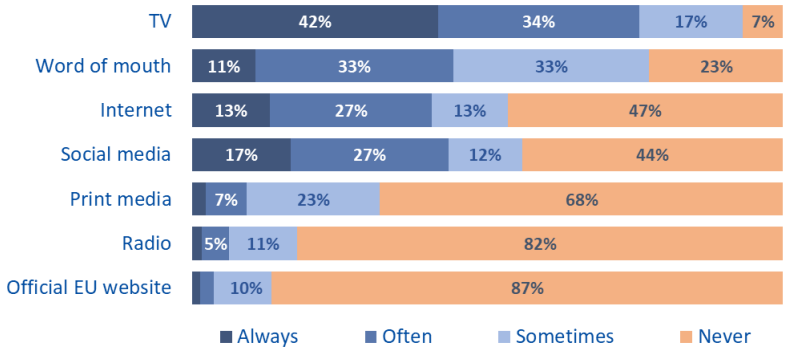
***TV continues to be the most popular (only 7% of the population never watch it) and most trusted source of information in Georgia (by 69% of citizens)**. Yet, in terms of exclusive and frequent usage, social media and the Internet (51%) have surpassed traditional media, including TV (37%). Passive exposure of EU-related information is at its lowest since 2016 (35%), a finding that may be linked to the widespread coverage of presidential campaign and elections in 2018 which may have impacted on the exposure of foreign news. Most active searchers (13% overall) rated positively the information they access, in terms of both usefulness and positive representation of the EU. The relations between Georgia and the EU (39%), educational and cultural programmes (31%) and economic news (28%) are most searched information. Only one in ten individuals is interested in knowing more about its relations with other EaP countries (up 4% since 2018).*

This section looks at the main sources of information in Georgia, with a focus on specific information about the EU, its programmes and its institutional communication instruments.

3.3.1. Media usage as sources of information

Television continues to be the most popular source of information in Georgia – only 7% of the population never watches it. However, new media, such as the Internet (53%) and social networks (56%) have supplanted other traditional media, such as print press (32%) and radio (18%). Three out of four Georgians continue to rely on word of mouth – 'always' (11%), 'often' (33%) or 'sometimes' (33%). The official EU website is hardly ever used – 13% of Georgians access it for information.

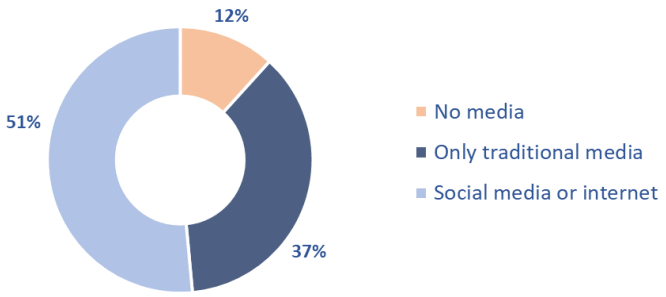
FIGURE 17 – Type of media used as a source of information (Q3.7)



The breakdown of frequent users of traditional media only, new media and no media is shown in Figure 18[23]. Compared to 2018, frequent usage of social media or the Internet (51%) has surpassed that of traditional media only (37%), despite the fact the latter include TV, the most popular source of information. Older generations (63%) and residents of smaller settlements (45%) are more likely to rely frequently on traditional media only, nevertheless both shares have decreased when compared to 2018 indicating that new media are increasingly used by these categories as well. On the other hand, higher percentages of frequent users of new media can be found among young (69%) and highly educated (69%) people and residents of large settlements (64%). Overall around one in ten individuals do not rely on any media (12%). Individuals with a low level of education are three times more likely not to use any media compared to highly-educated citizens (15% versus 5%)[24].

[23] The first includes all individuals who 'always' or 'often' use only traditional media (such as television, radio and print media); the second group includes all individuals who 'always' or 'often' use either the Internet (including the official EU websites) or social media; while the last group includes all individuals who do not 'always' or 'often' use any of the surveyed media.
[24] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 10.

FIGURE 18 – Type of media frequently used as source of information



Nearly all Georgians – 56% 'always', 22% 'often' and 12% 'sometimes' – use national media in Georgian. The usage of media in different languages is less prevalent – around 80% of citizens never use Georgian or foreign media in Russian (80%) or in other languages (84%).

FIGURE 19 – Usage of media in Georgia, Russian and other languages (Q3.7)

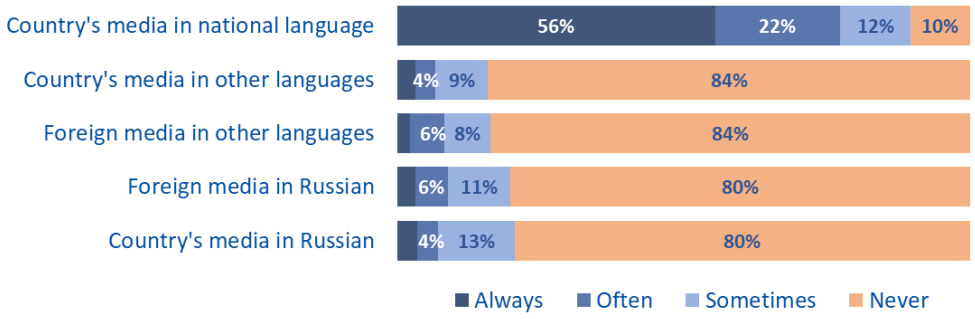


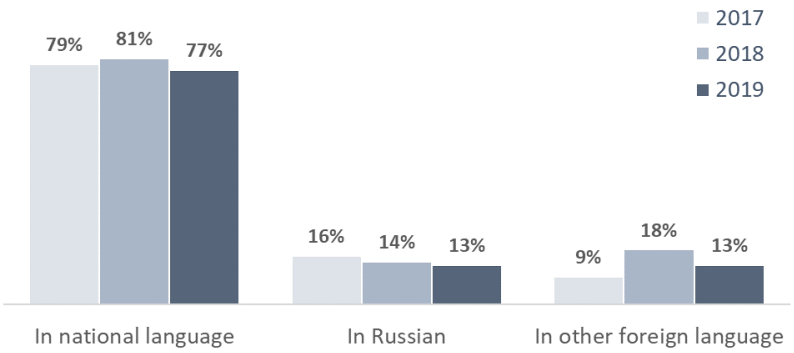
Figure 20 shows how frequently media in Georgian, Russian and other foreign languages are used, irrespective of whether the media is national or foreign, among the population[25]. The habit of relying upon media in foreign languages other than Russian has seen a slight decrease since 2018 – down 5 percentage points – and it is currently equal to that of relying upon media in Russian (13%)[26]. The highest share of users of foreign media was found among highly educated citizens and middle-aged individuals: 22% and 17% respectively rely on it frequently, as compared to 9% of individuals with a low level of education and 7% of older citizens[27].

[25] Frequent users of media in Georgian are defined as all individuals who 'always' or 'often' use media in the national language; those who 'always' or 'often' use the country's or foreign media in Russian are seen as frequent users of media in Russian. Finally, frequent users of media in foreign languages are those who 'always' or 'often' use the country's or foreign media in other languages. The frequent use of media in one language is not exclusive, in the sense that individuals might also access media in other languages.

[26] The low diffusion of Russian media in Georgia can be explained by the fact that Russian channels are only available through cable television, satellite, aerial or Internet. In addition, their popularity in the country has been undermined slightly due to the armed conflicts in 2014 and 2008 respectively. See: Monitoring of Russian channels by MEMO 98, Final report, 2015 (http://www.csdialogue.eu/sites/default/files/monitoring_report_executive_summary.pdf).

[27] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 11.

FIGURE 20 – Frequent usage of media in Georgian, Russian and other languages



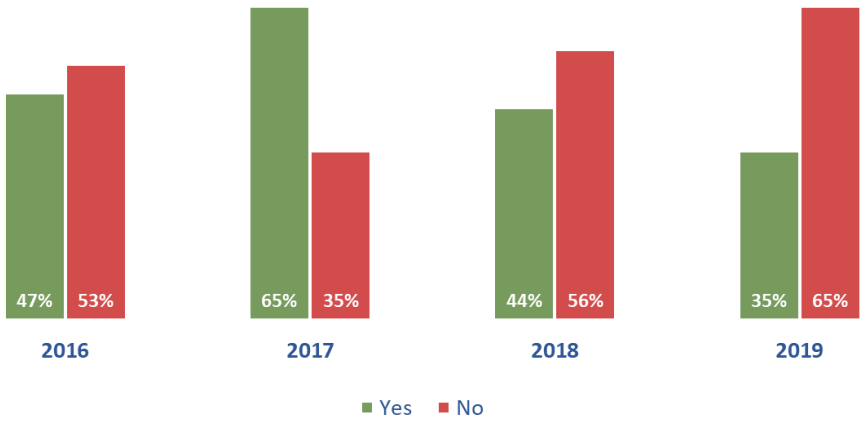
Trust levels towards different media sources are similar to the usage patterns of media: the majority of the population trust TV (69%) and national media in Georgian (67%), and around one in two citizens trusts new media and word of mouth (49% 'word of mouth', 45% for 'Internet' and 42% for 'social media'). However most individuals do not know how to rate their trust in media in languages other than the national language and other media sources – with an impressive 57% of individuals who could not rate their trust in print media and 70% in the radio. Only one in five individuals trusts the official EU website (21%), which may be linked to their lack of use and awareness of such a source of information[28].

3.3.2. Sources of information about the EU

Around one third of Georgians say they have seen or heard information about the EU in the last three months (35%). The trend of this indicator – which is at its lowest since 2016, after recording a peak in 2017 (65%) – could be linked to the widespread coverage of the presidential campaign and elections in autumn 2018 on national media which may have impacted on the exposure of foreign news. It should also be observed that the peak of passive exposure to EU-related information was recorded during the 2017 wave and may have been linked to the agreements enforced during late 2016 and early 2017. Individuals who are highly educated (50%) and residents of larger settlements (40%) were the most likely to have seen or heard information on the EU[29].

FIGURE 21 – Have you seen or heard any information about the EU in the last three months? (Q3.2)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



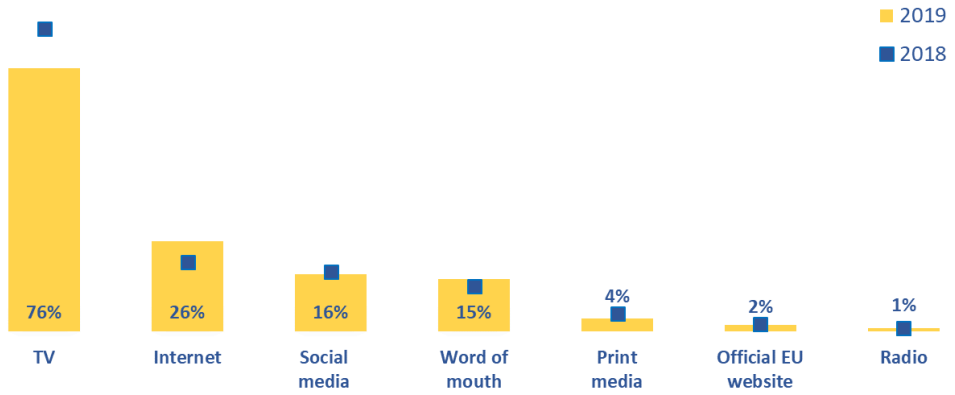
[28] More details are provided in Annex – Table 12.

[29] More details on exposure to information about the EU and socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 13.

As expected, passive exposure stems mostly from television (76%), though much less than last year (down 11%). In fact one in four of the Georgians who heard or saw information about the EU did so through Internet (26%). Social media and word of mouth were cited each by around 15% of the population.

FIGURE 22 – Where or from whom you have you seen or heard information about the EU in the last three months? (Q3.2.1, multiple answers possible)

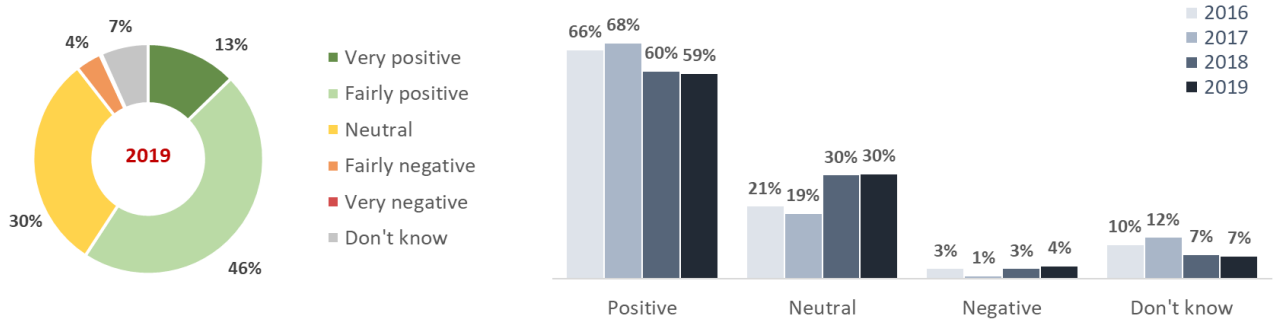
(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard any information about the EU in the last three months)



Among those who had heard about the EU, 59% felt that national media presented the European Union positively (13% 'very positively', 46% 'fairly positively') with no change since 2018. In general these findings align with the more neutral of fairly positive view of the Union recorded in these last two years (see Figure 1). Overall residents of medium-sized settlements (40%) and older citizens (34%) share a more neutral view[30].

FIGURE 23 – In general, how would you say the EU was presented in the national media? (Q3.3)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard about the EU)



According to half of the individuals who have heard of the EU (51%), the information which they read, watch or access online helps them to have a better understanding of the European Union, either 'fairly' (44%) or 'very much' (7%). Nearly 45% find the information 'not very useful' (31%) or 'not at all useful' (14%).

The following section looks specifically at sources of information about the EU, and therefore only refers to Georgians who actively look for/access information on the EU.

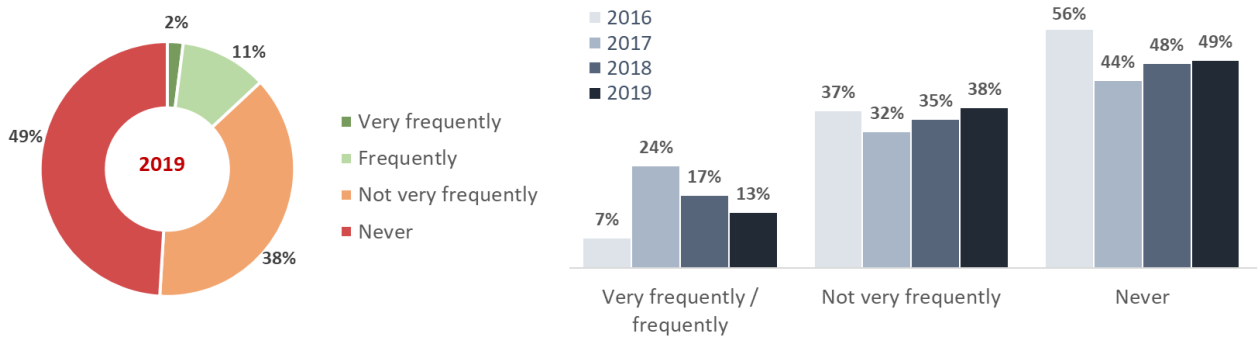
Compared to last year, 'frequent' or 'very frequent' access to information on the EU has recorded a decrease (13% versus 17% in 2018) confirming the downward trend started after the peak recorded in spring 2017. Again, this finding may be linked to the decrease in media coverage of EU-related

[30] For the distribution according to main socio-demographic characteristics, see Table 14 in Annex.

information. Highly educated people are the most likely to search for EU-related information (64%, with around 20% accessing it frequently)[31].

FIGURE 24 – How often do you look for/access information on the EU? (Q3.1)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU)



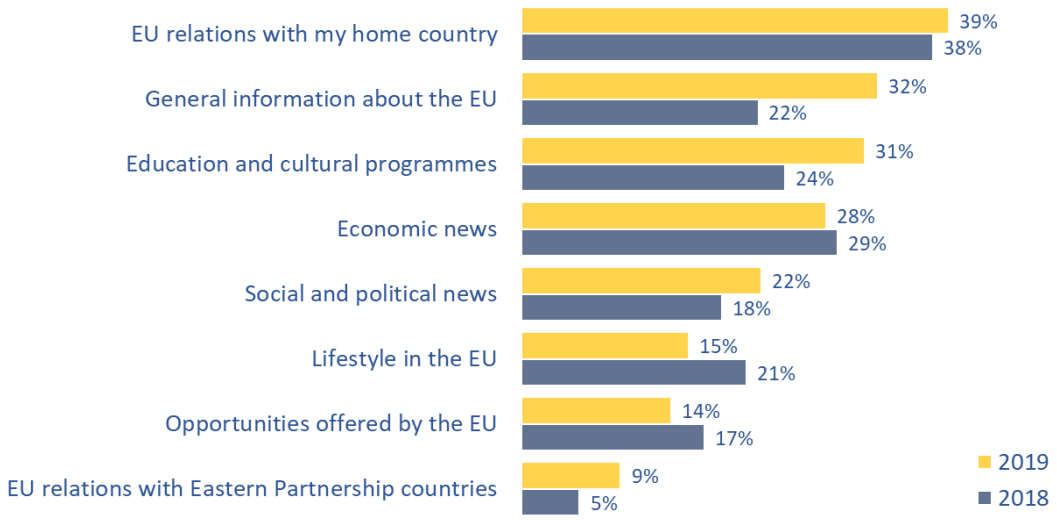
Nearly all individuals who search for information about the EU use Georgian (82%). Around one in ten individuals use Russian (9%) or English (8%).

In addition to 'general information about the Union' (32%), Georgians who actively seek information concentrate their searches on the 'relations between Georgia and the EU' (39%), 'educational and cultural programmes' (31%) and 'economic news' (28%). Searches targeting general information and educational and cultural programmes have recorded a great increase since 2018 (up 10% and 8% respectively). One in five individuals are interested in 'social and political news' (22%), 15% in the 'lifestyle in EU Member States', and 14% in the 'opportunities offered by the Union'.

Only 9% of individuals actively searching for information about the EU are interested in knowing more about its relations with Eastern partner countries. However an increase of 4 percentage points was observed compared to 2018.

FIGURE 25 – What type of information do you normally look for? (Q3.1.2, multiple answers possible)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have looked for/accessed information on the EU)

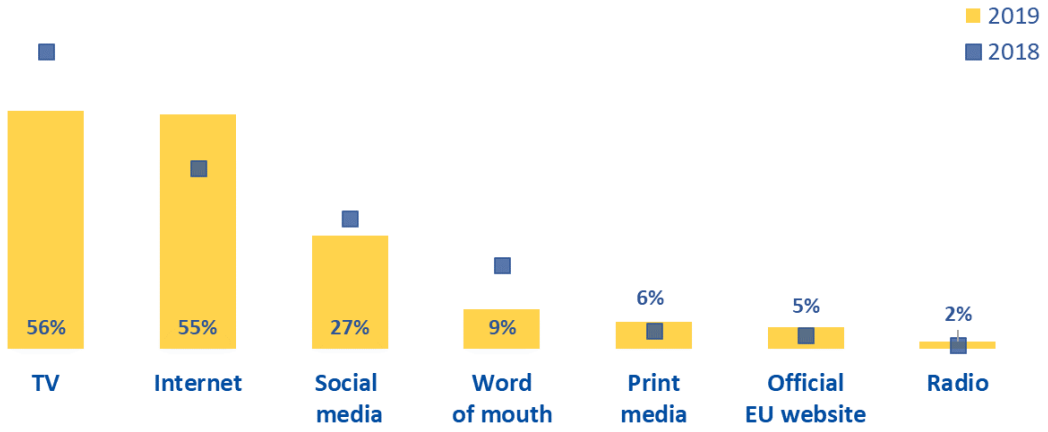


TV and Internet are the main providers of information about the EU (56% and 55% respectively); with the latter recording a huge increase since 2018 (up 12%) at the expenses of the former (down 14%). Social media is pretty much stable at 27%; whereas less and less citizens continue to rely on word of mouth (9%, down 11%). No significant change was recorded with regard to print press (6%), the official EU website (5%) or the radio (2%).

[31] More details on the distribution according to the main socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 15.

FIGURE 26 – Where do you go to find information about the EU? (Q3.1.4, multiple answers possible)

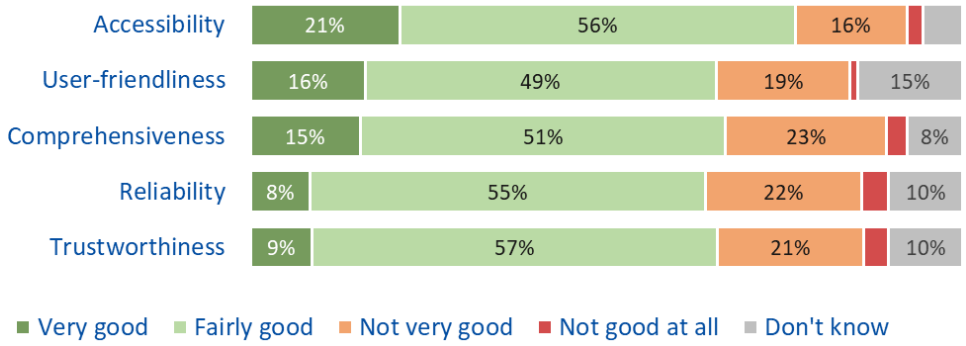
(Percentages refer to Georgians who have looked for/accessed information on the EU)



Over three quarters of Georgians find the information on the EU to be 'very' or 'quite' accessible (77%). Its quality – in terms of its user-friendliness, comprehensiveness, reliability and trustworthiness – was rated 'very' or 'quite' positively by slightly less individuals (around 65% each). These assessments were also slightly less positive than in 2018, with a difference of around 10 percentage points for each characteristics.

FIGURE 27 – How would you rate the information in terms of…? (Q3.1.5)

(Percentages refer to Georgians who have looked for/accessed information on the EU)



Overall, 18% of Georgians have used EU websites[32] at least once (up 8% since 2018). As in 2018, the Facebook profile of the European Union is the most accessed among all EU websites (13% of the population), followed by websites of EU projects (8%) and the EU institutions website (7%) – all recording an increase in access since 2018. The EU Neighbourhood Info Centre Portal, the EU's Twitter pages and the EU Delegation website continue to be accessed only very seldom – 3% each.

[32] This refers to EU HQ institutions' websites; the EU Delegation website; EU projects' websites; the 'EU NEIGHBOURS'; EU Twitter and EU Facebook pages.

3.4. View of Georgia's current situation and future expectations

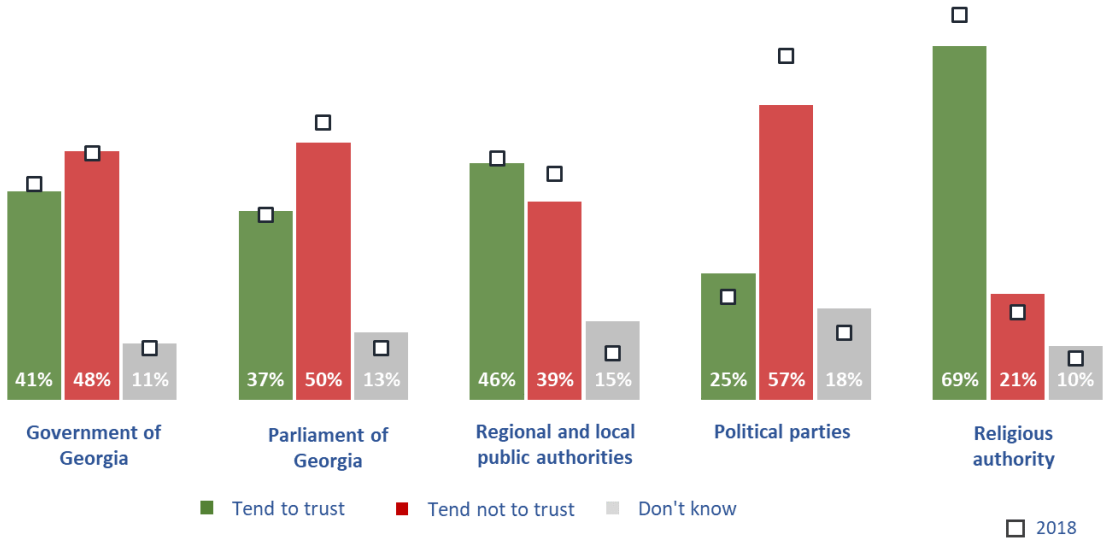
Nearly 80% of Georgians are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in their country *(up 6% since 2018) with around a quarter 'absolutely dissatisfied'. In fact, Georgia's democratic development during 2017 and 2018 stalled and suffered significant setbacks. 'Good governance', 'anti-corruption measures' and 'independence of the judiciary' continue to be the most challenging issues facing Georgia: less than one third of citizens think that these elements apply to their country. It is also noteworthy that more than half of the population think that free and fair elections are not present in Georgia, considering that presidential election were held in autumn 2018. These negative views are reflected in the high shares of citizens not trusting country's institutions and holding pessimistic views towards the country's future. Nearly 80% of citizens are worried about unemployment and 22% about territorial conflicts.*

This section presents an assessment of Georgia's current and future situation regarding the current functioning of democracy and the most pressing problems.

3.4.1. View of Georgia's current situation

Georgians do not share a great deal of trust in their national, regional and local institutions and the most trusted institution is the religious authority (by 69% of the population). Currently, 46% of citizens trust regional and local public authorities, 41% trust the Government and 37% trust the Parliament. This situation – which can be linked to the poor assessment in terms of good governance and anti-corruption measures[33] – is largely consistent with previous years' findings, although the level of distrust has increased in favour of a more uncertain view. As for political parties, although the level of trust in the country is still very low (25%); the assessment is less negative compared to 2018 and distrust has decreased by 10 percentage points (57%).

FIGURE 28 – Please tell us your level of trust in the following institutions (Q4.1)

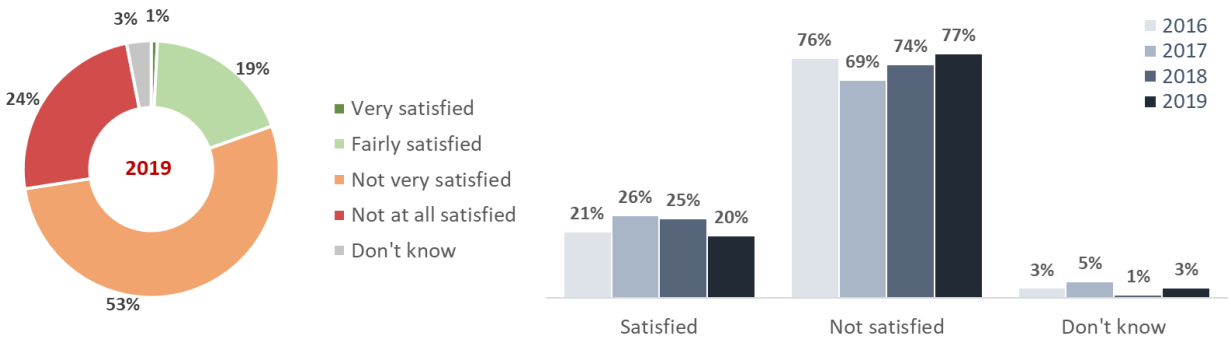


Accordingly, 77% of Georgians are dissatisfied with the way democracy works in their country (74% in 2018) with around a quarter 'absolutely dissatisfied' (24% as in 2018). Residents of medium-sized settlements and, to a lesser extent, middle-aged and older individuals are on average more dissatisfied compared to other socio-demographic sub-groups (88%, 81% and 83% respectively)[34].

[33] See Figure 30.

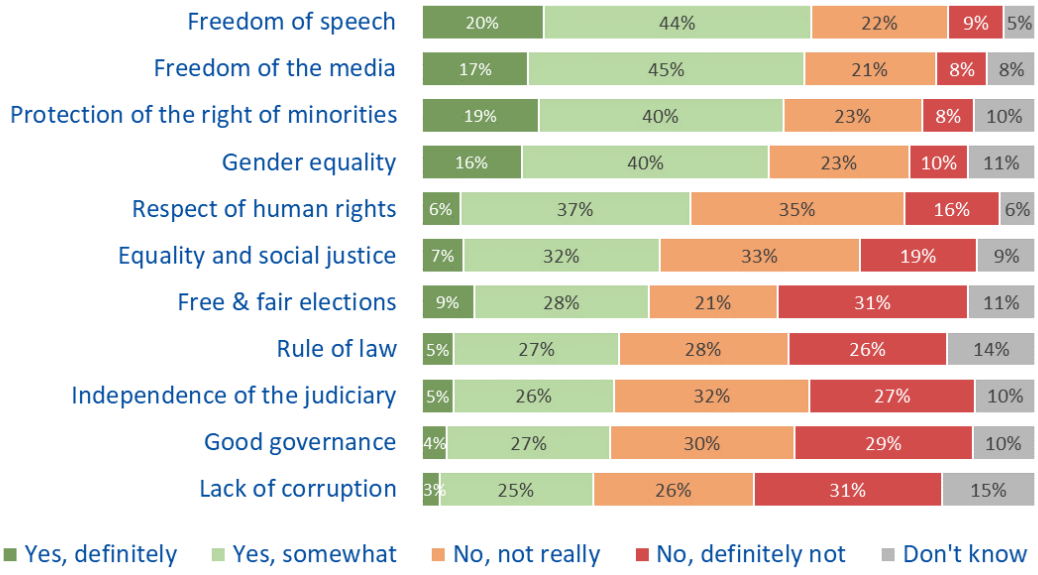
[34] More details on satisfaction with democracy and socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Table 16.

FIGURE 29 – On the whole, are you 'very satisfied', 'fairly satisfied', 'not very satisfied' or 'not at all satisfied' with the way democracy works in Georgia? (Q4.3)



In fact, Georgia's democratic development during 2017 and subsequently in 2018 stalled on the whole, and suffered significant setbacks compared with previous years[35]. As a result between one third and half of the population feel that all assessed democratic indicators do not apply to their country. The only elements that received a positive assessment according to most citizens are 'freedom of speech' (64%), 'freedom of the media' (62%), 'protection of the rights of minorities' (59%) and 'gender equality' (56%). All other indicators are below the 50% threshold. More specifically, less than one third of Georgians believe that 'lack of corruption', 'good governance' and 'independence of the judiciary' apply to their country. It is also noteworthy that more than half of the population think that 'free and fair elections' are 'not really' (21%) or 'definitely not' (31%) present in Georgia, considering that presidential election were held in autumn 2018.

FIGURE 30 – To what extent do you think that the following elements apply in Georgia? (Q4.4)



3.4.2. Future expectations

Overall 59% of Georgians are optimistic towards their country's future, confirming the historical downward trend (down 2% compared to 2018 and down 12% compared to 2016). Views about their personal future are more positive, with 72% of citizens either 'very' (18%) or 'slightly' optimistic (54%) and no significant change compared to 2018. Residents of smaller settlements (64%), citizens living in the

[35] Reforms that had been underway for a number of years, for instance vis-à-vis the judiciary, decentralisation, and freedom of the media, came to a halt during 2017, with civil society actors and international organisations as well as the US State Department, raising concerns regarding the speed and direction of reforms. See Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 2018, https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/

west of the country (69%), younger (65%) and highly-educated individuals (68%) are, on average, more optimistic about Georgia's as well as their personal future than other socio-demographic sub-groups[36].

FIGURE 31 – How optimistic are you about the future of your country? (Q4.5)

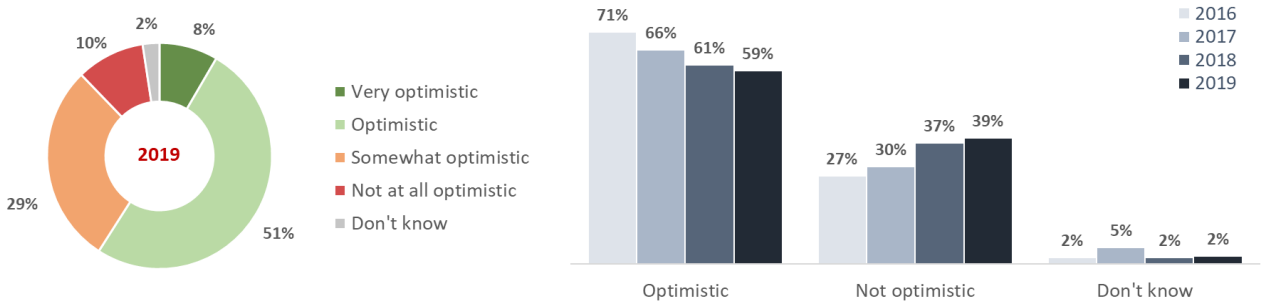
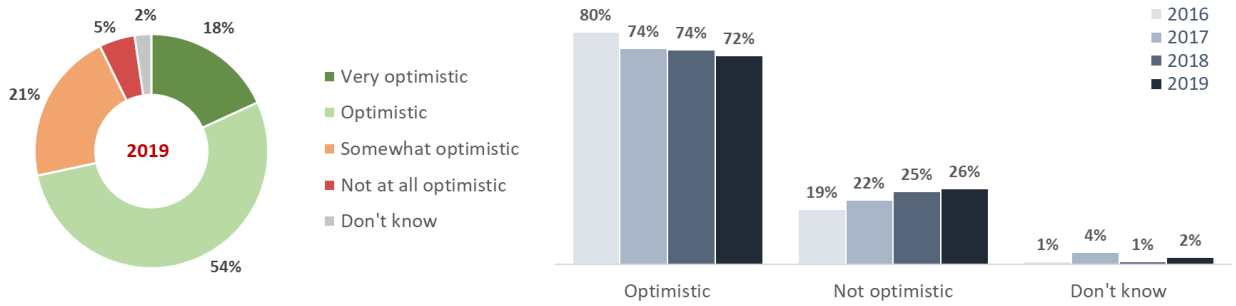


FIGURE 32 – How optimistic are you about your personal future? (Q4.6)

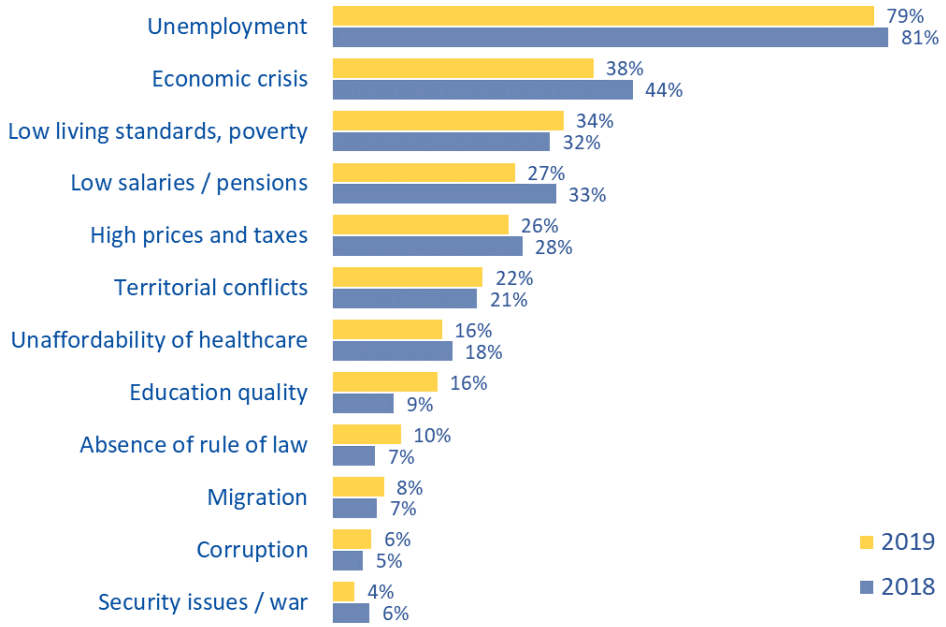


The most important personal values for Georgians, namely 'economy and security', are echoed in the most commonly cited pressing problems. Nearly 80% of citizens cited 'unemployment', 38% named 'economic crisis', 34% 'low living standards and poverty', 27% 'low salaries and pensions' and 26% 'high prices and taxes'[37]. Although less pressing, concerns over security issues continue to be voiced out: 22% of individuals named 'territorial conflicts' and 4% 'security issues and war'. All findings are consistent with 2018 and previous waves.

[36] More details on optimism regarding citizens' personal future and the country's future and socio-demographic characteristics are provided in Annex – Tables 17 and 18.

[37] In 2017, Georgia had the second highest unemployment rate (11.5%) in the EaP region – second only to Armenia. See Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 2018, https://eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/

FIGURE 33– What do you consider to be the most pressing problems facing your country? (Q4.2, multiple answers possible)



3.5. Profiling attitudes towards the EU: positive versus neutral

Education, passive and active exposure to EU-related information and preferred media source seem to be the most important factors when it comes to the attitudes of Georgians towards the EU*. In fact, while 36% of those who have a positive image of the EU are highly educated, 77% of neutrally oriented citizens have a low to medium level of education. Holders of a neutral view are also much less exposed to information about the EU (25% versus 46% among EU supporters) and less keen to actively search for this (61% versus 36%). They are more keen users of traditional media only (41%) – rather than new media – and media in Russian (14%) – rather than media in other foreign languages. Overall, they tend to display lower levels of trust in the EU than EU supporters; however these views seem more linked to indecision rather than open distrust. Neutral individuals are also less optimistic regarding their personal future (57%) than EU supporters (64%). In fact they seem particularly concerned about the economic situation, whereas EU supporters mentioned more frequently territorial issues, the quality of education, the absence of rule of law and migrations.*

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In this section, the attitude of Georgians towards the EU has been analysed according to two main profiles: individuals who have a positive image of the EU and those who are neutral towards it[38].

Attitudes were profiled against a comprehensive set of indicators, starting with the main socio-demographic characteristics, followed by passive and active exposure to EU-related information (including main language used and subjects of interest), assessment of the relationship between Georgia and the EU, awareness and effectiveness of its financial support and level of trust towards the EU and other foreign institutions, and finally the perception of the country's and respondents' personal future and main concerns.

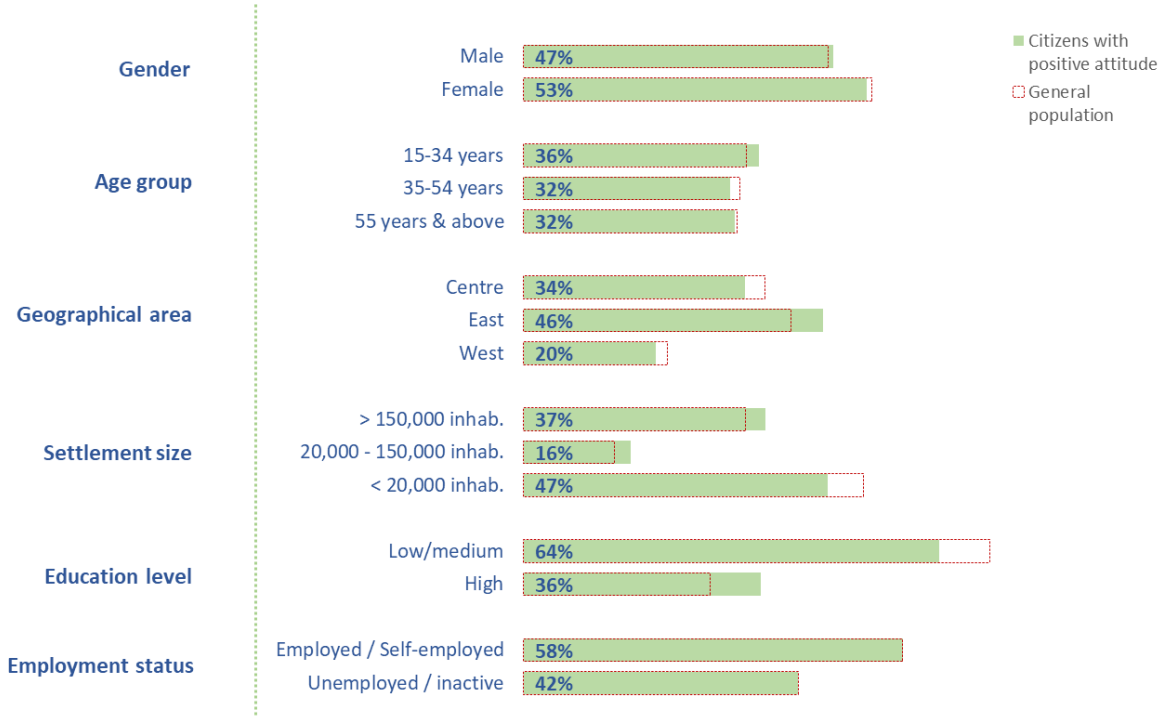
[38] Individuals that were mostly negatively oriented were excluded from the comparison, as their number was too small for the results to be statistically significant.

3.5.1. Positive attitudes

In terms of socio-demographic characteristics, **holders of a positive view of the EU – who represent half of Georgians (50%) – are equally found among all sub-groups of the population and geographical areas.** Nevertheless, some peculiarities can be highlighted.

No significant difference was found with regard to gender and age: in fact 53% of the holders of a positive view are females and 47% are males – just as in the general population. Likewise around one third belong to the 15–34 age-group, one third to the 35–54 age-group and one third are older than 55. As for socio-economic characteristics, the first thing that stands out is the level of education: 36% of those who have a positive image of the EU are highly educated – a higher percentage than that of the general population (29%). Around 45% of individuals with a positive image of the EU live in eastern Georgia, which includes Tbilisi, the capital city (versus 41% in the general population).

FIGURE 34 – Socio-demographic characteristics and geographical location of the Georgians with a positive image of the EU

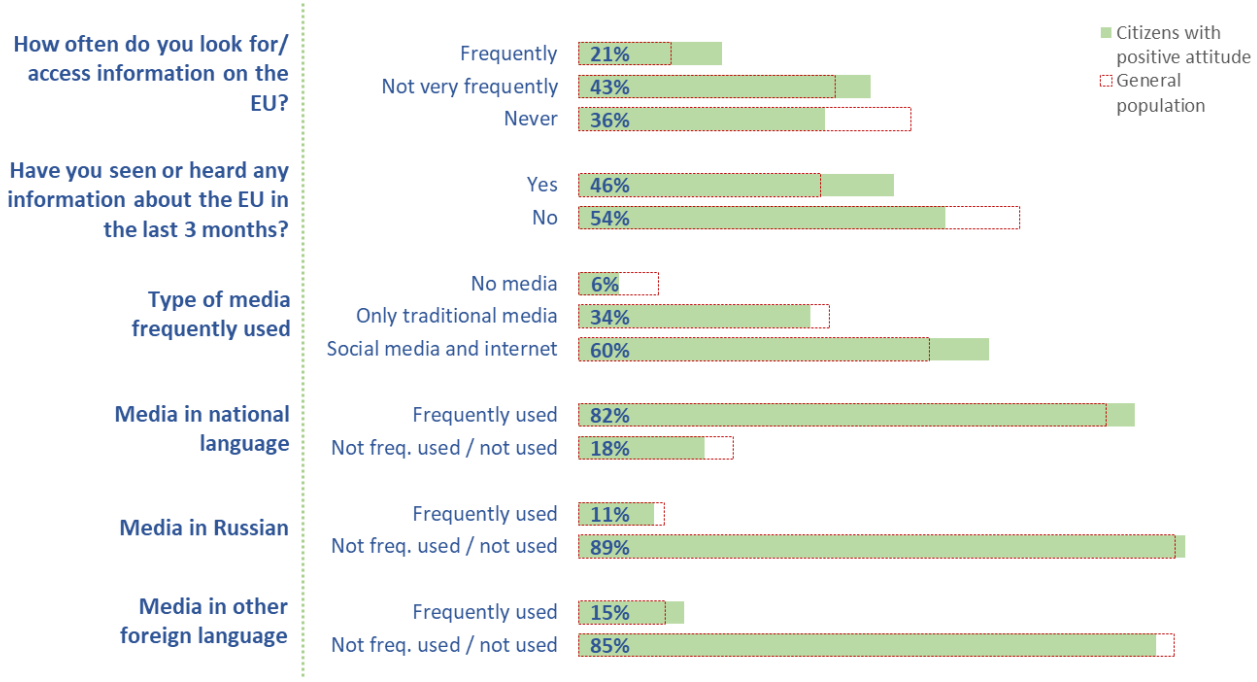


In addition to education, positive perceptions seem closely linked to the level of information. EU supporters are more likely to be actively and passively exposed to information about the EU – despite the decrease in exposure observed during this wave. Around 45% of them had seen or heard information about the EU in the three months preceding the survey (it was 60% in 2018) compared to 35% in the general population. The difference in active exposure is more marked and only 36% of EU supporters never look for/access information on the EU – versus 49% in the general population – with 21% accessing it 'frequently'.

If searching for EU-related information, EU supporters prefer to do so in Georgian (82%), and they are slightly keener to look for/access information in English (9%) or foreign languages other than Russian – such as German (1%) and Spanish (1%) – than the general population. Their interests are varied with a particular focus on 'EU relations with Georgia' (44%, the most searched), 'education and cultural programmes' (33%) and 'EU's relations with Eastern Partner countries' (13%) compared to the general population.

EU supporters are keen users of new media as a source of information – which they tend to use more frequently than the general population (60% versus 51%). Georgians with a positive attitude towards the EU are also frequent users of national media (only 18% of them 'infrequently' or 'never use them'). Around 15% frequently uses media in foreign languages, and 11% media in Russian.

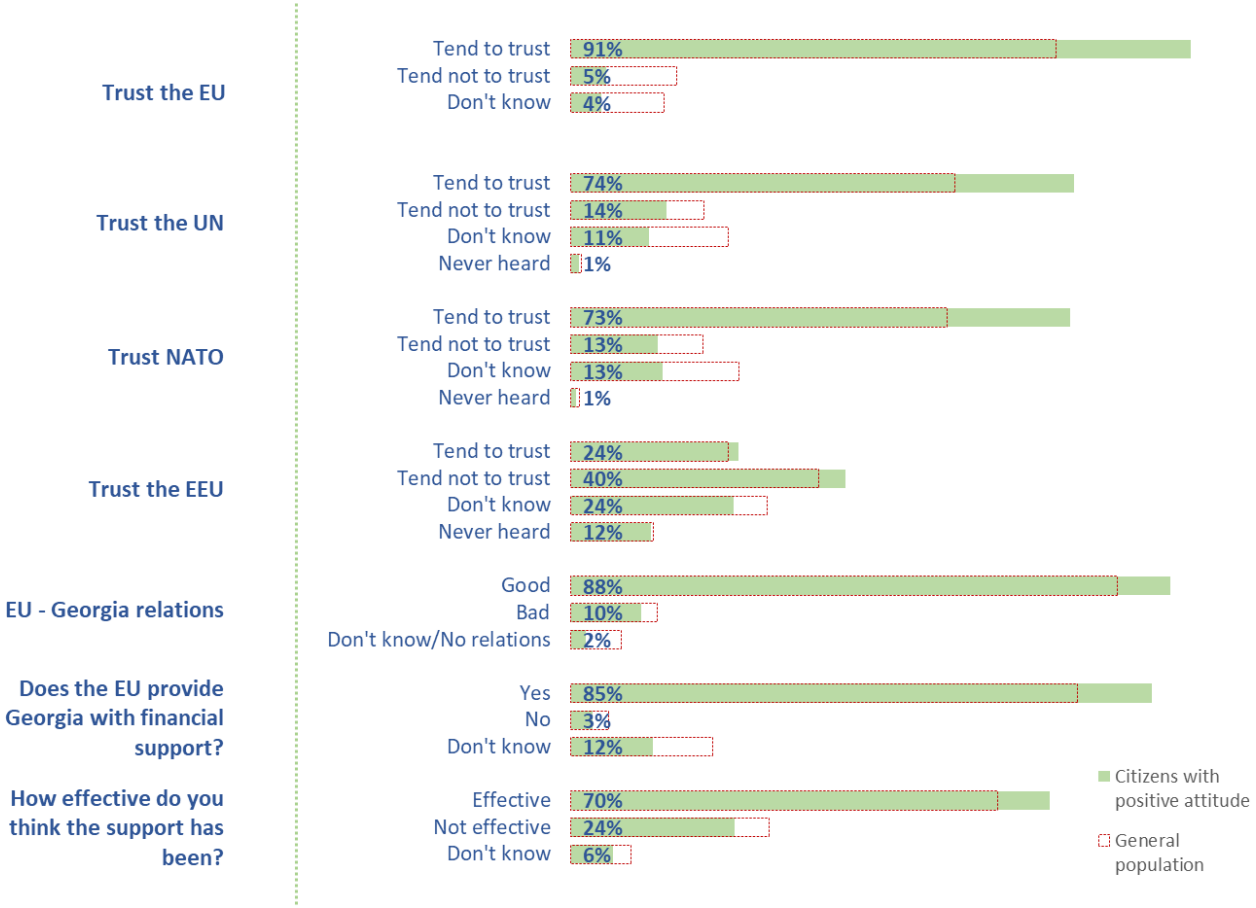
FIGURE 35 – Exposure to information about the EU and media usage among Georgians with a positive image of the EU



A positive image of the EU is also linked to a higher level of confidence in the EU. Nearly all positively oriented individuals hold a good image of the relations between Georgia and the EU (88%), acknowledge the EU's financial support (85%) and rate it as 'effective' (70%) in line with 2018 findings.

A positive attitude is generally also correlated with a high level of trust in all foreign institutions, except the Eurasian Economic Union. Around 40% of those who view the EU positively do not trust the EEU.

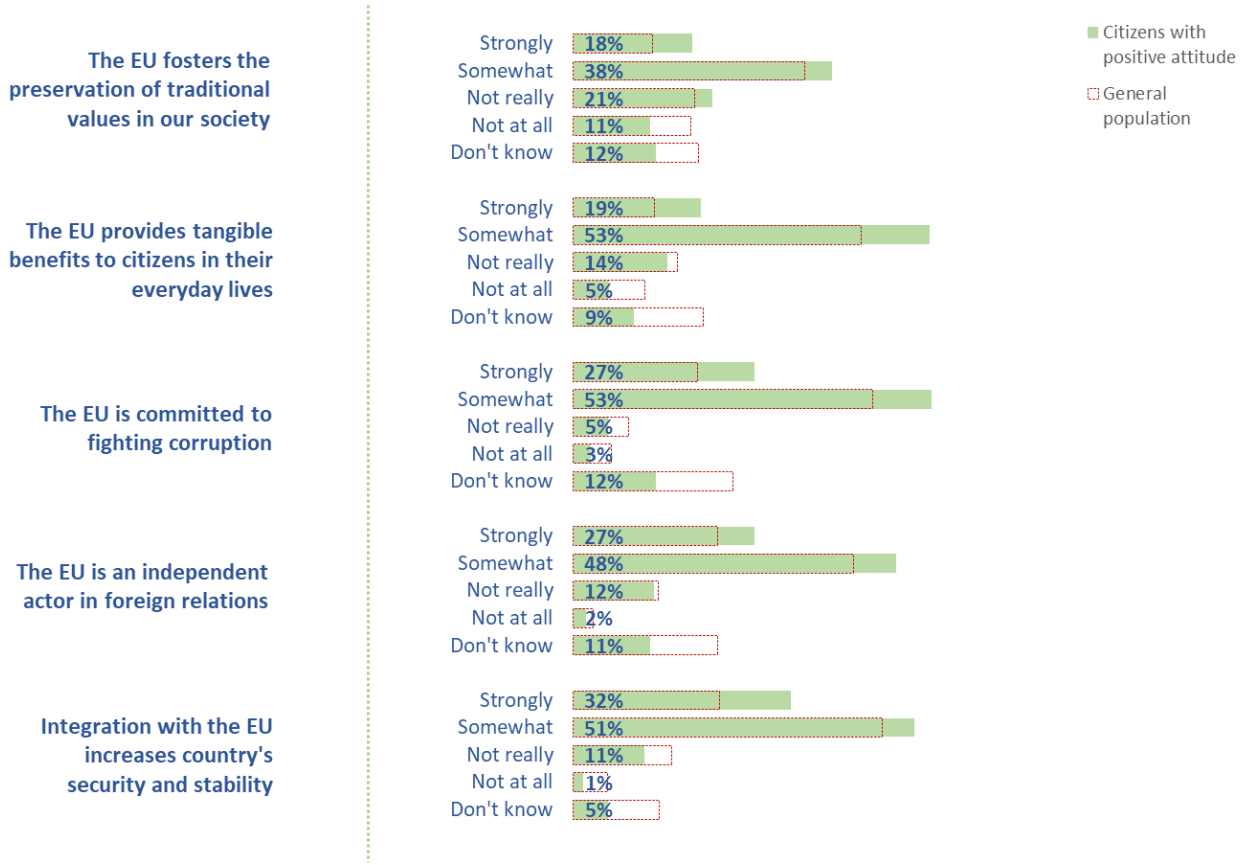
FIGURE 36 – Attitudes towards the EU among Georgians with a positive image of the EU



When it comes to the assessment of common beliefs, EU supporters tend to share a much stronger and positive vision of the EU than the general population. In particular, 32% of EU supporters strongly believe that 'integration with the EU increases the country's security and stability' (the figure is 22% for the general population); 27% are strongly convinced that 'the EU is committed to fighting corruption' (versus 23%); 19% that 'it provides tangible benefits to citizens in their everyday lives' and 'it is an independent actor in foreign relations' (versus 17% and 18% respectively) and 26% that 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society' (versus 15%).

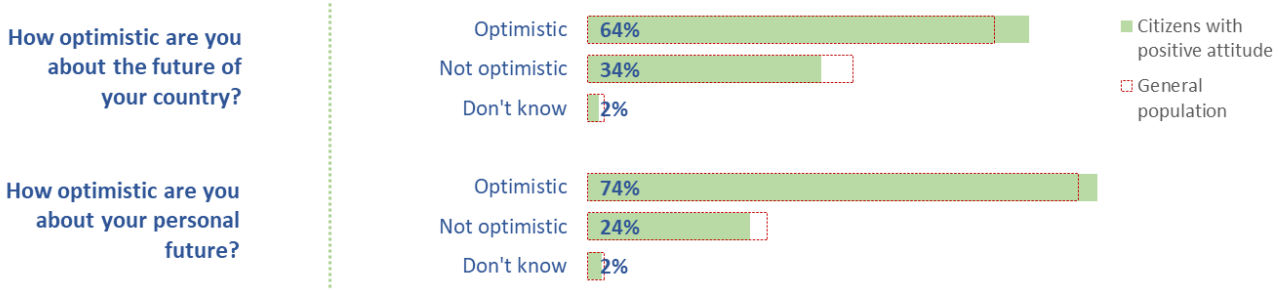
The lower share of 'don't know' responses recorded among EU supporters shows that individuals with a positive image of the EU are also much more confident than the general population in sharing their beliefs.

FIGURE 37 – Common beliefs by Georgians with a positive image of the EU



A more optimistic attitude, especially regarding the country's future, is clearly linked with a positive image of the EU. EU supporters also seem to be slightly less concerned about economic issues than the general population, though these are indeed problematic: 76% mentioned 'unemployment' among main concerns, 35% 'the economic crisis', 30% 'low living standards and poverty' and 27% 'low salaries and pensions'. On the other hand, 'territorial issues' (26%), the 'quality of education' (22%), the 'absence of rule of law' (13%) and 'migration' (11%) are more an issue for them and were reported more frequently than overall.

FIGURE 38 – View of the future among Georgians with a positive image of the EU

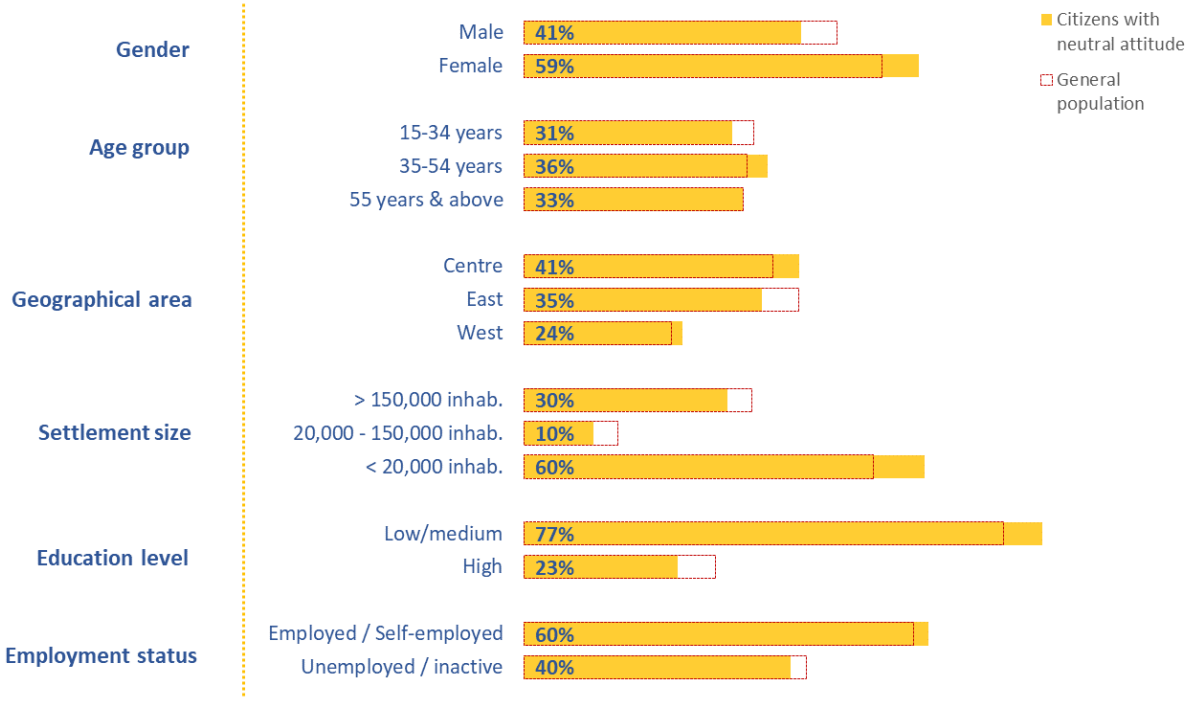


3.5.2. Neutral attitudes

Georgians with a neutral view of the EU account for 43% of the population. They are generally spread among all socio-demographic strata of the population, although 59% of neutrally oriented individuals are female and only 41% are male. Disparities in education level were even more striking, as eight out of ten neutrally oriented citizens have a low to medium level of education and only two in ten are highly educated.

Although neutrally oriented people are spread around Georgia, they tend to live more in the Centre and in the West. Almost 6 out of 10 Georgians with a neutral image of the EU live in settlements with less than 20,000 inhabitants.

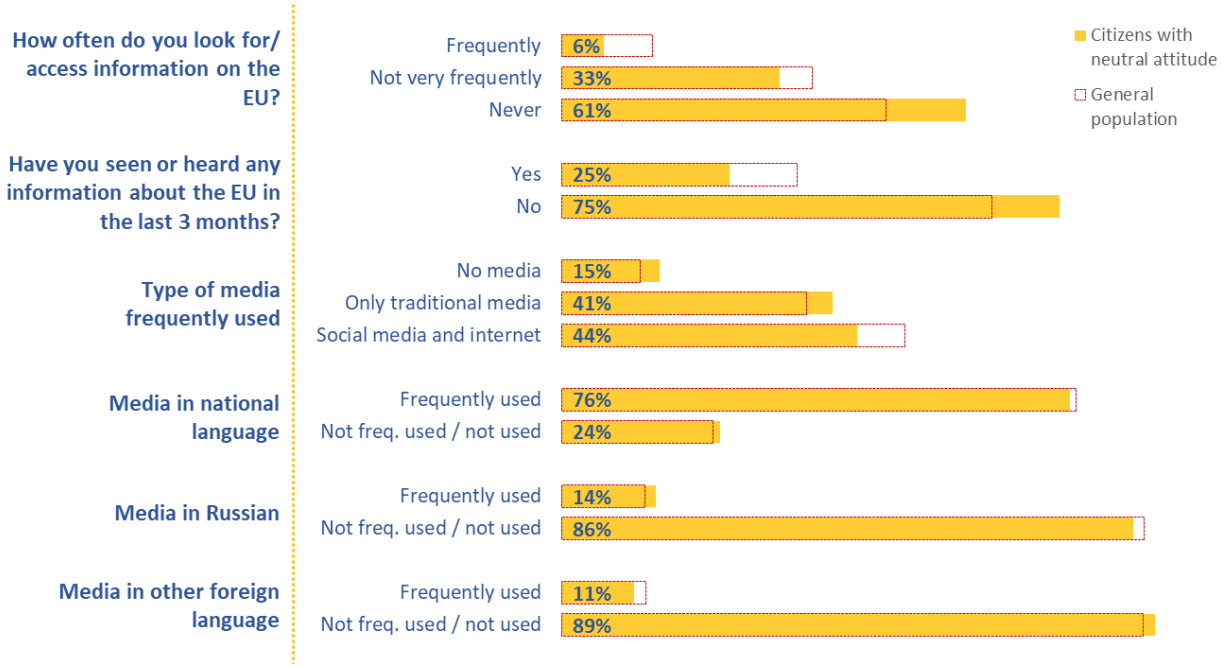
FIGURE 39 – Socio-demographic characteristics and geographical location of Georgians with a neutral image of the EU



'Neutrality' is linked to lower levels of both passive and active exposure to EU-related information. Three quarters of those holding a neutral stance have not heard any information about the EU in the three months preceding the survey (versus 46% for those holding a positive view of the Union) and 61% have never looked for/accessed any information on the EU (versus 36% among EU supporters). Holders of a neutral view are also less likely to be frequent users of new media (44% versus 60%), although their usage has increased since 2018 (up 9%). Around 40% frequently rely on traditional media only and 15% never use any media. Similar to the general population, three quarters rely on media in Georgian. Neutral stances are also more linked to frequent usage of media in Russian (14%) rather than media in other foreign languages (11%).

When looking for EU-related information, neutrally oriented citizens preferably engage either in generic searches (35%) or explore the opportunities that the Union may offer to Georgian citizens. In general they seem less interested in Georgia relations with the EU (33%) and particularly with EaP countries (only 3%).

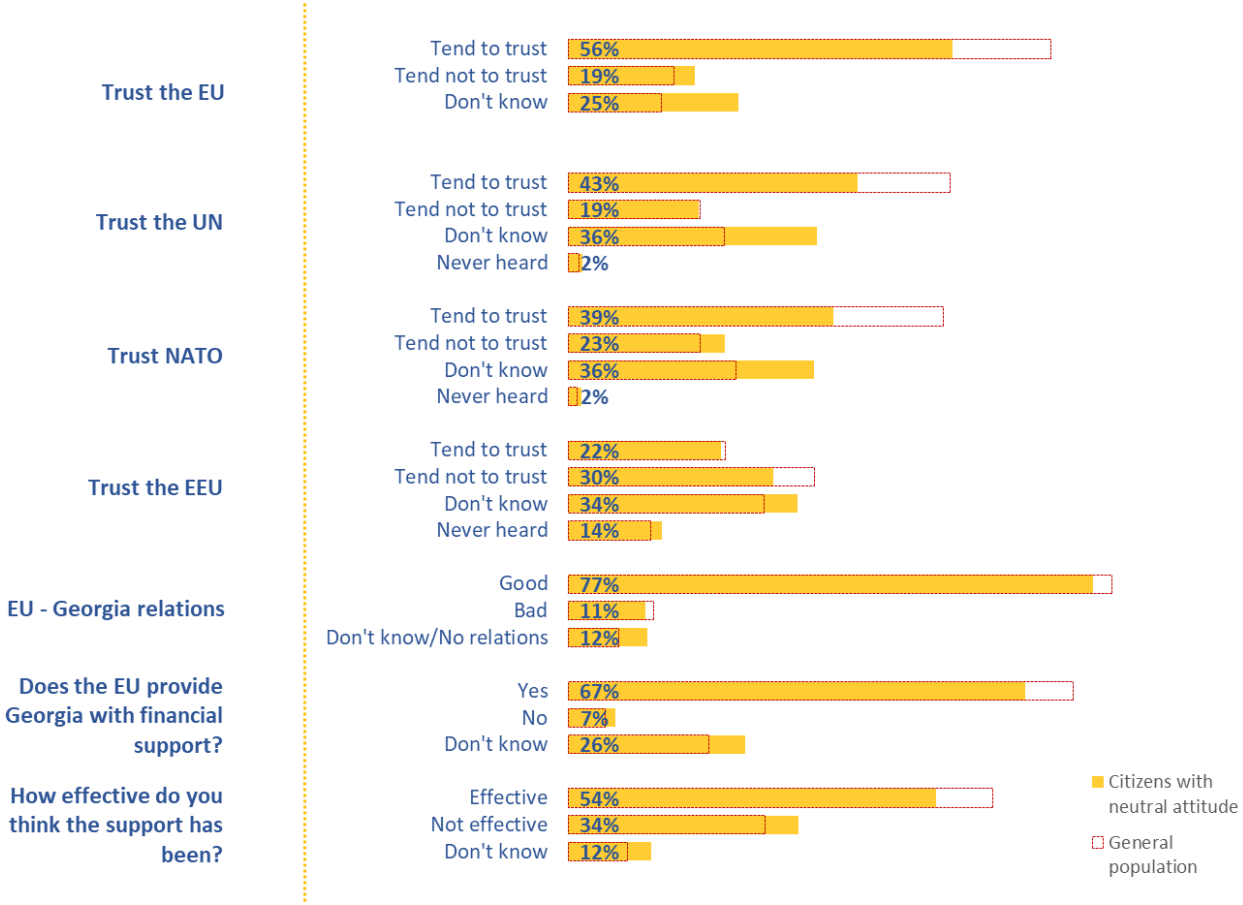
FIGURE 40 – Exposure to information about the EU and media usage among Georgians with a neutral image of the EU



Neutrally oriented citizens display a lower level of trust in all international institutions than the EU supporters: only 22% trust the Eurasian Economic Union, 39% NATO, 43% trust the United Nations and 56% trust the EU – that is however the most trusted and the only one trusted by more than half of this population. Lower levels of trust do not necessarily imply higher levels of distrust but they are definitely linked to indecision – matching the lower levels of passive and active exposure of neutrally oriented citizens on EU-related matters.

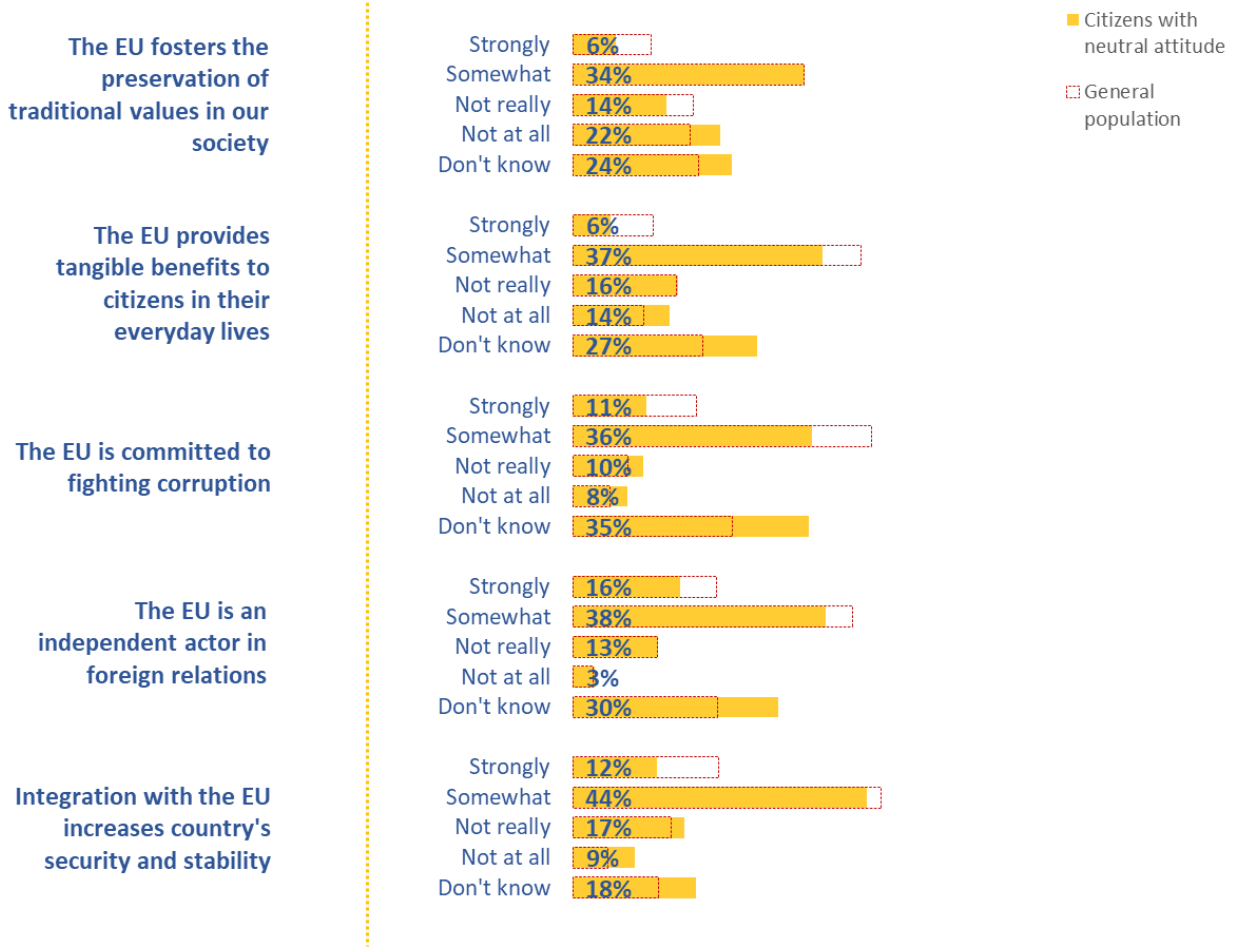
In fact, when it comes to acknowledging and evaluating the EU's financial support, neutral citizens are twice as likely not to be familiar with these issues than EU supporters – the share of 'don't know' responses is 26% and 12% respectively. Neutrally oriented citizens are also more critical with regard to the effectiveness of EU support – and 34% rated it as 'not effective'. However, 77% of neutral citizens would describe the relations between Georgia and the EU as 'good' – a figure very close to that of the general population (80%).

FIGURE 41 – Attitudes towards the EU among Georgians with a neutral image of the EU



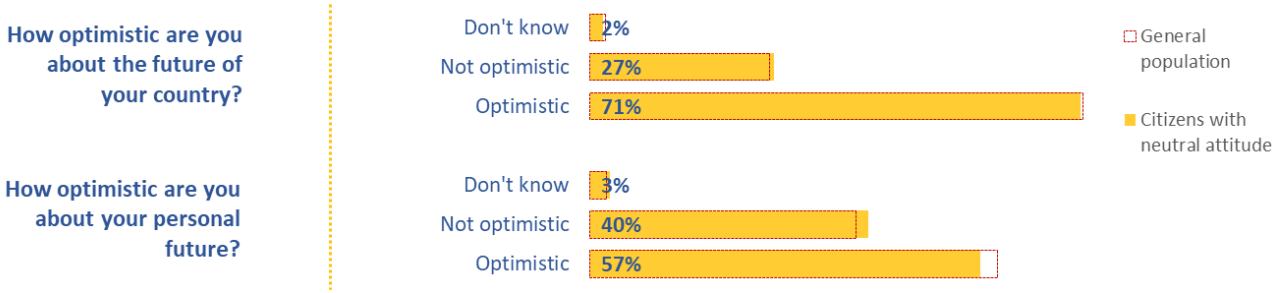
When it comes to the assessment of common beliefs, individuals holding a neutral image of the EU are again less likely to express their opinion, as well as to share a strong and positive vision of the EU. The highest share of strong approval was recorded for the statement 'the EU is an independent actor in foreign relations' (16%); whereas only 6% of neutrally oriented citizens 'strongly' agree with the fact that 'the EU fosters the preservation of traditional values in our society' and it 'provides tangible benefits to citizens in everyday life' – it is 27%, 18% and 19% respectively for EU supporters. Given that neutrally oriented citizens are more likely to be users of Russian media, it is highly probable that they are more influenced by anti-western narrative conveying the message that Europeanisation is a threat to Georgian culture and identity.

FIGURE 42 – Common beliefs by Georgians with a neutral image of the EU



Neutral individuals are less optimistic regarding their personal future (57%) than EU supporters (64%). In fact they seem particularly concerned about the economic situation; among the main issues 82% cited 'employment', 44% 'the economic crisis', 37% 'the low living standards and poverty' and 22% 'the unaffordability of healthcare'. Their concerns seem to echo the increase in poverty levels due to the significant increase in consumer prices (food, healthcare, transport) and the depreciation of national currency, which has particularly impacted on low-income families[39]. One in four individuals is also worried about 'territorial conflicts' and 3% about the possibility of a war. Both findings are consistent with the views of the general population.

FIGURE 43 – View of the future among Georgians with a neutral image of the EU



[39] See UNICEF Annual Report 2017 Georgia, https://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Georgia_2017_COAR.PDF, Gini Coefficients 2017, National Statistics Office of Georgia, http://www.geostat.ge/cms/site_images/_files/english/calendar/households/2017/Gini%20Coefficients_2017.xls; and Eastern Partnership Index 2017, Charting Progress in European Integration, Democratic Reforms, and Sustainable Development Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, 2018, https/eap-csf.eu/eastern-partnership-index/

5. Annex

TABLE 1 – Perceptions of the EU

Q2.1. Do you have a 'very positive', 'fairly positive', 'neutral', 'fairly negative' or 'very negative' image of the European Union?

		Positive	Neutral	Negative	Don't know / Never heard of the EU	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	54%	38%	4%	4%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	58%	32%	3%	8%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	44%	49%	6%	1%	**100%**
Gender	Male	51%	38%	8%	3%	**100%**
	Female	49%	47%	2%	2%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	52%	39%	7%	2%	**100%**
	35-54 years	47%	47%	4%	2%	**100%**
	55 years & above	49%	43%	3%	5%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	44%	46%	6%	4%	**100%**
	High level	63%	34%	2%	1%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	50%	44%	5%	1%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	50%	40%	5%	5%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	46%	47%	3%	4%	**100%**
	East	56%	37%	4%	3%	**100%**
	West	45%	46%	8%	1%	**100%**
Total		**49%**	**50%**	**43%**	**5%**	**100%**

TABLE 2 – Values associated with the EU

Q2.3. To what extent does the European Union represent the following values for you?

	Very strong	Strong	Weak	Very weak	Don't know	Total
Freedom of speech	22%	59%	12%	1%	6%	**100%**
Human Rights	19%	62%	11%	3%	5%	**100%**
Freedom of Religion	24%	56%	9%	2%	9%	**100%**
Democracy	17%	62%	10%	3%	8%	**100%**
Economic prosperity	21%	57%	12%	4%	6%	**100%**
Equality and social justice	14%	62%	14%	2%	8%	**100%**
Freedom of the media	17%	58%	12%	2%	11%	**100%**
Peace, Security and Stability	15%	58%	15%	4%	8%	**100%**
Rule of Law	18%	55%	13%	4%	10%	**100%**
Respect for other cultures, minorities	13%	60%	13%	4%	10%	**100%**
Individual Freedom	16%	57%	13%	2%	12%	**100%**
Honesty & Transparency	9%	50%	17%	6%	18%	**100%**
Absence of corruption	11%	40%	23%	5%	21%	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 3 – Trust towards the European Union

Q2.11. - I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in the EU. Please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it

		Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	77%	15%	8%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	69%	18%	13%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	67%	15%	18%	**100%**
Gender	Male	66%	24%	10%	**100%**
	Female	75%	8%	17%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	74%	18%	8%	**100%**
	35-54 years	71%	15%	14%	**100%**
	55 years & above	68%	13%	19%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	67%	17%	16%	**100%**
	High level	81%	12%	7%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	71%	15%	14%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	71%	16%	13%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	67%	14%	19%	**100%**
	East	76%	15%	9%	**100%**
	West	69%	17%	14%	**100%**
Total		**71%**	**15%**	**14%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 4 – Relations between the EU and Georgia

Q2.4. In general, how would you describe the relations that the European Union has with Georgia?

		Good	Bad	Don't know / No relations	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	80%	12%	8%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	84%	7%	9%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	79%	14%	7%	**100%**
Gender	Male	76%	17%	7%	**100%**
	Female	83%	9%	8%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	80%	13%	7%	**100%**
	35-54 years	78%	14%	8%	**100%**
	55 years & above	81%	11%	8%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	80%	12%	8%	**100%**
	High level	80%	14%	6%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	80%	14%	6%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	81%	10%	9%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	76%	16%	8%	**100%**
	East	80%	12%	8%	**100%**
	West	86%	8%	6%	**100%**
Total		**80%**	**13%**	**7%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 5 – Provision of financial support by the EU

Q2.5. As far as you know, does the European Union provide Georgia with financial support?					
		Yes	No	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	81%	4%	15%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	78%	5%	17%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	69%	6%	25%	**100%**
Gender	Male	70%	8%	22%	**100%**
	Female	77%	3%	20%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	72%	7%	21%	**100%**
	35-54 years	77%	4%	19%	**100%**
	55 years & above	74%	5%	21%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	70%	7%	23%	**100%**
	High level	84%	2%	14%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	81%	5%	14%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	64%	7%	29%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	74%	7%	19%	**100%**
	East	77%	6%	17%	**100%**
	West	70%	2%	28%	**100%**
Total		**74%**	**5%**	**21%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 6 – Effectiveness of the support

Q2.5.1. How effective do you think the support has been?					
		Effective	Not effective	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	62%	30%	8%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	50%	45%	5%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	66%	24%	10%	**100%**
Gender	Male	57%	34%	9%	**100%**
	Female	67%	24%	9%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	61%	30%	9%	**100%**
	35-54 years	61%	26%	13%	**100%**
	55 years & above	66%	31%	3%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	63%	28%	9%	**100%**
	High level	62%	31%	7%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	62%	29%	9%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	62%	29%	9%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	62%	30%	8%	**100%**
	East	65%	29%	6%	**100%**
	West	57%	28%	15%	**100%**
Total		**62%**	**29%**	**9%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who were aware of the EU's financial support

TABLE 7 – Programmes financed by the EU

Q2.6. Do you know of any specific programmes financed by the European Union in Georgia?		Yes	No	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	59%	41%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	67%	33%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	62%	38%	**100%**
Gender	Male	67%	33%	**100%**
	Female	57%	43%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	62%	38%	**100%**
	35-54 years	58%	42%	**100%**
	55 years & above	65%	35%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	55%	45%	**100%**
	High level	74%	26%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	66%	34%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	54%	46%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	67%	33%	**100%**
	East	62%	38%	**100%**
	West	51%	49%	**100%**
Total		**61%**	**39%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who were aware of the EU's financial support

TABLE 8 – Benefits from current EU support

Q2.8. To what extent would you say that Georgia has benefitted from the current European Union support in the following areas?	Very much	Fairly	Not very much	Not at all	Don't know	Total
More tourism	30%	55%	8%	2%	5%	**100%**
Improved quality of the justice system	15%	42%	18%	6%	19%	**100%**
Improved quality of health-care system	6%	51%	22%	10%	11%	**100%**
Improved infrastructure	6%	48%	26%	10%	10%	**100%**
Access to more products and services	6%	43%	20%	12%	19%	**100%**
Better education	7%	41%	24%	19%	9%	**100%**
Improved trade	4%	39%	26%	14%	17%	**100%**
Improved democracy	4%	38%	31%	14%	13%	**100%**
Improved agricultural production	3%	30%	32%	18%	17%	**100%**
Better law enforcement	2%	30%	28%	17%	23%	**100%**
Greater employment opportunities	3%	25%	28%	34%	10%	**100%**
Greater economic development	4%	26%	37%	23%	10%	**100%**
Less corruption	3%	25%	28%	19%	25%	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 9 – Areas in which the EU should play a greater role

Q2.9. Please tell us in which sectors you think the European Union should play a greater role		
	The specific item was selected as the first most important area	The specific item was selected as the first or second or third most important area
Promote economic development	18%	49%
Improve quality of health-care system	15%	39%
Create greater employment opportunities	14%	41%
Promote a better education	13%	36%
Improve agricultural production	7%	29%
Improve quality of the justice system	7%	18%
Improve infrastructure	6%	14%
Improve democracy	6%	13%
Reduce corruption	4%	11%
Increase tourism	4%	12%
Improve trade	2%	8%
Promote better law enforcement	2%	12%
Promote access to more products and services	1%	2%

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 10 – Type of media frequently used as source of information

		Type of media frequently used as source of information (Q3.8)				Word of mouth used as source of information (Q3.8)
		No media	Only traditional media	Social media or the Internet	Total	
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	10%	26%	64%	100%	**40%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	13%	33%	54%	100%	**51%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	12%	45%	43%	100%	**45%**
Gender	Male	14%	37%	49%	100%	**43%**
	Female	9%	37%	54%	100%	**45%**
Age group	15-34 years	14%	17%	69%	100%	**39%**
	35-54 years	11%	32%	57%	100%	**42%**
	55 years & above	9%	63%	28%	100%	**52%**
Education level	Low/medium level	15%	41%	44%	100%	**44%**
	High level	5%	26%	69%	100%	**45%**
Employment status	Employed/ Self-employed	10%	32%	58%	100%	**47%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	14%	43%	43%	100%	**41%**
Geographical area	Centre	14%	46%	40%	100%	**48%**
	East	10%	29%	61%	100%	**39%**
	West	11%	36%	53%	100%	**47%**
Total		**12%**	**37%**	**51%**	**100%**	**44%**

TABLE 11 – Frequent usage of media in Georgian, Russian and other languages

		Individuals that 'always' or 'often' use media		
		In national language	In Russian	In other foreign language
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	77%	13%	16%
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	68%	10%	8%
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	80%	13%	12%
Gender	Male	74%	15%	14%
	Female	80%	11%	12%
Age group	15-34 years	72%	8%	13%
	35-54 years	73%	17%	17%
	55 years & above	86%	13%	7%
Education level	Low/medium level	76%	11%	9%
	High level	81%	17%	22%
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	78%	12%	14%
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	76%	13%	10%
Geographical area	Centre	70%	15%	13%
	East	79%	12%	14%
	West	86%	9%	10%
Total		**77%**	**13%**	**13%**

TABLE 12 – Trust towards different type of media

Q3.9. & Q3.10. Which is your level of trust for following media as a source of information?				
	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Don't know	Total
Official EU websites	21%	8%	71%	**100%**
Television	69%	17%	14%	**100%**
Radio	20%	10%	70%	**100%**
Print media	25%	18%	57%	**100%**
Social media	42%	16%	42%	**100%**
Internet	45%	11%	44%	**100%**
Word of mouth	49%	29%	22%	**100%**
Country's media in Georgian	67%	17%	16%	**100%**
Country's media in Russian	14%	28%	58%	**100%**
Country's media in other languages	15%	22%	63%	**100%**
Foreign media in Russian	15%	27%	58%	**100%**
Foreign media in other languages	15%	22%	63%	**100%**

TABLE 13 – Exposure to information about the EU

Q3.2. Have you seen or heard any information about the EU in the last three months?				
		Yes	No	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	40%	60%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	33%	67%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	33%	67%	**100%**
Gender	Male	37%	63%	**100%**
	Female	34%	66%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	34%	66%	**100%**
	35-54 years	38%	62%	**100%**
	55 years & above	34%	66%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	30%	70%	**100%**
	High level	50%	50%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	37%	63%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	33%	67%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	41%	59%	**100%**
	East	40%	60%	**100%**
	West	17%	83%	**100%**
Total		**35%**	**65%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 14 – Representation of the EU in the national media

Q3.3. In general, how would you say the EU was presented in the national media?						
		Positive	Neutral	Negative	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	61%	32%	2%	5%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	51%	40%	0%	9%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	60%	27%	6%	7%	**100%**
Gender	Male	55%	31%	7%	7%	**100%**
	Female	62%	30%	1%	7%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	59%	28%	5%	8%	**100%**
	35-54 years	62%	29%	3%	6%	**100%**
	55 years & above	58%	34%	2%	6%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	57%	32%	5%	6%	**100%**
	High level	66%	25%	1%	8%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	60%	29%	6%	5%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	58%	32%	1%	9%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	57%	29%	5%	9%	**100%**
	East	64%	30%	1%	5%	**100%**
	West	54%	33%	7%	6%	**100%**
Total		**59%**	**30%**	**4%**	**7%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 15 – Accessing information about the EU

Q3.1. How often do you look for/access information on the EU?					
		Frequently	Not very frequently	Never	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	13%	44%	43%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	12%	48%	40%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	14%	31%	55%	**100%**
Gender	Male	15%	40%	45%	**100%**
	Female	12%	36%	52%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	11%	42%	47%	**100%**
	35-54 years	14%	41%	45%	**100%**
	55 years & above	15%	30%	55%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	11%	35%	54%	**100%**
	High level	20%	44%	36%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	14%	36%	50%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	13%	40%	47%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	15%	33%	52%	**100%**
	East	16%	42%	42%	**100%**
	West	6%	38%	56%	**100%**
Total		**13%**	**38%**	**49%**	**100%**

Percentages refer to Georgians who have heard of the EU

TABLE 16 – Satisfaction with democracy in Georgia

Q4.3. On the whole, are you 'very satisfied', 'fairly satisfied', 'not very satisfied' or 'not at all satisfied' with the way democracy works in Georgia?					
		Satisfied	Not satisfied	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	19%	79%	2%	**100%**
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	10%	88%	2%	**100%**
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	22%	74%	4%	**100%**
Gender	Male	18%	79%	3%	**100%**
	Female	21%	76%	3%	**100%**
Age group	15-34 years	27%	69%	4%	**100%**
	35-54 years	18%	81%	1%	**100%**
	55 years & above	13%	83%	4%	**100%**
Education level	Low/medium level	18%	78%	4%	**100%**
	High level	23%	76%	1%	**100%**
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	18%	81%	1%	**100%**
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	21%	74%	5%	**100%**
Geographical area	Centre	17%	80%	3%	**100%**
	East	21%	76%	3%	**100%**
	West	21%	77%	2%	**100%**
Total		**20%**	**77%**	**3%**	**100%**

TABLE 17 – Optimism regarding Georgia's future

Q4.5. How optimistic are you about the future of your country?					
		Optimistic	Pessimistic	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	54%	43%	3%	100%
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	52%	45%	3%	100%
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	64%	34%	2%	100%
Gender	Male	59%	38%	3%	100%
	Female	59%	39%	2%	100%
Age group	15-34 years	65%	33%	2%	100%
	35-54 years	57%	40%	3%	100%
	55 years & above	55%	42%	3%	100%
Education level	Low/medium level	56%	42%	2%	100%
	High level	69%	29%	2%	100%
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	64%	34%	2%	100%
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	53%	45%	2%	100%
Geographical area	Centre	60%	37%	3%	100%
	East	53%	45%	2%	100%
	West	69%	29%	2%	100%
Total		**59%**	**39%**	**2%**	**100%**

TABLE 18 – Optimism regarding personal future

Q4.6. How optimistic are you about your personal future?					
		Optimistic	Pessimistic	Don't know	Total
Settlement size	Equal to or more than 150,000 inhabitants	72%	24%	4%	100%
	Between 20,000 and 150,000 inhabitants	61%	38%	1%	100%
	Less than 20,000 inhabitants	74%	25%	1%	100%
Gender	Male	73%	25%	2%	100%
	Female	71%	27%	2%	100%
Age group	15-34 years	84%	14%	2%	100%
	35-54 years	72%	25%	3%	100%
	55 years & above	58%	40%	2%	100%
Education level	Low/medium level	68%	30%	2%	100%
	High level	81%	17%	2%	100%
Employment status	Employed / Self-employed	76%	22%	2%	100%
	Unemployed or temporarily not working / inactive	66%	32%	2%	100%
Geographical area	Centre	69%	30%	1%	100%
	East	70%	26%	4%	100%
	West	79%	19%	2%	100%
Total		**72%**	**26%**	**2%**	**100%**

ECORYS

Albert House, Quay Place
92-93 Edward Street
Birmingham
B1 2RA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 845 313 7455

Rue Belliard 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

T: +32 2 743 89 49

www.ecorys.com