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Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names

Report of the Czechia

Submitted by the Czech Republic**

Summary

Since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Czechia has continued the standardization of place names both within and outside its territory. Previously standardized names are updated, and the updated list of names of countries is maintained on the website of the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (www.cuzk.cz). Since 1997, the Czech Commission on Geographical Names has maintained standardized names according to the plan, especially those within Czechia. These names are maintained with an array of attributes in the national database of geographical names, Geonames. All terminology data have been gradually centralized and converged in one office. The Commission on Geographical Names continues to harmonize data between the national database and the registry of names in the cadastral map.

The Czech Commission on Geographical Names has issued a new edition of the Index of Czech Exonyms, which is available to the public as an application. The Geonames database will include pronunciations of Czech endonyms according to the International Phonetic Alphabet standard.

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** Prepared by Irena Švehlová, Secretary, Czech Commission on Geographical Names

Report of Czechia

Names authorities

In compliance with the Parliamentary delegation, the position and functions of the national geographical names authorities are carried out by ministries and other relevant central offices. The chapter introduces individual authorities represented by representatives in the Commission on Geographical Names.

Relevant laws and other generally binding legal regulations are applied by various activities in the field of standardization of exonyms.

There are several main state bodies responsible for the names standardization: the Ministry of the Interior supervises the names of settlements, i.e. municipalities and their part; the Ministry of the Regional Development oversees the names of regional entities in relation to tourism; the Ministry of Agriculture cooperates on the water names; the Ministry of the Environment creates 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; CUZK is responsible for the names of cadastral units and for standardization of other names that are to be included in the database of standardized names (field names, oronyms etc.). Practical and administrative part of the process is carried out by the Secretariat of CCGN, including technical support.

Names Sources

CUZK 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 administrative division, sheet lines of the State Map Series, Thematic State Map Series and Cadastral Maps. Maps are published within various scales from 1: 1 000 to 1: 1 mil. in printed or digital forms, which are regularly renewed in a short period of time. *Geographical information systems* administered by the CUZK are called ZABAGED (Fundamental Base of Geographical Data of the Czech Republic) and Geonames. All, maps and visualized databases ZABAGED and Geonames, are available at the web site of the business module and map services of the CUZK. <http://www.geportal.cuzk.cz>

The expert body of the CUZK for names standardization has been since 1971 the Commission on Geographical Names, which has been continuing in the same working structure since 2000. It is responsible for the database of Czech geographical names, whose administration and update is realized by the Land Survey Office. The database, which is called Geonames, was established in 1997 and names from the whole territory of the Czech Republic occurring on map sheets 1:10 000 were adopted into the database. 44 years later (in 2002) the standardization for this scale was completed and in 2005 all names were saved to Geonames database. At the same time update and renewal were ongoing.

The update of geographical names on cadastral maps in scale of 1: 1000 takes place within the scope of CUZK and will be finished in 5 years.

For more information please see UNGEGN Information Bulletin number 51 and 52 at this website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/bulletin.html>.

Names gazetteers and other publications

- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names on the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Concept of Standardization of Geographical Names of the Czech Republic in the Years 2015-2020,
- Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, version 1.02

- Translation of the brochure UNGEGN Consistent use of Place Names is accessible on this website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/pdf/UNGEGN_Broschure_cz.pdf,
- Methodological instruction on the adaptation and acceptance of names in the languages of national minorities and selected dialect areas, taking into account the specificities of Těšín Silesia.

The CCGN has put together a database Names of the world which contains Names of states and their territorial parts and Czech names of seas and international territories including Antarctica. The database includes a list of Czech exonyms and names in a language of a specific country. It is possible to search the names on the Internet on this address: <http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz>.

CCGN is preparing a database and web application of Historical Names of Czechia (historical names are linked to standardized names and experts can edit these names), also the 4th expanded and updated edition of Index of Exonyms and Methodological instruction on the adaptation and acceptance of names in the languages of national minorities and selected dialect areas, taking into account the specificities of Těšín Silesia.

We are preparing an updated and modified terminological list Names of states and their territorial parts, 5th edition.

For the centenary anniversary of the work of the geographical names commissions in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic was published a publication History of Geographical Names Commissions, 100 years of processing geographical names in the territory of today's Czech Republic.

The Inventory of exonym list is in the attachment.

International Cooperation

CCGN regularly meets with commissions on geographical names from neighbouring countries – Poland and Slovakia. We also cooperate with German Commission StAGN and Austrian Commission AKO.

Standardized names are published in three European projects INSPIRE (INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe), ELF (European Local Framework) and EuroGeoNames, from 2012. Data are available to many users in different projects and through different user interfaces as you may get to know in detail from our contribution to UNGEGN Information Bulletin number 52.

CCGN regularly participates in meetings of working groups for exonyms (WGE UNGEGN) which were held in Corfu 2013, Hermagor 2014, Zagreb 2015, Bangkok 2016, Prague 2017 and Riga 2018. We have hosted the 19th Working Group on Exonyms meeting and Working Group on Romanization Systems meeting in Prague [Praha] in April 2017.