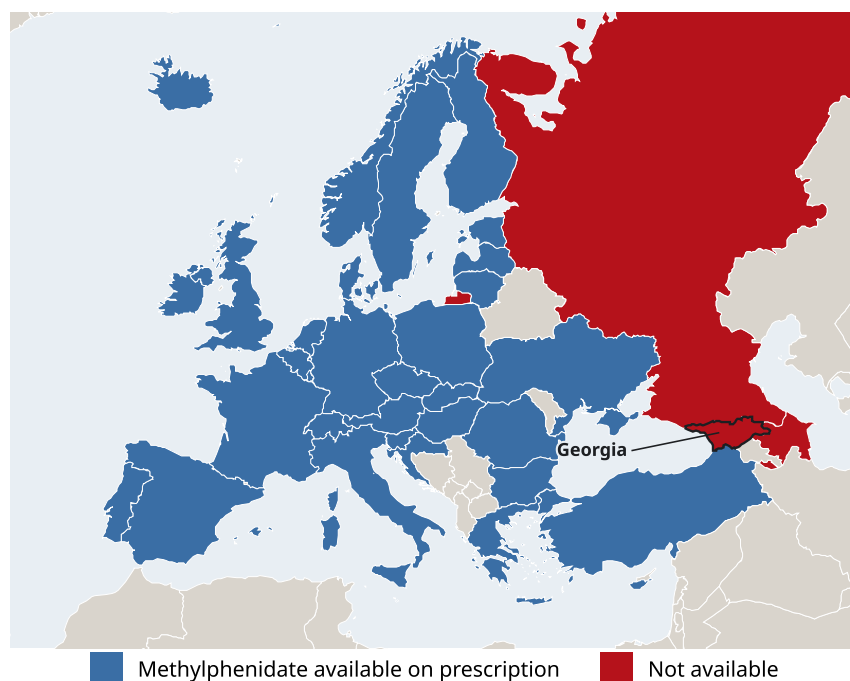


ADHD care in Georgia: the gap with Europe, and seven steps to close it

About 6 in every 100 children and 2 to 3 in every 100 adults have ADHD; in Georgia that would be about 100,000 people.¹ The medicines recommended first in European guidelines are not available,^{2,3} there is no national clinical guideline, specialists work mostly in Tbilisi, and families pay for care themselves.⁴ Seven practical steps, each already used in other countries, would bring care in line with Europe.

The situation

- No stimulant ADHD medicine is registered in Georgia. Only atomoxetine is sold, and it is often out of stock.³
- Methylphenidate is available on prescription in every EU country and in the UK, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.^{5,2,6,7,8}
- Georgian law classes methylphenidate and amphetamines as narcotic drugs. In 2026, a tourist carrying prescribed medicine without the right documents was charged with smuggling.^{9,10}
- There is no national ADHD guideline, most specialists work in Tbilisi, and therapy is not covered by insurance.⁴
- The Public Defender has found too few inclusive education specialists in the regions.¹¹



Seven steps

1. **Register methylphenidate**, at least one short- and one long-acting form, for children and adults, as the Maldives did in 2026.¹²
2. **Allow controlled prescribing** with close monitoring, as in Germany.¹³ Under UN rules these are controlled medicines, not banned drugs.¹⁴
3. **Publish a national clinical guideline** for children and adults, building on NICE and AWMF.^{2,15}
4. **Train specialists and family doctors outside Tbilisi**, and cover assessment and treatment in state health programmes.¹⁶
5. **Support students:** teacher training, individual learning plans and fair exam adjustments.¹⁷

6. **Publish clear rules for travellers**, and a legal way for residents to get treatment until medicines are registered.¹⁸
 7. **Collect data and involve families** in planning services, as Australia's parliamentary inquiry recommended.¹⁹
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Georgia's commitments

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in force in Georgia since 2014, covers the right to health care and to inclusive education.²⁰
- Council of Europe Resolution 2042 asks member states to train doctors in ADHD, diagnose following guidelines, and offer full treatment.²¹
- Georgia has been a candidate to join the European Union since December 2023.²²

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