

## 2. THE SCOPE - B) WRITING SYSTEM(S) AND PRONUNCIATION

&lt;previous - next&gt;



- Which writing-system is used (officially or otherwise) for the country's language(s)?
- Is there more than one writing-system in use?
- In case of a non-Roman writing-system, which transliteration key is recommended for rendering geographical names in Roman script (if any)? See also the [website of official transscription systems!](#)

**Example of officially recognised transcription system:**

Home  
|  
Selfstudy  
:  
Toponymical  
Guidelines  
|  
Contents  
|  
Intro  
|  
1. History  
|  
2. Scope  
(a/b/c/d/  
e/f/g/h/i)  
|  
3. Standard  
content  
|  
4. Hungarian  
toponymic  
guidelines

**Table 2:**  
**Transcription of Greek alphabet to Latin**  
(ELOT 743 conversion system)

|   | GREEK            |                                 | LATIN         |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
|   | Greek characters | Combination of Greek characters | Transcription |
| 1 | Α, α             |                                 | A, a          |
| 2 |                  | ΑΙ, αι (6)                      | AI, ai        |
| 3 |                  | ΑΙ, άι (6)                      | AI, ái        |
| 4 |                  | ΑΙ, αϊ (6)                      | AI, aï        |
| 5 |                  | ΑΥ, αυ (1) (8)                  | AV, av        |
| 6 |                  | ΑΥ, αυ (2) (8)                  | AF, af        |

|    |         |                |          |
|----|---------|----------------|----------|
| 7  |         | ΑΥ, αὐ (7)     | AY, ay   |
| 8  | B, β    |                | V, v     |
| 9  | Γ, γ    |                | G, g     |
| 10 |         | ΓΓ, γγ         | NG, ng   |
| 11 |         | ΓΚ, γκ (6)     | GK, gk   |
| 12 |         | ΓΞ, γξ         | NX, nx   |
| 13 |         | ΓΧ, γχ         | NCH, nch |
| 14 | Δ, δ    |                | D, d     |
| 15 | E, ε    |                | E, e     |
| 16 |         | ΕΙ, ει (6)     | EI, ei   |
| 17 |         | ΕΙ, εῖ (6)     | EI, ei   |
| 18 |         | ΕΙ, εῖ (6)     | EI, ei   |
| 19 |         | EY, εὐ (1) (8) | EV, ev   |
| 20 |         | EY, εὐ (2) (8) | EF, ef   |
| 21 |         | EY, εὐ (7)     | EY, ey   |
| 22 | Z, ζ    |                | Z, z     |
| 23 | H, η    |                | I, i     |
| 24 |         | HY, ηυ (1) (8) | IV, iv   |
| 25 |         | HY, ηυ (2) (8) | IF, if   |
| 26 |         | HY, ηυ (7)     | IY, iy   |
| 27 | Θ, θ    |                | TH, th   |
| 28 | I, ι    |                | I, i     |
| 29 | K, κ    |                | K, k     |
| 30 | Λ, λ    |                | L, l     |
| 31 | M, μ    |                | M, m     |
| 32 |         | ΜΠ, μπ (3) (5) | B, b     |
| 33 |         | ΜΠ, μπ (4)     | MP, mp   |
| 34 | N, ν    |                | N, n     |
| 35 |         | NT, ντ (8)     | NT, nt   |
| 36 | Ξ, ξ    |                | X, x     |
| 37 | O, ο    |                | O, o     |
| 38 |         | OI, οἱ (6)     | OI, oi   |
| 39 |         | OI, οἱ (6)     | OI, oi   |
| 40 |         | OI, οἱ (6)     | OI, oi   |
| 41 |         | OY, ου         | OU, ou   |
| 42 |         | OY, ου (7)     | OY, oy   |
| 43 | Π, π    |                | P, p     |
| 44 | P, ρ    |                | R, r     |
| 45 | Σ, σ, ς |                | S, s, s  |
| 46 | T, τ    |                | T, t     |
| 47 | Υ, υ    |                | Y, y     |
| 48 |         | YI, υἱ (6)     | YI, yi   |
| 49 | Φ, φ    |                | F, f     |
| 50 | Χ, χ    |                | CH, ch   |
| 51 | Ψ, ψ    |                | PS, ps   |
| 52 | Ω, ω    |                | O, o     |

- If the writing-system is an alphabet, which letters does it contain?

### Examples of national alphabets from various toponymic guidelines:

**National language**

The national language is Swedish, a Germanic language, which is written in the Roman alphabet.

**The alphabet**

|    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|
| Aa | Hh | Oo | Vv |
| Bb | Ii | Pp | Ww |
| Cc | Jj | Qq | Xx |
| Dd | Kk | Rr | Yy |
| Ee | Ll | Ss | Zz |
| Ff | Mm | Tt | Åå |
| Gg | Nn | Uu | Ää |
|    |    |    | Öö |

The letters *q, Q, w, W* and *z, Z* are used in loan-words and archaic spelling (e. g. family names) only. In alphabetical indexes *w* is treated like *v*.

The letters *ä, Ä* and *ö, Ö* are always kept apart from *a, A* and *o, O* in alphabetical indexes etc.

### 1.2 The alphabet of Norwegian

A a H h O o V v

|     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A a | I i | U u | V v |
| B b | J j | P p | W w |
| C c | K k | Q q | X x |
| D d | L l | R r | Y y |
| E e | M m | S s | Z z |
| F f | N n | T t | Æ æ |
| G g |     | U u | Ø ø |
|     |     |     | Å å |

The Polish alphabet has 32 letters:

a A   q Q   b B   c C   ć Ć   d D   e E   ę Ę   f F   g G   h H  
i I   j J   k K   l L   ł Ł   m M   n N   ó Ó   o O   ó Ó   p P  
r R   s S   ś Ś   t T   u U   w W   y Y   z Z   ź Ż   ż Ż

- Are there special signs (diacritical marks, non-standard Roman letters) included?
- Which writing-system is used (officially or otherwise) for the country's language(s)?
- What is the alphabetisation, i.e. the sequence of the letters in the alphabet?
- As far as the alphabet use is phonetic, which (combinations of) letters represent which sounds?

#### **In Austria:**

- **Standard German is written in the Roman script.**
- **The alphabet is augmented with a non-standard Roman letter ß ('scharfes s') and one diacritical mark for vowel discrimination (a diaeresis or 'Umlaut' to be combined with a, o or u).**
- **Of ß only a lower-case variant exists; where capitalization is needed, it is transliterated by ss.**
- **Previously another variant of the Roman script was in use, called German or Gothic script. Nowadays it does not occur anymore, and it is therefore not further explained.**
- **As German spelling is not always clearly indicative of pronunciation, especially in the case of geographical names (which often show an archaic spelling, or originate from another language or dialects).**
- **The pronunciation of the names of Austrian settlements is listed name by name in a Gazetteer of Austria. The Gazetteer uses the IPA-alphabet.**
- **A general pronunciation key is nevertheless presented in the Guidelines.**

[Back to the checklist of Toponymic guidelines](#)

[<previous](#) - [next>](#)