

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 21 - 30 August 2007

Item 9 (e) of the provisional agenda*

National standardization:

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

**Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors – Estonia
(3rd edition, June 2007)**

Submitted by Estonia**

* E/CONF.98/1.

** Prepared by the Place Names Board of Estonia.

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors – Estonia (3rd edition, June 2007)

Summary

Toponymic Guidelines for Estonia present information on Estonian, the official language of Estonia, its alphabet and main spelling rules for geographical names, also on pronunciation. Linguistic strata recognizable in Estonian place names include names of German, Swedish, Russian and Latvian origin. Estonian has two main dialects: Northern and Southern, the differences are in grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Minority names in Estonia include Swedish and Russian names.

Since 1996 Estonia has a Place Names Act, revised in 2003. The Act contains main requirements for geographical names, and determines the competence of various bodies in establishing place names. Place Names Board of Estonia is the main national names authority.

Briefly characterized are maps and gazetteers available on Estonia. The document also contain a glossary of appellatives and other words used in maps, a list of abbreviations, and data on the administrative division of Estonia.