



EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

2025

# Criminology in Europe

02.

Presidential address, by Michele Burman

Secretariat report, by Marcelo F. Aebi and Grace Kronicz

Criminology in Greece: a Discipline Taught More Than Practised, by Effi Lambropoulou

Candidates to the ESC board – 2025

Consolidating Community and Excellence in European Criminology: Second Edition of the ESC Summer School, by Fernando Miró-Llinares

*In memoriam:* Marc Cools, by Pieter Leloup

WG reports: European Sourcebook Working Group (2020–2025), by Marcelo F. Aebi

Editorial notes, by Rita Faria



**2025/02.  
VOL. 23**

President: MICHELE BURMAN  
President-Elect: ANNA MARIA GETOŠ-KALAC  
Past President: JOSEP M. TAMARIT-SUMALLA  
Executive Secretary: MARCELO AEBI  
Journal Editor: KYLE TREIBER  
Newsletter Editor: RITA FARIA  
Member: INEKE HAEN-MARSHALL  
Member: ANNA DI RONCO  
Member: MARIEKE KLUIN  
Member: ANDRA-ROXANA TRANDAFIR (organiser of the  
2024 annual meeting)  
Member: EFFI LAMBROPOULOU (organiser of the 2025  
Annual Meeting)

Communication should be addressed as follows:

To the President:

University of Glasgow

SCCJR

Ivy Lodge, 63 Gibson Street

Glasgow G12 8LT

Scotland

Email: Michele.Burman@glasgow.ac.uk

To the business office:

University of Lausanne

ESC-ICDP-Sorge-BCH

CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Phone: 41216294638

Email: secretariat@esc-eurocrim.org

ISSN 1729-8164

Criminology in Europe, published by the European Society of  
Criminology

Web: <https://escnewsletter.org>

Editor: Rita Faria

Editorial Office:

School of Criminology

Faculty of Law – University of Porto

Rua dos Bragas, 223

4050-123 Porto, Portugal

Email: [rfaria@direito.up.pt](mailto:rfaria@direito.up.pt)

The European Society of Criminology is an Association  
created in accordance with articles sixty and following of the  
Swiss Civil Code. UID Register Number: CHE-168.699.063.

For advertising and marketing queries, including  
advertisements on the Newsletter website, please  
contact the editor.

## → MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michele Burman

# Presidential address



In my last message, I wrote about the need for ongoing critical reflection to make sense of contemporary socio-political realities in Europe and their implications for crime and justice. In the scant few months since then, political divisions have deepened, with some increasingly sharp urban-rural divides that meld with growing distrust in democracy. At the same time, economic disparities are intensifying, with decreases in income impacting especially on particular groups (women, children), raising questions about the role and duty of governments to realise human rights. The pertinence and value of Criminology have arguably never been greater in this, the ESC's 25<sup>th</sup> year. Indeed, the forthcoming ESC 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference will give further opportunity to reflect more deeply on the value of Criminology across Europe to enrich scholarly understanding and inform policy and public discourses on crime and justice.

Over the past few years, we have seen a much-increased focus on victims at the ESC conferences, and victim-related topics, amongst them rape and sexual assault, domestic abuse and human trafficking. A development which Loraine Gelsthorpe and I will discuss in more detail at a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference roundtable reflecting on the ways in which feminist scholarship has reshaped the contours of Criminology. Over the years, many ESC conference papers have offered sophisticated critical feminist analyses of the blurred binary of the victim/offender division and the complex connections between victimisation and criminalisation. Nowhere is this more evident than in

relation to human trafficking – an exploitative crime where victims from vulnerable groups are often coerced into criminal activities whilst simultaneously being exploited.

**Indeed, the forthcoming ESC 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference will give further opportunity to reflect more deeply on the value of Criminology across Europe to enrich scholarly understanding and inform policy and public discourses on crime and justice.**

Earlier this year, the European Commission published its fifth Report on Human Trafficking (2025), reporting on the most recent registered cases and progress made in combating trafficking. In 2023, 10,793 victims of human trafficking were registered in the EU, a steady increase over previous years (although we know that the actual number of cases is likely to be higher despite increasingly sophisticated detection mechanisms). Economic hardship and conflict situations, along with wider processes of globalisation and increased mobility, are factors behind human trafficking, where those fleeing poverty, conflict or violence and seeking employment or safer living

conditions are being trafficked. At the same time, traffickers are chasing relatively low-risk, high-profit cross-border trade to meet demand. It is likely that, given current economic conditions and post-conflict migrations, trafficking will increase even more.

As in earlier Reports on Human Trafficking, sexual exploitation remains the most prevalent form of human trafficking, accounting for almost half (49%) of registered cases (although sexual exploitation remains particularly difficult to detect and it is also very likely this is a significant under-count). The vast majority of those trafficked for sexual exploitation are women and girls. Labour exploitation remains the second most prevalent form of trafficking in the EU, whose victims are predominantly men (70%). Trafficking for exploitation that is neither sexual nor forced labour is also increasing, including forced begging, forced marriages, and forced armed combat. UNODC's Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2024) highlights some regional differences across Europe: that cases of sexual exploitation are more prevalent in central and south-eastern Europe; whereas labour exploitation is more prevalent in western and southern Europe (although again this may be due to the difficulty of detection of sexual exploitation). Regardless of debates about prevalence, trafficking of all forms are serious transnational crime problems across Europe, and the suffering of those trafficked is undeniable.

The available data and NGO practice experience demonstrate clearly that human trafficking – particularly that for sexual exploitation – has a marked gender dimension. Women and men are not trafficked in the same way or indeed for the same purposes. The lived experiences of those subjected to trafficking are also very different. Whilst there are certainly female traffickers, the majority of individuals suspected, prosecuted and convicted of trafficking crimes across Europe are men, and these tend to be those working at the lower ends of trafficking operations.

International instruments and protocols such as the *2000 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* (also known as the *Palermo Protocol*), the *2011 Anti-Trafficking Directive* (revised in 2024), and national conventions and legislation tend to frame human trafficking as a threat to state security and national interests warranting a tough criminal justice response. Recent years have seen a shift to more of a focus on victims' human rights and calls to States to offer satisfactory protection and services to trafficking victims. Yet, responses arguably remain focused primarily on stronger rules, tools for investigation and prosecution, and harsh criminal sanctions.



Despite some tense conceptual and definitional differences, feminist researchers and activists have worked to raise social and political awareness of, and inform discourses about trafficking, and document its effects emphasising the importance of an analysis which takes into account gender, race and class for understanding its drivers and consequences. At the same time, feminist frameworks of analysis and advocacy have strongly critiqued the over-reliance on criminal justice objectives and immigration control mechanisms, not only on the basis that they risk reproducing existing power structures within (and between) countries, but for their adverse effects in the context of economic hardship, strict and discriminatory border controls, diminished migration assistance and a lack of meaningful victim support. These contributions have highlighted the importance of addressing crime problems in all their social complexity, and not solely through the lens of criminal justice. As part of a political commitment to social change and equality, this work advocates looking beyond the boundaries of criminal justice mechanisms to seek more transformative approaches that avoid the 'collateral damage' (Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women, 2007) that anti-trafficking measures often produce.

Over the past few years, we have also seen a welcome marked expansion of the scope of European criminological research through the initiatives of several transnational and comparative projects which map the connectedness of crime problems and significantly enhance our understanding of oppressive social

structures and policies in the contexts of inequality and exclusion in which they play out. These are hugely valuable to criminological knowledge. However, relatively few transnational or comparative projects incorporate gendered or intersectional analyses of their subject matter. This might be considered an omission. As a feminist criminologist, I would make a call for increased engagement in the gendered dimensions of criminological research, and specifically the ways that gender intersects with multiple axes of social (dis) advantages such as race, class and age. The inclusion of such analyses could potentially bring a better understanding of the factors which create conditions for particular forms of crime and victimisation, the role of larger structural processes in creating these conditions, and how particular crime control responses can (sometimes inadvertently) perpetuate inequalities.

## A word on the pressures of publishing ....

Most of us – as academic criminologists who work in universities – are expected to publish our work. Indeed, many of us are under considerable pressure to do so. For some, it may be a contractual stipulation. There are both individual and organisational factors at play here. Building a trajectory of publications is considered necessary for obtaining a job, imperative for promotion and crucial for the building of a career and – of course – for the gaining of an academic reputation. Universities increasingly use publications in top-tier journals (and their citations) as a means of showcasing the quality and significance of their research, to attract students and staff, and enhance their international rankings. This imperative from above often translates into considerable pressure placed on those of us on the ground. And not just to push out papers for the sake of it, but ensuring that work is published in high-quality, high-impact journals.

A strong publication record can lead to invitations to give plenary papers and join research consortia. It can also considerably increase the chances of success in obtaining prestigious research grants. As a reviewer for several funding bodies, I am increasingly struck by the weight given to publications as a means of assessing the capabilities and promise of the prospective PI. Publishing our research in good peer-reviewed journals and through reputable University

**As a feminist criminologist, I would make a call for increased engagement in the gendered dimensions of criminological research, and specifically the ways that gender intersects with multiple axes of social (dis) advantages such as race, class and age.**



publishers can enable research to reach wide, international audiences and enhance our reputations – sometimes with the advancement of knowledge as an overlooked by-product. Publications clearly represent academic capital – to be used for both normative and instrumental gains. Yet at what cost?

I had the pleasure of attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> ESC Summer School<sup>(1)</sup> held in Lausanne in June this year; I spoke to the students (mostly PhD candidates with some post-docs) in a session about preparing for publication. For this group, poised on the hopeful brink of their academic careers, concern about publishing was palpable. I get the same sense of pressure from my own PhD students about the need to publish to improve their chances of securing a job, and from younger colleagues anxious to migrate from fixed-term to tenured posts. The pressure to publish, especially on those at the beginning of their careers, can take a terrible toll. That this is a recognised demand of the role of an academic criminologist makes it difficult to resolve.

I would say to younger colleagues, though, that there are some ways to mitigate this pressure – or at least make it more manageable. Most important is to try to prioritise the production of a small number of higher quality outputs, rather than producing a raft of outputs of more dubious quality. Pre-submission procedures can vastly assist article quality. In the Working Group on Gender, Crime and Justice, we have run online writing retreats, designed as opportunities for members to carve out dedicated writing time and receive feedback on their ideas.

Other Working Groups might consider something similar as a way of building capacity and providing support. For younger colleagues in particular, it is often helpful to seek the advice of a ‘critical friend’ – a supervisor, a mentor, or a more established colleague – to constructively review your paper before its submission. So – if you are an established author – please do consider reaching out to advise and support your younger colleagues who may be struggling under the pressures to publish.

**Most important is to try to prioritise the production of a small number of higher quality outputs, rather than producing a raft of outputs of more dubious quality.**

(1) A report on the ESC Summer School can be found below.

## → SECRETARIAT REPORT

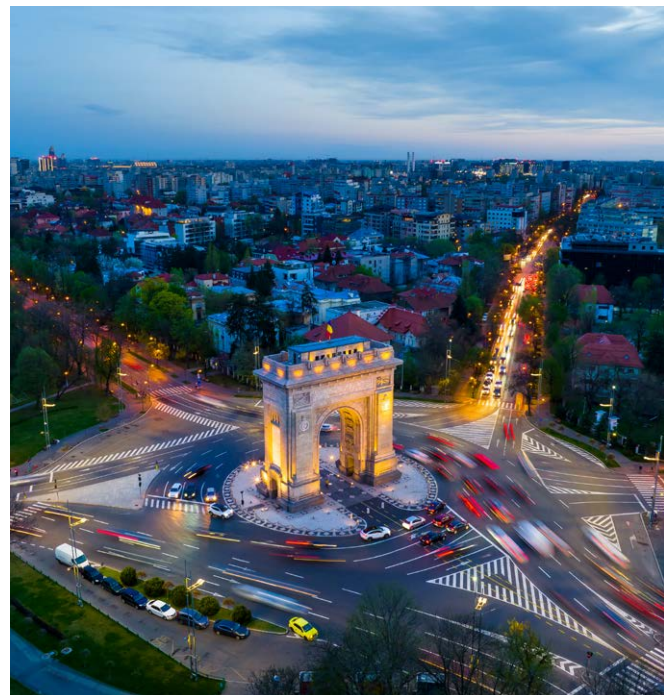
by Marcelo F. Aebi and Grace Kronicz

## In brief

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual European Society of Criminology (ESC) meeting, held in Bucharest, Romania, in September 2024, marked a year of consolidation and continued innovation for the society.

Key highlights include:

- **Membership adjustment:** ESC membership settled at 1,560 members, a 28% decrease from the 2023 record high of 2,175, representing a natural readjustment while maintaining levels well above pre-pandemic figures.
- **Sustained global representation:** Members from 58 countries across the five inhabited continents, with European countries accounting for 84% of membership and strong international participation demonstrating the ESC's continued global appeal.
- **Strong student engagement:** Student members increased to 26% of total membership (399 members), reflecting robust engagement from emerging criminologists.
- **Successful conference:** Eurocrim 2024 in Bucharest attracted 1,577 participants, maintaining strong international attendance and providing valuable opportunities for academic exchange in Eastern Europe.
- **Excellence recognition:** Five awards were presented, including the ESC European Criminology Award to Per-Olof Wikström for his groundbreaking work on Situational Action Theory.
- **Educational initiative:** The first ESC Summer School took place in Lausanne in September 2024, establishing a new platform for enhancing the education of emerging scholars and strengthening the scientific community.
- **Continued historical preservation:** The European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH) conducted six interviews during the Bucharest conference, preserving valuable insights for future generations.
- **Leadership transition:** Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac was elected as the future President of the ESC, and Marieke Kluin as an At-large ESC Executive Board member.





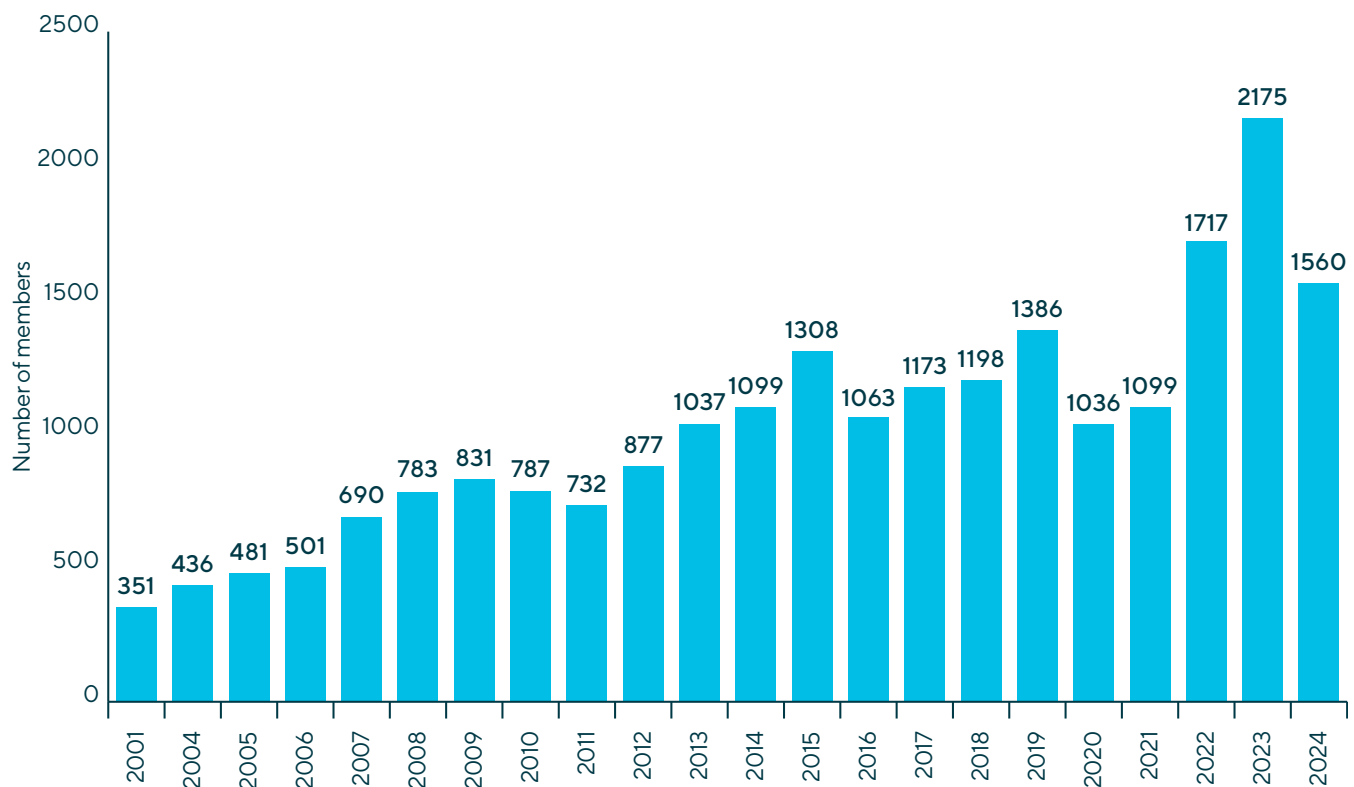
## Trend in ESC membership from 2001 to 2024

The year 2024 marked a period of adjustment for the ESC, with membership settling at 1,560 members following the unprecedented peak of 2,175 members in 2023. This represents a decrease of 28.3% from the previous year, bringing membership levels closer to the society's historical patterns while remaining well above pre-pandemic figures.

The decline in 2024 membership can be understood within the broader context of ESC membership

dynamics. The extraordinary growth witnessed in 2023, driven largely by the appeal of the Florence conference and the post-pandemic enthusiasm for in-person academic gatherings, appears to have been followed by a natural readjustment. Despite this decrease, the 2024 membership of 1,560 still exceeds the levels recorded during the pandemic years of 2020 (1,036 members) and 2021 (1,099 members) and remains comparable to membership figures from the mid-2010s.

**Members of the ESC (2001-2024)**



**Figure 1:** Members of the ESC from 2001 to 2024

A notable development in 2024 was the increase in the proportion of student members, which rose to 25.6% (399 out of 1,560 members), compared to 24% in 2023. This increase in student representation suggests continued strong engagement from emerging criminologists and reflects the ESC's ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of scholars in the field.

The membership pattern observed between 2023 and 2024 illustrates a characteristic phenomenon in academic societies where conference location and timing can significantly influence membership numbers. The exceptional appeal of Florence in 2023, combined with the pent-up demand for international academic interaction following the pandemic, created optimal conditions for membership growth. The subsequent adjustment in 2024 reflects a return to

more sustainable membership levels while maintaining the society's expanded reach and influence. This cyclical pattern continues to manifest itself, as evidenced by the strong early registration figures for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Athens, Greece, which at the time of finalising this report (early July 2025) had already attracted more than 2,000 participants, suggesting renewed momentum for the Society.

## Geographical distribution of ESC members in 2024

The year 2024 saw continued diversity in the geographical distribution of ESC members, with representation from 58 countries – 60 if figures for the United Kingdom are broken down by nations – across the five inhabited continents. While total membership decreased to 1,560 members from the 2023 peak, the international character of the Society remained strong, demonstrating the ESC's enduring global appeal and its role as a truly international forum for criminological discourse.

European countries continued to form the core of the Society, accounting for approximately 84% of the total membership. However, the presence of members from non-European countries (16% or 244 members) underscores the ESC's expanding influence beyond European borders and its success in fostering global criminological networks.

The United Kingdom maintained its position as the country with the highest number of members, contributing 340 individuals, or 22% of the total membership. This was followed by the Netherlands with 129 members (8.3%) and the United States of America with 127 members (8.1%), highlighting the continued strength of transatlantic ties within the criminological community.

Germany, Belgium, and Spain rounded out the top six countries, each contributing significant numbers of members and collectively representing about 21% of the total membership. This strong representation from major European countries reflects both the development of Criminology in these nations and their continued investment in criminological research and education.

Italy's representation with 85 members (5.4%) seems to reflect the lasting impact of the highly successful Florence 2023 conference, while Romania's strong showing with 44 members (2.8%) likely reflects both the hosting of Eurocrim 2024 in Bucharest and the growing criminological community in Eastern Europe.

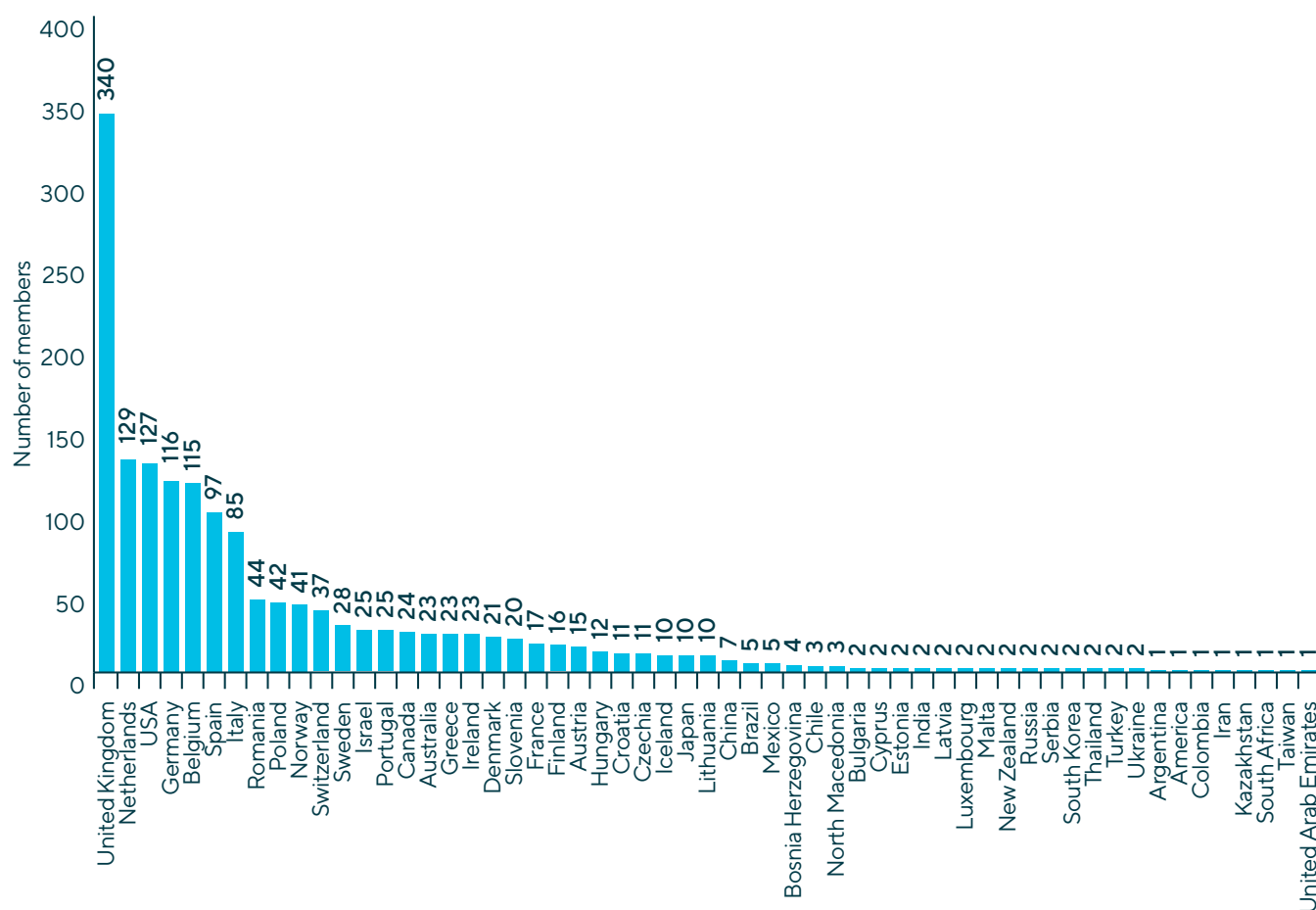
The Nordic countries collectively maintained their traditional strong presence within the ESC, with Norway leading at 41 members, followed by Sweden (28), Denmark (21), Finland (16), and Iceland (10). This represents approximately 7.4% of total membership and reflects the continued importance of Nordic criminological research traditions.

Central and Eastern European countries showed solid representation, with Poland (42 members), Slovenia (20), Hungary (12), Croatia (11), and Czechia (11) revealing the continued growth and integration of criminological communities in this region.

Beyond Europe, the global reach of the ESC was evident in strong participation from Canada (24 members), Australia (23), and Israel (25), as well as representation from Asia, including Japan (10), China (7), and South Korea (2). The presence of members from Latin American countries such as Brazil (5), Mexico (5), Chile (3), and several others highlights the Society's growing influence in emerging criminological scenes.

The participation of members from countries with developing criminological communities, including several African, Asian, and Latin American nations, highlights the ESC's role in fostering global criminological development and cross-cultural academic exchange.

## 2024 ESC members by country



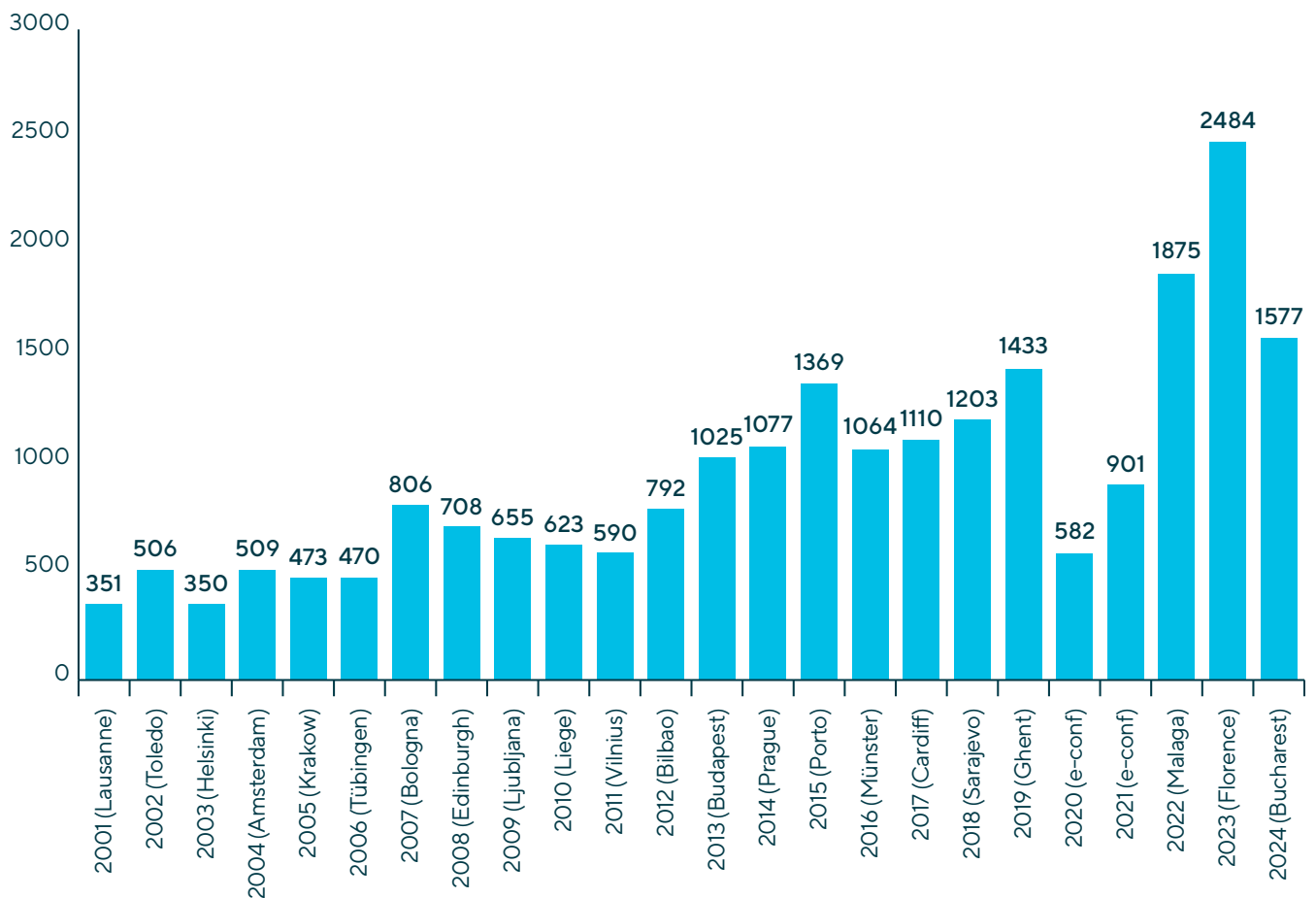
**Figure 2:** Members of the ESC in 2024 by country

In sum, despite the overall decrease in membership from 2023, the geographical distribution of ESC members in 2024 continued to reflect a vibrant and diverse international community. The Society's ability to maintain broad international representation while experiencing natural fluctuations in total membership corroborates its resilience and continued relevance in the global criminological landscape.

## Eurocrim 2024 in Bucharest: The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ESC

Under the title "Criminology Goes East", the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ESC, Eurocrim 2024, held in Bucharest, Romania, from 11 to 14 September 2024, successfully maintained the society's tradition of high-quality international conferences. The event attracted 1,577 participants, representing a solid turnout that, while lower than the record-breaking 2,484 attendees in Florence 2023, demonstrated continued strong engagement within the criminological community.

### Participants in ESC Conferences (2001-2024)



**Figure 3:** Participants in the ESC Annual Meetings (Eurocrim) from 2001 to 2024

The attendance at Eurocrim 2024 reflects several important factors. Following the exceptional peak in Florence, a moderation in conference attendance was anticipated, yet the Bucharest conference still drew significantly more participants than many pre-2022 conferences. The choice of Bucharest as the venue also provided an important opportunity to strengthen criminological networks in Eastern Europe and to showcase the growing research capacity in this region.

The conference's success can be measured not only in attendance figures but also in its contribution to fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange. Bucharest provided an excellent setting for both established and emerging criminologists to present their research, engage in scholarly debates, and build professional networks that span geographical and institutional boundaries.

The relationship between conference attendance and membership remains evident, with both metrics showing parallel trends. While both figures declined from their 2023 peaks, they maintained levels that demonstrate the ESC's continued vitality and appeal within the international criminological community. This enduring appeal is further confirmed by the strong early registration for the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Athens, Greece, which by early July 2025 had already exceeded 2,000 registered participants, indicating the Society's continued capacity to attract and engage the global criminological community.

## ESC Awards

In 2024, the ESC continued its tradition of recognizing excellence in Criminology by presenting five awards: The ESC European Criminology Award, the ESC Young Criminologist Award, the European Journal of Criminology (EJC) Best Article of the Year Award, the ESC Early Career Award, and the Book Award. The awardees received their plaques and diplomas during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Eurocrim conference in Bucharest, Romania.



### 2024 European Criminology Award

The 2024 ESC European Criminology Award, recognising a lifetime contribution to European Criminology, was presented to Per-Olof Wikström. The award committee, composed of former ESC presidents Aleksandras Dobryninas (chair, Vilnius University), Catrien Bijleveld (NSCR and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands), and Klaus Boers (University of Muenster, Germany), highlighted Professor Wikström's significant contributions to

the field. They particularly noted his integration of developmental and environmental Criminology in Situational Action Theory (SAT), the comprehensive PADS+ study as one of the most successful and largest longitudinal investigations of crime in the UK, his innovative methods for understanding how environmental features and personal characteristics impact involvement in crime, the influence of his research on UK crime policies and international crime prevention practices, and his exceptional international reputation, evidenced by numerous honours including the Stockholm Prize in Criminology and fellowships from prestigious academic societies.

### 2024 ESC Young Criminologist Award

Laura Kennedy received the 2024 ESC Young Criminologist Award for her article "Prioritise Propensity: A multimethod analysis of peer influence and school-based aggression" published in *Deviant Behavior*. The award committee, consisting of Klaus Boers (chair, University of Muenster, Germany), Olga Petintseva (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium), and Rita Faria (University of Porto), praised Kennedy's work for its theory-guided and methodologically innovative empirical investigation of the interaction between personal propensity and environmental peer settings in aggressive behaviour, significant findings on the relevance of aggressive peers in different propensity contexts, and important policy implications, suggesting that strengthening prosocial propensity may be more fundamental for preventing aggression than reducing exposure to aggressive peers.

### EJC Best Article of the Year 2023 Award

Florian Kaiser, Björn Huss, and Marcus Schaerff were honoured with the ESC European Journal of Criminology Best 2023 Article Award for their paper "Differential updating and morality: Is the way offenders learn from police detection associated with their personal morals?" The award committee, comprising ESC President Josep Maria Tamarit-Sumalla, Alberto Chrysoulakis and Leonidas Cheliotis – recipients of the previous year award – and EJC Editor-in-Chief Kyle Treiber, highlighted the paper's strong, theory-driven empirical contribution to the



study of differential deterrent effects, its sophisticated analysis of data from the CRIMOC panel study in Germany, the impressive theory-guided framing of research questions and design, and the paper's broad applications and important implications for crime policy and prevention.

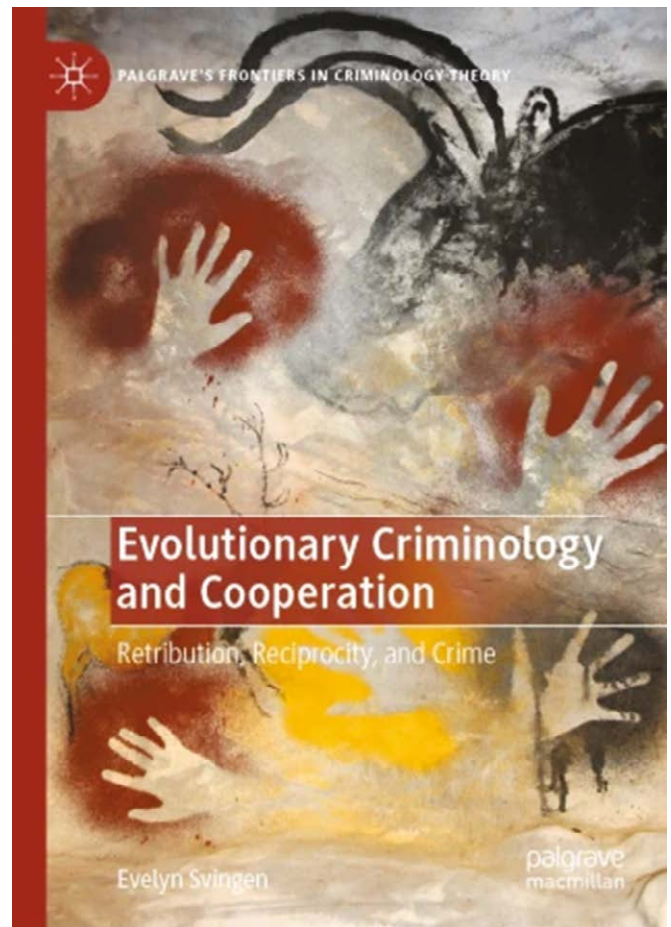
### 2024 ESC Early Career Award

The 2024 ESC Early Career Award, recognising outstanding scientific achievement by an early career European criminologist, was presented to Gian Maria Campedelli. The award committee, consisting of Michele Burman (Chair, University of Glasgow), Josep Maria Tamarit-Sumalla (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), and Anna Di Ronco (University of Essex), commended Dr. Campedelli for his cutting-edge work at the interface between computational studies and Criminology, broad expertise spanning quantitative Criminology, machine learning, homicide, and crime prevention, developing new methodologies to explore contemporary crime problems, an impressive publication record in high-profile criminological and scientific journals, and his single-authored monograph on machine learning and AI in crime research, addressing ethical consequences of such methodologies.

### 2024 ESC Book Award

Evelyn Svingen received the 2024 ESC Book Award for her work "Evolutionary Criminology and Cooperation: Retribution, Reciprocity and Crime", published by Palgrave Macmillan. The award committee, composed of Michele Burman (Chair, University of Glasgow), Ineke Haen-Marshall (Northeastern University), and Letizia Paoli (University of Leuven), praised the book for its bold attempt to understand the contribution of evolutionary theory to the study of crime, presenting philosophical and methodological arguments for the indispensability of evolutionary frameworks in Criminology, developing the Retribution and Reciprocity Model (RRM) as a tool for integrating with other theories, its novel methodology using a game theory approach adapted from behavioural economics, and providing a coherent and scholarly

overview of the rationale, justification, methodology, and evidence for using the framework of retribution and reciprocity in understanding crime.



All in all, these awards reflect the ESC's commitment to recognizing and promoting excellence in criminological research and scholarship across Europe and beyond.

## Briefs

### Elections

In 2024, Michele Burman assumed the role of President-Elect of the ESC, and Marieke Kluin from Leiden University, the Netherlands, was elected as an At-large ESC Executive Board member.

### ESC Summer School

The first ESC Summer School took place in Lausanne from 19 to 23 September 2024, coordinated by Fernando Miró-Llinares with the support of Lorena Molnar, and with administrative and partial financial support from the University of Lausanne through its International Relations Office. This landmark initiative represents a significant milestone in the Society's commitment to advancing criminological education. The European Summer School on Criminology was designed to enhance the education of emerging scholars and to lay a strong foundation for the next generation of European criminologists and their professional networks.

The Summer School's primary goal is to strengthen the scientific community and prepare for future developments in the field. It serves as a forward-thinking initiative that connects experienced and emerging experts, fostering mentorship relationships and paving the way for a larger, more interconnected community in the years ahead. The program featured speakers who were winners of previous ESC awards, ensuring the highest quality of instruction and mentorship for participants.

The overwhelming response to this inaugural program demonstrated the strong demand for such educational opportunities within the criminological community. All twenty available places were filled, with applications reaching double the number of places available, highlighting the enthusiasm among emerging scholars for advanced training and networking opportunities. A [participant's perspective from Daniela-Irina Stadniciuc](#) was featured in issue 3/2024 of the ESC Newsletter, providing valuable insights into the impact and value of this new educational initiative.

### European Criminology Oral History Project (ECOH)

Under the supervision of José A. Brandariz with the support of Ignacio González-Sánchez, six interviews were conducted during Eurocrim 2024 in Bucharest. The interviews included Hans-Jörg Albrecht interviewed by Anna-Maria Getoš Kalac, Manuel Eisner interviewed by Marcelo Aebi, Janne Kivivuori interviewed by Nora Markwalder, Ian O'Donnell interviewed by Deirdre Healy, Sveinung Sandberg interviewed by Thomas Ugelvik, and Marcelo Aebi interviewed by Lorena Molnar.

These interviews are available on the [ESC YouTube Channel](#) and contribute to preserving the rich history of European Criminology for future generations.

## Keep in touch

To stay up to date with the latest ESC news, please visit:

- The ESC website: [esc-eurocrim.org](https://esc-eurocrim.org)
- The ESC Newsletter website: [escnewsletter.org](https://escnewsletter.org)
- Facebook: [esc-eurocrim.org](https://facebook.com/esc-eurocrim.org)
- Twitter: [@esc\\_eurocrim](https://twitter.com/esc_eurocrim)
- YouTube channel: [@esc-europeansocietycriminology](https://youtube.com/@esc-europeansocietycriminology)

by Effi Lambropoulou

# Criminology in Greece: a Discipline Taught More Than Practised\* (2)

## 1. The Early Development of Criminology in Greece

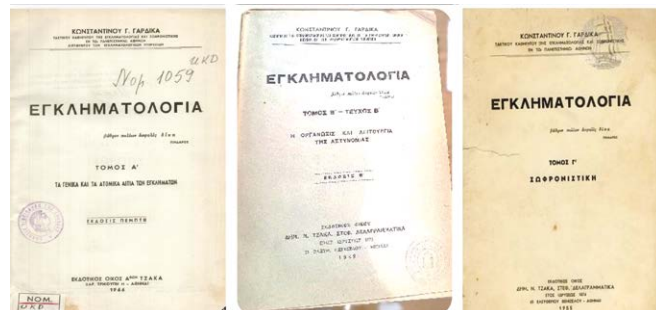
The first university in Greece, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, was established in 1837, ten years after the country's liberation from Ottoman rule. Nearly a century later, in 1930, Konstantinos Gardikas (1896–1984) was appointed professor of Criminology and began teaching at the University of Athens.

Gardikas completed his doctoral thesis at the University of Geneva at the age of 22 and was appointed Privatdozent in Criminal Law. A year later, he moved to Smyrna (Asia Minor, now Izmir, Turkey), where he served as Director of Prison Administration for the Smyrna Commission (1920). In 1923, he returned to Athens to serve as a department head in the Cities' Police.

Gardikas played a key role in shaping the Cities' Police by closely cooperating with, and strongly supporting, British officer Frederick Loch Halliday, who had been appointed by the Greek government to design the new, civilian policing force based on the London Metropolitan model. Until then, policing throughout the country had been carried out by the Gendarmerie. Gardikas was also among those who contributed to the founding of Interpol in 1923. He later became the first director of the Central Office of Forensic Identification – now known as the Forensic Science Division (FSD) of the Hellenic Police – which has been active in the scientific investigation of crimes since 1929. Gardikas managed the agency for 36 years. His three-volume, 2,600-page work on Criminology, Penology, and Criminalistics, published between 1936 and 1955, became foundational in the field (Spinellis 1997: 79; Courakis, 2000:42).



Konstantinos Gardikas, the founder of Criminology in Greece (Source: astynomia.gr).

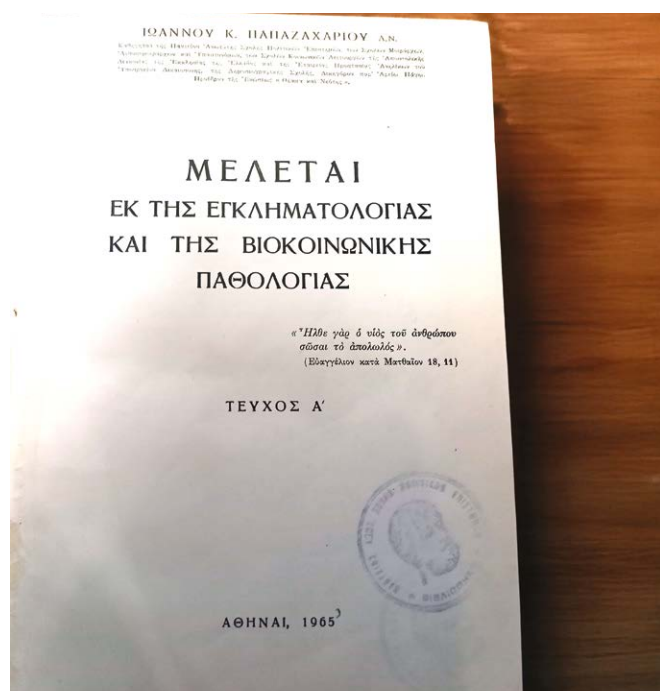


Gardikas, K., *Criminology, Policing/Forensics, Penology*, 1933–1955, Tzakas: Athens, edn. 1966, 1949, 1955

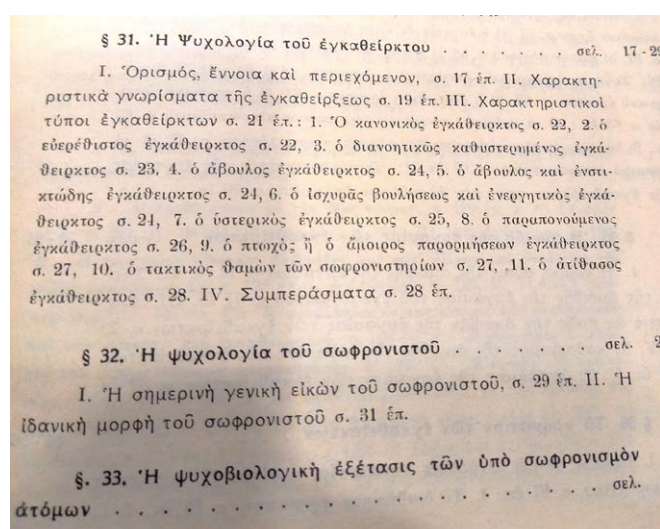
\* References with asterisk\* are in Greek language; original titles translated into English by the author.

(2) Owing to space constraints, this article cannot reflect the full range of individuals and contributions to Greek Criminology. I respectfully acknowledge and apologize to those not included.

Two years later, in 1932, Gardikas also began teaching Criminology at the Panteion School of Political Sciences. Since its establishment in July 1930, the School's curriculum had included Criminology, Penology/Law Enforcement, and Sociology, alongside Political Science, Law, Economics, Journalism, Geography, and Philosophy. At Panteion, Gardikas received active support from Menelaos Bakatsoulas, also a professor at the University of Athens Law School. A decade later, in 1942, Professor Ioannis Papazachariou was appointed to teach Criminology at Panteion.



Papazachariou, I. (1965), *Studies in Criminology and Biosocial Pathology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn., Athens



Karanikas, K. (1965), *Penology* (part of its contents), Thessaloniki

In 1925, Greece's second university was founded in Thessaloniki – originally named Alma Mater Thessalicensis and later renamed Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Its Law School was established in 1930, and by 1934, Criminology was introduced to the curriculum, initially taught by Professor Dimitrios Castorchis and, starting in 1940, also by Dimitrios Karanikas (Lambropoulou, 2003: 834). Both scholars made significant contributions to the field and are regarded as key pioneers of criminological studies in Greece, together with Gardikas, Bakatsoulas, and Papazachariou (Zarafonitou, 2009).

Dimitrios Karanikas, who earned his Doctor Juris degree from the University of Leipzig, served as an Associate Professor at the University of Athens and later as Professor Ordinarius at the University of Thessaloniki. His notable scholarly work includes key publications on crime prevention law in Greece, comprehensive university lectures on Criminology, and an influential study on Penology that echoes Gresham Sykes' classic prison Sociology, adapted to the Greek context.

In 1938, the University of Athens established the first academic chair in Criminology, appointing Gardikas as the inaugural professor of Criminal Justice and Penology.

Thus, in the first half of the 20th century, Criminology was taught in both of Greece's Law schools, integrated within the curricula of Criminal Law, as well as in the curricula of the Panteion School of Political Sciences. The founders of Greek Criminology, who were also practitioners, were well-informed about contemporary European criminological literature, theories, and policies. They wrote on topics such as prison subcultures, classifications of prisoners, and the conditions of marginalized groups – such as prostitutes, alcoholics, drug addicts, street gamblers, and beggars – as well as on crime prevention and broader criminological theories.

Germany and Switzerland were key academic centers where the first Greek criminologists received their doctorates. It is also important to note that criminological papers and books were already being published in Greece by the end of the 19th century, laying the groundwork for the academic development of the field.



## 2. Education

Although the initial development of Criminology in Greece showed promise and occurred concurrently with developments in other European countries, both theoretical and empirical research fluctuated in the following decades due to political factors that affected the social sciences as a whole.

When democracy was restored in 1974 – after decades marked by world and regional wars, national disaster, and political turbulence – criminological research was virtually non-existent. The limited research that did exist was rudimentary.

It was not until 1985–86 that a Criminology section was established on the initiative of Alice Marangopoulou, Professor of Criminology and Criminalistics, within the newly created Sociology Department at Panteion University (formerly the Panteion School of Political Sciences). This section, unique in Greece, continues to operate within the Sociology Department. Until then, both Sociology and Criminology had been taught only as one-year introductory courses in most Law schools. As a result, students' education in sociological – and especially criminological – theory and research methods were limited. A year earlier, in 1984, the first postgraduate program in Criminology was established at Panteion School (named the Postgraduate Seminar in Criminological Studies). In 2003, it evolved into the current postgraduate program in Criminology. The founders were Alice Marangopoulou, Ilias Daskalakis, and James Farsedakis.



Alice Giotopoulou-Marangopoulou, the initiator of the Criminology Section in the Department of Sociology at Panteion University (Source: *To Vima*)

In the late 1980s, Criminology teaching began to expand – a trend that continued more intensively in the following decades. Professors James Farsedakis, Calliope Spinellis, Nestor Courakis, Stergios Alexiadis, and Yannis Panoussis made significant contributions to this expansion and development. Undergraduate courses in Criminology, criminal justice, or crime policy are now generally offered not only by the Sociology Department of Panteion University but also to students in all three Law schools (Athens, Thessaloniki, and Komotini). Additionally, such courses are available to students in the Sociology Departments at the University of the Aegean in Mytilini/Lesvos and the University of Crete in Rethymnon, as well as the Departments of Social Policy and Social Work (previously Department of Social Administration and Political Science) at the Democritus University of Thrace in Komotini, the Psychology Department of the University of Crete, and the Department of Social and Education Policy at the University of Peloponnese in Corinth.

The establishment of a Law School in Thrace in 1974 significantly contributed to the dissemination of criminological studies. The Sociology departments at the Universities of the Aegean and Crete, and the Department of Social Administration and Political Science in Thrace were founded between 1974 and 1985, while the University of Peloponnese was founded in 2000 and began operating in 2002. Across all universities, Criminology courses are offered as optional rather than compulsory – except at the Sociology Department of Panteion University, where some are mandatory, and the Department of Social Policy in Thrace. In general, student participation in such courses is high, depending on the annual admissions quota of each faculty.

Criminology courses cover a wide range of topics – particularly at Panteion University, which now provides 21 courses (as of 2025). Broadly speaking, the content offered by Greek universities can be grouped into three main categories:

**1) Crime and Deviance** –including perspectives on crime and criminal behavior, types of offending such as economic and organized crime, juvenile delinquency, corruption, domestic violence and current state of research, as well as historical perspectives.



## 2) Social Control, Criminal Justice and Crime Policy

– covering topics such as crime prevention, policing, law enforcement, sociology of criminal law, human rights, prison law, juvenile criminal law and juvenile justice, alternatives to punishment, and restorative justice.

**3) Specialized Topics** – including victimology, criminological and forensic psychology and psychiatry, criminal careers, violent crimes, policy issues related to international and European organizations, and criminalistics.

Courses in research methodologies are offered only in Sociology and Psychology departments at graduate and postgraduate levels and in the departments of Social Policy and Social Work at the graduate level. In these departments, both quantitative and qualitative research methodology courses are mostly compulsory for graduate students. Research methodology courses are available exclusively at the postgraduate level in only one of the three Law schools that offer Criminology. Postgraduate studies with a specialization in Criminology exist, apart from Panteion University, in all three Law schools that teach Criminology and last four semesters. Internships for students are only available at Panteion University and the Department of Social Policy of the University of Thrace.

Criminology, taught from a sociological perspective, has been part of the Police Academy curricula since 1984. A few modules on criminological and criminal justice issues are delivered at the School of National Security by Criminology professors. The School provides postgraduate education and training focusing on national security strategy and policy for senior officers of the Hellenic Police, the Armed Forces, the Coast Guard, the Fire Brigade, as well as high ranking civil servants from the public sector. Interestingly, however, the National School of the Judiciary does not offer any courses in Criminology or Sociology during its 16-month program, nor in its lifelong learning courses.

## 3. Criminological Research: Developments and Limitations

A lack of funding combined with conservative attitudes among State officials and entrenched professional interests resistant to the social sciences in general – and to Criminology in particular – constituted significant barriers to the development of the discipline. Furthermore, the relatively low crime rates in Greece in the 1970s and 1980s contributed to the perception of Criminology as superfluous, positioning it largely as an adjunct to Criminal Law.

Systematic criminological research was conducted for about a decade at the *National Center for Social Research* (EKKE) under the supervision of Elias Daskalakis, professor of Criminology at the Panteion School of Social and Political Sciences. During this period, a dedicated Criminology research team carried out two major studies: one on criminal justice (focusing on judges and courts), and another on the prison system and prison subculture in Greece.

Following Daskalakis' death in 1986 and the restructuring of the national research framework under Law 1514/1985, the Criminology team was dissolved. Its members were redeployed across the Center's newly established four institutes. They continued research in adjacent fields – such as social exclusion, youth-related issues (e.g., drug and alcohol abuse), gender-based concerns (including sexual harassment in the workplace), and topics related to refugees, asylum seekers, and responses to forced displacement – with funding from national, European, or international bodies. Occasionally, they returned to explicitly criminological subjects, conducting studies on racism, the reintegration of formerly incarcerated women, societal beliefs and stereotypes surrounding domestic violence against women, and female criminality.

In the late 1990s, a general increase in recorded crime – especially in more serious offenses – led to a growing demand for criminologists within State institutions (Lambropoulou, 2001: 34–49). Gradually, criminologists began participating in various governmental committees and working groups tasked with drafting new legislation, alongside criminal law scholars, judges, and lawyers who had traditionally dominated the field. Their informed contributions on issues such as prison policy and juvenile delinquency (Spinellis, 1997: 78),

typically within the context of legislative preparation, as well as their responsiveness to policy-makers' information requests, helped promote their professional legitimacy (Panoussis, 2000).

Criminological research has intensified over the past two decades, primarily through empirical studies conducted by individuals or small groups, often with little or no funding. The increase is partly driven by the growing need for Greek criminologists to engage in international scientific discourse. In the absence of large-scale research programs, doctoral dissertations have emerged as a means of partially filling the gap. The PhD theses span a wide array of topics and are typically based on independent research projects – examples include studies on criminal careers, sexual abuse, juvenile justice, correctional institutions, illegal gambling, economic and environmental crime, cybercrime, money laundering, corruption, and state-corporate crime<sup>(3)</sup>. Nevertheless, the overall research landscape stays fragmented.

As already referred to, the fragmentation stems primarily from the State's limited recognition of the importance of criminological studies, resulting in inadequate research funding. In addition, collaboration between State agencies and universities – and even among universities themselves within the social sciences – is minimal. A further obstacle lies in the absence of permanent or periodically renewed research staff, administrative support, and infrastructure in the small research centers that do exist. All universities offering Criminology courses maintain such centers or laboratories, yet they consistently struggle to secure research funding. Despite the difficulties, they have occasionally succeeded in carrying out interesting studies<sup>(4)</sup>.

These systemic limitations present significant barriers to conducting extensive and methodologically robust research, hindering the development of long-term research strategies. Although European-funded programs have been implemented over the past 20

years, they have contributed little to the study of key criminological issues, as their objectives often diverge from academic or national policy-driven research needs. Even when criminological research findings are available, they are rarely incorporated into policymaking processes related to crime prevention and criminal justice reform<sup>(5)</sup>.

The lack of State support for Criminology is compounded by the private sector's general indifference toward research in the social sciences, a tendency further reinforced by the reluctance of universities of social sciences in Greece to involve the private sector in their work – an involvement that is, in any case, far from straightforward. The decade-long debt crisis significantly worsened the already limited funding available for research. As a result, while Criminology education in Greece has flourished for over thirty years, the state of organized and systematic research remains discouraging.

Over the past three decades, Greek criminologists' research and publications have focused primarily on the following thematic areas:

**a) Theoretical and policy issues** – including criminological theory and historical perspectives; urban criminology; victimology, victimization, and victim support; sentencing and human rights; punishment and corrections.

**b) Criminal justice, police, and policing.**

**c) Restorative justice and alternative models of justice.**

**d) Special forms of crime and delinquency** – such as drug and substance abuse, youth violence and subcultures, juvenile justice, gender and violence, human trafficking, illegal markets, and corruption.

**e) Migration and human rights, punitiveness, and fear of crime.**

(3) National Archive of PhD Theses/Sociology and Law: <https://www.didaktorika.gr/eadd/>.

(4) E.g. Laboratory of Urban Criminology (2022). "A holistic urban security governance framework for monitoring, assessing and forecasting the efficiency, sustainability and resilience of Piraeus", Panteion University; Greek Center of Criminology (1996). "Juvenile subcultures", Panteion University.

(5) One of the few exceptions seems to be the 2025-2030 National Strategy for the Prevention of Violence and Juvenile Delinquency by the Presidency of the Greek Government (2025).

Criminological research, broadly speaking, is also conducted by the Center of Security Studies (KEMEA), established in 2005 and staffed primarily by police officers. KEMEA functions as a consulting and research organization, serving as the think tank for the Ministry of Citizen Protection, focusing on applied research – particularly at the strategic level – on security topics and policies such as terrorism prevention, integrated border management, and civil protection. It also provides advisory and risk-management consulting services to a range of public and private organizations. KEMEA carries out national research programs and participates in European initiatives; however, it rarely collaborates or exchanges knowledge with universities, and its members typically produce group publications on relevant research issues<sup>(6)</sup>.

Moreover, over the past two decades, some studies of criminological interest have been conducted by the Research Centre for Gender Equality (KETHI), founded in 1994, with approximately half of these projects outsourced to other organizations (e.g. National Center for Social Research). KETHI focuses on research and studies in the field of gender equality and implements specific policies, practices, and actions aimed at promoting gender equality.

Initially, Greek criminologists adopted legalistic and medical perspectives, drawing on broader European traditions. Legal approaches – particularly the description and analysis of legislative reforms (Panoussis et al., 1994; Spinellis & Courakis, 2001) and international conventions (Dimopoulos, 2005) and treaties – continue to be prevalent in Greek criminological literature (Galanou, 2011; Pitsela, 2022; Tsigris, 2024). These are well-elaborated and carefully developed studies, now frequently combined with or accompanied by critical approaches (Dimopoulos & Kosmatos, 2017). Primary empirical research included in the publications – whether quantitative or qualitative – continues to be relatively limited (Lambropoulou, 2012; Kranidioti & Chionis, 2020; Tsigkanou, 2021; Zarafonitou, Mimis & Kalamaras, 2022; Koulouris, 2022; Artinopoulou et al., 2023; Lambropoulou & Milienos, 2023). In particular, over the last two decades, sociological analyses of Greek Criminology have largely stagnated or been confined to narrow critical frameworks. There are, of

course, notable examples of thorough and detailed scholarship that, while not based on primary empirical research on contemporary Greek society, provide important theoretical and historical insights into various criminological topics. They include, among others, studies on the theory and history of the deprivation of liberty, alternatives to imprisonment, and the prison system (Archimandritou, 2000; Dimopoulos, 2021), as well as the development of criminological theories (Vlachou, 2008, 2017; Archimandritou, 2024) and economic crime (Lazos, 2005; Vasilantopoulou, 2014).

There are also several diaspora criminologists. A number of Greek students, after completing undergraduate studies in Sociology or, more commonly, Law, pursue postgraduate and doctoral studies in Criminology abroad, particularly in other European countries. Some of them go on to establish successful academic careers in their host countries, most notably in the United Kingdom. Diaspora voices enrich the global view, yet distance can blur the lens. Greek criminologists have also built successful careers in international and European organizations.

Institutionally, there are no national awards recognizing distinguished contributions to criminological research or teaching. The sole exception is an award for outstanding master's dissertations in Criminology, conferred by the Hellenic Society of Criminology (HSC) to students of Panteion University.

**Initially, Greek criminologists adopted legalistic and medical perspectives, drawing on broader European traditions.**

(6) E.g. Kavallieros, Malliaros, Daniilidis, Leventakis & Grizis, 2015.

## 4. Intra- and Interdisciplinary Exchange

There are two main criminological societies in Greece: The Hellenic Society of Criminology (HSC), established in 1978, and the Greek Society for the Study of Crime and Social Control (EEMEKE), founded in 2015. Both societies organize workshops, meetings, and other events, although conferences are rarer. These events, while informative, tend to be less dynamic in fostering regular exchange of ideas and dialogue. The HSC is open to a broad range of perspectives, while the EEMEKE is a more closed group of critical criminologists.

The challenges facing Criminology in Greece are also reflected in the difficulties related to the regular publication of academic journals, although the situation has improved in the past two decades, largely due to the accessibility provided by online platforms. The HSC publishes *Englimatologia*, one issue per year print and online and has been publishing a newsletter twice a year since 2018. The EEMEKE publishes *Antigone*, available in both print and online, with two issues per year since 2021. Additionally, the Laboratory of Penal and Criminological Research at the Law School of the University of Athens, established in 1973 by Professor of Criminology Ioannis Daskalopoulos, publishes an online journal titled *The Art of Crime*, which also releases one issue per year. The journal focuses on criminological and criminal justice topics as well as Criminal Law.

Since 2015, the Center for the Study of Crime (KEME) has also operated as a civic non-profit association. According to its declaration, the KEME aims to advance public understanding of crime and criminal justice, promote evidence-based policy, and support better regulation. The KEME frequently organizes seminars, webinars, and short courses, often for a fee. Since December 2016, KEME has published *CrimeTimes*, with three online issues per year.

The HSC is the older of the two societies, with around 150 members, down from 300 in 2005. The EEMEKE has approximately 50–60 members, while the CESC has 468 members.

## 5. Institutional, Professional and Social Challenges

The broader challenges faced by the social sciences in general – and Criminology in particular – are reflected in the limited recruitment of criminologists within public sector services. These services include post-release support programs, probation services, and juvenile probation and court departments. Nonetheless, this trend cannot be attributed solely to governmental inaction; it is also partly due to a lack of interest among criminologists themselves. For instance, although the number of designated criminologist positions in correctional institutions has gradually increased – from just two posts across 27 prisons in 1999 to seven posts across 34 prisons by 2019 – such positions have consistently remained unfilled. In contrast, positions for sociologists (10 positions) and psychologists (26 positions) attract strong interest, and vacancies in these fields are rarely left unoccupied. Yet, a significant number of criminologists prefer to teach at private colleges, where opportunities are more readily available, rather than engaging with the more complex and demanding realities of public sector work.

Some professionals with criminological expertise and sociological, psychological or legal background are employed in services and institutions working with vulnerable populations, social exclusion, and deviance (e.g. Organization Against Drugs, National Commission for Human Rights), and NGOs.

On a more positive note, the limited recruitment of criminologists in the public sector has not affected academic positions in Greek universities, even though these positions have hardly been renewed over the past two decades. As a result, the generation of criminologists who entered academia in the 1990s – arguably the most numerous and dynamic cohort in the history of Greek criminology is now retiring. This generation brought renewed energy and innovation to the field. In contrast, the current generation of academic criminologists is notably smaller, particularly within Panteion University and its Criminology Section, where staffing levels have declined significantly compared to the past.

It is also noteworthy that Criminology has been included in the curricula of both public and private

vocational training institutes (IEKs) for over twenty years, demonstrating its established presence in vocational education. New specializations have emerged in response to evolving needs, such as security officers for persons and infrastructure, as well as security officers for museums.

Despite the presented developments, criminologists in Greece continue to struggle with addressing the challenges of the discipline in a systematic and organized manner. Their contributions are often individual efforts and remain relatively narrow in scope. Furthermore, public perception – and, in some cases, that of certain academics – still predominantly associates Criminology with the ‘criminal individual’, focusing specifically on personality. Mass media play a significant role in perpetuating such a limited perspective. Meanwhile, Criminology is also sometimes reduced to the measurement of crime statistics. However, in recent years, there has been a shift, with growing demand for criminologists’ expertise from both media and State organizations. Nonetheless, the interest remains intermittent.

The issues outlined above underscore the weak interdisciplinary collaboration within the broader social sciences in Greece. While the situation is gradually improving, it constitutes an ongoing challenge. Additionally, the lack of effective scientific communication and coordination among experts continues to impede progress in the field.

## 6. Conclusions

Serious difficulties remain to conducting extensive research that could advance theoretical and policy discussion in Greek Criminology. European-funded programs have not significantly contributed to a deeper understanding of the key issues that still demand attention, as these programs were designed with other objectives in mind. In the past, politicians largely neglected to consider research findings when planning or implementing crime policy. More recently, however, they have begun to selectively request and promote empirical studies that align with their own priorities.

Criminologists, for their part, have so far largely failed to join forces to overcome the challenges.

**Criminologists, for their part, have so far largely failed to join forces to overcome the challenges.**

Their efforts remain fragmented, consisting mainly of increased participation in governmental and ministerial committees, consultative groups, and other organizations. The establishment of regional university structures has generally not been accompanied by strategic planning that would enable better use of both material and human resources. There is undoubtedly a need for criminologists to engage more proactively with policy, anticipating the needs of both the country and their field, rather than merely responding to political demands.

The prevailing view of science as a ‘marketplace’ has persisted over time, allowing politicians to procure the research they desire, while specialists are often seen as interchangeable and relatively inexpensive. Moreover, social scientists in Greece occupy a marginal role in society, and their energies are often dissipated in small-scale studies. As a result, they struggle to make a meaningful impact and are frequently unheard. On issues such as crime and deviance – topics on which many individuals feel they have an opinion – criminologists are not always able to offer the distinctive contributions necessary to make a significant difference, sometimes resorting instead to a critical stance without offering concrete solutions and realistic pathways for reform.

The paradox that Greek Criminology, which once held a position comparable to that of central European countries until the 1940s, has since lagged behind – despite the increase in university departments, research centers, and formal structures since the 1980s – can, at least in part, be understood through the lens of Parkinson’s effect. According to this principle, bureaucratic systems often grow, regardless of actual functional need, expanding in size while becoming inward-looking and self-referential. This may help explain why the institutional proliferation within Greek Criminology has not translated into corresponding innovation or societal impact. Instead, resources and efforts have often been absorbed by



administrative routines, internal procedures, and disjointed activities rather than coordinated research agendas or strategic engagement with public policy. In this light, growth in numbers has masked stagnation in purpose – a phenomenon not uncommon in academic and public-sector environments where structural expansion substitutes for substantive advancement.

Although discourse is rare and funding for research is meagre, perseverance has occasionally achieved results. Criminology has succeeded in shifting public perception, gradually being regarded less as a discipline concerned with the criminal mind or personality, and more as a field focused on crime as a broader social phenomenon. Sociological models are now viewed with greater understanding and acceptance.

In conclusion, continuous and systematic efforts are essential for Greek criminologists to engage effectively with pertinent issues while maintaining scientific rigor. There is an urgent need for more academic dialogue, intradisciplinary discourse, and goal setting within the field to enhance both its impact and development, particularly in relation to research. Beyond the academic advancements already discussed, there is an even greater need for the practical involvement of criminologists in real-world issues. Without this, Criminology risks languishing in academia, disconnected from the realities of society, and reduced to a simplistic portrayal in the mass media.

**There is an urgent need for more academic dialogue, intradisciplinary discourse, and goal setting within the field to enhance both its impact and development, particularly in relation to research.**

While the challenges faced by Greek criminologists are significant, they are not insurmountable. Through sustained effort, ongoing dialogue, and a shared vision, Criminology in Greece has the potential to achieve a higher level of development as both an

academic discipline and practical field. Collective efforts could pave the way for Criminology to develop into a more socially engaged and institutionally present field – one that contributes through research and consultation, as well as through active involvement in the institutions where its insights are most needed. It is hoped that the ESC conference will assist Greek criminologists in maintaining and strengthening their ties with the European Society of Criminology, ensuring that these connections persist despite the obstacles ahead.

## References

- Archimandritou, M. (2000). *Alternatives to imprisonment*. Athens: Ellinika Grammata\*;
- Dimopoulos Ch. (2021). *Criminological, police and judicial investigation*. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Archimandritou, M. (2024). *Introduction to Criminology*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn. Athens, Thessaloniki: Sakkoulas\*
- Artinopoulou, V., Bambalis, K.T., Tsoli, L.K. & Nikolopoulos, I.V. (2023). *School bullying: Theory, research and practice*. Zefyri: Diadrasia\*
- Dimopoulos, H. (2025): *Corruption*, Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Dimopoulos, H. & Kosmatos, K. (2017). *Juvenile Law: Theory and practice*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edn. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Galanou, M. (2011). *Correctional treatment and rights of persons in custody*. Athens Thessaloniki: Sakkoulas\*
- Gardikas, K., *Criminology, Policing/Forensics, Penology*, 1933-1955, Tzakas: Athens, edn. 1966, 1949, 1955
- Hatzigianni, A. & Tsiganou, I. (2022). *Parenthood, substance dependence, and incarceration: An empirical investigation*. Studies - Research Reports 24, Athens: EKKE, 18 ANO\*
- Kavallieros, D., Malliaros, S., Daniilidis, I., Leventakis, G., Grizis, V. (2015). PPDR Information Systems – A current status review report. *Universal Journal of Management* 3(12): 471-486

- Koulouris, N. (November 2022). "Maybe we don't have so many prisons": The (tentative) plans of an (expansive) prison policy. *The Art of Crime*\*
- Kranidioti, M.P. & Chionis, D.N. (2020). Museums and prevention of crimes against antiquities: A nationwide research project, *Eglimatologia* 1-2: 102-112\*
- Lambropoulou, E. (2001). The 'end' of correctional policy and the management of the correctional problem in Greece. *European Journal of Crime, Criminal Law and Criminal Justice* 9(1), 33-55
- Lambropoulou, E. (2003). The teaching of Criminology in Greece and contemporary criminological research. *Poiniki Dikaiosiini* 7: 833-839\*
- Lambropoulou, E. (2012). Corruption discourse as a wild card: Politics and Media in Greece and the 'modern' triumphalism of anti-corruption. In D. Tänzler, K. Maras & A. Giannakopoulos (eds.), *Social construction of corruption in Europe*. Ashgate: Surrey, England, 265-296
- Lambropoulou, E. & Milienos, F. (2023). Factors of violence: A study in Greek prisons. *Kriminologie – Das Online-Journal / Criminology – The Online Journal* 5 (1): 29-51
- Lazos, G. (2005). *Corruption and anticorruption*. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki
- Mitrossyli, M. & Fronimou, E. (2006). *Social and professional reintegration of specific population groups: The case of female prisoners*, Athens: EKKE\*
- Panoussis, Y. (2000). *Fundamental issues in Criminology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Athens, Komotini: A.N. Sakkoulas\*
- Panoussis, Y., Lixouriotis, G. & Koutsoubinas, S. (1994). *Aspects juridiques du travail obligatoire dans les prisons helléniques*. Athènes, Komotini: A.N. Sakkoulas
- Pitsela, A. (2022). *The criminal justice response to juvenile delinquency*, 8<sup>th</sup> edn. Athens, Thessaloniki: Sakkoulas\*
- Spinellis, C.D. & Courakis, N.E. (2001). *Correctional legislation: Greek, international*, 4<sup>th</sup> edn. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Spinellis, C.D. (1997). *Crime in Greece in perspective*. Athens, Komotini: A.N. Sakkoulas; Courakis, N.E. (2000). The contribution of Constantinos G. Gardikas to Criminology. In C.D. Spinellis (ed.), *Constantinos G. Gardikas: The founder of Criminology in Greece*, 37-45. Athens, Komotini: A.N. Sakkoulas\*
- Thanopoulou, M., Fronimou, E. & Tsilimingaki, V. (1997). *Women pending release: The right of reintegration into the work force*, Athens, Komotini: A.N. Sakkoulas\*
- Tsigkanou I. (2021). The lived experiences and life trajectories of substance-dependent women in Greece during the crisis: A preliminary empirical investigation. In Tsigkanou I., Tsatsaroni H., Karakoula P. & Kitsiou A. (eds.), *Aspects of substance dependence in Greece of the crisis*, EKKE: Athens, 75-140\*
- Tsigkanou, I. & Thanopoulou, M. (2010). *Final report on Greece: Violence against women and the role of strategies for gender equity, social integrity and health*. Research Reports, Athens, EKKE
- Tsigris, A. (2024). *Aspects of violence*. Athens, Thessaloniki: Sakkoulas\*
- Vasilantonopoulou, V. (2014). *"White collars" and economic crime: Social harm and crime policy*. Athens: P.N. Sakkoulas
- Vlachou, V. (2008). *The evolution of criminological theories of violence and aggression*. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Vlachou, V. (2017). *Historical review of criminological theories during 19<sup>th</sup> century. The birth of Criminology*, 2nd rev.edn. Athens: Nomiki Vivliothiki\*
- Zarafonitou, C. (2009). Trends and developments in teaching, research and professional practice in Criminology in Greece. *Poiniki Dikaiosiini & Eglimatologia* 1 (2): 74-81\*
- Zarafonitou, C., Mimis, A. & Kalamaras, D. (2022). Direct and indirect correlations of environmental and socioeconomic variables with fear of crime and insecurity: A secondary analysis of research data in the Municipality of Moschato-Tavros. *Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Online) of the Hellenic Sociological Society: Societies after the crisis, Societies without crisis?* 23-25/9/2020, 139-155, Greek Sociological Society\*

# Candidates to the ESC board - 2025

→ CANDIDATES TO THE ESC BOARD - 2025

# Election of ESC President: candidate profile Letizia Paoli



Ever since I attended the first conference of the European Society of Criminology in Lausanne, nearly a quarter of a century ago, the ESC has had a very positive influence on my intellectual development, academic career, and personal growth. This is why I would be both delighted and honoured to give something back by serving and representing the ESC as President.

My research agenda has long focused on organised crime, illegal drug markets, and drug policy, but has progressively expanded to include other topics. After writing my PhD on a quintessentially Italian subject – the mafias – I began to internationalise my perspective in the late 1990s. Over the past twenty-five years, I have investigated a wide range of organised crime actors and activities, as well as related control policies, across diverse contexts: from Frankfurt and Milan to Antwerp, and from Tajikistan to Mexico.

Together with Dr. Victoria Greenfield, a U.S. economist, I have developed the Harm Assessment Framework: a methodology for systematically and empirically assessing the harms of crime and policy interventions. Using this framework, our team has assessed the harms of complex crimes – including drug trafficking and production, human trafficking, cybercrime, and piracy – as well as their “accompanying” (e.g., money laundering, corruption, and violence) and “enabled” activities (e.g., drug dealing in the case of drug trafficking). Our recent book, *Assessing the Harms of Crime: A New Framework for Criminal Policy* (Oxford University Press, 2022), was awarded the 2023 Book Award of the European Society of Criminology. Over

the past decade, I have also conducted research and published on several other topics, including public perceptions of the seriousness of crime and criminal policy preferences, doping, and fraud in sports.

For my work on organised crime, I have received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime. I am also the recipient of the Thorsten Sellin & Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck Award, granted by the American Society of Criminology in recognition of outstanding contributions by a non-American criminologist. Additionally, I was the first criminologist to be elected a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences and Arts.

My career path reflects a distinctly international—and indeed European—orientation. A native of Italy, I studied Political Science and Sociology at the University of Florence before earning my PhD from the European University Institute, in 1997. I then spent approximately eight years working in Germany, primarily at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, in Freiburg. In 2006, I moved to Belgium and became a full professor of Criminology at the KU Leuven Faculty of Law and Criminology. Since 2020, I have served there as Chair of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology. I am also a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, following a visiting scholarship at the Cambridge Institute of Criminology and Clare Hall in 2017–18. In addition, I have held visiting scholar or professor positions at the Universities of Giessen,

Manchester, Paris II (Assas), Rotterdam, St. Andrews, Tübingen, and Sam Houston State University.

Whenever possible, I seek to share my ideas and research findings with the broader public, policymakers, and practitioners. In addition to regularly providing interviews to a wide range of media outlets, I have served on several national and international advisory and expert bodies. These include the Scientific Committee of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2014–2020; now European Drugs Agency) and the Scientific Advisory Board of EUROPOL's Serious and Organized Crime Threat Assessment (2015–2020 and 2023–present). I am currently working as a consultant for the Council of Europe in a committee tasked with developing policy guidelines to align repressive measures against organised crime with full respect for Human Rights.

I have also held leadership roles in various scientific societies. I served on the ESC Board from 2015 to 2018 and have since then been an occasional member of two of its award committees, as well as of the Sellin & Glueck Award committee of the American Society of Criminology. From 2011 to 2015, I served as Vice-President of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy and co-organised its 2023 conference in Leuven.

If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute with my scholarly, policy, and managerial experience to further advance the impressive development of the ESC, and to support the core objectives outlined in its Constitution, namely, bringing together criminologists within a multidisciplinary society, fostering the development of Criminology, promoting international exchange and cooperation, and serving as a forum for the dissemination of knowledge. Moreover, I would like to strengthen the Society's support for PhD students and other early-career researchers, for instance by expanding the ESC summer schools. I would also aim to promote dialogue with policymakers and increase the Society's impact. Given the inherent normativity of our object of study, I am firmly convinced that it is our responsibility as criminologists not only to conduct rigorous, high-quality research on crime, deviance, and related policy interventions, but also to contribute to the development of better – i.e., more humane, normatively defensible, accountable, and (cost-)effective – criminal and public policies.



## → CANDIDATES TO THE ESC BOARD - 2025

# At-large board member: candidate profile Mirza Buljubašić



What does justice look like in the wake of mass atrocity violence? That question has shaped my work for over a decade – not in theory, but in prisons, courtrooms, classrooms, and in the spaces where laws are applied, harms are remembered, and justice remains deeply contested.

I am a criminologist based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where I teach and research political violence, punishment, and the long-term social impacts of conflict. In Southeastern Europe, these questions are not abstract – they shape the legal, political, and emotional fabric of everyday life. I believe that perspectives from such contexts are not peripheral to European Criminology – they are essential to understanding how harm, justice, and responsibility operate across our continent.

My work spans academic research, public policy, and cross-sector collaboration. I have worked with the Council of Europe on terrorism-related sanctions, with the Radicalisation Awareness Network on violent extremism in the Balkans, and with the Atlantic Initiative on the legal and societal challenges of terrorism. I was also engaged in the regional transitional justice initiative RECOM, and contributed to the Justice360 and Transitional Punishment: Moderating Legacies of Mass Atrocities? projects, both of which explore how societies respond to mass violence and its aftermath. My research, published by Oxford University Press, Brill, and Taylor & Francis, focuses, among others, on atrocity crimes, prison rehabilitation, and the legitimacy of justice in Southeastern Europe.

Within the European Society of Criminology, I have participated in working groups, contributed to conference debates, and stood as a candidate in 2023 and 2024. These experiences have deepened my respect for ESC's evolving role. From expanding fellowships to colleagues at the edges of Europe, to creating inclusive working groups, and organizing its first conference outside the European Union in Sarajevo, the ESC has taken significant steps toward greater inclusion. I view my candidacy as a contribution to this ongoing process: building on past progress while helping the Society remain open, responsive, and forward-looking.

If elected to the Board, I will focus on three core areas:

- **Equity in participation:** Institutional support for ESC participation remains uneven. In my own faculty, for instance, travel support to attend ESC conferences only recently became available and is capped at €500 – an amount that often does not cover the full cost of registration, travel, and accommodation. Many colleagues across Europe face similar constraints, whether due to economic conditions or institutional limitations. I will advocate for differentiated membership and participation fees, as well as expanded support mechanisms for early-career researchers, especially PhD students and precariously employed scholars.

- **Shared teaching infrastructure:** I propose the creation of an ESC Classroom Exchange – a platform for members to voluntarily share syllabi, reading lists,

assessments, and recorded lectures. In Bosnia and Herzegovina – as in many contexts – access to updated Criminology teaching resources from across Europe is limited. A collaborative, open-access repository would strengthen pedagogy, support co-teaching opportunities, and foster meaningful exchange between institutions with different capacities.

– **Broader research impact and engagement:** ESC's research networks should be more deliberately connected to wider societal contexts. I will support initiatives that link scholars not only to law enforcement or judicial institutions, but also to educators, social workers, civil society actors, mental health professionals, journalists, and others contributing to a whole-of-society approach to justice, security, and prevention. The ESC is uniquely placed to bridge academic insight and public practice – making research not only more visible, but more impactful and relevant to broader audiences.

Although my work is based in Sarajevo, the questions I address – justice after violence, legitimacy of punishment, and structural barriers in academia – resonate far beyond one location. I have seen how critical, field-shaping scholarship can emerge from institutions with very limited resources. What is often missing is not the quality of their ideas, but the recognition and access needed to shape the wider field. ESC can help close that gap – not through symbolic gestures alone, but by embedding structural solutions that last.

When we share research, teaching tools, and institutional knowledge across borders, we do more than advance scholarship – we build fairness, inclusion, and solidarity into the foundation of European Criminology.

Criminology's role is not only to describe exclusion – but to help dismantle it. Thoughtfully. Collectively. And with clarity of purpose.

Thank you for your support.

## CANDIDATES TO THE ESC BOARD - 2025

# At-large board member: candidate profile Alina Deana Machande



Criminal and deviant behavior is increasingly taking place online, with Europe experiencing a rise in such offenses, while traditional crimes remain steady or decline. However, research on online deviance and crime has largely been dominated by disciplines such as information systems and management studies. As a scholar with a background in both Psychology and Security Studies, specializing in deviant online behavior, I aim to bring these issues back into the domain of Criminology and the social sciences. A criminological perspective is not only valuable but essential in understanding and addressing these emerging forms of crime, and my research contributes to bridging this gap by examining digital offending patterns and their societal implications.

I am currently working as a Lecturer in Psychology and will soon join Macromedia University of Applied Sciences as a professor of Psychology. With collaborative research projects in the UK and Finland, and a PhD from the University of Bath, I feel embedded within the wider European criminological research community. My doctoral research was funded by the Centre for Research and Evidence on Security Threats (CREST) in the UK, focusing on online deviance and security-related threats.

Beyond research, I am deeply committed to fostering scholarly exchange and collaboration. Having studied and taught at multiple universities across Europe, I strongly identify as a European researcher and advocate for interdisciplinary and cross-border cooperation. As a board member of the ESC, I would

actively promote criminological engagement with online deviance by organizing dedicated panels, facilitating research networks, and supporting emerging scholars in this field.

I would be honored to contribute to the organisation's mission and help shape the future of European Criminology in a digital age.

## → THE ESC SUMMER SCHOOL

by Fernando Miró-Llinares, Director of the ESC Summer School

# Consolidating Community and Excellence in European Criminology: Second Edition of the ESC Summer School

From 9 to 13 June 2025, the second edition of the ESC Summer School took place at the University of Lausanne. This initiative is consolidating itself as a key platform for the academic development of early-career criminologists across Europe and beyond. Designed as a strategic effort to build and support a connected criminological community in Europe, the School's main mission is to promote academic excellence among early career and PhD students but also to foster intergenerational dialogue and promote cohesion and collaboration among generations of criminologists.

Following a competitive selection process of the 40 applications received, 20 young researchers (the maximum number allowed to ensure the quality of the School) from 14 different countries took part in a programme structured to offer a demanding yet inspiring learning experience. The diversity of academic and geographical backgrounds among participants enriched the discussions and collaborative work, creating an open, dynamic, and engaged intellectual environment.

The academic programme combined high-level scientific sessions delivered by distinguished criminologists and recipients of various ESC Awards – including Per-Olof Wikström, Michele Burman, Anna Sergi, Eric Beauregard, Florian Kaiser and Gian Maria Campedelli – with a dedicated training module aimed at equipping participants with the tools to design and prepare competitive research proposals, such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and ERC Starting Grants. This component reflects a



core conviction of the ESC: investing in the future of European Criminology means not only transmitting knowledge, but also enabling researchers to build strong, internationally oriented academic careers.





Beyond its academic dimension, the ESC Summer School is also grounded in the idea that human connection, informal exchange, and community-building are integral to scientific development. Throughout the week, participants shared not only lectures and workshops, but also moments of social interaction and leisure: from a hike and picnic in the UNESCO-recognised Lavaux region, to a criminology-themed cinema session or a photography contest, and a farewell dinner on the shores of Lake Geneva. All of this was made possible by the warm hospitality and support of the University of Lausanne, which hosted this edition with the same enthusiasm and care as the first.

With this second edition, the European Society of Criminology reaffirms its commitment to fostering a cohesive, diverse, and excellence-driven scientific community. The ESC Summer School reflects a firm commitment to intergenerational connection, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of a European Criminology with global ambition and a shared future.



The successful consolidation of this second edition not only paves the way for the upcoming third edition, which will take place in the first week of June 2026, but also encourages us to continue along this promising path of investing in the future of Criminology. Building on this momentum, the ESC is already exploring new initiatives, such as the potential launch of a Winter School in the coming years, further expanding the society's commitment to supporting emerging scholars and strengthening the criminological community across Europe and beyond.



→ **IN MEMORIAM: MARC COOLS**

by Pieter Leloup



On Tuesday, 10 June 2025, Professor Marc Cools passed away in Antwerp, Belgium, in the presence of his loved ones.

For almost three decades, he was widely recognised as a central figure in shaping criminological scholarship in Belgium, particularly in the fields of private security research and intelligence studies. His intellectual reach, however, extended well beyond these domains, covering broader themes such as History, Philosophy, Cultural Criminology, and Art and Cultural Heritage crime.

Unlike many of his peers, Marc began his career in the private sector before entering academia. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, he held various management positions in the security industry. This real-world experience would shape his unique criminological perspective, one that combined theoretical engagement with many practical insights and relevant professional knowledge. It is therefore not surprising that, drawing on his work within the private sector, he obtained a PhD (1994) on the topic of employee crime – a subject that, at the time, received little academic attention in Belgium. In line with this, his first research focused mostly on crimes against businesses and the security strategies employed by the private sector. With these contributions, he played a pioneering role in introducing the theme of private and corporate security into Belgian criminological scholarship.

Three years after obtaining his PhD, he joined the Free University of Brussels (VUB) as Professor of

Criminology, and in 2001 was appointed part-time Professor at Ghent University. From 2015 on, he held a Full Professorship at Ghent, where he would leave a lasting legacy. In recent years, he taught courses including *Introduction to Criminology*, *Private Security and Policing Studies*, and *Historical Criminology*.

Although Marc was a passionate academic, he was also dedicated to actively engaging with stakeholders outside academia, where he was a respected voice. From 1999 to 2003, he served as the expert advisor to the Belgian Minister of Justice, a position in which he was able to shape the Belgian security policies for the coming decades. In addition, he was the founder of several initiatives that bridged the gap between academia and the practitioners' world, such as the Belgian Intelligence Studies Centre (BISC), the Criminologists Association for Private Security (CAPS), and GRACE, a Ghent-based research institute focusing on art crime and cultural heritage.

It is not surprising that he was widely recognised for his contributions. He was honoured with several official distinctions, including Officer in the *Order of the Crown*, *Knight in the Order of Leopold* – both in Belgium –, and *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* in France. In 2022, he received a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Outstanding Security Performance Awards.

Moreover, his scholarly output was both broad and deep, with more than 300 publications spanning private policing and investigations, intelligence

studies, and historical criminological topics. His latest book, on the life of Nico Gunzburg – founder of the Institute of Criminology at Ghent University – was published only one month before Marc passed away.

Yet, his most lasting impact may well lie in the students and researchers he mentored, many of whom now hold key positions in academia, government, and the security sector. Marc will be remembered not only for his intellectual clarity but also for his sharp humour, his critical voice, and his commitment to those he worked with. Even during his illness, he remained closely involved with his research team, guiding and encouraging in a way only he could.

We mourn the loss of a scholar, a mentor, and a friend. His absence will be felt for many years to come.

by Marcelo F. Aebi

# European Sourcebook Working Group (2020–2025)

## Period Covered: 2020–2025

### Executive Summary

The European Sourcebook Working Group (ESWG) has successfully maintained its mission of producing comprehensive pan European crime and criminal justice statistics during the 2020–2025 period. Key achievements include the publication of the sixth edition of the European Sourcebook, the launch of an innovative publication strategy for the seventh edition, and a collaboration with the Council of Europe to convene a conference, the proceedings of which were published in an open-access volume exploring three decades of crime statistics, methodology, and policy.

### Background and Mission

The ESWG is a group of experts dedicated mainly to producing the European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics. This publication provides comprehensive data across all criminal justice stages, including police, prosecution, courts and conviction, prison, probation, and victimization surveys, with particular emphasis on transparency through detailed metadata.

Established in the mid-1990s under the Council of Europe, the group published a first edition of the European Sourcebook in 1999. Since 2000, it has operated as an independent international expert group with institutional support, formally becoming a working group of the European Society of Criminology in the late 2000s. The group's methodology has gained international recognition, with the UN Crime Trends Survey (UN-CTS) adopting our metadata framework for counting rules and offence definitions in the mid-2000s.

**Key achievements include the publication of the sixth edition of the European Sourcebook, the launch of an innovative publication strategy for the seventh edition, and a collaboration with the Council of Europe to convene a conference, the proceedings of which were published in an open-access volume exploring three decades of crime statistics, methodology, and policy.**

## Major Accomplishments (2020-2025)

**- Publication of the Sixth Edition (2021).** The ESWG published the sixth edition of the European Sourcebook in 2021, covering the years 2011-2016. As all the previous editions, it is freely downloadable [here](#). The publication includes comprehensive comparative data and metadata from 42 European countries, with both raw data and key findings also available separately.

**- Innovation in Publication Strategy: Seventh Edition (2024-2025).** Following the publication of the sixth edition, the group initiated the development of the seventh edition with a new approach. Recognizing the recurring challenge of delays due to the complexity of collecting data from a large number of countries, we adopted a dynamic publication model for the first time. Rather than waiting for complete responses from all countries, we decided to release a first draft edition once a critical mass of country data had been gathered. This first draft of the seventh edition was published in late 2024, and we are currently engaged in an ongoing update process to progressively incorporate the remaining data. This more flexible publishing model allows us to better serve the needs of policymakers and researchers who rely on timely comparative data, significantly improving data availability while maintaining quality and comprehensiveness.

**- Major International Conference and Publication.** In collaboration with the Council of Europe, with EU support, the ESWG collaborated to the organisation of the conference titled “Three Decades of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in Europe: Methods, Trends and the Impact on Policy Making”. Although initially scheduled to take place in person at the Council of Europe’s premises, the event was held online due to pandemic-related restrictions, yet proved highly successful. The proceedings, edited by Marcelo F. Aebi and Lorena Molnar, have since been [published as an open access volume](#). This collection brings together leading comparative criminologists to reflect on thirty years of crime measurement across Europe, examine key methodological challenges, and analyse major crime trends, including the emergence of cybercrime and the impact of COVID-19 on criminal behaviour. Through diverse case studies from European countries, the book illustrates how robust statistical evidence has informed policymaking. The volume

features contributions from Eurostat, UNODC, and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency on enhancing international harmonization of crime statistics. It not only charts the evolution of crime and criminal justice data collection but also identifies future opportunities and challenges in ensuring comparability across European jurisdictions. This publication should prove useful for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers working in the field of Comparative Criminology.

**- Contributions to the European Society of Criminology.** Throughout the reporting period, the Head of the Working Group contributed to the abstract reviewing process and the assembly of panels in the areas of Comparative Criminology and related fields for the annual conferences of the ESC.

## → EDITORIAL NOTES

Rita Faria, Editor-in-Chief of Criminology in Europe

# And the big event is here!



The ESC's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary is upon us, and we are celebrating it in the most perfect place: Athens, named after Athena, the Greek goddess associated with wisdom, often depicted with martial clothing as she is also considered a warrior goddess.

While many might consider knowledge – particularly scientific knowledge – as something quite distinct from war and fighting, it seems nonetheless that intellect and power are intertwined. In current academic times, you need both.

Intellect is essential for assembling and integrating years of theoretical and empirical work on crime and justice, for designing original research that responds to pressing societal problems and theoretical gaps, for gracefully maintaining the balance between ethical and methodological rigour, and for analysing and offering critical insights into the latest scientific production.

But power and force are just as important. Navigating very competitive funding opportunities, securing precarious job opportunities, and protecting a healthy work-life balance require strength. Developing strategies to occupy the public arena by informing policy-makers and practitioners on evidence-based research, and countering disinformation that uses crime and fear of crime as political weapons for pushing populist agendas demands strategies from criminologists.

Yet criminologists – and social scientists as a whole, for that matter – are rarely viewed as actors of both knowledge and of force. When I asked ChatGPT to summarise popular views about criminologists, the response was revealing: people tend to think of them as detached intellectuals, working in the realm of theory and policy to improve justice systems, while the media often equates them with forensic scientists or criminal profilers. Some even view criminologists with scepticism, especially when they advocate for reform or rehabilitation, seeing them as “too soft” or out of touch with the “real-world” consequences of crime.

For the last 25 years, the ESC has brought unity within diversity, has promoted dialogue between different areas of expertise and approaches, and between different parts of the globe, bridging the divide between South/North and East/West, and has taken steps to guarantee gender diversity. Through awards, it has highlighted cutting-edge research, with special support to Early Career Researchers and, more recently, engaging young researchers in the ESC summer schools. But at the ESC, the future meets the past, particularly via the European Criminology Oral History project (or ECOH), launched in 2016, which has been building a collective memory of European Criminology by interviewing the founders of the ESC, former ESC presidents, ESC award winners and members who have made important contributions to European Criminology.



The European Journal of Criminology (with a 1.9 IF) has emerged as a prestigious and high-quality scientific outlet, proving that there is excellent criminological research taking place in many locations in Europe (and beyond) with great potential to inform further research and to help create more knowledge about what is so specific to Criminology in this part of the world. The EJC has particularly helped level the playing field for researchers from less central locations where traditions of criminological research may be newer but no less important. The journal has proved to be a crucial mechanism to foster criminological scholarship and research.

The ESC has also supported its members' diverse interests of research by setting up Working Groups. They are now thirty-seven, an outstanding number which testifies the vitality of the ESC community. Many of these WGs organise publications from their members, host side events, and actively contribute to the annual conferences of the Society by reviewing abstracts and organising panels. The WGs, their chairs, boards and members have become, quite organically, an integral part of the ESC, expanding its reach and enhancing its impact.

The ESC Executive Board has been composed of scholars who voluntarily offer their time and expertise to administer the many ESC affairs. They are respected academics and researchers from all over

Europe, whose work is absolutely crucial to keep the society as dynamic as possible and focused on the core goals stated in the ESC constitution. Seating in the Executive Board are also the annual conference organisers. It is no small feat to organise each of the annual conferences of the ESC, as it is usually an endeavour that takes years to prepare. And the groups of colleagues who, each year, decide to accept the challenge of organising a Eurocrim show unmatched courage and are absolutely primordial to promote the many fora for the dissemination of criminological knowledge that have assisted in the ESC's importance and growth. As the Executive Secretariat's regular reports demonstrate, the ESC has steadily maintained the growth of its memberships and participation in the annual conferences. A final word needs to go to the ESC Executive Secretary, who fully incorporates the ESC esprit de corps and whose tireless efforts ensure that the subtle and quick pulses of this amazing organism are working.

In sum, the ESC has been the *polis* – the community – for many individuals, groups, and initiatives which have unmistakably brought together intellect and power for all that they have created since 2000 and will continue to create in the next 25 years. As the Editor of the ESC newsletter, I hope I have been able to convey the multitude of facets and activities that compose the society. And I can assure you that I am looking forward to the years ahead!



esc