

MFAs of Associated Trio meet Joseph Borrell



► Joseph Borrell: EU should be proud that our partners want to move closer to and join the EU.

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

The first joint visit of the Foreign Ministers of Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova to Brussels to present a new format of cooperation - the Associated Trio, which was established as another means of supporting the European integration of three countries, started yesterday. Leaders met with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Joseph Borrell.

"We are considering this region as a priority in terms of our support and commitments. Often, we in the EU see what we have been able to create as a self-existent area - a zone of prosperity, security and opportunity for all," Borrell said, adding he welcomes closer coordination between

Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, as well as their pursuit of stronger cooperation with the EU.

According to him, a crucial aspect of the Eastern Partnership is to build ties not only between the EU and its partners, but also between the mentioned partners as well. Borrell emphasized that rapprochement with the EU requires the work of all parties, there are important areas in each country that need to be explored in detail and in depth. "We can only bring the legislation closer, deepen cooperation and develop joint work, If these reforms are fully implemented and put into effect. The EU respectfully stands by each of you in this effort and supports you politically and financially," Borrell said. According

to him, together with the European Commission, he is completing analysis of 2020 agenda and the current year is important for the Eastern Partnership, because at the Summit in December, the new agenda will be launched.

According to Georgia foreign minister Davit Zalkaliani, Associated Trio is involved in a complex reform process aimed at consolidating democratic institutions and bringing them closer to the EU. As Zalkaliani noted, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova face the same challenges related to the security of the countries, conflict with Russia being the most serious one among them.

"We look forward to the EU's increased involvement in promoting peace and security in the region," he said after meeting with Ukrainian and Moldovan Foreign Ministers, EU High Representative. According to Zalkaliani, the issue of peaceful settlement of the Russian-Georgian conflict should be actively presented on the European agenda.

"One of the reasons for the establishment of the Associated Trio is to change the situation. We need to set our own agenda, we need to be more proactive," said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. According to him, this is the first case when the European Union did not offer a format for relations with the Eastern Partnership countries, but the Eastern neighbors came to them in their own format.



► According to Dmytro Kuleba, one of the reasons for creating the 'Associated Trio' is to change the situation, to set its own agenda and be more proactive.

POLITICS

Edison Research: 25% support Georgian Dream, 19% - UNM

FULL STORY ON Page 2

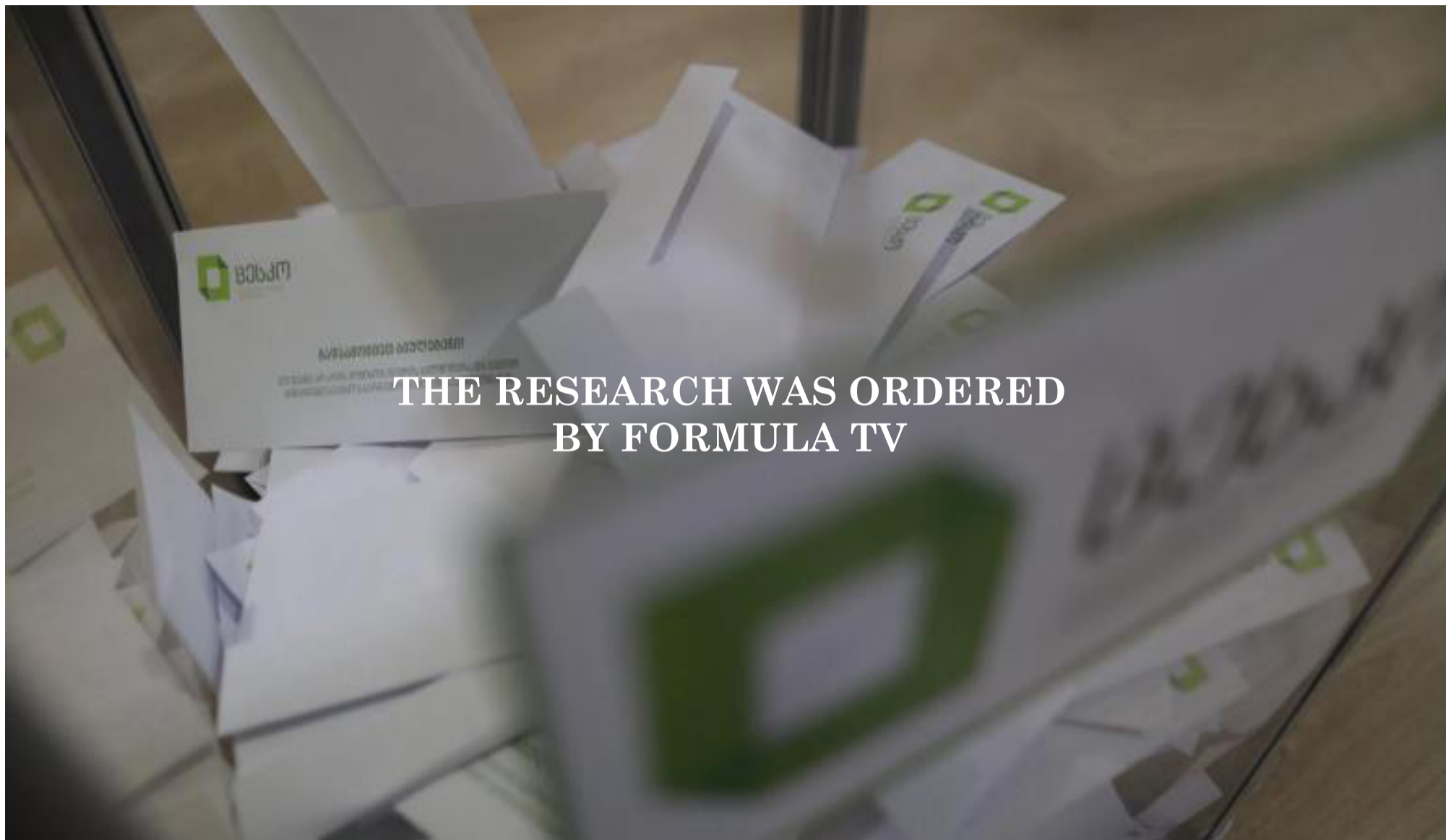
POLITICS

EU Ambassador to Georgia Carl Hartzell visits the regions of Georgia



FULL STORY ON Page 3

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► Surveys done by both Formula and Main Channel indicate that Gakharia's new party is already among 3 most popular political parties in the country

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

According to the study ordered by Formula TV and done by the Edison Research, on the question "Which party would you vote if there were local elections today?" 25 percent answered the Georgian Dream ruling party, 19 percent said the United National Movement, and 10 percent said Giorgi Gakharia's new party For Georgia.

According to Formula, the survey was conducted between June 7-19. The TV Channel also noted that the survey was face to face, and it was conducted in different regions of the country. A total of 1500 eligible voters were surveyed, out of which 800 were in Tbilisi and 700 were outside Tbilisi.

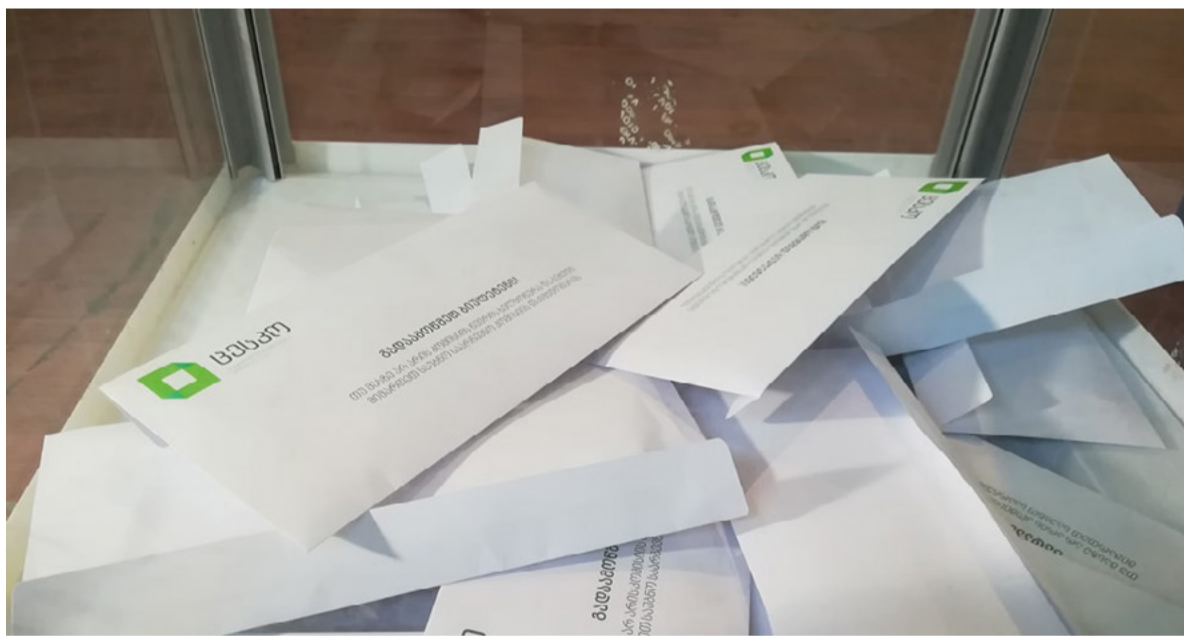
According to Edison Research commissioned by Formula TV,

57% of respondents have a positive attitude towards Giorgi Gakharia, 50% towards Kakha Kaladze, and 47% towards Nika Melia. At the same time, 43% have a positive attitude towards the leader of the Strategy the Builder, Giorgi Vashadze, followed by the former chairman of the Georgian Dream, Bidzina Ivanishvili, with 38%.

According to the survey, 38% of respondents have a positive attitude towards the incumbent Prime Minister, Irakli Ghariashvili, and the leader of the For People party, Ana Dolidze.

The survey also showed that if there were elections for Tbilisi Mayor, 32 percent would vote for Kakha Kaladze, 17 percent for Nika Melia, 15 percent for Giorgi Gakharia.

Another survey was held in Georgia by IPSOS, this survey was ordered by the Main Channel. According to the survey, if there were elections during the survey, 32 percent of the people would vote for the Georgian Dream, 23 percent would vote



► 1500 people participated in Edison Research's survey, and 1000 in IPSOS survey

for the United National Movement, while 8 percent would vote for Gakharia's For Georgia. 5 percent of respondents said that they would vote for Girchi - More Freedom.

According to the Main Chan-

nel, this survey was held by IPSOS between June 7 and June 17. In total, 1000 people were surveyed, all of them being over 18, legal voters of the country.

As both surveys indicate,

Gakharia's new party, for Georgia, is among the three most popular political parties in the country already. In addition, Gakharia himself is among the most popular politicians in Georgia.

FRIDAY		JUNE 25	
Day		Sunny	High: 37°C
Night		Clear	Low: 20°C
SATURDAY		JUNE 26	
Day		Sunny	High: 37°C
Night		Partly clouds	Low: 21°C

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US DOLLAR - 3.1549 | EURO - 3.7695 | GBP - 4.4055 | 100 RUSSIAN RUBLE - 4.3435 | SWISS FRANC - 3.4378 |

EU Ambassador to Georgia Carl Hartzell visits the regions of Georgia

EU AMBASSADOR ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED EU SUPPORT TO GEORGIAN REGIONS



► Ambassador held a meeting in Imereti, with Tskaltubo Local Action Group, LAG

The Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Carl Hartzell visited regions of Georgia to highlight the support of the European Union once again to the Georgian regions. The EU Ambassador held a meeting in Imereti, with Tskaltubo Local Action Group, LAG, which was established with the support of the EU back in 2020.

Over the last year, LAG has mobilized the local community and has initiated various social and economic actions to improve lives in rural areas. With EU support, it has developed a long-term local development strategy and carried out two rounds of EU-funded grand competition, which has resulted in the funding of 20 initiatives already.

These initiatives were in numerous areas, such as agriculture, tourism, social issues, as well as culture, education, and sports. The Ambassador of the EU, Carl Hartzell, met with the representatives of initiatives that received the fundings. They presented their products, such as honey, wine, artisan bread, and many others.

Local Action Group (LAG) Tskaltubo is an open civil platform that functions as an independent, impartial, and democratic non-political, and non-political body, which can include any individual living in Tskaltubo municipality, regardless of their political affiliation. Founded in 2019, at the moment it has 230 members,



► Hartzell, met with the representatives of initiatives that received the fundings

covering all communities of the municipalities. Members work in 4 thematic subgroups, reflecting priorities of the LAG: Agriculture, Tourism, Social Issues, Culture, Education, Sport, and Youth.

LAG Tskaltubo implements the EU LEADER approach, which ensures transparency of its activities and cooperation of civic, private, and public sectors for municipality development. Using the same approach, LAG Tskaltubo has recently developed a long-term Local Development Strategy based on the needs and potential identified by the municipality-wide baseline study.

Based on the strategy document, two rounds of EU-funded grant competitions were announced and 20 public, private and civil society initiatives funded so far.

Local Action Group (LAG) Tskaltubo is supported by People In Need (PIN) and funded by European Union (EU) and Czech Development Agency (CDA) and in partnership with the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA).

EU Ambassador plans to visit other regions of the country as well.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PREPARED
BY THE MESSENGER STAFF

Edison research: 43%, consider the April 19 agreement to be favorable for everyone

According to a survey by Edison Research, a large proportion of respondents, 43%, consider the April 19 agreement submitted by the EU to be equally favorable to all parties.

16% of the population think that the agreement was favorable for the

Georgian Dream, while 9% think that the Michel document was favorable for the opposition. According to 8% of the population, the agreement was not favorable for either party.

12% of respondents say they have no information about this agreement.

As part of the survey, 1,500 eligible voters aged 18 and over living in Georgia were interviewed across the country using face-to-face surveying. Including 800 in Tbilisi, outside the 700 capitals. The survey was conducted from June 7 to 19. The error of the results is +/- 3%.

Gharibashvili: Amnesty will apply to those fined for violating regulations during the pandemic

According to Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili, amnesty will apply to those who have been held administratively or criminally liable for violating pandemic regulations.

Gharibashvili stated this at a briefing today and clarified that the relevant bills were submitted to the parliament today.

According to Gharibashvili, the amnesty will apply to fines imposed for violating the rules of isolation, quarantine, and wearing a mask.

According to the government administration, violation of quarantine and isolation rules also includes violation of curfew.

Two bills have been introduced in Parliament today, dealing with individuals who have been held administratively or criminally liable for regulations imposed under pandemic conditions.