

Telephone survey on disinformation and media consumption

Hello, I represent the Caucasus Research Resource Centers, a non-profit independent research center in Georgia. It is an independent, non-profit research center that collects, analyzes and publishes data on various important issues.

Your telephone numbers been selected randomly. Your opinions are very important for the reliability of the results. Your name will not be linked to the responses recorded on this survey, nor will researchers be able to link your identity or address to the responses recorded. This interview will approximately take about 15 minutes.

Do you agree to participate?

Yes	1
No	0

Demographics

1. Age
2. Gender
3. Region
4. Settlement type
5. **There are many ethnic groups living in Georgia. To which ethnic group do you belong?**
[Interviewer! Do not read. Match. Only one answer.]

Georgian	1
Armenian	2
Azerbaijani	3
Other	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

6. **What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

[Interviewer! Do not read. Match. Only one answer.]

I have not completed nine years of schooling	1
I have completed nine years of schooling	2
Secondary school leaving certificate (11 or 12 years)	3
Vocational/technical education diploma	4
Bachelor's degree or 5-year diploma	5
Any degree above a bachelor's degree	6

<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

7. What is your employment status?

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

I am retired and not working	1
I am a student and not working	2
I am a housewife and not working	3
I am unemployed	4
I work full or part-time in the public sector (even when the respondent is retired/student), including seasonal work	5
I work full or part-time in the private sector (even when the respondent is retired/student), including seasonal work	6
I am self-employed (even when the respondent is retired/student), including seasonal work	7
I am disabled and cannot work	8
Other	9
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

8. In which group does your family's total monthly income, that is, the income received by all members of your family, after deducting income and other taxes, including pensions and social assistance, fall?

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

Less than 2000 GEL	1
2000 GEL or more	2
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

9. In the past year, apart from special events such as weddings or funerals, how often did you attend religious services?

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

At least once a week	1
At least once a month	2
Only on special religious holidays	3
More rarely	4
Never	5
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

Media consumption habits

10. How often do you follow the news? By news, we mean any kind of news, including news about sports, weather, politics, current affairs, or any other topic that you may receive through print media, television, radio, or social media.

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

At least once a day	1	
Once every two or three days	2	
At least once a week	3	
Less than once a week	4	
Never	5	Skip to Q12
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1	
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2	

11. Which TV channel do you mainly use to get news? This includes getting news on TV, the Internet, social networks, or YouTube.

[Interviewer! Do not read out. Match up to three answers.] [Programming instructions: Rotate list]

Imedi	1
Mtavari TV	2
Formula TV	3
Caucasus TV	4
Rustavi 2	5
First Channel (Public Broadcaster)	6
Maestro	7
Adjara Television	8
Obiektivi TV	9
Palitra TV	10

TV Pirveli	11
Euronews	12
PosTV	13
Alt-Info	14
Other	15
<i>(I do not watch news programs either on TV or on the Internet)</i>	-5
<i>(I do not know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

11A. Do you trust the TV channel you named?

[If they name one TV channel]

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

Yes	1
No	0
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

11B. Of the TV channels through which you get your news, which one do you trust the most?

[If they name two or more TV channels]

[Interviewer! Mark only one answer]

Imedi	1
Mtavari TV	2
Formula TV	3
Caucasus TV	4
Rustavi 2	5
First Channel (Public Broadcaster)	6
Maestro	7
Adjara Television	8
Obiektivi TV	9
Palitra TV	10
TV Pirveli	11
Euronews	12
PosTV	13
Alt-Info	14
None	-1

12. When it comes to social and political developments, whose information do you trust the most?
[Interviewer! Read out. Mark a maximum of 3 answers.] [Programming instructions: Randomize the list]

Family members / relatives / friends / co-workers	1
Religious leaders / church	2
Government representatives	3
Opposition representatives	4
Celebrities / influencers	5
Other (specify)	6
I do not trust any source	-5
<i>(Do not know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

13. Which of the political parties in Georgia is closest to your views? „Georgian Dream“ or any party other than Georgian Dream?

[Interviewer! Do not read out. Match. Mark a maximum of 3 answers.]

"Georgian Dream"	1
Any other party (except "Georgian Dream")	2
None	-3
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-2
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-1

Information verification habits

14. How often have you suspected that a news story you are reading is false/incorrect?

[Interviewer! Read out. Only one answer.]

Never	1	Skip to Q17
Rarely	2	
Often	3	
Always	4	
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1	
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2	

15. How often have you checked the accuracy of false/incorrect news?

[Interviewer! Read out! Only one answer.]

Never	1
Rarely	2
Often	3
Always	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

Confidence in recognizing false/incorrect information (self-assessment)

16. To what extent do you think you can distinguish false/incorrect information from true/correct information spread in the media (e.g., social networks, television)?

Very bad	1
Worse than good	2
Better than bad	3
Very good	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

Logical Reasoning/Calculative Skills

Now we will ask you some fun questions about managing your finances

17. Imagine that you have 100 GEL in a savings account at a bank, which is compounded at 2% per year. In your opinion, in five years you would have ...

[Interviewer! Read out]

More than 102 GEL,	1
Exactly 102 GEL,	2
Or less than 102 GEL?	3
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

18. Imagine that you put money in a savings account at a bank that earns 1% interest per year, and prices increase by 2% per year. After one year, you would buy ...

[Interviewer! Read out.]

More than now,	1
exactly the same,	2
or less than now?	3
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

Authoritarianism

19. There are different opinions about which form of government is most suitable for Georgia. Of the following, which opinion do you agree with the most?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

Democracy is better than all other political systems	1
In some cases, undemocratic government is better than democratic	2
For the average citizen, it doesn't matter what kind of political system we have	3
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

20. Which statement do you agree with the most?

The government should control the spread of false/incorrect information even if it limits citizens' freedom of speech, or...	1
The government should protect citizens' freedom of speech even if it leads to the spread of false/incorrect information.	2
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement that "What our country needs most is a leader who will single-handedly decide what is best for the country"?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

I completely agree	1
I agree rather than I disagree	2
I disagree rather than I agree	3
I completely disagree	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement: "If we want to maintain order, we should act more strictly towards lawbreakers than we do now"?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

I completely agree	1
I agree rather than I disagree	2
I disagree rather than I agree	3
I completely disagree	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

23. "Fear Experiment"

5 groups in total. Of these: 4 experimental groups (2 on migration and 2 on family values) + one control group, which was not given the scenario and only asked Outcome questions.

1. Only fear - Migration	2. Fear + correction - Migration
Now I will read you a brief information. Some people in social networks claim that if Georgia becomes a member of the European Union and Georgians are able to freely find employment in Europe, this will lead to mass migration of young people and the country will be emptied of young people.	Now I will read you a brief information. Some people in social networks claim that if Georgia becomes a member of the European Union and Georgians are able to freely find employment in Europe, this will lead to mass migration of young people and the country will be emptied of young people. However, the facts prove that joining the European Union improves the economic conditions of the country, which reduces youth migration.

3. Only fear – Family values	4. Fear + correction – Family values
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Now I will read you a brief information. Some people in social networks claim that if Georgia becomes a member of the European Union, it will lead to changes in family laws and the devaluation of the traditional roles of women and men.	Now I will read you a brief information. Some people in networks claim that if Georgia becomes a member of the European Union, this will lead to changes in legislation related to family values and a decline in the traditional roles of women and men. However, the facts prove that this information does not correspond to reality and each country adopts laws related to family independently.
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exp1. In your opinion, to what extent is it likely or unlikely that Georgia's accession to the European Union will threaten family traditions and values?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

[Control group, Scenario 3 and Scenario 4 groups]

Not expected at all	1
Less expected	2
More expected	3
Completely expected	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	<i>-1</i>
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	<i>-2</i>

exp2. In your opinion, to what extent is it likely or unlikely that Georgia's accession to the European Union will encourage mass migration of young people?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

[Control group, Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 groups]

Not expected at all	1
Less expected	2
More expected	3
Completely expected	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	<i>-1</i>
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	<i>-2</i>

exp3. To what extent do you support or disapprove of Georgia's accession to the European Union?

[Interviewer! Read out.]

[All five groups]

I don't support it at all	1
I don't support it more than I support it	2
I support it more than I don't support it	3
I completely support it	4
<i>(Don't know)</i>	-1
<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>	-2

Political knowledge

24. Now I will read you some statements and please rate how true or false they are?

[Programming instruction: Rotate statements]

		True	False	<i>(Don't know)</i>	<i>(Refuse to answer)</i>
<u><i>True (pro-GD)</i></u>	23.1 In 2024, Georgia's foreign trade increased by 8% compared to the previous year.	1	2	-1	-2
<u><i>False (anti-GD)</i></u>	23.2 In 2024, the European Union suspended 121 million euros in aid to Georgia.	1	2	-1	-2
<u><i>False (pro-GD)</i></u>	23.3 According to the 2025 EU Enlargement Report, Georgia received a better assessment than Ukraine and Moldova.	1	2	-1	-2
<u><i>False (anti-GD)</i></u>	23.4 After the 2024 parliamentary elections, the European Union withdrew Georgia's candidate status.	1	2	-1	-2

Attitude/Beliefs towards Anti-Western Narratives

25. Now I will read you some more statements and, please, rate them again to what extent they are true or false?

[Programming Instruction: Rotate statements]

		True	False	(Don't know)	(Refuse to answer)
<u>ANTI-EU</u>	25.1 EU intends to open a second front in Georgia.	1	2	-1	-2
<u>ANTI-EU</u>	25.2 EU forces LGBT propaganda on Georgia.	1	2	-1	-2
<u>ANTI-EU</u>	25.3 EU is confronting Georgian traditional values and the Church.	1	2	-1	-2
<u>PRO-EU</u>	25.4 Since corruption is almost non-existent in the EU, if Georgia joins the EU, corruption will also be eliminated in Georgia.	1	2	-1	-2
<u>PRO-EU</u>	25.5 In the event of accession to the EU, salaries in Georgia will immediately be equalized to those in leading EU countries.	1	2	-1	-2
<u>PRO-EU</u>	25.6 Joining the EU means resolving Georgia's territorial conflicts.	1	2	-1	-2

Additional block on recent legislative changes

Now we will ask you questions regarding the recent legislative changes.

26. The Georgian Dream has recently developed an education reform that will make twelfth grade compulsory. Do you support or oppose this initiative?

Yes	1
No	0
(Don't know)	-1
(Refuse to answer)	-2

27. There are different opinions regarding the abolition of the mandatory twelfth grade. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following opinions

[Programming instruction: Randomize statements]

	Agree	Disagree	(Don't know)	(Refuse to answer)
27.1. Abolishing the mandatory twelfth grade will hinder continuing education at Western universities after school.	1	0	-1	-2
27.2. The mandatory twelfth grade is redundant because students don't go to school anyways and by abolishing it, students won't waste that year.	1	0	-1	-2

28. Recently, the Georgian Dream party initiated a law that would prevent Georgian citizens and immigrants from voting abroad. Do you support or oppose this initiative?

Yes	1
No	0
(Don't know)	-1
(Refuse to answer)	-2

29. The Georgian Dream is working on a draft law related to minors, according to which adolescents between the ages of 10 and 14 who break the law may be placed in specially created shelter, which they will not be able to leave voluntarily. Do you support or not support this initiative?

Yes	1
No	0
(Don't know)	-1
(Refuse to answer)	-2

30. There are different opinions regarding the placement of adolescents in conflict with the law in specially designed shelters. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with these opinions?

[Programming instruction: Randomize statements]

	Agree	Disagree	(Don't know)	(Refuse to answer)

30.1. This will negatively affect their adolescent development.	1	0	-1	-2
30.2. This will reduce the likelihood of teenagers committing more serious crimes in the future.	1	0	-1	-2