



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის

Project funded by the European Union



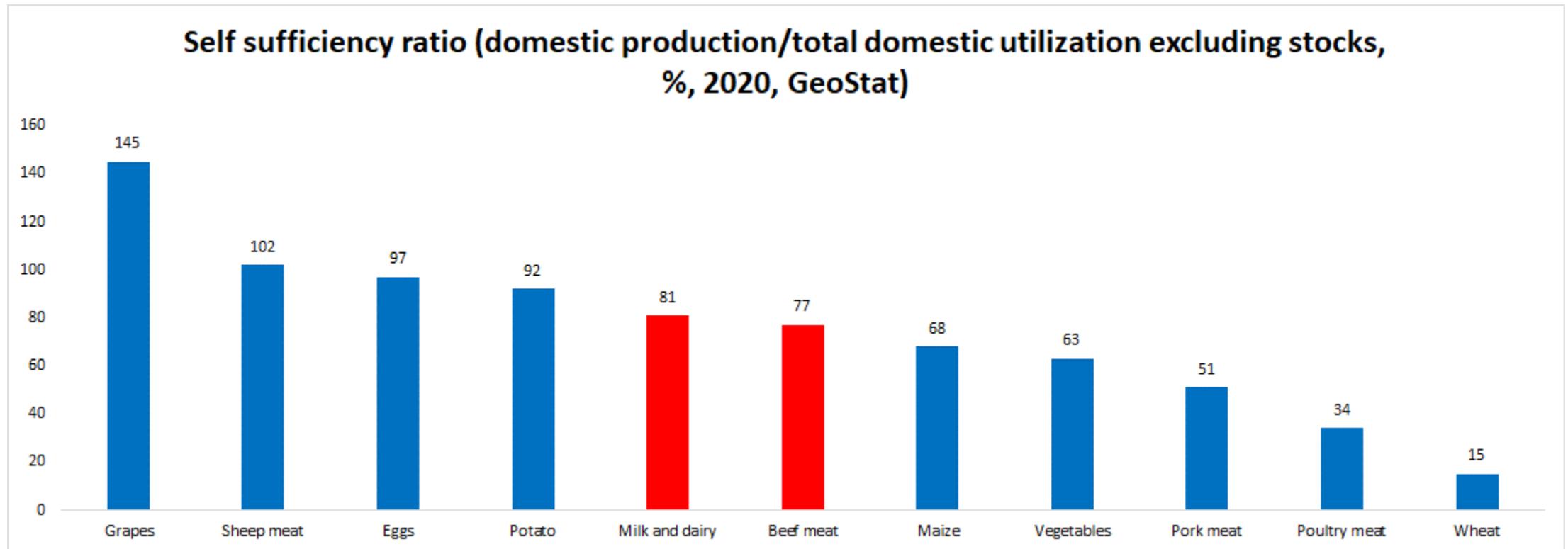
Setting-up a National Cooperative for Genetic and Insemination

FinExCoop's proposal

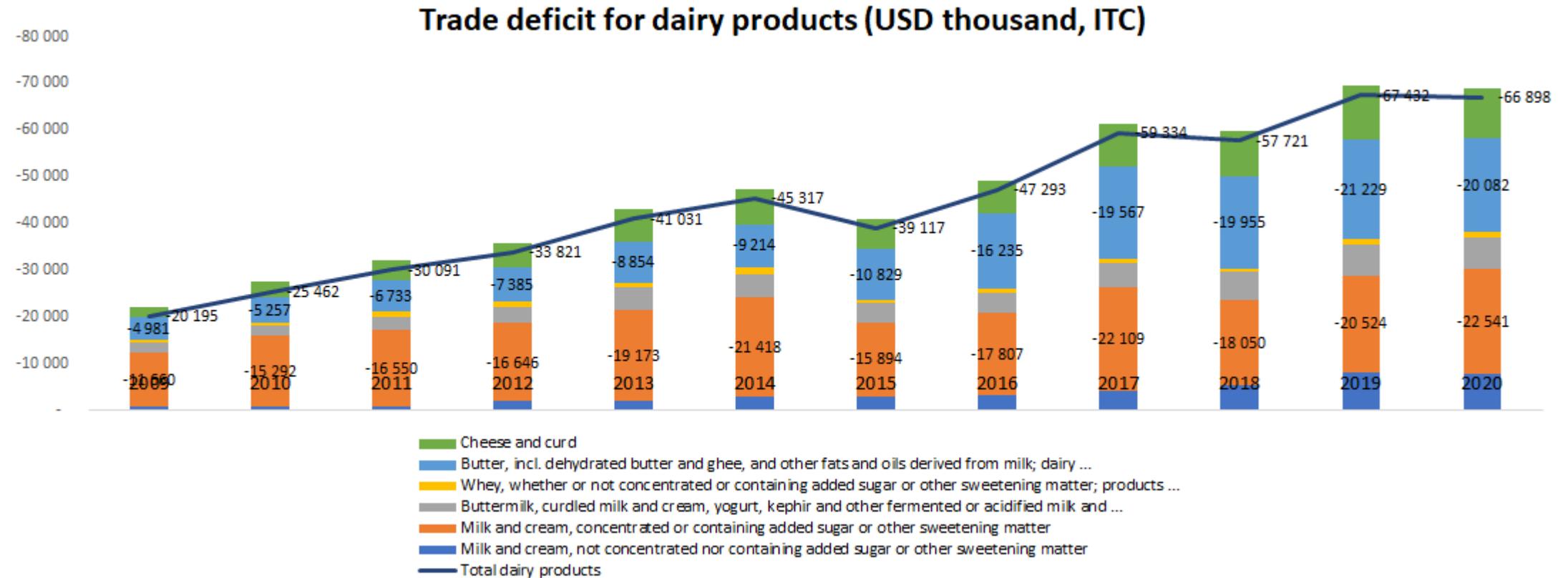


The general background

Despite availability of vast mountain pastures and of excellent agronomic conditions for the cultivation of intensive fodder (especially maize), which allowed the country to be a large net exporter in FSU, Georgia is nowadays a large net importer of milk/dairy products and of beef meat

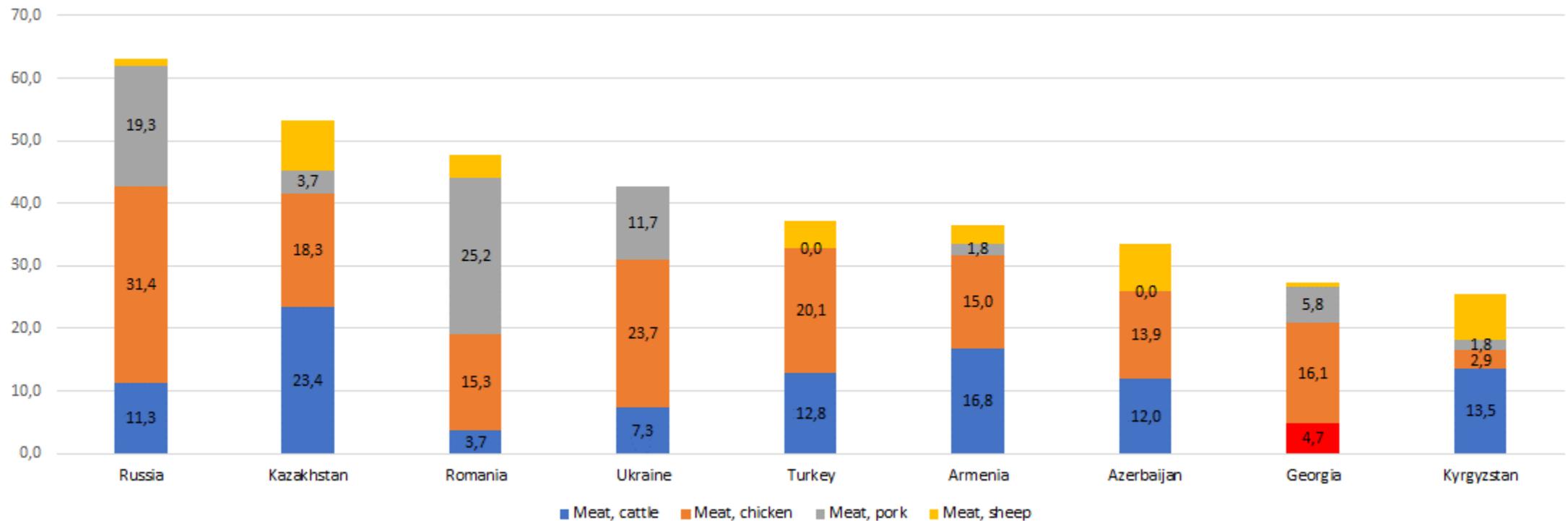


According to ITC, the Georgian trade deficit for dairy products has for instance more than tripled during the last decade

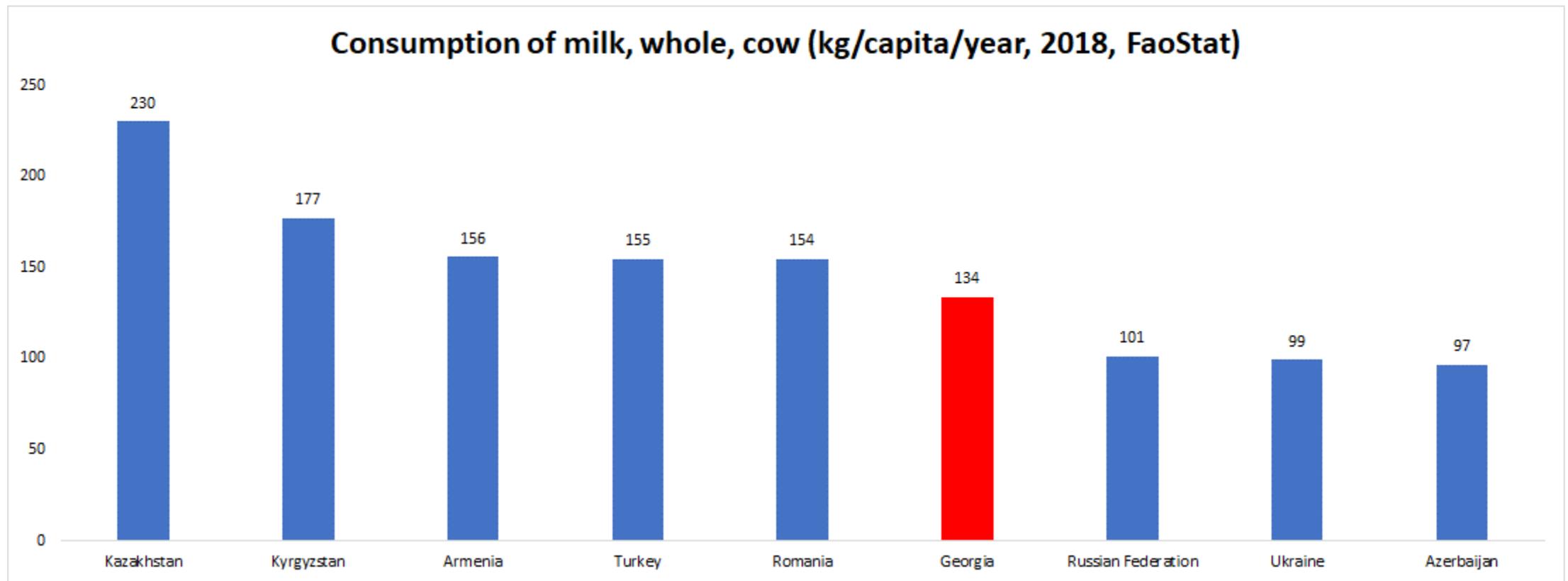


The poor results for external trade are problematic in terms of Food sovereignty as Georgian levels of consumption per capita for the consumption of beef and other meat remain low by regional standards

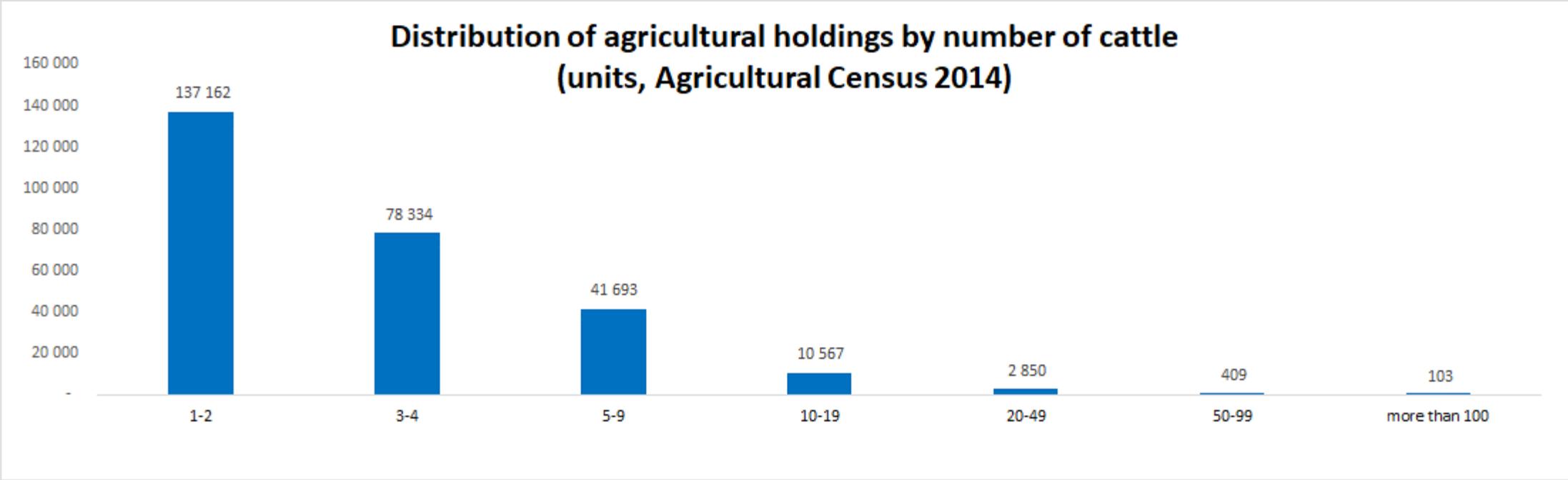
Meat consumption per capita (kg/person/year, 2018, FaoStat)



Even though cheese and products like Matsoni play a very important role in Georgian cuisine, the Georgian consumption of milk products per capita also remains rather modest. We expect in the future a strong increase of both meat and dairy consumption linked to that of personal income. Will the local production be able to cope with this increased demand?

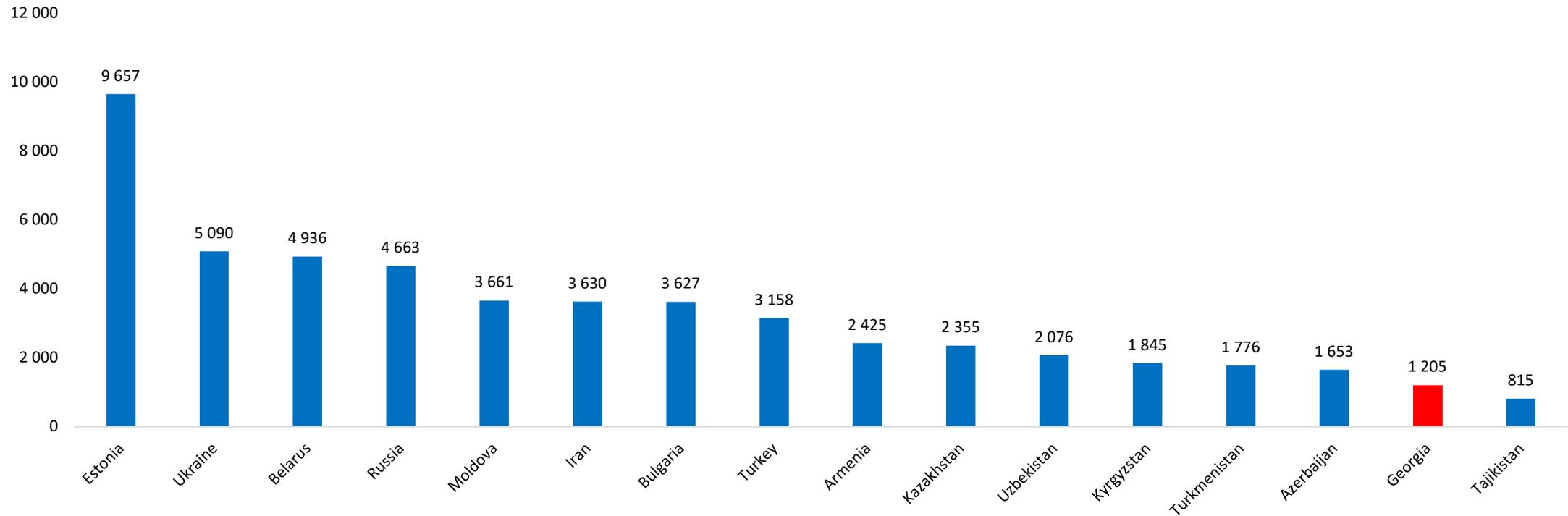


In 2020, there were 926 thousand bovine animals in Georgia, slightly less than at the beginning of the previous decade. Animals were located all over the country. Nearly all (97.9%) bovine animals are owned by family holdings. On average, there were 3.7 animals per farm in 2014



Because of poor breeding practices (poor feeding, management and genetics) Georgian yields remain very low compared to neighbour countries

Yield of milk (l/cow/year, 2019, FaoStat)



What could be the role of a National Cooperative
for Genetic and Insemination to improve the
situation?

There is currently strong mobilization of MEPA and of donors to reduce the dependence of Georgia on imported food, meat and dairy in particular. The war in Ukraine is making this goal even more important

Among key projects already on track:

- FinExCoop AFD/EU, active in beef-and-dairy and goats for milk
- USDA Safety and Quality Investment in Livestock (SQIL) project implemented by the Land O'Lakes Venture 37 partnering with the Michigan State University and the Georgian Farmers' Association
- The IFAD/MEPA Dairy Modernization and Market Access Project (DiMMA) was launched in 2020 and its technical support component is implemented by two service providers: 1) the Georgian Farmers' Association covers 4 regions (Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti); 2) Agroservice (Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli)

FinExCoop's strategy in beef-and-dairy

- FinExCoop is mainly active in upgrading local capacities at national and pilot level where it uses a Test, Train and Transfer approach
- Innovative fodder (12 different types of crops with 47 varieties with 16 farmers)
- Innovative feed (new rations including by-products from beer and apple processing. Up to 2 kg of increase of liveweight per day)
- Innovative processing (training-by-doing in cheese)
- Innovative marketing (direct connection of farmers with large-scale retailers and HORECA)
- And now innovative Genetic Initiative

FinExCoop's Genetic Action plan

1) Trainings in reproduction technologies

- Theoretical and practical trainings in Georgia (French expert Guy Charbonnier has provided 18 on-line training sessions and in-farm training sessions. His training materials in Georgian have been posted on the FinExCoop website)

- Advanced practical trainings in France (two trainees already pre-selected to work with cooperative of artificial insemination CECNA-Cialyn for two months)

2) Innovative protocol to recreate the market for insemination services

- Detection of pregnancy of cows with the use of an ultrasound
- Synchronization of heat with preparation of animals
- Insemination

3) Launching of the National Cooperative for Genetic and Insemination (NCGI)

There will be three types of members in the NCGI coop (in green)

Large and modern
cattle farms with
pedigree genetics
(members of
Coop)

Advanced
family farmers
in livestock
(members of
Coop)

Private
inseminators
and
veterinarians
(members of
Coop)

National Cooperative for Genetic and Insemination

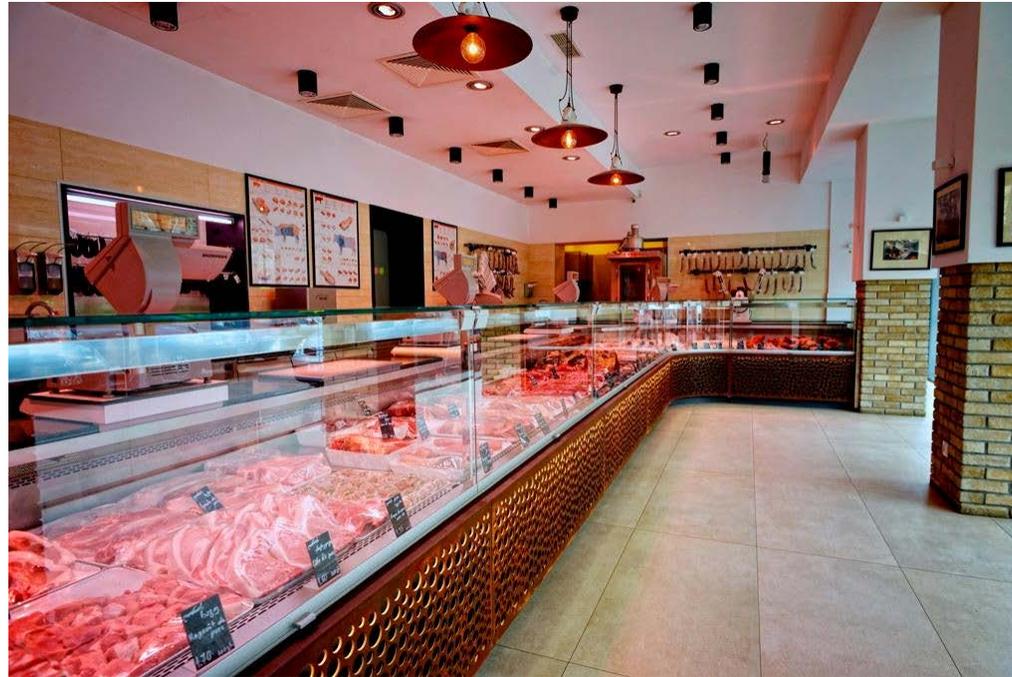
Large-scale feedlots for fattening
Slaughterhouses
Meat brands
Non members
Clients of Coop

Farmers non members
Clients of Coop

Today, many large scale and modern cattle farms with pedigree genetics are using their high quality males only for meat while they should be used for reproduction. NCGI will propose to buy their male bulls at the age of 12 months, disseminate them for reproduction to its smaller scale farmers members, and sell them back at a later stage as well as cross-bred animals for bull fattening



Farmers members of NCGI should have specific benefits. They would include an exclusive access to pedigree cattle marketed by NCGI and an exclusive right to sell improved livestock to NCGI for genetic improvement (pedigree cattle) or for meat fattening. NCGI should design specific breeding Terms of Reference with strategic off-takers tracking the breeding conditions of these animals (traceability)



In countries for France, members of coops of insemination are farmers and inseminators are employees who can also become members of their coops. In NCGI, private inseminators and veterinarians will be only members playing a critical role to connect the two first categories of members. They will receive the following benefits from NCGI.

- Evaluation and certification by NCGI (VIP membership)
- Integration in a centralized genealogical data base of all animals borne from their own insemination
- Access to trainings and technical assistance provided by NCGI
- Support in access to grants provided by development projects
- Development of marketing actions to promote new genetics and insemination
- Possibility for their clients to sell these animals through mycow.ge with certificates provided by NCGI
- Joint acquisition of inputs (bovine semen, protocols of synchronization, consumables such as gloves, straws for insemination, liquid nitrogen)
- Joint acquisition of equipment (dewar container, microscopes, others)
- Joint use of equipment bought and owned by the cooperative, and in particular advanced ultrasound
- Access to pedigree animals for reproduction which could be resold by them at a profit to non members.

Thanks for your attention!