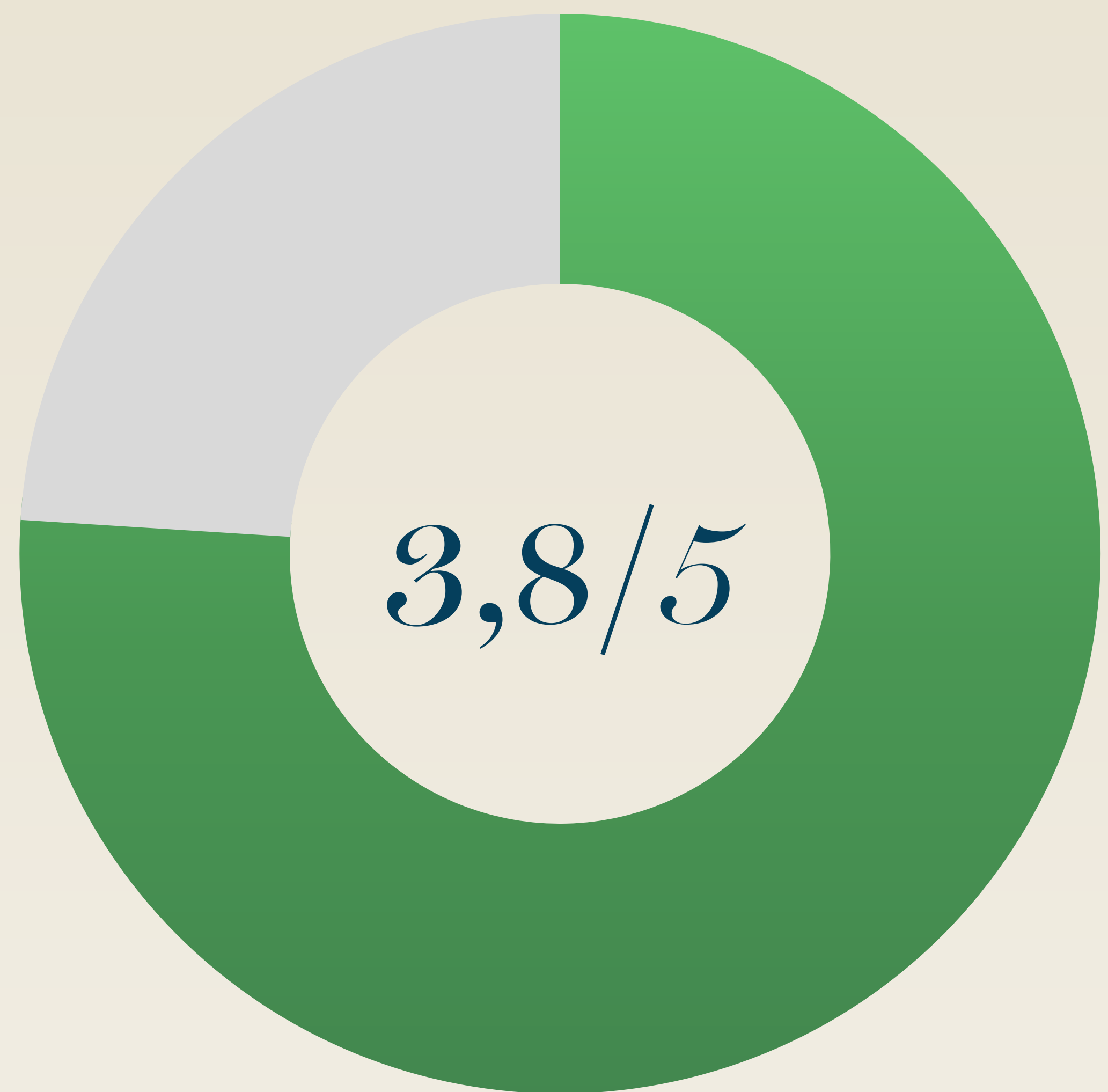


9 steps towards opening the accession negotiations with the European Union

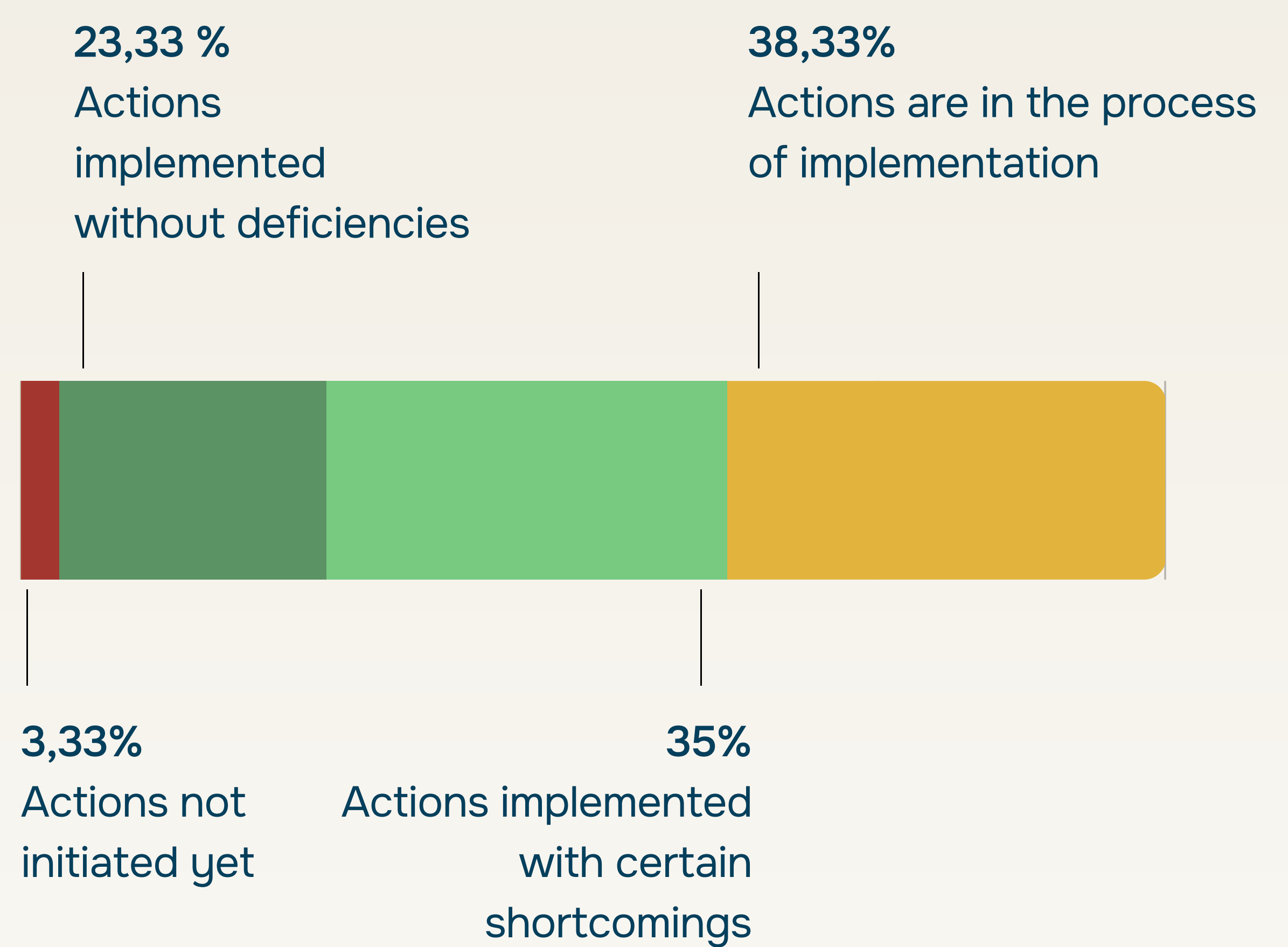
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The first shadow report on the Action Plan for the implementation of the steps proposed by the European Commission in its Opinion on Moldova's EU membership application concludes that the overall average for the degree of implementation of the 9 commitments is **3.8 points out of a maximum of 5**.



The implementation of the 9 measures

Out of the 60 actions corresponding to the 9 measures provided by the authorities in the Action Plan: **14 actions (23,33%)** have been implemented without deficiencies, **21 actions (35%)** have been implemented with certain shortcomings, **23 actions (38.33%)** are in the process of implementation, and **2 actions (3,33%)** have not been initiated yet.

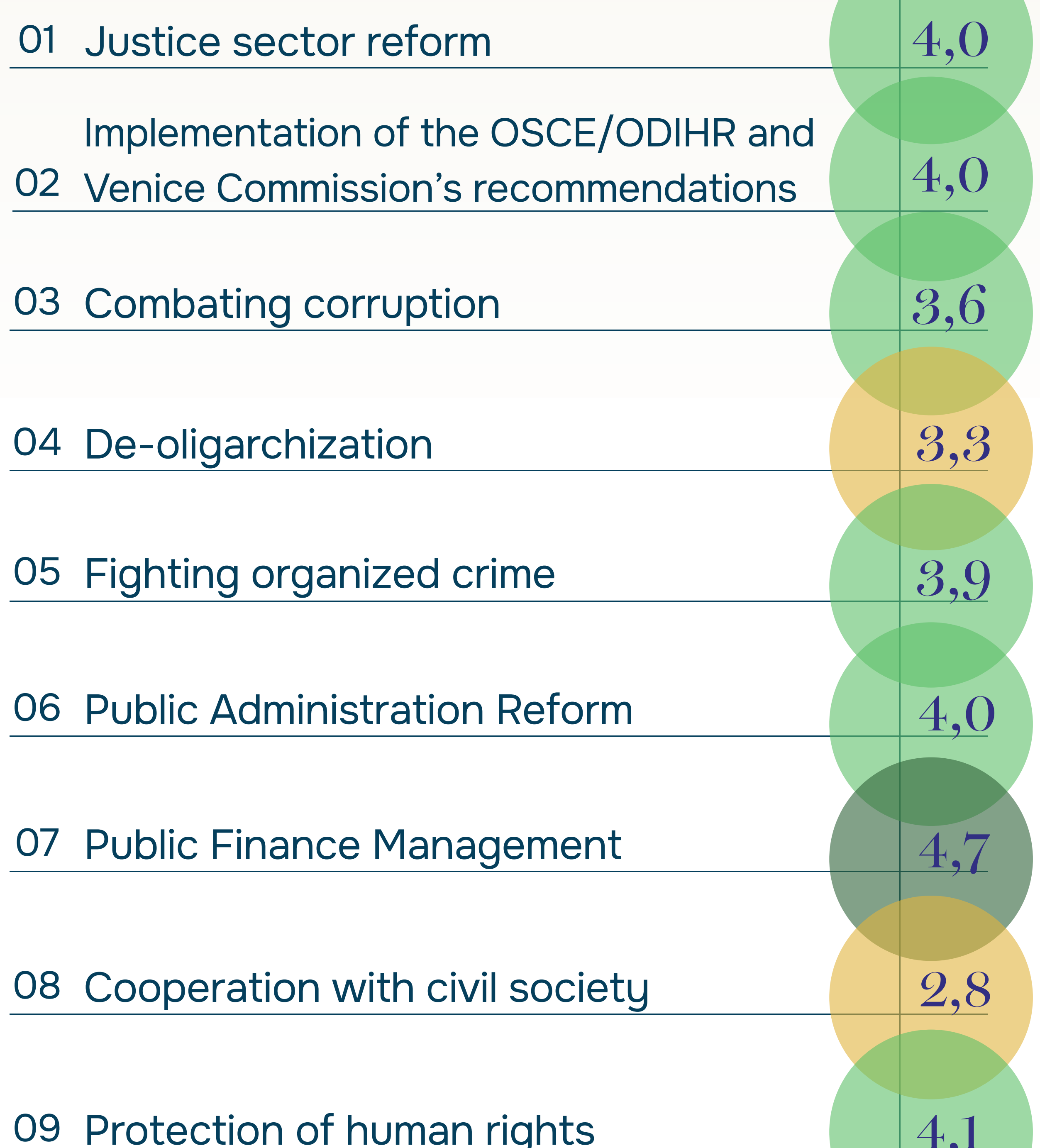


The list of the 9 steps

In July 2023, the assessments reflected in the first shadow report will be reviewed and updated to reflect the final evaluations, given that the deadline for fulfilling the 9 commitments is **June 2023**, when the European Commission will initiate the elaboration of the first report within the EU Enlargement Package, which will be published in the autumn of this year.

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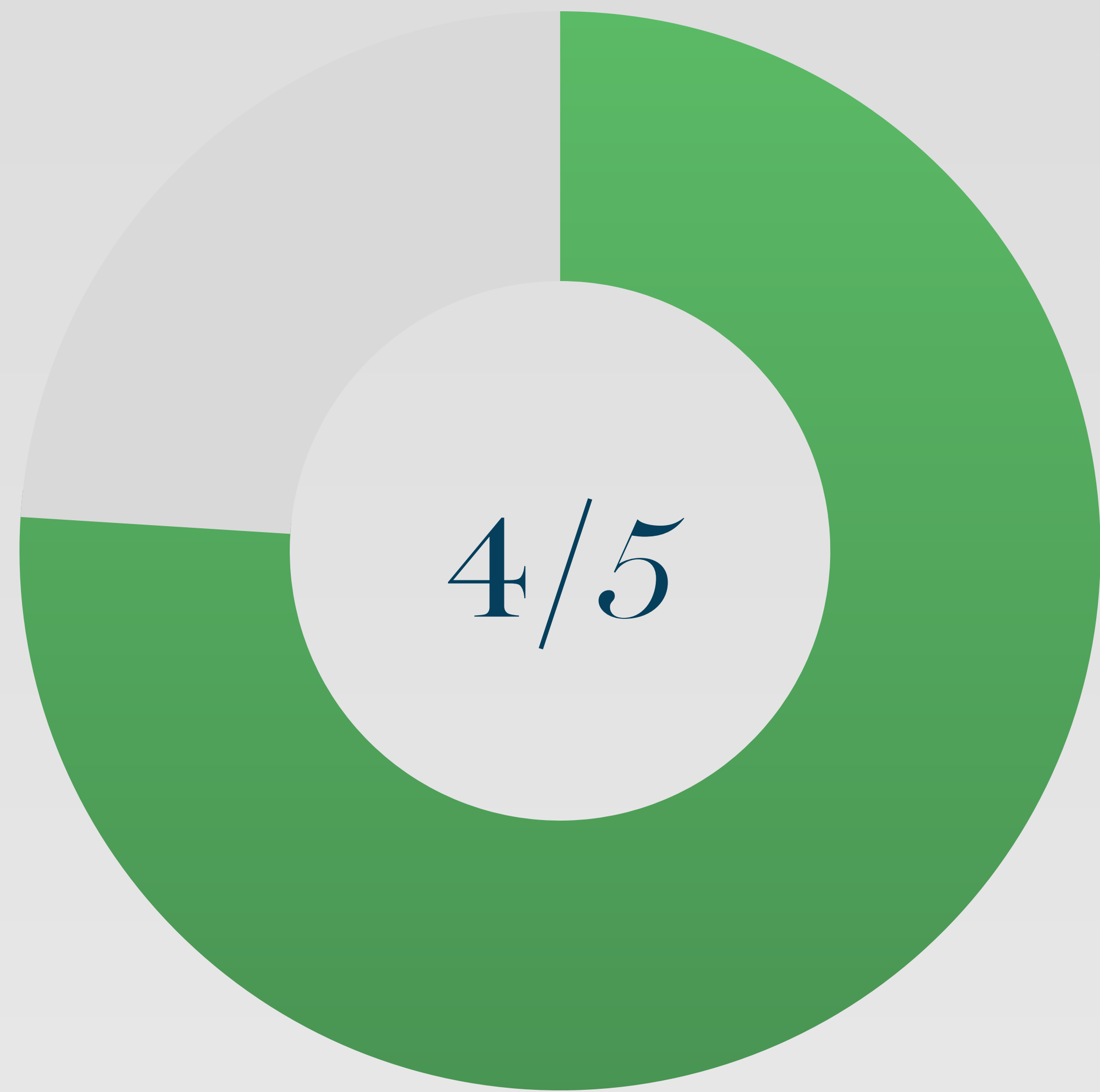
April 2023



Commitment 1: Justice sector reform

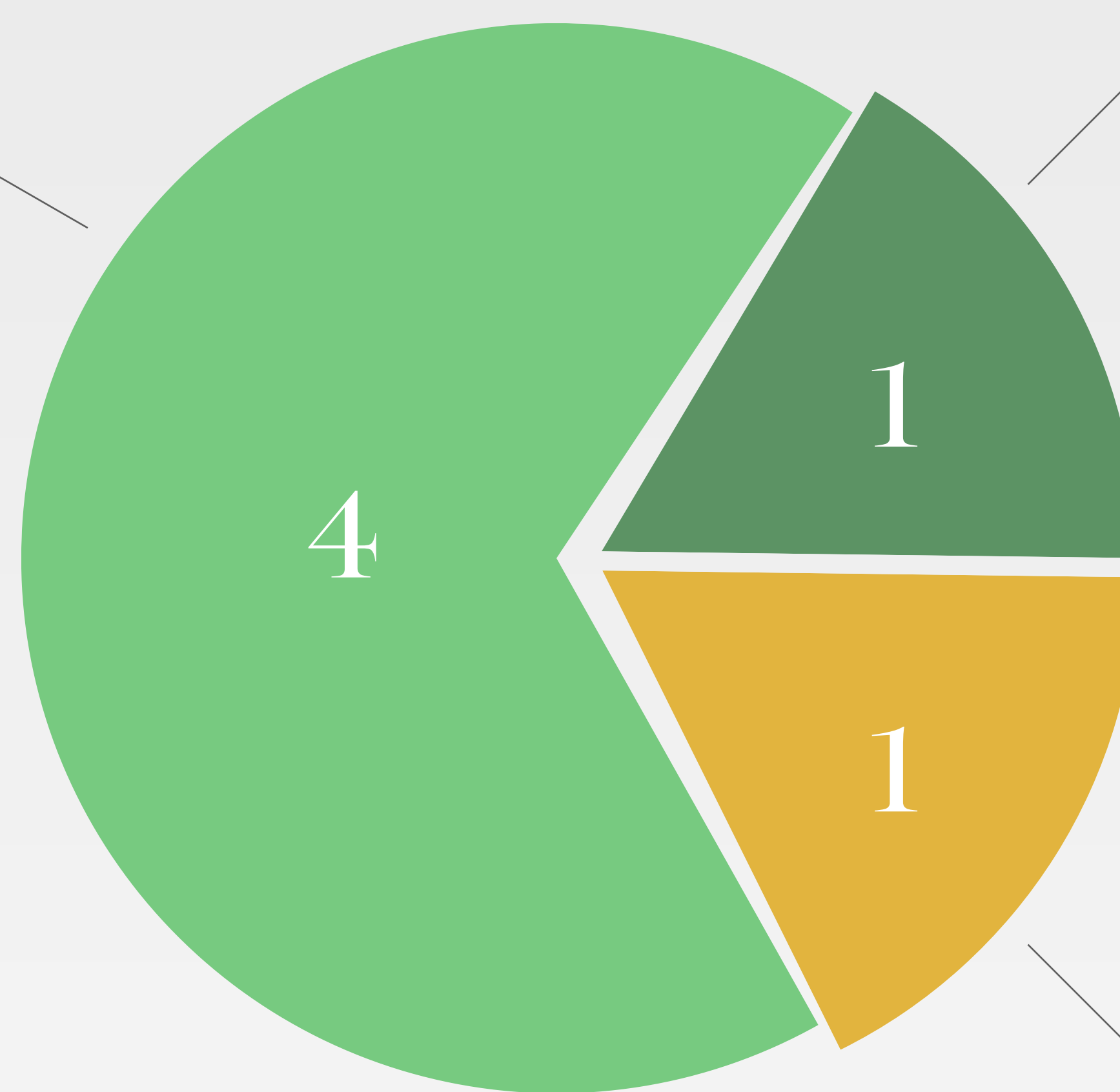
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General assessment: 4 points out of 5. Commitment 1 is to be fulfilled through **6 planned actions**, of which by the end of March 2023: one action has been implemented without shortcomings, four actions have been implemented with certain shortcomings, and one action is in the process of implementation.



Implemented with certain shortcomings

- Amend the legal framework regarding the disciplinary liability of judges.
- Amend the Law on the Prosecutor's Office in order to improve it in accordance with the Venice Commission's recommendations of December 2021
- Amend the Law No.152/2006 on the National Institute of Justice
- Develop the concept of legal amendments to improve the capacity and reform the boards for selection and performance evaluation of judges of the Superior Council of Magistracy.



Implemented without shortcomings

- Align the legal framework in the field of the judiciary to the new constitutional provisions, inter alia by addressing the recommendations of the Venice Commission.

In the process of implementation

- Efectuarea evaluării candidaților la funcția de membru al Consiliului Superior al Magistraturii, Consiliului Superior al Procurorilor și al organelor specializate.

Priorities

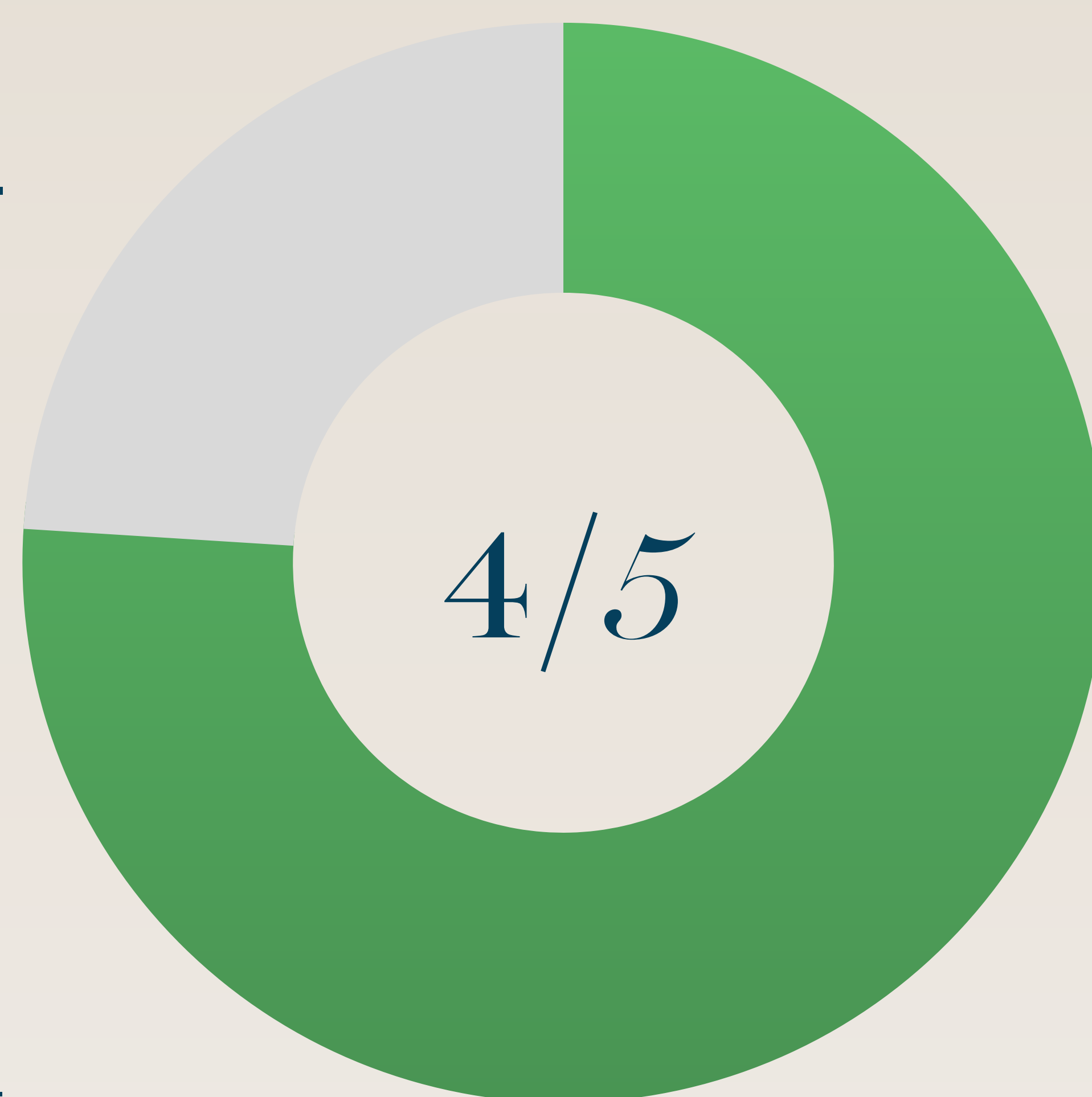
- › Significant acceleration of the extraordinary evaluation procedures of non-judge candidates for the SCM and candidates for the SCP, in order to establish these self-administration bodies as quickly as possible.
- › Improving the Law on Prosecution by implementing all the recommendations of the Venice Commission
- › Introduction of a verification mechanism by the National Integrity Authority (NIA) of the asset and interests' declarations submitted by the candidates for the NIJ.
- › Modifying the legal framework to provide greater autonomy to the Judicial Inspection

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Commitment 2: Implementation of the Venice Commission recommendations

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General assessment: 4 points out of 5
Commitment 2 was to be fulfilled by means of one planned action by the end of 2022. The action was implemented with certain shortcomings.



8 October 2021

A working group within CEC was established, responsible for amending the Electoral Code

13 July 2022

The draft law on amending the Electoral Code has been registered in the Parliament

8 December 2022

The Parliament of Moldova voted in the final reading the draft of the new Electoral Code

9 February 2022

The draft decision regarding the amendment of the Electoral Code was presented for public consultation

28 July 2022

The new Electoral Code was voted in the first reading and submitted for approval to the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR

Main changes:

- Composition and method of appointing the members of CEC
- Possibility of organizing elections for 2 days, based on objective reasons
- The list of subjects who can file appeals was expanded

Priorities

- › Review and approval of normative acts for the implementation of the new Electoral Code
- › Operationalization of the institutional capacities of the CEC
- › The widest possible public consultations approval of the implementing regulations under development
- › Organization of the public contest for the election of the presidents of the district electoral councils of the 2nd level
- › Reducing the thresholds for access to Parliament for the electoral competitors
- › Advancing the implementation process of alternative voting methods
- › Assessment of the implementation of the Venice Commission's recommendations with reference to Commitment No.1

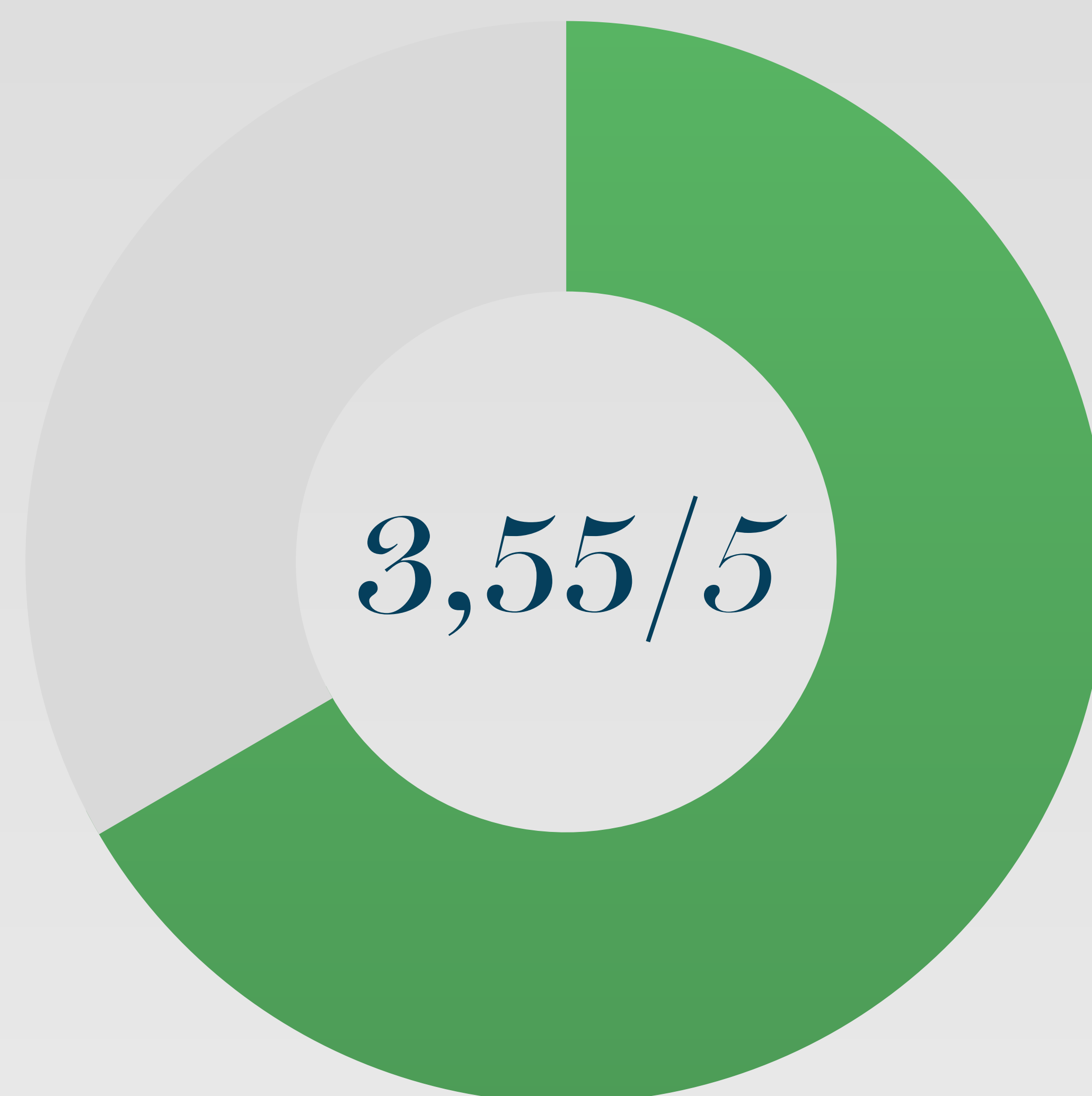
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Commitment 3: Combatting corruption

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General assessment: 3,55 points out of 5.
Commitment 3 is to be fulfilled through 9 planned actions.

By the end of March 2023: one action has been implemented, 3 actions have been implemented with certain shortcomings, and another 5 are in the process of being implemented.



Key developments

26 July 2022

The most important progress:

Adoption of legislative amendments and the implementation of the new mechanism for criminal investigation, trial and sentencing in absentia of persons who evade participation in the criminal investigation.

The new mechanism has already started to be applied by prosecutors.

22 March 2023

The draft amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code for delimiting the competences between the National Anticorruption Center (NAC) and the Anti-Corruption Prosecution Office (AP) has been approved. Thus, the NAC will focus on systemic corruption causes, while the PA will carry out the criminal investigation with regard to high-level corruption.

1 action implemented without shortcomings

5 actions are in the process of being implemented



3 actions have been implemented with certain shortcomings

Priorities

- › Adoption and amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code regarding the delimitation of powers between NAC and AP
- › Adoption of amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and Law no. 59/2012
- › Adoption of amendments to Law no. 122/2018 on whistle-blowers, transposing the EU Directive 2019/1937
- › Development and publication of the Strategic Analysis regarding convictions adopted during 2022 in corruption cases

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LRCM
Rights and justice for all

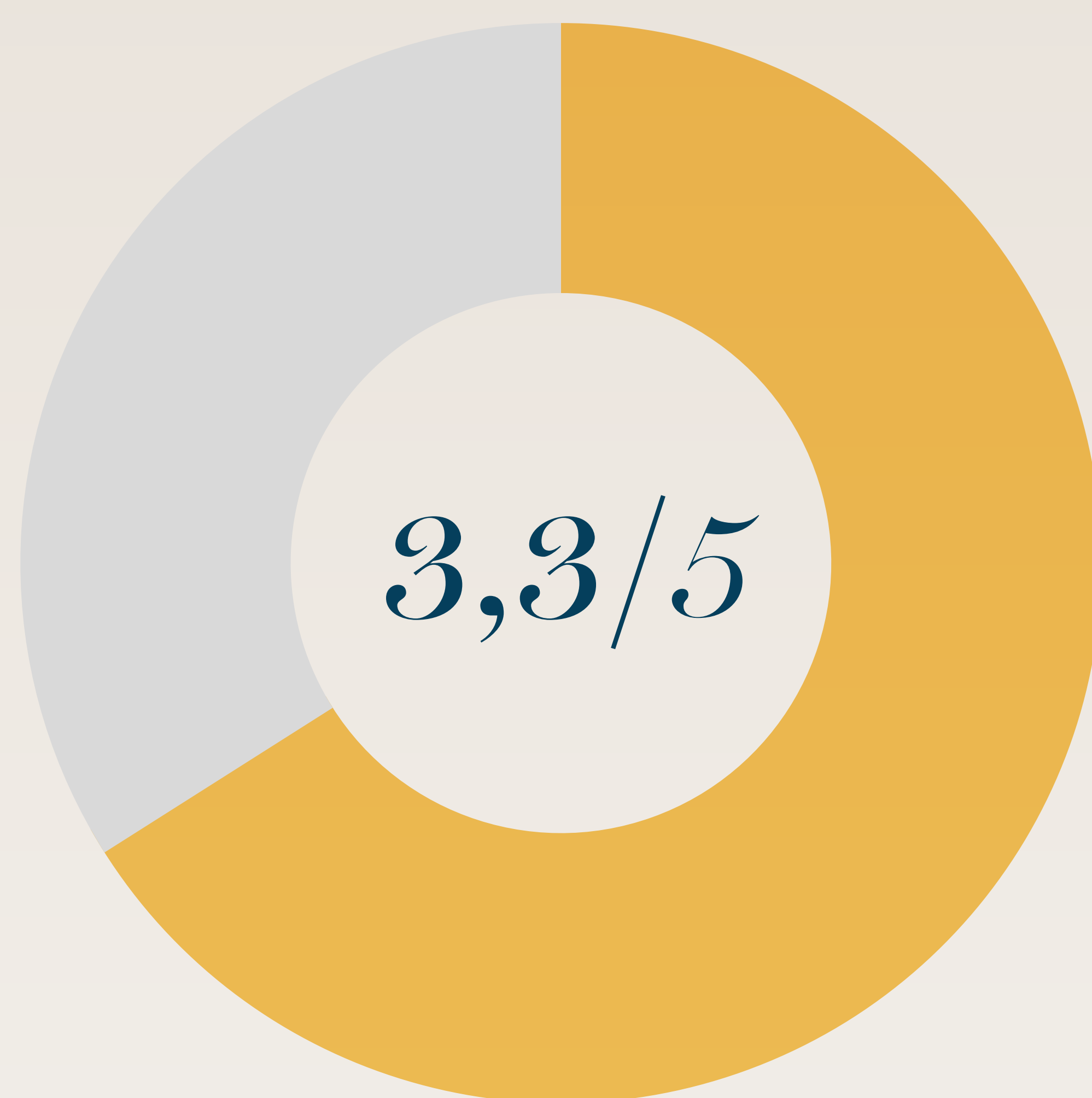
FRIEDRICH
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Commitment 4: De-oligarchization

#MoldovaEUCandidateCheck

General assessment: 3,3 points out of 5.
Commitment 4 is to be fulfilled through 10 planned actions.

By the end of March 2023: one has been implemented without shortcomings, one action was implemented with certain shortcomings, and eight actions are in the process of implementation.



Key developments

Ministry of Justice

initiated the process of drafting and approving a law on eliminating excessive influence of private interests on economic, political, and public life.

Audio-visual Council

The Audiovisual Media Services Code has been amended to allow the Audiovisual Council (AC) to verify the reports received from media service providers.

Central Electoral Commission

Within the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), a Supervision and Control Directorate has been established regarding the financing of political parties and electoral campaigns.

Competition Council

and the Audiovisual Council (AC) have been empowered in the field of legal regime of property and transparency in the audiovisual field.

Priorities

- › Adjustment of the law on de-oligarchization
- › Adoption of an action plan on de-oligarchization measures
- › Approval of the regulation for the evaluation of members of state-owned companies' councils;
- › Development of a screening mechanism (triage) for state-owned companies
- › Modification of the Law on public-private partnership
- › Development and implementation of mandates for state-owned companies

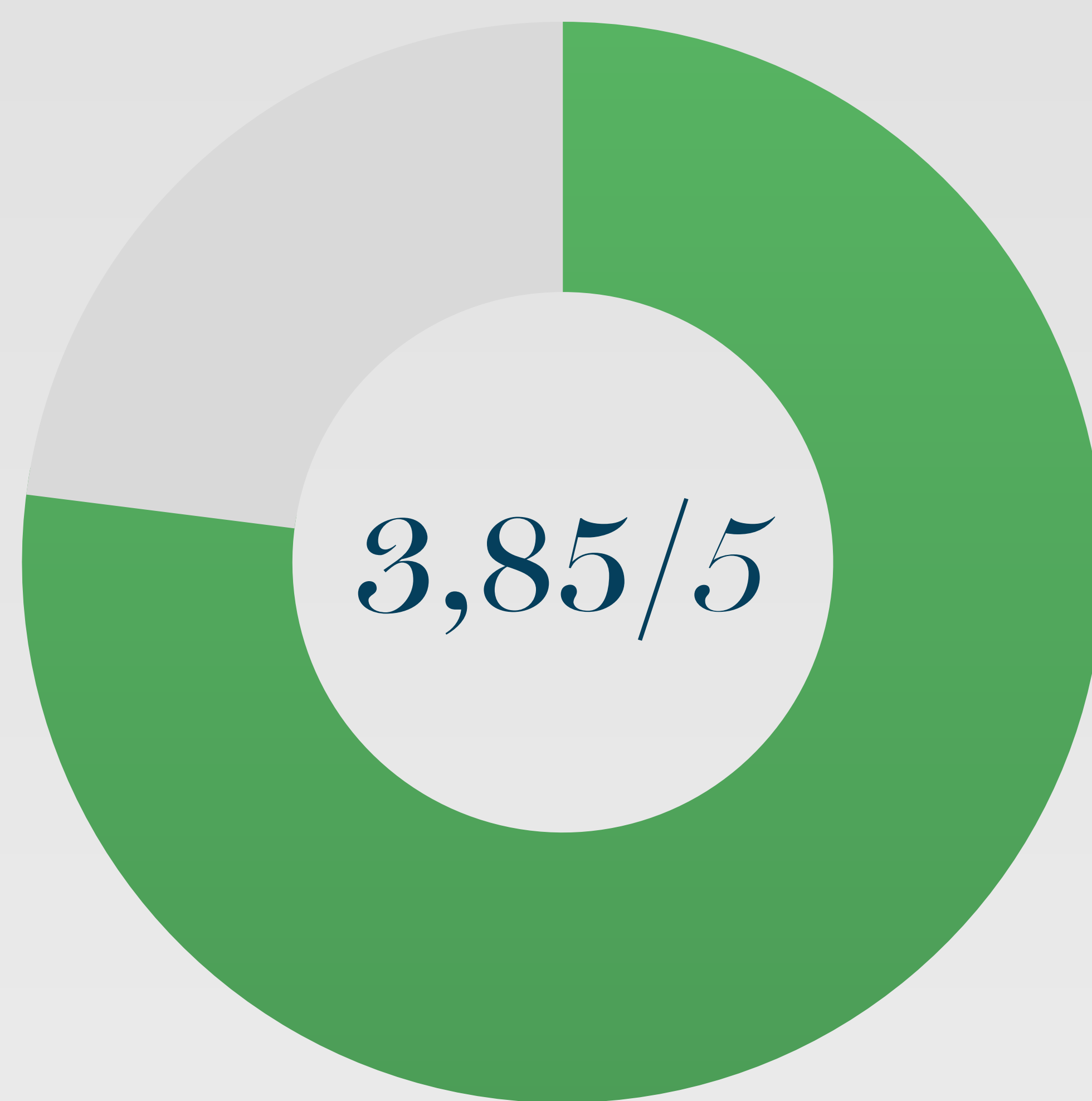
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Commitment 5: Fighting organized crime

#MoldovaEUCandidateCheck

General assessment: **3,85 points out of 5**. Commitment 5 is to be fulfilled through **14 planned actions**.

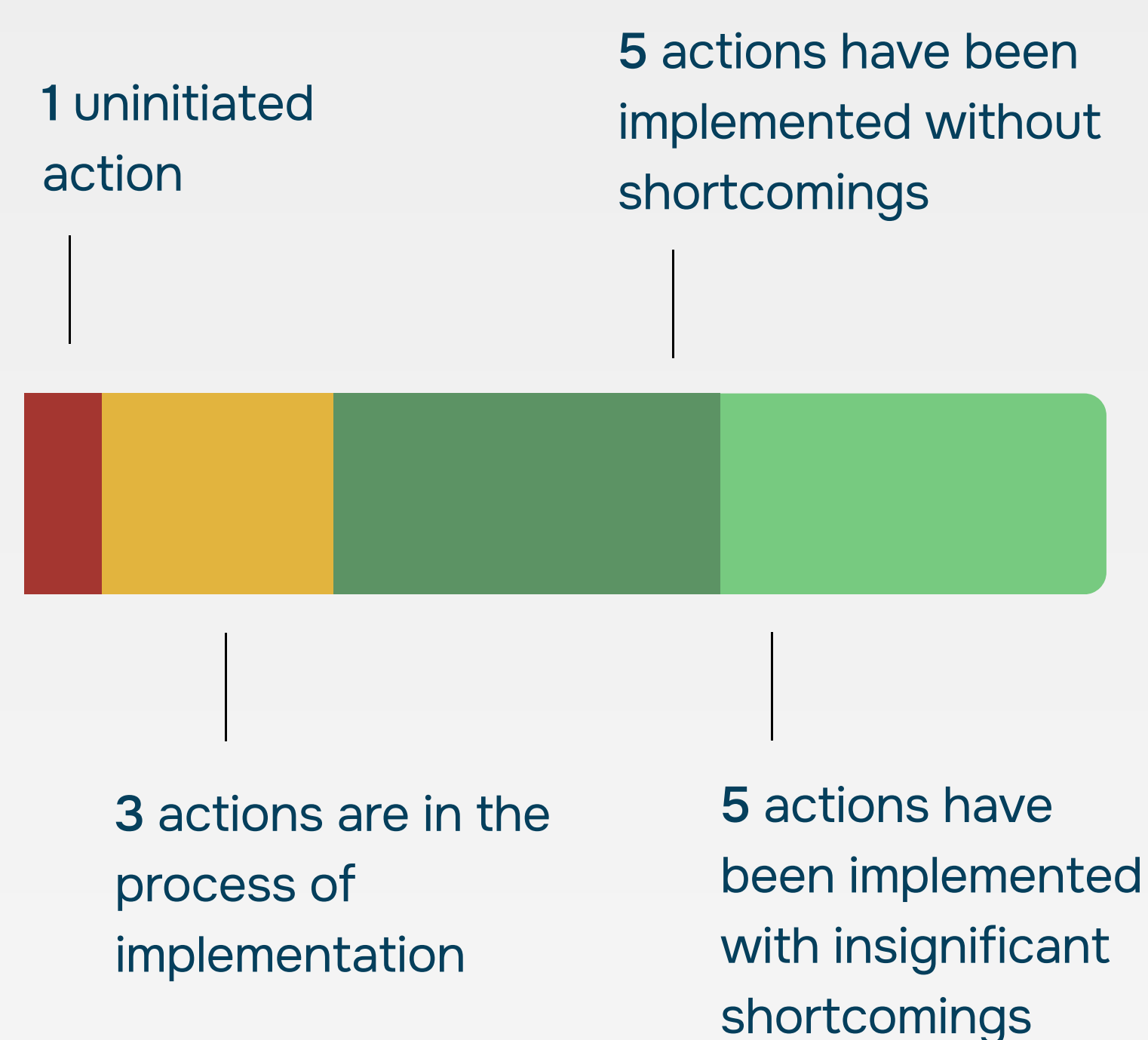
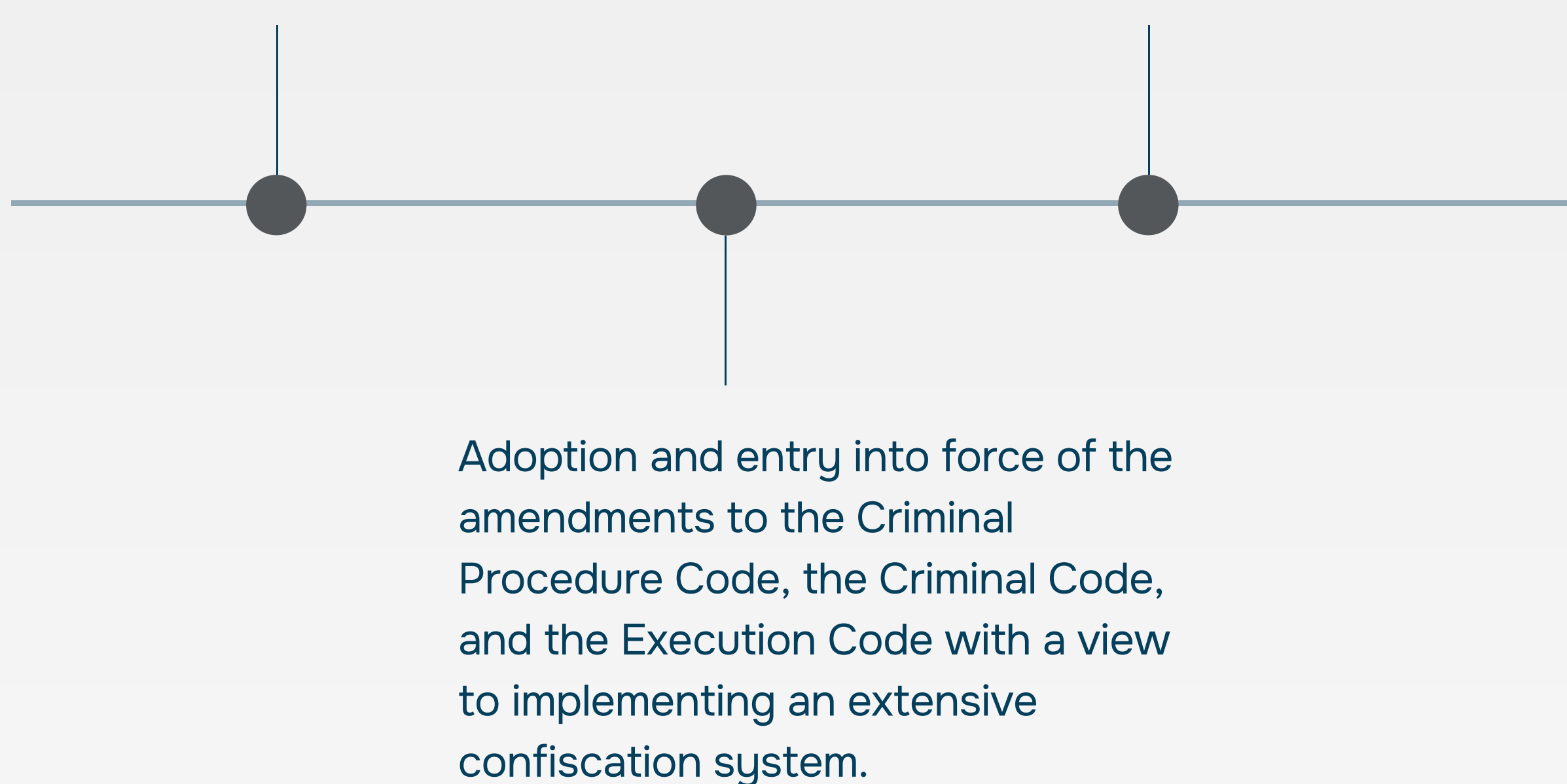
By the end of March 2023: five actions have been implemented without shortcomings, five actions have been implemented with insignificant shortcomings, three are in the process of implementation, and one action is still uninitiated.



Key developments

Approval of the Development Strategy in the field of internal affairs (2022-2030), as well as six Sectorial Programs for the implementation of the Strategy for the years 2022-2025.

Adoption of the Criminal Assets Recovery Programme for 2023-2027 and the Implementation Action Plan.



Priorities

- › Amending legislation to implement the civil confiscation mechanism
- › Entering into force of the Law on prevention and combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism
- › Drafting and approval of secondary legislation in order to implement the provisions of the amended Law on prevention and combating of money laundering
- › Intensification of cooperation actions and operational activities with EUROPOL, INTERPOL, SELEC, etc

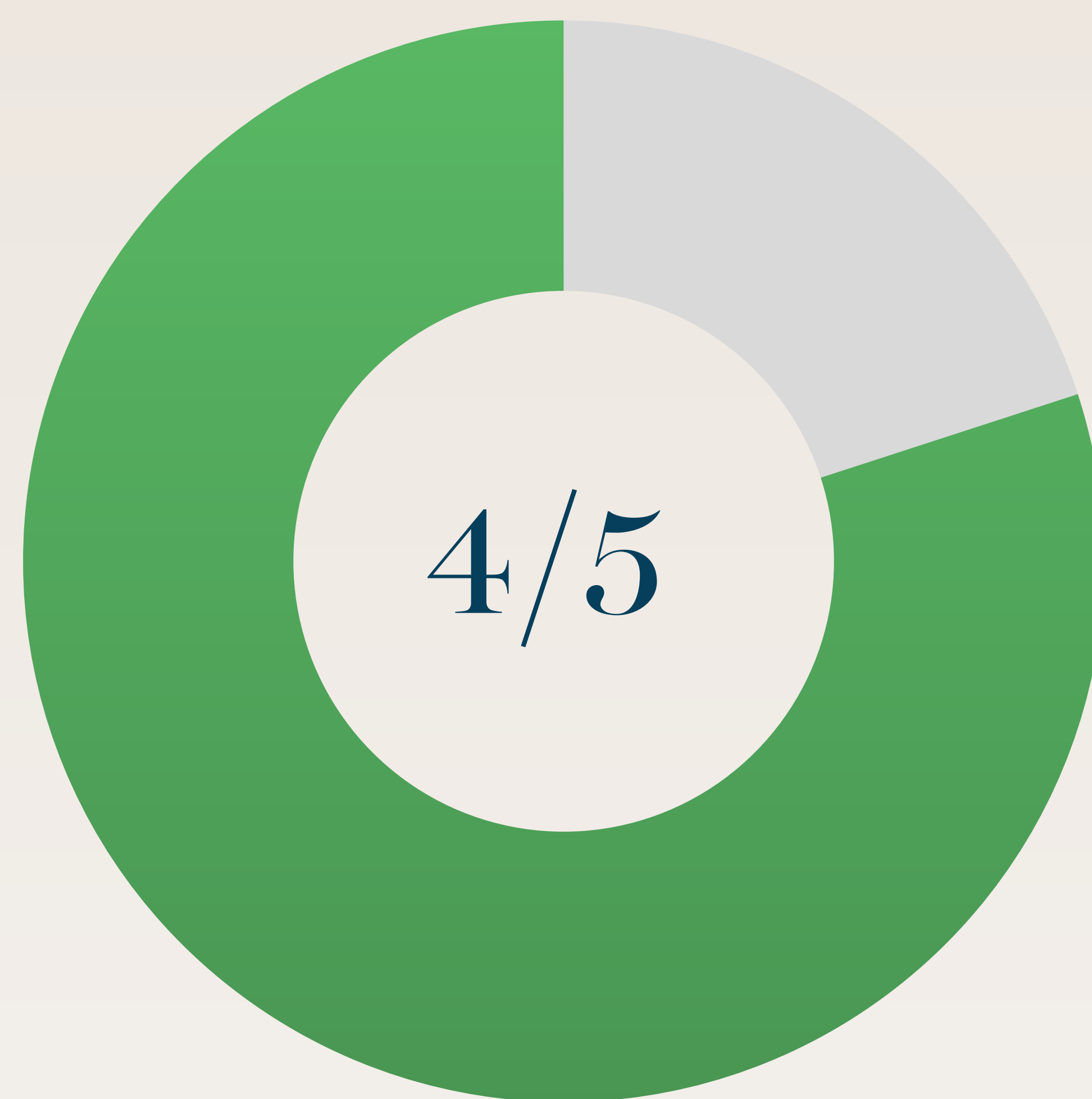
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Commitment 6: Public Administration Reform

#MoldovaEUCandidateCheck

General assessment: 4 points out of 5.
Commitment 6 is to be fulfilled through 4 planned actions.

By the end of March 2023: one action has implemented without shortcomings, two were implemented with certain shortcomings and one action is in the process of implementation.



Key developments

Public Administration Reform

The Public Administration Reform Strategy was adopted. The ex-post evaluation report of the 2016-2020 Public Administration Reform Strategy was developed, as well as the Report on the Implementation of the Decentralization Strategy.

State Chancellery

For the consolidation of the policy-making units, the staff limit of the ministries has been effectively increased, and the State Chancellery has been reorganized.

Digitalization of the public services

12 electronic services in the field of cadastre were launched, and another 11 public services were integrated with the MDelivery service.

Budgetary-fiscal policy for 2023

Developments can be observed in terms of strengthening the fiscal base of LPA I, through the changes made to the budgetary-fiscal policy for 2023.

Priorities

- › Consolidation of the central public administration authorities through a comprehensive wage reform
- › Acceleration the operationalization of the 63 Unified Centres for public Service Provision
- › Development and approval of implementation programs for the Public Administration Reform Strategy
- › Revision of article 187 (3) of the Electoral Code
- › Completion and publication of the functional analysis results of the public administration
- › Acceleration of the implementation of the State Program for the demarcation of public real estate properties

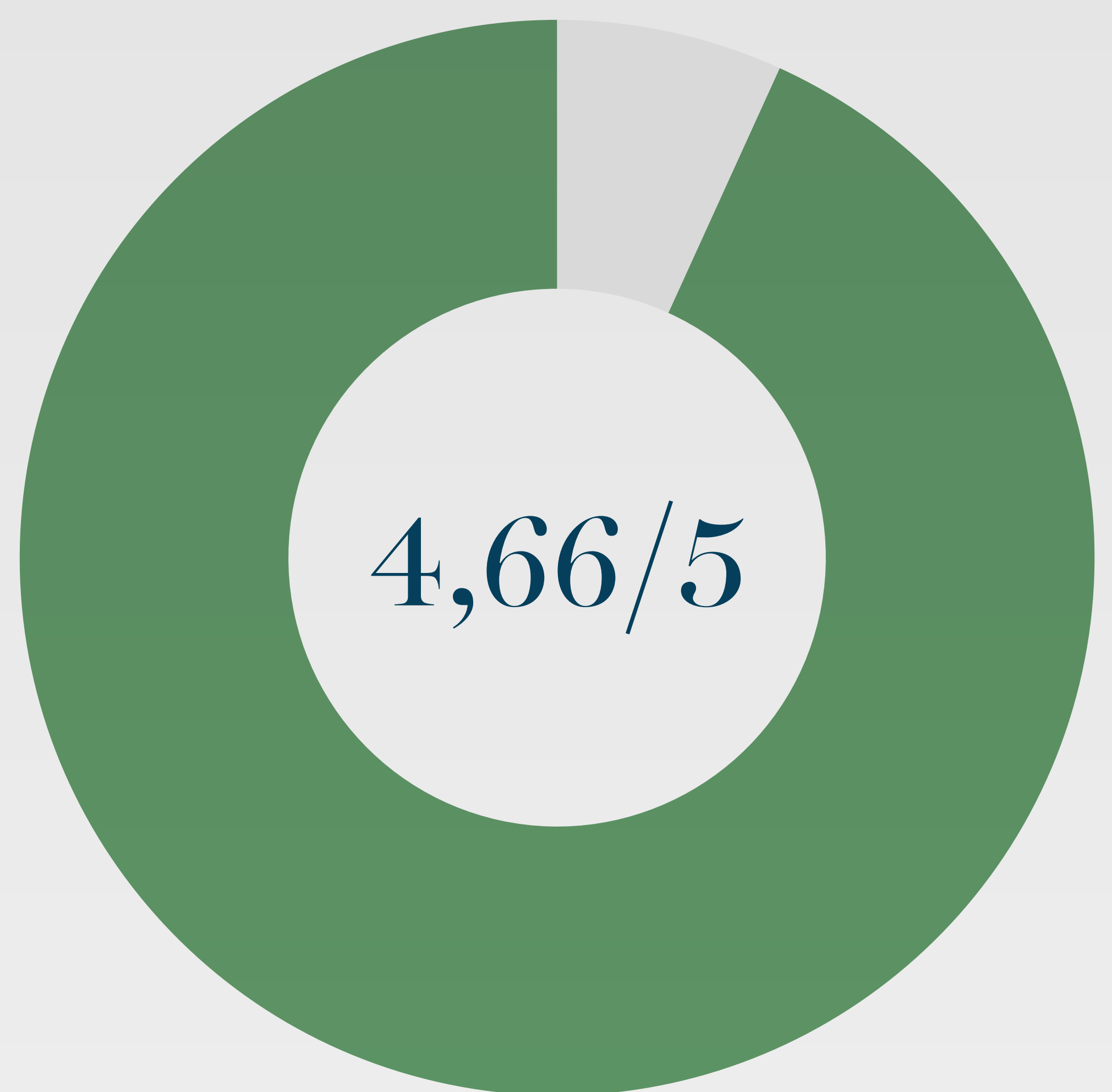
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Commitment 7: Public finance management

#MoldovaEUCandidateCheck

General assessment: 4,66 points out of 5.
Commitment 7 is to be fulfilled through 3 planned actions.

By the end of March 2023, two have been implemented without shortcomings and one is in the process of implementation.



Key developments

- ✓ The regulation regarding the procurement of low-value public goods has been developed and approved
- ✓ A formal procedure has been established for identifying public investment projects eligible to be included in the Medium-Term Budget Framework/State Budget Law project
- ✓ The Strategy for the Development of Public Financial Management 2023-2030 has been developed and approved
- ✓ The program 'Management of medium-term government debt 2023-2025' has been approved

Priorities

- > The Regulation on low-value public procurement is to be applied by the authorities starting from July 1st, 2023
- > Approval of the National Program for the Development of the Public Procurement System 2023-2026;
- > Approval of the Program for the Development of Internal Public Financial Control 2023-2026.

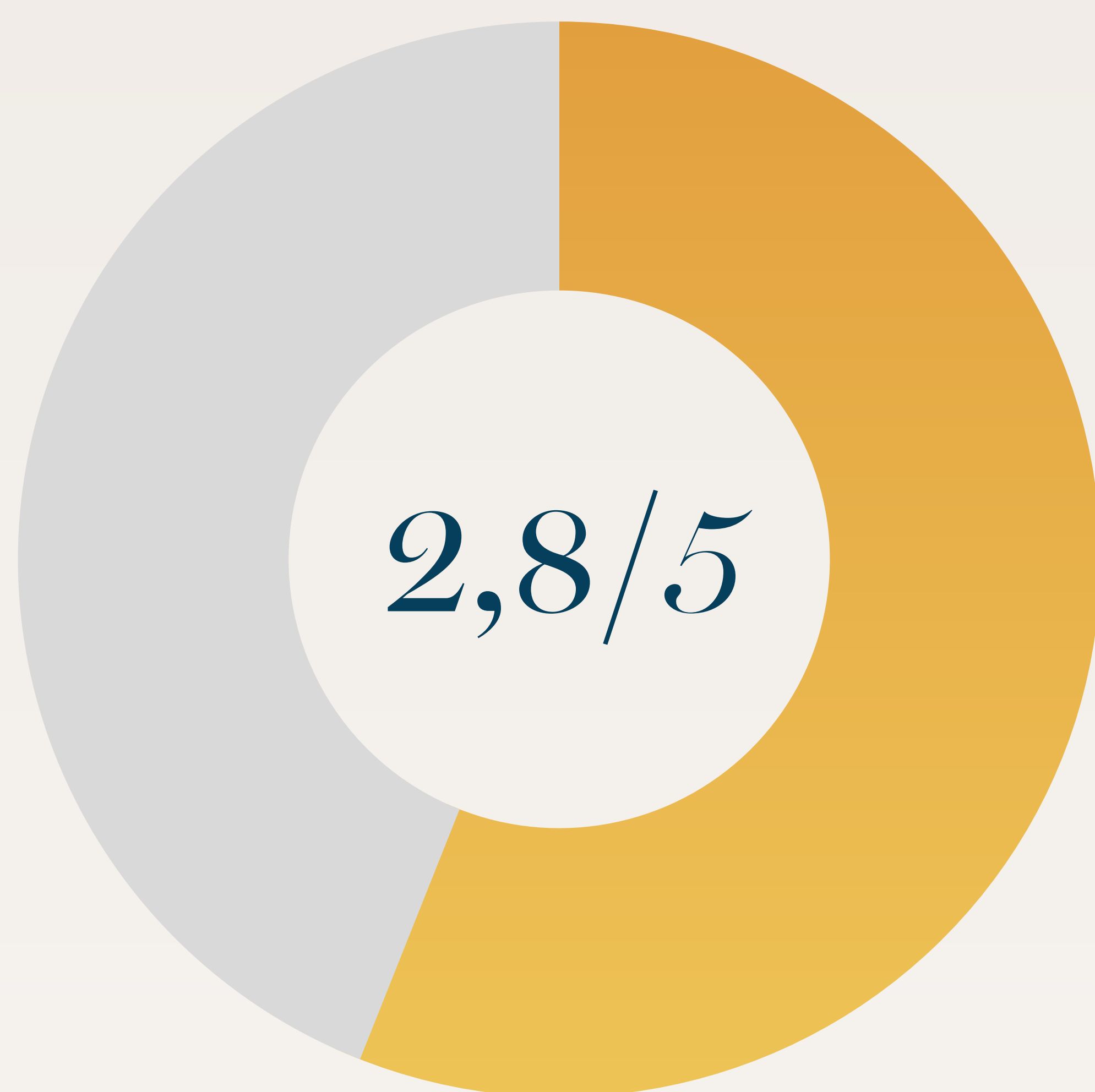
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Commitment 8: Cooperation with civil society

#MoldovaEUCandidateCheck

General assessment: 2,8 points out of 5.
Commitment 8 is to be fulfilled through 5 planned actions.

By the end of March 2023, one action has been implemented without shortcomings, three are in the process of implementation and one action has not yet been initiated.



Not initiated:

Launching a permanent platform for cooperation with civil society



Implemented without shortcomings:

Adoption of the Regulation on the non-repayable funding mechanism for projects of non-profit organizations.

In process of implementation

- Ensuring the functioning of permanent consultative platforms
- Adopting the law on access to public interest information
- Approval of the new concept regarding the vision for the development of civil society

Priorities

- › Approval of the new Concept on the development of civil society
- › Compliance with the principles of transparency and good governance in the decision-making process
- › Improving the ex-post evaluation mechanism of legislation
- › The full involvement of civil society in the process of implementing policy documents
- › Shortening the term for granting public information
- › Regulating, according to the Constitution, the term "public interest information"

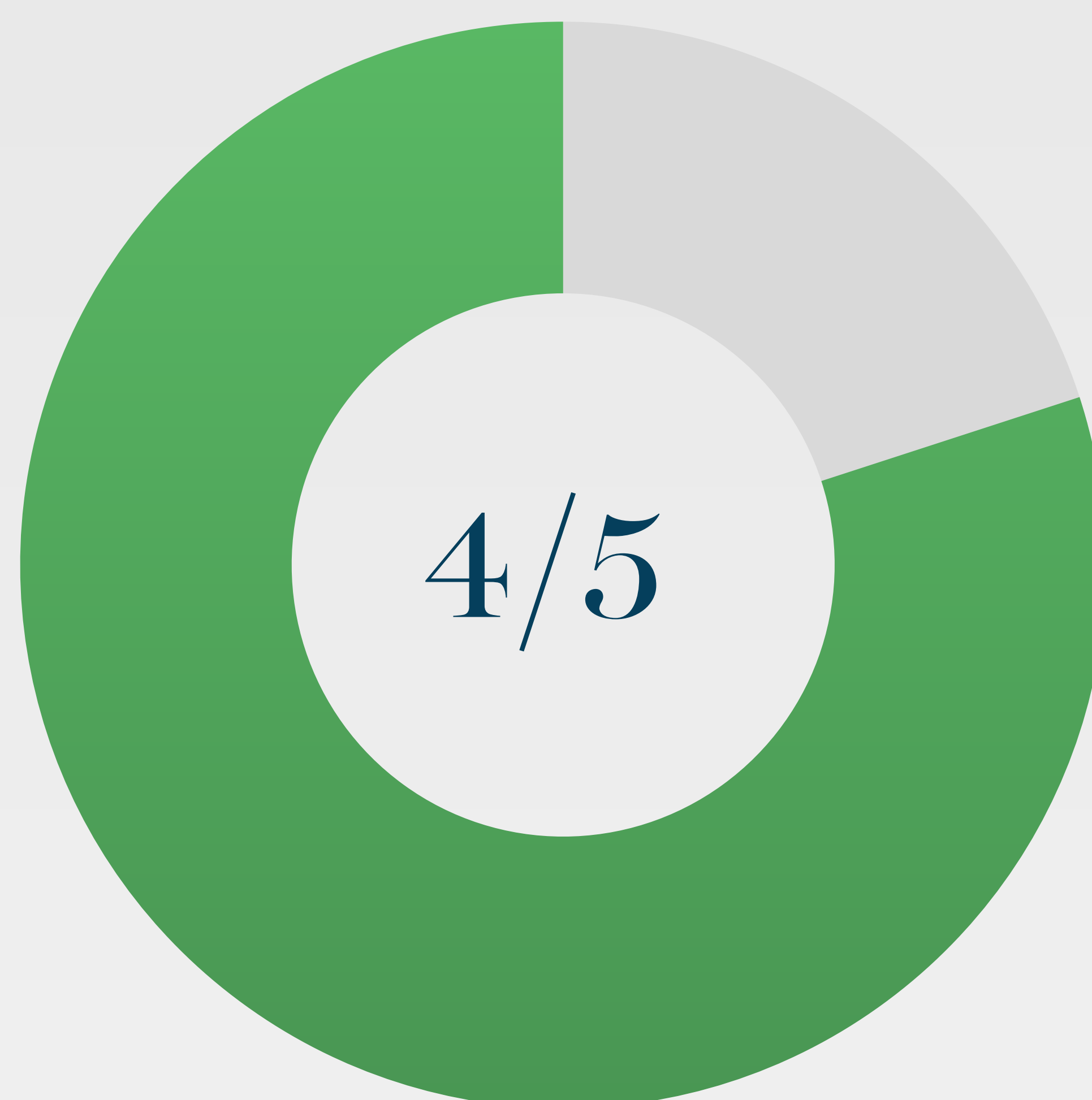
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Commitment 9: Protection of human rights

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General assessment: 4 points out of 5.
Commitment 9 is to be fulfilled through 8 planned actions.

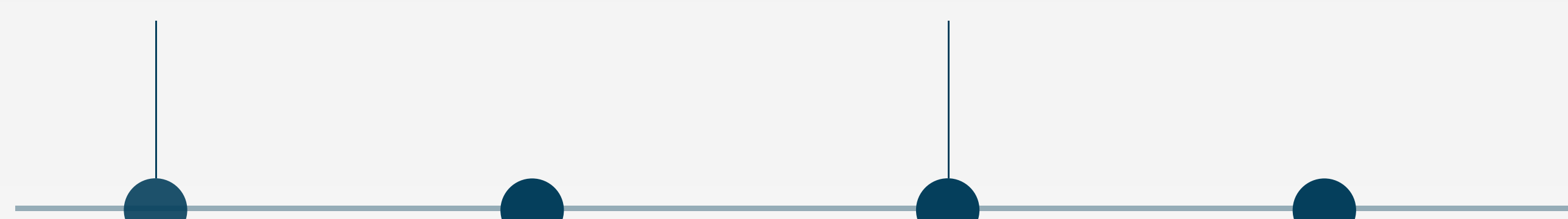
By the end of March 2023, two have been implemented without shortcomings, four actions have been implemented with certain shortcomings, and another two are in the process of being implemented.



Key developments

The regulatory framework amendments in the field of non-discrimination and ensuring equality have been approved

The Law on the Ombudsman has been adjusted, implementing the recommendations of the Venice Commission



The government has approved the National Employment Program for the years 2022-2016

The criminal and procedural legislation has been aligned with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention and the Lanzarote Convention

2 actions implemented without shortcomings

4 actions implemented with certain shortcomings



2 actions are in the process of being implemented

Priorities

- › Improving the dialogue and inter-institutional cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ethnic Relations Agency
- › Implementation of the Program for supporting the Roma population, approved in August 2022
- › Revision of legislation to clarify and separate the responsibilities for identifying cases of incitement to discrimination
- › Development of a new framework policy document in the field of human rights

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