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REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Lithuania*

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REPORT OF THE LITHUANIA

1. NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

1.2. Geographical names authorities

The State Commission of Lithuanian Language (<http://www.vlkk.lt>) participates in the process of standardisation of toponyms as a collegial legal institution and a public office. *The Institute of the Lithuanian Language* (<http://www.lki.lt>) is an institution of scientific research. The staff of the Onomastics Department are the main experts on the issues of accuracy and standardisation of toponyms. The Onomastics Department accumulates the card index of toponyms, publishes dictionaries, etc.

Activities of the national mapping authority – National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (<http://www.zum.lt/nzt>) is directed to enter geographical names on official maps. The National Land Service relies mainly on published sources and the collection of toponyms at the Institute of Lithuanian Language. All official maps will be checked (onomastic expertise) at the Onomastics Department of the Institute of Lithuanian Language.

1.3. Laws on the toponyms

The official usage of toponyms in the Republic of Lithuania is defined by the Law on the State Language, Article 14: “Official, standardised forms of toponyms are written in the official language in the Republic of Lithuania.”

The names of the counties of the Republic of Lithuania, of their centres and of municipalities are determined, amended and eliminated by the Seimas. The names of populated places initiated by local municipalities and accepted by the State Language Commission, are going to be approved by the Government. The official forms of populated places – residential areas, streets and so on are entered in the Register of Residential Places (run by the Register Centres).

The official usage of geographic names on maps and databases is defined by the Law on Geodesy and Cartography,

Article 5 „Objects of Geodetic and Cartographic activities”: 5) geographic names;

Article 19. „Principal Requirements for Geodetic, Topographic and Cartographic Work:

2) to indicate geographic names on maps and georeference databases in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Organisation on standards and in compliance with the linguistic norms established and approved by the State Commission of Lithuanian Language“;

and by Regulation GKTR 1.02.01:2004 *Usage of geographical names on maps* (approved 3 February 2004 by National Land Service under Ministry of Agriculture)

1.4. Field collection of toponyms

The toponyms of the territory of Lithuania are collected and kept at the Institute of the Lithuanian Language. The Institute of Lithuanian Language has the largest collection of Lithuanian toponyms – a card file containing about 600 000 entries.

Base of toponyms on maps of Lithuania – first topographical surveying at scale 1:10 000 in field (1949 – 1954) and updated edition in last years.

National mapping enterprises: Aerial Geodesy Institute Ltd. (<http://www.agi.lt>) in Kaunas city and State enterprise State Land Survey Institute in Vilnius city (<http://www.vzi.lt>).

1.5. Official usage of toponyms

In 2003, having considered the names of larger geographical objects of the territory of Lithuania the State Language Commission revised the written forms of seventeen populated areas, and accentuation and accents of eighteen place names. Twenty-six municipalities (*savivaldybes*) were requested to initiate the procedure of the replacement of the revised place names. Accentuation and the accents of the above-mentioned place names were revised in the Register of Residential Places.

In 2003, the Commission approved of seven new names of residential places and rejected one non-normative variant.

Official mapping and charting production (with toponyms) of National Mapping Authority - National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania in 2003:

Georeference Vector Database GDB10LT at scale 1:10 000 on the basis of Orthophoto Maps of Lithuania all territory (27 000 toponyms in 2782 sheets, LKS-94 coordinates system,);

Digital color raster (scanned) topographic maps at scale 1:10 000 – all territory (2774 sheets, LKS-94 coordinates system);

Topographic maps at scale 1:10 000 – printed 48 sheets x 100 copies (near boundary Lithuania – Poland);

Topographic maps at scale 1:50 000 printed 36 sheets x 500 copies, LKS-94 coordinates system;

Digital color raster topographic maps at scale 1:50 000 TOP50LKS - SRP – covered 50% territory, 73 sheets, LKS-94 coordinates system;

Aeronautical charts at scale 1:250 000 – covered 80% territory, printed 4 sheets x 200 copies, WGS – 84 coordinates system;

Digital color raster aeronautical charts at scale 1:250 000 AN 250LT and TOP250LT series – covered 80% territory, WGS – 84 coordinates system.

Navigation Baltic Sea charts at scale 1:200 000 compiled by Hydrographic Service of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration in Klaipeda port (www.msa.lt).

1.6. New Sources of toponyms:

In 2002, The Dictionary of toponyms was published (compiled by linguists Aldonas Pupkis, Maryte Razmukaite and Rita Miliunaite. Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopediju leidybos institutas, 2002).

A list of Lithuanian and world place names (compiled by L. Bilkis) was placed in the Internet (see: <http://www.autoinfo.lt/webdic/>, see the link *Vietovardžiai*). It consists of about 2500 place names. The supplemented list (3000 place names) was made into a CD and accompanies the *Dictionary of the Modern Lithuanian Language*.

Geographer Vytautas Butkus prepared book about geographical names (800 traditional, translated and adopted geographical names in Lithuanian language) in World maps.

Updated and printed 2th edition about Lithuanian hydronyms by linguist Aleksandras Vanagas.

New hydrographic data (with hydronyms) about 5400 Lithuanian rivers according to 1:25 000 scale maps published by geographers Brunonas Gailiušis, Jonas Jablonskis, Milda Kovalenkoviene.

Classifier of rivers and lakes (with hydronyms) of Lithuania adopted for State Cadastre of rivers, lakes and ponds.

Updated State Register of administrative units, populated places and streets of Lithuania.

1.7. Standardization of dialectal place names

The standardisation of the place names was basically carried out before the Second World War, in 1935 and 1936.

1.8. Standardization in multilingual areas

According to the Law on Ethnic Minorities of the Republic of Lithuania, informative signs in administrative territorial units densely populated by one particular ethnic minority can be given, along with the Lithuanian language, in the language of the particular minority. In some places – actually, only in the Vilnius region – there exist some street signs with the text in Polish: here the street names have been re-written in Polish letters without changing the official form of the street name. Street signs in Russian letters are very scarce; they are relics of the Soviet times.

In 2003, in one town of the municipality of the Vilnius region the street signs gave the names of the streets translated into Polish (e.g., *ul. Debova* instead of *ul. Ažuolu*). In the opinion of the Language Commission, if the street names in the language of a national minority are given along with the names in the state language, then words describing the type of streets (*street, square, lane*) are translated into the language of the ethnic minority, while proper names are not changed or translated; they can be re-written in the letters of the language of the ethnic minority. Following the conflict between the municipality and the language institutions, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania authorised the Department for Ethnic Minorities to work out the rules for writing the street names on the street signs in the languages of ethnic minorities.

2. EXONYMS

In 2002, the Institute of the Lithuanian Language initiated the creation of the database of ethnic place names (project manager – M. Razmukaite). The work is carried out according to the programme for the preservation of dialects and ethnic place names, approved by the Government and the State Language Commission. About 3000 ethnic place names – of areas beyond the present territory of Lithuania that were or still are inhabited by Lithuanians – have been accumulated on computers and in the card index. Several separate card indexes have been formed of these place names: of their Lithuanian forms and their non-Lithuanian (Belorussian, Latvian, Polish, Russian and German) equivalents.

At present the State Language Commission is reconsidering the status of the traditional Lithuanian place names of the Kaliningrad region, or, in Lithuanian, *Karaliauciaus kraštas*. The present view is that these place names should be recognised historical ethnic place names and that the sphere of their use should be narrowed down.

3. WRITING SYSTEMS, ROMANIZATION

In September 2002, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania authorised the State Language Commission to determine the manner in which personal and place names of other languages are to be given in academic literature, information publications and special texts: adapted and followed by original forms or original with adapted forms given together.

In the Soviet period (1941-1990), the Russian language considerably influenced the Lithuanian language; in addition, most information reached Lithuania in Russian. Thus in the Soviet period the principle of adaptation had taken deep root in Lithuania. All place names of other languages were adapted according their pronunciation in Lithuanian letters. For instance, in the Lithuanian Soviet Encyclopaedia all place names were adapted (their original forms were given in brackets next to the adapted head forms and in indexes).

Turning back to the tradition that was developing in independent Lithuania in the period between the two wars, in 1984 the Language Commission decided that original forms could be given next to the adapted ones. After 1990, when Lithuania re-established its independence, the original forms were used increasingly more frequently; for example, one of the country's largest dailies, the *Lietuvos Rytas*, started using the original forms. The spread of the original forms raised discontent of part of the public, especially among the older generation and people of poorer education. Volume 1 of *Visuotinė lietuvių enciklopedija* (Universal Lithuanian Encyclopaedia) published by the Institute of Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing in 2001 raised a wide discussion in the press, since here, following the principles set out by the State Language Commission, the head forms were the original forms while the adapted forms were given in brackets and in the indexes.

A sociological survey carried out by the State Language Commission in 2003 showed that the residents of Lithuania give preference to the principles of the use of foreign names set in 1997¹; the majority of respondents held the view that original forms should be used in science and information publications, documents, etc. The revised variant of the usage principles was presented to the public in the Internet website www.svarstome.lt (Implementing Of Public Consultation In Central Governmental Institutions Of Lithuania). Some radical views were expressed there yet the majority thought that the transition to the original forms should be gradual, starting with their use in business and scientific styles. In periodical press the tradition of giving the place names, especially well-known ones, in their adapted form, is still strong.

Thus, although the Language Commission does not intend a radical change in the principles of the use of foreign names, it considers the issue of how the place names of foreign countries should be presented in publications intended for schools, and which are the cases when priority should be given to traditional Lithuanian forms of place names (exonyms).

Regulation *Usage of geographical names on maps* (in Lithuanian language) presented Romanization systems for neighbour states territory on official maps of Lithuania.

4. TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Geographers (students) of Vilnius University has prepared two research works of Toponymic theme.

5. COUNTRY NAMES

On the basis of the changes to standard ISO 3166-1 (the information is provided by the Department of Standardisation), the State Language Commission amends the List of the Countries (Lithuanian equivalents), approved by the resolution.

6. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PARTICIPATION IN OTHER UNGEGN ACTIVITIES

Lithuania has actively participated in the work of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN in the year 2003. The representatives of Lithuania Jurate Palionyte, Aiste Pangonyte (State

¹ In 1997, the Commission by its resolution set the following principles of the use of foreign names: Names and place names in fiction, popular and children's literature in languages based on the Latin alphabet are adapted, i.e. written as they are pronounced, taking into account the readers' age and education. In academic literature, advertising, informative publications and specialised texts foreign proper names are written in the original; more common place names are often adapted. Both adapted and the original forms of names can be given (one of them in brackets). In the Lithuanian language, however, those proper nouns and place names which have traditional accepted forms are preserved. Foreign names and place names of languages based on other than the Latin alphabet are transcribed, taking into account the pronunciation of the words and the prevailing writing traditions in the Lithuanian language, or they are transliterated.

Commission of Lithuanian Language), Aldona Burviene (Standardization Department) and Romas Girkus (Aerial Geodesy Institute Ltd.) participated with a report at the Sixth Meeting of the Baltic Division on May 28-30, 2003, in Kihnu island of Estonia.

7. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Guidelines of the State Language Policy for 2003-2008, which were approved by the resolution of the Seimas in 2003, set the task of creating a database of geographical names of Lithuania and an electronic database of administrative units and residential places in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

SUMMARY

Lithuania celebrate 1000th anniversary of state.

First book in Lithuanian language (based on the Latin alphabet) printed 1547 m. Today we have two exemplars of this edition.

First maps (with toponyms) based on field surveying of Lithuania printed in 1613 year. Today Lithuania covered topographical maps at scale 1:10 000 in analogue and digital forms and other maps.

In 2004, Lithuania celebrate 100th anniversary of Resumption of Lithuanian press on Latin graphic symbols. 2004 year named Lithuanian Language and Books year.

The territory of the Lithuania is divided into 10 counties , 60 municipalities and 524 small areas.

Principal laws for administrative units, mapping and charting, data bases, cadastres and registres (with toponyms) is prepared and periodically will be updated.

The geographical names of Lithuanian territory are collected and standardised.

The use of official standard forms is controlled.

The established database should be connected with a LKS-94 coordinates system to avoid of different forms of toponyms in different registers. Also is necessary to coordinate the registers.

Foreign geographical names are written in Lithuanian according to the principles of writing foreign names and place names. Names and place names in fiction, popular and children's literature in languages based on the Latin alphabet are adapted, i.e. written as they are pronounced, taking into account the readers' age and education. In academic literature, advertising, informative publications and specialised texts foreign proper names are written in the original; more common place names are often adapted. Both adapted and the original forms of names can be given (one of them in brackets). In the Lithuanian language, however, those proper nouns and place names which have traditional accepted forms are preserved. Foreign geographical names of languages based on other than the Latin alphabet are transcribed, taking into account the pronunciation of the words and the prevailing writing traditions in the Lithuanian language, or they are transliterated.

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