

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

Report of the Czech Republic

Submitted by the Czech Republic **

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Since the Eight UN Conference on standardization of geographical names the national authorities in the Czech Republic have continued completing and revising the standardized names gazetteers and datasets. There are neither planned nor realized bigger changes to the organizational structure of national standardization of geographical names more. But the authorities that are involved in are aiming to create an unified state system of space information within geographical names. It seems the solutions will be rather sophisticated than simply and experts have been partially annoyed to find the results would probably not be satisfied. They are supposed as well to create one information system on all systems functioning in the Czech Republic in the near future.

Names authorities

In compliance with the Parliamentary delegation the post and functions of the national geographical names authorities are carried out by ministries and other central offices in question. Relevant laws and other commonly binding legal regulation are applied by various activities in the field of standardization of geographical names.

There are several main state bodies responsible for the names standardization:

- The Ministry of Interior supervises the names of settlements i.e. municipalities and parts of them,
- The Ministry of the Regional Development oversees the names of regional entities in relation to tourism,
- The Ministry of Agriculture determines the water names,
- The Ministry of Environment carries out the names of protected landscape areas,
- The Czech Statistical Office standardizes the names of basic settlement units for purpose of the territorial planning, statistics and elections,
- The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre is responsible for the names of cadastral units and for the standardization of other names that are to be included in the state map series (field names, oronyms etc.)

Names Sources

The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (Abbr. COSMC, web site: <http://www.cuzk.cz>) is the publisher of the State Map Series on the territory of the Czech

Republic. The State Map Series consists of Large-Scale Maps, Medium-Scale Basic Maps, Maps of Landscape Units, Maps of Administration Division, Sheet Lines of the State Map Series and Thematic State Map Series. Maps are published within various scales from 1: 5 000 to 1: 1 Mil. in printed or digital forms, which are regularly renewed in the short period of time. The GIS administered by the Czech Office is called ZABAGED. The both maps and database ZABAGED are available at the web site of the business module and map services of the Land Survey Office <http://www.geoportal.cuzk.cz>.

The expert body of the COSMC for names standardization has been since 1971 the Commission on Geographical Names, which has continued in the same working structure since 2000. It is responsible for the database of geographical names, whose administration and update is realized by the Land Survey Office. The database, which is called Geonames, was founded in 1998 and names from the whole territory of the Czech Republic occurring on map sheets 1:10 000 had been taken in the database before 2006. There is the special Conference WP concerning the Geonames database.

The Czech Statistical Office prints in the interval of ten years the Statistical List of Municipalities of the Czech Republic, which is based on the processing of data from the population census. The List includes the standardized names of municipalities, their parts and basic settlement units. The Office administers the relevant name digital database as well. It is called the Territorial Identification Register of Basic Settlement Units - UIR ZSJ (<http://www.czso.cz>, http://www.czso.cz/csu/rso.nsf/i/prohlizec_uir_zsj - only in Czech)

Names gazetteers

Since 2002 several gazetteers were published in the Czech Republic. In this article, only ones issued by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre are showed.

1. Geographical Names of the Czech Republic (in 2002)

The gazetteer has included all geographical names in the scale 1:500 000 and two attached maps. It is available only in the hard copy.

2. The Names of the States and their Selected Territorial Parts – Europe (in 2005)

There is the special UN Conference WP concerning the gazetteer. It is available only in the hard copy.

3. List of the Czech Exonyms, Standardized Forms and Variants (in 2006).

The aim of the gazetteer List of Czech Exonyms is to codify the Czech domestic forms of geographical names abroad - exonyms. The idea was to present the contemporary stage of their usage, that is why the forms of some exonyms have been changed in comparison to forms that were standardized in lists that were issued earlier. The integral parts of the publication are the list of selected literature related to exonyms and map appendices. There is the special UN Conference WP concerning the gazetteer. It is available only in the hard copy.

Toponymic Guidelines

Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic was elaborated by the Commission on Geographical Names of the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre in 1997. The 3rd edition was prepared for the Ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The changes concern mainly the structure of state administration and the legislation. The Guidelines is available at the Land Survey Office's website in both PDF and RTF formats:

http://www.cuzk.cz/Dokument.aspx?PRARESKOD=30&MENUID=10479&AKCE=DOC:30-ZU_NAZVOSLOVNE_PODKLADY

There is the also special UN Conference WP includes the printed form of the Guidelines.

International cooperation

The Czech Republic has chaired the UNGEGN linguistic/geographical Division "East, Central and South East Europe Division" since 2002. To discharge of duties connected with the representation of the UNGEGN Division, the Czech Office for Surveying Mapping and Cadastre organized in the period 2002 – 2007 two divisional meetings in the Czech capital Prague, to which meetings of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms were joined. Joint meetings were also commonly with the convenors of the WG (Mr. Orožen-Adamič, Mr. Jordan) prepared and realized and that cooperation was hopefully appropriate and to be recommended for future. The divisional meetings were very important, firstly to the information exchange secondly to the bigger international cooperation. Generally, the necessary, to make the easier data exchange possible, influences the collaboration among the divisional countries and even among the divisions themselves more and more. For instance, the the Consortium of the EuroGeoNames Project (Mr. Sievers) became the third organizer of the Prague Joint Meeting on Geographical Names held in Prague in May, 2007.

Unfortunately, the new chairperson of the Division has not yet been elected for the next period of time 2007 – 2012.