

# WHOSE REALITY COUNTS AND WHY IT COUNTS? - EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS FROM DISPUTED TERRITORIES AND UNRECOGNIZED STATES

Marina Malgina and Rolf Lofstad, NOKUT, Norway TAICEP, Annual Conference, Vancouver, CA, October 22. 2019

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## **Presentation overview**

- Country, State, Territory, or ??
- Disputed territories and Unrecognized States
  - Where on Earth?
  - What's the (political) problem?
- Realities real and conceived
- Evaluation of Qualifications the big discussion

#### AND YOU WILL BE INVOLVED!

• Possible solutions





## What makes a state?

The **Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States** of 1933 sets out several requirements:

- (1) a permanent population
- (2) a defined territory
- (3) government and
- (4) the capacity to enter into relations with other States

**Unrecognized states** are territories that have achieved de facto independence, yet have failed to gain international recognition as independent states.



## When is a state recognized as independent?

A territory becomes a sovereign state when its independence is recognized by the United Nations.



Evaluation of qualifications from unrecognized and disputed territories



## **Challenges related to assessment of qualifications**

- Which system of education and which country does the educational credential belong?
- New and unknown document design
- Duplicate institutions
- Fraud
- Limited possibilities for verification closures and relocation of institutions, inaccessible archives



#### **Ethical obligations: freedom of movement**





## Legal obligations: Lisbon Recognition Convention





CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



Standards for recognition: the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary texts





### **Parties of the Convention**

 The Convention is binding between the states which have signed or ratified the Convention

However:

• The criteria and procedures of the Convention shall be applied to recognition of education from all the recognized states

Party of the convention = State

Mohamed Abdiwahab/ Mandy Cheng/ Ian Walton/ Fox Photos/ Chris Hondros/ China Photos/ AFP/ Getty Images

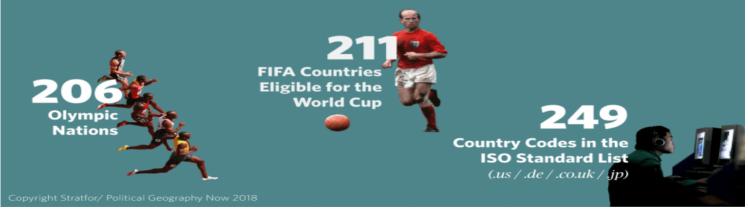


**201** States With At Least Partial Recognition

(acknowledged by at least one UN member)



## How Many Countries Are There in the World?



Evaluation of qualifications from unrecognized and disputed territories



## 2 non-member states are maintaining permanent observer missions at UN Headquarters: Holy See and State of Palestine

#### The «other» 11 (or so):

- 1. Abkhazia
- 2. Cook Islands
- 3. Kosovo
- 4. Nagorno-Karabakh
- 5. Niue

- 6. Northern Cyprus
- 7. Somaliland
- 8. South Ossetia
- 9. Taiwan
- 10. Transnistria
- 11. Western Sahara





#### Geography of Europe's «grey zones»



- 1. Donetsk People's Republic (DNR)
- 2. Lugansk People's Republic (LNR)
- 3. Crimea
- 4. Transnistria
- 5. Abkhasia
- 6. South-Ossetia
- 7. Nagornyi Karabakh

Source: European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)



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#### 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'



United States Central Intelligence Agency - CIA World Factbook: Cyprus.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyeti) - 1.1 million people



Northern Cyprus is considered by the international community to be part of the Republic of Cyprus.

# **Higher education institutions on the territory of the Northern Cyprus**



Council of Higher Education: overview of the higher education institutions in **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**  American University of Cyprus •Cyprus Science University Cyprus Social Science University Eastern Mediterranean University University of Kyrenia •Girne American University European University of Lefke •Cyprus International University •Near East University University of Mediterranean Karpasia Cyprus Health and Social Sciences University Final International University



#### Taiwan / Republic of China (ROC)



#### Taiwan / Republic of China (ROC) – 23 million people



- Recognized by 21 UN-member states and Holy See
- Taiwan is claimed by People's Republic of China (PRC)



## **QA of higher education in Taiwan**





	Α	В	С	D	E			
1	List of Universities & Colleges							
2	SY 2019-2020							
3								
	ode	School Name	Address	Telephone	Webs			
		National Chengchi University	NO.64,Sec.2,ZhiNan Rd, Wenshan District, Taipei City 11605,Taiwan, R.O.C.	(02)29393091	http://www.nce			
		National Tsing Hua University	No.101, Section 2, Kuang-Fu Road, Hsinchu, Taiwan 30013, R.O.C.	(03)5715131	http://www.nth			
		National Taiwan University	No. 1. Sec. 4. Roosevelt Road, Taipei, 10617 Taiwan R.O.C.	(02)33663366	http://www.ntu			
	0004	National Taiwan Normal University	162.HePing East Road Section 1, Taipei, Taiwan	(02)77341111	http://www.ntn			
	0005	National Cheng Kung University	No.1, University Road, Tainan City 701, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(06)2757575	http://www.ncl			
10 0	0006	National Chung Hsing University	145 Xingda Rd., South Dist., Taichung City 402, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(04)22873181	http://www.ncl			
		National Chiao Tung University	1001 University Road, Hsinchu, Taiwan 300, ROC	(03)5712121	http://www.nct			
12 0	8000	National Central University	No.300, Jhongda Rd., Jhongli District, Taoyuan City 32001, Taiwan R.O.C.	(03)4227151	http://www.nci			
	0009	National Sun Yat-sen University	No. 70, Lienhai Rd., Kaohsiung 80424, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(07)5252000	http://www.ns			
14 0	0012	National Taiwan Ocean University	No.2, Beining Rd., Jhongheng District, Keelung City 202, Taiwan (R.O.C)	(02)24622192	http://www.nto			
15 0	0013	National Chung Cheng University	No.168, Sec. 1, University Rd., Min-Hsiung Township, Chia-yi County 621, Taiwan R.O.C.	(05)2720411	http://www.com			
	0014	National Kaohsiung Normal University	No.116, Heping 1st Rd., Lingya District, Kaohsiung City 802, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(07)7172930	http://www.nkr			
17 0	0015	National Changhua University of Education	No.1, Jin-De Road, Changhua 500, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(04)7232105	http://www.nci			
18 0	0016	National Yang-Ming University	No.155, Sec.2, Linong Street, Taipei, 112 Taiwan, R.O.C.	(02)28267000	http://www.ym			
19 0	0017	National Taipei University	151, University Rd., San Shia District, New Taipei City, 23741 Taiwan, R.O.C.	(02)86741111	http://www.ntp			
20 0	0018	National Chiayi University	No.300 Syuefu Rd., Chiayi City 60004, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(05)2717000	http://www.nct			
21 0	0019	National University of Kaohsiung	700, Kaohsiung University Rd., Nanzih District, 81148. Kaohsiung, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(07)5919000	http://www.nul			
22 0	0020	National Dong Hwa University	No. 1, Sec. 2, Da Hsueh Rd. Shoufeng, Hualien 97401, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(03)8903000	http://www.ndl			
23 0	0021	National Chi Nan University	No.1, University Rd, Puli, Nantou County,54561 Taiwan, R.O.C.	(049)2910960#2996	http://www.nci			
24	0022	National Taiwan University of Science and Technology	No.43, Sec. 4, Keelung Rd., Da'an Dist., Taipei 106, Taiwan R.O.C.	(02)27333141	http://www.ntu			
25	0023	National Yunlin University of Science and Technology	123 University Road, Section 3, Douliou, Yunlin 64002, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(05)5342601	http://www.yu			
26		National Pingtung University of Science and Technology	1, Shuefu Road, Neipu, Pingtung 912, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(08)7703202	http://www.np			
27 0	0025	National Taipei University of Technology	1, Sec. 3, Zhongxiao E. Rd., Taipei 10608 Taiwan, R.O.C.	(02)27712171	http://www.ntu			
28 0	0028	Taipei National University of the Arts	1 Hsueh-Yuan Rd., Peitou District, Taipei 11201, Taiwan, R.O.C	(02)28961000	http://www.tnu			
29 0	029	National Taiwan University of Arts	59,Sec. 1, Daguan Rd., Banqiao Dist., New Taipei City 22058, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(02)22722181	http://www.ntu			
30 0	0030	National Taitung University	369, Sec. 2, University Rd., Taitung, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(089)318855	http://www.ntt			
31 0	0031	National Ilan University	No.1, Sec. 1, Shennong Rd., Yilan City, Yilan County 26047, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(03)9357400	http://www.niu			
32 0		National United University	1, Lienda, Miaoli 36003, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(037)381000	http://www.nu			
		National Formosa University	No.64, Wunhua Rd., Huwei Township, Yunlin County 632, Taiwan, R.O.C.	(05)6315000	http://www.nfu			
34 0	0035	Tainan National University of the Arts	No.66,Daci Village,Guantian District,Tainan City,72045 Taiwan, R.O.C.	(06)6930100	http://www.tnn			



#### **Republic of Kosovo**



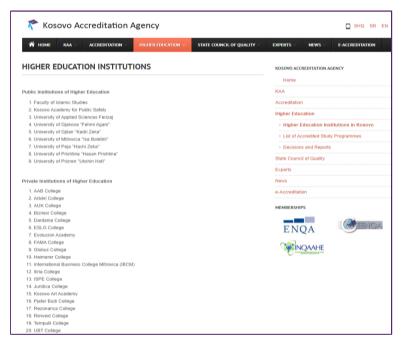
# Republic of Kosovo - 1.8 million people

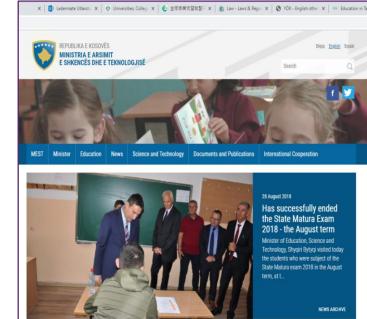


- Partially recognized state and disputed territory in Southeastern Europe
- Recognized by 108 UN-member states
- · Serbia claims the territory



#### **QA of higher education in Kosovo**







#### 'Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic'



**Transnistria** – breakaway state, that is internationally recognized as part of Moldova – **0.5 million people** 



https://reconsideringrussia.org

Evaluation of qualifications from unrecognized and disputed territories



#### 'Republic of South Ossetia', 'Republic of Abkhazia'



- Republic of South Ossetia disputed territory, interntionally recognized as Georgian territory – 53.000 people
- Republic of Abkhazia selfdeclared state, internationally recognized as Georgian territory – 240.000 people

## **Azerbaijan-Armenian Conflict**



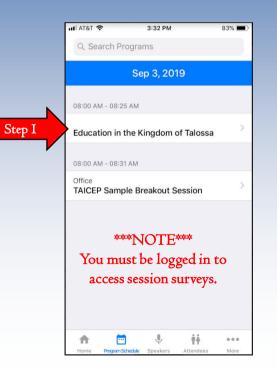


https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/carc/2018/04/15/the-nagorno-karabakh-conflict/

Nagorno-Karabakh – disputed territory – 150.000 people

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Talossa, officially the Kingdom of Talossa (Talossa: Talossa, officially the Kingdom of Talossa (Talossan: Regipäts Talossan), is one of the earliest micronations - founded in 1979 by then 14-year-old Robert Ben Madison of Milwaukee and at first confined to his bedroom; he adopted the name after discovering that the word means "inside the house" in Finnish. Among the first such projects still maintained, it has kept up a web presence since 1995. Its internet and media exposure since the late 1990s contributed to the appearance of other subsequent internet micronations. Talossa claims several places on Earth as its territory, especially a portion of Milwaukee, calling it the "Greater Talossan Area"; no such claim, however, is recognized by the United Nations or by any other nation. As of June 23, 2016, the number of active citizens is said to be 213. including those who are under the age of 14 and so are not yet citizens, and those from the ESB Affair there are 493 total registered individuals.							
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