

State of play

EU accession negotiations

November 2026

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES WITH ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS OPENED

- Albania
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Türkiye
- Ukraine

Accession negotiation status for these countries is shown on the following pages.

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES WITH ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS NOT YET OPENED

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kosovo

Enlargement is a **merit-based process** where candidates must align with EU values and legislation.

Accession negotiations are structured around 35 policy areas, or chapters, which are grouped into clusters:

- As part of the **screening process**, the European Commission evaluates the degree of preparedness of candidate countries. This helps inform the EU on whether to set opening benchmarks for the candidate countries to meet before opening a cluster, or whether to open a cluster, and its chapters, directly.
- **Cluster 1 – Fundamentals** is first to be opened, and last to close as these reforms set the pace of negotiations.
- Once a **chapter is opened**, the candidate must meet relevant closing benchmarks for it to be **provisionally closed**.
- Once all chapters are provisionally closed, and the country deemed ready, EU Member States must **decide unanimously** to admit the new Member State.

A candidate country's **pace of progress towards accession** will depend on how quickly the country implements the **required reforms**.

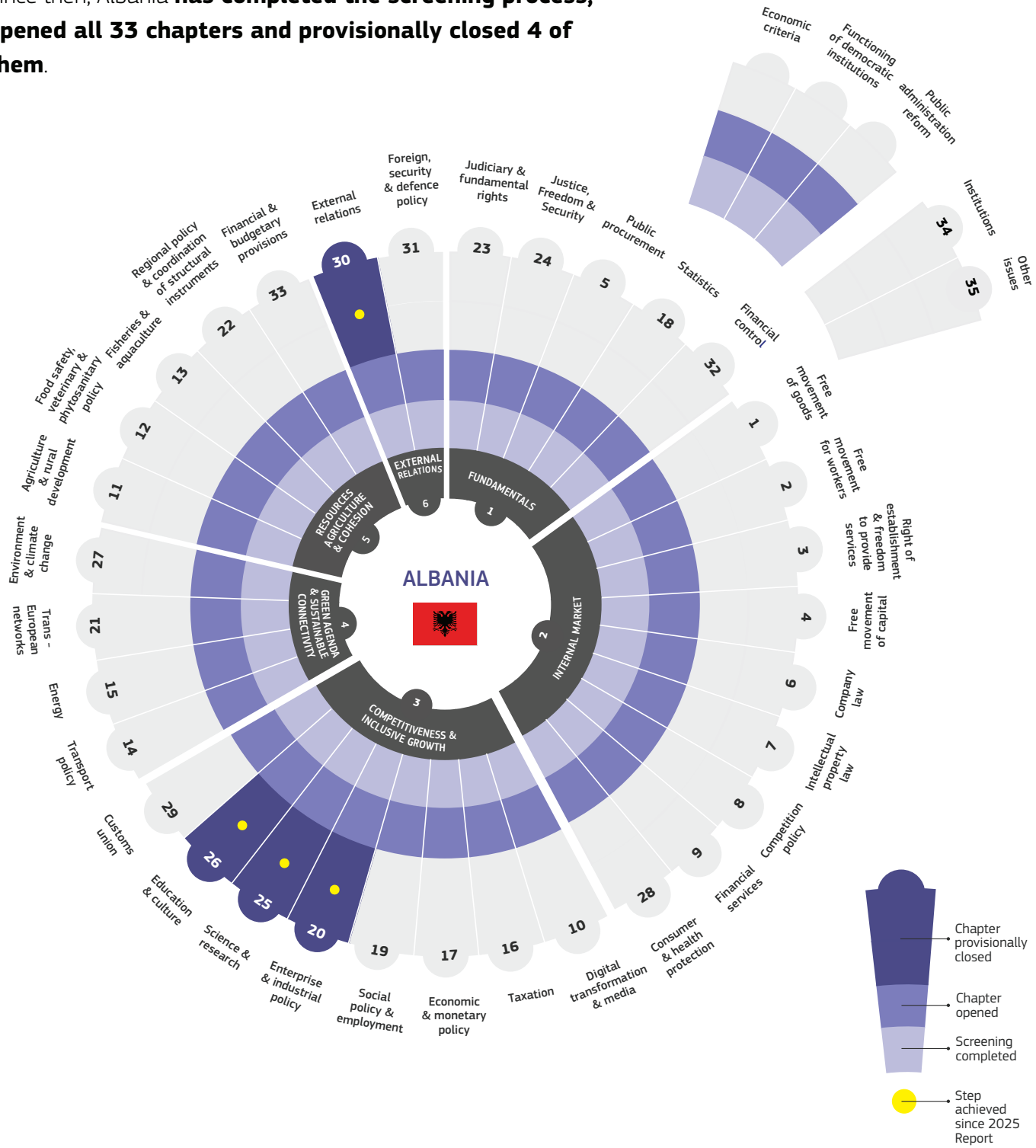
More detail at: Steps towards joining - Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood



Albania

Albania's EU accession negotiations were opened in July 2022.

Since then, Albania **has completed the screening process, opened all 33 chapters and provisionally closed 4 of them**.

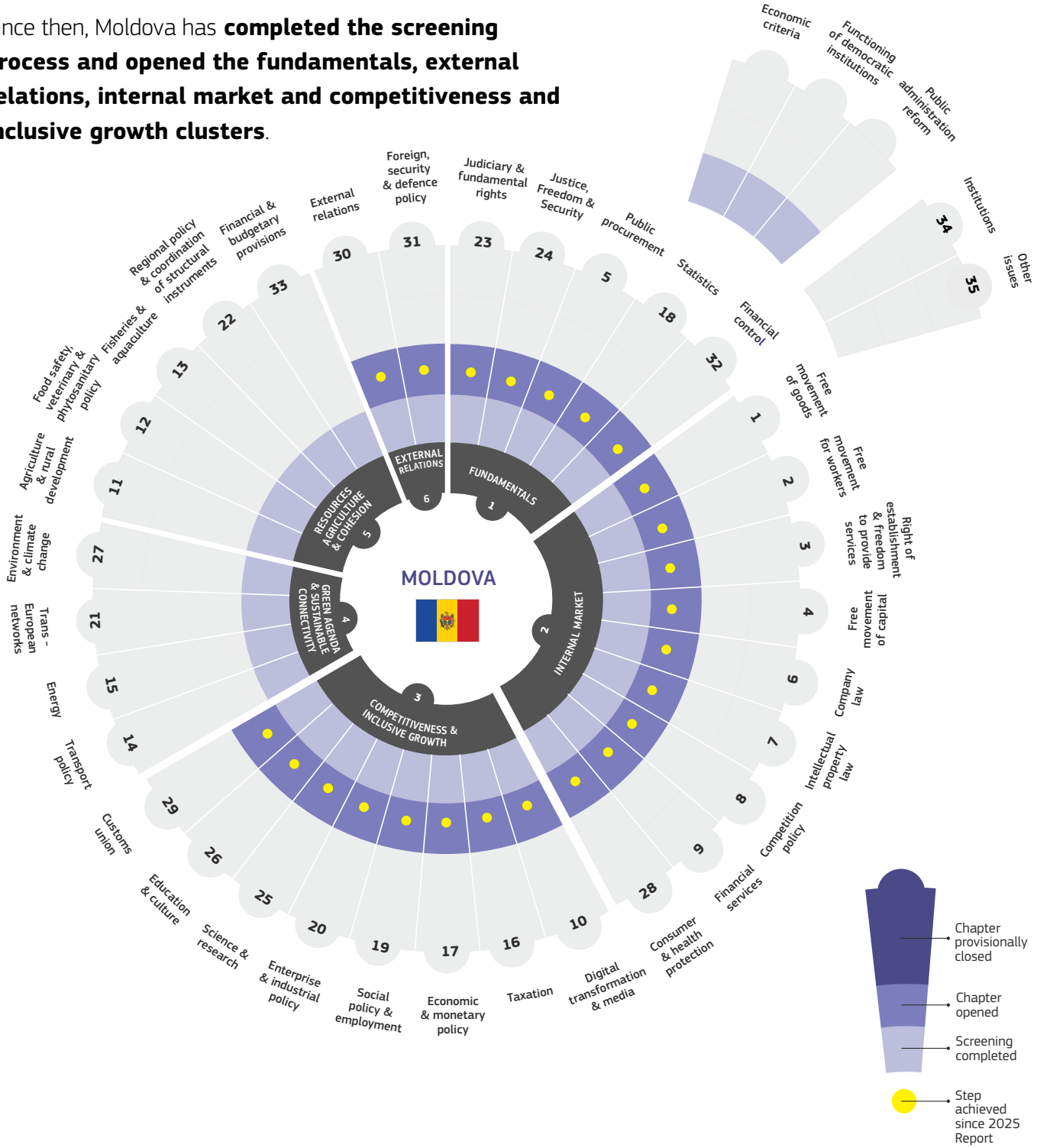




Moldova

Moldova's EU accession negotiations were opened in June 2024.

Since then, Moldova has **completed the screening process and opened the fundamentals, external relations, internal market and competitiveness and inclusive growth clusters**.

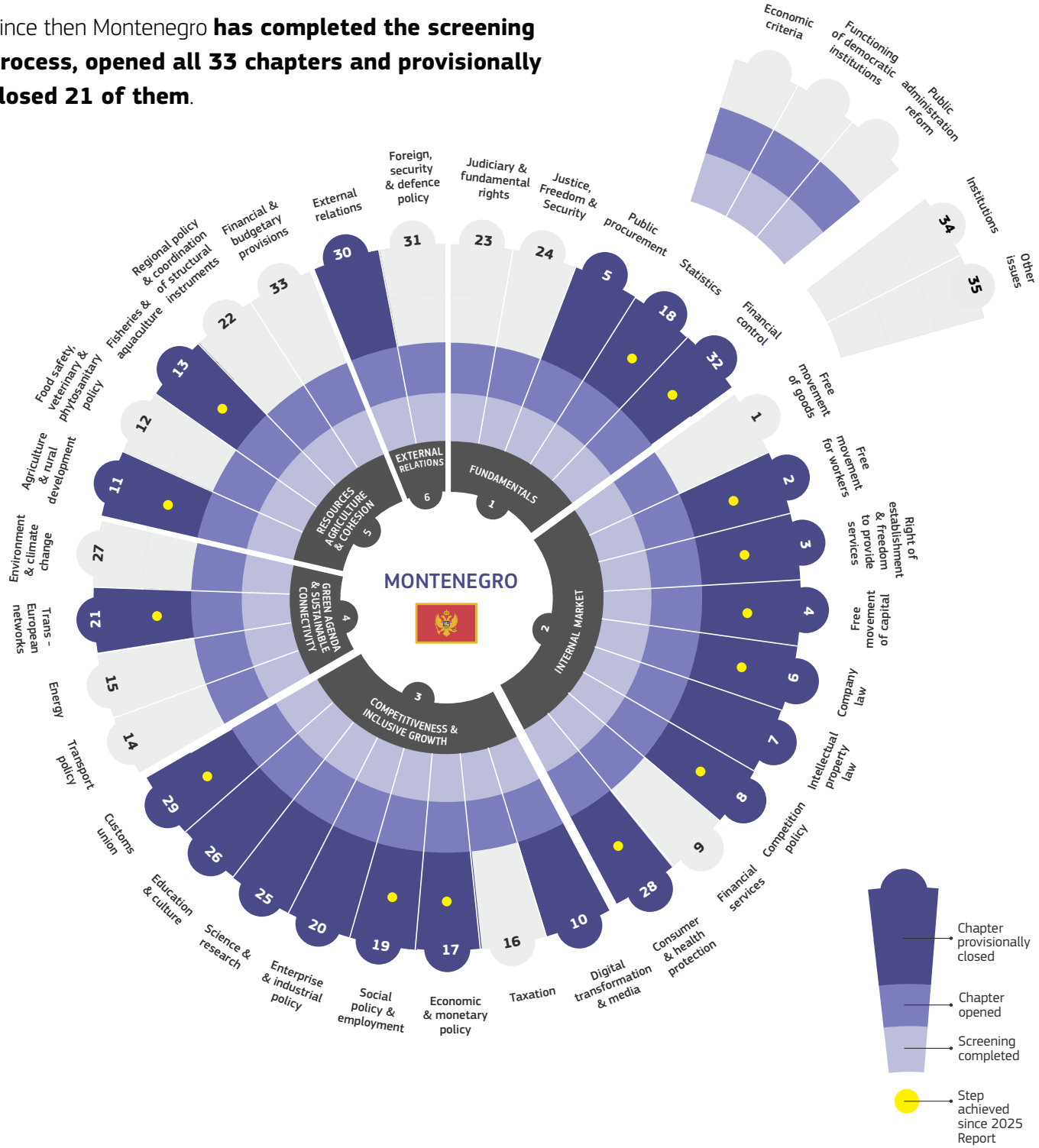




Montenegro

Montenegro's EU accession negotiations were opened in June 2012.

Since then Montenegro **has completed the screening process, opened all 33 chapters and provisionally closed 21 of them**.

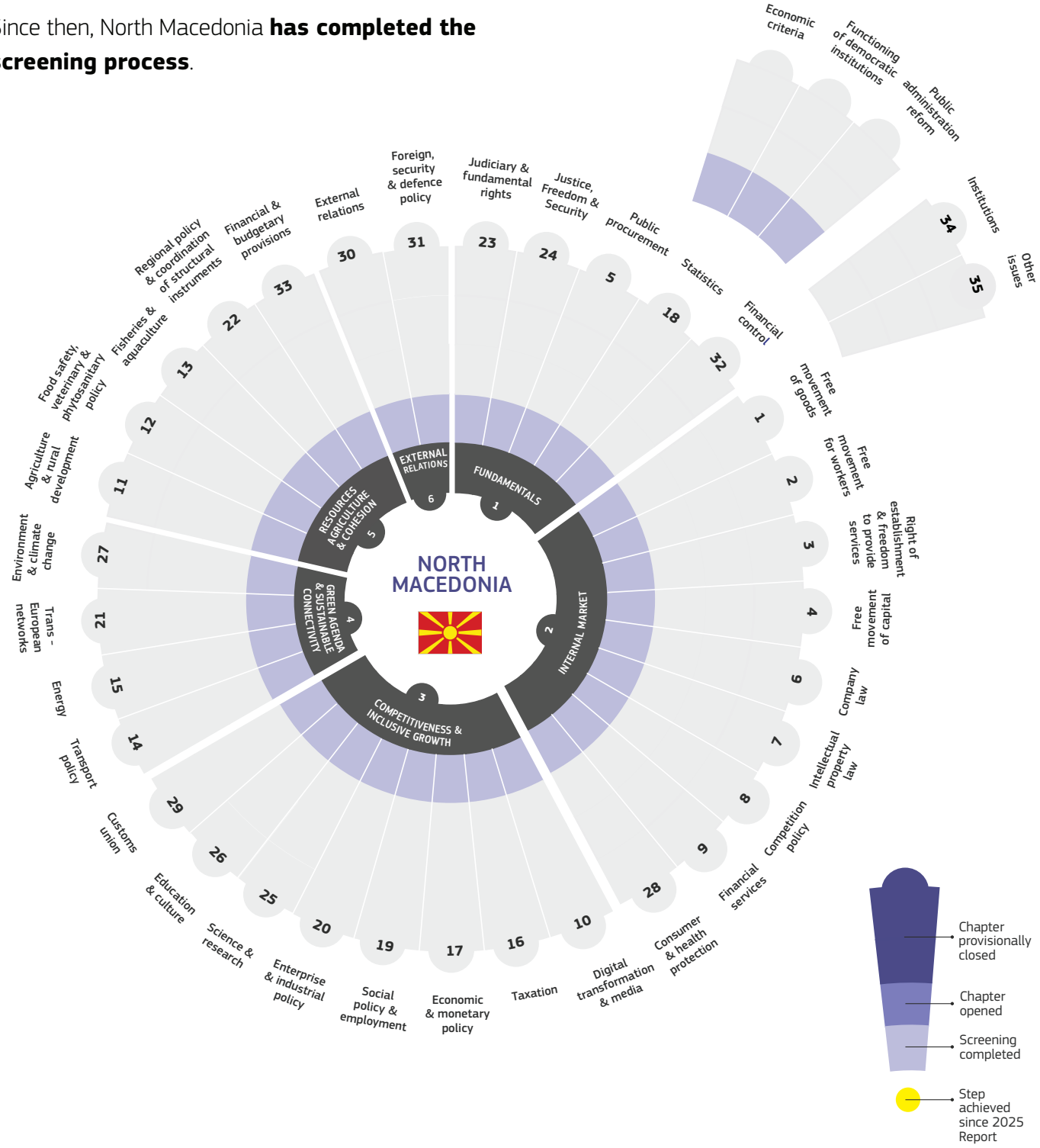




North Macedonia

North Macedonia's EU accession negotiations were opened in July 2022.

Since then, North Macedonia **has completed the screening process**.

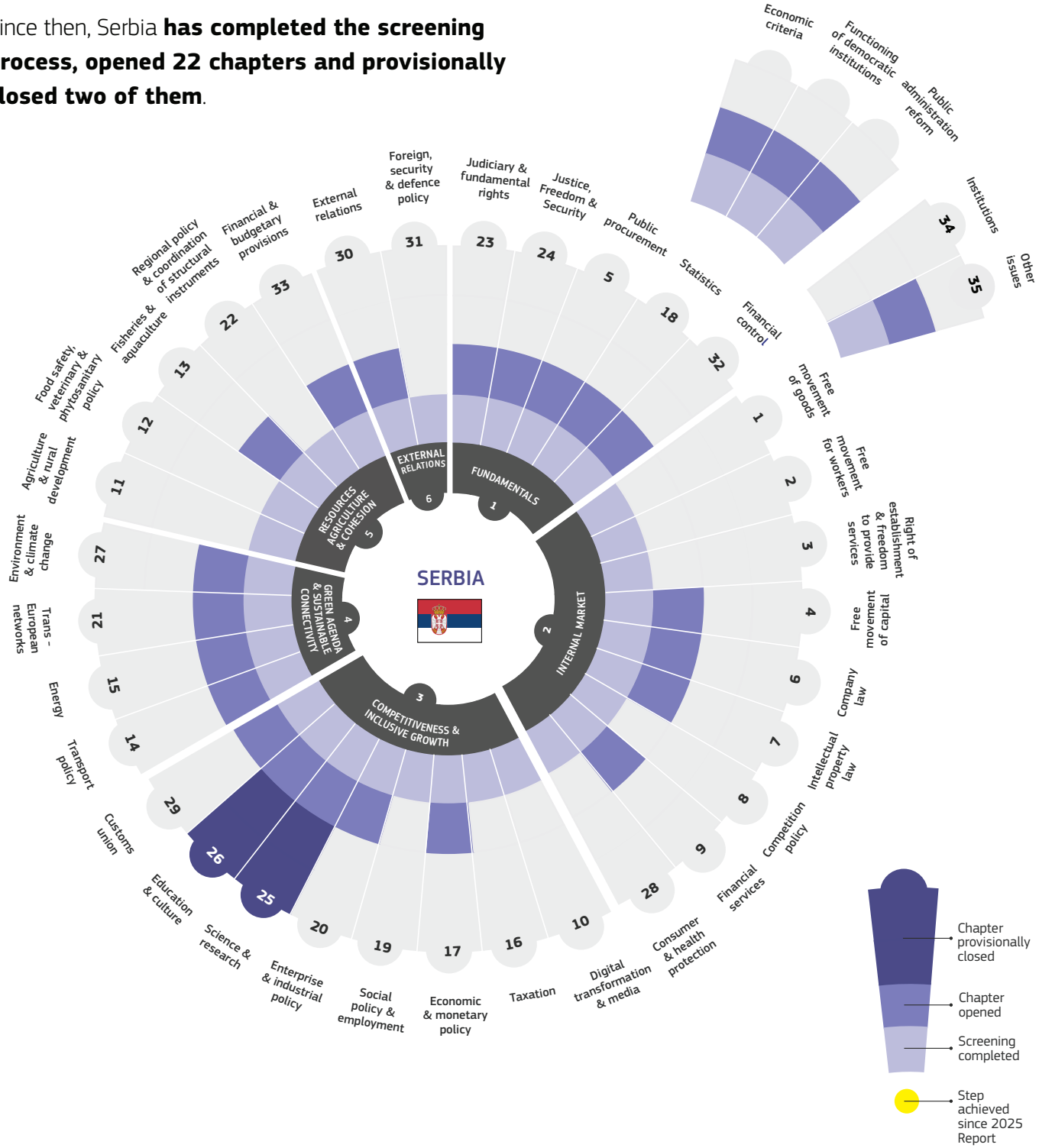




Serbia

Serbia's EU accession negotiations were opened in June 2013.

Since then, Serbia **has completed the screening process, opened 22 chapters and provisionally closed two of them**.



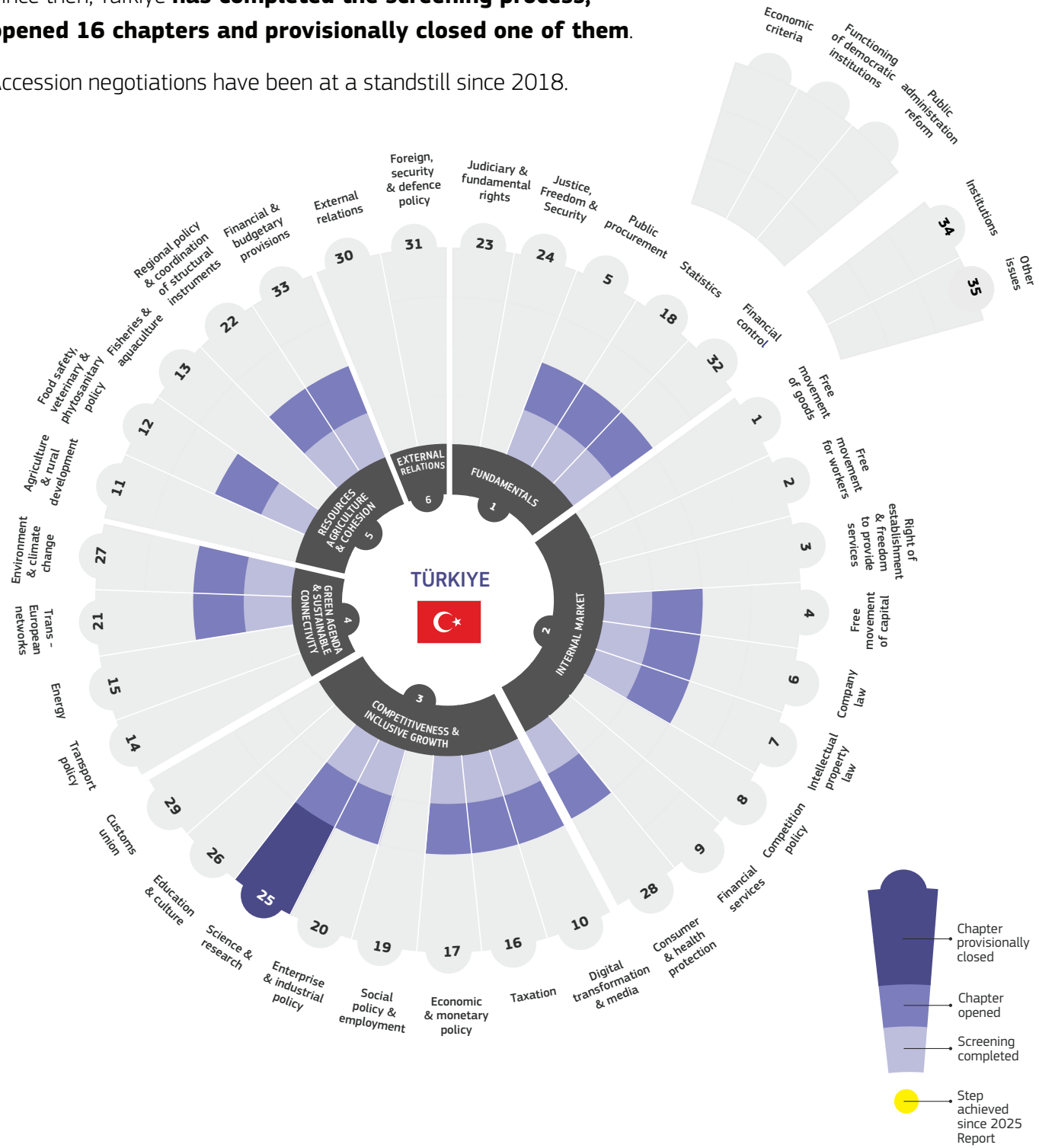


Türkiye

Türkiye's EU accession negotiations were opened in October 2005.

Since then, Türkiye **has completed the screening process, opened 16 chapters and provisionally closed one of them**.

Accession negotiations have been at a standstill since 2018.

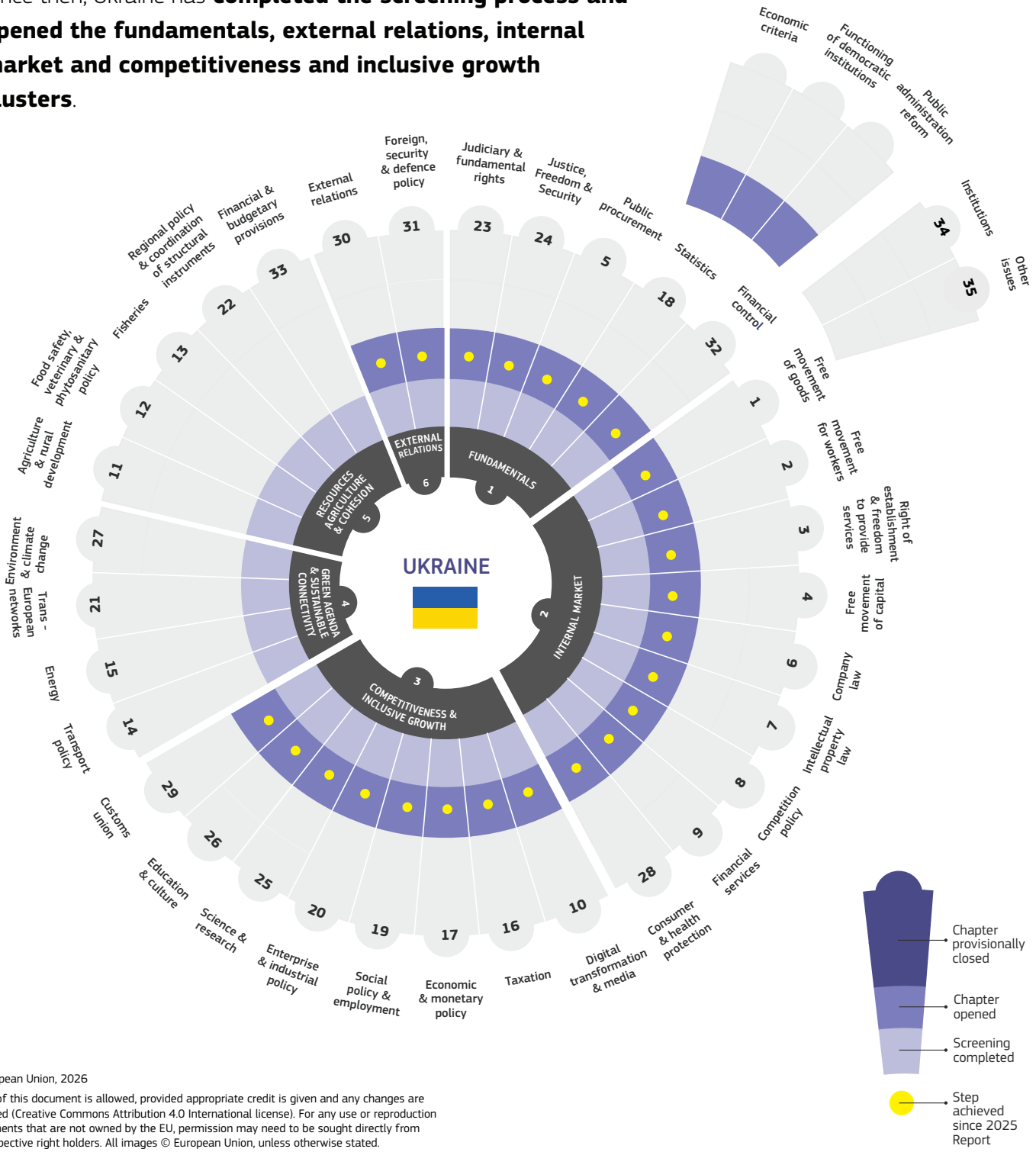




Ukraine

Ukraine's EU accession negotiations were opened in June 2024.

Since then, Ukraine has **completed the screening process and opened the fundamentals, external relations, internal market and competitiveness and inclusive growth clusters**.



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