

Mobility Partnership

<http://www.eu-nato.gov.ge/en/eu/mobility-partnership>

The cooperation within the framework of Mobility Partnership is one of the most important directions in Georgia-EU relations, which aims to combat illegal migration and promote legal migration, including through "circular migration" scheme.

On May 16, 2007 the European Commission published a communiqué about "Circular migration and mobility partnerships between the European Union and the third Countries", which aims to develop close cooperation on migration issues with the EU and partner countries, to manage the flow of migration (registering, monitoring, analyzing, policy-making) and to enhance opportunities for legal movement as well as the effectiveness of fighting against illegal migration.

On June 5-6, 2008, the outset of consultations on mobility issues with Georgia was decided by the European Union at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting.

The Joint Declaration on Mobility Partnership between Georgia and the 16 EU Member States was signed on November 30, 2009.

On February 16, 2010, the cooperation within the EU initiative Mobility Partnership between Georgia and the EU was officially launched during the visit of the European Commission delegation.

The Mobility Partnership initiative aims to cooperate on migration issues such as: migration management, labour migration, readmission, reintegration, diaspora, document security, integral migration database and information exchange with the EU, labour market and recognition of professional qualifications.

It is noteworthy, that the cooperation within the Mobility Partnership initiative promotes legal employment in the EU countries through so called "circular migration". This framework allows Georgian citizens to work legally, study, get trained, and then return to Georgia. The aforementioned framework aims close cooperation with representatives of Georgian Diaspora.

For further development of the partnership cooperation Architecture and a Scoreboard have been developed to monitor the implementation process. It is presented in the form of a matrix and provides detailed information on completed, ongoing and future activities under the partnership. The scoreboard is a renewable document and is updated by the parties in accordance to the progress achieved.

As of today the Mobility Partnership scoreboard includes 26 completed, 17 ongoing and 9 future initiatives.

In order to identify priority areas of the cooperation under Mobility Partnership, the Declaration foresees conducting high-level meetings between Georgia and European Union. On September 15, 2010 and April 22, 2016, the parties conducted two high-level meetings in Brussels.

Mobility Partnership also involves working with the local cooperation platform in Georgia, which consists of representatives from European Commission, EU Member States, EU Delegation to

Georgia, Georgian government agencies and international organizations. On 30 January 2012, the Office of State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic integration organized the first meeting of the local cooperation platform, where the parties discussed cooperation in the framework of Mobility partnership, results achieved and future opportunities for enhancing cooperation. The next meeting of the local cooperation platform is scheduled in 2017.

An important step within the Mobility Partnership cooperation was an Agreement between Georgia and France on Circular Migration and Residence of the Professional Workers, signed on 12 November 2013. The main component of the agreement is establishing legal employment opportunity for Georgian citizens (500 persons) in accordance with demanded professions and quotas in the French labour market. The agreement also aims to grant temporary residence permit to Georgian specialists and students, to exchange and improve the qualification of young specialists (150 persons).