

# Rising Legal Needs

EPBI, February 2026

James Aiken: Senior Legal Officer



Thomson Reuters  
Foundation

TrustLaw



# About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

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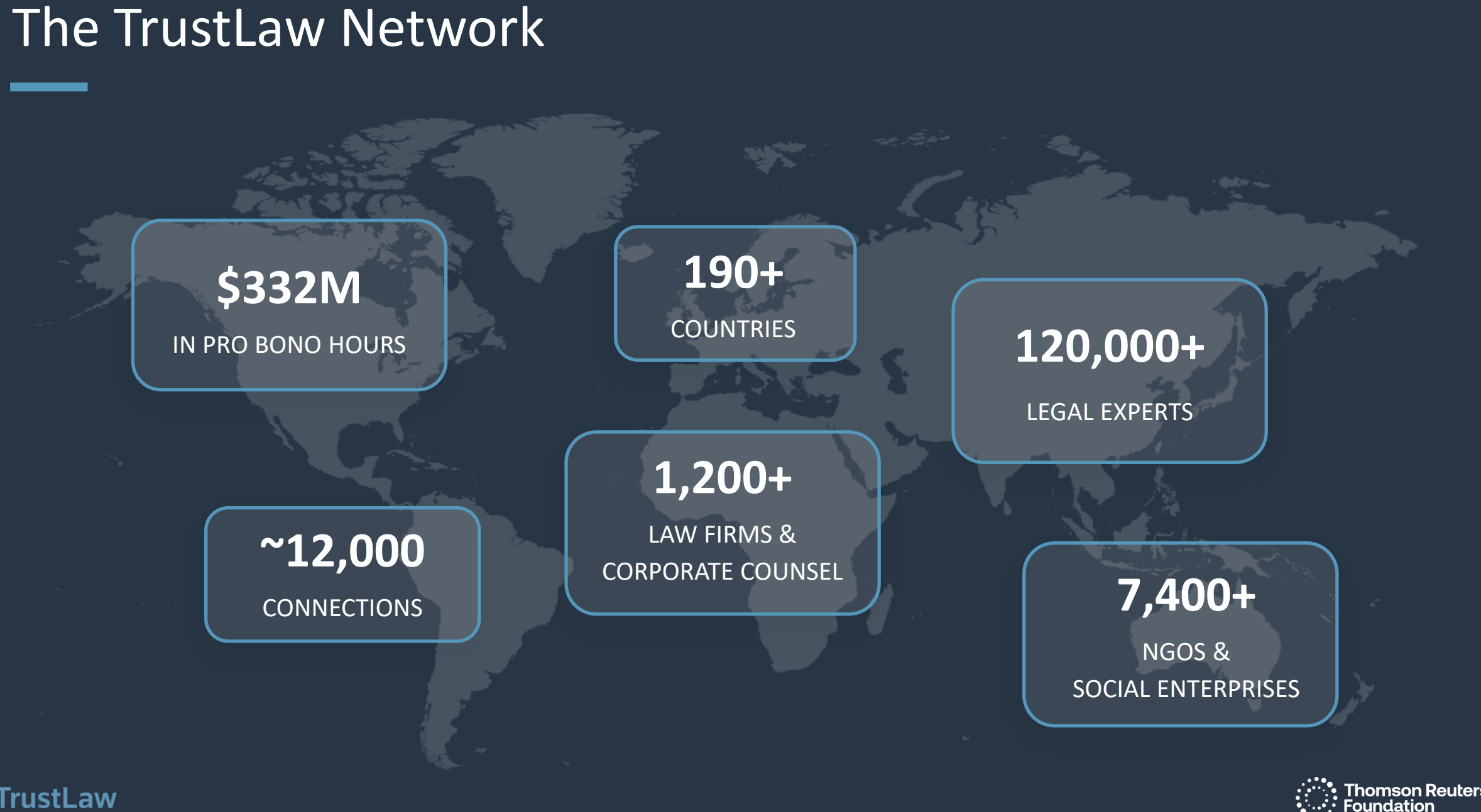
We are the corporate foundation of Thomson Reuters, the global news and information services company.

Established in 1982, the foundation has almost 200 staff members in 23 locations around the world, and works to advance the resilience of independent media, develop initiatives to support responsible business, and increase access to law for those who need it most.

We believe in the power of information and collaboration to shape a fairer and more equal world. Through global news coverage, media development, free legal assistance and our convening authority, we seek to inform, connect and empower people around the world.

Our mission is to inspire collective leadership by building global awareness of the challenges facing humanity, and empowering others to shape free, fair and open societies.

# The TrustLaw Network



**\$332M**  
IN PRO BONO HOURS

**190+**  
COUNTRIES

**120,000+**  
LEGAL EXPERTS

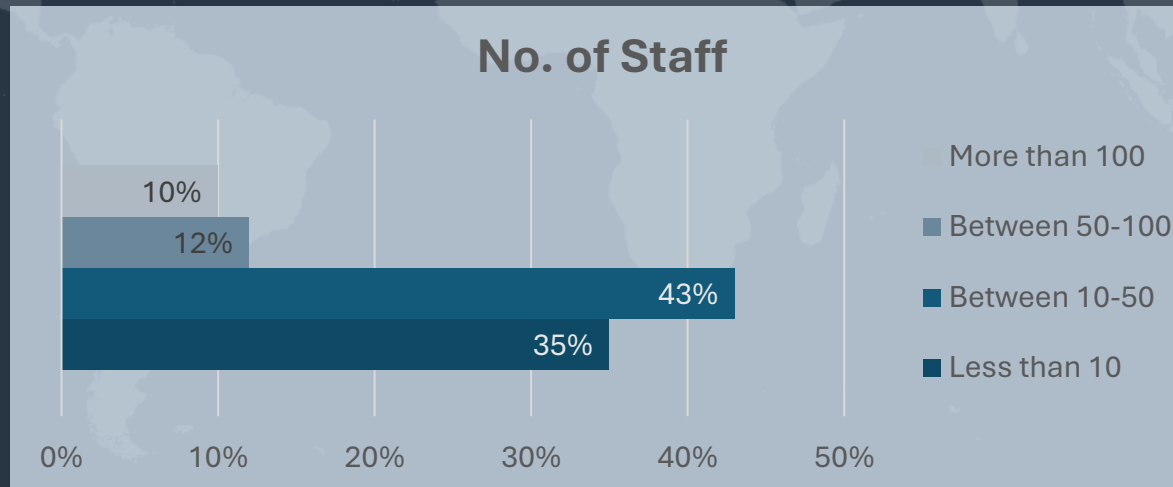
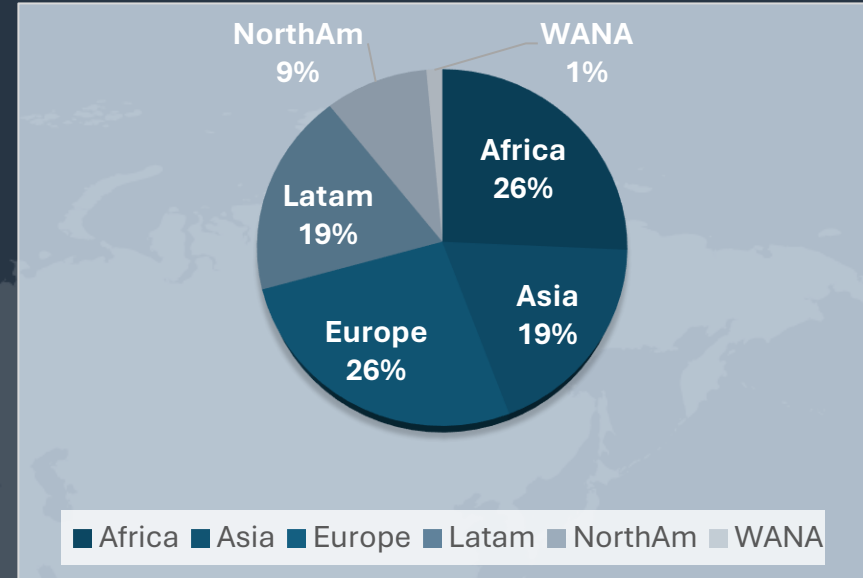
**~12,000**  
CONNECTIONS

**1,200+**  
LAW FIRMS &  
CORPORATE COUNSEL

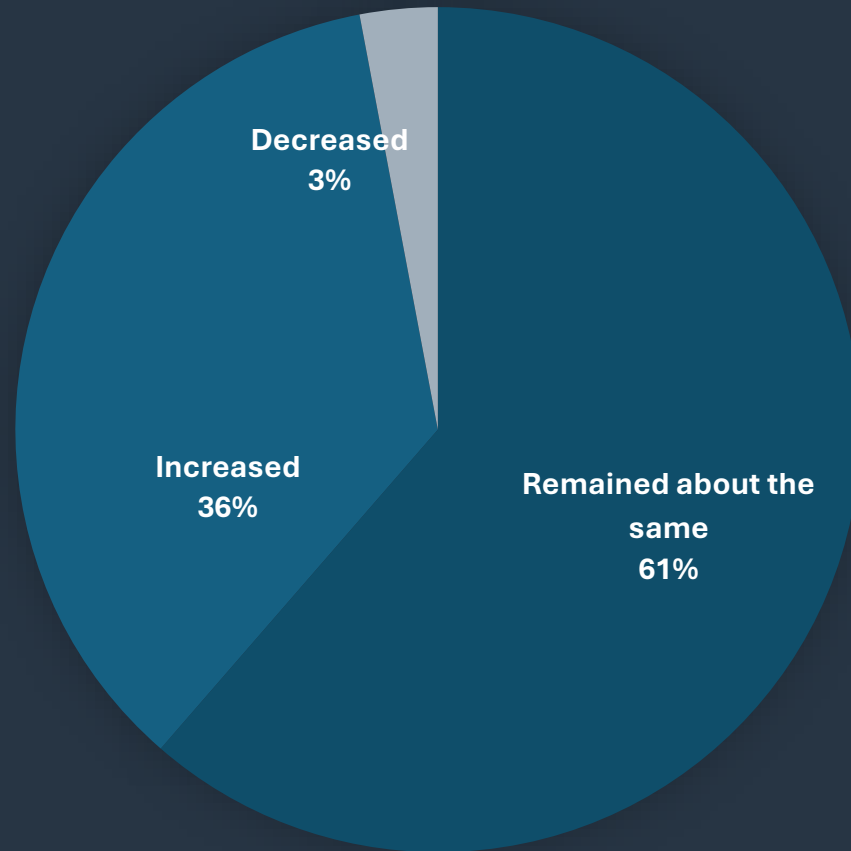
**7,400+**  
NGOS &  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

# The Rapid Legal Needs Survey

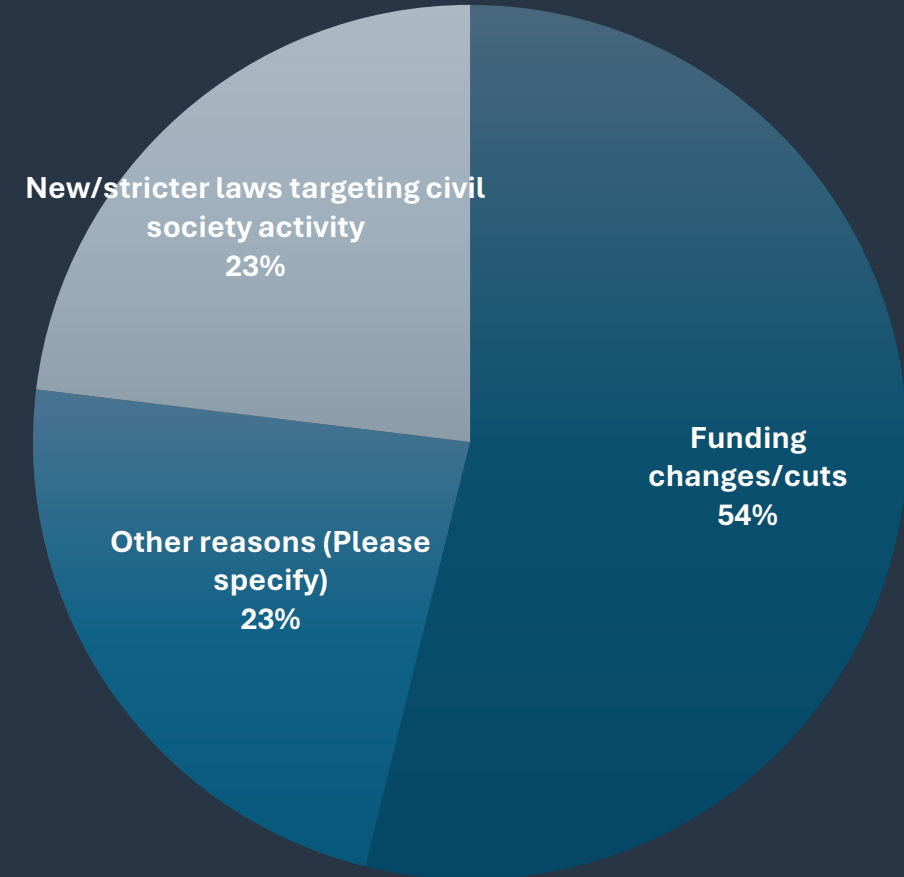
**~150**  
Respondent CSOs



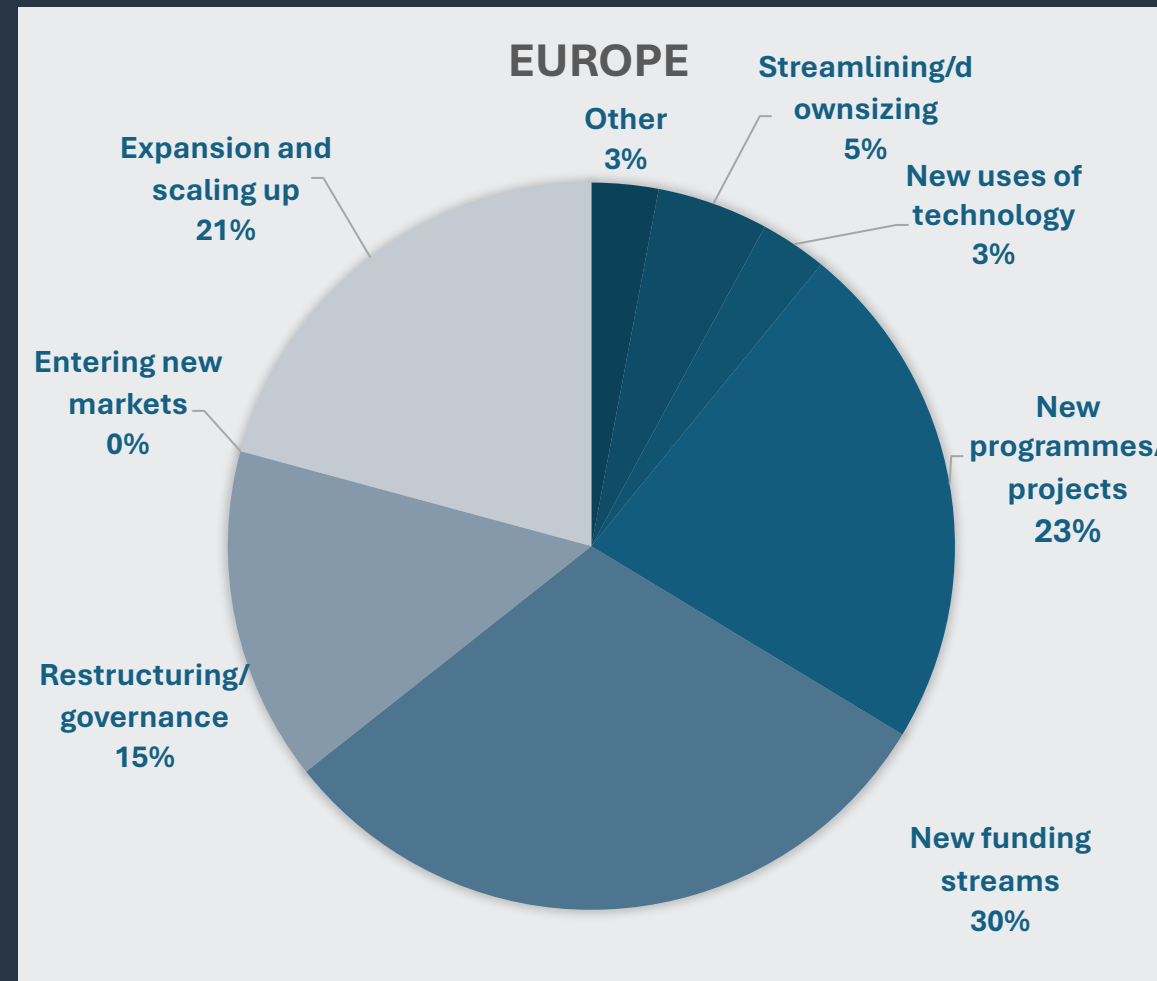
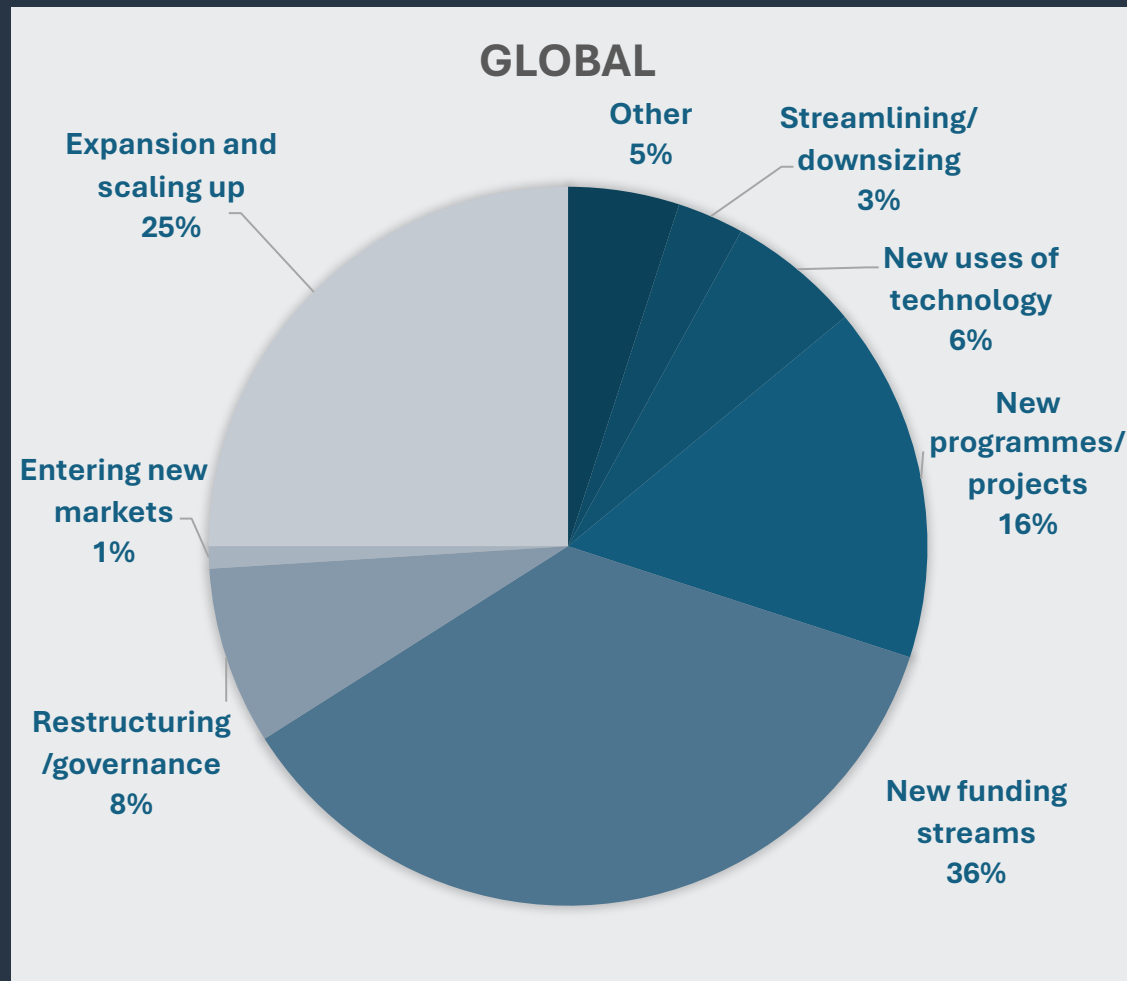
# Evolution of Legal Needs in 2025 (Europe)



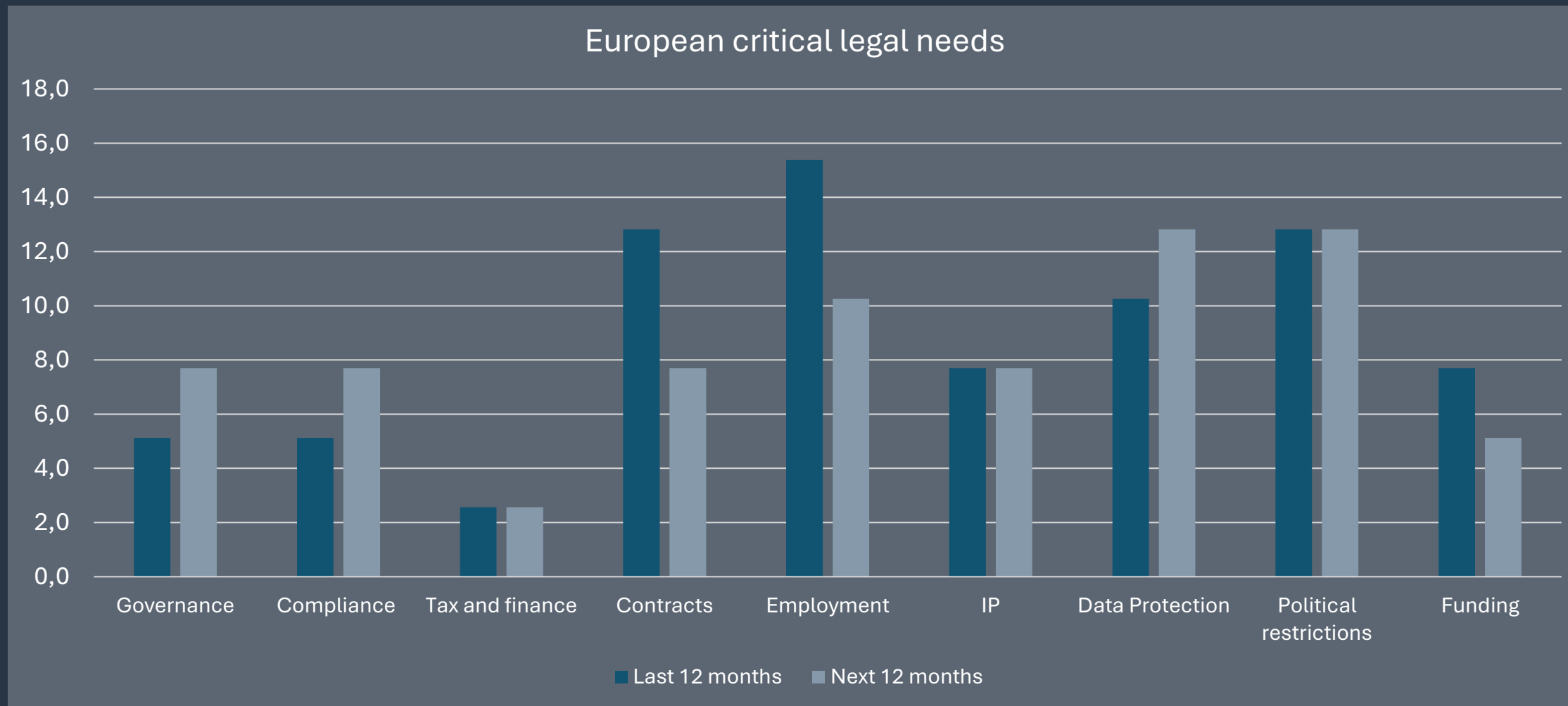
Causes of Increase



# Plans for the next 36 months



# Legal areas of need



# Key Takeaways

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- Still a significant gap between supply and demand for legal assistance for CSOs
- Signs of increasing legal needs for CSOs, often driven by threats to civil society – although there are some signs that these trends are not as stark in Europe
- Funding is the primary concern for CSOs
- General outlook is optimistic. CSOs are tending to favour expansion, exploration, and adaptation, as opposed to streamlining and downsizing





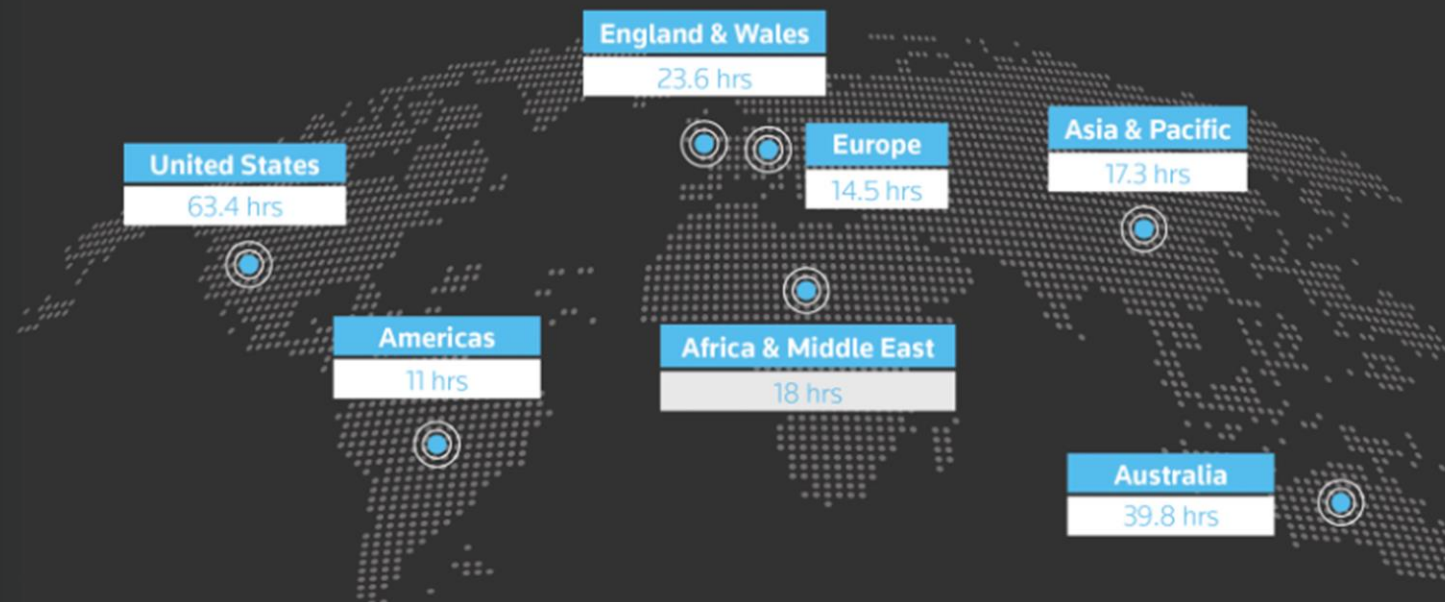
# Pro Bono Index 2026

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- The TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono Survey will be **launched on 12 February**. It will be open for six weeks, with a **deadline of 24 March**.
- The TrustLaw Index of Pro Bono is the only global benchmarking report that identifies and benchmarks global trends and practices in the pro bono sector, serving as a unique and trusted resource to help the legal community to build and scale robust, sustainable and impactful pro bono initiatives.
- Hundreds of firms from more than 123 countries, representing nearly 100,000 lawyers, contributed to the 2024 Index.
- Greater participation from firms strengthens the evidence base and helps set the standard for credible, transparent measurement, bolstering the pro bono ecosystem by identifying opportunities for growth and support.
- Law firms around the globe are invited to contribute, irrespective of size, specialisation or how much pro bono they do. Firms are also not required to be TrustLaw Members to contribute to the Index.



# Pro Bono Index 2024 insights



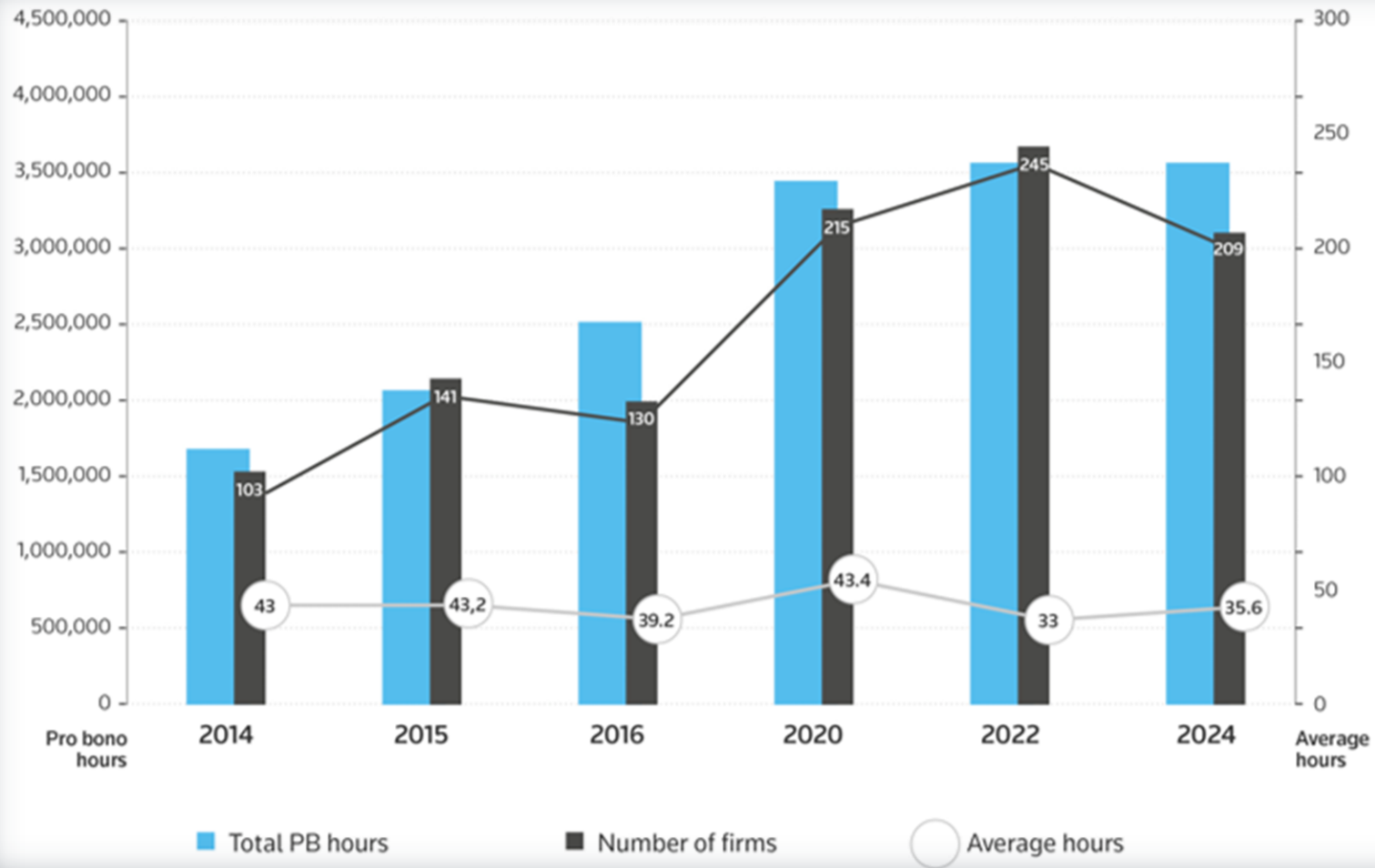
123  
JURISDICTIONS

209  
LAW FIRMS

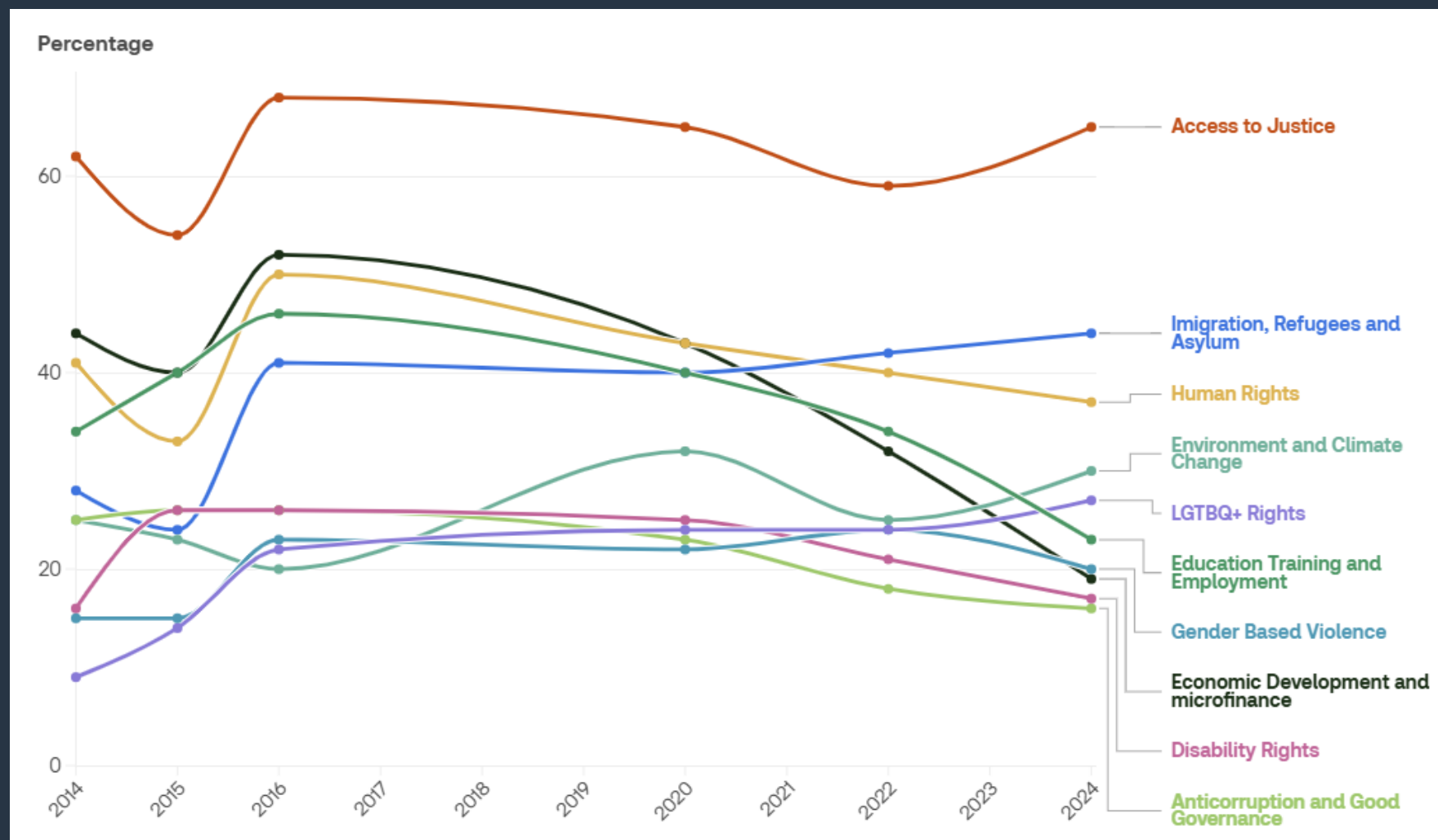
3.5M  
PRO BONO HOURS

100K  
LAWYERS

# Pro Bono hours over the years



# Pro Bono focus over the years



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CONNECT.  
EMPOWER.**



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