



State of play EU accession negotiations

July 2026



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.

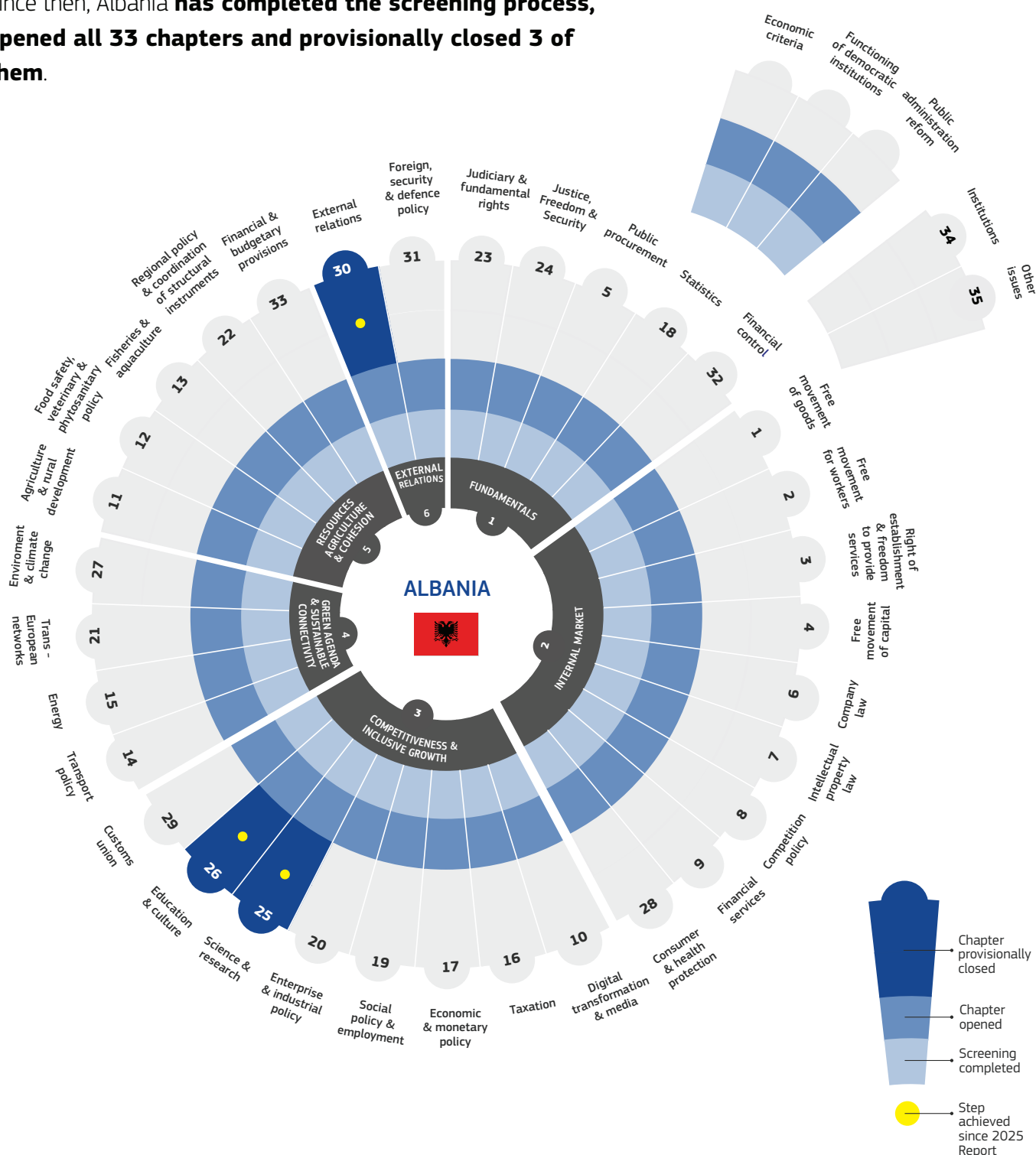
A candidate country's **pace of progress towards accession** will depend on how quickly the country implements the **required reforms**.

More detail at: [Steps towards joining - Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood](#)

Albania

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

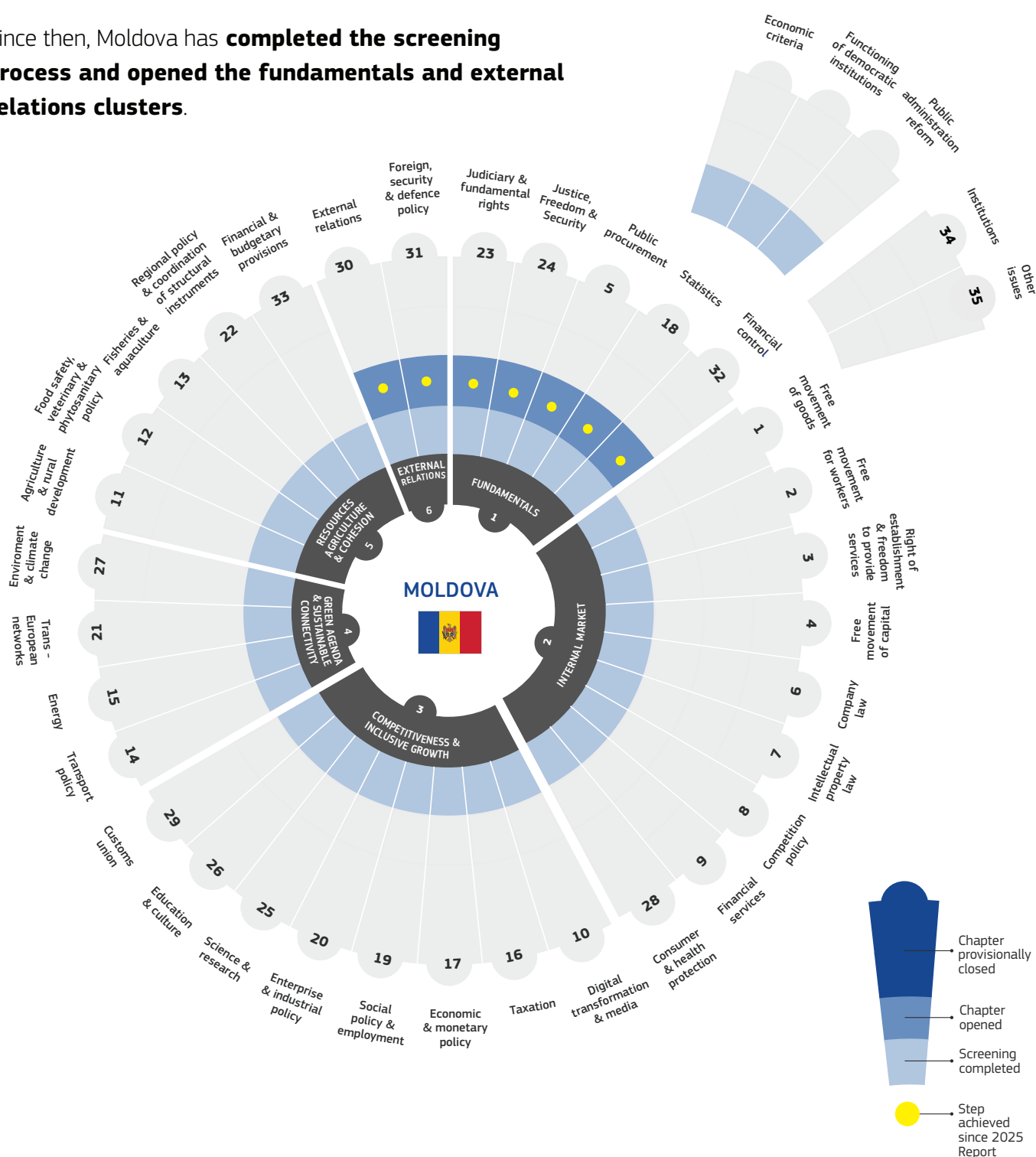
Since then, Albania **has completed the screening process, opened all 33 chapters and provisionally closed 3 of them.**



Moldova

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

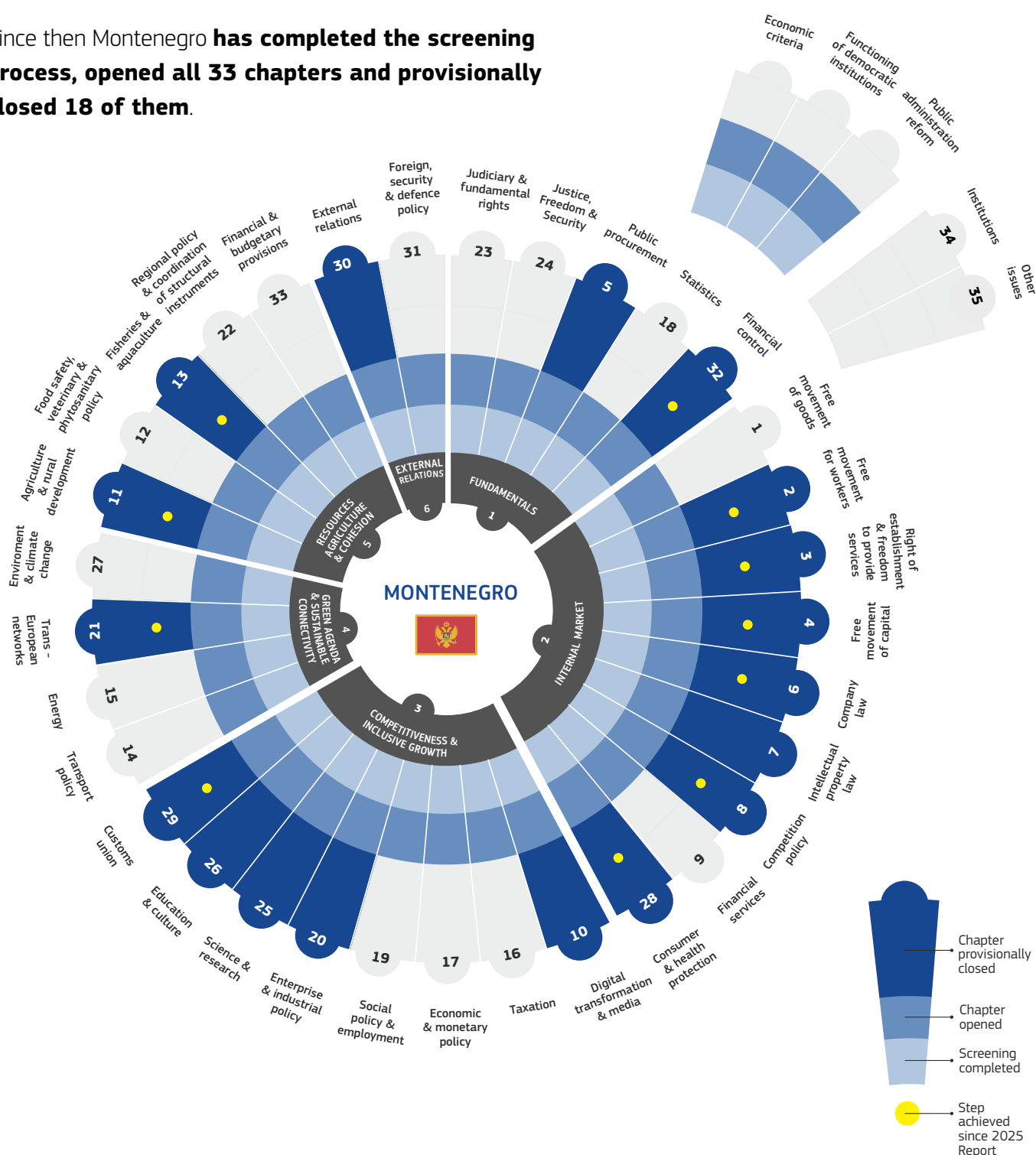
Since then, Moldova has **completed the screening process and opened the fundamentals and external relations clusters**.



Montenegro

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

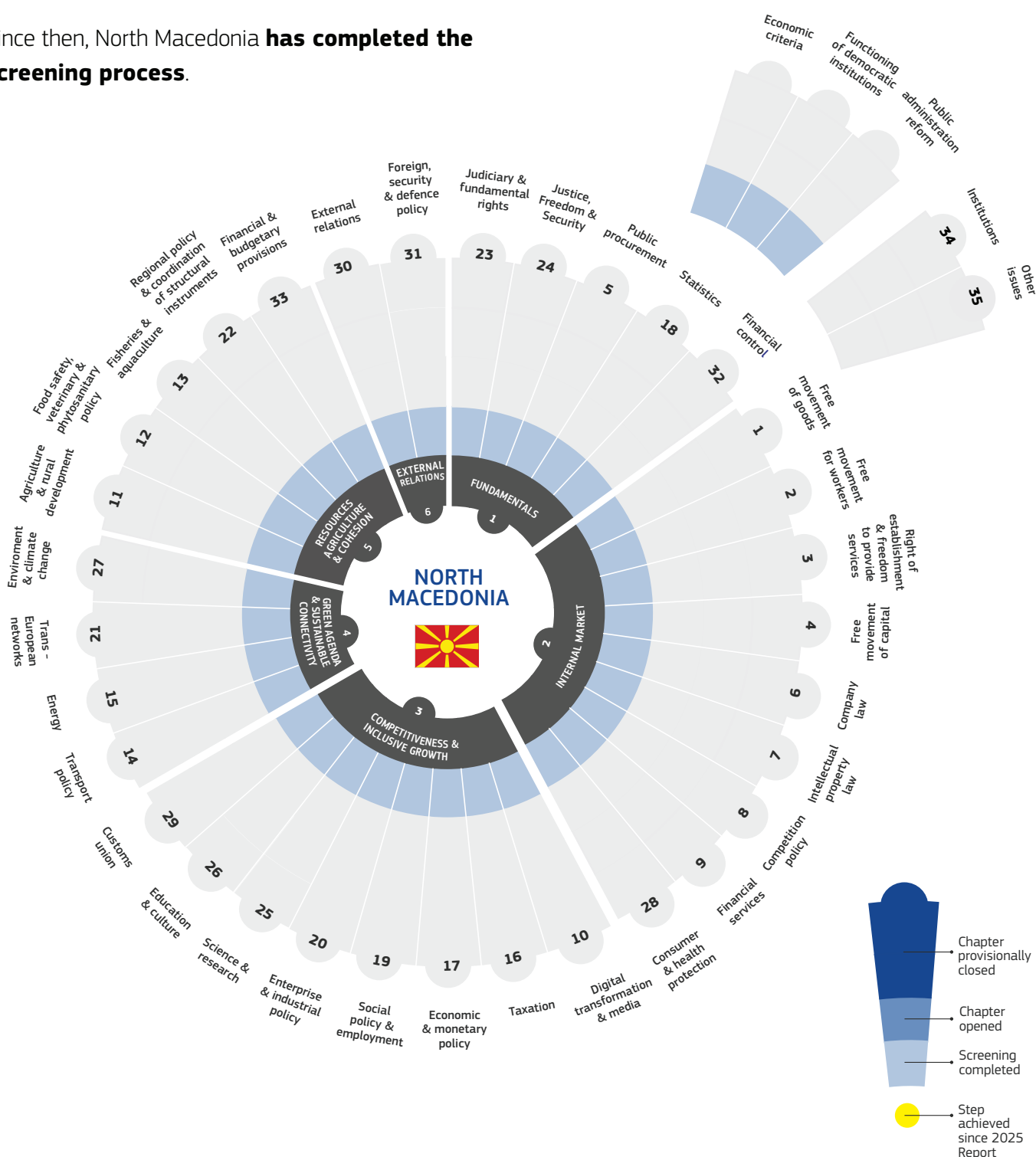
Since then Montenegro **has completed the screening process, opened all 33 chapters and provisionally closed 18 of them.**



North Macedonia

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

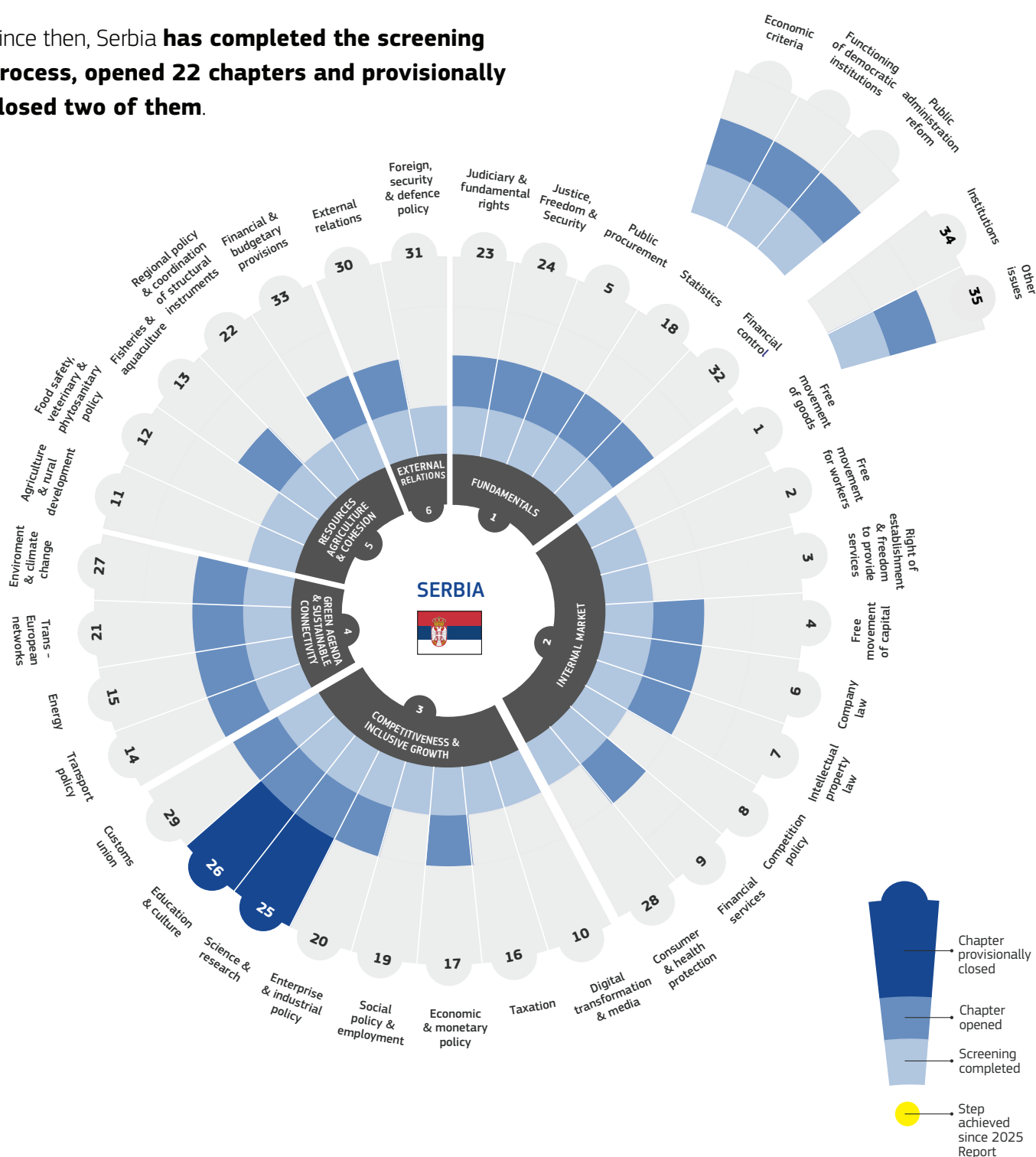
Since then, North Macedonia **has completed the screening process**.



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.**

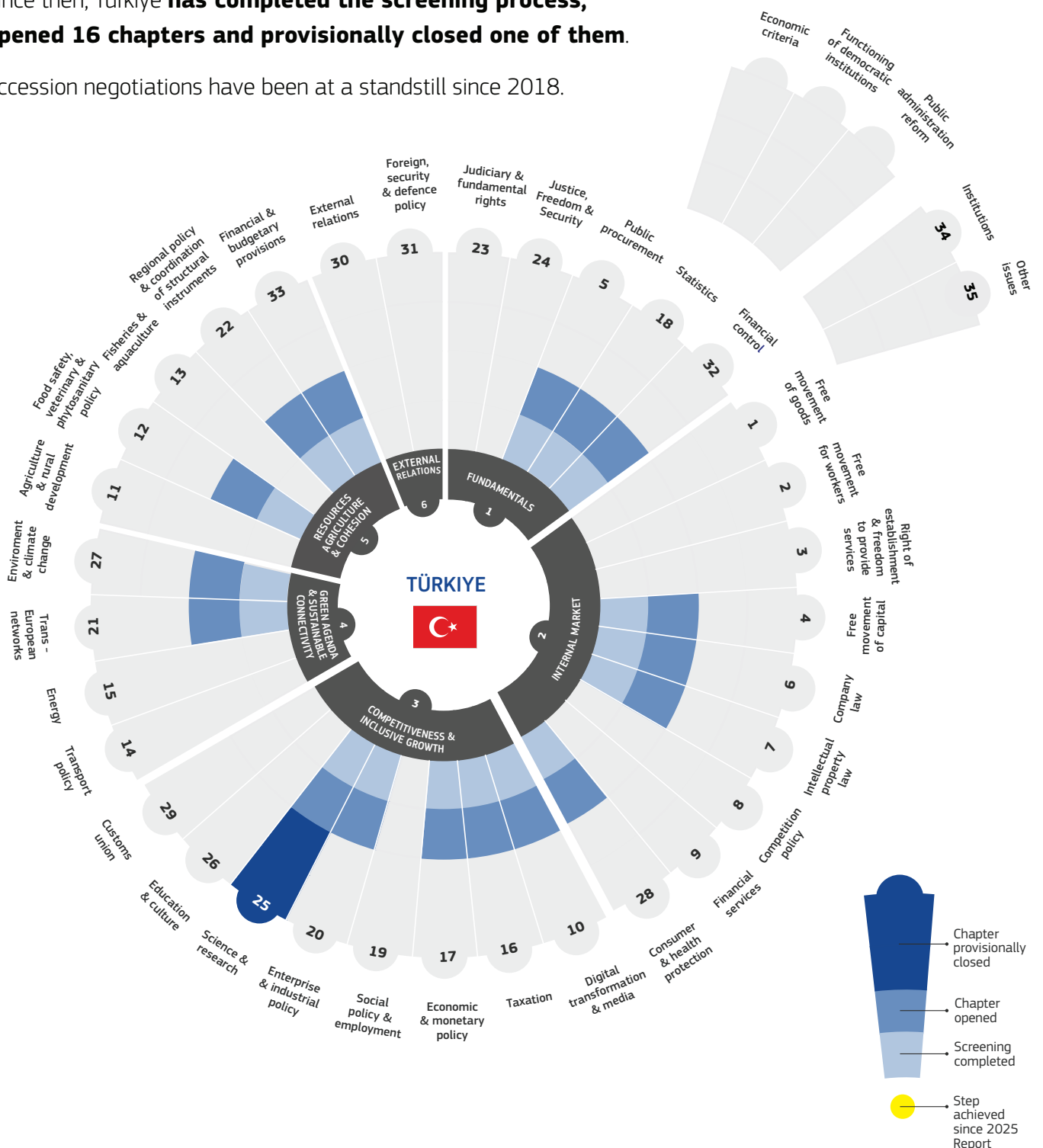


Türkiye

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 and external relations clusters**.

