



## Press Release

For immediate distribution

January 13, 2012

Tbilisi

### Knowledge and Attitudes toward the European Union in Georgia

On January 16, 2012, Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) is holding a presentation of the survey report: **Knowledge and Attitudes toward the European Union in Georgia**.

EPF's Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) carried out the baseline survey to study Georgia's knowledge and attitudes toward the EU in 2009. In 2011, EPF/CRRC conducted a follow-up assessment, which followed the baseline survey and covered the entire nation. Using the results from the 2009 and 2011 surveys, the EPF/CRRC will present an overview of public's knowledge of and attitudes toward the European Union and provide information on if and how things have changed over the past two years. At the same time, the report will highlight Georgian public's attitudes toward their own political system, charting changes in this area as well.

As the survey results have demonstrated, the desire to integrate more closely with the EU is not just a project of Georgia's political elite. Georgian citizens are profoundly Europhilic, with the vast majority hoping one day to join the EU. At the same time, the research indicates that the citizens are unaware of the actual path to and timeline for Georgia's accession to the European Union. There is an overall lack of awareness about the way in which Georgia and the EU collaborate, which in turn may explain why half of the population is interested to receive more information on the EU.

**Mr. George Zarubin**, President of Eurasia Partnership Foundation, will be making the opening remarks to set the stage for the rest of the presentation.

**Mr. Koba Turmanidze**, Country Director of CRRC Georgia will present the major findings of the survey and respond to questions from the audience.

**Mr. Boris Iarochvitch**, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Georgia, **Mr. Ortwin Hennig**, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, **Mr. Oliver Reisner**, Project Manager, EU Delegation to Georgia and **Mr. Kakha Gogolashvili**, the Director of the Center for EU Studies at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) will provide their opinions regarding the survey, as well as open discussions on possible future steps in the areas highlight in the research.

The presentation will bring together the representatives of the Government of Georgia, the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, various other diplomatic missions, civil society organizations, international organizations, and the media.

The event will take place on January 16, 2012, during 13:00-15:00, at Tbilisi Marriott Ballroom (13 Rustaveli Ave).

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