

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:
Reports of the divisions**

**Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (with Annexes from
Hungary, Poland and Ukraine)**

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Report of the Division (with Annexes from Hungary, Poland and Ukraine)

After taking over the chairmanship, the Czech Republic has represented “East Central and South-East Europe” Division since September 2002. While the session of the UNGEGN Division experts which experts from 8 member countries participated in was held in 2003 in the period following the past UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names the next one will be probably organized before the UN Conference in 2007.

The representatives of some divisional countries took part in the sessions of other linguistic/geographical UNGEGN Divisions, e.g. the Polish experts participated in the sessions of Baltic Division and Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division since 2004.

In 2002, the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms was newly established. As the topic of the Working Group is matter of interest for many representatives of the division some of them joined to this group as members or collaborators. The convenor of the Working Group, Mr. Orožen Adamic from Slovenia organized the group meeting in Ljubljana, 2005.

As to geographical names authorities in member countries, the Commission of Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects was recently reestablished in Poland under chairmanship of Ms. Aleksandra Cieslikowa.

Similarly, the Hungarian Committee On Geographical Names changed its president who Mr. András Dutkó has been since 2004.

As the national standardization concerns, the standardization of hydronyms in Poland was finished and the list containing more than 15 000 hydronyms will be issued in 2006. Similarly, the fulfilling the database GEONAMES in the Czech Republic was finished in 2005. It contains all geographical names displayed from the map of the Czech Republic in the scale 1:10 000 and their attributes as well.

Among several topics the experts of member countries had to deal with, creating toponymical gazetteers is to be emphasized. Some of them issued in 2004-2006 are showed as follow:

- List of the Czech names of European countries and their selected parts (Czechia).
- Gazetteer of some 4,500 features of the Tatry (Tatra) Mountains of Slovakia and Poland in four languages (Hungary)
- Four publications giving Polish exonyms, comprising ca. 6500 names (Poland).

- Country Names (Poland).
- Names of protected areas (Slovakia).
- Slovak exonyms of extraterrestrial objects and apparent patterns in the sky (Slovakia).
- World Gazetteer in Ukrainian, containing ca.110 000 names (Ukraine).

Many details about activities on the field of geographical names standardization are given in the reports prepared by the experts from the member countries (e.g. Hungary, Poland, Ukraine) that should be circulated during the 23rd UNGEGN Session.

Annex 1:

Activities of the Hungarian Committee On Geographical Names 2004-2006

The **Committee** is seated in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, because this ministry is also responsible for mapping in Hungary. Operating on a government decree, it has about 25 members representing various government and other institutions with special interest in geographical names. It usually holds three or four meetings in a year and is basically dealing with questions of standardizing geographical names within Hungary, although, if asked, it also takes a position on the use of names in Hungarian cartographic publications of features outside Hungary.

The Committee held eight meetings in the period. In early 2004 **Ervin Földi**, who had directed and presided the Committee (and its predecessor) retired, but continues to be a member. Mr. Földi, who had led and presided the Committee and its predecessors, of whose the first one was established in 1963, received the Fasching prize in 2004, the highest Hungarian honour in mapping and land management. The body of experts are now led by **Mr. András Dutkó**, a cartographer by profession.

The Committee has taken a total of **82 decisions**, most of them on names of settlements, parts of settlements, street names and those of communication. It has also dealt extensively with the correct names of natural parks and conservation areas, as well as those of wine regions in Hungary. Considerable time was also devoted to formulating remarks on Hungarian names of the Serbian autonomous province of Vojvodina. Orthography and the traditional rules of giving geographical names are the most important criteria in these decisions.

Names of settlements: the opinion of the Committee is needed by law before the name of a town or village is announced by the President of the Republic; in most cases the new community was formed when part of a settlement chose to separate from the larger unit. Single-word names and avoidance of homonyms both in Hungary and possibly in neighbouring ethnic Hungarian areas are important criteria. Of the 10 decisions in the period, only three have been announced as independent communes (Kerekharaszt [47,39478N, 19,37306E], Monorierdo [47,18335N, 19,3034E] and Somoskőújfalu [48,09349N, 19,49104E]), entering into force right after the municipal elections in October 2006.

Street names: in cases of doubt the opinion of the Committee may be asked. Otherwise municipalities have the right to give street names. As with other names of small features a local link between name and feature is preferred.

Names of communication: some bridges and railway stations were named in the period. As for railway stations, besides a preference for single-word names a new international requirement calls for national codes not to exceed 17 characters for names of airports, freight terminals, rail stations (United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations).

Names of natural parks and conservation areas. A total of 190 names have been standardized, including 10 national parks, considering the traditions and rules of geographical naming as well as the aspects of specialists of nature conservation.

Hungarian wine regions. Standardized names for the 22 wine regions of Hungary has also been suggested, although they cannot be regarded as geographical names in the strict sense.

Hungarian placenames of the Serbian autonomous province of Vojvodina. Recent legislation in the territory allows the Hungarian name versions of some 360 towns and villages with a sizable Hungarian minority population for use in Hungarian. The Committee has studied the names and prepared its remarks.

As for names of other foreign features the Committee has studied a private initiative that created a gazetteer of some 4,500 features of the **Tatry (Tatra) Mountains** of Slovakia and Poland in 4 languages and suggested it for use for tourism, mountaineering and other special purposes.

It rejected, however, the suggestion of a private initiative that called for the introduction of an exonym for the city of **Strasbourg**, despite the argument that it would have conformed better to the generally accepted Hungarian pronunciation of the name of the city.

Annex 2:

Poland 2004-2006

To the agenda item N. 5 of the session

In 2004 the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration issued the regulation concerning mode of working for the Commission of Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, which changed its name, personal composition and a chairman. Currently prof. Aleksandra Cieslikowa, Institute of Polish Language, Polish Academy of Sciences chairs the Commission.

Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, has been working in the unchanged composition.

To the agenda item N. 8 of the session

The Main Center of Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation at the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography handles State Register of Geographical Names. Database of the Register contains names of localities and physiographic objects of Poland and Polish onomastics outside boundaries of Poland.

State database comprises about 167 000 objects, including 103 000 names of localities and about 64 000 names of physiographic objects.

Final task of the Register is to collect as many standardized (official) names as possible. The works on standardization of names of localities are still in progress. The Register currently contains ca. 87 000 official names of localities from the territory of Poland.

The works aimed at standardization and next publication of list of geographical names – „national gazetteer” are also undertaken.

These works were started from standardization of hydronyms. Lists of names of water objects were prepared linguistically, on the basis of hydrographic division of Poland and database of the Register. Next they were passed to the Commission of Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects in order to establish them. The works were completed in 2005. In mid-2006 lists of names of flowing waters (8 100 objects) and standing waters (7 740 objects) will be published.

The works on standardization and publication of names of caves and the remaining physiographic objects are also conducted. 1517 names of caves were collected, as well as ca. 100 000 names of physiographic objects. Publication of list of caves is planned for 2007.

In 2004 computer system of the State Register of Geographical Names was modernized, as far as domestic onomastics is concerned (BANG 2). In 2005 computer system related to database of geographic onomastics outside boundaries of Poland has been prepared. The works on creating database of geographic onomastics of the world are in progress.

In 2004-2005 the Commission of Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, affiliated at the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration worked on establishing and changing names of localities and physiographic objects. Over 1300 applications concerning names of localities were considered in this period; over 12 00 names of water objects were also established.

Standardization of hydronyms was completed; their list will be published in 2006. The same year ca. 1200 applications concerning names of localities is planned to be considered. New list of official names of localities will be published in 2008.

To the agenda item N. 10 of the session

The Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland started works on preparing tables containing rules of transcription and transliteration of non-Latin systems of writing to Latin alphabet. Tables for about 20 languages were already prepared.

To the agenda item N. 11 of the session

At the beginning of 2006 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography published the list „Country Names”. Correct spelling of these names was given, which is recommended by the Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland for common use. The list was preceded by Polish-English glossary of abbreviated names of countries. Publication “Country Names” will be given to the participants of 23rd UNGEGN Session. Previous publication “Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants” was issued in 2003.

To the agenda item N. 14 of the session

Standardization of Polish exonyms is conducted by the Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland, which exists since 1973 and from 2000 is affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland. In 1994-1996 the Commission issued 4 publications with Polish exonyms, comprising ca. 6500 names.

Lately the Commission conducts works on preparing lists of names of geographical objects of the world, comprising ca. 50 000 names, also including exonyms. The works on this lists were the occasion to verify thoroughly exonyms recommended by the Commission.

The Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography publishes successively the succeeding volumes of Geographical Onomastics of the World. So far the following volumes were released:

Volume 1 – America, Australia and Oceania (2004)

Volume 2 – Middle East (2004)

Volume 3 – Africa (2004)

Volume 4 – Southern Asia (2005)

Volume 5 – Central Asia and Caucasian region (2005)

Volume 6 – Belarus, Russia, Ukraine (2005)

After completing works on the whole publication it is planned to publish list of Polish exonyms solely.

To the agenda item N. 16 of the session

In 2005 the Act on National and Ethnic Minorities and on the Regional Language was issued. According to this act in 51 communes in Poland names in languages of minorities can be used. The works resulting from this act will be conducted within the Commission of Names and Physiographic Objects affiliated at the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration.

To the agenda item N. 17 of the session

The Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography started the works on publishing toponymic guidelines “Collecting and elaborating geographical names”, to gather and put in order Polish geographical names through their standardization and publication in the form of official lists.

In 2004 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued Part III of toponymic guidelines “Collecting and elaborating Geographical Names” titled “Application and distribution of descriptions on the maps”.

Two previous parts of these toponymic guidelines were:

Part I – “Collecting names in the field” (2002), addressed mainly to topographers, while updating large-scale maps

Part II – “Linguistic elaboration of names” (2003) addressed as aid for correct linguistic writing of the names collected in the field.

Moreover:

Cooperation with international organizations dealing with standardization of geographical names was traditionally continued; it was expressed by participation in the following meetings:

1. 22nd UNGEGN Session in New York (20-29 April, 2004)

2. 5th Session of UN Regional Section of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia (Moscow, 23-25 March, 2004)
3. 6th Session of UN Regional Section of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia (Kiev, 31 May - 2 June, 2005)
4. 9th Session of Baltic Regional Section (Riga, 11-13 October, 2005)
5. Session of Working Group for Exonyms (Ljubljana, 19-21 May, 2005)
6. GeoNames 2005 Conference: International Conference of Geographical Names of National Minorities and Multilingual Areas (The Netherlands, Leeuwarden, 14-15 April, 2005)

Reports from all these sessions, as well as from 22nd UNGEGN Session were published in the "Polish Cartographic Review" and in the "Information Bulletin of the Surveyor General of Poland".

Annex 3:

Report of Ukraine on Standardization of Geographical names in Ukraine in the period 2004-2005

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

In Ukraine the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre is responsible for coordination of activities in the sphere of establishment, standardization, list, registration, use and maintenance of geographical names both on national and international levels.

For the period 2004-2005 activities in the sphere of standardization of geographical names have been developed in following directions:

- Creation of legislative, normative and legal base regulating activity in the sphere of naming of geographical features;
- Scientific and methodological maintenance of functioning of the National Council on Geographical Names, coordination of received by the Council propositions regarding naming and renaming of geographical features;
- Maintenance of international cooperation in standardization of geographical names;
- Supply of cartographical products published by Ukrgeodescartographia with standardized geographical names.

THE STATE OF LEGISLATIVE, NORMATIVE, METHODOLOGICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS FOR CARRYING OUT OF WORKS ON THE NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

The Verkhovna Rada (the Supreme Council) of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine *On Geographical Names* on May 31, 2005. The adoption of the Law was called forth by the necessity of the establishing in Ukraine of the legislative foundations regulating any activity connected with naming and renaming of geographical objects as a constituent part of the historical and cultural heritage of Ukraine.

The fourteen Chapters of the Law of Ukraine *On Geographical Names* cover the whole sphere of activity connected with establishment, normalization, account, state registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

WORLD GAZETTEER IN UKRAINIAN

World Gazetteer in Ukrainian has been created in 2005. This is the first edition of a gazetteer of world place names in Ukrainian. The gazetteer had been compiled on the basis of the place names from the *Atlas of the World* published by the SSPE *Kartographia* in 2005, official documents, geographical dictionaries and reference books, cartographic and referential materials from foreign countries. The Gazetteer consists of six sections:

1. Place names of Greenland.
2. Place names of South America and Antarctica.
3. Place names of North America.
4. Place names of Africa, Australia and Oceania.
5. Place names of Europe.
6. Place names of Asia.

The total number of all geographical names in the Gazetteer is about 110, 000.

The information is arranged into four columns.

The first column represents the standardized Ukrainian written form of a place name; the second column gives the national written form of the given geographical name. If the national written form is not in Roman alphabet, the second column gives its Roman written form. The third column gives the reference to the category of an object, namely: river, lake, glacier, mountain, ridge, sea, bay, strait, volcano, tourist object, national park, nature reserve, settlement, administrative unit and others. The fourth column gives the reference to the country the given geographical name belongs to. Each of the six sections is organized in the alphabet order and is a completed work. The integration of all the six sections into one World Place Names Gazetteer has been planned to be done in the near future.

Rendering of the world place names had been carried out in accordance with the Instructions on Rendering of Geographical Names of the appropriate countries. 19 of such Instructions had been worked out by now, namely, on such languages as English, Belorussian, Bulgarian, Spanish, French, Polish, German, Hungarian, Russian, Swedish, Italian, Slovakian, Serbian, Croatian, Romanian, Lithuanian, Czech, Finnish, Norwegian and Danish. The instructions in force use phonetic principle of rendering of geographical names in combination with the graphical principle. The material worked out for the Gazetteer creates the necessary prerequisites for creation, approval and implementation of new instructions.

EXONYMS

Traditional names occupy a specific place among the geographical names of the world. In the process of working out of the Gazetteer we had put in order and revised the list of the traditional names in use. The basic principle we followed was not to create any new traditional names and not to remove forcibly from speech and written practice those traditional names, which already exist and are widely used. The biggest number of traditional names is found in Europe, especially in bordering countries: Russia, Belarus, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova. We attach the revised list of traditional names for the European territory. It consists of 600 entries.

THE SYSTEM OF ROMANIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

A number of city plans, road maps, political with the administrative division maps, and tourist maps of Ukraine, on which the geographical names are represented in Roman alphabet. The system of Romanization of geographical names is based on the normative table of transliteration of the letters of Ukrainian alphabet into Roman letters has been in use since

1996 and is designed for international use with the purpose of rendering (transliteration) of Ukrainian place names. The normative table is attached. This very system of transliteration is used for other printed products as well.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES

Names of countries are used in accordance with the reference book *Nazvy Krain ta Terytorii Svit* (*The Names of Countries and Territories*), published in 2000 and re-edited in 2002. The reference book contains shortened and full official forms of names of states and dependent territories, the names of state and territorial capitals. Apart from the Ukrainian forms of names the reference book gives the national forms of the names of countries: for the countries with Cyrillic and Roman alphabets the original forms of the names are given, and for the countries with non-Roman alphabets the names are given according to Romanization tables adopted in the given countries. The changes, which take place in the names of countries, are taken notice of, and the appropriate revisions are made in the reference book.

DICTIONARIES

A number of dictionaries and reference books has been published:

- *Zvedenyi velykyi heohrafichnyi slovnyk ukrains'koi movy (The Cumulative Big Orthographic Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language)*, 2003. The Dictionary has a large section of geographical names.
- *Ukrainsko-belorusskii slovar' geograficheskikh nazvanii Belarusi (Ukrainian - Belorussian Dictionary of Belorussian geographical Names)*, 2003. The Dictionary gives the name of an object in Ukrainian, then the name in Belorussian in parenthesis; the category of the object is also given, if the name doesn't refer to a settlement; there is also a reference to the country and to the administrative attribution of the object. The Dictionary contains about 8, 000 names
- *Hidrolohichni kharakterystyky richok Ukrainy (Hydrological Characteristics of Ukrainian Rivers)*, 2003.
- *Mista Ukrainy. Dovidnyk (The Cities of Ukraine. Reference Book)*, 2004.
- *Krainy svity. Entsyklopedychnyi dovidnyk (Countries of the World. Encyclopedic Reference Book)*, 2005.
- *Administratyvno-territorial'nyi ustroi Ukrainy. Dovidnyk (The Administrative Territorial Division of Ukraine. Reference Book)*, 2005.

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