Affiliation Designation Guide

Background

Following the members' vote to standardize how affiliations are displayed in cases involving disputed sovereignty or territories under occupation, the ESC will apply the objective, international-law–based rules below. These amendments affect country/territory designations **only** in Eurocrim publications (e.g., programme, book of abstracts, badges) and will **not** affect conference participation. They are intended to **avoid any impression that the ESC supports, recognizes, or rejects particular sovereignty claims.** Amendments will not erase or replace self-identified country/territory designations, but will add, in parentheses, the geographical location as specified in international law. Participants remain free to determine and use their chosen national identity in all ESC fora.

Purpose and Scope, General Rules

1. Amendments affect **country/territory designations in official ESC conference publications only** (such as the programme, badges, and book of abstracts. Conference participation is **not** affected.
2. **The European Journal of Criminology retains its own independent policies concerning affiliation designations**, aligned with industry practice and publisher policies.
3. Amendments follow **objective international-law sources**; they do **not** express the ESC's political views.
4. **Attribution is determined by the campus's physical location, not by the nationality or jurisdiction of any accrediting authority**. This is an objective criterion; accreditation by state organs may itself be part of a disputed sovereignty claim. Using this criterion also helps clarify the university's status in case of contested claims to the same university name (this might be the case when university staff and faculty flee an occupying force and establish themselves in temporary buildings in unoccupied territories of their state).
5. **For universities with multiple campuses,** use the territory of the institution's official seat as the basis for attribution.
6. **For contesting claims for the same university name** (this might be the case when university staff and faculty flee an occupying force and establish themselves in temporary buildings in unoccupied territories of their state) use the rule above (determine physical location). **For universities temporarily relocated following a military operation by an occupying power**, use the actual location (e.g. "Mariupol University, Kyiv, Ukraine").

Authoritative sources (in order of weight)

1. **UN Security Council / General Assembly** decisions and UN Secretariat cartographic/terminology usage
2. **ICJ** judgments/advisory opinions; other widely recognized international-court decisions; pertinent domestic-court judgments
3. **ICRC** usage for occupation terminology
4. **ISO 3166** codes for naming consistency (recognition guided by 1–3)

Priority rules (apply in order)

Rule 1 — UN-recognized occupation or non-recognized annexation

- **Sevastopol State University** - *Sevastopol, Russia (Ukrainian territory illegally occupied by Russia).*
  Ref: UNGA 68/262 (2014).
- **Al-Quds University (Abu Dis/East Jerusalem area)** - *East Jerusalem, Palestine (occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).* Refs: UNSC 476 & 478 (1980); ICJ Wall AO (2004), ICJ Occupation AO (2024).
- **Islamic University of Gaza** — *Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Palestine (occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).*
  Refs: UN usage "oPt"; ICJ Wall AO (2004), ICJ Occupation AO (2024).
- **Ariel University** — *Ariel, Israel (West Bank, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).* Refs: UNSC 242 (1967), 338 (1973); ICJ Wall AO (2004), ICJ Occupation AO (2024).

Rule 2 — UN treats the area as a distinct territory without settled sovereignty

- **Ibn Zohr University — École Supérieure de Technologie Laâyoune (branch)** - *Laayoune, Western Sahara.* Refs: ICJ Western Sahara AO (1975); UN NSGT practice.

Rule 3 — Disputed region; UN affirms territorial integrity of a specific state

- **Abkhazian State University** - *Sukhumi, Abkhazia (Georgia).* Refs: UNGA 62/249 (2008); 63/307 (2009); 78/283 (2024); 79/292 (2025).
- **Taras Shevchenko Transnistria State University** - *Tiraspol, Transnistria (Moldova).* Refs: UN/OSCE practice; UN recognition of Moldova's territorial integrity.
- **Eastern Mediterranean University** -*Famagusta, Cyprus (area not under effective control of the Government of Cyprus).* Refs: UNSC 541 (1983); 550 (1984); 789 (1992).

Rule 4 — Mixed/unresolved status with special UN framework

- **University of Prishtina / Universiteti i Prishtinës** - *Pristina, Kosovo.* †
  † Designation without prejudice to status; see **UNSCR 1244 (1999)**.

- **National Taiwan University** - *Taipei, Taiwan.* Refs: UNGA 2758 (1971) (representation); ISO-3166 “TW”.

Rule 5 — No dispute/occupation per sources above (examples of “no change”)

- **Utrecht University** — *Utrecht, Netherlands.*
- **Lund University** — *Lund, Sweden.*

Procedure of application

1. Creation of a list of disputed/occupied territories based on the guidelines above.
2. Screen Allacademic system for submissions with problematic affiliations.
3. Notify the affected scholars of the intended addition to their affiliation, outlining the detailed reasoning.
4. Allow 7 days for response.
5. In cases where the proposed amendment is contested, a 3-member panel decides the appeal. Panel members will be appointed by the EB to a term of 2 years and will include at least one member of the EB. Members may include experts on public international law, atrocity crimes (e.g., working group members with legal qualifications). The panel shall only consider whether the guidelines have been applied correctly. The panel shall not relitigate sovereignty claims.
6. Participants are entitled to a full refund of conference fees if they opt for withdrawal from the conference in light of the decision.
7. Affiliations must be confirmed by a predetermined deadline prior to publication of the book of abstracts. Changes to geopolitical status after this cut-off cannot be reflected in affiliations.

Procedure of adoption

1. The current guidelines are adopted by the EB.
2. The EB shall seek further legal advice from a public international law expert before its decision.
3. The EB may revisit and amend the guidelines any time. The EB shall hear legal advice before any further amendment.