

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

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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 concerning the progress made in Romania in the field of
standardization of geographic names between 2002-2007**

Submitted by Romania **

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** Prepared by Romania.

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The constant presence of Romania at the United Nations Conferences on the standardization of geographical names confirms the will of our country to consequently put into practice the resolutions adopted by the previous conferences, to contribute to a better international cooperation.

Romania set off the principle supported since the first United Nations Conference held in Geneva in 1967, stating that a standardization at the international level can only be successful if based on each country's efforts to solve its internal problems concerning the geographical names in accordance with the United Nations recommendations.

It was not possible yet to establish, in Romania, a Governmental authority in the field of standardization of geographical names. Hopefully, the National Agency for Cadaster and Real Estate under the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform will take these responsibilities surpassing the lack of legislation concerning the establishment of such a governmental body. Compensating for these responsibilities, a Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names functions in the frame of Romanian Academy, starting with 1996, as an interdisciplinary body with advisory role, made by experts from various domains as well as by public bodies. This commission is the scientific forum that provides, upon the request of the Government, the graphical appearance of the inscriptions for a number of 1241 localities, villages and towns (less than 10% of the total number of the localities in our country). Between 2002 – 2007, it was monitored the strict observance of the Government Ordinance no. 1206 of 27 November 2001 concerning the inscription in mother language of the names of the localities in which the national minorities count more than 20% of the total population. For setting the final graphical appearances, cultural organizations of the respective minorities as well as their representatives in the Chamber of Deputies were sought for advice.

This policy that reflects the multiculturalism and the recognition of the rights for national minorities can be founded in Sibiu, a city declared as European cultural capital this year.

Between 2002 – 2007, the administrative map of Romania has changed because of several modifications made in the juridical status of some territorial-administrative entities. The number of localities declared as municipalities increased from 56 to 103, a number of 55 new towns appeared, raising their number at 320 and the number of communes increased from 2686 to 2855. The denomination of the new communes was rigorously made by taking the name of the village that serves as residence for the new commune. We consider that the *Newsletter of the United Nations Group of Experts for the Standardization of Geographic Names* (UNGEGN) may become a valuable way of disseminating this kind of modifications, notified by the experts of their respective countries. The international cartography will get only advantages from this.

The National Toponymic Guidelines for maps and other cartographic documents, made in 1994 and presented at the 17-th session of UNGEGN of June 1994 is in force and it is expected to be revised as a consequence of the publication of the *Morphological, Orthoepic and Orthographic Dictionary* (MOOD), recently published by the Romanian Academy.

An example of putting into practice of the writing regulations for geographical names is represented by the last volume, the fifth, of the *Treatise of Geography of Romania*, made by the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy (1000 pages, published in 2005).

After the last Conference, in Romania appeared several toponymical dictionaries. An ample and coherent project, promoted by the linguistic institutes of the Romanian Academy in

cooperation with the profile faculties from the main university centres of Romania, is called the *Toponymical Treasury of Romania*. This project is developed based on historical provinces:

- Oltenia, that was recently finished, in Craiova, by its sixth volume;
- Muntenia, out of which the first volume appeared and the second one is being printed in Bucharest;
- Transylvania, that has as geographical reference units whether administrative units or hydrographical basins. In the first published volumes, the oiconyms are provided also in the languages of the national minorities;
- Moldova is concentrated on identifying the name of localities from this province as shown in the European cartography (from the XIV-th till the end of the XVII-th century), this part of the project having deeper roots and wider resonances on cultural and historical fields;
- Banat that was the first approached, is now in stand by and waiting to be finished.

In last five years, the production of geographical and historical atlases concerning Romania was diversified, scrupulously reproducing the standardized geographic names. As an example, the *Atlas of Romania*, its second edition being again a result of a fruitful French-Romanian cooperation. It is important that more and more atlases, even pocket-size ones (Corint Publishing House, 2007) include also an index of standardized geographical names. In the same rigorous style, the second edition of the *Historical-Geographical Atlas of Romania* is being prepared by the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy.

The school books and atlases used exonyms in a flexible way, progressively indicating in texts and on maps the official names. A preliminary evaluation indicates, after 30 years from the publication of the first list of exonyms used in Romania (Bârsan, Dragomirescu, 1977) a decrease of their number with 8%. The new names appeared on the World map are taken today with their original graphic form.

The biggest and oldest project in this field, now in its final stage, undertaken by the Institute of Geography with the help of the Military Topographic Directorate and of the National Institute of Statistics under the coordination of the Romanian Academy, is the *Gazetteer of Romania*, made according to the recommendations of the United Nations Conferences. More than 40,000 names are listed, covering the major toponymy of the country as shown on the topographical map at 1: 100,000: 18,000 oronyms, 14,000 oiconyms, 600 hydronyms, phytonyms and odonyms etc. A page extracted from this work is attached in order to illustrate how the recommendations of the United Nations Conferences were observed. It indicates the category of each name, the geographical position referenced to the major natural unit, the administrative dependence, the altitude, latitude and longitude, the length for rivers, the area for lakes, the number of inhabitants for localities etc.

For the localities in which a minority represents more than 20% of the total population, their respective graphic form is mentioned.

Hopefully no longer after its publication this valuable database will be available in digital format on a web page and will be updated periodically.

Romania is for continuing the large exchange of ideas, information and documentation in this dynamic field. Thus we appreciate the *UNGEGN Newsletter* able to reveal the interest of larger parts of the public opinion.

On the occasion of the V-th jubilee Conference of the United Nations on the standardization of the geographical names, held at New York, in 1992, were mentioned the 16 nations participating to all the conferences, our country included. Romania would like to confirm

its status of founding member of these United Nations meetings, receptive to the public image that the geographical names give.

Ardelea, vârf, alt. 1 590 m, M-ții Tarcăului, S Bicaz, 46°42' lat. N, 26°08' long. E.

Ardeleanului, Plaiul ~, culme, alt. 400 m, Subcarp. Vrancei, N Mera, 45°49' lat. N, 26°57' long. E.

Ardelenilor, P. ~, pâraiu, afl. stg. r. Apa Mare, lung. 14 km, confl. alt. 105 m, SV Arad, jud. Arad, 46°01' lat. N, 21°12' long. E.

Ardeloia, vârf, alt. 1 040 m, Obcina Feredeului, SE Breaza, 47°36' lat. N, 25°22' long. E.

Ardeluța, sat, com. Tarcău, jud. Neamț, 31 loc., alt. 760 m, M-ții Tarcăului, 46°44' lat. N, 26°12' long. E

Ardeoani, sat, reșed. com., jud. Bacău, 1 614 loc., Subcarp. Tazlăului, alt. 400 m, 46°32' lat. N, 26°37' long. E

Ardeova, sat, com. Mănăstireni, jud. Cluj, 85 loc., Pod. Huedinului, alt. 720 m, 46°47' lat. N, 23°06' long. E.

Ardeșeului, V. ~, pâraiu, afl. dr. p. Sâmboleni, lung. 5 km, confl. alt. 300 m, N Cămărașu, jud. Cluj, 46°48' lat. N, 24°08' long. E.

Ardeu, pâraiu, afl. dr. p. Băclia, lung. 25 km, confl. alt. 265 m, NV Balșa, jud. Hunedoara, 46°18' lat. N, 23°31' long. E.

Ardeu, sat, com. Balșa, jud. Hunedoara, 73 loc., M-ții Metaliferi, alt. 360 m, 46°01' lat. N, 23°08' long. E.

Ardeului, Pleșa ~, vârf, alt. 855 m, M-ții Metaliferi, NE Balșa, 46°02' lat. N, 23°09' long. E.

Ardud, magh. **Erdőd**, germ. **Erdeed**, oraș, jud. Satu Mare, 4 219 loc., C. Înaltă a Someșului, alt. 120 m, 47°38' lat. N, 22°54' long. E.

Ardud Vii, magh. **Erdődhegy**, sat, apart. oraș Ardud, jud. Satu Mare, 105 loc., C. Înaltă a Someșului, alt. 200 m, 47°39' lat. N, 22°56' long. E.

Ardudului, C. ~, subunit. C. Înaltă a Someșului, la contactul cu D-le Codrului, 47°40' lat. N, 23° long. E.

Ardudului, D. ~, deal, alt. 235 m, C. Înaltă a Someșului, V Viile Satu Mare, 47°39' lat. N, 22°56' long. E.

Ardusat, sat, reșed. com., jud. Maramureș, 1 826 loc., Depr. Baia Mare, alt. 150 m, 47°39' lat. N, 23°23' long. E.

Arduzel, magh. **Szamosardó**, sat apart. oraș. Ulmeni, jud. Maramureș, 913 loc., Depr. Baia Mare, alt. 185 m 47°27' lat. N, 23°16' long. E.

Arefu, vârf, alt. 1 391 m, M-ții Făgărașului, E Lacul Vidraru, 45°24' lat. N, 24°41' long. E.

Arefu, Depr. ~, Muscelele Argeșului, la contactul cu M-ții Făgărașului, drenată de r. Argeș, alt. 500 m, 45°17' lat. N, 24°37' long. E.

Arefu, sat, com. Arefu, jud. Argeș, 1 473 loc., Muscelele Argeșului, alt. 600 m, 45°20' lat. N, 24°37' long. E.

Areni, văiuță, afl. dr. p. Sărata, lung. 3 km, confl. alt. 290 m, E Răucești, jud. Neamț, 47°15' lat. N, 26°29' long. E.

Areni, vâlcea, afl. dr. r. Moldova, lung. 7 km, confl. alt. 320 m, SE Drăgușeni, jud. Botoșani, 47°15' lat. N, 26°19' long. E.

Arenișului, M-ții ~, subunit. a M-ților Dognecei, la N de Bărzava, M-ții Banatului, alt. max. 549 m, vf. Areniș, 45°25' lat. N, 21°51' long. E.

Argea, sat, com. Homocea, jud. Vrancea, 404 loc., Lunca Siretului, alt. 90 m, 46°03' lat. N, 27°15' long. E.

Argel, sat, com. Moldovița, jud. Suceava, 1 018 loc., Obcina Mare, alt. 900 m, 47°46' lat. N, 25°29' long. E.

Argela, vârf, alt. 764 m, Muscelele Argeșului, SE Schitu Golești, 45°09' lat. N, 25°02' long. E.

Argestru, localit. comp. mun. Vatra Dornei, jud. Suceava, 631 loc., Depr. Dornelor, alt. 880 m, 47°22' lat. N, 25°18' long. E.

Argestru, pâraiu, afl. stg. r. Bistrița, lung. 8 km, confl. alt. 811 m, N Vatra Dornei, jud. Suceava, 47°23' lat. N, 25°20' long. E.

Argeș, județ, central-sudică a României, reșed. mun. Pitești, 653 903 loc. (2002), 3 municipii, 4 orașe, 95 comune, 575 sate, alt. max. 2 544 m, alt. min. 150 m, intersecția 45° lat. N, 25° long. E.

Argeș, râu, afl. stg. fl. Dunărea, lung. 350 km, confl. alt. 12 m, SV Oltenița, 44°03' lat. N, 26°37' long. E.

Argeșani, sat, com. Băiculești, jud. Argeș, 502 loc., Piem. Cotmenei, alt. 480 m, 45°05' lat. N, 24°39' long. E.