EU4Business

Report Country

























2024











Table of Contents +

EU4Business Initiative: How EU supports SMEs in Georgia03
Digital transformation in the Eastern Partnership04
EU4Business Portfolio in 2024 in Georgia07
EU4Business Results
in Georgia in 202413
Disbursed budget
Results by Key Instruments18
Access to Finance
Business Development Services
Business Enabling Environment
ANNEX: List of projects in Georgia in 202423

EU4Business Initiative:

How the EU supports SMEs in Georgia

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Eastern Partnership region have the potential to create jobs and drive economic growth.

Obstacles such as limited access to finance, burdensome legislation and difficulties entering new markets are hindering their progress.

The European Union's EU4Business Initiative ultimately serves SMEs as the beneficiaries of EU support in the Eastern Partnership countries —



EU4Business supports SMEs by

Improving access to finance

Upgrading services to business

Promoting better business regulations

Access to Finance (A2F):

- concessionary loans via national banks
- micro financing for household businesses
- → small grants to SMEs
- training staff at national banks to better serve SMEs
- training SMEs in financial literacy

Business Development Services (BDS):

- providing direct advice and training to SMEs
- training and capacity-building among national business support organisations (BSOs)
- establishing business incubators for start-ups
- developing business clusters for mutual support and development
- supporting governments in identifying new markets
- building capacities at export support organisations

Business Enabling Environment (BEE):

- promoting regulatory reform and best practice
- building capacity amongst policy makers and regulators
- encouraging public-private dialogue
- informing business about reform processes and rules/ procedures

Innovation in the Eastern Partnership: driving modern economies

We would like to acknowledge EU4Digital for their insightful contributions to this article.



The digital economy in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries has been rapidly developing, driven by government policies, international support, and a growing techsavvy workforce. Moreover, the EaP countries are continuing to align their innovation and digital economies with EU standards.

Key focus areas include ICT innovation, digital infrastructure, e-governance, digital skills, harmonization of digital markets, and emerging technologies like AI and blockchain. Their initiatives boost start-ups, broadband connectivity, cybersecurity, digital trade, and e-services. As part of this process, the EaP countries have closely harmonised and integrated their digital policies into <u>national strategies</u>, which are often in alignment with the <u>EU's Digital Single Market Principles</u>.

While ICT has been a key driver of innovation across these countries, each has begun diversifying its focus areas, reflecting evolving priorities and emerging opportunities.



Armenia's growing high-tech sector

Armenia, with the growing engagement of local governments, is promoting the manufacturing of high-value, high-tech products, focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), Microelectronics, Advanced Robotics, Quantum Technologies, Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

In addition, as a part of its innovation drive, Armenia's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has seen **remarkable growth**, with an annual increase of 54.8%, contributing USD 1 billion (€850 million) in output. The presence of 200 research and development centres and over 7,800 registered companies employing more than 41,000 skilled professionals highlights Armenia's strong talent base and innovative environment.¹



Azerbaijan's digital ecosystem and cybersecurity focus

Simultaneously, Azerbaijan, also recognising the importance of fostering digital innovation, has prioritized the development of a robust digital ecosystem and infrastructure. The government launched the "Online Azerbaijan" project to provide high-speed internet access nationwide, aiming for completion by the end of 2024. Additionally, the establishment of the Azerbaijani Cybersecurity Centre, in collaboration with Azerbaijani conglomerate PASHA Holding and the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology, underscored the country's focus on enhancing cybersecurity and developing local expertise.







Georgia's accelerated start-up ecosystem

Georgia is set to accelerate its start-up ecosystem with the launch of its government-led GITA 2.0 in 2025, focusing on Artificial Intelligence, BioTech, and AgriTech, marking a structured commitment to tech-driven innovation. The initiative also includes: early-stage international acceleration programmes to boost start-up growth, tax incentives for innovative start-ups and SMEs, the establishment of Excellence Centres in priority technology fields, and the creation of a comprehensive digital platform to support the innovation ecosystem. Measures will be taken to assist Georgia in its drive to further enhance its e-governance capacity. By embracing tech-driven innovation, Georgia aims to position itself as a global technology leader, attracting international investment and fostering sustainable growth.



Ukraine's innovation amidst aggression

Spurred by its successful innovation drive in spite of continued Russian aggression, Ukraine has articulated a comprehensive vision through its WINWIN Global Innovation Strate-<u>au</u> 2030 — an ambitious blueprint for fostering innovation as a driver of economic recovery, sovereignty, and sustainable peace. It aims to create an environment where businesses, startups, researchers, investors, and international partners can thrive, contributing to Ukraine's economic advancement and global competitiveness. By 2030, the strategy envisions Ukraine as a European innovation hub, advancing key sectors such as AgriTech, MedTech, BioTech, DefenceTech, EdTech, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and GreenTech, signalling a determined move toward advanced technologies and strategic industries. Its successful Diia portal recently launched the Diia City initiative, offering tax incentives and a favourable regulatory environment for IT companies and start-ups.



Moldova's diversifying tech sector and digital trade

Moldova is also witnessing the growing diversification of its tech sector. Moldova's digital trade, supported by the government, focuses on boosting trade opportunities for local producers. Promising start-ups are emerging in AgriTech, FinTech, EdTech, game development, and digital media, illustrating a balanced effort to expand beyond traditional ICT. This transition highlights a common drive toward sectoral diversification, with tailored approaches to leverage each country's strengths and market dynamics.

At the heart of its economic growth and modernization commitment is Moldova's Innovation Technology Park, a flagship initiative designed to foster a thriving digital ecosystem by providing a competitive environment for IT businesses, streamlining corporate innovation, and attracting international investment. The government aims to accelerate the digitalisation of all economic sectors and public services, ensuring greater efficiency, transparency, and accessibility for businesses and citizens alike. By leveraging strategic partnerships and forward-thinking policies, Moldova is positioning itself as a regional hub for startups and digital innovation, reinforcing its ambition to create a sustainable and inclusive digital economy.

Government vs. Business-Led Innovation

These innovative focuses across the Armenian, Moldovan, Ukrainian, and Georgian innovation and start-up ecosystems have been shaped by a mix of private sector leadership and government involvement, but the degree of their influence varies. In Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine, entrepreneurship and business-led initiatives played a significant role in shaping the innovation landscape before government support expanded. While these countries experienced bottom-up development, in Georgia development has been more government-led, with entities like GITA and Enterprise Georgia steering innovation from the outset. However, in all EaP countries, government engagement has increased over time, with Moldova, Ukraine, and Armenia all witnessing the growing engagement of local governments.





European Union Support for EaP Innovation

In 2024, the **European Union** continued to strengthen its collaboration with the EaP countries in recognition of the importance of this innovation drive. A notable event was the Sixth Informal Working Group Meeting on Research and Innovation, held on 27-28 May in Vilnius, Lithuania. This meeting, hosted by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, brought together representatives of the five EaP nations to discuss ongoing and future cooperation in research and innovation.

The EU has also assisted in the EaP innovation evolution by launching its <u>EU4Innovation East</u> regional project, which is aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of the innovation and start-up ecosystem within the five countries of the Eastern Partnership (EaP): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Through strategic co-financing, capacity development, regulatory assistance, and a strong commitment to gender inclusion, EU4Innovation East aims to lay a foundation for sustainable, long-term growth in the region, ensuring that the innovation ecosystems are both inclusive and impactful.

Another important driver of digital innovation funded by the EU is the <u>EU4Digital</u> initiative, which aims to extend the **benefits of the EU's Digital Single Market** to the EaP countries. The overall goals of EU4Digital are to promote the digital transformation and harmonization of the digital markets in these partner countries. They aim to foster economic growth, create jobs, improve people's lives, and help businesses by reducing the prices of mobile services, further promoting affordable access to high-speed and

secure connectivity, strengthening cyber resilience in line with EU norms and best practices, and further harmonisina diaital frameworks across various sectors — from telecommunications and logistics, to health and e-commerce.

As part of its dissemination of model innovation strategies, the EU4Digital initiative released a report titled "Digital Innovation Clusters Development in the EaP: EU Best Practices in Cluster Management." This report analysed best practices in EU countries regarding the management and development of innovation clusters, with the aim of supporting the needs and capacities of cluster organizations within the EaP region.

As a part of their digitalisation and innovation efforts, the EaP countries are also focusing on IT exports by engaging in initiatives to increase the volume of cross-border trade and the speed of physical and digital processes and transactions, as well as harmonising the use of digital enablers, standards, and work practices among the EaP countries and with the EU.

The "Eastern Partnership Ready to Trade" project, under the EU4Business initiative, continually aims to enhance the focused integration of SMEs from the EaP countries into **alobal value chains**. The EU-supported project assisted SMEs in producing value-added goods that meet international and EU market standards, particularly in the agro-processing and textile sectors. Assistance included strengthening the capacity of local business support organizations to better serve SMEs.

EU4Business Portfolio in 2024 in Georgia



Total budget of EU support to SMEs in Georgia in 2024

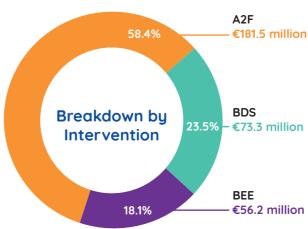
€311.0 million

54 projects

projects provided support to SMEs in Georgia in 2024

Breakdown by intervention +





The number of projects rose from 50 in 2023, and the budget, at €311 million, was almost €3 million higher than the previous year. There was some change in the split between the three pillars: A2F remained almost the same, but there was a shift from BDS to BEE, which in 2023 had accounted for 24.6% and 16.6% of the budget respectively. This shift was linked to the prospect of Georgia's accession to the EU and the additional legislative and regulatory processes that this will entail, requiring greater attention to strengthening the capacity of government institutions.

Overview by type of intervention \triangleleft



Access to Finance

EU support allocated to unlock access to finance in Georgia in 2024 £181.5 million

Allocation of A2F portfolio by instrument

A1 €9.1 million	5.0%			Capped Loss Recovery
A2 €7.1 million	3.9%			Interest Subsidy
A3 €5.8 million	3.2%			TA to PFIs
A4 €25.5 million		14.09	%	Capped Guarantees
A5 €2.2 million	1.2%			Currency Hedging Subsidy
A6 €35.9 million			19.8%	SME Incentive Grants
A7 €19.5 million		10.8%		Grants to SMEs
A8 €58.0 million				32.0% Structured Funds
A9 €18.4 million		1	0.1%	Equity



There was no change in the budget for A2F in 2023 and little alteration in the shares of the various instruments. Grants in various forms remained significant at 30.6% of the budget, while, as in previous years, structured funds took first place at 32%. The corresponding figures in 2023 were 29.9% and 32%, respectively.

Success stories

EU4Business helps Georgian cable producer go solar

Founded in 1957, Sakcable became Georgia's first cable producer and now offers 75 cable types. The company leads the local market with eight showrooms and exports to EU countries, meeting European standards since 2018. Supported by the EU4Business-EBRD credit line, Sakcable invested in a 500 kW solar power plant, supplying a third of its energy and cutting costs. This green move inspired the launch of the certified "Solar" cable for the EU market. Sakcable continues expanding to replace imports and grow internationally with high-quality Georgian-made products.





Types of Support Included in Access To Finance

Capped Loss Recovery

This is a risk-sharing instrument in the form of a grant that the EU provides to an IFI. This grant is used by the IFI to partially cover the loss that any PFI, such as a local bank, would carry as a result of an SME not repaying part or all of its loan. This means that if an SME does not pay back the loan to the local bank, the EU grant for capped loss recovery can actually cover half of the loss of the bank. In this way, the local banks are more willing to disburse loans to SMEs, which are generally perceived as high-risk borrowers.

Interest Subsidu

This instrument is a grant given by the EU to IFIs in order to lower the cost of their loans to SMEs in the EaP. The grant provides interest subsidies of up to 10%, which is applied to the regular interest rate at which the IFI lends to PFIs and further on to SMEs. The purpose of this instrument is to lower the final cost of finance for SMEs in the EaP.

Targeted Assistance (TA) to PFIs

This instrument consists of consultancy services, mentoring, and specialised training provided to the local banks. It helps the local banks better understand the policies and procedures of the IFIs and improves the capacity of the local banks in their work with

Α4

Capped Guarantees

This instrument consists of a guarantee given to IFIs in order to lower the risk of lending to SMEs via local PFIs. The guarantees reduce the need of SMEs to provide extensive collateral for loans from the local banks. These guarantees are generally capped at up to 25% of the total portfolio of the local bank and generally 70%-80% of each individual subloan.

Currency Hedging Subsidy

This instrument is given to IFIs to enable them to disburse loans to PFIs (and ultimately to SMEs) in local currency as there is a risk from fluctuations in exchange rates. Due to the EU grant, the IFIs and subsequently the PFIs can offer loans in local currency to SMEs at a more competitive price, as the banks will not need to add the costs of protecting themselves from adverse changes in the exchange rates to the charges that they levy from the SMEs.

A6

SME Incentive Grants

SMEs sign a loan contract from one of the credit lines of the IFIs via the PFIs. After the loan is disbursed, there is a verification process to check if the loan was used for the purpose listed in the business plan. Once the verification report confirms compliance, a part of the loan is transformed into a grant, so that the total "cost" of financing is lowered. The most common incentive grants are between 10% and 15% of the loan value.

Grants to SMEs

These grants are non-reimbursable and generally modest in value in order to support as many SMEs as possible. In general, SME grants are disbursed to target specific economic development goals such as development in rural greas, poor communities, or a response to various types of crises. These grants are usually disbursed through Non-governmental Agencies (NGOs) with links to targeted communities.

Structured Funds

Typically, this involves direct loans or equity investment in a financial instrument or fund by the EU, rather than working in partnership with IFIs and PFIs. As the EU does not have the capacity to disburse direct loans to SMEs, this function is assigned to an intermediary. The most important EU investment in Direct Finance is shares in the European Fund for Southeastern Europe (EFSE).

A9

Equity

Equity is a direct investment instrument for funding SMEs by buying participation (shares) in the respective business, when it is a in the form of a company. This type of support instrument involves more risk and for now it is only active in Armenia, where the EU provides a first loss guarantee for the Amber Equity Fund that invests equity in SMEs of Armenia.

Business Development Services

EU support allocated to improving business development services in Georgia in 2024 €73.3 million

Allocation of BDS portfolio by instrument

B1	€51.5 million			70.1%	Consultancy Services for SMEs
B2	€15.7 million		21.4%	Co	apacity Building of BSOs
B 3	€2.1 million	2.9%			Incubators
B4	€0.4 million	0.6%			Clusters
B 5	€1.3 million	1.8%			Trade Information
B 6	€1.1 million	1.5%			B2B Activities
B7	€1.2 million	1.7%			Export Strategies



The BDS budget fell slightly compared with 2023, when it had been €75.8 million, but this was not a major change. As in previous years, consultancy services to SMEs took first place (70% in 2023), but there were changes in the shares of the other instruments. The main beneficiary of these shifts was capacity building for BSOs, where the share rose from 14.5% to 21.4%. Much of this increase came at the expense of work with clusters, whose share fell from 9.1% in 2023 to 0.6% in 2024.

Success stories

EU4Business helps growing businesses of women entrepreneurs in rural Georgia

Guruli Ezos Satburi — a greenhouse business launched by Irma Chaladze in the village of Erkneti – is thriving with support from the EU4Business project. After moving from Rustavi, Chaladze bought a secondhand greenhouse and began supplying greens to local vendors. Through project-supported trainings, she gained the skills to expand her business and explore agrotourism. She now hosts international guests for hands-on workshops and plans to develop seasonal experiences, hoping to bring new life to her village and inspire others to follow her path.

Read full story



Types of Support Included in Business Development Services

B1

Consultancy Services for SMEs The EU4Business Initiative aims to increase directly the knowledge and skills of SMEs in the EaP countries through the direct provision (fully or partly paid) of non-financial business services. These can range from basic start-up and registration, accounting, marketing, input supply to technology and product development, training and technical assistance, infrastructure support, and advocacy. These services can be delivered through both international and/or local consultants, in both private firms/individuals, and/or business support organisations.

B2

Capacity Building of BSOs This instrument aims at increasing the capacity of Business Support Organisations (such as chambers of commerces, SME associations, professional bodies, sector trade associations, training institutes, etc.) to deliver BDS services to SMEs. The capacity building is achieved though mentoring, training trainers, advisory services, and study tours that enhance existing services, create new ones, or improve organisational structures.

B3

Incubators

A business incubator is an organisation designed to accelerate the growth and success of entrepreneurial companies through an array of business support resources and services that could include physical space, capital, coaching, common services, and networking connections.

B4

Clusters

This instrument involves group support to SMEs involved in the same field of activity but at different positions in the value chain or with common interests. The basis of the cluster approach is the synergy of creating a more effective value chain within the cluster.

B5

Trade Information This instrument provides SMEs already exporting, exporting infrequently, or those interested in exporting with the range of information needed to move closer to exports. This instrument can include producing brochures, guides, market report or developing tools for accessing online resources and intelligent searches. It covers market information, marketing guides, and market access requirements.

B6

Business to Business (B2B) Activities The instrument helps SMEs to make specific contact with nominally interested buyers in the target export markets. This can include participation in online buyer auctions, trade fairs, inward and outward trade missions, buyer meetings, etc. EU support can range from organisation, logistics, preparation and advice, as well as covering the costs of travel and/or stand and event costs.

B7

Export Strategies This instrument is typically based on studies, analysis, and stakeholder consultation that assesses national production, market requirements, and export constraints. Working with government and stakeholders, it builds a common sector or national approach to develop the exports of competitive products in the target markets. In addition, this instrument can also include support in coordination with implementation of the strategy itself as well as national visibility and branding, support programmes, and stakeholder dialogue.

10 EU4Business Portfolio in 2024 in Georgia EU4Business Portfolio in 2024 in Georgia

Business Enabling Environment

EU support allocated to improving the business enabling environment in Georgia in 2024

€56.2 million

BEE Portfolio by Instrument in Georgia

C1 €22.7 million		40.5%	Capacity Building of Policymakers / Regulators
C2 €6.8 million	12.1%		Public-Private Dialogue
C3 €21.7 million	38.6%		Regulatory Reform
C4 €5.0 million	8.8%		Information and Communication to SMEs



A larger share of resources was allocated to capacity building for policymakers and regulators than in 2023 (36.3%), along with increased investment in regulatory reform (34.2% in 2023). This represented a shift away from public-private dialogue (8.8% in 2023) and information and communications (10.7% in 2023). This greater emphasis was most likely linked to the start of the process of closer alignment with the EU.

Types of Support Included in Business Enabling Environment

C1

Capacity Building of Policymakers and Regulators EU4Business interventions aim at strengthening the capacity of staff of various government agencies to ensure better, more transparent, and open policies and regulations that affect business, whilst ensuring appropriate controls in the five EaP countries. This can include making and amending policies, laws, and administrative procedures based on need and risk assessment. EU4Business interventions deliver direct advisory, mentoring services, and study tours to the relevant staff involved in policymaking.

C2

Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) PPD is an instrument for more inclusive and targeted policymaking. Specifically, it involves effective consultation and collaboration between government and the private sector and/or its representatives, in order to achieve effective reform and administration of regulations that affect SMEs.

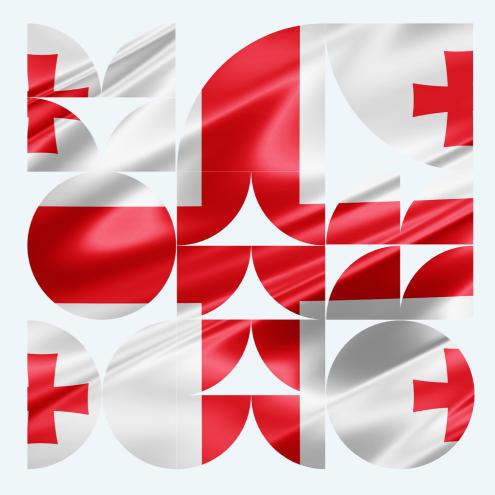
C3

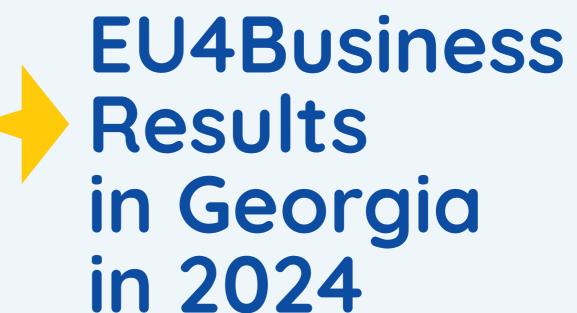
Regulatory Reform Through this instrument, EU4Business interventions support the EaP countries to improve the regulatory environment based on the best practices and to align their SME related legislations, rules, and regulations with those of the EU. Approximation occurs in all five EaP countries, but it is more intensely applied in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as they are future member states of the EU.

C4

Information and Communication to SMEs

EU4Business interventions support governments to inform SMEs on reforms and implications for their business and steps to compliance with regulatory reform.





Disbursed budget



€44.6 million

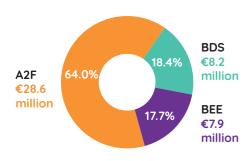
nillion

26.39

disbursed to support SME growth in Georgia in 2024

out of total budget disbursed in the EaP

Disbursed budget per pillar in 2024



At €44.6 million, disbursements in 2024 were only marginally higher than in 2023 (€43.8 million). The share of A2F increased compared with 2023 (52.9%), resulting in reductions in the shares of the other two pillars: BDS, down from 24.8%, and BEE, down from 22.2%. However, as disbursements are rarely linear, the significance of this shift should not be overstated.

Number of SMEs supported (



40,801

SMEs supported by the EU in Georgia in 2024

→

50.9

out of total EU-supported SMEs in the EaP

+

The EU4Business Initiative supported 40,801 MSMEs in 2024, up slightly from 39,072 in 2023.

Supported SMEs by pillar:



Women in business



32.3%



Share of women-owned/ managed enterprises in Georgia in 2024 The results for 2024 show a decline from the 2023 figure of 40.4% for the share of MSMEs receiving support that were owned or managed by women. However, it is more important to compare the EU4Business share with that of women in MSMEs in Georgia overall, where estimates indicate that one in three businesses are owned or managed by women .

SME turnover



Turnover of EU-supported SMEs in Georgia in 2024

€2,331.8 →

23.4%

out of total income generated by EU-supported SMEs in the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{EaP}}$

Increase in SMEs' turnover

12.6%

Average growth of EU-supported SMEs in Georgia in 2024

Increase in turnover by pillar

11.4%

BDS

14.8%

Average income per SME supported

€50,745



Business remained strong, and the turnover results for 2024 exceeded the €1.8 billion achieved in 2023. This can be regarded as the prime overall indicator of the Initiative's results in Georgia.

Exports

Value of exports for supported SMEs

€188.6 million →



out of total EU exports in the EaP

Increase in volume of export

12.6%

Increase in volume of exports by pillar

10.5% 16.2%

EU-supported SMEs that started exporting activities in Georgia



18.0%

out of total EU new exporters in the EaP

Increase in new exporters by pillar



Exports were lower than the €309.3 million achieved in 2023, suggesting that the growth in turnover reflects supported MSMEs developing more in the domestic market than internationally.

Success stories

EU4Business strengthens the Georgian Tourism Association

The Georgian Tourism Association (GTA), led by Nata Kvachantiradze, unites private tourism companies across the country. With the EU4Business support, GTA representatives took study trips to Spain, Hungary, and Estonia to learn about tourism innovation and development. As a result, GTA launched a digital transformation committee and training programmes to boost members' digital skills. The association also contributed to shaping Georgia's new Tourism Law to improve regulations for organised tourism activities.



Read full story

16

Employment and job creation

Number of new jobs created in supported SMEs

51,976



43.0%

new jobs created by EUsupported SMEs in Georgia out of total new jobs created in the EaP

Increase in staff

37.8%

Breakdown of job creation by pillar



17

out of total new jobs created in the EaP

2,611



out of total new jobs created in the EaP

The EU4Business Initiative enabled a higher level of new job creation in 2024 (51,976) than in 2023 (36,973), reflecting the higher turnover and increased demand for labour among supported MSMEs. This, in turn, was facilitated primarily by improved access to finance.

Number of sustained jobs

189,37



EU-supported SMEs in Georgia

out of total sustained jobs in the EaP

Average jobs per **SME** supported



The number of sustained jobs rose by just under 13,000 from the 2023 total of 176,712. The long-term impact of the new jobs created in 2024 will become clearer when the 2025 results are reviewed.



Results by Key Instruments

Results in Access to Finance

Disbursed budget in A2F 👇

£28.6 million EU funds disbursed for improving access to finance for SMEs in Georgia

of the total disbursed A2F budget in 2024

With €23.2 million disbursed on A2F in 2023, 2024 saw an effective increase of over €5 million. This was a major driver of the growth in turnover and job creation during the year.

Overall results in A2F

SMEs supported with A2F interventions

or managed by women

our of total A2F supported in the EaP

supported

49,365

A2F-supported SMEs

A2F-supported SMEs

Success stories

Building beehives, practising safe food production, establishing connections

In the remote village of Khulo, Zebur lakobadze is keeping his family's beekeeping tradition alive — now with modern tools and EU support. The EU4Business grant helped him purchase woodworking equipment, transforming his barn into a workshop and reducing hive-building time from days to just hours. With this support, Zebur has built 150 beehives, expanded honey production, and started selling at farmers' markets. EU-supported training also strengthened his skills in food safety and business development.

Read full story

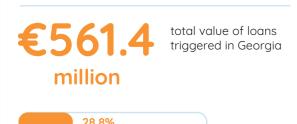


Results by Key Instruments

Grants and loans received

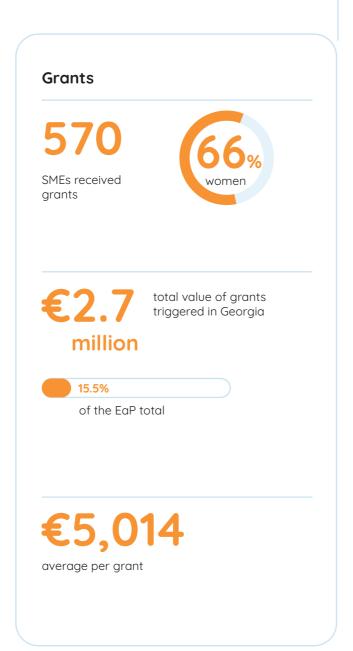


Loans SMEs received loans



of the EaP total

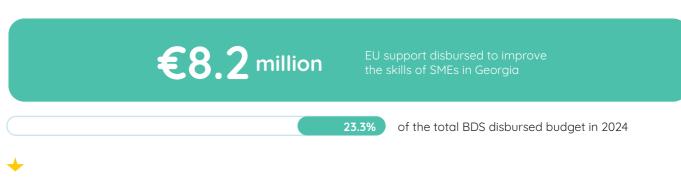
€17,341 average size of loan



Approximately €20 million was triggered in 2024 above the 2023 level, but the number of borrowers changed little. Grant financing remained modest, given the improved access to debt financing through the 13 supported PFIs. A2F accounted for four out of every five new jobs created.

Results in Business Development Services

Disbursed budget in BDS 👇



The lower BDS budget in 2024 compared with 2023 was reflected in more modest BDS-attributable results.

Overall results in A2F







The number of MSMEs benefitting from BDS instruments declined from the 2023 total of 21,426, and the number of new jobs was about half that of the previous year.

Results in Business Enabling Environment

Disbursed budget in BEE 🔶



EU support disbursed to improve the business

of the total BEE disbursed budget in 2024

Regulators/governments capacitated



government institutions, including policy-makers, regulators and enforcement agencies had their capacities improved

out of total in the EaP

Laws/regulations changed



procedures reformed

out of total in the EaP

Public private dialogue events held 👇



public-private dialogue events

out of total in the EaP



Although the BEE budget was reduced from the 2023 level of €9.7 million, achievements remained significant, driven by the broader EU accession agenda. There was greater concentration on a smaller number of regulators than in 2023, and the number of new normative acts also declined. On the other hand, Georgia continued to be characterised by a very active process of public-private dialogue, with events only slightly reduced from the 215 held in 2023.

Annex 1: List of projects in Georgia in 2024

Title	Total	Start		Type of the	Areas of Intervention			
	Budget	date	date	Project	A2F	BDS	BEE	
Sustainable and Inclusive Irrigated Agriculture Development Programme in Georgia	€18,107,000	2024	2030	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Inclusive Access to Markets	€5,000,000	2023	2027	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Creative Compass Georgia	€4,650,000	2023	2027	Bilateral	•	•	•	
GREEN – Global Resilience and Environmental Empowerment Nurturing	€719,841	2024	2027	Bilateral	•	•	•	
QUIS – Better Goods and Services	€11,525,000	2024	2027	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Administration Agreement between the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development concerning the Part II Europe 2020 Programmatic Single- Donor Trust Fund (No. 074061)	€3,000,000	2023	2026	Bilateral		•	٠	
Inclusive Growth through Sustainable and Green Business Practices in Georgia	€879,100	2024	2026	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Promoting Green Skills for Sustainability (PROGRESS)	€776,700	2024	2026	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Support to SME Digitalisation	€6,000,000	2023	2026	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Capacitated Agricultural Practices and Consumer Awareness (CAPCA)	€1,762,266	2023	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Green Guria: Supporting Local Democracy and Rural Development for Inclusive and Resilient Green Growth	€2,000,000	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•	
Accelerated Rural Development in Imereti & Kakheti	€2,976,868	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•	
European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia (Phase IV) Budget Support Contract	€31,000,000	2020	2025	Bilateral		•	•	
Support to the Food Safety and Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Sector in Georgia under ENPARD IV (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development in Georgia Phase IV)	€9,000,000	2021	2025	Bilateral	•	•	•	

23

22 Annex 1: List of projects in Georgia in 2024 Results by Key Instruments

Title	Total Budget	Start		Type of the	Areas of Intervention		
		date	date	Project	A2F	BDS	BEE
Catalysing Economic and Social Life in EU Focal Regions of Georgia	€4,500,000	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	
Strengthening the Capacity of the Market Surveillance Agency of Georgia	€1,200,000	2023	2025	Bilateral			•
Joint EU-UN Programme for Rural Development in Abkhazia, Phase III (ENPARD IV)	€1,750,000	2022	2025	Bilateral	•	•	
Strengthening Capacity of the Competition Agency of Georgia	€1,200,000	2022	2024	Bilateral			٠
Ensuring further progress of SPS and food safety system in Georgia	€1,450,000	2020	2024	Bilateral			•
Strengthening of institutional as well as human capacities of Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) according to the international/EU best practices	€1,400,000	2021	2024	Bilateral			
Economic Development of Oni Municipality via Business Clusters Creation and Investment Attraction	€315,262	2022	2024	Bilateral		•	
Bolnisi Business Model-Expanding Success and Inspiring Local Governments for Economic Development	€150,000	2022	2024	Bilateral		•	٠
EFSE – EU4Business: Local Currency Lending to MSEs in the Eastern Partnership	€39,921,000	2020	2041	Regional	•		
Promoting Green Lending in the Eastern Partnership	€32,855,000	2020	2040	Regional	•		
GGF L Shares for Georgia: Promoting Green Local Currency Lending	€10,355,000	2019	2040	Regional	•		
EU4Business – The EU Local Currency Partnership Initiative: the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)	€50,320,000	2018	2039	Regional	•		
2018 NIP decision share – Green for Growth – Extension to Neighbourhood East II	€5,162,849	2018	2039	Regional	•		
Green for Growth – Extension to Neighbourhood East II	€6,157,151	2018	2039	Regional	•		
"EU4Business Guarantee Facility" financed from the general budget of the European Union under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform	€41,495,000	2020	2035	Regional	•		
EIB-04 SME Finance Facility – EIB window	€5,100,000	2010	2030	Regional	•		
EFSD - FMO Guarantee for Georgia	€1,230,000	2023	2030	Regional	•		
EU EBRD Local Currency Initiative	€6,216,000	2021	2030	Regional	•		
DCFTA SME Direct Finance Facility	€10,220,000	2014	2029	Regional	•	•	

Title	Total Budget	Start		Type of the	Areas of Intervention		
	Budget	date	date	Project	A2F	BDS	BEE
Women in Business Phase II	€8,440,000	2021	2027	Regional	•	•	
DCFTA Initiative East (EIB) (can also be referred to as DCFTA Facility by EIB)	€62,746,000	2016	2028	Regional	•	•	
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (SME Competitiveness Programme in Eastern Partnership – 2019 funds)	€42,675,049	2019	2028	Regional	•		
EFSD+EBRD Guarantee for Georgia	€1,770,000	2023	2028	Regional	•		
EFSD Proparco Guarantee Georgia	€3,100,000	2023	2028	Regional	•		
FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (FINTECC) – EU4CLIMATE window	€15,400,000	2020	2027	Regional	•		
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Facility, EBRD DCFTA Programme)	€38,900,000	2017	2027	Regional	•	•	
PROPARCO Guarantee Program	€10,650,000	2022	2027	Regional	•		
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (SME Competitiveness Programme in Eastern Partnership – 2018 funds)	€52,908,951	2019	2026	Regional	•		
EBRD Advice for Small Businesses, Team Europe EaP window	€14,976,000	2020	2026	Regional		•	
EU4Business EBRD Credit line (EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) Facility, EBRD DCFTA Programme)	€19,430,000	2016	2026	Regional		•	•
EU-EBRD Country-specific Investment Climate Reviews and Action Plans for Eastern partnership (EaP) countries Phase II	€1,200,000	2022	2025	Regional			•
Mayors for Economic Growth 2 TA	€10,000,000	2021	2024	Regional		•	•
EU4BUSINESS: Connecting Companies	€6,498,205	2019	2024	Regional		•	
EU4Business: From Policies to Action Phase II	€2,900,000	2020	2024	Regional			•
Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk	€3,700,000	2019	2024	Regional		•	
EU4Environment – Mainstreaming and Circular Economy – Results 1 and 2	€9,700,000	2018	2024	Regional		•	•
Structural Reform Facility: World Bank component	€1,500,000	2018	2024	Regional			•
"EU4Innovation East" Support to Digital innovation in the Eastern Partnership region	€20,000,000	2024	2028	Regional		•	•
Green for Growth Fund – Technical Assistance Contribution for the East	€3,900,000	2024	2045	Regional	•	•	•
Strengthening Intellectual Propriety Rights in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine	€2,800,000	2024	2027	Regional			•

EU4Business

