

Research, Evidence and Publication Standards

How ADCN makes public work traceable, proportionate and correctable.

ADCN (Albanian Diaspora Civic Network) is a volunteer-led civic network, not a registered organisation or separate legal person. ADCN uses its own governance, safeguards and public-facing standards. References to “ADCN” in this document describe the network’s agreed rules and working practices.

EVIDENCE FIRST

Public claims should be supported by the strongest reasonably available evidence for the purpose and risk. A primary source is preferred where it exists and can be responsibly interpreted. Secondary reporting may provide context but should not silently replace an accessible primary record.

SOURCE HIERARCHY

- Primary law, official decisions, public records, court judgments, institutional documents and original datasets.
- Peer-reviewed research, established academic or technical sources, and named expert analysis.
- Reputable journalism and specialist reporting, especially for developments not yet documented in primary records.
- First-hand testimony or civil-society material, clearly attributed and assessed for context, corroboration and risk.
- Open-source or social-media material, used cautiously and not treated as verified merely because it is public.

FACT, ALLEGATION, ANALYSIS AND OPINION

Writers and reviewers must distinguish: what is directly evidenced; what another person or institution alleges; what ADCN infers or analyses; and what ADCN recommends. Serious allegations about identifiable people require particular care, accurate attribution, source preservation and, where appropriate, an opportunity for response before publication.

REVIEW PROPORTIONATE TO RISK

- **Low risk:** basic factual and editorial check.
- **Medium risk:** source check by someone other than the author where practical.
- **High risk:** at least two reviewers and relevant legal, scientific, financial, data or subject-matter review where the claim could materially affect rights, safety or reputation.

CITATIONS AND TRACEABILITY

Sources should be cited or linked in a way that a reasonable reader can follow. Internal working files should preserve the source used, date accessed where relevant, quotations or extracts needed to verify the claim, and the version published. Broken or inaccessible sources should be replaced or archived where lawful and practical.

UNCERTAINTY AND CHANGING INFORMATION

Do not hide uncertainty. State where figures are estimates, where procedures are pending, where institutions disagree or where a source is incomplete. Dated claims should carry a date. Materials about an evolving referendum, court case, institutional process or policy should direct readers to a current status page rather than hard-coding changing claims unnecessarily.

USE OF AI AND AUTOMATED TOOLS

Do not hide uncertainty. State where figures are estimates, where procedures are pending, where institutions disagree or where a source is incomplete. Dated claims should carry a date. Materials about an evolving referendum, court case, institutional process or policy should direct readers to a current status page rather than hard-coding changing claims unnecessarily.

VERSION CONTROL AND CORRECTIONS

Substantive publications should have a date, version or other change record. If a material error is found, correct it under the Corrections, Feedback and Review Policy and propagate the correction to affected channels where reasonably possible.

This policy is a UDACN governance standard. It does not create a separate legal personality for the network or replace obligations imposed by applicable law.

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