

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

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**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in the standardization of  
geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

**Report of Ukraine**

Submitted by Ukraine \*\*

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## Resume

Ukraine's report represents information on the national bodies coordinating the activity in the field of standardization of geographical names, the legislative and normative database of geographical names, and on cooperation with international organizations.

The Law of Ukraine On Geographical Names regulating the activity in the sphere of geographical names was adopted in 2005. The State Register of Geographical Names is being worked out. The works on the creation of the digital Gazetteer of World Geographical Names is completed and the preparation for the re-edition of the reference book Names of Countries and Territories of the World is also completed. The work on the compilation of the unified list of exonyms, used in this country, is being under way.

### **National bodies of geographical names standardization**

In Ukraine the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre is engaged in carrying out and coordination of the activities concerning geographical names. The State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (Ukrgeodeskartographia) functions as a part of the Ministry of the Environment Protection of Ukraine.

To replace the National Council on Geographical Names, functioning since 1993, according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of April 2006 a continuing body of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names was created. It is supervised by the Head of Ukrgeodeskartographia. This state body is entrusted with the organizational and technical provision of the Council's activity.

The main tasks of the Council are:

- to work out and define the main principles of determination and normalization of geographical names;

- to consider suggestions concerning naming and renaming of geographical objects.

During the period of report the activity in the sphere of geographical names standardization in Ukraine was carried out along the following guidelines:

- creation of the normative methodological database with the aim of regulation of the activity in the sphere of geographical names standardization;

- management of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names;

- adjustment of the issue of the Ukrainian Romanization system use;

- coordination of activities aimed at the provision of cartographic editions with standardized geographical names ;

- international cooperation in the sphere of geographical names.

### **Legislative and normative basis for the standardization of geographical names**

Since 1998 the Law of Ukraine "On Topographic, Geodetic and Cartographic Activity", which regulates the normative provision for the establishment, collection and preservation of geographical names while conducting topographic, geodetic and cartographic works.

The procedure of collection, confirmation and processing of geographical names while conducting survey work and updating of topographic maps and plans is defined by "Provisional rules of collection and establishment of geographical names on topographic maps and plans".

Since May 31, 2005 the Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names", which determines the legal foundations regulating the activity with respect to naming and renaming of geographical objects, and also normalization, use, registration and preservation of geographical names, is in force.

In pursuance of the above-mentioned Law of Ukraine the "Regulations on the State Register of Geographical Names" was approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 11.05.2006. The State Register of Geographical Names is an automatized system of accounting of the normalized names of geographical objects, which is being created and carried out by Ukrgeodeskartographia in Ukrainian, with variations of these names spelling in Russian and rendered by Latin alphabet.

The Register will consist of two parts: one with data concerning geographical names on the territory of Ukraine, and another – with data concerning names of other geographical objects, used in Ukraine.

“Conventional signs for geographic plans in scales 1:5 000, 1:2 000, 1:1 000, 1:500”, “Conventional signs for geographic maps in scale 1:10 000” and “Conventional signs for topographic maps in scales 1:25 000, 1:50 000, 1:100 000” are introduced for the publishing of topographic maps and plans in the state language in 2002.

The activity aimed at working out and implementation of instructions on rendering into Ukrainian of foreign geographical names is in process. At present 19 instructions are approved and in use. The instructions include general rules of rendering of foreign geographical names into Ukrainian, lists of the main geographical terms in Ukrainian, indices of exonyms for the given countries and also short reference material about the language.

Ukrgeodeskartographia is keeping on with works on preparing for print of the National Atlas of Ukraine. On the maps of the Atlas the names of the adjacent territories are given in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the approved instructions.

### **Names of countries and territories of the world**

Reference book “Names of Countries and Territories of the World” is published and updated regularly with the aim of establishment of unified spelling of countries’ names. The book contains reference data concerning names of states, dependencies and also territories with a special status, as well as names of states’ capitals and territories’ capitals.

Short form and full official form of the name of a country are given in Ukrainian and in the national orthography: for countries using Cyrillic and Roman scripts – in the original form, and for other countries – according to their official or the most frequently used romanization system. National forms of names are given in the official or state language, or in the languages in use in the country. The names of dependencies and territories with a special status are in the language of the country to which these territories belong.

The last re-edition, which is being prepared for print in 2007, is supplemented with the adjectives, derived from the country names. For the updating of the reference book “List of country names” submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Working Group on Country Names and “Report on current status of the UN romanization systems by for geographical names have been used.

In accordance with the instructions on rendering into Ukrainian of foreign geographical names Ukrgeodeskartographia presented recommendations as to the spelling of names of states and territories for the National Standard ISO 3166-2000 “Codes of country names”.

### **Toponymic databases and dictionaries**

In 2005 the compiling of the digital Gazetteer of World Geographical Names in Ukrainian was completed. The Gazetteer includes a standardized name in Ukrainian, national (or romanized) form of the name, class of the object (descriptor) and its location (reference to the country).

Reference books on geographical names of continents: South and Central America, Africa, Australia and Oceania and also a book of references Orographic Objects of Ukraine, as well as dictionaries of geographical names of Poland, Romania, Moldova and Belarus.

Rendering of world geographical names was done in accordance with the approved instructions on rendering of geographical names into Ukrainian from the relevant languages.

In 2005 Ukrgeodeskartographia published the Reference Book of Administrative and Territorial Division of Ukraine, in which names of all the settlements of the country together with their administrative subordination and also statistical data are presented.

In 2006 published Index of Geographical Names to the political and administrative map of Ukraine in the scale 1:500 000, which contains over 30 000 geographical names (names of settlements, hydrographical and orographical objects, railway stations) with reference to geographical coordinates to minute.

### **National geographical names romanization system in use now**

“Rules of rendering of Ukrainian proper names by means of letters of Latin alphabet”, approved by the Ukrainian Commission on Issues of Legal Terminology in 1996 are used for rendering of proper names and geographical names by means of letters of Latin alphabet.

During the elapsed time (period of report) with regard to these Rules a general geographic map and an administrative map of Ukraine in the scale of 1:1 500 000, a road map of Ukraine in the scale of 1:1 000 000, city plans of Kyiv, Sevastopol, Kharkiv, Yalta, Lviv and Odesa, tourist maps and a series of marine and air navigation maps of Ukraine were edited.

The Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names and Ukrgeodeskartographia are working out and setting rules of rendering of Ukrainian geographical names by means of letters of Latin alphabet in accordance with legislation.

In 2006–2007 a series of undertakings aimed at the regulation of application of the romanization system for Ukrainian proper names and geographical names were held in Ukraine. Amendments to the Rules of Romanization of Ukrainian Proper Names in force now have been prepared. Particularly they suggest to render the letter “ЛІ” as “SHCH” and not to render the letter “Б” and the apostrophe. The Draft Rules of Romanization of Ukrainian Proper Names, which includes the Normative Table for rendering of Ukrainian Proper names by Latin Alphabet is being prepared for the approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.

### **Exonymes**

On the basis of the compiled digital Gazetteer of World Geographical Names the working out of the single list of exonymes is going on in Ukraine. The exonymes in use in Ukraine are given in the above-mentioned instructions on rendering into Ukrainian of place names and terms of foreign countries, reference book Names of Countries and Territories of the World, and also a series of dictionaries of place names by continents.

The Gazetteer of World Geographical Names contains about 1300 exonymes, which already exist and are widely used in the country. The biggest number of exonymes is found in the territory of Europe, especially in the territory of the countries neighboring Ukraine: Russia, Belarus, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova.

The list of exonymes for the territory of Europe, consisting of the most frequently used for the publishing of cartographic editions exonymes has been presented at the meetings of the Working Group on Exonymes (Prague, 2003, 2007).

### **Participation in international events in the sphere of geographical names**

International cooperation in the field of standardization of exonymes names is being carried out along two main guidelines: the participation in events, which are held within the framework of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names activity, and the exchange of information on changes of geographical names with cartographic and geodetic services of countries-CIS members.

Ukraine is a member of two Divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: the Eastern Europe, North and Middle Asia Department, and the Eastern Part of Central Europe and South-east Europe Department. Ukraine also takes part in the meetings of the Baltic Department as an observer.

In May 2005 in Kyiv the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Europe, North and Middle Asia Department and the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Intergovernmental Council in Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States countries were held. 26 delegates from 10 countries of Europe and Asia took part in the meeting.

In September 2006, this time in Lviv, Ukraine received the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Part of Central Europe and South-east Europe Department and the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Intergovernmental Council, in which 19 delegates from 9 countries of Europe and Asia participated.

Ukraine participates in the information exchange concerning naming and re-naming of geographical object in the framework of the activity of the Interdepartmental Council in the Geodesy, Cartography Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States countries. Ukraine constantly supplies data on re-naming of its geographical objects for their subsequent publication in the Informational Bulletin "Changes of geographical names of the CIS countries", published by the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Interdepartmental Council in the Geodesy, Cartography Cadastre and Remote Sensing of the Commonwealth of Independent States countries.

The check of the way Ukrainian names in the border territories had been rendered was done for Hungarian, Slovakian and Czech cartographers.

Ukraine is a member of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) since 1993.

Ukraine became a full member of EuroGeographics in September 2006, and participated in its activity since 1997.

Ukrgeodeskartographia took part in the international project aimed at the inclusion of the object Struve Geodetic Arc into the UNESCO World Heritage List, namely, in the survey work and preparation of nomination documents for the four geodetic points

(Katerynivka, Felshtyn, Baranivka, Staronekrasivka). The object, located on the territory of 10 European counties, has been included into the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (July 2005, South Africa).

During the elapsed time (period of report) the representatives of the cartographic and geodetic service took part in such events:

- the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association and the 21<sup>st</sup> International Cartographic Conference (Durban, 2003);
- the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Cartographic Conference (La Coruña, 2005);
- the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Baltic Department of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Riga, 2006);
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Vienna, 2006);
- the activity of the Working Group on Romanization Systems of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Vienna, 2006).

Two representatives of Ukraine took part in the training course in Toponymy, organized by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names before the opening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session.

The State Service of Cartography, Geodesy and Cadastre is guided in its activity by resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, and as far as possible informs of their contents other concerned bodies and organizations of the country.