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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda *

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Ninth Conference
(for distribution only).**

Report of Slovenia

Submitted by Slovenia**

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** Prepared by Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Republic of Slovenia

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 of the provisional agenda*

Report of Slovenia

Summary

After Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names (hereinafter:CSGN) met on 32 occasions. It has adopted many decisions, mostly on toponyms.

Last years the main task of CSGN is preparing decisions of correctness and suitability of new names and renames of streets and settlements in Slovenia. This engagement is provided by the law of defining territories and naming of settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of CSGN is obligatory for municipalities that finally officially announce new or changed names.

Slovenia is connected to the EuroGeoNames web service with the geographical names data for the scale level 1:25.000. Implementation of EGN was run as a project of European Commission – eContent^{plus} program, the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia was a project consortium partner from the very beginning.

Because of financial crisis and for reasons of economy in Slovene public sector, the CSGN last years was not receiving all expected funds. Therefore in some periods the CSGN is more or less in standstill and implement only urgent matters.

The CSGN accepts and considers all resolutions adopted by UNGEGN in CSGN's expert's reports, decisions and recommendations.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 8. National Standardization

8 (a): Field Collection of Names

The main sources for entering the geographical names in the database are the topographic maps issued by the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: SMA). The map scales are from 1:5,000 to 1:1,000,000. These maps include the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia and some parts of neighboring countries.

The additional source is Register of Spatial of SMA that includes official settlement names in addition to other data on spatial units. These names are defined by acts passed by the local communities. In February 2008 came into force a new law about names and definition of settlements, streets and buildings which first lawfully define Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names (hereinafter: CSGN) as obligatory advisory organ.

8 (b): Office Treatment of Names

The geographical names were checked during their acquisition by the employees of SMA branch offices who are well informed about local issues regarding geographical names. By using their knowledge and experience, we were able to inspect correct data acquisition and the correctness of name records on a cartographic source.

8 (c): Treatment of Names in Multilingual Areas

Based on the law dealing with Italian and Hungarian rights as indigenous ethnic groups within Slovenia (*Official Gazette of the SRS*, no. 16/1974), a special official rule was promulgated in 1980 (*Official Gazette of the SRS*, no. 45/D-102/2-79). It declared the equality of the use of Italian and Hungarian on territory recognized as ethnically mixed. These areas are defined by the statutes of the municipalities of Koper, Piran, and Izola for the Italian minority, and Dobrovnik, Hodoš, Lendava, Moravske Toplice and Šalovci for the Hungarian minority. In these areas, geographical names on the maps are to be written in two languages, first Slovene and then either Italian or Hungarian. These geographical names include names of settlements and hamlets (small villages), streets, field names, landscape names, rivers and lakes, peaks, and mountain chains. It is important that the typeface, script, and size of fonts must be equal in both languages.

In practice, on maps different typefaces and measures such as a slash are extensively used; for example: *Koper/Capodistria* and *Lendava/Lendva*.

Many of these names are not yet standardized, so they cause considerable errors on various maps and in databases, as well as communication problems. The purpose of establishing a Register of Geographical Names is to gradually overcome these problems and ensure a homogenous level of information. In this database, 208 Italian and 323 Hungarian geographical names are registered within the borders of Slovenia. This is not a large number, and in the future special research should be done to improve the present situation. Most of these 531 names refer to settlements only; that is, towns, villages, and so on. Discussions were held to encourage minorities to work on this problem.

8 (d): Administrative Structure of National Names Authorities, Legislation, Policies and Procedures

Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names

In 1986 on proposal of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovene Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names was first established. During its first tenure, the commission standardized the Slovene names of independent countries and selected dependent territories in addition to dealing with procedural issues. It also accepted recommendations on proposed alterations of names of settlements and streets.

In 1990, the commission and its members were reappointed, which was the practice applied for all commissions established by the government during the political changes at this time. Because of staffing changes and the reorganization of participating bodies, the commission was inactive between 1992 and 1995. In 1995, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a decision establishing the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Republic of Slovenia and appointed its members. At the new formation's first meeting, Milan Orožen Adamič was elected as chairman.

The commission was first appointed as the governmental "Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia" in 2001 by decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. The commission was defined as a permanent working body of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which at that time consisted of 16 active members from 8 participating institutions.

In 2005 was a minor reorganization of CSGN and from that time CSGN's members are from: the Anton Melik Geographical Institute and Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language of the ZRC SAZU (Scientific Research Center of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts), the Department of Geography and the Department of Slovene Languages and Literature of the Faculty of Arts, the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the Slovene Institute for Standardization, the Sector for the Slovene Language at the Ministry of Culture and the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia.

The purpose of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names is to regulate the use of geographical names, to see to their preservation and proper transcription from linguistic, etymological, historical, and geographical viewpoints, to prevent duplication of names (especially names of settlements), and gradually, in sections, to standardize geographical names. Important tasks also include solving current issues at the proposals of individuals and monitoring events related to geographical names within the international framework.

After 2007 the CSGN has met on 32 occasions: 16 meetings and 16 corresponding meetings. It has adopted many decisions, mostly on toponyms, especially on the names of streets and settlements; it has discussed several questions of principle, and concentrated on updating the standard for names of countries, dependent territories, and names of foreign administrative units. The CSGN has also standardized the names from the index map of the Republic of Slovenia (scale 1:250,000).

Last years the main task of CSGN is preparing decisions of correctness and suitability of new names and renames of streets and settlements in Slovenia. This engagement is provided by the law of defining territories and naming of settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of CSGN is obligatory for municipalities that finally officially announce new or changed names. In 2009 CSGN was deciding about 3 settlement names and 32 street names, in 2010 about 1 settlement name and 72 street names, in 2011 about 1 settlement name and 56 street names and in 2012 about 8 street names.

At the 20th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN in Zagreb 2011 it was concluded that Slovenia will be the next ECSEE Division chairing country.

Subcommission for the Names of Countries

The Subcommission for the Names of Countries was formed in November 2003 in order to systematically reevaluate this topic in detail. The subcommission has created a proposal of short, official short, and official full names of countries and selected dependent territories.

The SIST ISO 3166-2 Subcommission

The SIST ISO 3166-2 Subcommission was established in October 2006. It deals with foreign geographical names at the level of NUTS 1 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics); that is, the names of administrative units or regions.

8 (e) Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors

The *Toponimska navodila za Slovenijo* (Toponymic Guidelines for Slovenia) was created in 1995. It is published in Slovene and English. The content is arranged under the following main headings: population, official languages, the Slovene alphabet, Slovene dialects, rules for writing geographical names, nomenclature bodies and the standardization of geographical names, toponymic sources, a dictionary of general names, adjectives, descriptive marks on maps, abbreviations on maps, and the administrative division of Slovenia.

In the coming years we are planning to produce a new edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines for Slovenia* in which we will pay special attention to all remarks collected since 1995.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 10. Exonyms

The Slovene version of a geographical name (if it exists) must be written in a way that is clearly understandable. The Slovene form of the name must appear in brackets or be written in a smaller, different typeface. Extensive research has been done and the results are available on the Internet (http://www.gu.gov.si/fileadmin/gu.gov.si/pageuploads/PROJEKTI/Registri/KSZI/tuj_imensa.pdf). The list of exonyms is divided into two types of exonyms: required use (549 names) and recommended use (1,765 names) of exonyms in various kinds of Slovene publications. The list has been found to be a useful tool for authors and editors.

Because the published list presented needs additional work due to the great number and non-uniform use of exonyms in Slovene, the CSGN started processing it even more thoroughly and systematically, and this will serve as the basis for standardization. To this end, all Slovenized foreign geographical names were collected from 18 different sources and a comparative tabular overview of Slovene

exonym use to date (with approximately 10,000 names) was prepared, from which it will be possible to define suitable names and standardize names in line with linguistic, geographical, historical, and other aspects.

Slovenia very active participates in the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, which co-chairman is Milan Orožen Adamič, the president of CSGN. The last, 10th meeting of WG in April 2010 in Tinje/Tainach, Austria was attended by Milan Orožen Adamič and Mimi Urbanc.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 11. Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

11 (a): Content Requirements

Slovenia has around 200,000 geographical names that appear in various sources. In the Register of Geographical all geographical names (hereinafter: RGN) were captured from maps 1:5,000, 1:25,000 and 1:250,000 scale.

The names taken from 1:25,000 and 1:250,000 scale maps are inspected and checked by a working group of the CSGN with the goal of preparing professional databases for standardizing these names. The inspected names represent the source for revising the 1:25,000 scale national topographic maps and the 1:250,000 scale map.

11 (b): Data models and classifications

Register of geographical names (RGN) is a stand alone database and not yet linked to the topographic database.

RGN comprises 3 basic levels:

- RGN 5 level (the source of data capture were basic topographic maps at 1:5,000 and/or 1:10 000) – about 140,000 names,
- RGN 25 level (the source of data capture were topographic maps at 1:25,000) – about 60,000 names,
- RGN 250 level (the source of capture were general topographic maps at 1:250,000) – about 8,000 names.

RGN of all three scales cover the entire territory of Slovenia and border areas of neighbouring countries.

Logical model is based on three entity types:

- geographical feature (object)
- geographical name and
- appearance (inscription).

Every geographical feature in the graphic database has at least one geographical name (it can have several if in a multilingual area or if there are traditional names for a geographical feature, e.g. nominal domestications). The ratio between a geographic feature and a geographic name is 1 : N. Inversely, a geographical name may refer to no geographical feature in the graphic database as the database comprises only the geographical features whose names have been standardised.

Each geographical name in a relational database may have several appearances if it appears on maps of different scales or if the same name appears on adjacent maps of the same scale because of sheet overlapping. The ratio between a geographical name and appearances on maps is also 1 : N. Inversely, each appearance refers to one and only one geographical name. In case of official bilinguality that is a majority name where under the attribute representing the map inscription there are both official names, which together form a single inscription (Koper/Capodistria). Entities are linked with unique name identifier.

Procedural model:

The RGN procedural model is based on three privilege levels which individual database users are granted:

- **updating right**, which gives the user the option to update (add, change and delete) data
- **right to review and issue**, which grants the user the option to review and issue data, but not to update it
- **right to review**, which grants the user only the option to review data, but not to update it or issue it.

Physical data model:

- 12 graphic layers for the entity type geographical feature (object): settlements, peaks and mountain passes, waterfalls, rivers and streams, countries, environmentally sustainable macroregions, environmentally sustainable mesoregions, natural-geographical mesoregions, natural-geographical microregions, peninsulas and islands, seas, lakes and parts of seas.

Two relational database tables: names and appearances (inscription). Table “names” includes attributes of name feature (name, language, status, correctness, alternative/former name, object type identifier, date of standardization etc.). Table “appearances” includes data for cartographic use (name placement coordinates, map identifier, scale, etc.).

11 (c): Data maintenance

Maintenance of RGN data go centrally on Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia. Data are changed and updated on the basis of CSGN’s resolutions and official gazetteers

11 (d): Data standards and interoperability

Standard output format for RGN geographical names is ESRI ArcInfo Shape format. RGN also enable data exports in MS Excel, ASCII and ESRI ArcInfo Export format.

11 (e): Data services, applications and products

National Gazetteers

The *Zgoščeni imenik zemljepisnih imen Slovenije* (Concise Gazetteer of Slovenia) is based on the resolutions of seven United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names, especially on resolutions I/4 (National Gazetteers), II/17 (Consultation on the Preparation of Gazetteers), II/35 (Interim Lists of Standardized Names), III/2 (Specifications for International Gazetteers of Countries), IV/18 (Combined Treatment of Toponymic Data), and V/16 (Publication of Geographical Names in Their National Official Form). The gazetteer contains Slovene geographical

names on the 1:1,000,000 scale map of the Republic of Slovenia. The commission standardized all geographical names within the Republic of Slovenia for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Slovene Government in 2001. A short geographical overview of Slovenia, a short description of the Slovene language and the Slovene alphabet, a table with some Slovene geographical terms in English, German, French and Spanish, and a list of references are also included.

A gazetteer of Slovenia with geographical names was captured from map in scale 1:250,000 and published. The work was based on collecting and standardizing all of the geographical names in the Republic of Slovenia – that is, on a traditional office toponomastic overview of Slovene geographical names. The evaluation concentrated on the accuracy of names used on the map (location, orthographic form, and typography of the name), accuracy of the definition of the geographical name type, and suitability of the editorial selection of geographical names used on the map. The results of the geographical name overview are the amended, corrected, and newly entered names in the RGN database. The examined names were submitted to the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia in the form of a report with tables containing the following information: geographical name, geographical name identifier, the name's coordinates, type of geographical name, written form of the name on the map, possible bilingual name, map nomenclature, name of the country, amended Slovene geographical name, amended foreign geographical name, amended name code, and notes.

The 1:250,000 scale index map of the Republic of Slovenia contains over 8,000 geographical names: 1,080 in Austria, 2,272 in Croatia, 101 in Hungary, 579 in Italy, and 4,272 in Slovenia. The majority of geographical names in the Republic of Slovenia (i.e., 3,609) consist of the names of settlements (among these there are only four hamlets); there are 325 oronyms, 277 hydronyms (the names are written several times for major waterways), and 41 names of regions or choronyms. 20 names belong in the category of miscellaneous; the majority of these are the names of karst caves and shafts. With this kind of design, all Slovene settlements with a population of over 200 are presented on the map; where space permits, numerous smaller settlements are displayed as well. The index of names appears on the back of the map.

In the future, a gazetteer of Slovenia containing geographical names captured from 1:25,000 scale maps will also be prepared.

EuroGeoNames Web Service

Slovenia is connected to the EuroGeoNames web service (EGN) with the geographical names data for the scale level 1:25,000. Implementation of EGN was run as a project of European Commission – eContent^{plus} program, the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia was a project consortium partner from the very beginning. Now EGN is led by EuroGeographics.

Other Publications

It was determined that the standards of Slovene orthography (from the *Slovene Normative Guide*) are insufficient. Therefore in 2001 the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia published a study on the Orthographically Correct Representation of Proper Names in Register of Geographical Names and Register of Spatial Units (prepared by the linguists Metka Furlan, Alenka Gložančev, and Alenka Šivic-Dular).

Re Provisional Agenda Item 12. Terminology in the Standardization of Geographical Names

Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology

The *Slovar toponimske terminologije* (Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology) was prepared and published in 1995. The dictionary includes Slovene translations of English terms, Slovene synonyms, the original English terms with synonyms, and the translated definition of the terms with additional examples. The dictionary is intended for use by cartographers, geodesists, and geographers. A new updated Slovene edition is planned.

In 2005, the *Geografski terminološki slovar* (Geographical Terminological Dictionary) was published, edited by three CSGN members (Drago Kladnik, Franc Lovrenčak, and Milan Orožen Adamič). They ensured that all the basic terms relating to geographical names are included in the dictionary.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 13. Writing systems and Pronunciations

13 (a): Romanization

In Slovenia there are no serious issues with Romanization because only three special characters are used (i.e., Č, Š, Ž – that is, C, S, Z with a wedge). Cyrillic and other non-roman systems are not in use. For Italian or Hungarian names in Slovenia, Italian and Hungarian orthography is extensively used.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 14. Country Names

A Slovene Standard for Names of Countries

In Slovenia discussion has dragged on for about 20 years on how to write the names of certain countries. The CSGN therefore prepared a document on 195 names of countries. The basis for the preparation of this document was the ISO-3166 standard. Because of recent changes, incompletely prepared material, and discrepancies from the names used in the *Slovene Normative Guide*, the Subcommittee for the Names of Countries was established within the CSGN (see section 8 (d)). It prepared the final proposal in 2007 and submitted it to the SAZU Expert Commission for the Slovene Language for consideration.

In the last time is very lively discussion about the country name of Moldova. The Slovene Ministry of Foreign Affairs use the name »Moldova«, but CSGN on the other side takes position that in Slovene language the Slovene term »Moldavija« should be used.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 15. Toponymic Education

CSGN member Drago Kladnik provides advice to the Slovene translation department of the European Commission in Luxembourg on behalf of the CSGN and maintains contact with the department's representative, Peter Jakša.

Re Provisional Agenda Item 16. Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation

From the vice-president of the National Council of Carinthian Slovenes, Rudi Vouk, the CSGN acquired a list of 158 settlements in Austrian Carinthia for which Austria agreed to use bilingual signs in line with Article 7 of the Austrian State Treaty. The commission also discussed the poor language of the Slovene text, especially the use of Slovene geographical names on the bilingual information board of the Ebriach (Sln. *Obir*) Natural Science Educational Path, set up next to the Eisenkappel Lodge (Sln. *Kapeljska koča*) beneath Mt. Hochobir (Sln. *Ojstrica*) in Austrian Carinthia.

In 2007, CSGN submitted a variant list of Slovene exonyms to Roman Stani-Fertl as part of the EuroGeoNames project, which was carried out as part of the European *eContentplus* program and in which the SMA also participates.

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