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Toponymic data files: Other publications

Geographical Names in Various Languages

Submitted by Norway **

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** Prepared by Botolv Helleland and Vignleik Leira, Norway.

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

Paper submitted at the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 21–30 August 2007.

Prepared by Botolv Helleland & Vignleik Leira, Norway

Summary:

The linguistic multiplicity of this book is mainly European. Most names are given in a variety of European languages, including Greek and Russian with names both in transcribed and untranscribed forms. The author discusses the question of what forms should be chosen as headwords and points to some options. With regard to the forms following the headword he sees issues and difficulties much on a par with the headword itself. He strongly advocates the view that in dealing with names in non-Latin scripts both transcription and *rettranscription* can be necessary in order to give adequate and correct information. Furthermore he has some remarks on *dicacritics* and on possible sources of misinformation.

(A preliminary report on this project was presented as Working Paper No. 25 at the Twenty-second Session of UNGEGN, 20–29 April 2004.)

ON ELABORATING A MULTILINGUAL LIST OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Based on the work that resulted in Vignleik Leira: *Geographical Names in Several Languages* (← Geografiske navn i flere språk, Novus forlag, Oslo 2006; ISBN 10 82-7099-447-2)

One alphabetical list or many lists based on some division into different topics (lakes, rivers, mountains, islands, countries, cities, villages etc.)?

I strongly recommend *one* list. It is easier to seek information on *Athabasca* at one place, be it the river or the lake, or both, than to move from one place to another dependant of whether the lake or the river is at question.

Choice of form(s) of reference (headword)

The natural option is to give each name in the form it has in the language that is used to edit the list. For instance a Czech list can enter the name of the Danish capital as *Kodaň*, which is the obvious form for Czech readers to use when seeking information on that city.

In some cases two or more forms are used within the same language. One form may be stated as the correct one by an official language council (as is the case in Norway) while another form is the more commonly used. When two or more forms are competing the editor must choose between different procedures. Which forms are to be listed, all the forms that can be said to be in ordinary use? Or those forms only that have an official status (that is if the orthography of the language in question is under some sort of official regulation)?

When two forms are both considered to be correct, should one be treated as the principal form and the other as an optional one? Should both forms be given at their alfabetic places, or should there be a reference from one of them to the other one? This last question can be regarded as a matter of saving space only, but may also be considered under a more principal point of view..

In my list I have stuck to the principle of giving the names in the orthography stated by the Norwegian Language Council. The two Greek names that in English renderings are *Athens* and *Rhodes* are treated like this:

Aten el. **Athen** hovedstaden i Hellas; Afiny (ru. Афины), Ateena (est., fi.), Atenas (port., sp.), Atēnas (latv.), Atene (it.), Atény (tsj.), Athen (da., fær., ty.), Athen el. Aten (sv.), Athena (sam.), AḔena (isl.), Athene (ned.), Athènes (fr.), Athens (eng.), Athína (gr. Αθήνα), Athína el. Athén (ung.)

Ródos (gr. Ρόδος) gresk øy og by; Rhodes (eng., fr.), Rhodos (da., est., sam., sv., ty.), Rhódos (isl.), Rhodus (lat.), Roda el. Rodosa (latv.), Rodas (sp.), Rodes (port.), Ródhos (fi.), Rodi (it.), Rodo Sala (lit.), Rodos (fær., ned., ru. Рódос), Rodos el. Rhodos (fi.), Ródosz (ung.)

In the official Norwegian orthography you can choose between *Aten* and *Athen* while *Ródos* (with or without the stress marker ´) is the only accepted form. I have listed the names in accordance with this in order to give the readers full and accurate information of the official spelling. – In actual use the forms with the *h* (*Athen*, *Rhodos*) are the more common ones.

Forms following the headword

The forms in other languages may deviate from or be identical with the form in the list language (the headword). Difference in one letter or in the use or non-use of a diacritic mark is enough to establish a deviation. Identity of forms demand that the same letters follow upon each other in the exact same sequence, e.g. *Paris*, which is the French endonymic name of the capital of France, and serves as well as the name in many other languages, regardless of differences in pronunciation

The selection and registration of forms in other languages may meet with the same difficulties as the list language has to cope with.

Endonyms

Endonyms should be marked in one way or another. I have chosen to give the endonyms in *italics*. If the endonym also is the headword, there is a combination of letters in **bold** script and in *italics*, see *Calais* further down.

Transcription and retranscription

Transcriptions are needed when the list includes names in languages using another writing system than the list language, e.g. the transferring of names in Cyrillic and Greek letters to forms with Latin letters – or vice versa.

Retranscription – in the sense of transcription *back* to the original system – is e.g. needed to account for Greek and Russian renderings of names with Latin alphabet spellings:

Calais (fr., da., eng., est., fi., fær., isl., it., ned., port., sp., sv., ty., ung.) by i Frankrike; Kale (ru. Καλέ), Kalé (gr. Καλαί), Kalē (latv.), Kalè (lit.)

As the listing shows retranscription does not necessarily result in reinstalling of the original form. Transcription is mainly a device to suggest *pronunciation* of a name belonging to another writing system. Thus the Greek form *Καλαί* and the Russian form *Καλέ* indicate for Greeks and Russians respectively how to pronounce the name of the French town, which in the French orthography has the spelling *Calais*. For readers not familiar with Greek and Russian the *retranscription* is necessary for enabling them to have an idea of how the name sounds in Greek and Russian.

An interesting collateral effect of retranscription may be – as demonstrated here – that it serves better to indicate the pronunciation of a foreign name than the spelling in your own

language. Thus for Norwegians *Kale* and especially *Kalé* is a far better clue to the pronunciation than the spelling *Calais*.

It must be emphasized that the *real* Greek form is *Kαλαί*, and the *real* Russian form is *Калé*. (The stress marker ´ is part of the spelling system in Greek, while not used in ordinary Russian texts, but in dictionaries and encyclopedias.) Both transcriptions and retranscriptions are to a great extent *language specific* and thus not suitable for common intralinguistic considerations. For lists of the kind that is considered here, it is therefore necessary to include both transcribed and untranscribed forms. The genuine untranscribed forms are for the specialists of the language(s) in question and may serve as check points. The transcribed forms serve as information for a general public and for linguists who are not familiar with the given languages.

Diacritics

Within the languages based on the Latin alphabet the use and non-use of diacritics and other special letters vary considerably. The diacritics outside your own language is often a nuisance. They may be difficult to produce from the keyboard and sometimes they are not obtainable at all. How they function in the system of interaction between speech and writing in the actual language is often concealed in the fog of general ignorance.

The diacritics serve mainly two purposes. They change the pronunciation of the letter(s) inflicted and they mark stress position. The latter is a possible source of misinterpretations. In the Portuguese endonym *Setúbal* the sign ´ serves as a stress marker. The Hungarian form is identic: *Setúbal*. But in Hungarian the mark ´ is used to indicate a long vowel. So, is *Setúbal* simply a reproduction of the Portuguese endonym (the use of the initial *S* instead of a possible sequence *Sz* is a hint in that direction, but not a proof), or has it something to with the Hungarian pronunciation?

Polish names are stressed on the penultimate syllable. So what about *Kraków*? The mark ´ above the *o* has nothing to do with stress, but indicates that the *o* is to be pronounced like the Nordic *o*, not the European *o*.

A list of the type in consideration should be furnished with some information – the more, the better – on the use of diacritics in the languages that are included in the list.

The principle of Norwegian language policy in the last decades has been to fully respect the use of diacritics in languages that use the Latin alphabet. The endonyms are registered as Norwegian forms regardless of the kind and number of diacritics they are equipped with. There are two general exceptions: Vietnamese names are given without diacritics, and the two Turkish letters (*İ*, *İi*) are treated as one letter in the "normal" Latin way, a dot above the small letter, no dot above the capital one. Furthermore there are some individual exceptions: e.g. no diacritics in the names of *Mexico*, *Panama*, *Peru* and *Senegal*.

Some possible sources of misinformation

During some years now there has been a tendency in large world atlases to give geographical names of foreign places, not in their traditional and well known formes, but in "international" versions, often based on English transcriptions of names originating from non-Latin writing systems.

Jerusalem is the ordinary Norwegian form of the name of the city in The Middle East. A large Norwegian atlas (472 pages) published in 2005 gives the name as *Yerushalayim*, a form not used in ordinary Norwegian. *Jerusalem* is given in parenthesis. The form *Al-Quds* is given as the second parenthesis in one of the three pages where the name appears.

Damaskus is the Norwegian name of the capital of Syria. The same atlas has *Dimashq* as the main form and *Damaskus* in parenthesis.

Yerushalayim and *Dimashq* are also given in a Hungarian, a Portuguese and in a Spanish atlas.

On the other hand, an Italian atlas (2005) has the forms *Gerusalemme* and *Damasco*, the same forms that I have stated in my list:

Jerusalem (da., eng., fi., sam., sv., ty.) by i Midt-Østen; Al-Quds (arab.), Gerusalemme (it.), Ierusalím (gr. Ιερουσαλήμ), Ierusalim (ru. Иерусали́м), Jérusalem (fr.), Jerúsalem (fær.), Jerusalém (port.), Jerusalén (sp.), Jeruszálem el. Jerusalajim el. Yerushalayim (ung.), Jeruusalem (est.), Jeruzalė (lit.), Jeruzalem (ned.), Jeruzaleme (latv.), Kudüs (tyr.), Yerushalayim (hebr.)

Damaskus (da., fær., isl., ned., sv., ty.) hovedstaden i Syria; Damas (fr.), Damasco (it., port., sp.), Damascus (eng.), Damask (ru. Дамáск), Damaska (latv.), Damaskas (lit.), Damaskos (fi., sam.), Damaskós (gr. Δαμασκός), Damaszki (ung.), Dammeseq (hebr.), Dimashq el. Ash-Sham (arab.)

Neither are comprehensive encyclopedias to be fully trusted. *Store Norske Leksikon* 'Great Norwegian Encyclopedia' (from the same publishers as the atlas referred to above) has in the latest edition (16 volumes, 2005–2007) the following entry: **Rhodos**, gr. *Ródhos*, *Rodos*. Here it is concealed that *Rhodos* is not accepted in the official Norwegian orthography (the official form being *Rodos* or *Ródos*). There is not even a reference from *Rodos* at the appropriate alphabetic place to *Rhodos*. Furthermore, the two forms given as Greek are not Greek, they are *transcriptions*. The Greek form is of course *Pódos*, which gives *Ródos* in Norwegian transcription.

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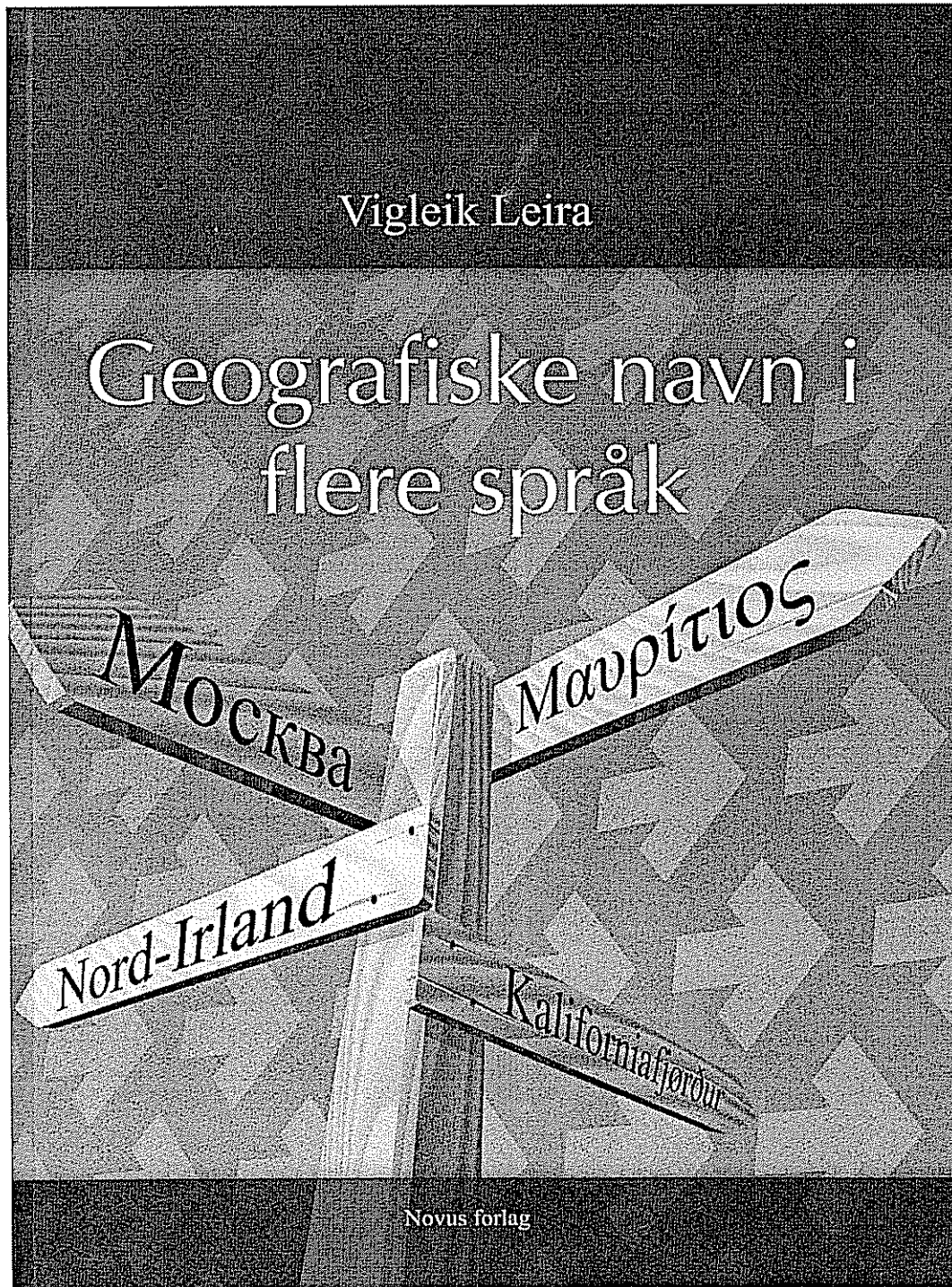
Former member of the staff of the Norwegian Language Council (← Norsk språkråd)
(now The Language Council (← Språkrådet))

See: <http://www.sprakrad.no/>

Vigleik Leira

Geografiske navn i flere språk
(Geographical names in various languages)

Oslo: Novus 2006



Fra norsk til andre språk

(From Norwegian into other languages)

A

- Aachen** (ty, da, eng, est, isl, sv, ung) by i Tyskland; *Áakhen* (gr *Ααχεν*), *Achenas* (lit), *Āhena* (latv), *Aix-la-Chapelle* (fr), *Aken* (ned), *Akhen* (ru *Ахен*), *Akwisgran* (po), *Aquisgrán* (sp), *Aquisgrana* (it), *Aquisgrana* el. *Aquisgrano* (port), *Aquisgranum* (lat), *Cáchy* (tsj)
- Aalst** (ned, da, eng, sv, ung) el. *Alost* (fr, port) by i ned spr. Belgia
- Aare** (ty, it, sv, ung) elv i Sveits; *Arole* (fr)
- Aargau** (ty, da, eng, est, sv, ung) ty spr. kanton i Sveits; *Argau* (ru *Аргав*), *Argovia* (it, reto, sp), *Argóvia* (port), *Argovie* (fr)
- Aarlen** (ned) el. *Arlon* (fr) by i fr spr. Belgia; *Arlon* el. *Arlen* (port), *Orolaunum* (lat)
- Asiaat** (grøn, fær, isl, ung) el. *Egedesminde* (da, sv, isl, ung) kommune og by på vestkysten av Grønland
- Abadan** (da, eng, fi, fr, fær, it, ned, sv, ty, ru *Абадан*) havneby i Iran; *Abadā* (port), *Abadán* (gr *Απαδάν*), *Ābādān* (per, est, isl, sp, ung), *Abadāna* (latv)
- Abakan** (da, eng, est, fi, fr, isl, it, sv, ty, ru *Абақан*) by i Russland, hovedstaden i Khakasia; *Abacā* (port), *Abakán* (sp, ung, gr *Απακάν*), *Abakana* (latv), *Abakanas* (lit)
- Aberdeen** (eng, da, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, port, sp, sv, ty, ung) grevskap og by i Skottland; *Aberdīn* (ru *Абердин*), *Aberdīn* (gr *Αμπερντιν*), *Aberdīna* (latv), *Devana* (lat), *Eberdīna* (latv), *Obar-Dheadhain* (gæl), *Obar Dheathain* (irsk)
- Abidjan** (fr, da, eng, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, sam, sv, ty, ung) by i Elfenbeinskysten; *Abidzán* (gr *Αμπιτζάν*), *Abidzjan* (ru *Абиджан*), *Abidján* (sp), *Abidžana* (latv), *Abijão* el. *Abidjan* (port)
- Abilene** (eng, da, fr, isl, it, ned, sv, ung) by i Texas, USA; *Abilin* (ru *Абилин*)
- Abkhazia** (eng) republikk i Georgia; *Abcásia* (port), *Abchasiën* (ty), *Abchazien* (sv), *Abchazija* (lit), *Abhaasia* (est), *Abhasia* (fi, it), *Abházia* (ung), *Abhāzija* (latv), *Abjasia* (sp), *Abkhasia* (isl), *Abkhasien* (da), *Abkhazie* (fr), *Abkhazija* (ru *Абхазия*), *Арсны* (abk.)
- Abruzzene/Abruzzane** fjell-landskap i Italia; *Abrutstsi* (ru *Абруцци*), *Abruzos* (port, sp), *Abruzzen* (ty), *Abruzzerna* (sv), *Abruzzerne* (da), *Abruzzes* (fr), *Abuzzi* (it, isl), *Abruzzit* (fi)
- Abruzzo** (it) region i Midt-Italia; *Abroūtsi* (gr *Αμπρούτσι*), *Abrutstsi* (ru *Абруцци*), *Abruzos* (port, sp), *Abruzzen* (ty), *Abruzzes* (fi), *Abuzzi* (da, eng, ung), *Abruzzit* (fi), *Abruzzo* el. *Abuzzi* (est, sv)
- Abu Dhabi** (da, eng, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, port, sv, ty) hovedstaden i De forente arabiske emirater; *Aboū Dabī* (gr *Αμπού Νταμπί*), *Abudabi* (latv), *Abu-Dabī* (ung, ru *Абу-Дабі*), *Abū Dabī* (latv), *Abū Zabī* el. *Abū Dabī* (sp), *Abu Dabis* (lit), *Abu Zaby* (arab)
- Abuja** (eng, da, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, port, sv, ty, ung) hovedstaden i Nigeria; *Abudzja* (ru *Абуджа*), *Aboūija* (gr *Αμπούγια*)
- Acapulco** (sp, da, eng, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, sam, sv, ty, ung) by i Mexico; *Acapulco de Juárez* (port), *Akapoulko* (gr *Ακαπούλκο*), *Akapulko* (latv, ru *Акапулько*)
- Accra** (eng, da, fr, fær, isl, it, ned, sam, sp, sv, ung) hovedstaden i Ghana; *Accra* el. *Akkra* (ty), *Acra* el. *Accra* (port), *Akkra* (isl, ru *Аккра*), *Akkrá* (gr *Ακκρά*), *Akra* (latv, lit)
- Aceh** (indon, da, eng, est, ung) provins i Indonesia; *Aceh* el. *Atjeh* (fr), *Achéh* (port), *Atsjekh* (ru *Ачех*)
- Aconcagua** (sp, da, eng, est, fi, fr, fær, isl, ned, sam, port, sv, ty, ung) fjell i Argentina; *Akonkágoua* (gr *Ακονκάγκουα*), *Akonkagua* (ru *Аконкагуа*), *Akonkagva* (latv)
- Adana** (tyr, da, eng, est, fi, fr, isl, it, latv, ned, port, sp, sv, ty, ung, ru *Адана*) by i Tyrkia; *Ádana* (gr *Αντανα*)
- Addis Abeba** (da, est, fi, isl, it, sam, sv, ty), hovedstaden i Etiopia; *Addis Ababa* (eng, isl), *Addis-Abeba* (ru *Аддис-Абэба*), *Addis-Abeba*

Fra andre språk til norsk (From other languages into Norwegian)

I denne henvisningslista fra former i andre språk er der ikke tatt hensyn til diakritiske tegn. Det vil si at der f.eks. ikke er gitt henvisning fra *Reunión* til *Réunion*, heller ikke fra *Perú* til *Peru*. Videre dekker *Etiopie* både fransk *Éthiopie* og nederlandsk *Ethiopië*. Bokstavene *c*, *s*, og *z* dekker henholdsvis *c*, *ç*, *é*, *ç*, *s*, *ş*, *š*, *š* og *z*, *ž*, *ž*, *ž*. Derimot er *ä*, *ü* og *ö* beholdt.

I aserbajdsjanske former er *ä* (alternativ bokstav i navna) satt inn i stedet for *a*, i samiske *d* og *ng* i stedet for *d* og *ŋ*, i tyrkiske og aserbajdsjanske *i* i stedet for *ı*.

For navn som *Trinidad* og *Tobago* er der ikke vist fra former som avviker bare gjennom ordet som svarer til *og*. I hovedlista er de faktiske formene gitt under de respektive språka

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 's Gravenhage > Haag | Abjasia > Abkhazia |
| 's-Hertogenbosch > Hertogenbosch | Abkhasia > Abkhazia |
| Aadria > Adriahavet | Abkhasien > Abkhazia |
| Aadria meri > Adriahavet | Abkhazie > Abkhazia |
| Aafrika > Afrika | Abkhazija > Abkhazia |
| Aaium > El Aaiun | Abou Dabi > Abu Dhabi |
| Aakhen > Aachen | Abouja > Abuja |
| Aalburgo > Ålborg | Abrousi > Abruzzo |
| Aasia > Asia | Abrottsi > Abruzzene |
| Aasov > Azovhavet | Abrottsi > Abruzzo |
| Aasovi meri > Azovhavet | Abruzos > Abruzzene |
| Abaca > Abakan | Abruzos > Abruzzo |
| Abada > Abadan | Abruzzen > Abruzzene |
| Abadana > Abadan | Abruzzen > Abruzzo |
| Abakana > Abakan | Abruzzerna > Abruzzene |
| Abakanas > Abakan | Abruzzes > Abruzzene |
| Abbatis cella > Appenzell | Abruzzes > Abruzzo |
| Abbazia > Opatija | Abruzzi > Abruzzene |
| Abcasia > Abkhazia | Abruzzit > Abruzzene |
| Abchasion > Abkhazia | Abruzzit > Abruzzo |
| Abchazien > Abkhazia | Abu Dabi > Abu Dhabi |
| Abchazija > Abkhazia | Abu Dabis > Abu Dhabi |
| ABD > USA | Abu Zabi > Abu Dhabi |
| Aberdin > Aberdeen | Abu Zaby > Abu Dhabi |
| Aberdina > Aberdeen | Abudabi > Abu Dhabi |
| Abertawe > Swansea | Abu-Dabi > Abu Dhabi |
| Abhaasia > Abkhazia | Abudzja > Abuja |
| Abhasia > Abkhazia | Abus > Humber |
| Abhazia > Abkhazia | Acaba > Akaba |
| Abhazija > Abkhazia | Acaia > Akhaia |
| Abidzan > Abidjan | Acapulco de Juarez > Acapulco |
| Abidzana > Abidjan | Acaya > Akhaia |
| Abidzjan > Abidjan | Achaea > Akhaia |

Geografiske betegnelser – fra andre språk til norsk

(Geographic terms - from other languages into Norwegian)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>á fjer., isl.</i> | elv | <i>bahr arab</i> | elv |
| <i>áarósi fæ.</i> | munning | <i>baia it.</i> | bukt |
| <i>aavikko fi</i> | ørken | <i>baie fr.</i> | bukt |
| <i>-abad hindi, per.</i> | by | <i>baixo port</i> | nedre |
| <i>acquitrino it</i> | sump | <i>bajo sp</i> | nedre |
| <i>ada tyr.</i> | øy | <i>bákti sam</i> | berg |
| <i>adalar</i> | <i>tyr: øyer</i> | <i>bandao kin.</i> | halvøy |
| <i>affluent fr.</i> | bielv | <i>bandar per.</i> | havn(eby) |
| <i>affluente it</i> | bielv | <i>bank sv.</i> | bredd |
| <i>affluent rum.</i> | bielv | <i>baseinas lit.</i> | basseng |
| <i>afluente sp</i> | bielv | <i>baseins latv.</i> | basseng |
| <i>áhpi sam.</i> | osean | <i>basin eng</i> | basseng |
| <i>aiguille fr.</i> | fjelltopp | <i>basse fr.</i> | nedre |
| <i>akrotírio gr.</i> | kapp | <i>bassein est</i> | basseng |
| <i>aktí gr.</i> | kyst | <i>bassin da., fr.</i> | basseng |
| <i>alanko fi</i> | lavland | <i>basso it</i> | nedre |
| <i>aldea sp</i> | landsby | <i>bassäng sv.</i> | basseng |
| <i>aldeia port.</i> | landsby | <i>batak tyr.</i> | myr |
| <i>alempi fi.</i> | nedre | <i>bati tyr.</i> | vest(re) |
| <i>alföld ung.</i> | lavland | <i>bay eng.</i> | bukt |
| <i>allas fi</i> | basseng | <i>bažina tsj.</i> | myr |
| <i>alsó ung</i> | nedre | <i>Becken ty.</i> | basseng |
| <i>alto it., port., sp.</i> | øvre | <i>bei kin</i> | nord(re) |
| <i>altopiano it.</i> | høyslette | <i>beinn gæl</i> | fjell |
| <i>anatolikós gr.</i> | øst(re) | <i>ben skotsk eng.</i> | fjell |
| <i>archipel fr.</i> | arkipel | <i>bereg ru.</i> | bredd |
| <i>Archipel ty.</i> | arkipel | <i>berg ned.</i> | fjell |
| <i>archipelago eng.</i> | arkipel | <i>Berg ty.</i> | berg, fjell |
| <i>archipiélago sp</i> | arkipel | <i>berzah tyr.</i> | eid |
| <i>arcipelago it.</i> | arkipel | <i>besar indon., malay.</i> | stor |
| <i>arhipelaag est.</i> | arkipel | <i>biflod da., sv.</i> | bielv |
| <i>arkhipelag ru.</i> | arkipel | <i>bjerg da</i> | berg, fjell |
| <i>arkhipélagos gr.</i> | arkipel | <i>bjergkæde da</i> | fjellkjede |
| <i>arkipelag da., sv.</i> | arkipel | <i>boca sp.</i> | munning |
| <i>arquipélago port</i> | arkipel | <i>bocca it.</i> | munning |
| <i>augš- latv.</i> | øvre | <i>boğaz tyr.</i> | sund |
| <i>augstiene latv.</i> | høyland | <i>bois fr.</i> | skog |
| <i>austrum- latv.</i> | øst(re) | <i>boloto ru.</i> | myr |
| <i>austur isl.</i> | øst(re) | <i>bolsjoj ru.</i> | stor |
| <i>baai ned.</i> | bukt | <i>bosco it.</i> | skog |
| <i>bab arab</i> | sund | <i>bosque port., sp</i> | skog |
| <i>bacino it.</i> | basseng | <i>bouche</i> | <i>fr: munning</i> |
| <i>bahía sp</i> | bukt | <i>bred da</i> | bredd |
| | | <i>břeh tsj.</i> | bredd |