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Exonyms

World place names: exonyms and endonyms in Finnish publications

Submitted by Finland**

Summary***

During the period 2002-2007, the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland published two books that included Finnish exonyms: in 2003, an updated version of the handbook *Maiden nimet suomeksi, ruotsiksi, saameksi, englanniksi, ranskaksi ja saksaksi* [Country names in Finnish, Swedish, Saami, English, French and German], and a *Venäjän federaation paikannimiä: Oikeinkirjoitus- ja painotusopas* [Place names in the Federation of Russia: handbook of spelling and stress], in which place names are written in both Roman and Cyrillic characters and alphabetized according to their spelling using the Roman alphabet.

In 2005, the Institute checked 145,000 place names for the Finnish edition of the *Reader's Digest World Atlas*, which was published in 2006. Of the names, some 5 per cent were exonyms. Since the atlas was intended for the general public, special attention was paid to Finnish exonyms and the romanization of the names written in the Cyrillic alphabet, according to the Finnish national pattern of transliteration. It covered the nomenclatures of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia, as well as that of Greece.

Kerkko Hakulinen edited the book *Paikannimet* (Place names) in 2006, which included 6,200 international place names. The list, in alphabetical order, covers continents, countries, major cities and the most noteworthy natural sites. The entries are in a form that is in compliance with the Finnish language, in other words, many

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** Prepared by Pirjo Mikkonen and Sirkka Paikkala, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland, Finland.

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of them are exonyms. Names and generic terms (for example, *meri* “sea”) are also included in the official languages of the countries and in English.

In the second quarter of 2007, the Institute sent by request a list of exonym forms (States, major cities, waterways and mountains) used in Finland to the exonym working group acting in connection with the EuroGeoNames project.
