



State of play EU accession negotiations




November 2025

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES WITH ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS OPENED

 Albania	 Serbia
 Moldova	 Türkiye
 Montenegro	 Ukraine
 North Macedonia	

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.

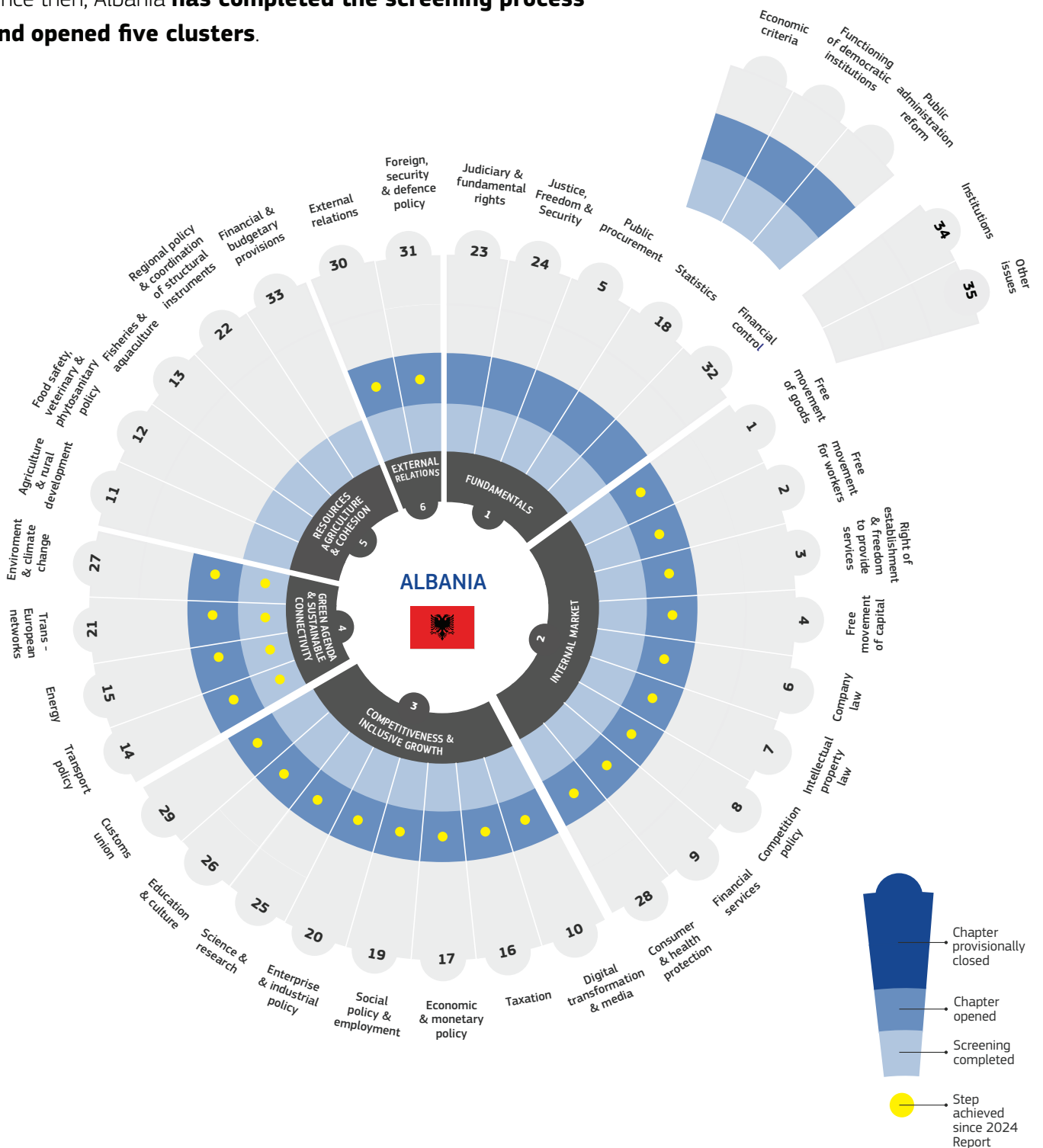
A candidate country's **pace of progress towards accession** will depend on how quickly the country implements the **required reforms**.

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 and opened five clusters.**

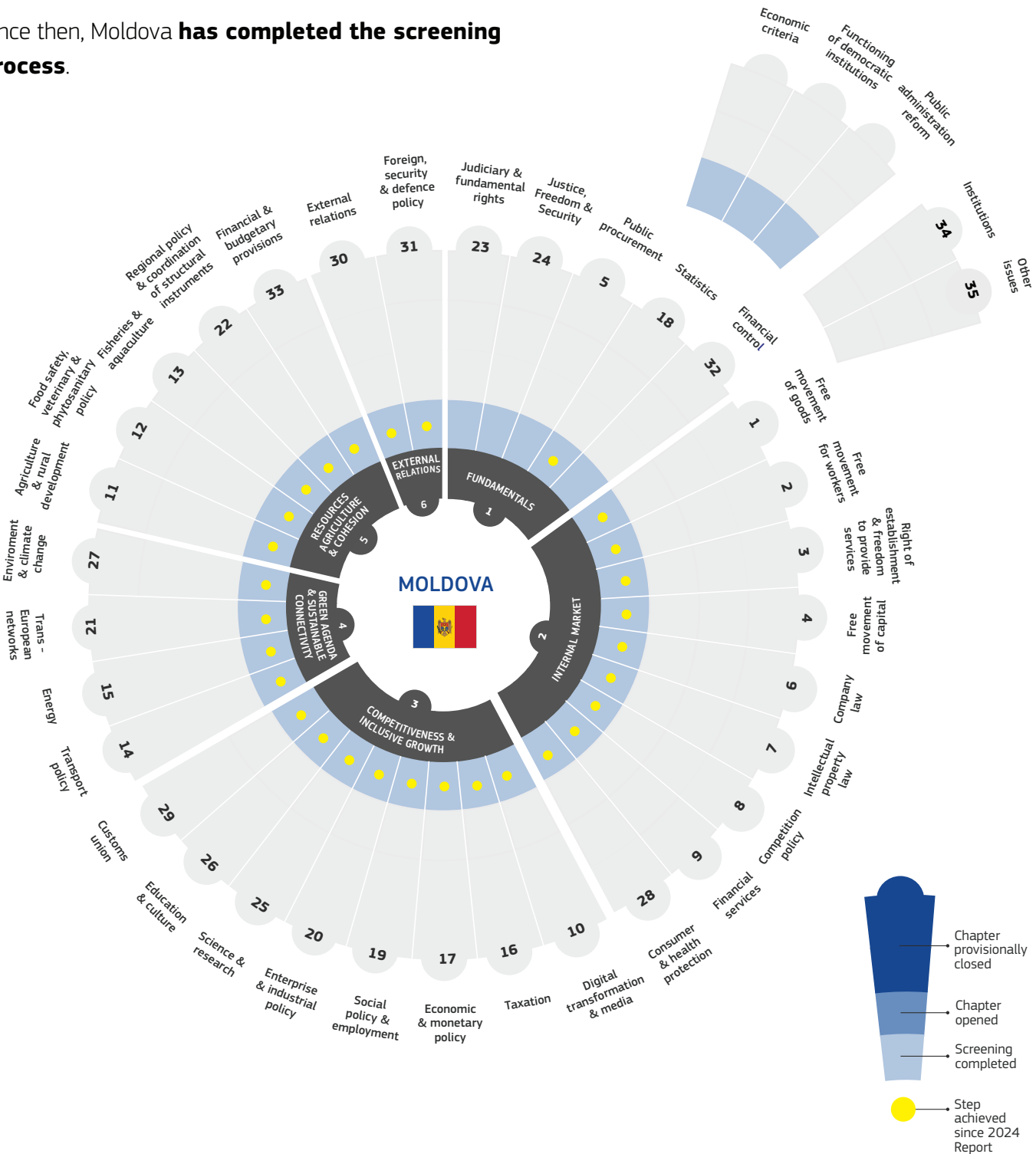




Moldova

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

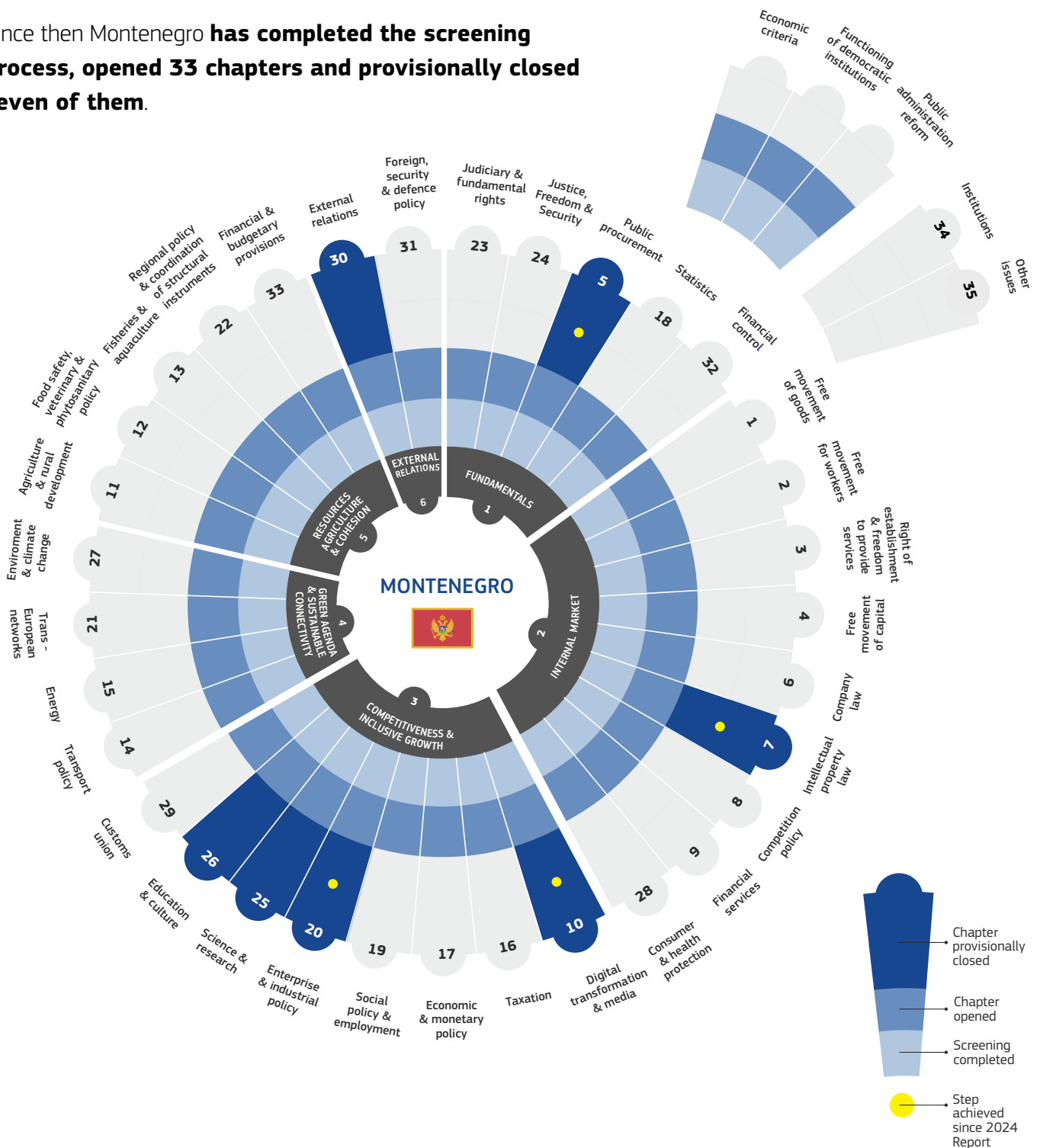
Since then, Moldova **has completed the screening process.**



Montenegro

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

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

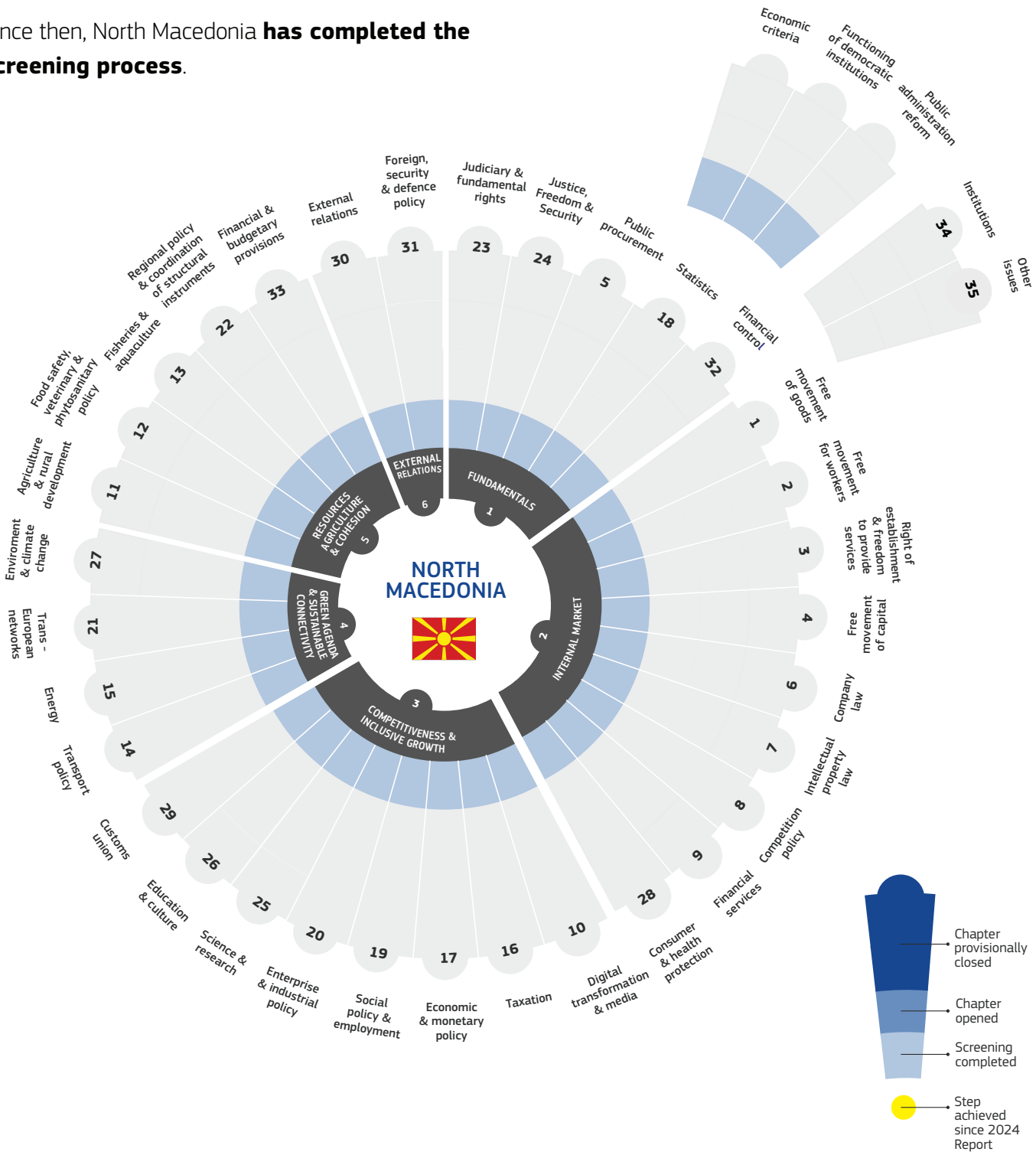




North Macedonia

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

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

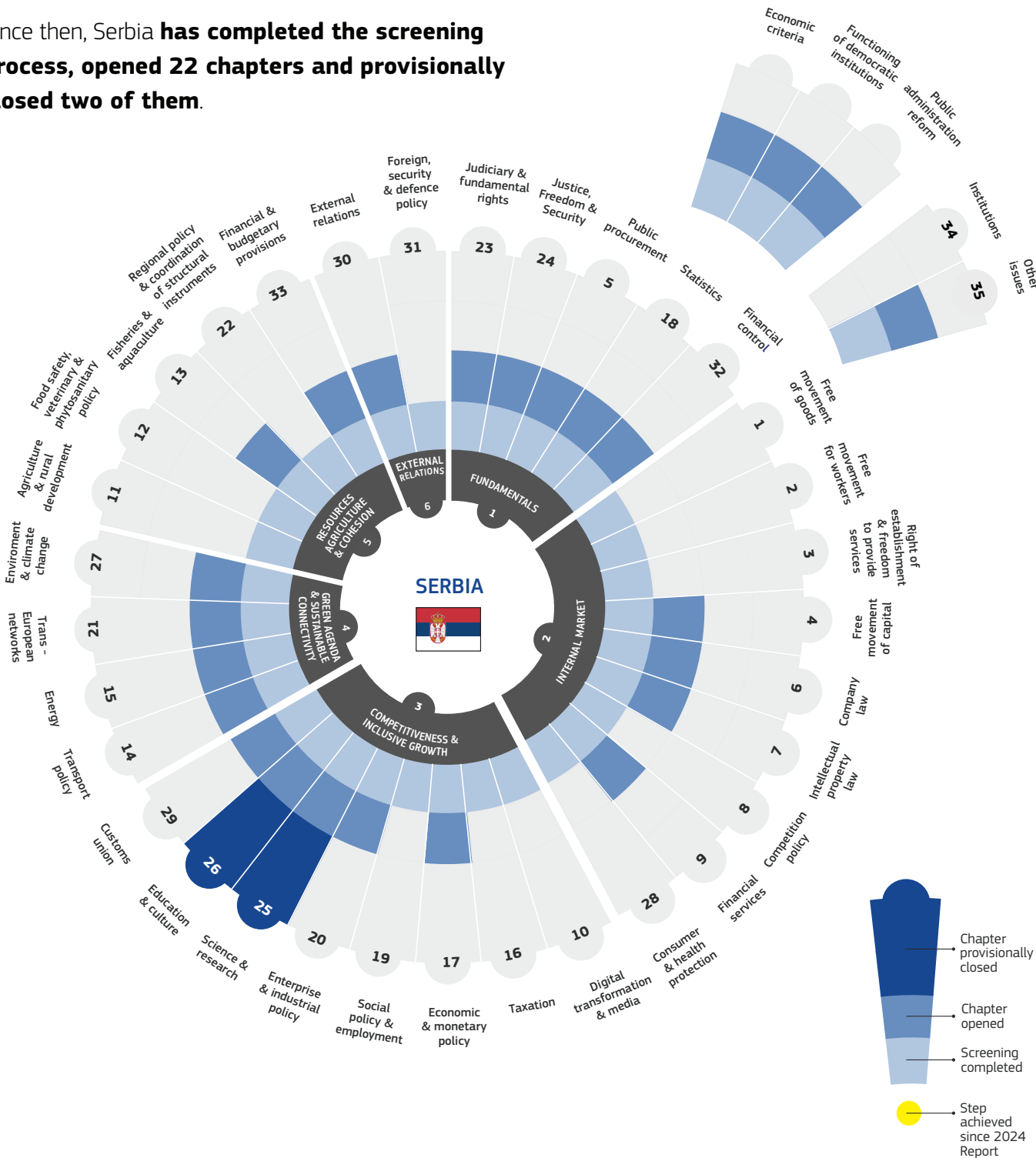




Serbia

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

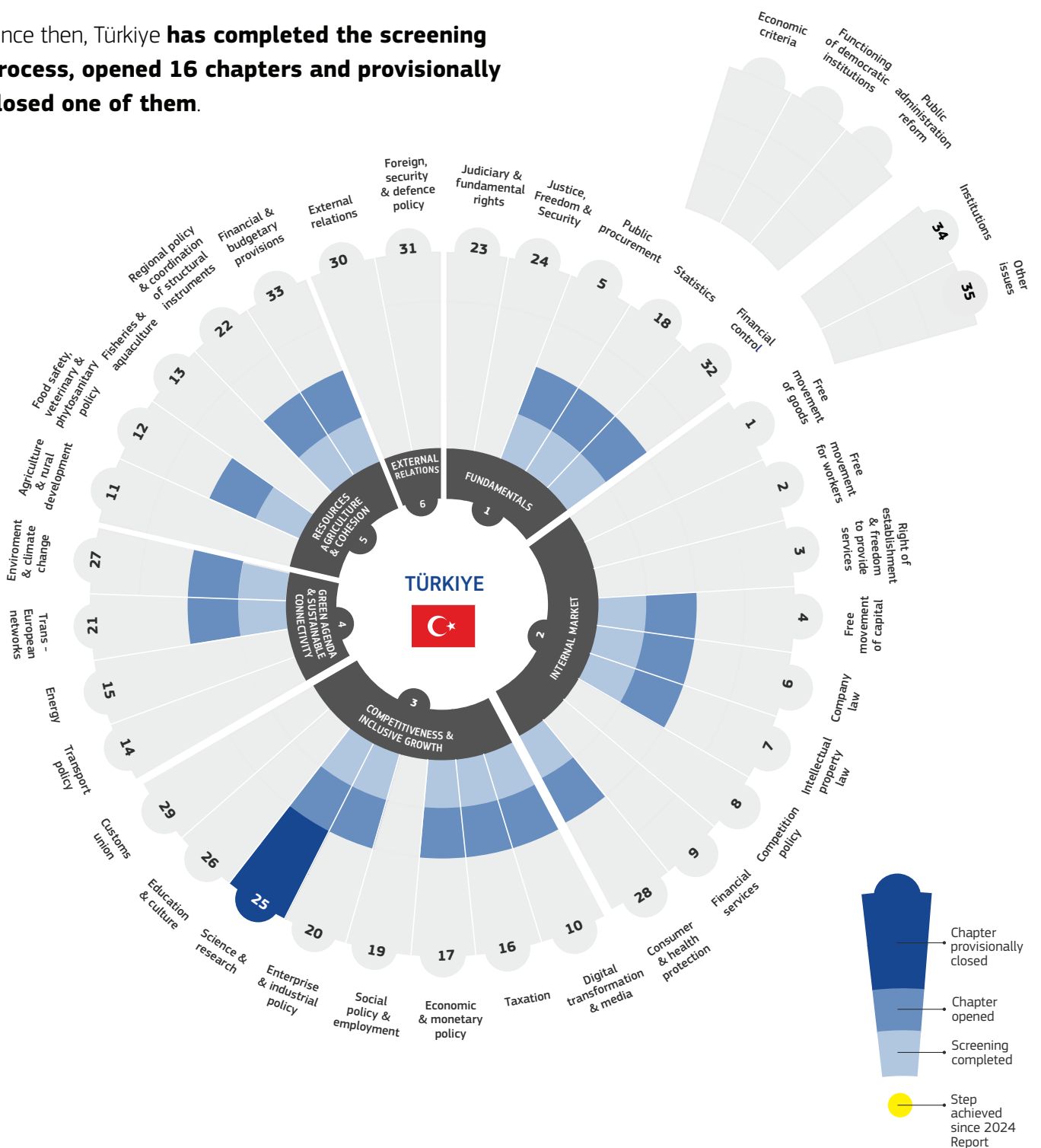
Since then, Serbia **has completed the screening process, opened 22 chapters and provisionally closed two of them.**



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.**





Ukraine

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

Since then, Ukraine **has completed the screening process.**

