

**Twenty-seventh session
30 July and 10 August 2012, New York**

Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

Reports of the Working Groups

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms*

* Prepared by: Peter Jordan (Austria), Co-convenor (Convenor in charge), Working Group on Exonyms

1 Organizational aspects

The Working Group on Exonyms was established in 2002 by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin. Resolution VIII/4 specifies its tasks with taking measures for “the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms”.

WG meetings held:

- 1st Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8th UN Conference
- 2nd Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre
- 3rd Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22nd UNGEGN Session
- 4th Meeting: **Ljubljana**, May 19-20, 2005, hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- 5th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23rd UNGEGN Session
- 6th Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- 7th Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24th UNGEGN Session
- 8th Meeting: **Timișoara**, September 9-11, 2008, hosted by the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography and the Adam Mueller-Guttenbrunn House
- 9th Meeting: **Nairobi**, May 11, 2009, in the framework of the 25th UNGEGN Session
- 10th Meeting: **Tainach** (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas”
- 11th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], May 4, 2011, in the framework of the 26nd UNGEGN Session, but outside UN facilities, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 12th Meeting: **Gdańsk**, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography

Currently the Working Group comprises 82 official members and associated experts from 35 countries (see Appendix).

Elected co-convenors are Peter JORDAN (Austria, peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ (Slovenia, milan@zrc-sazu.si). After Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ had been appointed Slovenian ambassador in Croatia in 2006, Peter JORDAN acted as the convenor in charge and was confirmed in this function by voting at the 9th WGE Meeting in Nairobi, 11 May 2009. Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ had no active part in the WG business ever since.

The WG maintains a website accessible under <http://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si>. It is conducted by the Institute of Geography of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and currently under reconstruction. It will be updated as soon as possible.

2 Activities

Since the 26th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Vienna, 2-6 May 2011, the Working Group held one business meeting and a workshop.

11th Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 4 May 2011

The Working Group on Exonyms met informally out-of-session during the 26th Session of UNGEGN in the Theatersaal of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. The venue away from the UNGEGN Session was intended to allow wider participation. The meeting focused on current themes and questions of the WG, especially on the endonym/exonym divide and the status of sea names in this context. Peter JORDAN outlined his paper “The endonym – name from within a social group” (WP 69) which had been presented to the UNGEGN Session. Paul WOODMAN, who had not taken part in the UNGEGN Session, presented his paper entitled “Endonyms, Exonyms and Language Boundaries: A Clarification”, which recapped the WG’s recent discussions on this subject and aimed at clarifying the author’s view, which he felt had been misconstrued or misunderstood. The paper considered the essence particularly of names for features beyond a single (or any) sovereignty, their nature as endonym or exonym, and how this applied to relevant language communities. The Working Group enjoyed a robust discussion on the nature of the endonym and name classification in general. A particular discussion focused on the nuanced distinction between ‘all over’, meaning at each individual location within a feature, and ‘entire’ meaning the feature in its entirety as a single whole and how these terms had been intended and interpreted in Paul WOODMAN’s paper. The essence of the terms ‘endonym’ and ‘exonym’, either as a fundamental characteristic, or as a reflection of an externally-given status, was also discussed. And the significance of the cultural context, noting that a name might differ in its endonym status according to a specific culture, was also acknowledged. An example was noted by Bill WATT of certain Aboriginal people of Australia who had a close relationship with coastal waters, but whose affinity did not extend to the entire body of water. The ‘entire’ sea might therefore not have what could be considered an endonym in certain Aboriginal languages. The meeting recalled also the WG’s previous consideration of the establishing of guideline criteria for the appropriate use of exonyms. A proposal for such guidelines had been considered at the WG’s meeting during the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, Kenya, though consensus had not been achieved. Peter JORDAN had drafted a revised document “Criteria for the use of exonyms – a next approach” (WP 64) for the WG’s consideration. It was noted that the title *Criteria for the Use of Exonyms* was somewhat suggestive of promoting exonym use, and the WG agreed that any subsequent discussions should be considered with the understanding that the goal was to ‘ensure the politically sensitive use of exonyms’. The Co Convenor asked the WG to consider whether, in addition to ‘endonym’ and ‘exonym’, a third term might be required where there was contention about the application of either of the existing terms, specifically for features beyond sovereignty. The viewpoints of various WG members were again re-stated. Gholamreza KARIMZADEH presented a paper “Mechanism for standardizing the exonyms of features beyond sovereignty”, suggesting historical evidence should be considered when identifying valid exonyms. The WG noted that there could, however, be practical difficulties in determining the validity of such sources.

The WG also considered trends in exonym use. Maciej ZYCH presented his paper “Polish lists of geographical names of the World” (WP 24) describing the list of exonyms approved for use in Poland, noting that only those Polish exonyms included in the list were recommended for use in Poland. The WG discussed the future direction and appropriate themes to be considered. Suggestions included the categorisation of exonyms (e.g. such as of their phonological/morphological type, or whether they were a translation of a relevant endonym) and an expansion of the current questions into a more focused look at their relevance and application in languages outside Europe, perhaps especially in East Asia.

A next WG meeting prior to the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names (to be held in New York, August 2012) and in preparation for it will be held on three days (one day excursion) in the bilingual region of Kashubia in Poland in May 2012. The place for this next WG meeting was chosen due to the kind offer of Katarzyna PRZYSZEWSKA and Maciej ZYCH, who offered to provide for the local organisation.

12th Meeting (wokshop), Gdańsk, Poland, 16-18 May 2012

The meeting had the character of a workshop and was kindly hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Katarzyna PRZYSZEWSKA being the responsible organizer in place. It was organized jointly with the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems (Convenor: Peeter PÄLL). After opening speeches by Peter JORDAN, Peeter PÄLL, Helen KERFOOT and a representative of the host institution, Jan WENDT, professor of geography at the Gdańsk University, conveyed a geographical and historical introduction to city and region of Gdańsk.

The first session on the endonym/exonym divide filled the first day of the meeting completely and saw papers presented by Peter JORDAN (Austria), Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom, two papers), Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand), Ojārs BUŠS (Latvia), Maciej ZYCH (Poland), Herman BELL (United Kingdom) and Małgorzata MANDOLA (France/Poland). All of them except BELL and MANDOLA complained about insufficiencies of the current definitions of the endonym and exonym and made partly new proposals.

The two sessions on the second day of the meeting were devoted to trends in exonym use and minority toponyms. On trends in exonym use reported Béla POKOLY (Hungary), Sungjae CHOO, (Republic of Korea), again Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom), Maria del Mar BATTLE (Spain), Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland), Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia) and Pavel BOHÁČ (Czechia). To names in minority languages referred Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES (Romania), Ewa WOLNICZ-PAWŁOWSKA (Poland) and András DUTKÓ in a common paper with Mónika MÁNDOKI (both Hungary).

A general discussion on goals and tasks of the WG chaired by the convenor highlighted once more the prevailing dissatisfaction with the current definitions of the endonym and the exonym. It was repeatedly criticized that they were not practicable (esp. ZYCH). Especially WOODMAN and the convenor held the opinion that not primarily language, but the community-feature relation were the essential criterion for defining this divide and that the differentiation between official and unofficial names or languages had nothing to do with the endonym/exonym divide.

It was not time enough to discuss the various proposals for new definitions thoroughly that were on the table. But it was found that this should be done in a next workshop and as carefully as possible. It should be avoided that the WG comes up with new definitions “every other year”, since this would not throw a good light on the WG's reliability (KERFOOT). Viable definitions ready for the purposes of standardization, however, were the primary task of the WG.

A bus excursion to the bilingual Kashubian region nearby Gdańsk including visits to a university for education in minority culture, a bilingual school with teaching and dancing performances and a broadcasting station emitting also features in Kashubian language as well

as a dinner invitation by the Polish hosts to a brewery completed the program in the most interesting and convenient way.

It is planned to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

3 Future directions

The WG will in the first line have to re-discuss the definitions for the endonym and the exonym, since they are the basis for all other activities in this field. Basic requirements for appropriate definitions are that they (1) refer to the essence of the endonym/exonym divide and (2) are practicable for standardization. Also important – compared to the definition issue secondary – questions are the categorisation of exonyms and guidelines for the use of exonyms.

The WG intends to hold a next workshop in spring 2013.

Appendix

Members and associated experts of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (updated: 20.05.2012)

Co-convenors:

Peter **Jordan** (Convenor in charge)
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Institute of Urban and Regional Research
Postgasse 7/4/2
A-1010 Wien
Austria
E-mail: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at
WWW: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/isr>

Milan **Orožen Adamič**
Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Anton Melik Geographical Institute
Gosposka ulica 13
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
E-mail: milan@zrc-sazu.si
WWW: <http://www.zrc-sazu.si/wge>

Members:

1	Albanese	Ruben	Argentina	ralbanese@ign.gob.ar
2	Alniței,	Marin	Romania	marinalnitei@yahoo.com
3	Ardelean	Mircea	Romania	mircea@cbg.uvt.ro
4	Atoui	Brahim	Algeria	brahim.atoui@hotmail.fr
5	Banica	Alexandru	Romania	alexandrubanica@yahoo.com
6	Bartos-Elekes	Zsombor	Romania	bezombor@yahoo.com
7	Batlle	Maria del Mar	Spain	MBatlle@iec.cat
8	Beinstein	Bernd	Germany	Bernd.Beinstein@bkg.bund.de
9	Bell	Herman	United Kingdom	h.bell@exeter.ac.uk
10	Bergmann	Hubert	Austria	hubert.bergmann@oeaw.ac.at
11	Bisson	Marie-Ève	Canada	marie-eve.bisson@toponymie.gouv.qc

				.ca
12	Bohač	Pavel	Czech Republic	pavel.bohac@cuzk.cz
13	Bušs	Ojārs	Latvia	ojaars@lycos.com ojaarsster@gmail.com
14	Burgess	Caroline	United Kingdom	cburgess@pcgn.org.uk
15	Buza	Mircea	Romania	geoinst@rnc.ro
16	Calvarin	Elisabeth	France	elisabeth.calvarin@ign.fr
17	Champoux	Gilles	Canada	Champoux.GJ@forces.gc.ca
18	Cheetham	Catherine	United Kingdom	ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk
19	Choo	Sungjae	Republic of Korea	sichoo@khu.ac.kr
20	Cekula	Zane	Latvia	zane.cekula@lgia.gov.lv
21	Crețan	Remus	Romania	cretan.remus@yahoo.com
22	Crljenko	Ivana	Croatia	ivana.crljenko@lzmk.hr
23	Dillon	Leo	United States	dillonli@state.gov
24	Dorion	Henri	Canada	henridorion@videotron.ca
25	Dragomirescu	Serban	Romania	serbangheorghe@k.ro
26	Dumitrescu	Bianca	Romania	geoinst@rnc.ro
27	Dutkó	András	Hungary	dutko@espolarte.com
28	Ferland	Yaïves	Canada	yaives.ferland@ggr.ulaval.ca
29	Fogel	Ira	Mexico	ifogel@cibnor.mx
30	Gounaris	Emmanuel	Greece	emgounaris@yahoo.gr
31	Hausner	Isolde	Austria	isolde.hausner@oeaw.ac.at
32	Hecimović	Željko	Croatia	zhecimovic@geof.hr
33	Helleland	Botolv	Norway	botolv.helleland@iln.uio.no
34	Heyda	Charles	United States	cheyda@yahoo.com
35	Horňanský	Imrich	Slovakia	hornansky@marta.sk
36	Jaillard	Pierre	France	pierre@jaillard.net

37	Jamshidi	Khalil	Iran	jamshidi@ncc.org.ir
38	Jordan	Peter	Austria	peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at
39	Kadmon	Naftali	Israel	msnkadmo@mscc.huji.ac.il
40	Karimzadeh	Gholamreza	Iran	karimzadeh@ncc.org.ir ; karimzadeh_2005_ir@yahoo.com
41	Kerfoot	Helen	Canada	HKerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca
42	Kladnik	Drago	Slovenia	drago.kladnik@zrc-sazu.si
43	Kolovos	Ioannis	Greece	gys@hol.gr ; ig.kolovos@gmail.com
44	Kováčová	Mária	Slovakia	maria.kovacovam@skgeodesy.sk
45	Khraish	Maroun	Lebanon	mkhraish@gmail.com
46	Lapierre	André	Canada	lapierre@uottawa.ca
47	Lee	Ki-Suk	Republic of Korea	leekisuk@plaza.snu.ac.kr
48	Lejeune	Sylvie	France	Sylvie.lejeune@ign.fr
49	Mac Giolla Easpaig	Dónall	Ireland	dmacgiollaepaspaig@pobail.ie
50	Mammo	Solomon	Ethiopia	sk_solomon@yahoo.com
51	Mándoki	Monika	Hungary	mandoki.monika@gmail.com
52	Mandola	Małgorzata	France/Poland	malgorzata.mandola@uw.edu.pl
53	Matthews	Philip	New Zealand	philmatthews19@hotmail.com
54	Méndez Fernández	Luz	Spain	luz.mendez@crtvg.es
55	Mikesy	Gábor	Hungary	mikesy.gabor@fomi.hu
56	Nicolae	Ion	Romania	ionnicolae1945@yahoo.com
57	Ormeling	Ferjan	Netherlands	F.Ormeling@geog.uu.nl
58	Orožen Adamič	Milan	Slovenia	milan@zrc-sazu.si

59	Paikkala	Sirkka	Finland	sirkka.paikkala@kotus.fi
60	Päll	Peeter	Estonia	peeter@eki.ee
61	Palmer	Trent C.	United States	trent.c.palmer@nga.mil
62	Papaioannou	Ioannis	Greece	geopol@hnhs.gr
63	Pokoly	Béla	Hungary	bela.pokoly@fvm.hu ; bela.pokoly@fvm.gov.hu
64	Przyszevska	Katarzyna	Poland	katarzyna.przyszevska@gugik.gov.pl
65	Ratovoarison	Nivoarimang	Madagascar	nivoratovoarison@yahoo.com
66	Raukko	Jarno	Finland	jarno.raukko@helsinki.fi
67	Rudnicki	Waldemar	Poland	w_rudnicki@o2.pl
68	Şahin	Cemalettin	Turkey	csahin@marmara.edu.tr
69	Sievers	Jörn	Germany	joern.sievers@web.de
70	Spohn	Sylvia	Germany	sylvia.spohn@bsh.de
71	Stani-Fertl	Roman	Austria	stani_fertl@utanet.at
72	Syvak	Nina	Ukraine	kartograph@ukrmap.com.ua
73	Tatomirović	Slaviša	Serbia	slavisa.tat@sbb.rs
74	Turcotte	Danielle	Canada	danielle.turcotte@toponymie.gouv.qc.ca
75	Urbanc	Mimi	Slovenia	mimi@zrc-sazu.si
76	Vescovo	Adriana	Argentina	amvg@arnet.com.ar
77	Viechnicki	Peter D.	United States	peter.d.viechnicki@nga.mil
78	Vlahova-Angelova	D. Maya	Bulgaria	mvlahova@abv.bg
79	Wolnicz-Pawłowska	Ewa	Poland	ewolnicz@poczta.onet.pl
80	Woodman	Paul	United Kingdom	woodman@litstad.u-net.com
81	Zaccheddu	Pier-Giorgio	Germany	pier.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de

82	Zagórski	Bogusław R.	Poland	boguslaw.zagorski@transmontana.pl
83	Zych	Maciej	Poland	mzych@poczta.onet.pl