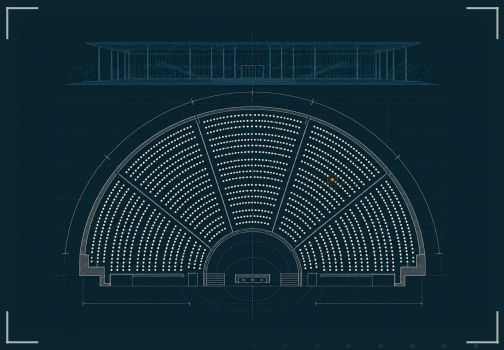
03 —— JUSTICE AUDIT - EU ACCESSION EDITION

Measure implementation, *not simply alignment.*



Maps evidence against the EU acquis – Chapters 23 and 24 – and recognised European justice indicators, to show whether reforms are changing institutional performance in practice.

EU RECOMMENDATION → NATIONAL REFORM COMMITMENT → MEASURABLE INDICATOR → INSTITUTIONAL DATA → BASELINE → REFORM → REPEAT MEASUREMENT → DEMONSTRABLE TRACK RECORD

FROM COMMITMENT TO DEMONSTRABLE RESULT

A —— THE QUESTION IT ANSWERS

"How do you know that reforms associated with the acquis are changing institutional performance in practice?"

EU accession requires candidate countries to align their laws, institutions and practices with the EU acquis. At the heart of the process is the Fundamentals Cluster, including **Chapter 23 – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights** and **Chapter 24 – Justice, Freedom and Security**. Candidate countries must demonstrate credible and sustainable reform, effective institutions and a track record of implementation.

Enlargement Reports, screening, accession benchmarks and Rule of Law reporting set out increasingly clearly what needs to change. An implementation question remains: how do we demonstrate that reform commitments are producing measurable changes in the everyday performance of the justice system?

B —— KEY QUESTIONS

01 Are reform commitments producing measurable changes in the everyday performance of the justice system?

02 What evidence would demonstrate that a recommendation has actually been implemented?

03 Which courts, districts, regions and institutions are progressing – and which are being left behind?

04 Where is reform working, where is it not working – and why?

05 Where should scarce reform resources go to produce the greatest improvement?

BUILT FROM
Justice Snapshot / Justice Audit / Court Audit, as agreed for the assignment

FOR
European Commission, EU Delegations, Candidate-country governments and partners

KEY OUTPUT
EU Accession Evidence Matrix

C — HOW IT WORKS

The accession evidence cycle

STEP 01

Justice Audit

Establish the baseline. Map EU recommendations and benchmarks, collect institutional data, identify disparities and bottlenecks, set measurable indicators and prioritise reform.

STEP 02

Reform implementation

Target the problem. Direct resources and technical assistance at the constraints identified, assign institutional responsibility and set realistic targets.

STEP 03

Justice Snapshot

Demonstrate change. Repeat core indicators at agreed intervals, measure progress against the baseline, identify persistent gaps and adjust priorities.

D — WHAT YOU RECEIVE

01 **EU Accession Evidence Matrix**
An Action Matrix linking relevant recommendations and benchmarks to prioritised national actions, responsible institutions and indicators. A time-bound Roadmap sets baselines, targets and review dates.

02 **Institutional baseline**
Chapter 23 and 24 priorities translated into measurable indicators across courts, prosecution, police, prisons and legal aid.

03 **Granular performance picture**
National averages disaggregated by court, district, region and institution to show where reform is and is not taking hold.

04 **Justice Snapshot update plan**
An agreed schedule for repeating core indicators to assess progress and identify remaining gaps.

E — WHERE IT FITS

	NATIONAL JUSTICE REFORM	FRAGILE STATES	EU ACCESSION	INVEST-MENT	FIRST 100 DAYS
Justice Audit	●	—	●	●	—
Justice Snapshot	●	●	●	●	●
Court Audit	●	—	●	●	●
Prison Audit	●	—	—	—	●

The EU Accession Edition can combine Justice Audit, Justice Snapshot and Court Audit, according to the accession questions and institutions in scope.

F — WHAT IT EXAMINES

CHAPTER 23 – JUDICIARY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

- JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY
- JUDICIAL CAPACITY
- JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE
- QUALITY OF JUSTICE
- ACCESS TO JUSTICE
- FAIR TRIAL
- FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
- ANTI-CORRUPTION CAPACITY

CHAPTER 24 – JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

- PROFESSIONAL AND EFFECTIVE POLICING
- POLICE-PROSECUTION COOPERATION
- FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE COOPERATION
- DETENTION AND SAFEGUARDS
- JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS
- ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY

WHO IT IS FOR

- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- EU DELEGATIONS
- CANDIDATE-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS
- JUDICIAL COUNCILS
- JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS
- EU-FUNDED GOVERNANCE PROGRAMMES

G — IN THEIR WORDS

> *"The Justice Snapshot is not a judgement from outside, it is a tool for Lao PDR, adapted to your own context and priorities..."*

EUROPEAN UNION, VIENTIANE
LAO PDR · 2026

H — NEXT STEP

Preparing for *EU accession?*

Every Audit begins with a conversation about a specific problem. Tell us about your context and we will show you what the EU Accession Edition could reveal.

START A CONVERSATION

info@justiceaudit.org

justiceaudit.org