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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP EDITORS AND OTHER EDITORS

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors  
ITALY (Third draft edition)\*

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\* Submitted by Italy

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First edition prepared in 1987, by prof. Sandro Toniolo, on account of the Italian Association of Cartography.

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# 1 LANGUAGES

## 1.1 General remarks

Italy is essentially a multilingual Country with Italian (*italiano/lingua italiana*) being the primary language used nationwide. Minority languages occupy a subordinate position and are only used locally or regionally. The Italian language is understood by every person, also by those who normally use other languages or Italian dialects for their colloquial speech. In a few parts of the State the following non Italian idioms are used:

- a) The French language with Franco-Provençal dialects (see 1.3.1)
- b) The German language with Austro-Bavarian dialects (see 1.3.2);
- c) Slovenian dialects (see 1.3.3);
- d) Ladin dialects (see 1.3.4.1);
- e) Sardinian dialects (see 1.3.4.2);
- f) Provençal dialects (see 1.3.4.3);
- g) Croatian dialects (see 1.3.4.4);
- h) Catalan dialects (see 1.3.4.5);
- i) Greek dialects (see 1.3.4.6);
- j) Albanian dialects (see 1.3.4.7).

## 1.2 Official languages

### 1.2.1 General remarks

Italian is the official language of the Italian Republic; it is official also in the Holy See, in the Republic of San Marino and it is one of the official languages of Switzerland.

Italian is a member of the Roman branch of the Indo-European language family. It is sometimes bracketed with Rumanian in the East Romance subdivision, the main distinguishing feature from the West Romance subdivision being the formation of the plural in West Romance by the addition of the ending *-s*, while in East Romance there is a vowel change in plural formation. Besides Italian, also French and German have an official status in the autonomous region of the Valle d'Aosta/Vallé d'Aoste and in the autonomous province of Bolzano/Bozen respectively. In these areas such languages have the same status as the Italian language.

Italian is written in the Roman script and has its own orthographic system.

## 1.2.2 The Italian orthographic system

A a	D d	G g	L l	O o	R r	U u
B b	E e	H h	M m	P p	S s	V v
C c	F f	I i	N n	Q q	T t	Z z

The letter **Jj**, always followed by a vowel, is considered a semivowel, and can often be found in ancient words and in names of ancient origin; it occurs also in some place names as a variant of the vowel **Ii** (e. g. Mar Jonio, Jesi, Jesolo).

The letters **Kk**, **Ww**, **Xx**, **Yy** occur only in words of foreign origin or in the orthography of words of some Italian dialects.

## 1.2.3 Pronunciation of Italian words

Italian pronunciation is essentially melodious. It is marked by purity of vowel sounds, by heavy stress, and by its vocalic character. All Italian vowels are pure, pronounced with the voice well forward in the mouth with no nasal resonance, and with a clear-cut sound.

a	/a/
b	/b/
c	/k/ before: <b>a, o, u</b> and consonant /tʃ/ before: <b>e, i</b>
cc	/kk/ before: <b>a, o, u</b> and consonant /tʃ tʃ/ before: <b>e, i</b>
cch	/kk/ only before: <b>e, i</b>
ch	/k/ only before: <b>e, i</b>
cq	/kk/ always followed by the semivowel <b>u</b>
d	/d/
e	/e/ /ɛ/(1)
f	/f/
g	/g/ before: <b>a, o, u</b> and consonant /dʒ/ before: <b>e, i</b>
gg	/gg/ before: <b>a, o, u</b> and consonant /dʒdʒ/ before: <b>e, i</b>
ggh	/gg/ only before: <b>e, i</b>
gh	/g/ only before: <b>e, i</b>
gl	/gl/ before: <b>a, e, o, u</b> /λ//gl/(2) before: <b>i</b>
gn	/n/
h	is silent (3)
i	/i/ /j/ (4)

j	/j/
k	/k/
l	/l/
m	/m/
n	/n/
o	/o/ /o/ (5)
p	/p/
q	/k/ (6)
r	/r/
s	/s/ /z/ (7)
sc	/sk/ before: <b>a, o, u, h, l, r</b> /ʃ/ before: <b>e, i</b>
sch	/sk/ only before: <b>e, i</b>
t	/t/
u	/u/ /w/ (8)
v	/v/
w	/v/ /w/ (9)
x	/ks/
y	/i/ /j/ (10)
z	/ts/ dz/ (11)

#### Notes on the pronunciation

- (1) When not stressed, always /e/; when stressed, the pronunciation may be /e/ or /ɛ/.
- (2) In some words /ʌ/, in other ones /gl/.
- (3) Used especially in the digraphs **ch, gh** in order to give the sound, /k/, /g/ respectively to the consonants **c, g** when put before: **e, i**.
- (4) /j/ only in the diphthongs: **ia, ie, io, iu** with the stress on the second letter; and in the diphthongs: **ai, ei, oi, ui**, with the stress on the first letter.
- (5) When not stressed, always /o/; when stressed, the pronunciation may be /o/ or /o/.
- (6) The consonant **q** can be found only before the semivowel **u**, with which it forms the digraph **qu**.
- (7) In some words /s/, in other ones /z/.
- (8) /w/ only in the diphthongs: **ua, ue, ui, uo** with the stress on the second letter; and in the diphthongs: **au, eu, iu, ou**, with the stress on the first letter.
- (9) Only in words of German or English origin; the pronunciation is the same as in the German words or in the English ones.
- (10) Like the vowel /semiwowel **i**.
- (11) In some words /ts/, in other ones /dz/.

## 1.2.4 Characteristics of the Italian language and orthography necessary for the understanding of maps

### 1.2.4.1 Diphthongs and triphthongs

The diphthongs are formed by the combination of the vowel/semivowel **i**, **u** and an always stressed vowel. The diphthongs are **ia**, **ie**, **io**, **iu**, **ua**, **ue**, **ui**, **uo** (with the semivowel in front position); **ai**, **ei**, **oi**, **ui**, **au**, **eu**, **iu**, **ou** (with the stressed vowel in front position).

The combination of the vowel **i**, **u** with another vowel does not automatically form diphthongs. In some words **i**, **u** are followed or preceded by other vowels without forming diphthongs: in these cases we have to speak of hiatus.

There are also some triphthongs like: **iai**, **iei**, **iuo**, **uai**, **uoi** where the stress cannot be on the semivowel **i**, **u**.

### 1.2.4.2 Digraphs and trigraphs

As we have seen in a preceding section, -e following digraphs exist: **ch**, **gh**, **gl**, **gn**, **qu**, **sc**; moreover the two digraphs **ci**, **gi** followed by another vowel, where **i** is used to give the sound /tʃ/dʒ/ respectively to the consonants **c**, **g** when **i** is followed by the vowels **a**, **o**, **u**.

There are moreover two trigraphs **gli**, **sci**, where **i** is used to give the sound /ʎ/ /ʃ/ respectively to the digraphs **gl**, **sc** when followed by the vowels **a**, **o**, **u**. Double consonants, so much used in Italian orthography, are not considered digraphs; they are only used to intensify the sound of such consonants, which is longer and more vigorous than that of single consonants. We can compare this sound with the relatively uncommon doubling which occurs in English when a word ending in a consonant is followed by a word beginning with the same consonant or consonant sound (e. g. pen nib, black cat).

### 1.2.4.3 Spaced-out lettering and division into syllables

Every non monosyllabic word can be divided into syllables; therefore it is necessary to be able to distinguish Italian syllables.

A syllable is always formed by at least one vowel with or without one or more consonants (e. g. A-sti, Mo-de-na, Grap-pa).

Diphthongs and triphthongs are considered single vowels; digraphs and trigraphs are regarded as single consonants. Therefore diphthongs, triphthongs, digraphs and trigraphs cannot be spaced-out (e. g. Ie-si, Gio-ia Tau-ro, Dob-bia-co, Sir-mio-ne, Bre-scia, Fo-li-gno, Ca-sti-glio-ne; whereas Ga-e-ta, A-o-sta, Cu-ne-o, can be spaced-out since the com-



bination of vowels **ae**, **ao**, **eo** does not form diphthongs but are hiatus). As it is not always possible to distinguish between diphthongs and hiatus, it is preferable not to separate two or three linked vowels.

The double consonants, namely **bb**, **cc**, **dd**, **ff**, **gg**, **ll**, **mm**, **nn**, **pp**, **qq**, **rr**, **ss**, **tt**, **vv**, **zz**, to which we have to add **cch**, **ggh**, **cq**, are to be divided in this way: **b-b**, **c-c**, **d-d**, **f-f**, **g-g**, **l-l**, **m-m**, **n-n**, **p-p**, **q-q**, **r-r**, **s-s**, **t-t**, **v-v**, **z-z**, **c-ch**, **g-gh**, **c-q** (e. g. Chiog-gia, Co-mac-chio, Pol-li-no, Tir-re-no, A-rez-zo, Cal-ta-nis-set-ta, Luc-ca).

The other groups of consonants are mainly the following:

**s** + consonant/consonants (1)

**l**, **m**, **n**, **r** + consonant/consonants (2)

consonant + **l**, **r** (3)

other uncommon combinations (4).

#### Notes

(1) Preconsonantic **s** is always to be united with the following consonant/consonants (e. g. Pe-sca-ra, To-sca-na, A-sti, A-o-sta).

(2) **l**, **m**, **n**, or **r**, followed by one or two other consonants, is to be separated from such consonant/consonants, since it belongs to the preceding syllable (e. g. Mon-te-pul-cia-no, Val-tel-li-na, Val-da-gno, Val-sta-gna, Cam-po-sam-pie-ro, Ta-ran-to, Gen-nar-gen-tu, Po-ten-za, I-gle-sien-te, San-gro, Ber-ga-mo, Ar-sie-ro, Ter-ni).

(3) **l**, or **r**, preceded by another consonant, is to be united with such consonant in the same syllable (e. g. I-blei, A-bruz-zo, Or-tles, O-tran-to, En-trac-que).

(4) There are, moreover, two other groups of consonant combinations:

a. **bd**, **cn**, **ct**, **gm**, **mn**, **pn**, **ps**, **pt**, **tm**;

b. **ph**, **rh**, **th**. Which are extremely rare in modern place names (e. g. Rho, Santhià), whereas they can often be found in place names from the ancient Greek and Roman times, i. e. in some historical maps of Italy. The consonants of the first group can be separated from each other, whereas the two consonants of the second group are to remain united (e. g. Lac-ta-rius Mons, Ze-phy-rium, San-thià).

#### 1.2.4.4 Capitalization

Every word considered part of a proper geographical name is capitalized, including adjectives and common nouns, but excluding articles and prepositions in the middle of compounds names (e. g. Monte Rosa, Bassano del Grappa, San Donà di Piave, Chiesa in Valmalenco, Lago di Como, Isola d'Elba).

There is no rule about the way articles are to be written at the beginning of proper place names: with a capital or a lower case. It is preferable that

the initial letter of such articles be lower case, with the exception of La Spezia and L'Aquila, where the articles **La**, **L'** have to be written, according to an Italian act, with the capital **L**.

#### 1.2.4.5 Stress and accents

Stress normally falls on the last but one syllable (i. e. the penultimate syllable). Variations are usually not marked in the written language, although dictionaries do indicate it. A written accent exists for showing unusual stress (e. g. Cantù, Santhià, Forlì, San Donà), i. e. when stress falls on the last syllable of nouns formed by two or more syllables. We can find accents in some monosyllabic nouns to distinguish homophones or homographs, i. e. words with the same sound or with the same orthography, but this does not occur in place names.

In the most accurate texts acute accent (e. g. perché, né) points out the close sound /e/ /o/ respectively of the vowels e, o; while the grave accent (e. g. caffè, città) is used either to indicate the open sound /e/ /o/ of the same vowels, or to show the stress on the vowels a, i, u. Circumflex accent may be used (but now very rarely) only on the final i of some homographs (e. g. *principî* = principles) in order to be distinguished from *principi* = princes, the former noun stressed on the last but one syllable, the latter one on the last but two syllables).

In cartography, only grave accent is to be used and solely on the stressed last syllable, if ending in a vowel, of polysyllabic nouns.

On the road maps 1:200000 of the Italian Touring Club one can find the accent also on every place name ending in a consonant (e. g. Cormòns, Barcis) and on place names ending in a vowel, in which stress is on the last but two vowels (not syllables) (e. g. Génova, Venézia). Such an accent, which is grave on the last vowel and acute in the other cases, is only a graphic sign to indicate how nouns are to be stressed.

#### 1.2.4.6 Gender

Only two noun genders exist: masculine and feminine. In general, words ending in **-o** are masculine and those ending in **-a** are feminine; there are only a few exceptions. Many nouns end in **-e** and some in **-i**: these nouns can be either masculine or feminine.

Normally the Italian names of cities are feminine, since the word *città* (city, town), which is feminine, is implied in the proper nouns; so, not only Roma, Venezia, Londra (London), ending in **-a** are feminine, but also Milano, Torino, Firenze, Napoli, Berlino (Berlin), Parigi (Paris).

On the contrary, the Italian names of small towns and villages are very often masculine, as the word *villaggio* or *paese* (village), which is mascu-

line, is implied in the proper nouns (e. g. Mogliano Veneto, Cividate Camuno, Fara Vicentino); but there are many villages which are feminine, like Galliera Veneta, Villafranca Padovana.

#### 1.2.4.7 Formation of the plural

In general, masculine nouns ending in **-o** change the **o** into **i** (e. g. *anno* = year; *anni* = years); feminine nouns ending in **-a** change the **a** into **e** (e. g. *settimana* = week, *settimane* = weeks). There are a few masculine nouns ending in **-a** and a few feminine nouns ending in **-o**. Masculine and feminine nouns ending in **-e** change the **e** into **i** (e. g. masculine *mese* = month, *mesi* = months; feminine *luce* = light, *luci* = lights). Nouns ending in **-i** do not change in the plural.

#### 1.2.4.8 Articles

Articles may be definite or indefinite. The masculine definite articles are **il, lo, l'** (in the singular), **i, gli, gl'** (in the plural); the feminine definite articles are **la, l'** (in the singular), **le** (in the plural).

The masculine indefinite articles are **un, uno**; the feminine indefinite articles are **una, un'**.

**Il, i, un** are used before nouns beginning with every consonant except the **z**, the preconsonantic **s**, or the digraph **gn**. **La, una** are used before nouns beginning with a consonant. **Lo, uno** are used before nouns beginning with: **z**, the preconsonantic **s**, or the digraph **gn**. **L', un'** (which are the elision of the articles **lo, la, una**) are used before nouns beginning with a vowel. **Gli** is used before nouns beginning with: a consonant, **z**, the preconsonantic **s**, or the digraph **gn**. **Le** is used before nouns beginning both with a consonant and with a vowel. **Gl'** (which is the elision of the article **gli**) may be used only before nouns beginning with **i**.

#### 1.2.4.9 Adjectives

Adjectives are most often placed after the nouns they qualify, with which they agree both in gender and in number, whether used attributively or predicatively.

In general, adjectives end in **-o** if masculine, in **a** if feminine; some belonging to both genders end in **e**. Normally those ending in **-o, -a** change these vowels in the plural respectively into **i, e**; e. g. Monte **Alto**, Croda **Alta**, Poggi **Alti**, Serre **Alte**; while those ending in **-e** for both genders change this vowel into **i**; e. g. Lago **Verde** (masculine), Grotta **Verde** (feminine), Piani **Verdi** (masculine), Terre **Verdi** (feminine).

## 1.2.4.10 Prepositions

Among the many Italian prepositions the following are to be found in place names: **di** (of), **a** (at, in), **da** (by, from), **in** (in), **con** (with), **su** (on), **per** (for, to), **sotto** (under), **sopra** (on), **dentro** (in, into), **fuori** (out), **presso** (by), **fra** (among, between), **tra** (among, between).

In colloquial speech and also in many compound place names some prepositions are combined with definite articles to form the following contracted prepositions: **del** (di+il), **dello** (di+lo), **della** (di+la), **dei** (di+i), **de'** (di+i), **degli** (di+gli), **delle** (di+le), **dell'** (di +lo, di+la); **al** (a+il), **allo** (a+lo), **alla** (a+la), **ai** (a+i), **agli** (a+gli), **alle** (a+le), **all'** (a+lo, a+la); **dal** (da+il), **dallo** (da+lo), **dalla** (da+la), **dai** (da+i), **dagli** (da+gli), **dalle** (da+le), **dall'** (da+lo, da+la); **nel** (in+il), **nello** (in + lo), **nella** (in+la), **nei** (in +i), **ne'** (in+i), **negli** (in+gli), **nelle** (in+le), **nell'** (in+lo, in+la); **sul** (su+il), **sullo** (su+lo), **sulla** (su+la), **sui** (su+i), **sugli** (su+gli), **sulle** (su+le), **sull'** (su+lo, su+la).

## 1.2.4.11 Elision

An apostrophe is very often used to indicate the loss of a final unstressed vowel of a word followed by another word beginning with a vowel. In toponymy, apostrophes may be found easily in place names preceded by an article, in a few compound place names, especially those linked by a preposition (usually **d'** from **di**) or a contracted preposition (e. g. L'Aquila, Colle Val d'Elsa, Reggio nell'Emilia). Apostrophes may be found also in other place names, like Castell'Arquato.

## 1.2.4.12 The apocope of nouns

Some Italian words ending in a vowel preceded by **l**, **n**, **r** lose their final part (one or two letters) when followed by another word beginning with a vowel or with a consonant (excluded **x**, **z**, **s** preconsonantic **s** and the groups **gn**, **ps**) without assuming an apostrophe. A few place names, too, are usually written and pronounced without the last syllable; e. g. San (from *Santo*), Val (from *Valle*), Mar (from *Mare*); therefore we can find in the maps place names like the following: San Marino, Val Venosta, Mar Tirreno.

## 1.2.4.13 Compound geographical names

While the names of populated places and of regions are very often formed only by one noun (e. g. Roma, Torino, Napoli, Lombardia, Lomellina) the majority of the other geographical names consist of two or more nouns: a

generic part (e. g. *monte, lago, valle*) and a specific one; so we have Monte Bianco, Lago Maggiore, Val Sugana.

Some specific terms may sometimes be used without the generic term, especially for a few major geographical features, i. e. for some mountains (e. g. Cervino, Cimone, Dolomiti), passes (e. g. Brennero, Bernina, Futa), islands (Sicilia, Sardegna, Egadi, Pelagie), lakes (e. g. Garda, Trasimeno), and for all the rivers (e. g. Po, Tevere, Arno, Brenta). But in colloquial speech it is always necessary to use the article before the specific (e. g. *il Cervino, le Dolomiti, la Futa, le Egadi, il Garda, l'Arno*), with the exception of the specific of many islands, which refuses the article (e. g. *Ischia, Capri, Pantelleria*).

Among compound names formed by two or more nouns one has to distinguish the names of inhabited places from other names (municipalities, regions, mountains, lakes, capes, islands, etc.).

The compound names of inhabited places can be written as one word (e. g. Montebelluna, Valdobbadiene, Camposampiero, Portoferraio, Orzinuovi, Orzivecchi), or formed by two or more parts, which are linked by a preposition (e. g. Bassano del Grappa, Palazzolo sull'Oglio, Reggio di Calabria, Reggio nell'Emilia, Sannazzaro de' Burgondi, Castelnuovo ne' Monti, Francavilla al Mare), or by an article (e. g. San Giorgio la Molara, Sant'Angelo le Fratte), or by a hyphen (e. g. Giardini-Naxos, Barcellona-Pozzo di Gotto). In many cases the two parts of the compound names of inhabited places are placed side by side without prepositions or articles; the latter part may be an adjective, agreeing in number and gender with the noun of the former part (e. g. Vittorio Veneto, Camisano Vicentino, Corte Franca, Ascoli Piceno, Petralia Soprana, Petralia Sottana, Odalengo Grande, Odalengo Piccolo, Muro Lucano) or another noun/other nouns (e. g. Recoaro Terme, Porto Garibaldi, Lignano Sabbiadoro, Bosco Chiesanuova, Castel Gandolfo, Sesto San Giovanni, Castel San Pietro Terme, Castiglione Olona, Fratta Polesine, Gabicce Mare, Palma Campania).

The compound names of mountains, lakes, islands, capes, etc. are usually written separately and often linked by a preposition (e. g. Po di Volano, Lago di Como, Alpi Marittime, Monti Berici, Monte Bianco, Colle di Cadibona, Isola d'Elba, Valli di Comacchio, Val Venosta, Monte Sant'Angelo a Tre Pizzi, Bonifica del Mantello); in a few cases only they are united in one word (e. g. Valtellina, Valsassina, Monviso). The hyphen linking together the two parts of a compound name is used only in the names of some regions (e. g. Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna), of one province (Massa-Carrara), and of a few municipalities (e. g. Zibido-San Giacomo, Serrara-Fontana, Olivetta-San Michele, Pontecagnano-Faiano).

In some maps one may find a hyphen also in bilingual areas between Italian names in former position and French/German names in latter position (e. g. Bolzano-Bozen, Passo del Brennero-Brennerpass, Val Gardena-Grodnertal). But it is much better to separate Italian names from

French/German ones by means of a slash in order to show clearly that both names are official and are equally valid (e. g. Bolzano/Bozen, Bressanone/Brixen, Aosta/Aoste, Val Gardena/Grodnertal).

In the compound names of inhabited places the latter part of the name, called in cartographical jargon *aggiuntivo*, that is to say «additional», is usually written in a smaller size with the exception of names linked by means of a hyphen. The two or more parts of the names of geographical features other than inhabited places are written in the same size.

Double names in the bilingual areas, which are separated by means of a hyphen or a slash, should be written in the same size; but for shortage of space in the maps the latter name is very often written in a smaller size than the former one.

#### 1.2.5 Italian dialects

In Italy many, often widely diverging, Italian dialects exist, that can be gathered in two very large families: Northern Italian dialects and Middle-Southern Italian dialects, separated by an ideal boundary which runs along the Northern Apennines between La Spezia on the West and Rimini on the East. To the Northern Italian family belong the following groups of dialects: Gallo-Italic (the regions of Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, and western part of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol); Venetian (the region of Veneto and southern and eastern part of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol); Friulan (the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia); Ladin (the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Dolomitic area); and moreover Istrian, spoken in Istria area.

To the Middle-Southern Italian family belong the following groups of dialects: Tuscan (the region of Toscana); Median (the regions of Lazio, Umbria, and the Marche); Southern intermediate (Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Basilicata, and Northern part of Puglia); Southern extreme (the region of Sicily and the Southern parts of Puglia and Calabria).

All Italian dialects come directly from the Latin as does the Italian language. As a matter of fact Italian come from the Italian dialects, that of Firenze, which acquired the dignity of a literary language in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and later on became the administrative language of the then Italian states. The geographical names hardly reflect the regional and local dialects, because the geographical names were usually recorded in Italian; therefore it seems not necessary to give a detailed description of the dialects in these guidelines for cartography.

#### 1.2.6 Linguistic substrata recognizable in Italian place names

Italy is a Country of ancient civilization, and it was inhabited several centu-

ries B. C. by peoples speaking different languages. In historical times the languages spoken in what is now the Italian Republic were mainly Ligurian in the NW, Venetian in the NE, Celtic in the North, Etruscan, Umbrian and Latin in the middle part of the peninsula, and Greek in the South and in Sicily; but before the advent of these peoples there surely lived other groups speaking pre-Indo-European languages (maybe also some languages mentioned above are pre-Indo-European).

All these languages, of which, save Latin and Greek, neither the structure or the vocabulary are known, left a lot of place names on the territory. The most important of such names were latinized later on, so that it is now even more difficult to understand the meaning of a large part of the Italian place names.

In the Middle Ages the advent of Longobardian and Arabian peoples in the North and in the South respectively added a few more place names to Italian toponymy. We can understand the meaning of such names as well as of the old Greek names and of the ones given by Romans to a few cities (e. g. Napoli from the Greek Neapolis, Piacenza and Aosta respectively from the Latin Placentia and Augusta), and also the meaning of the names formed in recent times, whereas we cannot know the meaning of the more ancient place names. But it is sometimes possible to learn the origin of several place names by taking into account some suffixes: in fact, a number of place names ending in **-asco** (e. g. Buccinasco, Binasco) are considered to be of Ligurian origin, those in **-ago**, (e. g. Amago, Crescenzo) and those in **-ate** (e. g. Lambrate, Brunate) are probably of Celtic origin, and those in **-engo** (e. g. Albarengo, Martinengo) of Longobardian origin. Moreover, a number of names ending in **-ano** (e. g. Bassano, Conegliano) are likely predial names from Roman times.

### 1.3 Minority languages

According to the law N. 482, of December 15<sup>th</sup> 1999, *Norms concerning the protection of historical linguistic minorities*, and of the Presidential Decree N. 345 of May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001, *Regolamento di attuazione della legge n. 482, del 15 dicembre 1999 recante norme di tutela delle minoranze linguistiche storiche*, has been enacted and controlled the protection of the language and the culture of the "Albanian, Catalans, Germanic, Greek, Slovenian and Croatians and of those speaking French, Franco-Provençal, Friulan, Ladin, Occitan and Sardinian" populations. The dispositions of protection are applied in the territorial and sub-municipal ambits on the base of special delimitation, approved by the Provincial Council and felt the interested communes. In the communes where the delimitation of the areas has been approved to be submitted to application of the dispositions of protection, "in addition to the official toponyms, the town Council can deliberate the adoption of toponyms

conforming to the traditions and to the local uses".

"All above said is to be intended in addition to the protection norms existing in the Regions with special Statute and in the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano".

Besides those instructions, many other different regional laws outline the great attention given for the protection, evaluation and promotion of the local languages, culture and traditions of the various ethnic and linguistic communities, historically present on our national territory, and for the consequent respect and retrieval of the related toponymy.

The current laws are:

- Regional Law n. 40, dated November 3rd 1998, (issued on the "Bollettino Ufficiale" (B.U.), in the Basilicata Region, November 1998, n. 64); *Norms for the promotion and protection of the Arbereshe Community in the Basilicata Region – Cancellation of the Regional Law dated March 28th 1996, n. 16*, which at the art. 1 "acknowledges the ethnic – linguistic communities of Arbereshe origin historically present in the following municipalities: Barile, Brindisi di Montagna, Ginestra, Maschito, San Costantino Albanese e San Paolo Albanese"; and in art. 2, letter "b", specifically foresees the release of annual contributions to the said municipalities for the realisation of initiatives concerning "the development of the historic and linguistic research, the publication and/or diffusion of studies, researches and documents, the activation of courses of local culture, the improvement of languages and toponymy";
- Regional Law dated May 14th 1997, n. 15 (published on the "B. U.", of the Molise Region, May 16th 1997, n. 10, under the title of *Protection and improvement of the cultural patrimony of the linguistic minorities historically present on the territory, as a non secondary element of the Molise Region culture*; and at art. 4, "e" letter), among the other aspects foresees the promotion and support of the cultural initiatives inherent to the "collection and study of the toponyms in the Croat and Albanian languages and of the related scientific publications, also for the purpose of highlighting, by appropriated signals, the original toponymy";
- Regional Law dated September 8th 1981, n. 68 (issued on the B. U. of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, September 8th 1981, n. 81), named: *Regional actions for the development and diffusion of the cultural activities*, which create the possibilities of economic support in favour of acts "for the collection and study of the toponyms in local language and related scientific publications, also with the aim of outlining, by appropriated indications, the original toponyms";
- Regional Law dated March 22nd 1996, n. 15 (issued on the B. U., Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, March 27th 1996, n. 13), with the title *Norms for the protection and promotion of the Friuli language and culture, and the creation of a service for the regional and local languages*, which establishes also the fundamental principles for the management of a active politics of the Friuli language and culture saving and develop-



ment, as an essential factor of the ethnic and historic identity of the regional community”; at art. 2, gives official status to the “Friuli language” as one of the languages of the same regional community; at art. 11-bis, letter “b”, allows the statutes of Provinces, Municipalities and other local Entities, to foresee, according to the limits established by national law (“D.L. 2 gennaio 1997, n. 9”), the use of the corresponding geographical names besides the official toponyms, wherever deemed appropriated; at art. 13 indicates the criteria for producing the “official graphics of the Friuli language”, referring at comma 2 to the work of Xavier Lamuela, *La grafia friulana normalizzata* (published in Udine – 1987), as text to be adopted, “taking into account the following”:

a) substitution within the word corpus and at its beginning of the diagram “Ts” with the sign “z”;

b) substitution of the diagram “cu+vocal”, in the toponyms and historical homonyms, by the diagram “qu+vocal””, finally, at art. 19 (letter “e”), the same law confirms, among the others, the similar instructions established by the Regional Law dated September 8th n. 68, concerning the possibility of economic support for the activities of “collection and study of the toponyms in Friuli language and related scientific publications, also with the aim of stressing by due indications the original toponymy;

- Regional Law dated November 7th 1994, n. 45 (issued on the B. U., Emilia-Romagna Region, dated November 11th 1994, n. 120), called: *Protection and improvement of the Emilia-Romagna dialects*, which, at art. 3 (letter “h”), order the support for the toponymy study and research activities,

- Regional Law dated July 30 1996, n. 30 (issued on the B. U., Lazio Region, August 10th 1996, n. 22 - S. O. n. 3), named: *Instructions about municipal areas*, which gives norms inherent to the creation of new communes and the modification of territorial areas and of the commune names”;

- Regional Law dated April 10th 1990, n. 26 (issued on the B. U., Piedmont Region, April 18th 1990, n. 16), named: *Protection, promotion and improvement of the knowledge of the original Piedmont linguistic patrimony*, which at art. 6, comma 1, promotes and supports the investigations about the local toponyms”; at the following comma 2, same article, orders the creation of a Regional Commission of Experts, designated by the Culture Borough Council Clerk and including: two university experts of linguistic and geographic matters; an expert of regional history and a representative of the “Supervisory for the Environmental and Architectonic Resources of the Piedmont - Soprintendenza ai Beni Ambientali ed Architettonici del Piemonte”;

- Regional Law, dated December 23rd 1994, n. 73 (issued on the B. U., Veneto Region, December 27th 1994, n. 109), named: *Promotion of the ethnic and linguistic minorities of the Veneto region*, which, at art. 2,

envisions, among the others, the possibility of annual economic contributions for “the improvement of language and toponymy”;

- Regional Law, dated August 19th 1998, n. 47 (issued on the B. U., Valle d’Aosta/Vallée d’Aoste Region, August 25th 1998, n. 36), named: *Protection of the characteristics and the linguistic and cultural traditions of the “walser” populations of the “Lys” valley*, which promotes “the preservation and improvement of the walser traditions, with particular attention to toponymy”.

French language with Franco-Provençal dialects

### 1.3.1

French, the official language of the French Republic and one of the official languages of Switzerland, has an official status in Italy, beside Italian, in the autonomous region of the Valle d’Aosta/Vallé d’Aoste, which is situated close to the French border. But people normally use Franco-Provençal dialects.

In a few valleys of Piemonte (Stura, Lanzo, Orco, Soana, Dora Riparia, Dora Baltea) and moreover in two municipalities of the province of Foggia (the region of Puglia) Franco-Provençal dialects are also spoken.

#### 1.3.1.1 The French alphabet

A a	E e	I i	M m	Q q	U u	Y y
B b	F f	J j	N n	R r	V v	Z z
C c, Ç ç	G g	K k	O o, Œ œ	S s	W w	
D d	H h	L l	P p	T t	X x	

#### 1.3.1.2 Pronunciation

See “Guide de Toponymie - France”.

#### 1.3.1.3 Geographical names

Since the Second World War only the traditional French names are recorded in the official maps representing the Valle d’Aosta/Vallé d’Aoste and consequently in the maps of private cartography firms. But although the names of the region and of the region’s capital are both officially bilingual they are written only in the Italian form (i. e. Valle

d'Aosta or Val d'Aosta; Aosta) instead of in both forms, Italian and French (i. e. Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste; Aosta/Aoste), separated, as it would be right, by means of a slash. The dialects spoken in the two municipalities of province of Foggia have not influenced the toponymy of this small area, which is exclusively Italian.

### 1.3.2 German language with Austro-Bavarian dialects

German, the official language of the bordering Republic of Austria, of the Federal Republic of Germany, and moreover one of the official languages of Switzerland, is widely spoken also in the autonomous province of Bolzano/Bozen, which is part of the autonomous region of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol. When this region was allocated to Italy after the First World War, the total number of German-speaking people was estimated at 233000, against 7000 Italian-speaking inhabitants: the former made up 97% of the total population. Due to immigration of Italian people, almost only directed at the towns, the share of the German-speaking people was gradually reduced to 60% (1971) of the total population (but in the countryside this figure was 90%).

As a result of the peace treaty of Paris in 1947, Südtirol was again allocated to Italy and in 1948 it was accommodated together with the province of Trento (Trentino) in an autonomous region. With the new autonomy statute of 1972 the use of German in official administration was again permitted, and all official documents have to appear both in German and Italian. In colloquial speech the inhabitants of Alto Adige/Südtirol normally use Austro-Bavarian dialects very similar to those spoken in bordering Tirol, a Bundesland of Austria. Other German dialects are spoken in a few areas of the Alps and of the Pre-Alps (the regions of Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Lombardy, Veneto, and the province of Trento).

#### 1.3.2.1 The German alphabet

A a, Ä ä	E e	I i	M m	Q q	U u, Ü ü	Y y
B b	F f	J j	N n	R r	V v	Z z
C c	G g	K k	O o, Ö ö	S s, ß	W w	
D d	H h	L l	P p	T t	X x	

#### 1.3.2.2 Pronunciation

See “Toponymic guidelines for Cartography – Germany” and “Toponymic guidelines for Cartography – Austria”.

### 1.3.2.3 Geographical names

Though the Italian government recognizes the principle of equal status of German and Italian for Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol since 1948, the place names of this province are recorded almost every body in their Italian form in all the official maps 1:25000 and 1:50000 of the Italian Military Geographic Institute whereas in many maps produced by private cartography, like those issued by the Italian Touring Club 1:200000, both names versions are given where space permits, with the Italian name in former position followed by the German form in latter position, separated from each other by means of a slash (e. g. Bressanone/Brixen, Adige/Etsch, Val Pusteria/Pustertal, Passo del Rombo/Timmelsjoch). German-speaking people of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, however, debate the Italian forms of many place names only recently (that is after the First World War) established and officially recognized by the Italian government. In the small areas of the other regions where German dialects are spoken or were spoken until recently, German place names are numerous only for landscape features of the local toponymy, seldom so for populated places which were the first to be Italianized in the past.

### 1.3.3 Slovenian dialects

Slovenian, the official language of the Republic of Slovenia, is spoken besides Italian in the extreme North-Eastern part of Italy (the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia) along the Slovenian border.

The areas where Slovenian dialects are used are the Natisone valley and the surroundings of Tarvisio, Gorizia and Trieste. Of these areas, only the Natisone valley was Italian before the First World War, while the remaining areas became Italian after that war.

#### 1.3.3.1 The Slovenian alphabet

A a	E e	J j	O o	T t
B b	F f	K k	P p	U u
C c	G g	L l	R r	V v
Č č	H h	M m	Š š	Z z
D d	I i	N n	Ž ž	

#### 1.3.3.2 Pronunciation

See “Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography - Slovenia”.

### 1.3.3.3 Geographical names

In the Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, a number of place names adopted from Slovenian dialects have been assimilated into Italian and therefore lack the diacritical marks which were once recorded in the original spelling.

In areas where only Slovenian is spoken and in bilingual zones, proper Slovenian place names occur frequently in road signs alone or together with Italian or Italianized forms.

But the Italian census statistics only give Italian toponyms, whereas, in the case of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, bilingual names are given, and for the Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, nearly only French names. Also the official basic maps 1:25000 and 1:50000 only record Italian names.

In a few recent maps produced by private cartography firms the Slovenian forms of some place names appear in latter position separated from the Italian forms put in former position by means of a slash.

### 1.3.4 Other non Italian dialects spoken in Italy

In some parts of Italy there are other non Italian dialects spoken by a few minorities. They are chiefly the Ladin and the Sardinian dialects, followed by the following ones: Provençal, Croatian, Catalan, Greek, and Albanian, used in some much smaller areas.

#### 1.3.4.1 Ladin dialects

Ladin, which belongs to the Roman group of the Indo-European family, is the fourth national language of Switzerland beside the three official languages, German, French and Italian. In Italy some Ladin dialects, often very much diverging from each other, are spoken in two distinct areas:

a) in the Dolomitic area, especially in the four valleys of Badia, Marebbe, Fassa, and Gardena (the autonomous region of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol) and in the valleys of the North-Western section of the province of Belluno (the region of Veneto);

b) in the historical region of Friuli, that is to say in the Northern and Middle parts of the autonomous region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

As already referred to, the differences among Ladin dialects are very strong, owing to the difficult connections among the several valleys in the past, so that each dialect was formed in isolation, from already different forms of vulgar Latin. As a matter of fact, there are some scholars who do not recognize any unity in the Ladin dialects, and refuse to confer them the status of a language.

#### 1.3.4.2 Sardinian dialects

All over in the island of Sardegna, that is an autonomous region, Sardinian dialects are spoken, except in some small areas where a Catalan dialect (Alghero and its surroundings) and two Ligurian dialects (areas of Carloforte in the island of San Pietro; and of Calasetta in the island of Sant'Antioco) are normally used.

Sardinian is one of the languages of the Roman group derived directly from Latin. Owing to the insularity of the region it preserved a striking and clear archaic look both in its structure and in its vocabulary, so that it appears to be the Roman language most similar to Latin. Some of the most evident peculiarities of this language with regard to Italian are the plural forms ending with the consonant **s** and the articles **su, sa, sos, sas** derived from the Latin pronoun *ipse* instead of from the pronoun *ille* as in other Roman languages.

No one among the Sardinian dialects spoken in the region is standardized, just as in the case of Ladin, so that it is not deemed appropriate to speak of a language.

#### 1.3.4.3 Provençal dialects

These are very similar to those used on the French side of the Western Alps; in Italy they are spoken in the upper parts of some valleys in the region of Piemonte along the border with France, and moreover in the small area of Guardia Piemontese (the region of Calabria). The valleys of Piemonte where Provençal dialects are spoken are the following: Vermenagna, Gesso, Maira, Varaita, Po, Pellice, Chisone, Dora Riparia.

#### 1.3.4.4 Croatian dialects

These are connected with those spoken in the Republic of Croazia, where the Croatian language is official, and are used in three municipalities (Acquaviva Collecroce, Montemitro, and San Felice del Molise) of the province of Campobasso, in the Molise region.

#### 1.3.4.5 Catalan dialects

It is linked with the Catalan dialects used in Catalonia, that is to say in the North-Eastern part of Spain, where Catalan is the official language beside Spanish; in Italy it is spoken only in the small area of Alghero and its surroundings (the Region of Sardegna).

#### 1.3.4.6 Greek dialects

Greek is the official language of Greece and one of the two official languages of Cyprus. In Italy it is spoken in the form of a few rather archaic dialects in the Southern parts of the two regions of Puglia and Calabria.

#### 1.3.4.7 Albanian dialects

Albanian is the official language of the Republic of Albania. In Italy some Albanian dialects are spoken in many areas of South Italy, especially in the regions of Abruzzo, Molise, Puglia, Basilicata, and Calabria, and in the Autonomous Region/island of Sicilia.

#### 1.3.4.8 Geographical names

In the region of Sardinia, a large part of names both of inhabited places and of other geographical features is written in Sardinian and accurately recorded in official documents and in the topographical maps issued by the Italian Military Geographic Institute. The situation is very different in the regions where Ladin is spoken: Ladin place names are numerous only in the local toponymy but almost all names for important objects are now Italian or Italianized. Nearly the same is valid for the Provençal toponymy. Owing to the late immigration of Croatian, Catalan, Greek, and Albanian people, that is to say when the Italian region was already densely populated, only very few place names have been recorded in these dialects and all these names are of rather recent origin. Place names like Napoli (from the Greek form Neapolis) and a few others of ancient origin are an exception to the rule.

## 2 NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

In general it doesn't exist in Italy some law that controls in organic way the toponymy in his complex, but they are still in vigor the following norms:

for the revision of the place-names brought on official map of the state, to the senses of the law June 8th 1949, n. 605, *Composizione della Commissione permanente incaricata di dirigere il lavoro di revisione toponomastica della Carta d'Italia*, after the constitution of the Italian Republic, the assignment was entrusted to a committee, whose composition resulted the following: President: the commander of the Italian Military Geographic Institute; Members: the president of the Italian National Committee for the Geography of the National Council of the searches or his delegate, the commander of the Italian Hydrographic Institute of Navy or his delegate, the president of the Italian Touring Club or his delegate, the president of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Alpine Club or his delegate, the president of the Italian Geographic Society or his delegate, a representative of Presidency of the Council of the Ministers, a representative of the Department of the Interior; and, for the part regarding their region or their province: the president of the provincial Junta of Bolzano/Bozen or his delegate, the president of the Provincial Junta of Trento or his delegate, the head of the Provincial administration of Gorizia or his delegate, the head of the provincial administration of Udine or his delegate, the president of the Regional Junta of Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste or his delegate, a representative of the regional Deputation of history; the directors of the institutes of Geography of the universities or them delegates, the directors of the regional centers of study or them delegates; Secretary: an employee or an official of the Italian Military Geographic Institute;

for how much it concerns in general to the administrative so-called names, the Constitution of the Italian Republic, to the art. 133, establishes that: "The Region felt the interested populations, is able with his laws to found in his own territory new communes and to modify their areas and denominations"; such disposition is confirmed by the Presidential Decree N. 1, of January 14th 1972 *Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di circoscrizioni comunali e di polizia locale urbana e rurale e del relativo personale*, that to the art. 1 establishes that "they are transferred to the regions with ordinary statute overalls the functions practiced by the central and peripheral organs of the state in subject of town areas. Particularly the functions relating to: [...] the denomination of communes, of hamlets and of villages; [...]";

regarding to the areas of national territory in which the disposition of guardianship of the historical linguistic minorities are applied, to the sense of the law n. 482 of December 15th 1999 and of the Presidential



Decree n. 345 of May 2nd 2001, to the Town Councils is attributed the faculty to deliberate the adoption of place-names conforming to the traditions and to the local uses, in addition to the official toponyms; more particularly, especially for the territories of the regions with special statute, followings rules are valid:

for the Region Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, the constitutional law n. 4 of February 26th 1948, *Statuto speciale per la Valle d'Aosta*, to the Title II, art. 2, establishes that the same region has legislative power for the toponymy, using an expression of general character, that doesn't seem to limit its competencies only to the denominations of the communes, while to the Title VIII, art. 42, integrally take back the constitutional law of art. 133, for what it pertains to the denomination of the communes; the general competencies in toponymy is confirmed then by the law n. 196, of May 16th 1978, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Valle d'Aosta*;

for the Region Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, the constitutional law n. 5 of February 26th 1948, *Statuto speciale per il Trentino-Alto Adige*, and the following Presidential Decree n. 670 of August 31st 1972, *Approvazione del testo unico delle leggi costituzionali concernenti lo statuto speciale per il Trentino-Alto Adige*, to the Title I, item II, art. 7, c. 1, take back the Constitution of art. 133, for what it pertains to the denomination of the communes; while to the following item III, art. 8, establish that the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano have the power to emanate legislative norms regarding the toponymy, "without prejudice to the disposition regarding the obligation of the bilingualism in the territory of province of Bolzano"; besides, the Title XI, art. 101, provides that "in the province of Bolzano the public administrations has to use, in the respects of the citizen of German language, also the German toponymy, if the provincial law has verified the existence of it and approved the diction"; and still to the same Title XI, art. 102, provides that "the Ladin population and those Mochen and Cimbri of the communes of Fierozzo, Frassilongo, Palù del Fersina and Luserna have the right [...] to the respect of the toponymy"; finally, according to Presidential Decree n. 574 of June 30th 1951, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Regione Trentino-Alto Adige*, to the Title XIV, art. 73, "in the Ladines valleys [...], it can be used the Ladin in the local toponymy, in addition to the Italian language and the German language";

for the Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the constitutional law n. 1 of January 31st 1963, *Statuto speciale della Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, to the Title II, item I, art. 5, establish the legislative power of the same region to the toponymy; besides, for the modification of the denomination of the communes, the Presidential Decree n. 834 of August 9th 1966, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, provides the realization of special referenda; regarding to the Slovenian linguistic minority, the law n. 38 of February 23th

2001, *Norme a tutela della minoranza linguistica slovena della regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, to the art. 10, provides that “with Decree of the President of Regional Junta, on the base of the proposal of the Committee [...], they are individuated, on the base of the list of which to the article 4, the communes, the hamlet, the places and the corporate [...] in which the use of the Slovenian language is provided in addition to the Italian language [...] for the indications of place-names” (for hamlet, the same law, to the art. 29, precise that we have to intend him as “an autonomous center endowed with an own individuality”); for Region Sicilia, the constitutional law n. 2 of February 26th 1948, *Conversione in legge costituzionale dello Statuto della Regione sicilia - na, approvato con decreto legislativo 15 maggio 1945, n. 455*, doesn't make explicit references to the toponymy, but to the Title II, Section I, art. 15, attributes the competence to the region in the subjects of “administrative district, organization and control of local government units”: for the region Sardinia, the constitutional law n. 3 of February 26th 1948, to the Title V, Art. 45, punctually provides “the Region, consulted the interested populations, is able with law to found in own territory new communes and to modify their districts and denominations”; Other regional law instructions establish, besides, the official denomination of municipalities and the activation of appropriated regional toponymic commissions. In particular, the following instructions have been given:

- Regional Law dated December 9th 1976, n. 61 (issued on the B. U., Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste Region, December 18th 1976, n. 13), named: *Official municipality names of the Valle d'Aosta Region and norms for the protection of the local toponymy*, at the art. 1, lists the official names of the “valdostani” municipalities, stressing that “as for its region main municipality are considered official both the name in Italian “Aosta” and that in French “Aoste”; and at art. 2, gives the possibility to the Regional Council of creating a Commission for the local toponymy;

- Provincial Law (Autonomous Province of Trento), dated August 31st 1987, n. 18 (issued on the B. U., Trentino-Alto Adige Region, September 8th 1987, n. 40), named: *Creation of the cultural Institute mocheno-cimbro and norms for the preservation and evaluation of the culture concerning the German speaking populations*, the municipalities of “Palù del Ferina”, “Fierozzo”, “Frassilongo” and “Lucerna”, Trento Province”; it gives the cultural Institute mocheno-cimbro the task of providing “advice as for the local toponymy matters related to the local linguistic area mocheno-cimbria”;

- Provincial Law (Autonomous Province of Trento), dated August 27th 1987, n. 16 (issued on the B. U., Trentino-Alto Adige Region, September 8th 1987, n. 40), named: *Toponymy Discipline*, which at para 1°, art. 2, creates the Provincial Commission for the toponymy, “with

the purpose of assuring a due scientific support in the compilation of the Trento Toponymic Dictionary, inherent to the choice and transcription of toponyms within the administrative and cartographic use, besides to all initiatives aiming at the respect of the Ladino toponymy". The said Commission, appointed by the Provincial Council, remains in charge for one legislature and is formed of a President, university teacher in linguistic disciplines, and by five members: two experts of linguistic issues or of cultural – historic Trento environment; the Director of the Provincial Service charged of toponymy; an Official of the Provincial Service charged of the management of the Technical Map of the provincial territory. Also officials, experts and delegates of other Institutions or Associations particularly interested, can attend the Commission meetings, without voting, by authorisation of the said Commission, and, if in the agenda meeting is listed a toponym of a particular municipality, participates in the works even the Maire, or one delegate of his. of the interested municipality; at art. 3 is also established that the Commission:

- a) defines the methodological and scientific criteria which have to be followed in the toponymic researches, useful for the compilation of the Trento Toponymy Dictionary;
- c) verifies the results of the above said toponymic researches;
- d) proposes to the Provincial Council, after verifying the studies and the global processing of the research activities, the publication of the Trento Toponymic Dictionary and eventually of its related issues;
- e) proposes the criteria for the choosing and transcription of the toponyms mentioned at art. 11;
- f) expresses the evaluations foreseen by the current law;
- g) produces its technical opinion about every other issue concerning toponyms, whenever required by the Provincial Council; at art. 7 defines the norms for "naming new fractions or the modification of existing fractions; at art. 10 disciplines the use of traditional toponyms, stressing that, "considering the names given according to the previous articles which have official status, municipality administrations can establish to side them with the traditional toponyms locally used, given that these last do not appear as minimal graphic variants referred to the official denominations", to be approved by the Provincial Council, "after getting the technical advice of the Toponymic Provincial Commission"; at para 3°, finally, it disciplines the preservation of the Ladino Toponymy, creating its related toponymic repertory, to be considered as an instrument for the correct identification of toponyms in the Ladino Area of "Fassa"; and it establishes the municipality duty of harmonising the toponymy of their related interest to the contents of the said repertory", using the double denomination, if "for the same area is foreseen the double Ladino and Italian denomination";

- Regional Law July 26th 2002, n. 25 (issued in the B. U., Lazio

Region, August 20th 2002, n. 23 S. O. n. 5), named: *Norms for the knowledge, retrieval and promotion of Regional Toponymy*, at art. 2, establishes that, due to the aims of the same law, toponymy includes:

- “a) names of inhabited and urban areas;
- b) every denomination related to places, natural contexts and monumental objects;
- c) every denomination related to circulation areas, as defined by art. 41, of the Presidential Decree dated May 30th 1989, n. 223”;

at art. 3, orders among other matters “the creation [...] of the archives of the Lazio Region Toponymy, as a specific data bank within its regional informative system of environmental and cultural resources”; at art. 6, institutes the Regional Commission for toponymy, located at the Regional Culture Borough Council, “as advising and assisting technical – scientific organ, besides being useful instrument for the cooperation among the national, regional and local administrations”; this said Commission is named by the Regional Council President and remains in charge for five years; its composition includes a President, chosen among the university teachers, expert in linguistic, toponymic and historical – cultural issues, and twelve members, id est: two experts in linguistic, toponymic and historical – cultural issues, three regional experts about, respectively, culture, urbanisation and institutional affairs – local entities, a delegate of the Regional Union of the Lazio Provinces (U.R.P.L.), of the National Municipality Association of Italy (A.N.C.I.), a delegate of the National Municipality Union of Lazio, mountain communities and entities (U.N.C.E.M.), a delegate of the Association of Autonomous Entities of Lazio, of the Roman Society of Country History, and finally the delegates of the Regional Supervisory of Cultural Resources of Lazio and of the Supervisory of Cultural Resources of the Municipality of Rome.

### 3 SOURCE MATERIAL

#### 3.1 Maps

The official topographic maps of Italy are those produced by the Italian Military Geographic Institute and by, Idrographic Institute of Marine, Agenzia per il Territorio del Ministero delle Finanze (ex Catasto), Servizio Geologico d'Italia and Centro Informazioni Geotopografiche dell'Aeronautica. Other topographic maps are produced by the Regions, at the scale 1:5000 e 1:10000 "Carte tecniche regionali" (Technical regional maps).

The most important maps of the Italian Military Geographic Institute are.

*Carta topografica d'Italia serie 25 (Topographic map of Italy series 25)*

The series is composed of 2298 elements named «sezioni» (sections), which have a format of 10' in longitude and 6' in latitude. The series is not yet completed. Sections are elaborated with numeric or analogic aerophotogrammetric survey and drawn with automatic or manual methodologies. The geographic format of a section is submultiple of the map of Italy at scale 1:50000 (a quarter) and it covers an area of 150 square kilometres about.

*Carta topografica d'Italia serie 50 e 50/L (Topographic map of Italy series 50 and 50/L)*

The series is composed of 636 elements named *fogli* (sheets), which have a format of 20' in longitude and 12' in latitude. The series is not yet completed. This cartography is derived from the survey at scale 1:25000.

*Carta "Il Mondo (JOG) 1501" serie 250/G (Map "The World (JOG) 1501" series 250/G)*

The map is composed, as for the first part under the Italian competence, of 39 sheets at scale 1:250000, which have the format of 2° (at North of 40° N) or of 1°30' (at South of 40° N) in longitude and 1° in latitude.

The aeronautical information, overprinted in violet, are added by the Aeronautical Geotopographic Information Centre (CIGA). It is printed in 7 colours and is updated every six years.

*Carta d'Italia serie 250 (Map of Italy series 250)*

The map is composed of 15 sheets at scale 1:250000, with variable format according to the extension of the administrative regions.

*Carta "Il Mondo 1404" serie 500 (Map "The World 1 404" series 500)*

The map is composed, as for the Italian competence, of 14 sheets at scale 1:500000, which have usually a format of 4° in longitude and 2" in latitude.

*Carta "Il Mondo 1301" serie 1000 (Map "The World 1 301" series 1000)*

The map is composed, as for the Italian competence, of 6 sheets at scale 1:1000000, which have the format of 6° in longitude and 4° in latitude.

*Carta topografica d'Italia serie 25/V (Topographic map of Italy series 25/V)*

The series is composed of 3545 elements named "tavolette" (sheets),

which have a format of 7'30" in longitude and 5' in latitude. The series is completely, but not updated at present.

*Carta topografica d'Italia serie 100/V e 100/L (Topographic map of Italy series 100N and 100/L)*

The map is composed of 278 elements named "fogli (sheets), which have a format of 30' in longitude and 20' in latitude. The series is completely published, but not updated at present.

*Spaziocarta serie 50/S (Spacemap series 50/S)*

The map is composed of 636 sheets 1:50000, which have a format of 20' in longitude and 12' in latitude. It is carried out from the panchromatic digital data worked out by the HRV sensors placed on the SPOT satellites. On the images, opportunely corrected both under the geometric and radiometric aspects, it is transferred the toponymy of the most inhabited places and of the most significant orographic and hydrographic elements. It is printed in black and white

In addition to these series, numeric cartographic data are produced in vector, raster, and matrix format. Vinyl resin relief models, the so called "relief maps" (carte in rilievo), are produced too.

The official nautical charts are prepared by the Istituto Idrografico della Marina (Genova. Passo Osservatorio 4) and cover all the Italian seas at different scales for different purposes.

Some administrative regions, moreover, are producing a series of maps (Carta tecnica regionale, that is a technical regional map) in the scales 1:5000 or/and 1:10000, which cover only a part of the own regional territory in digital form too.

### 3.2 Gazetteers

In 1997 the Italian Military Geographic Institute has produced the lists of names recorded in the topographical maps in the scale 1: 25000.

The DBTopo contains all the toponyms existing in the official maps of Italy, called "Carta topografica d'Italia alla scala 1:25000" (last edition of old series). The Italian Military Geographic Institute has inserted it in its catalogue.

The main characteristics of this database can be so summarized:

- toponymic georeferentiation is expressed by coordinates in meters, Gauss-Boaga projection, using the national datum "Roma 40" and, only for the application point of the toponym, the "European Datum 1950";
- compilation source of the database is obtained from IGM 1:25000 maps, named "Tavolette";
- DBF (DBIII) is the format of this DB;
- planimetric accuracy of every single toponym is of about 1 mm graphic (25 m);
- a post thematic accuracy check has outlined an error presence of

about 3% out of the total records;

- the peculiarity of this DB consists in its historical toponyms, being its first compilation source formed of maps already out of production, realized more or less during the years 1940 / 1990;

- total dimensions of this DB correspond to about 800.000 records.

This DB contains information concerning three categories of toponyms:

- toponyms referred to topographic elements represented on the map by punctual elements, like isolated houses, mines, grottoes, wells, whose position is expressed with reference to the center of the graphic element to which they are related;

- toponyms referred to topographic elements of linear type, like rivers, roads, whose position is expressed with reference to its point nearest to the center of development of the toponym, being careful as for the repetition of the same toponym every time it appears on the map, with the sole variation of its position; roads, whose position is expressed with reference to the point of this topographic element closer to the toponym center of development, being careful as for the repetition of the same toponym every time it appears on the map, with the sole variation of its position;

- toponyms referred to topographic elements of spatial type, like inhabited centers, lakes, woods, whose position is expressed with reference to the barycenter area to which everyone of them refers, being careful as to express, in case this barycentre is not included in the considered area, the toponym position by a point always belonging to the same particular and as much as possible nearest to the barycentre of the area;

- toponyms referred to topographic elements of extended spatial type, like geographic regions, mountain chains, plains, beaches, whose position is expressed with reference to the barycentre of the rectangle of minor obstruction in whose interior the toponym stands.

Every record forming the database is structured by alphanumerical data containing the following information:

- TOPO: complete form of its name, according to its transcription given on the map;

- SCNO: eventual second name;

- FACC: code FACC (Feature and Attribute Coding Catalogue) of DIGEST (Digital Geographic Exchange Standard), which identifies it, whose complete list is reported in a proper file, MDB format (Access 7.0) and DBF format (DBIII);

- ATTR: attributes, maximum number of 4;

- TAVO: acronym of seven alphanumerical features, identifier of the cartographic element where the toponym is included, where the first three numbers identify the Italy Map sheet at scale 1:100000 (from 001 to 277), the fourth number identify the grid at scale 1:50000 (from 1 to 4), the fifth number identify the orientation of the "Tavoletta" (from 1 to 4), the sixth element is a feature that can take the form of S or W, in

order to indicate that is respectively a cartographic element of “bis” type of a normal element, and the seventh element is also a feature which can appear with the form of a W or E, for indicating the zone, respectively, West or East;

- EDIZ: edition of the same cartographic element;
- NSER: series number of the same map;
- DATA: year in which the survey has been carried out;
- ESTP: East coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, given in the Gauss-Boaga national system, referred to punctual objects;
- NORP: North coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, given in the Gauss-Boaga national system, referred to punctual objects;
- ESTL: East coordinate lower left, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
- NORL: North coordinate lower left, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
- ESTR: East coordinate upper right, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
- NORR: North coordinate upper right, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
- EUTM: East coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, in the ED 50 system, referred to punctual objects;
- NUTM: North coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, in the ED 50 system, referred to punctual objects.

Besides a complete list of names of inhabited places can be found in the regional volumes of the last *Censimento Generale della Popolazione* (General Census of Population), taken in 1991; the volumes are issued by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica (Roma, via Cesare Balbo,16).

There is also a work issued by the Italian Touring Club (Milano, corso Italia 10) in 1993: *Annuario Generale dei comuni e delle frazioni d'Italia* (General Year-600k of Italian municipalities and their territorial subdivisions), which, however, gives the situation for 1991.

Rich in place names, but not complete, there is the *Indice dei nomi* (Place Names Index) of the *Atlante Stradale d'Italia* at scale 1:200000 in three volumes, issued and updated by the Touring Club Italiano regularly.

Other two gazetteers issued by Istituto Geografico De Agostini (Novara, Corso della Vittoria 91) are included in the *Grande Atlante d'Italia* (Great atlas of Italy) at scale 1:300000 and in the *Atlante Stradale d'Italia* (Road atlas of Italy) at scale 1:200000. The last one is updated every year.



## 4 GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

### 4.1 General remarks

Owing to the presence in Italy of so many place names written in languages other than Italian, the geographical generic terms, too, are very numerous. In order to avoid a too long and articulate list of such generic terms, the French, Franco-Provençal, Provençal, German, and Slovenian geographical generic terms are not presented here, as they can be easily found in the Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors issued by the Countries concerned. Only the most important and most widespread Italian terms, together with some Ladin and Sardinian ones distinguished from Italian terms by means of the letters (L) and (S) put in brackets, are given here.

Terms are given also in feminine forms and in plural, especially adjectives, when necessary. In these cases singular forms are separated from the plural by means of a semi-colon (;), masculine forms are separated from the feminine by means of a comma (,): e. g. **alt-o, -a; i, -e** show respectively the following forms of the Italian adjective *alto* (high): singular masculine (*alto*), singular feminine (*alta*), plural masculine (*alti*), plural feminine (*alte*); **Ligur-e;-i** show respectively the singular form (both masculine and feminine) and the plural (both masculine and feminine) of the Italian adjective *Ligure*; **Liguri** (Ligurian). The same occurs with many substantives: e. g. **lag-o; -hi** show respectively the singular form and the plural one of the Italian noun *lago* (lake); *laghi* (lakes).

### 4.2 The list of Italian, Ladin and Sardinian generic geographical terms with a few adjectival modifiers, prepositions, and conjunctions.

a	by; on; near
abbazia	abbey
abiss-o; -i	abyss
abruzzes-e; i	relating to the Abruzzo Region
acqu-a; -e	water
acquedott-o; -i	aqueduct
acut-o, -a; -i, -e	sharp
adriatic-o, -a; -i, -he	Adriatic, relating to Adriatic Sea
aeroporto	airport
agh-e; -is (L)	river
agli	by the; on the; near the (masculine plural)
agrigentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Agrigento
agro	plain

ai	by the; on the; near the (masculine plural)
al	by the; on the; near the (masculine singular)
albanese-e; -i	Albanian
albergo	hotel
alessandrino-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Alessandria
all'	by the; on the; near the (masculine and feminine singular)
alla	by the; on the; near the (feminine singular)
alle	by the; on the; near the (feminine plural)
allo	by the; on the; near the (masculine singular)
alp-e; -i	shepherd's hut in the Alps; mountain pasture area
Alp-e; -i	Alps
alpin-o, -a; -i, -e	alpine; relating to the Alps
alt-o, -a; -i, -e	high
altipiano/altopiano	plateau; highlands
altura-a; -e	height
ambasciata	embassy
anatzu (S)	swamp
anconetan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Ancona
anconitan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Ancona
anfiteatro	amphitheatre
antic-o, -a; -hi, -he	ancient
aostan-o, -a; -e, -i	relating to Aosta
appenninic-o, -a; -i, -he	relating to the Appennines
Appennin-o; -i	Appennines
apuan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Apuanian Mountains
aquila-o, -a; -i, -he	relating to L'Aquila
arcipelag-o; -hi	archipelago
arc-o; -hi	bow
arcu/arcu genna (S)	pass
area di servizio	service station
aren-a; -as (S)	sand
aretin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Arezzo
argin-e; -i	embankment
arsenal-e; -i	arsenal
artificial-c; -i	artificial
ascolan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Ascoli Piceno
astigian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Asti
atesin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the river Adige

atta (S)	peak; top
autostrad-a; -e	otor-way
avellines-e; -i	lating to Avellino
azza (S)	peak; top
baccu (S)	basin; valley
bacin-o; -i	asi n
badde/baddi (S)	baasin; valley
baia	bay; gulf
baita	alpine hut
banatzu/benatzu (S)	swamp
banchina	dock; quay
banc-o; -hi	bar
bannaxi (S)	swamp
bares-e; -i	relating to Bari
barriera	barrier
basilica	basi lica
bass-o, a; -i, -e	low
bassofondo	shallow
basopiano	lowlands
bastione	rampart
bottada (S)	little plateau
becco	peak
bellunes-e; -i	relating to Belluno
beneventan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Benevento
bergamasc-o, -a; -hi, -he	relating to Bergamo
bianc-o, -a; -hi, -he	white
biblioteca	library
bielles-e; -i	relating to Biella
blanc (L)	white
bocc-a; -he	mouth
bolognes-e; -i	relating to Bologna
bolzanin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Bolzano
bonifica	reclaimed land
borgata	village; suburb; little town
borgo	village; suburb; little town
bosc-o; -hi	wood; forest
brescian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Brescia
brinidin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Brindisi
brughiera	moor
bruncu (S)	peak; top
bucca (S)	gorge
burrone	ravine; gorge
bus (L)	cave
ca'	house
cabu (S)	peak; top

cadin (L)	dolina; valley
cagliaritan-o, -a; -i, -c	relating to Cagliari
cala	inlet
calabres-e; -i	Calabrian, relating to the Calabria Region
calabr-o, -a; -i, -e	Calabrian, relating to the Calabria Region
cald-o, -a; -i, -e	hot; warm
calle	path; calle (narrow street in Venice)
campagna	country; land
campan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Campania Region
campeggio	camping
camp-o; -i	field
campobassan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Campobasso
canal -e; -i	canal
capanna	hut
capissa/capitta/capizza (S)	peak; top
capo	head; cape; point
cappella	chapel
carnic-o, -a; -i, -he	Carnic
carrares-e; -i	relating to Carrara
cas-a; -e	house
cascat-a; -e	fall
cascina	farmstead
casertan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Caserta
casteddu	peak; top
castell-o; -i	castle
catanes-e; -i	relating to Catania
catanzares-e; -i	relating to Catanzaro
caten-a; -e	chain; range
cattedrale	cathedral
cava	quarry
cavalcavia	fly-over bridge
caverna	cave
cav-o, -a; -i, -e	hollow
cea/chea (S)	valley
central-e; -i	central; middle
centro	centre
certosa	charterhouse
cesenat-e; -i	relating to Cesena
chiadin (L)	basin; valley
chiamp/chiampon/(L)	field
chianal; -s (L)	valley
chiase (L)	house
chiesa	church

chietin -o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Chieti
chilometr-o; -i	kilometre
ciampani (L)	peak
cias-a; -e (L)	house
cim-a; -e	peak
cimitero	cemetery
circonvallazione	ring-road
cischiel (L)	castle
città	town; city
cittadella	citadel; fortress
cittadina	small town
civic-o, -a; -i, -he	relating to the town
clap (L)	stone; mount
col/côl (L)	rounded hill
collac/collaz (L)	rounded hill
coll-e; -i	hill
collin-a; -e	hill
comasc-o, -a; -hi, -he	relating to Como
comun-al -e; -i	municipal
comun -e; -i	municipality
conca (S)	cave
conc-a; -he	basin; valley
confin-e; -i	border; boundary; frontier
confine di Stato	national boundary
consolato	consulate
contrà/contrada	street
convento	convent; nunnery; friary
cornetto	little horn; peak
corno	horn; peak
corrente	stream
corso	main street; avenue
cort-o, -a; -i, -e	short
cosentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Cosenza
cost-a; -e	coast
costier-a; -e	coast
crater-e; -i	crater
cremasc-o, -a; -hi, -he	relating to Crema
cremones-e; -i	relating to Cremona
crep (L)	rock; peak
crepaccio	crevasse
crest-a; -e	ridge
crete (L)	mount; peak
croc-e; -i	cross
croda	peak
crotoniat-e, -i; crotones-e; -i	relating to Crotone

crusc (L)	cross
cuccureddu (S)	hill
cuccuru (S)	peak; summit
cuel; -is (L)	hill
cuneens -e; -i	relating to Cuneo
dal (L)	of the (masculine singular)
da le (L)	of the (feminine singular)
darsena	basi n
de (L)	of
degli	of the (masculine plural)
dei	of the (masculine plural)
del	of the (masculine singular)
de les (L)	of the (feminine plural)
dell'	of the (masculine and feminine singular)
della	of the (feminine singular)
delle	of the (feminine plural)
dello	of the (masculine singular)
delta	delta
dente	peak
depressione	hollow
de sa (S)	of the (feminine singular)
de sas (S)	of the (feminine plural)
de sos (S)	of the (masculine plural)
destro-o, -a; -i, -e	right
de su (S)	of the (masculine singular)
di	of the
di dentro	inner
di fuori	outer
dig-a; -he	dam
di li (S)	of the (masculine plural)
di lu (S)	of the (masculine singular)
di mezzo	middle; central
dipartimento	department
di sopra	upper
di sotto	lower
dla (L)	of the (feminine singular)
dles (L)	of the masculine and feminine plural)
dogana	customs
dolina	doli na
domu (S)	house
dorsale	ridge
doss-so; i	little hill
dun-a; -e	dune

duomo	cathedral
ega (L)	water; stream
emilian-o, -a; -i, -e	Emilian, relating to the Emilia Region
ennes -e; -i	relating to Enna
equidistanza	contour interval
Est	East
estern-o, -a; -i, -e	outer
estuario	estuary
faro	lighthouse
ferrares-e; -i	relating to Ferrara
ferovi-a; -e	railway
fiorentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Florence
fium-e; -i	river
flumini (S)	river; stream
foc-e; -i	mouth
foggian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Foggia
foga/foghe (S)	mouth
fontan-a; -e	fountain; spring
font-e; -i	spring
forca/forcola	alpine pass
forcella	narrow alpine pass
forces (L)	gorge
forest-a; -e	forest; wood
forlives-e; -i	relating to Forli
forra	gorge; ravine
forte	fort
fortezza	fortress
foxi (S)	mouth
freddo-o, a; -i, -e	cold
friulan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Friuli
frontier-a; -e	frontier; boundary
frumini (S)	river; stream
fruncu (S)	peak; top
frusinat-e; -i	relating to Frosinone
fumarol-a; -e	fumarole
funicolare	cable-railway
funivia	cableway
funtana (S)	spring
furcela/furcella (L)	pass
furcia (L)	pass
galleria	tunnel
garganic-o, -a; -i, -he	relating to the promontory of Gargano
gena/genna (S)	pass

genoves-e; -i	relating to the Genova
ghiaccia -io; -i	glacier
giara (S)	basaltic upland
giardin-o; -i	garden; park
giardino botanico	botanical gardens
giardino zoologico	zoological gardens
giogo	summit; top; mountain ridge
giuliano-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Venezia Giulia
gli	the (masculine plural)
gola	gorge
golfo	bay; gulf
gorizian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Gorizia
gran	big; great
grand-e; -i	big; great
grec-o, -a; -i, -he	Greek
groppa	rounded top
grossetan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Grosseto
gross-o, -a; -i, -e	big
grotta	cave
gruppo	mountain group
grutta (S)	cave
grux (S)	cross
gurgu (S)	deep gorge
guglia	peak
gutturu (S)	gorge
i	the (masculine plural)
ian-a; -as (S)	witch
ianna (S)	pass
il	the (masculine singular)
imperies-e; -i	relating to Imperia
in	in
in costruzione	under construction
inferior-e; -i	lower
insenatura	inlet; creek
in tal (L)	in the
intern-o, -a; -i, -e	inner
ionic-o, -a; -i, -he	ionic, relating to Ionian Sea
irpin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Irpinia region
is (S)	the (plural)
ischina (S)	ridge
isernin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Isernia
isol-a; -e	isle; island
isolat-o; -i	block of houses
isolott-o; -i	islet; small island
istmo	isthmus



janna (S)	pass
jof (L)	mount; peak
ju (L)	pass; top
juel (L)	pass
j'	the (masculine and feminine singular)
la	the (feminine singular)
lac (L)	
lag-o; -hi	lake
lagun-a; -e	lagoon
lagunar-e; -i	relative to one lagoon
land-a; -e	barren land; moor; heath
landri (L)	cave
largo	square
larg-o, -a; -hi, -he	large; broad
latinens-e; -i	relating to Latina
latitudine	latitude
laziale	relating to the Lazio region
le	the (feminine plural)
lecces-e; -i	relating to Lecce
lecches-e; -i	relating to Lecco
lech (L)	lake
Levante	East
lid-o; -i	shore
ligur-e; -i	Ligurian, relating to the Liguria Region
lis (L)	the (masculine and feminine plural)
litoral-e; -i	coastal
livello medio del mare	mean sea level
livornes-e; -i	relating to Livorno
lo	the (masculine singular)
lodigian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Lodi
lombard-o, -a; -i, -e	Lombard, relating to the Lombardia Region
longitudine	longitude
lu (S)	the (masculine singular)
lucan-o, -a; -i, -e	Lucan, relating to the Basilicata region
lucches-e; -i	relating to Lucca
lung-o, -a; -hi, -he	long
macchia	scrub
macerates-e; -i	relating to Macerata
Madonna	the Virgin Mary
maggior-e; -i	greater

malga	shepherd's hut in the Alps
mannu (S)	big
mantovan-o, -a; -i, -e	Mantuan, relating to Mantova
marchigian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Marche Region
mare	sea
marghine (S)	boundary
marina	coast; seashore
marin-o, -a; -i, -e	marine; sea (attributive)
marittim-o, -a; -i, -e	maritime
masses-e; -i	relating to Massa
materan-o; -i	relating to Matera
median-o, -a; -i, -e	central; middle
medi-o, -a; -i, -e	central; middle
mediterrane-o, -a; -i, e	Mediterranean
meridian-o; -i	meridian
meridional-e; -i	Southern
Meridione	South
messines-e; -i	relating to Messina
metallifer-o, -a; -i, -e	metalliferous
metanodotto	gas pipeline
metropoli	metropolis; large city
metropolitana	underground; subway
metropolitan-o, -a; -i, -e	metropolitan
mezzan-o, -a; -i, -e	central; middle
migli-o; -a	mile
milanes-e; -i	relating to Milan
minier-a; -e	mine
minor-e; -i	lower
modenes-e; -i	relating to Modena
molin-o; -i	mill
molisano	relating to the Molise region
mol-o; -i	pier; wharf
monastero	monastery; nunnery
mont (L)	shepherd's hut in the Alps
montagn-a; -e	mount; mountain
montan-o, -a; -i, -e	mountain (attributive)
mont-e; -i	mount; mountain
montighiu/montigiu (S)	hill
moren-a; -e	moraine
morenic-o, -a; -i, -e	morainic
municipio	townhall
munt (L)	alp
museo-o; -i	museum
napoletano-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Naples
naviglio	canal; waterway

nazional-e; -i	national
nazion -e; -i	nation
necropoli	necropolis
negli	in the (masculine plural)
nei	in the (masculine plural)
nel	in the (masculine singular)
nell'	in the (masculine and feminine singular)
nella	in the (feminine singular)
nelle	in the (feminine plural)
nello	in the (masculine singular)
ner-o, -a; -i, -e	black
nevos-o, -a; -i, -e	snowy
nissen-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Caltanissetta
Nord	North
novares-e; -i	relating to Novara
nud-o, -a; -i, -e	naked
nuores-e; -i	relating to Nuoro
nuov-o, -a; -i, -e	new
nuragh-e; -i (S)	megalithic building
occidental-e; -i	Western
Occidente	West
odla (L)	peak
oleodotto	oil pipeline
oltre	beyond
oratoria	oratory
oriental-e; -i	Eastern
Oriente	East
oristanes -e; -i	relating to Oristano
ospedale-e; -i	hospital
Ovest	West
padovan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Padua
padru (S)	plain
paes-e; -i	village
pal/pala (L)	mount; peak
pal-a; -e	peak; summit
palazz-o; -i	palace
palermitan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Palermo
palla	rounded top
palud-e; -i	marsh; fen
parallel-o; -i	parallel
parc-o; -hi	park
parco nazionale	national park
pardu (S)	plain
parmigian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Parma

passaggio a livello	level crossing
passo	pass
patru (S)	plain
pattada (S)	little plateau; mesa
pauli (S)	swamp
paves-e; -i	relating to Pavia
pedra (S)	mountain, stone
pendenza	steep; slope
pendula (S)	fall
penisola	peninsula
perda (S)	mountain; stone
perdafitta (S)	megalithic stone; menhir
periferia	suburbs; outskirts
perugin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Perugia
pesares-e; i	relating to Pesaro
pescares-e; -i	relating to Pescara
piacentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Piacenza
piana	plain
piano	plain
pianura	plain
piazza/piazzale	square
piazzetta	little square
picco	peak
piccol-o, -a; -i, -e	little; small
picen-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Piceno
pietr-a; -e	rock; stone
pieve	country church
piemontese	relating to the Piemonte Region
pineta	pine-wood
pisan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Pisa
piscina	swimming-pool
pissandol; -s (L)	fall
pistoies-e; -i	relating to Pistoia
pitzu/pizzu (S)	peak; top
piz (L)	peak
pizzo	peak
plaia (S)	beach
plan; -s (L)	plain
plan/planu (S)	plateau
plan-e; -is (L)	plain
poggio	hill
Ponente	West
pont-e; -i	bridge
pontile	wharf
pordenones-e; -i	relating to Pordenone

port-a; -e	gate
porta/portedda (S)	pass
portella	pass
porto	harbour; haven
post-a; -e	mail; post
posterior-e; -i	back
potentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Potenza
pozz-o; -i	fountain; well; oil-well
pra (L)	field; meadow
prat; -is (L)	meadow
prateria	grassland
prates-e; -i	relating to Prato
prat-o; -i	meadow
pre/pré (L)	field; meadow
principal-e; -i	principal; main
profondità	depth
profond-o, -a; -i -e	deep
promontorio	cape; promontory
provinc-ia; -e/-ie	country; district; province
provinial-e; -i	provincial
pugliese	relating to the Puglia Region
punta	cape
quartier-e; -i	city-district; quartier
ragusan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Ragusa
ravennat-e; -i	relating to Ravenna
rada	inlet
reatin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Rieti
reggian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Reggio nell'Emilia
reggin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Reggio di Calabria
regional-e; -i	regional
region-e; -i	province; region
rifugio	shelter; refuge
rio	brook; river; stream
rimines-e; -i	relating to Rimini
rion-e; -i	city-district; quarter
ripisn-o; -i	level ground; terrace
riserva naturale	nature reserve
ristorante	restaurant
riu (S)	river; stream
riul (L)	stream
riv-a; -e	bank; shore
riviera	coast
roccia	rock; peak
rodigin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Rovigo
roggia	irrigation ditch

roman-o, -a; -i, -e	Roman, relating to Rome
romagnol-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Romagna Region
ros (L)	red
ross-o, -a; -i, -e	red
rotond-o, -a; -i, -e	round
rovin-a; -e	ruin
runcu (S)	peak; top
rup-e; -i	cliff; rock
ruscello	brook; stream
sa (S)	the (feminine singular)
sacrario	memorial church
sacr-o, -a; -i, -e	holy
salentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Salento region
salernitan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Salerno
salin-a; -e	salt-works
saltu/sartu (S)	country
San	Saint
sant-o, -a; -i, -e	Saint
santuario	sanctuary; pilgrimage church
sard-o, -a; -i, -e	Sardinian, relating to the Sardegna Region
sas (S)	the (feminine plural)
sass (L)	mountain; rocky top
sassaes-e; -i	relating to Sassa
sass-o; -i	peak; stone; mountain
savonese-; -i	relating to Savona
scala	scale
scarp-a; -e	slope
scav-o; -i	excavation
schina (S)	ridge
sciovia	ski-lift
scogli-a; -e	cliff; reef
scogl-io; -i	reef; rock
secc-a; -he	sand bank
sedda (S)	pass
seggiovia	chair-lift
segnî convenzionali	conventional signs
sella	pass
selva	forest; wood
senes-e; -i	relating to Siena
sentiero	path
serr-a; -e	gorge; ridge
settentrionale	Northern
Settentrione	North
siciliano	relating to the Sicilia Region

sinagoga	synagogue
sinistr-o, -a; -i, -e	left
siracusan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Syracuse
sobborg-o; -hi	suburb
sondrasc-o, -a; -hi, -he	relating to Sondrio
sondries-e; -i	relating to Sondrio
sopra	on; upon
sorgent-q; i	source; spring
sos (S)	the (masculine plural)
sotterrane-o, -a; -i -q	underground (attributive)
sotto	under
sottomarino-o, -a; -i, -e	submarine
spendula (S)	fall
spezin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to La Spezia
spiaggia	beach
spond-a; -e	bank; coastline
stadio	stadium; sports ground
stagn-o; -i	pond
statal-e; -i	relating to the State
stazione	station
stazione ferroviaria	railway station
stazzu (S)	farm
strad-a; -e	road; street; way
strett-o; -i	canal; strait
strett-o, -a; -i, -e	narrow
su	on; upon
su (S)	the (masculine singular)
Sud	South
suel (L)	pass
sugli	on the; upon the (masculine plural)
sui	on the; upon the (masculine plural)
sul	on the; upon the (masculine singular)
sull'	on the; upon the (masculine and feminine singular)
sulla	on the; upon the (feminine singular)
sulle	on the; upon the (feminine plural)
sullo	on the; upon the (masculine singular)
superior-e; -i	upper
superstrad-a; -e	highway
tarantin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Taranto

5	tavie (L)	field
	teatin-o, -a; -e, -i	relating to Chieti
	teatro	theatre
	teleferica	cableway
	telegrafo	telegraph
	temp-io; -li	temple
	teraman-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Teramo
	terme	thermal baths
	ternan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Terni
	terr-a; -e	country; land
	testa	head; peak
	tiberin-o, -a; -i, -e	Tiberine
	ticines-e; -i	relating to the Ticino river
	tirrenico	relating to Tyrrhenian Sea
	tor (L)	peak
	torinese-e; -i	relating to Turin
	torond (L)	rounded mountain
	torr-e; -i	tower
	torrente	stream
	toscan-o, -a; -c	Tuscan, relating to the Toscana Region
	traforo	tunnel
	trapanes-e; -i	relating to Trapani
	treno navetta	shuttle service train
	trentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Trento and to the Trentino region
	trevisan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Treviso
	triestin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Trieste
	turond (L)	rounded mountain
	udines-e; -i	relating to Udine
	umbr-o, -a; -i, -e	Umbrian, relating to the Umbria region
	urban-o, -a; -i, -e	urban; city (attributive)
	urbinat-e; -i	relating to Urbino
	Valdostan-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Valle d'Aosta Region
	valico	pass
	vallat-a; -e	valley
	vall-e; -i	valley
	vallo	wall
	vallone	valley
	varesin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Varese
	vecch-io, -ia; -i, -ie	old; ancient
	venet-o, -a; -i, -e	Venetian, relating to the Veneto Region
	venezian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Venice



verbanes-e; -i	relating to Verbanò
vercelles-e; -i	relating to Vercelli
verd-e; -i	green
verones-e; -i	relating to Verona
versant-e; -i	slope; versant
vert (L)	green
vesuvian-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to the Vesuvius
vett-a; -e	summit; top, peak
vi-a; -e	road; street; way
viale	avenue; boulevard
vibones-e; -i	relating to Vibo Valentia
vicentin-o, -a; -i, -e	relating to Vicenza
vicolo	alley; lane
villa	country-house; villa
villagg-io; -i	village
viterbes-e; -i	relating to Viterbo
vruncu (S)	peak
zeppara (S)	gravelly land; peak
zon-a; -e	district
zuc (L)	mount; peak
zuel (L)	pass

5 **MAIN ABBREVIATIONS  
USED IN THE TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS OF ITALY  
IN THE SCALES 1:25000 AND 1:50000.**

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Complete form</i>	<i>English form</i>
A.; A.i	Alp-e; -i	Alps
altop.o	altipiano/altopiano	plateau; highlands
arcip.go; arcip.hi	arcipelag-o; -hi	archipelago
b.	baia	bay; gulf
b.o; b.i	bosc-o; -hi	wood; forest
b.co; b.chi	banc-o; -hi	bar
b.go	borgo	village; suburb; little town
c.o	capo	head; cape; point
cast.o; cast.i	castell-o; -i	castle
c.va	cava	quarry
centr.e; centr.i	central-e; -i	central; middle
ch.sa	chiesa	church
c.le	colle	pass
c.le; c.li	coll-e; -i	hill
coll.a; coll.e	collin-a; -e	hill
c.ma; c.me	cim-a; -e	peak
com.e; com.i	comun-e; -i	municipality
c.po; c-pi	camp-o; -i	field
d.e	dorsale	ridge
dol.na	dolina	dolina
f.e	forte	fort
f.; f.mi	fium-e; -i	river
for.a	foresta	wood; forest
f.te	fonte	spring; well
g.	golfo	bay; gulf
gall.a	galleria	tunnel
gh.io; gh.i	ghiaccia-io; -i	glacier
gr.	gran	big; great
gr.de; gr.di	grand-e; -i	big; great
gr.ta	grotta	cave
i.; i.le	isol-a; -e	isle; island
inf.e; inf.i	inferior-e; -i	lower
i.to; i.ti	isolott-o; -i	islet; small island
l., l.i	lag-o; -hi	lake
m.io	migli-o; -a	mile
m.; m.ti	mont-e; -i	mount; mountain
magg.re	maggiore	greater
min.a	miniera	mine
min.re	minore	lower

m.o	molino	mill
naz.le; naz.li	nazional-e; -i	national
p.co	picco	peak
penis.a	penisola	pinsula
princ.le; princ.li	principal-e; -i	principal; main
prom.o	promontorio	cape
prov.a; prov.e	provinc-ia; -e/-ie	province; district; country
p.so	passo	pass
p.	punta	cape
p.te; p.ti	pont-e; -i	bridge
r.	rio	brook; river; stream
S.	San	Saint
S.; SS.	Sant-o, -a; -i, -e	Saint
sc.o; sc.i	scogl-io; -i	reef; rock
sta.e; staz.i	stazion-e; -i	station
str.to; str.ti	strett-o; -i	canal; strait
sup.e; sup.i	superior-e; -i	upper
t.	torrente	stream
v.	valle	valley

## 6 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

### 6.1 General remarks

The Italian Republic is divided administratively in Regions (*regioni*), which in turn are divided (except in one case i. e. the Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste) in two or more provinces (*province*). All the provinces are divided in municipalities (*comuni*: 8102); which can be sub-divided in two or more territorial parts (*frazioni*).

### 6.2 The regions

There are 20 administrative Regions. Five of them, namely Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste, Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Sicilia, and Sardegna, have an autonomy statute which was introduced some years after the Second World War in order to secure the rights of the various minority language groups and to preserve their own particular culture.

#### 6.2.1 The list of the regions

The names of the two officially bilingual regions are given in the Italian form and in the non-Italian version separated by means of a slash. In brackets the English exonyms are given. Behind the semicolon the name of capital town of each region is put with its English exonym in brackets. The Regions from North to South and from West to East with the island regions listed last are:

- Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste; Aosta/Aoste
- Piemonte (Piedmont); Torino (Turin)
- Lombardia (Lombardy); Milano (Milan)
- Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol; Trento
- Veneto; Venezia (Venice)
- Friuli-Venezia giulia; Trieste
- Liguria; Genova (Genoa)
- Emilia-Romagna; Bologna
- Toscana (Tuscany); Firenze (Florence)
- Marche (The Marches); Ancona
- Umbria; Perugia
- Lazio (Latium); Roma (Rome)
- Abruzzo; L'Aquila
- Molise; Campobasso
- Campania; Napoli (Naples)
- Calabria; Catanzaro

- Puglia (Apulia); Bari
- Basilicata; Potenza
- Sicilia (Sicily); Palermo
- Sardegna (Sardinia); Cagliari

The three Regions of Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol, Veneto, and Friuli - Venezia Giulia are also often called “Tre Venezie” or Triveneto. Abruzzo can also be called Abruzzi, but this last noun is less appropriate. Basilicata's other non-current denomination is Lucania.

### 6.3 The provinces

There are 103 provinces. Two of them, namely the provinces of Trento and Bolzano/Bozen, have an autonomy statute, similar to the one of the five autonomous regions.

#### 6.3.1 The list of the provinces (in brackets the English exonyms are given):

<p><b>Valle d’Aosta/Vallée d’Aoste</b> - Aosta/Aosta</p> <p><b>- Piemonte</b> - Alessandria - Asti - Biella - Cuneo - Novara - Torino (Turin) - Verbano-Cusio-Ossola - Vercelli</p> <p><b>- Lombardia</b> - Bergamo - Brescia - Como - Cremona - Lecco - Lodi - Mantova (Mantua) - Milano (Milan) - Pavia - Sondrio - Varese</p>	<p><b>Trentino-Alto Adige/Trentino-Südtirol</b> - Bolzano/Bozen - Trento</p> <p><b>- Veneto</b> - Belluno - Pàdova (Padua) - Rovigo - Treviso - Venezia (Venice) - Verona - Vicenza</p> <p><b>- Friuli-Venezia Giulia</b> - Gorizia - Pordenone - Trieste - Udine</p> <p><b>- Liguria</b> - Gènova (Genoa) - Imperia - La Spezia - Savona</p>
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- **Emilia-Romagna**
  - Bologna
  - Ferrara
  - Forlì-Cesena
  - Mòdena
  - Parma
  - Piacenza
  - Ravenna
  - Reggio nell'Emilia
  - Rimini
  
- **Toscana**
  - Arezzo
  - Firenze (Florence)
  - Grosseto
  - Livorno (Leghorn)
  - Lucca
  - Massa-Carrara
  - Pisa
  - Pistoia
  - Prato
  - Siena
  
- **Marche**
  - Ancona
  - Ascoli Piceno
  - Macerata
  - Pésaro e Urbino
  
- **Umbria**
  - Perugia
  - Terni
  
- **Lazio**
  - Frosinone
  - Latina
  - Rieti
  - Roma (Rome)
  - Viterbo
  
- **Abruzzo**
  - Chieti
  - L'Àquila
  - Pescara
  - Tèramo
  
- **Molise**
  - Campobasso
  - Isernia
  
- **Campania**
  - Avellino
  - Benevento
  - Caserta
  - Nàpoli (Naples)
  - Salerno
  
- **Calabria**
  - Catanzaro
  - Cosenza
  - Crotona
  - Reggio di Calabria
  - Vibo Valentia
  
- **Puglia**
  - Bari
  - Brinidisi
  - Foggia
  - Lecce
  - Tàranto
  
- **Basilicata**
  - Matera
  - Potenza
  
- **Sicilia**
  - Agrigento
  - Caltanissetta
  - Catania
  - Enna
  - Messina
  - Palermo
  - Ragusa
  - Siracusa (Syracuse)
  - Tràpani
  
- **Sardegna**
  - Càgliari
  - Nùoro
  - Oristano
  - Sàssari

## 6.3.2 Cartographical representation of the province names

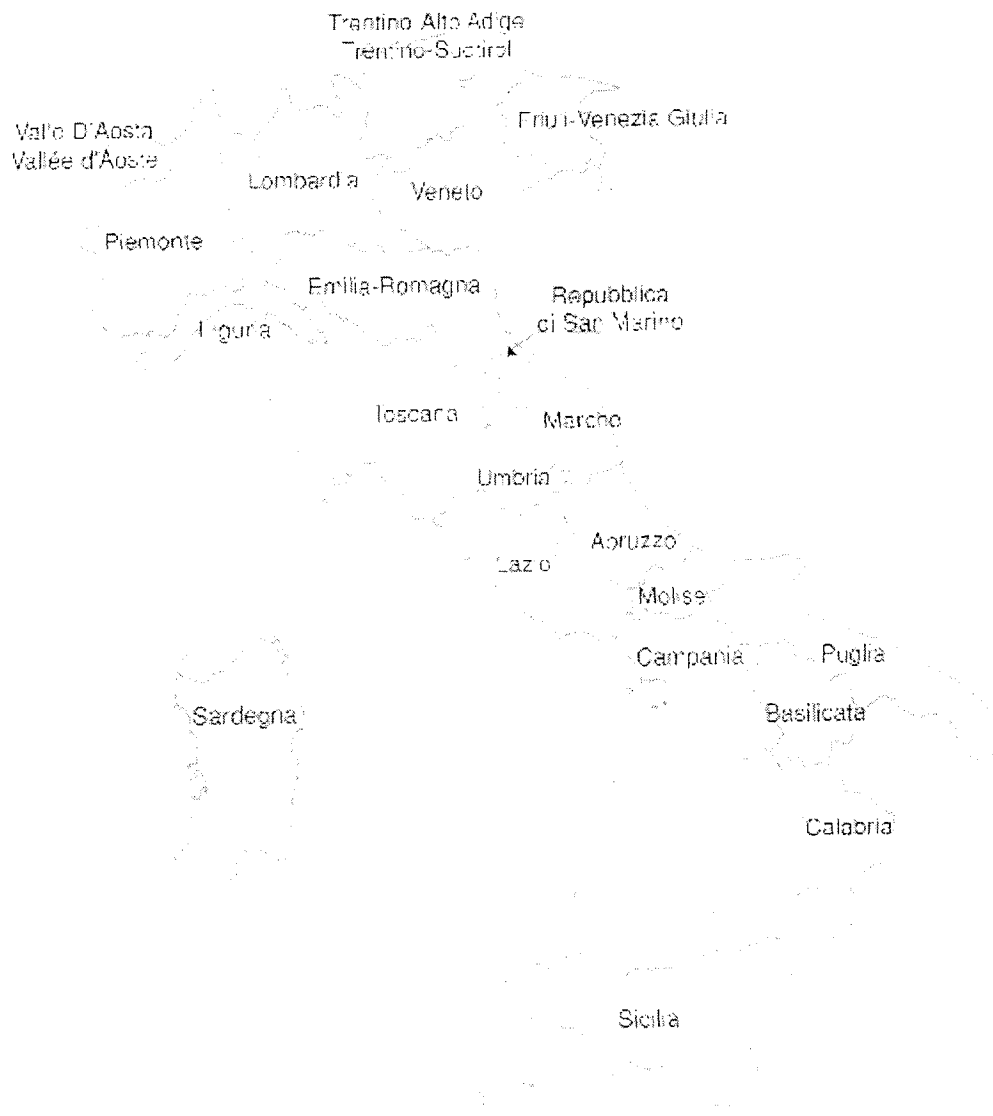
The provinces have the same names as their respective capital towns, except for Forlì-Cesena, Massa-Carrara, Pésaro e Urbino and Verbania-Cusio-Ossola, the capital towns of which are Forlì, Massa, Pésaro and Verbania respectively. Therefore, according to Italian cartographical tradition, the denominations of the provinces, except for the four latter cases, are not recorded in the maps when the names of the capital towns are put in evidence by means of an underlining or some other symbol.

In a few thematic maps, especially in those regarding road traffic, and in many road and/or tourist maps, cartographers prefer to put in the maps the car registration plate initials (capital town of every province), instead of the province denomination.

- Agrigento	AG	- Firenze	FI
- Alessandria	AL	- Foggia	FG
- Ancona	AN	- Forlì-Cesena	FO
- Aosta/Aoste	AO	- Frosinone	FR
- Arezzo	AR	- Gènova	GE
- Ascoli Piceno	AP	- Gorizia	GO
- Asti	AT	- Grosseto	IM
- Avellino	AV	- Imperia	IM
- Bari	BA	- Isernia	IS
- Belluno	BL	- L'Aquila	AQ
- Benevento	BN	- La Spezia	SP
- Bèrgamo	BG	- Latina	LT
- Biella	BI	- Lecce	LE
- Bologna	BO	- Lecco	LC
- Bolzano/Bozen	BZ	- Livorno	LI
- Brescia	BS	- Lodi	LO
- Brinidisi	BR	- Lucca	LU
- Càgliari	CA	- Macerata	MC
- Caltanissetta	CL	- Màntova	MO
- Campobasso	CB	- Nàpoli	NA
- Caserta	CE	- Novara	NO
- Catania	CA	- Nùoro	NU
- Catanzaro	CZ	- Oristano	OR
- Chieti	CH	- Pàdova	PD
- Como	CO	- Palermo	PA
- Cosenza	CS	- Parma	PR
- Cremona	CR	- Pavia	PV
- Crotone	KR	- Perugia	PG
- Cuneo	CN	- Pésaro e Urbino	PS
- Enna	EN	- Pescara	PE
- Ferrara	FE	- Piacenza	PC

- Pisa	PI	- Sondrio	SO
- Pistoia	PT	- Tàranto	TA
- Pordenone	PN	- Tèramo	TE
- Potenza	PZ	- Terni	TR
- Prato	PO	- Torino	TO
- Ragusa	RG	- Tràpani	TP
- Ravenna	RA	- Trento	TN
- Reggio di Calabria	RC	- Treviso	TV
- Reggio nell'Emilia	RE	- Trieste	TS
- Rieti	RI	- Údine	UD
- Rimini	RN	- Varese	VA
- Roma	RM	- Venezia	VE
- Rovigo	RO	- Vercelli	VC
- Salerno	SA	- Verona	VR
- Sàssari	SS	- Verbano-Cusio-Ossola	VB
- Savona	SV	- Vibo Valentia	VV
- Siena	SI	- Vicenza	VI
- Siracusa	SR	- Viterbo	VT





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