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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 5 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 10<sup>th</sup> Conference (for distribution only).**

**Report of Poland 2012-2017**

Submitted by Poland \*\*

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## Report of Poland 2012-2017 (Summary)

In this national report of Poland the progress on geographical names issues made since the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names is presented.

**National names authorities.** There are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland: the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, affiliated to the Minister of the Interior and Administration, which establishes names used within Poland's boundaries, and the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, which is responsible for: standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland on UNGEGN forum, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to geographical names.

**National gazetteer.** The new edition of the Polish national gazetteer entitled *List of official names of localities and their parts*, which contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, was published in October 2015<sup>1</sup>. The list is arranged in a table with eight columns: the name of a locality is indicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> column, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – a type of a locality, in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> columns – an administrative unit: commune, county and voivodship, in the 6<sup>th</sup> column – the identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country, in the 7<sup>th</sup> – a genitive ending for names of localities, in the 8<sup>th</sup> column – a adjective (only for names of towns and villages). Changes of the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*, and come into force on January 1.

**Multilingual areas.** According to the *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages* traditional names in a minority language may be used as “additional names”. Altogether 453 new names of localities were established since 2012 – 35 German names in 4 communes, and 418 Kashubian names in 12 communes. Since 2005 minority names were introduced for 1240 localities: 359 German names, 815 Kashubian names, 30 Lithuanian names, 27 Belarusian names, and 9 Lemko names<sup>2</sup>.

**Exonyms.** The new list of Polish exonyms, entitled *Official list of Polish geographical names of the world*, was published at the end of 2013<sup>3</sup>. It lists Polish names for **13,358** geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland. For each object the Polish name and the original name (endonym) are given. Following these names, the objects' coordinates have been posted. If necessary, the additional information and observations are provided. The list has been divided into eight parts (chapters): seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, Antarctica), the eighth one is devoted to undersea objects. Next, the names are posted according to alphabetically arranged countries and non-self-government territories. Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories are arranged by categories. The list has been published in Polish only, but the inset in English has been also prepared.

**Toponymic data files.** The National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG) is maintained by the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre subordinated to the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently the Register holds approximately 247,700 names of which app. 124,600 are names of localities and its parts, and app. 123,000 are names of physiographic objects (app. 21,800 names of water objects, app. 34,700 names of land shaping objects, and app. 66,500 names of other objects).

**Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.** The new Polish translation of the UNGEGN *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* was published at the end of 2014<sup>4</sup>. This is a new translation of the English version of *Glossary* from 2002 and *Addendum* from 2007.

**Writing systems and pronunciation.** As a part of its activity the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland adopts rules of romanization for geographical objects originally expressed by means of non-Roman writing systems. Rules of transliteration and rules of Polish phonetic transcription are recommended for use in Polish cartographic products and other publications.

**Country names.** The third edition of the *Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories* was published at the end of 2015<sup>5</sup>. The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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<sup>1</sup> The list is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official\\_names.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php).

<sup>2</sup> Full, consistently updated, list of the additional names in minority languages is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list\\_of\\_minority\\_names.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The list is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs\\_en.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs_en.php).

<sup>4</sup> The publication is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary\\_of\\_terms\\_PL.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary_of_terms_PL.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> The list is available on the website: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>.

# Report of Poland 2012-2017

## 1. National standardization

### 1.1. Legal basis for standardizing geographical names

Official geographical names of the objects from the territory of Poland are established in different ways, depending on the type of an object:

- names of voivodships are established by the act
- names of counties, communes and national parks are established by the regulation of the Council of the Ministers
- names of auxiliary units of a commune (rural administrative units, housing estates, districts), street and square names are established by the resolution of a commune council
- names of localities and physiographic objects are established by the regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration after obtaining the opinion from the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects
- names of nature reserves are established by the regulation of the regional director of the environmental protection
- names of landscape parks are established by the regulation of a voivode
- names of Natura 2000 areas are established by the regulation of the Minister of the Environment
- names of the protected landscape areas, natural monuments and other protected areas are established by the regulation of a voivode or the resolution of a commune council

Apart from official names, there are standardized names in Poland, which are established in different ways, depending on the type of an object:

- names of physiographic objects (in case when an object does not have an official name) are established by the resolution of the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects
- additional names of localities and physiographic objects in the languages of the minorities are established by the decision of the Minister of the Interior and Administration after obtaining the opinion from the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects
- additional names of streets, squares, etc. in the languages of the minorities are established by the resolution of the commune council after obtaining a consent from the Minister of the Interior and Administration
- names of other objects such as buildings, railway stations, airports and harbor docks are established by their proprietors
- Polish names of geographical objects outside Poland (exonyms) are established by the resolution of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

### 1.2. Legislation concerning geographical names

The *Act of 29 August 2003 on official names of localities and physiographic objects* [*Ustawa z dnia 29 sierpnia 2003 roku o urzędowych nazwach miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych*] (see English translation: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act\\_on\\_official\\_names\\_of\\_localities\\_and\\_physiographic\\_objects.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act_on_official_names_of_localities_and_physiographic_objects.pdf)) was approved in 2003, in place of the *Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland on establishing names of localities and numbering properties* [*Rozporządzenie Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej o ustaleniu nazw miejscowości i o numeracji nieruchomości*] which came into force in 1934. In this *Act* the following were defined:

- objects for which official names are established,
- principles and the mode of establishing, changing and abolishing names of localities and their parts, and official names of physiographic objects,
- principles of the activity of the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects,
- the way of establishing and proclaiming official lists of the names of localities and their parts and names of physiographic objects,
- principles of publishing national gazetteer.

The other acts, that are relevant for establishing geographical names:

- the *Act of 24 July 1998 on the implementation of a three-level territorial division of the country* [*Ustawa z dnia 24 lipca 1998 r. o wprowadzeniu zasadniczego trójstopniowego podziału terytorialnego państwa*] – official names of voivodships (first level administrative units)

- the *Act of 5 June 1990 on the county self-government* [*Ustawa z dnia 5 czerwca 1990 r. o samorządzie powiatowym*] – official names of the counties (second level administrative units)
- the *Act of 8 March 1990 on the commune self-government* [*Ustawa z dnia 8 marca 1990 r. o samorządzie terytorialnym*] – official names of communes (third level administrative units), auxiliary units of a commune, streets and squares
- the *Act of 16 April 2004 on environment protection* [*Ustawa z dnia 16 kwietnia 2004 r. o ochronie przyrody*] – official names of national parks, nature reserves, landscape parks, protected landscape areas, Natura 2000 areas, natural monuments and other protected areas
- the *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional language* [*Ustawa z dnia 6 stycznia 2005 r. o mniejszościach narodowych i etnicznych oraz o języku regionalnym*] (see English translation: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act\\_on\\_national\\_minorities.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act_on_national_minorities.pdf)) – additional names of localities and physiographic objects, streets, squares etc. in the languages of the minorities
- the *Act of 17 May 1989 “Geodesy and cartography law”* [*Ustawa z dnia 17 maja 1989 r. – Prawo geodezyjne i kartograficzne*] – Polish names of geographical objects outside Poland.

### 1.3. Organizations standardizing geographical names

In Poland there is no one separate agency dealing with geographical names standardization. There are, however, two advisory commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names:

- **Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects** [Komisja Nazw Miejscowości i Obiektów Fizjograficznych], affiliated to the Minister of the Interior and Administration, establishes names used within Poland’s boundaries
- **Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland** [Komisja Standaryzacji Nazw Geograficznych poza Granicami Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej], affiliated to the Surveyor General of Poland, responsible for standardizing Polish geographical names of the world.

**Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects** (website: <http://knmiof.mswia.gov.pl/>), established by the Minister of the Interior and Administration, is a consultative body as far as the names of the Polish territory are concerned. The Commission pronounces judgments on applications coming from particular communes to the Minister which concern establishing, changing or abolishing Polish names of localities, their parts or physiographic objects. The Commission pronounces judgments on analogous applications concerning changes of the officially established type of a particular locality or physiographic objects. The Commission has the right to put forward a proposal to the Minister concerning establishing, changing or abolishing a name. Within the scope of its activities, the Commission also standardizes the names of those physiographic objects, which have not been officially established yet. The Commission participates in developing national gazetteer. Since 2005 the Commission has pronounced judgments on applications coming from particular communes to the Minister which concern establishing additional names of localities and physiographic objects in languages of the national and ethnic minorities and in a regional language.

The decision process on establishing, changing or abolishing names of localities, their parts or physiographic objects runs as follows: after receiving the opinion of the Commission the Minister of the Interior and Administration changes the names, such changes are being published once a year, as a Minister’s ordinance in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland* [*Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*]. These changes always take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

In the period 2012-2017 the following changes were made:

- on January 1, 2013: 4 new names of physiographic objects and 14 new names of localities or its parts were established; 39 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 29 localities or parts of localities were changed; 67 names of localities or its parts were abolished (full list in Polish: <http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2012/1515/D2012000151501.pdf>);
- on January 1, 2014: one new name of a canal and 13 new names of localities or its parts were established; 33 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 24 localities or parts of localities were changed; 44 names of localities or its parts were abolished (full list in Polish: <http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2013/1629/D2013000162901.pdf>);
- on January 1, 2015: 3 new names of physiographic objects and 4 new names of localities or its parts were established; one name of a stream and 18 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 21 localities or parts of localities were changed; 59 names of localities or its parts were abolished (full list in Polish: <http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2014/1832/D2014000183201.pdf>);
- on January 1, 2016: one new name of a reservoir and 13 new names of localities or its parts were established; 35 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 50 localities or parts of

localities were changed; 42 names of localities or its parts were abolished (full list in Polish: <http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2015/2277/D2015000227701.pdf>);

- on January 1, 2017: 3 new names of physiographic objects and 4 new names of localities or its parts were established; 5 names of physiographic objects and 53 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 33 localities or parts of localities were changed; 10 names of physiographic objects and 44 names of localities or its parts were abolished (full list in Polish: <http://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2016/2251/D2016000225101.pdf>).

Acting pursuant to the *Act on official names of localities and physiographic objects*, the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, in the period of 2012-2017, issued its opinions on motions on determination, changing and abolishing official names of localities and types of localities proposed by the communes. During this period, it analyzed 1213 motions.

In the period of 2012-2017, the Commission also analyzed and standardized a total of ca. 1000 names of caves: proposals of name changes, proposals of introduction and abolishing of cave names in the area of Świętokrzyskie Mountains, Nidziańska Basin, Polish Lowland, Beskid Mountains and Tatra Mountains.

The Commission standardized also ca. 950 names of water objects. It analyzed ca. 15500 names of physiographic objects in the following voivodships: Dolnośląskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, Mazowieckie, Pomorskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie.

In 2012, the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects issued its opinion on the *Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitalization of 13 December 2012 on the list of names of localities and their parts* (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 200). The *Regulation* is a collection of official and legally approved names of localities in Poland.

In the period of 2012-2017, the Commission, acting pursuant to the *Act on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional languages*, expressed its opinion on a total of 244 additional names of localities in German, Belorussian and Kashubian languages.

**Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland** (website: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/index.php>), established by the Surveyor General of Poland, is an advisory body for the geographical names of objects outside Poland. It represents Poland in the matters of names on the international forum.

The Commission's tasks are:

- establishing, changing and abolishing the recommended Polish geographical names of the world (exonyms)
- publishing lists of the world's geographical names and the established Polish exonyms
- establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems
- pronouncing the judgments on publications concerning geographical names of the objects outside Poland issued by a variety of Polish publishers
- putting forward foreign-language forms of names of more important geographical objects located on the Polish territory for the international purposes
- participation in UNGEGN works
- representing Poland on UNGEGN forum
- participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to standardization of geographical names
- conveying information about the progress of the works on names in Poland and binding principles of the use of Polish geographical terminology on international forum
- developing the Polish toponymic guidelines
- informing Polish institutions about international arrangements.

#### 1.4. List of official names of localities and their parts

The *List of official names of localities and their parts* [Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części] was published at the beginning of 2013 in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland* as the *Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 13 December 2012 on the list of official names of localities and their parts* [Rozporządzenie Ministra Administracji i Cyfryzacji z dnia 13 grudnia 2012 r. w sprawie wykazu urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części]<sup>6</sup>. This is the second in Polish history official list of

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<sup>6</sup> *List of official names of localities and their parts* is available on the website of the Government Legislation Centre: <http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/du/2013/200/1>, as well as on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official\\_names.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php).

localities and their parts situated on Polish territory (previous official list was published in the years 1980 to 1982). The list is published in Polish only.

The list contains **103,225** official names of localities and their parts, in it: 908 names of towns and cities, 43,051 names of villages, 6,708 names of parts of towns and cities, 36,349 names of parts of villages, 5,136 names of settlements, 4,641 names of hamlets of villages, and 6,432 other names. The list is arranged in a table with eight columns: the name of a locality is indicated in the first column, in the second – officially established type of a locality, in the third, fourth and fifth columns – an administrative unit: commune, county and voivodship, in the sixth column – the identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT), in the seventh – genitive ending for names of localities, in the eighth column – adjective (only for names of towns and villages).

Amendments to the *List of official names of localities and their parts* are introduced each year on January 1 after publication in the *Journals of Laws of the Republic of Poland*. These changes are effect of changes in the names, as well as changes in types of a name (changes of a type can be result of changes of boundaries of cities and towns). Moreover, regulations of the Council of Ministers on boundaries change might bring changes of a type of locality.

The new edition of the *List of official names of localities and their parts* was published in October 2015 in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland* as the *Announcement of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 4 August 2015 on the list of official names of localities and their parts [Obwieszczenie Ministra Administracji i Cyfryzacji z dnia 4 sierpnia 2015 r. w sprawie wykazu urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części]*<sup>7</sup>. This list is arranged similar as the previous one – as a table with eight columns.

The new list contains **103,086** official names of localities and their parts, those of villages and parts of villages being the most numerous (see table 1) – it includes all changed made after the publication of the list of 2012 (ie.: 32 new locality names, 201 changes of names, and 170 abolitions of names).

Table 1. Number of named localities according to their particular types.

Type of locality	Number
city/town [miasto]	915
part of a city/town [część miasta]	6,710
village [wieś]	43,068
part of a village [część wsi]	36,263
housing estate [osiedle]	5
housing estate of a village [osiedle wsi]	5
colony [kolonia]	2,203
part of a colony [część kolonii]	199
colony of a village [kolonia wsi]	974
colony of a colony [kolonia kolonii]	11
colony of a settlement [kolonia osady]	6
settlement [osada]	5,132
part of a settlement [część osady]	10
settlement of a village [osada wsi]	520
settlement of a colony [osada kolonii]	1
settlement of a settlement [osada osady]	3
hamlet [przysiółek]	133
hamlet of a village [przysiółek wsi]	4,619
hamlet of a colony [przysiółek kolonii]	41
hamlet of a settlement [przysiółek osady]	56
forest settlement [osada leśna]	1,966
forest settlement of a village [osada leśna wsi]	224
tourist refuge [schronisko turystyczne]	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103,086</b>

<sup>7</sup> The new *List of official names of localities and their parts* is available on the website of the Government Legislation Centre: <http://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/DU/2015/1636/1>, as well as on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official\\_names.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php).

## 1.4. Multilingual areas

Consistent with the definitions in the *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages* [*Ustawa z dnia 6 stycznia 2005 r. o mniejszościach narodowych i etnicznych oraz o języku regionalnym*] (see English translation: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act\\_on\\_national\\_minorities.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act_on_national_minorities.pdf)), national minorities (Belarusian, Czech, Lithuanian, German, Armenian, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Jewish), ethnic minorities (Karaim, Lemko, Roma and Tartar) as well as a minority using a regional language (Kashubian) appear in Poland. The *Act* allows the language of these 14 minorities to be used as a “supporting language” in contacts with commune bodies. A minority language as a supporting language may be used exclusively within those communes where the population belonging to the minority whose language is to be used amounts to at least 20 percent of a given commune’s population and the commune has been entered in the *Official Register of Communes in which a supporting language is used* [*Urzędowy Rejestr Gmin, w których jest używany język pomocniczy*]. Entry into the Register is performed exclusively on an application of the council of the commune in which the minority language is to be obligatory. There are 33 communes in which a supporting language was introduced: 5 with Belarusian language, one with Lithuanian, 3 with Kashubian, and 22 with German. In the period 2012-2017 a supporting language was introduced in 3 communes:

- Linia commune (Wejherowski County, Pomorskie Voivodship) – the Kashubian language, 23 April 2012,
- Żukowo commune (Kartuski County, Pomorskie Voivodship) – the Kashubian language, 17 July 2013,
- Luzino commune (Wejherowski County, Pomorskie Voivodship) – the Kashubian language, 21 February 2014.

The *Act* also lays down that traditional names in a minority language for localities, physiographic objects and streets may be used as “additional names” alongside geographic names established in the Polish language. The additional names may be established for objects located in communes inhabited by a minority in whose language these names are used, constituting at least 20 per cent of residents. Names of inhabited localities may also be established for communes, which do not fulfill the quantitative criterion for the number of residents belonging to a minority. In the case of such localities, an additional name may be introduced provided that, as a result of social consultations, over 50 per cent of residents were in favor of this name.

Additional names in minority languages have been introduced in 1240 localities and parts of them, located in 59 communes (as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017). This number consists of 359 German names in 31 communes, 815 Kashubian names in 24 communes, 30 Lithuanian names in one commune, 27 Belarusian names in one commune and 9 Lemko names in 2 communes. However, no additional names for physiographic objects and streets have been introduced yet. 453 minority names were introduced in the period 2012-2017:

- 35 German names in 4 communes: 1 name of a town, 33 names of villages, and 1 name of a hamlet,
- 418 Kashubian names in 12 communes: 2 names of towns, 194 names of villages, 70 names of parts of a villages, 25 names of colonies, 1 name of a part of a colony, 96 names of settlements, 1 name of a part of a settlement, 6 names of hamlets, and 23 names of forest settlements.

Full, consistently updated, list of additional names in minority languages is available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list\\_of\\_minority\\_names.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf)

## 1.5 Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

The fourth, revised and extended, edition of the *Toponymic guidelines of Poland for map editors and other users* was published in December 2010. The changes introduced to the new edition, apart from the recent actualization (made on the basis of the latest available materials), concern the information about Polish language, rules and legal base for standardization of geographical terminology, extension of terminology dictionaries and indices of abbreviations. Several maps completing the text and an extensive part, devoted to national and ethnic minorities and communities using a regional language and other languages used by them, were added. Annexes have been extended by adding a dictionary of former geographical terms and a full list of officially established names in the languages of minorities. There is a change in comparison with the previous editions, which concerns publication of the toponymic guidelines also in Polish (thus the whole publication is bilingual). The publication is available in electronic version in PDF format, at the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/tgp.php>.

Constantly updated information about administrative division of Poland is available at the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/mapa\\_adm.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/mapa_adm.php). This contains lists of current administrative units, maps, and some additional information about administrative division in Poland.

## 2. Exonyms

Standardizing exonyms is the task of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland. The Commission's decisions do not have normative power but are recommendations. The Commission meets 4 to 9 times yearly, delivering its opinions on proposals standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, their amendments or elimination from the list of recommended exonyms. All amendments introduced in Polish exonyms are published on the Commission's website ([http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/nazwy\\_pol.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/nazwy_pol.php)).

The new list of Polish exonyms, entitled *Official list of Polish geographical names of the world* [*Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata*], was published at the end of 2013. The list is the result of long-term Commission's work on the standardization of Polish geographical names of the world. It lists Polish names for **13,358** geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland. For each object the Polish name and the original name (endonym) are given. For names in languages that are written in non-Roman scripts, Romanized forms are given in accordance with the principles adopted by the Commission for use in Poland for geographical names in a given language. Following these names, the objects' coordinates have been posted. If necessary, the additional information and observations are provided, such as information about localization of the transboundary object in other countries, additional characteristics of the object or its localization, information about the location of part of locality in the boundaries of independent locality, and selected historical names of the object.

The list has been divided into eight parts (chapters): seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, Antarctica), the eighth one is devoted to undersea objects. Next, the names are posted according to alphabetically arranged countries and non-self-government territories. Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories are arranged by categories.

The list has been published in Polish only, but the inset in English has been also prepared. This inset includes translation of introductory part of the publication, i.e.: editorial page, table of contents, "from the Publisher", preface, introduction, Romanization rules, explanation of abbreviations, as well as translation of the footnotes contained in the publication and information about name index. The list is available on-line: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs\\_en.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wpngs_en.php).

The Commission regular updates the list. Information on the updates is available on the Commission's website ([http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/zmiany\\_w\\_uwpngs.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/zmiany_w_uwpngs.pdf)), but in Polish only. Since the publication of the list following changes have been introduced (as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017):

- 217 Polish names have been added for geographical objects in 37 countries (93 administrative units, 103 localities, 2 parts of a locality, 2 regions, 7 areas of environment protection, and 10 other features),
- 30 Polish names have been changed for geographical objects in 12 countries (18 administrative units, 10 localities, and 2 other features),
- 51 Polish names have been deleted for geographical objects in 13 countries (46 administrative units, 3 localities, and 2 other features).

The updated edition of *Official list of Polish geographical names of the world* will be published in 2018 or 2019. This edition will consist appendix with Polish names of main constructions/buildings and other man-made features.

## 3. Toponymic data files and gazetteers

The National Register of Geographical Names [Państwowy Rejestr Nazw Geograficznych – PRNG] is maintained by the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre subordinated to the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently (as on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017) the Register holds 247,662 names of which 124,644 are names of localities and its parts and 123,018 are names of physiographic objects (21,804 names of water objects, 34,749 names of land shaping objects, and 66,465 names of other objects). In the Register the following types of names are collected: official names (i.e. names published by ordinance of the Minister – 130,472 names), standardized names (i.e. names adopted by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects but not yet published by ordinance of the Minister – 15,062 names), unstandardized names (i.e. other names listed on topographic maps or other sources – 102,128 names), and minority names (1,240 names).

Since 17 July 2014 on the basis of the Geodetic and Cartographic Law of May 17, 1989 all data from PRNG are available free of charge on the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre website<sup>8</sup>. The

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<sup>8</sup> The data from PRNG are available on the website: <http://www.codgik.gov.pl/index.php/darmowe-dane/prng.html>.



data are published in the following formats: .shp, .xls and .gml, separately for names of localities and for names of physiographic objects, and updated on the website every 3 months. Additionally, through a national access point<sup>9</sup>, it is possible to search, browse, view and download (including via ATOM service) names with attributes according to accepted criteria. PRNG is available in OGC (*Open Geospatial Consortium*) standard WMS (*Web Map Service*). The PRNG data available on Geoportal is updated once a week.

Moreover, the Central Statistical Office runs the database of official geographical names named National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country [Krajowy Rejestr Urzędowy Podziału Terytorialnego Kraju]. That database contains a regularly updated list of units of the territorial division, a specification of names of localities (103,014 names as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017) and a specification of names of streets (263,250 names as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017)<sup>10</sup>. In 2015 the Central Statistical Office published bilingual, Polish-English, list titled *Wykaz identyfikatorów i nazw jednostek podziału terytorialnego kraju – The list of identifiers and names of the units of territorial division of the country*. This publication includes the list of the units of territorial division of Poland with their identifiers, and an alphabetical lists of: counties, cities with the county rights, communes as well as towns<sup>11</sup>.

The General Directorate for Environmental Protection [Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska] runs the Central Register of Nature Conservation Forms [Centralny Rejestr Form Ochrony Przyrody] that includes all areas of nature conservation in Poland (national parks, nature reserves, landscape parks, protected landscape areas, Natura 2000 areas, natural monuments and other protected areas) with their names, if they exist<sup>12</sup>.

#### 4. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

The new Polish edition of *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* [Słownik terminów używanych przy standaryzacji nazw geograficznych] was published at the end of 2014. *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* has been prepared by the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, with Professor Naftali Kadmon as convenor and general editor of the publication. The Working Group developed *Glossary* in the English version – it was presented at the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York on 13-22 January 1998. On the basis of this publication the first Polish translation was prepared. It was made by Jerzy Kondracki and issued by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography in 1998. In this Polish edition numerous changes and additions to the original English text were introduced.

In 2002, during the Eight United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the next version of *Glossary* was presented, with entries in six official languages of the United Nations (with minor changes to the English text in relation to the 1998 edition). In 2007, the *Addendum* was published, in which some definition were changed and few terms were added.

The new Polish edition of *Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names* was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland and published by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography. This is a new translation of the English version of *Glossary* from 2002, which was made by Mark Lukasik. No significant changes and additions were introduced to this edition in relation to the English version, as it had been done in the case of the first Polish translation of 1998 – the original wording of the definitions and descriptions of introduction notes were retained. The Polish version of *Glossary* consists 375 entries, out of which 237 are entries with definitions and 138 are cross-reference entries. Entries are numbered and arranged in alphabetical order with respect to the English terms, then their Polish counterparts are given (omitted, however, for the most cross-reference entries) and Polish translations of definitions. After the main dictionary body the Polish-English index of terms was placed. All this means, that in this way the arrangement adopted in the original *Glossary* for the other official languages of the UN (i.e. French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic) was strictly preserved – therefore, the Polish version might be regarded as an extension of the UNGEGN *Glossary* for another language. The translation of *Addendum*, adopted by the UNGEGN in 2007, is also enclosed as an attachment. In this addendum 6 definitions were changed as well as 17 new entries were added, which involve 8 entries with definitions and 9 cross-reference entries.

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<sup>9</sup> National Geoportal: <http://www.geoportal.gov.pl>.

<sup>10</sup> All names are accessible on the Internet website of the Central Statistical Office: [http://eteryt.stat.gov.pl/eTeryt/rejestr\\_teryt/udostepnianie\\_danych/baza\\_teryt/uzytownicy\\_indywidualni/przekladanie/przekladanie.aspx?cont\\_rast=default](http://eteryt.stat.gov.pl/eTeryt/rejestr_teryt/udostepnianie_danych/baza_teryt/uzytownicy_indywidualni/przekladanie/przekladanie.aspx?cont_rast=default).

<sup>11</sup> This list is available on the Internet website of the Central Statistical Office: [http://eteryt.stat.gov.pl/eteryt/files/wykaz\\_identyfikow i\\_nazw\\_jednostek\\_podzialu\\_terytoralnego\\_kraju\\_01012015.pdf](http://eteryt.stat.gov.pl/eteryt/files/wykaz_identyfikow i_nazw_jednostek_podzialu_terytoralnego_kraju_01012015.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Central Register of Nature Conservation Forms is available on-line: <http://crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/index.jsf>.

The publication is available in PDF format on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary\\_of\\_terms\\_PL.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary_of_terms_PL.pdf).

## 5. Writing systems and pronunciation

According to the *Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of 24 March 2000 on the manner and scope of activity of the National Council of Geodesy and Cartography and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland and principles governing payment of their members*, one of the scopes of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland refers to establishment of “romanization rules governing names of states, non-self-governing territories, administrative units, localities, physiographic objects, and other geographical objects originally expressed by means of non-Roman writing systems”.

As a part of its activity the Commission adopted, for each language exclusively, both rules of transliteration and rules of Polish phonetic transcription. There are some exceptions for Asian languages – for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Lao, Burmese and Khmer only a transliteration is recommended.

Rules of romanization adopted by the Commission are available on Commission’s web site: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/latynizacja.php>.

Since 2012 the following rules were adopted:

- **Amharic** – recommended are both: transliteration (the BGN/PCGN 1967 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/amharski.pdf>),
- **Arabic** – recommended are both: transliteration (the UN system of 1972) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/arabski.pdf>),
- **Bengali** – recommended are both: transliteration (the ISO 15919:2001 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/bengalski.pdf>),
- **Belarusian** – recommended are both: transliteration (Belarusian national system of 2007) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/bialoruski.pdf>),
- **Bulgarian** – revised rules (new system of transliteration), recommended are both: transliteration (the Bulgarian national system of 2006) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/bulgarski.pdf>),
- **Hebrew** – recommended are both: transliteration (the Academy of the Hebrew Language system of 1957) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/hebrajski.pdf>),
- **Hindi** – recommended are both: transliteration (the ISO 15919:2001 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/hindi.pdf>),
- **Lemko** – recommended are both: transliteration (based on the Polish Standard PN-70, N-01201 for the East Slavic languages) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/lemkowski.pdf>),
- **Maldivian** – recommended are both: transliteration (the Maldivian Government 1987 System) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/malediwski.pdf>),
- **Nepali** – recommended are both: transliteration (the ISO 15919:2001 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/nepalski.pdf>),
- **Sinhalese** – recommended are both: transliteration (the ISO 15919:2001 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/syngaleski.pdf>),
- **Tajik** – recommended are both: transliteration of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names (modification of the ISO 9:1995 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/tadzycki.pdf>),
- **Tamil** – recommended are both: transliteration (the ISO 15919:2001 system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/tamilski.pdf>),
- **Ukrainian** – revised rules (new system of transliteration), recommended are both: transliteration (the Ukrainian national system of 2010) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/ukrainski.pdf>),
- **Urdu** – recommended are both: transliteration (the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names system – modification of the Zograf romanization system) and traditional Polish transcription (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/latynizacja/urdu.pdf>).

## 6. Country names

In consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Council for the Polish Language of the Polish Academy of Sciences the second edition of the *Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories* [*Urzędowy wykaz nazw państw i terytoriów niesamodzielnych*] was published at the end of 2013 (the

first edition was published in 2011; according to the regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration the list is published every two years). The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland (namely: 193 member states of the United Nations Organization, as well as Kosovo and Vatican City) and 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status and others. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The footnotes explaining the status of countries and territories have been provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adjectives derived from names of countries and territories, as well as names of citizens and inhabitants have been provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Unit of the Council for the Polish Language.

The list has been published in Polish only, but the inset in English has been also prepared. This inset includes translation of introductory part of the publication, i.e.: editorial page, table of contents, “from the Publisher”, introduction, Romanization rules, explanation of abbreviations, as well as translation of the footnotes contained in the publication. In addition four Polish-English dictionary are included in this inset: names of countries, names of non-self-governing territories, names of territories with undetermined or disputed international status, and names of languages.

The third updated edition of the *Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories* was published at the end of 2015, and the fourth edition will be published in the second half of 2017.

The list is available in printed version as well as in PDF format on Commission’s website: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>.

## 7. Other information

The Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland has translated into Polish the UNGEGN’s document titled *Resolutions adopted at the nine United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007*. This document is accessible on the Commission’s website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/rezolucje\\_ONZ.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/rezolucje_ONZ.pdf). The resolutions adopted in the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 2012) were translated into Polish in 2014 – this document is accessible on the Commission’s website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/rezolucje\\_ONZ\\_10.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/rezolucje_ONZ_10.pdf).

## 8. Co-operation with neighborhood countries and international organizations

Members of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland participated actively in:

- 16–18 May, 2012 (Gdańsk, Poland): 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (hosted by the Polish Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography),
- 31 July – 9 August, 2012 (New York, USA): 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names,
- 1 August, 2012 (New York, USA): Meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division,
- 3 August, 2012 (New York, USA): Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems,
- 6 August, 2012 (New York, USA): 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms,
- 8 August, 2012 (New York, USA): Meeting of the Baltic Division,
- 23–25 May, 2013 (Corfu, Greece): 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology,
- 18–20 September, 2013 (Tallinn, Estonia): 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baltic Division,
- 8 November, 2013 (Prague, Czechia): Czech-Polish meeting on terminology used in the standardization of geographical names,
- 3–4 March, 2014 (Görlitz, Germany): German-Polish meeting on geographical names (jointly organized by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland),
- 28 April – 2 May, 2014 (New York, USA): 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,
- 29 April, 2014 (New York, USA): 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms,
- 1 May, 2014 (New York, USA): Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems,
- 5–7 June, 2014 (Hermagor, Austria): 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms,

- 20–22 August, 2014 (Kraków, Poland): Session of the International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission/Working Group on Toponymy “Toponymy – Geographical Aspects of Place Names” during the International Geographical Union Regional Conference,
- 5 November, 2014 (Warsaw, Poland): 2<sup>nd</sup> Czech-Polish-Slovak meeting on terminology used in the standardization of geographical names and on geographical names (hosted by the Polish Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography),
- 14–16 May, 2015 (Zagreb, Croatia): 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms,
- 29 June – 1 July, 2015 (Warszawa, Poland): 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baltic Division (hosted by the Polish Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography),
- 17–21 August, 2015 (Moscow, Russia): Session of the International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission/Working Group on Toponymy “Place-name Study and Geographical Research” during the International Geographical Union Regional Conference,
- 26 November, 2015 (Ljubljana, Slovenia): 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division,
- 15 December, 2015 (Bratislava, Slovakia): 3<sup>rd</sup> Czech-Polish-Slovak meeting on terminology used in the standardization of geographical names and on geographical names,
- 24–29 April, 2016 (Bangkok, Thailand): 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names,
- 26 April, 2016 (Bangkok, Thailand): 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms,
- 27 April, 2016 (Bangkok, Thailand): Meeting of the Working Group on Country Names,
- 29 April, 2016 (Bangkok, Thailand): Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems,
- 21–25 August, 2016 (Beijing, China): Session of the Joint International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission on Toponymy “Place Names as Social Constructs” during the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress,
- 23–25 August, 2016 (St. Petersburg, Russia): 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baltic Division,
- 6 December, 2016 (Prague, Czechia): 4<sup>th</sup> Czech-Polish-Slovak meeting on standardization of geographical names,
- 6–8 April, 2017 (Prague, Czechia): 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems.