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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION
IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS
MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report on activities concerning the standardization of
geographical names in Slovakia during the period since
the Sixth Conference

Paper submitted by Slovakia**

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Field collection of names

In 1994 the standardization of geographical names was completed in the extent of the Basic Map of the Slovak Republic 1:10 000 from the whole territory of the Slovak Republic. In 1983-1994 ca 70 000 names were gradually standardized. In 1995 the standardizing of the names of trigonometric points from the whole territory of the Slovak Republic was started by the Authority of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "ÚGKK SR" or "Authority"). Since 1995 ca 7500 names of trigonometric points out of the total number of 15 876 have been standardized.

Office treatment of names

In the Slovak Republic no changes concerning the competent bodies that secure the standardization of geographical names have been carried out. At present time geographical names are dealt with by following institutions:

National Council of the Slovak Republic defines the names of higher and lower level administrative units (provinces, districts).

Government of the Slovak Republic - defines or changes the names of municipalities by governmental decree. The name of a municipality can be changed only when decided and approved by the municipality. Before decision-making proposal is expertized by the Expert Committee on Geographical Names of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and its standpoint is one of the background for decision making.

Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic - defines and changes names of municipality's at the recommendation of the municipality. Before decision-making proposal is expertized by the Expert Committee on Geographical Names of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and its standpoint is one of the background for decision making.

Municipalities define and change the names of streets and public space after discussions with the residents of the municipality or its part and after the agreement of the district office.

The Authority of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Slovak Republic defines and changes the names of non-residential geographical objects from the territory outside the Slovak Republic in the extent of basic state map series of the scale 1:10 000 and smaller, conventional forms of Slovak names for residential and non-residential geographical objects outside the territory of the Slovak Republic and the names of extra-terrestrial objects, as well as the way of transcription of the names of geographical objects from the territory outside the Slovak Republic from the countries that use the alphabet different from the Roman one and also a different system of transcription into the Roman scripture, according to the rules of Slovak orthography with the consent of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

Cadastral departments of district offices - define and change names of non-residential geographical objects from the territory of the Slovak Republic, which are in the basic state map series of the scale 1:5 000 and larger and the names of cadastral districts. According to the Act No. 215/1995 of National Council of the Slovak Republic on geodesy and cartography the standardized geographical names are obligatory for the publishers of cartographic works, for

the use in the press and other mass media and official activities of state agencies and municipalities.

Treatment of names in multilingual areas

On the territory of SR Hungarian, German, Romany (Gipsy), Ruthenian and Ukrainian are used as national minorities' languages. They are of a regional character. In cartographic works published in SR geographical names are basically given in official Slovak language in standardized form. Current standardization makes possible to use in brackets the double forms of the names in the language of the national minority in areas that are mixed in ethnic and language sense on the maps with a scale larger than 1:10 000.

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

In accordance with the resolution 4 of the 4th Conference and 14 of the UN 5th Conference the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors was processed and then published in 1993.

Due to the new legislation, regarding the standardization of geographical names, competencies and obligatory use of names, re-edition of the Toponymic Guidelines had to be carried out in 1996.

In 1997 the amendment that takes in consideration new territorial and administrative division of the Slovak Republic was published.

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TOPONYMIC DATA FILES

Data collection procedures

In 1995 the creation of the database of geographical names from the territory of the Slovak Republic in computer-aided form of the PC GEOS program was started.

The database of geographical names is made up of the set of names of all residential and non-residential geographical objects named in the Basic map of the Slovak Republic at the scale of 1:10 000 (BM 10) and 1:50 000. As basic source of information serve published catalogues of standardized names. To each name other information entering the database is supplemented from maps. The data on geographical names from all 79 districts of Slovakia are gradually loaded.

Data elements required

Input form of every name contains apart from its standardized name form also its location according to the cadastral area and current administrative division. Further the name is located by means of the map sheet BM 10 and geographical coordinates. Water courses and hills are classified into respective catchment basins or orographic units. Another data entering the database is the date of standardization or previous form of the name, if any, along with its duration of validity and generic specification of an object. Information about each name can be supplemented by a chosen data characteristic for a special kind of object (e.g. by spot elevation with hills).

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Automated data processing systems

Data is processed in the PC GEOS program in the Fox Pro environment. Retrieval in database is possible according to input form field combination, which is arbitrary chosen.

National gazetteers

In the period since UN 6th Conference in the edition UN Geographical Gazetteers the following ones have been published:

Geographical Names of Bardejov District
Geographical Names of Bratislava District
Geographical Names of Čadca District
Geographical Names of Dolný Kubín District
Geographical Names of Dunajská Streda District
Geographical Names of Galanta District
Geographical Names of Humenné District
Geographical Names of Levice District
Geographical Names of Lučenec District
Geographical Names of Martin District
Geographical Names of Michalovce District
Geographical Names of Nové Zámky District
Geographical Names of Považská Bystrica District
Geographical Names of Prešov District
Geographical Names of Prievidza District
Geographical Names of Rimavská Sobota District
Geographical Names of Spišská Nová Ves District
Geographical Names of Svidník District
Geographical Names of Zvolen District
Geographical Names of Žilina District
Names of Cadastral Areas of the Slovak Republic

Other publications

Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors
Slovak Exonyms of Countries and Dependencies
Slovak Exonyms of Geographical objects situated outside the territory of the Slovak Republic

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MEASURES TAKEN AND PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Recommendations of UN conferences on the standardization of geographical names in the Slovak Republic are being fulfilled. ÚGKK SR is an official body that provides the standardization of geographical names of non-residential geographical objects, the names of the objects outside SR and the names of extra-terrestrial objects. Since 1 January 1996 general obligatory character of the usage of geographical names by ÚGKK SR has been legislatively completed.

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In accordance with the resolutions 4E I and 2 III systematic standardization of geographical names is being carried out in SR.

In the ÚGKK SR edition "UN Geographical Gazetteers of the Slovak Republic" have been published geographical gazetteers of districts as well as publications concerning geographical names in general. The standardization is carried out in accordance with the rules of Slovak orthography.

Recommendations of the resolutions 4E I for the survey of more detailed information on geographical objects is accepted by ÚGKK SR in creating the database of geographical names from the territory of SR in the extent of BM 10. The work of the Committee on Geographical Names (NK) at ÚGKK SR and UN activities in the field of geographical names standardization is promoted by the periodical *Názvoslovné informácie* (Information on Geographical Names), which is published twice a year as a minimum and distributed free to all who are interested in geographic names.

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EXONYMS

Categories and degree of use of exonyms

In Slovak cartographic production the use of endonyms is basically preferred. In maps and atlases that are intended for national use, in areas that are outside the territory of the Slovak Republic along with endonyms are, when necessary, given also Slovak exonyms in brackets. Basically the extent of exonym use in cartographic works depends on the scale of map, its thematic contents and potential user.

Principles in reducing the use of exonyms

The number of exonyms used in cartographic works has been reduced and stabilized. The exonyms that are used rarely were re-classified into the historic exonym group. In cartographic work fewer exonyms are basically used than those given in the elaborated lists. The situation is different outside the branch of Authority i.e. in the press and mass-media, where exonyms are not reduced so much.

Provisional lists of exonyms

The Committee on Geographical Names of ÚGKK SR prepared a catalogue of Slovak exonyms of geographical objects that are situated outside the territory of SR which was published at the beginning of 1997. The part of it is also Slovak names of municipalities in selected European countries, in which Slovak population lives as ethnic minority. For the public the catalogue of the Slovak exonyms of extra-terrestrial object was published as soon as 1975 and it is still valid.

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COUNTRY NAMES

The catalogue of Slovak exonyms of countries was published in 1996. Apart from abbreviated and full Slovak names of states it contains also abbreviated and full forms of the names in official language (official languages), the kind of establishment, the name of official language in Slovak, the name of capital city and its geographical coordinates.