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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Toponymic guidelines - Turkey

Paper presented by Turkey

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CONTENTS

1. LANGUAGE
  - 1.1 General remarks
  - 1.2 National language
    - 1.2.1 The Turkish alphabet
    - 1.2.2 Spelling rules for Turkish geographical names
    - 1.2.3 Linguistic substrata recognizable in Turkish place-names
    - 1.2.4 Dialects/Standard Turkish
2. NAME STANDARDIZATION AND NAME AUTHORITIES
  - 2.1 Name standardization
  - 2.2 Name authorities
3. SOURCE MATERIAL
  - 3.1 Maps
  - 3.2 Gazetteers
4. A SHORT GLOSSARY OF GENERIC TERMS, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS APPEARING ON TURKISH MAPS
5. ABBREVIATIONS USED ON THE OFFICIAL MAP OF TURKEY 1:25,000

1. Language

1.1 General remarks

Turkish is the only nation-wide official language of the country.

1.2 National language

1.2.1 The Turkish alphabet

Since 1928 Turkish is written in the Roman/Latin script with diacritical marks for some vowels and consonants. The Turkish alphabet and its phonetic transcription is given below:

Transcription key for the Turkish alphabet

<u>Letters</u>	<u>Phonetic transcription</u>	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Phonetic transcription</u>
A a	a	M m	m
B b	b	N n	n
C c	dz	O o	o
Ç ç	ç; tʃ	Ö ö	ö; ø
D d	d	P p	p
E e	e	R r	r
F f	f	S s	s
G g	g	Ş ş	ʃ
H h	h	T t	t
I i	y; i	U u	u
İ İ	ı	Ü ü	ü
J j	ʒ	V v	v
K k	q; k	Y y	y; je
L l	l	Z z	z

The so-called "Umlaut letters" ö and ü are separately treated in alphabetical indexes and gazetteers. The letter "ç", called "soft g", lengthens the preceding vowel and never occurs at the beginning of a word. Turkish "h" is always clearly pronounced, and the letter "y" is always used as a consonant. The consonant "k" is palatalized before and after front vowels (e, i, ö and ü) and before a and u in some words of Arabic and Persian origin which are then marked with a circumflex accent (â, û).

1.2.2 Spelling rules for Turkish geographical names

Geographical names of the country are written according to general spelling rules of the Turkish language and in the officially approved version. By "official version of geographical names" is meant those forms prescribed by the Ministry of the Interior and the General Directorate of Mapping, in addition to names of regions and some relief features approved by the Turkish Geographical Society.

There are, however, no explicit official rules for the spelling of Turkish geographical names. Nevertheless, the following principles are generally applied as regards the spelling of geographical names:

- (a) Geographical names consisting of a single word are always capitalized.

Examples: Sakarya, Meriç, Almanya

- (b) Compound names consisting of an adjective and a noun are always capitalized and written in one word.

Examples: Uludağ, Büyükada, Gaziantep, Akdeniz, Karadeniz, Bozdağ, Akdağ

- (c) Compound names having a generic term are written separately and only the first word is usually capitalized.

Examples: Ege denizi; Toros dağları; İstanbul boğazi; Külek geçidi; Marsilya limanı

Usage is, however, divided over capitalizing generic terms, and therefore, sometimes, particularly in formal writings, generic terms are also capitalized.

Examples: Ege Denizi; Toros Dağları; İstanbul Boğazi

- (d) Single or compound names of countries and geographical regions are always capitalized and written separately.

Examples: Almanya Federal Cumhuriyeti; Amerika Birleşik Devletleri; Sovyetler Birliği; Büyük Britanya; Doğu Avrupa; Batı Trakya

- (e) The same rule of capitalization and separation is generally applied to names designating administrative units, streets, roads and avenues, where the generic term has usually a lower case initial, official writings excepted.

Examples: İstanbul ili; İstiklal caddesi; Atatürk bulvarı (in official writings, however, the generic term is also often capitalized: İstanbul İli; İstiklal Caddesi; Atatürk Bulvarı)

- (f) A hyphen is used only when the determinative element consists of several geographical names.

Examples: Baltık-Karadeniz kanalı; Karasu-Aras dağları; Cimen-Kop dağları; Uşak-Gördes platosu; Trakya-Koca platosu

### 1.2.3 Linguistic substrata recognizable in Turkish place-names

Owing to its intermediate position between two continents and different cultural realms, Turkish territories were settled by various civilizations coming

from almost all directions in the far past. Therefore, in a considerable number of Turkish place-names an extremely complicated linguistic substratum is recognizable, which is a natural outcome of cultural inheritances, superimpositions and combinations during more than 10,000 years of human occupation of the country. Linguistic substrata are particularly evident in Turkicized names of several very old urban settlements dating back to antiquity or even to prehistoric times (examples: Kayseri - Caesarea; Ankara - Ancyra; Malatya - Melitene; Çankiri - Gangra etc.); in names of some important rivers (examples: Sakarya - Sangarius; Fırat - Euphrates); and in names of a few high mountains (examples: Toros - Taurus Mons; Erciyes - Argaeus M.). On the other hand, almost all rural settlements, most of which were founded by Turks, and almost all other place-names (such as the names of mountains, peaks, hills, highlands, valleys, lakes, swamps, streams, escarpments, woods, pastures etc.) have names of purely Turkish origin, i.e., they were named anew by Turks who settled in Anatolia, arriving from the east in the eleventh century.

#### 1.2.4 Dialects/Standard Turkish

There are some slight dialectical and phonetic differences and variations in Turkey and they are reflected also in local geographical names (examples: Ankara = Engürü, Angara; Çankiri = Çangiri; Karadeniz = Garadeniz; Bozhöyük = Bozüyük etc.). But such variations in pronunciation are disregarded and geographical names are written in a form corresponding to standard Turkish.

## 2. Name standardization and name authorities

### 2.1 Name standardization

Attempts to standardize geographical names in Turkey started in the late 1930s when the Ministry of the Interior set up a special committee on standardization of names of inhabited places. In 1941, at the first congress of the Turkish Geographical Society, urgent need for standardization was strongly emphasized, and it was urged that spelling principles be established and standardized versions of geographical names be prescribed as they occurred in publications of the Ministry of the Interior and on official maps produced by the General Directorate of Surveying. At present, works on name standardization are in progress but not yet concluded.

### 2.2 Name authorities

There are actually several Turkish name authorities competent to standardize various categories of geographical names. First, names of administrative units and inhabited places are standardized by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names set up by the Ministry of the Interior. A second name authority is composed of local municipal boards: they have the competence to standardize or change names of city-quarters, streets, roads, squares, parks etc. A third name authority is the General Directorate of Mapping (Harita Genel Müdürlüğü), which is responsible for mapping and name collecting. The majority of geographical names are standardized by this authority and, in general, the names on the Turkish map 1:25,000 are

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regarded as official names, particularly in undecided cases. A fourth authority will be the National Board on Geographic Names: at present, it is being organized as a joint interministerial and academic body in order to co-ordinate and accelerate efforts of standardization. The Board will be given legal competence to standardize all categories of geographical names in Turkey, and will also be responsible for exonyms, names of maritime and undersea features and extraterrestrial name proposals.

### 3. Source material

#### 3.1 Maps

The official topographic and administrative maps of Turkey are produced by the General Directorate of Mapping (Harita Genel Müdürlüğü, Ankara), whereas production of official nautical charts are the responsibility of the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography (Seyir, Hidrografi ve Oşinografi Dairesi, Çubuklu, İstanbul).

(a) Topographic map, 1:25,000. Most other maps of smaller scale are based on this map. It consists of 5,525 sheets. Completed, 1975.

(b) Topographic map, 1:100,000. It covers all Turkey and consists of 395 sheets. Produced between 1965 and 1970.

(c) Topographic map, 1:250,000. It consists of 71 sheets. Completed in 1973.

(d) Topographic map, 1:500,000. Sheets of this map are included in The New Atlas of Turkey (Yeni Türkiye Atlası), produced by the General Directorate of Mapping, 1977.

(e) Nautical charts at various scales (ranging from 1:1,000,000 to 1:12,500), produced by the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography.

#### 3.2 Gazetteers

(a) Inhabited places and administrative units:

"Türkiye Mülki İdare Bölümleri", published by İçişleri Bakanlığı, İller İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü, Seri II, No. 5, Ankara, 1978. Contains standardized official names of 36,546 inhabited places by administrative units (1 August 1977 status);

(b) Geographical names in general:

Yeni Türkiye Atlası, 1977 includes an alphabetically arranged gazetteer based on the 1:500,000 map. The gazetteer is produced by automatic data processing, and contains nearly 30,000 geographical names, with their geographical co-ordinates.

(c) Name changes:

"Yeni Tabii Yer Adlari, 1977"; İçişleri Bakanliđi İller İdaresi Genel Müdürlüğü, Seri III, No. 1, Ankara. This gazetteer, produced by a committee of experts set up within the framework of the Ministry of the Interior, contains changes made in names of physiographic features, indicating also their former names.

4. A short glossary of generic terms, adjectives and other words  
appearing on Turkish maps

ada .....	island
ağaç .....	tree
ağaçlık .....	grove
ağıl .....	livestock enclosure
ahşap .....	wooden
ak .....	white
akarsu .....	running water
alan .....	clearing; deforested area
ara münhaniler..	intermediate contours
anıt .....	monument
araba yolu .....	cart track
arteziyen kuyusu	artesian well
askeri .....	military
asma köprü .....	suspension bridge
aşağı .....	lower
ayazma .....	a spring or fountain which is regarded as sacred
azmak .....	abandoned channel of a river
baca .....	chimney
bağlık .....	vineyard
bahçe .....	garden
baraj .....	water reservoir; dam
bataklık .....	swamp; marsh
batı .....	west; western
boğaz .....	gorge; sea channel
bostan .....	truck garden
bostan dolabı ..	irrigation wheel
boylam .....	longitude
boyun .....	mountain saddle
boz .....	gray
bozkır .....	steppe
bulak .....	spring; source
burun .....	cape; point
buzul .....	glacier
bük .....	bush; wood
büyük .....	large; great
cami .....	mosque
çağlayan.....	cascade
çalılık .....	bushland
çatak .....	junction; bifurcation
çay .....	small stream
çayırılık .....	meadow
çeltik .....	rice field
çeşme .....	fountain
çift .....	double
çiftlik .....	farm
çit .....	fence, hedge
çığır .....	stream course
çığ siperi .....	snowshed
çöl .....	desert
çukur .....	depression; sink
dağ .....	mountain



dağ geçidi .....	mountain pass, col
dar .....	narrow
dazkır .....	desertic steppe
değirmen .....	mill
demir .....	iron
demirköprü .....	iron or steel bridge
demiryolu .....	railroad
demiryolu, çift hatlı..	double track railroad
deniz .....	sea
denizfeneri .....	lighthouse
dere .....	brook, creek, rivulet
dere yatağı .....	stream bed; stream channel
derin .....	deep
devlet hududu ....	international boundary; state boundary
devlet yolu .....	state road
dikenli tel .....	barbed wire
doğu .....	east, eastern
durak .....	stop; halt
düden .....	swallow hole; ponor
düz .....	flat; flatland
enerji nakil hattı	powerline
enlem .....	latitude
eski .....	old
fabrika .....	factory; plant; works
fidanlık .....	plant nursery
fıstıklık .....	pietachio grove or plantation
geçici göl.....	intermittent lake
geçilmez .....	impassable
geçit .....	pass; passage
gevşek satıh .....	loose surface
göl .....	lake
gölet .....	small dam
grafik ölçek .....	graphic scale
grid yaklaşma açı- sı.	grid convergence angle
gül bahçesi .....	rose garden
gümrük mahalli ...	custom house
güney .....	south; southern
han .....	inn
harabe .....	ruins
ham yol .....	unimproved road
hava alanı .....	air field
havuz .....	pool
havza .....	basin
hendek .....	ditch
heykel .....	statue
hüyük .....	mound
ibreli ağaçlar ...	coniferous trees
idari taksimat ...	administrative divisions
in .....	cave
iskele .....	landing
istasyon .....	station
işaretler .....	legend
kablo mahalli ....	cable terminal
kaldırımli yol ...	stone paved road
kale .....	castle; fortification
kamaşlık .....	a patch of land covered by reeds

kanalet .....	flume
kara .....	black
kara .....	land
kaplıca .....	hot springs
kaş .....	escarpment
kavşak .....	junction
kaya .....	rock
kayalık .....	rocky ground
kaynak .....	source, spring
kaza .....	administrative district
kaza merkezi .....	district center
kervansaray .....	historical inn
kilise .....	church
kıraç .....	waste, uncultivated land
kırgı bayırı .....	badlands
kısık .....	gorge, water gap, cluse
kızıl .....	red
kokurdaň .....	karstic sinkhole
komşu pafta .....	adjoining map sheet
koy .....	bay
koyak .....	sinkhole, doline
köprü .....	bridge
körfez .....	gulf
köy .....	village
krom .....	chrome
kum .....	sand
kumluk .....	sandy ground
kulübe .....	hut, shanty
kuru .....	dry
kuru dere .....	intermittent stream
kuru hendek .....	dry ditch
kuyu .....	well
kuzey .....	north; northern
kuçuk .....	small, little
liman .....	harbour; port
maden .....	mine
mağara .....	cave
mahalle .....	town quarter; part of a dispersed rural settlement
maki .....	scrub, macchia
manastır .....	monastery
mandıra .....	dairy farm
mera .....	pasture; grazing ground
meýve bahçesi .....	orchard
mezarlık .....	cemetery
mezraa .....	temporary or permanent agricultural rural settlement
milli park .....	national park
muvaqqat .....	temporary
münhaniler .....	contours
münhani aralıđı .....	contour interval
nedas .....	fallow
nahiye .....	subdistrict
nahiye merkezi .....	subdistrict center
nehir .....	river
nirengi noktası .....	triangulation point
oba .....	nomadic or semi-nomadic settlement associated with livestock rising

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obruk .....	karstic pit;jama
okul .....	school
orman .....	forest, wood
orta .....	middle
ova .....	plain, lowland
ölçek .....	scale
ören .....	ruins; remnants of an abandoned settlement
özel işaretler ....	legende
pafta .....	map sheet
patika .....	footpath
petrol borusu .....	oil pipeline
pınar .....	spring
radio kulesi .....	radio mast
rakım noktası .....	spot elevation
rihtım .....	quay
rölyef .....	relief
rüzgâr değirmeni...	wind mill
sarnıç .....	cistern
sazlık .....	rushy ground
sebze bahçesi .....	truck garden
sedde .....	embankment; levee
seki .....	terrace
sel .....	torrent
sel yarıntısı .....	gully
serenli kuyu .....	sweep well
sert satırlı yol ..	hard surfaced road
seyrüsefere müsait.	navigable
sınır .....	boundary, frontier
sinagog .....	synagogue
su .....	water
suçıkan .....	karstic spring; resurgence
sulama kanalı .....	irrigation ditch
sundurma .....	shed
sulu .....	containing water
susuz .....	dry
su değirmeni .....	water mill
su deposu .....	water tank
su hizarı .....	water-powered saw
su kemeri .....	aqueduct
şelale .....	waterfall, cascade
şose .....	highway; land road
tarla .....	field
tarihi savaş yeri..	historic battlefield
taş .....	stone
taşlık .....	stony ground
taşocağı .....	quarry
tava .....	small karstic depression, doline
tepe .....	hill; summit
tek hatlı demiryolu	single-track railroad
telefon hattı .....	telephone line
telgraf hattı .....	telegraph line
tulumbalı kuyu ..	pump well
turunçgiller ....	citrus fruits
tuz .....	salt
tuzlu .....	salty

tuzlu göl .....	Salt lake
tünel .....	tunnel
türbe .....	shrine
uluslararası sınır.	international boundary
uzun .....	long
vadi .....	valley
vilayet .....	province
vilayet merkezi ...	province center
yapraklı ağaçlar...	deciduous trees
yar .....	cliff; abrupt slope
yarımada .....	peninsula
yaya yolu .....	foot-path
yayla .....	summer pasture; highland; settlement inhabited during summer; plateau
yazı .....	a track of flatland
yeldegirmeni .....	wind mill
yeni .....	new
yol .....	road
yukarı .....	upper
yüksek .....	high
zeytinlik .....	olive grove
zirve .....	summit; peak
ziyaret yeri .....	sacred place; shrine

5. Abbreviations used on the official map of Turkey 1:25,000

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Decoding</u>	<u>English equivalent</u>
Ad. ....	Ada-sı .....	island
Ağ. ....	Ağıl .....	livestock enclosure
Akya.Tnk. ....	Akaryakat tankı ...	oiltank
Amb. ....	Ambar .....	storehouse
Ayz. ....	Ayazma .....	christian spring
B. ....	Bakır .....	copper
Bk. ....	Bekçi kulübesi ....	guard house
Bğ. ....	Bogaz .....	strait,gorge
Bo. ....	Boyun .....	saddle
Br. ....	Burun .....	cape
Ç. ....	Çay .....	stream,generally small
Çl.Sl. ....	Çelik silo .....	steel silo(for grain)
Çs. ....	Çeşme .....	fountain
Çif. ....	Çiftlik .....	farm
Dly. ....	Dalyan .....	fishing area
Dğ. ....	Değirman .....	mill
D. ....	Dere .....	brook
Du. ....	Durak (D.D.Y.da)...	stop (railroad)
Elk. ....	Elektrik .....	electric
Fb. ....	Fabrika .....	factory
G. ....	Göl .....	lake
Hb. ....	Harabe (Tarihi)...	ruins (historic)
Hr. ....	Harap .....	ruined
Hü. ....	Hüyük .....	mound
Ir. ....	Irmaç .....	river
İsk. ....	İskele .....	landing place,pier
İst. ....	İstasyon .....	station
Kay. ....	Kaynak .....	spring

<u>Abbreviation</u>	<u>Decoding</u>	<u>English equivalent</u>
Köp.	Köprü	bridge
Krf.	Körföz	gulf
Kö.	Köy-ü	village
Ku.	Kuyu	well
Lm.	Liman	harbour
Md.	Maden	mine
Md.Su.	Maden suyu	mineral water
Mğ.	Mağara	cave
Nah.	Mahalle	hamlet
Mvk.	Mevki	location
Mzl.	Mezarlık	cemetery
M.G.	Muvakkat göl	intermittent lake
N.	Nehir	river
Oc.	Ocağı (Kireç, kiremit)..	kiln(limestone,tilery)
Pn.	Pınar	spring
P.T.T.	Posta,Telgraf, Telefon	post,telegraph,telephone
Sc.Su.	Sıcak su	hot spring
Sr.	Sırt,sırtı	ridge
Su.Dp.	Su deposu	water reservoir
Su.Bc.	Su bacası	water conduit outlet
T.	Tepe	hill
Y.	Yayla	summer pasture, settlement inhabited in summer; plateau; highland

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