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Exonyms

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

Submitted by the Working Group on Exonyms **

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Summary

The report highlights first of all the five meetings held by the WG since the Ninth Conference in 2007, of which three had the character of workshops lasting three days each and were devoted to paper presentations and intensive discussions. The first of them was the 8th Meeting in Timișoara (Romania), September 9-11, 2008, hosted by the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography and the Adam Mueller-Guttenbrunn House and organized in conjunction with a meeting of the ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases. It was followed by the 10th Meeting in Tainach (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre "Sodalitas". Also this meeting was jointly organized with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) as well as two UNGEGN divisions – the Dutch- and German-speaking Division as well as the East Central and South-East Europe Division. The so far last of these workshops was held in Gdańsk (Poland) as the 12th Meeting of our WG, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography. The report refers then to a volume of the new toponymic book series "Name and Place" edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN titled "Trends in Exonym Use". It contains the proceedings of the 10th WG Meeting in Tainach and was edited by Peter JORDAN, Hubert BERGMANN, Caroline BURGESS and Catherine CHEETHAM.

Main topics of the WG were in the past five years the endonym/exonym divide, guidelines and criteria for the use of exonyms as well as trends in exonym use in various countries. They were subject of intensive discussion during the workshops mentioned, but also with the other meetings as well as of (at times very frequent) communication in between meetings by e-mail. It was, however, not possible to arrive at final conclusions in any of these fields. It became rather obvious that most WG members are dissatisfied by the current definitions of the endonym and the exonym (incorporated into the Glossary in 2007) for three main reasons:

- They highlight language as the main criterion for the endonym/exonym divide, while it is in fact only accidental and the essential criterion is the relation between population (community, identity group) and feature and an endonym/exonym divide can very well occur also within a given language.
- They highlight the official status of a name as a criterion, while the divide between official and unofficial status is a different matter and must not be mixed up with the endonym/exonym divide. An official name can very well be an exonym, when it is not accepted by the local population (e.g. the German name Litzmannstadt for the Polish city Łódź in the era of German occupation).
- They are not practicable for UNGEGN standardization purposes.

So the WG will in the first line have to re-discuss the definitions for the endonym and the exonym, since they are the basis for all other decisions. Other important fields to be dealt with, but secondary to the definition issue, will be the categorisation of exonyms and the elaboration of guidelines for the use of exonyms. The WG intends to hold a next workshop in spring 2013.

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

1 Organizational aspects

The Working Group on Exonyms was established in 2002 by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin. Resolution VIII/4 specifies its tasks with taking measures for “the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms”.

WG meetings held:

- 1st Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8th UN Conference
- 2nd Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre
- 3rd Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22nd UNGEGN Session
- 4th Meeting: **Ljubljana**, May 19-20, 2005, hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- 5th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23rd UNGEGN Session
- 6th Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- 7th Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24th UNGEGN Session
- 8th Meeting: **Timișoara**, September 9-11, 2008, hosted by the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography and the Adam Mueller-Guttenbrunn House
- 9th Meeting: **Nairobi**, May 11, 2009, in the framework of the 25th UNGEGN Session
- 10th Meeting: **Tainach** (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geo-graphical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas”
- 11th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], May 4, 2011, in the framework of the 26nd UNGEGN Session, but outside UN facilities, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 12th Meeting: **Gdańsk**, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography

Currently the Working Group comprises 82 official members and associated experts from 35 countries (see Appendix).

Elected co-convenors are Peter JORDAN (Austria, peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ (Slovenia, milan@zrc-sazu.si). After Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ had been appointed Slovenian ambassador in Croatia in 2006, Peter JORDAN acted as the convenor in charge and was confirmed in this function by voting at the 9th WGE Meeting in Nairobi, 11 May 2009. Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ had no active part in the WG business ever since.

The WG maintains a website accessible under <http://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si>. It is conducted by the Institute of Geography of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and currently under re-construction. It will be updated as soon as possible.

2 Activities

2.1 Meetings and workshops

Since the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 21-30 August 2007, the Working Group held three business meetings as well as four workshops and published the

book “Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010”.

7th Meeting, New York, August 29, 2007

In the framework of the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Working Group on Exonyms had a short business meeting. It was attended by 22 experts. It was agreed to elaborate guidelines for the use of exonyms as the next major project of the WG. Such guidelines would have to be based both on the acceptance of the exonyms’ functionality as well as on political sensibility. It was postulated that the next meeting of the WG should have the character of a workshop with the main task of drafting guidelines. It was decided to come back to an earlier invitation by Mr. Remus CREȚAN (Romania) confirmed by the Romanian delegation to the Conference, to hold the meeting in Timișoara, Romania, in September 2008.

8th Meeting (workshop), Timișoara, September 9-10(11), 2008

The 8th Meeting was organized as a joint meeting with the ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases (CNRA) and took place in Timișoara (Romania). It was hosted by the West University Timișoara (represented by Rector Ion TALPOS), the Romanian Academy of Sciences (represented by Șerban DRAGOMIRESCU), the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography (represented by Colonel Marin ALNIȚIEI) and the Adam Mueller Guttenbrunn House, the cultural center of Germans in the East of the Pannonian Basin, the Meeting’s actual venue. Remus CREȚAN, professor of geography and toponomastics at the West University, was the main local organizer, made the engine running and provided for a very convenient atmosphere.

It was the intention of the meeting to gather experts on geographical names and cartographers to discuss

- (1) the topic of exonyms and their application in various communicative situations
- (2) the general structure and in particular the chapter on geographical names of a “cook book” for atlas editors.

The two subsequent meetings were accessible not only for the members of the respective subgroup, but for all other participants interested. The meetings were linked by a common excursion to the city of Timișoara and its multicultural surroundings guided by Remus CREȚAN and his colleagues. The meetings were preceded by a UNGEGN toponymic training course for young toponymists in Romania and neighbour countries.

A participation of 48 colleagues from 18 countries and 4 continents exceeded most expectations. The organizers were especially pleased to welcome Helen KERFOOT, UNGEGN Chair, and Ferjan ORMELING, UNGEGN Vice-Chair. It was very valuable to have UNGEGN experts also participating in the ICA commission meeting. This resulted in many inputs to the “cook book” chapter on geographical names and thus had indeed the synergy effects that were expected.

The first day of the WGE Meeting (9th September) saw the following paper presentations:

Introduction into city and region and into the Romanian namescape

Sorina VOICULESCU (Romania): Cultural aspects of Timișoara

Remus CREȚAN (Romania): On the toponymy of the Banat

Șerban DRAGOMIRESCU (Romania): Exonyms in Romania – an evaluation of the last 30 years

Ioan Sebastian JUCU (Romania): A short analysis of the street names of Lugoj. A comparative approach before and after 1990.

Exonyms

Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom): The spelling of the country name Romania in British official usage: from uncertainty to standardization

Pierre JAILLARD (France): Exonymes et diversité culturelles

Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland): Exonyms in the Arab World – in Arabic and international cartography

Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia): Exonyms in Croatian lexicographical editions: Some remarks about their uneven and inconsistent use
András DUTKO (Hungary): List of Hungarian exonyms
Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES (Romania): The discussion on terminology of the terms exonym and endonym

Most of these papers were published in a special issue of the *Reviews of Historical Geography and Toponomastics* (RHGT) edited by Remus CREȚAN.

The full second day (10th September) was devoted to the discussion and elaboration of guidelines for the use of exonyms and had the character of a workshop.

As a starter into the discussion Peter JORDAN presented again his paper E-CONF-98-36-Add1 (“Criteria for the use of exonyms”). After most intensive discussions highlighting and confronting in fact all the various opinions brought forward in more recent debates in UN Conferences, UNGEGN Sessions and Working Group meetings, the outlines of future guidelines were formulated and accepted by all experts present. Peter JORDAN (Austria) and Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand) were charged to elaborate them into a paper to be disseminated once again to the members of the Working Group before it will be submitted to the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi.

9th Meeting, Nairobi, 11 May, 2009

In the framework of the 25th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Nairobi, 5-12 May 2009, the Working Group on Exonyms had a short business meeting. It was attended by 18 experts from 14 countries. It was agreed to take another effort to elaborate guidelines for the use of exonyms, however, not to aim at a comprehensive and detailed resolution, but at a concise resolution text with reference to an extended and comprehensive list of criteria for the use of exonyms – the latter just as a paper of the Working Group. It was also agreed to continue the discussion on the nature of the endonym with a focus on the name/language/feature relation as well as to encourage comparative investigations into current practice, trends and policies of exonym use in several countries and to provide thus for an empirical basis for the elaboration of guidelines for the use of exonyms. Peter JORDAN was re-elected in his function as a co-convenor (and convenor in charge) after having been active four and three years, respectively. Finally it was decided to convene the next meeting in Tainach, Carinthia, Austria, 28-30 April 2010.

Workshop on the Nature of the Endonym, Nairobi, 6 May 2009

The workshop continued an e-mail discussion evolving from a paper of Paul WOODMAN on the application of the terminological endonym/exonym divide on names of seas. The two principal views (a name has the status of an endonym only in this portion of a transboundary feature, where its language is spoken *versus* a name has this status also in all other portions of the same feature) could be clarified, but not reconciled.

10th Meeting (workshop), Tainach, Austria, 28-30 April 2010

The 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms (WGE) was devoted to the general topic “Practice, Policies and Trends of Exonym Use”. It was organised in conjunction with a meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen, StAGN), the co-ordinative body on geographical names for German-speaking countries (26-28 April), and parallel meetings of the UNGEGN Dutch and German-speaking Division (DGSD) and the East Central and South-East Europe Division (28th April evening). Thus, a whole week from Monday, 26th April, to Friday, 30th April, was spent on discussing geographical names in Tainach (in Slovene: Tinje) in the bilingual (German/ Slovene) area of Carinthia [Kärnten], the southernmost province of Austria close to Slovenia and Italy facing the Karawanken/Karavanke mountain range. The Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas” provided for accommodation, catering as well as all the meeting facilities and services and contributed with its kind staff largely to a nice atmosphere. The whole

sequence of meetings was attended by 60 experts, of whom 42 from 23 countries and all six continents took part in the WGE Meeting.

Due to the fact that Wednesday was the temporal link between the three meetings, the WGE Meeting started with a common excursion to nearby Klagenfurt and Maria Saal on the theme “Carinthia – a bilingual region”. Thursday and Friday were then devoted to the WGE Meeting proper comprising 29 paper presentations and an intensive discussion on guidelines for the use of exonyms

After some words of welcome by a representative of the Educational Centre, by Helen KERFOOT, UNGEGN chair, and Peter JORDAN, WGE co-convenor and convenor in charge, who combined them with a cultural-geographical introduction into the host region of Carinthia, the sequence of papers on geographical names started with a paper of Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom) presenting a balanced view from the outside on bilingual toponymy in Carinthia. Unfortunately the paper could only be read in absence of the author, who had been – due to ash cloud problems – prevented from coming. Pierre JAILLARD (France) and Henri DORION (Canada) continued with raising basic questions on the relation between exonyms and international standardisation and bilinguality, resp. Béla POKOLY (Hungary) referred to country names as exonyms. The sequence of general and principal observations on exonym versus endonym use was continued by Rainer DORMELS (Austria), who spoke about practice and policies of endonym use in the naming of sea bodies, Sungjae CHOO (Republic of Korea), who contributed on names of seas as transboundary features, by Hubert BERGMANN (Austria) highlighting the use of exonyms in dictionaries, Peeter PÄLL (Estonia) on exonyms in the context of script conversion, Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI (Poland) referring to the endonym/exonym divide by the example of names of Arab countries and their major cities, Peter JORDAN (Austria) continuing the discussion on the nature of the the endonym, to which also Drago KLADNIK and Mimi URBANC (Slovenia) contributed from a Slovenian perspective. Concluding this general section Pavel BOHÁČ (Czech Republic) raised the question why transboundary features caused a problem in exonymy focusing on the relation between feature and name.

Two papers were then devoted to the EuroGeoNames (EGN) database: While Ferjan ORMELING (The Netherlands) highlighted the collection and rendering of exonyms, Roman STANI-FERTL (Austria) was focusing on the handling of border crossing features within EGN.

The remaining majority of papers were right to the point of the Meeting’s general topic, i.e. practice, policies and trends of exonym/endonym use in various countries. Margarita AZCÁRATE LUXÁN (Spain) contributed on the situation in Spain, Maria del Mar BATLLE (Spain) to Catalan specifics. Herman BELL (United Kingdom) spoke on Nubian geographical names, Eman ORIEBY (Egypt) on practice of exonym use in Egypt. Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand) referred in this context to New Zealand, Sirkka PAIKKALA (Finland) to the situation in Finland. Maciej ZYCH (Poland) presented in two papers at first Polish geographical names of undersea and Antarctic features and then the Polish list of geographical names of Europe. Elka JAČEVA-ULČAR (FYR of Macedonia) referred specifically to the toponymic implications of the Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Macedonia as of 2004 and Remus CREȚAN (Romania) highlighted origins of Romanian toponyms on an ethnic background. Gábor GERCSÁK (Hungary) spoke on English exonyms of geographical names of Hungary, Imrich HORŇANSKÝ (Slovakia) on exonym standardization and use in Slovakia. Nina SYVAK (Ukraine) concluded this section by presenting a paper on names of orographic features in the Ukrainian Carpathians.

The last two hours of the Meeting were devoted to a general discussion on guidelines for the use of exonyms. According to the terms of reference of the WGE, developing such guidelines is one of the Working Group’s major tasks. It has indeed very actively been pursued in the last three years (6th WGE Meeting in Prague 2007). Also UNGEGN experts not involved into the business of WGE will remember that already several draft versions have been presented and discussed in UNGEGN sessions as well as during the Ninth UN Conference in New York 2007, not to speak of WGE meetings. Based on these earlier drafts and discussions Peter JORDAN presented a revised version of guidelines and conducted the discussion on it item per item. The discussion developed – as usual – lively and controversial. As at earlier occasions no consent could be achieved on a more substantial number of criteria, which would really serve as a hint for somebody looking for advice. So it was decided not to pursue anymore the goal of a UN recommendation, but just to elaborate a Working Paper in the sense of a partial

opinion. This paper is to integrate as many suggestions from the discussion as possible, but should not get inconsistent and insubstantial by doing so. It may in this way preserve its potential to serve as a handout for people looking for advice.

11th Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 4 May 2011

The Working Group on Exonyms met informally out-of-session during the 26th Session of UNGEGN in the Theatersaal of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. The venue away from the UNGEGN Session was intended to allow wider participation. The meeting focused on current themes and questions of the WG, especially on the endonym/exonym divide and the status of sea names in this context. Peter JORDAN outlined his paper “The endonym – name from within a social group” (WP 69) which had been presented to the UNGEGN Session. Paul WOODMAN, who had not taken part in the UNGEGN Session, presented his paper entitled “Endonyms, Exonyms and Language Boundaries: A Clarification”, which recapped the WG’s recent discussions on this subject and aimed at clarifying the author’s view, which he felt had been misconstrued or misunderstood. The paper considered the essence particularly of names for features beyond a single (or any) sovereignty, their nature as endonym or exonym, and how this applied to relevant language communities. The Working Group enjoyed a robust discussion on the nature of the endonym and name classification in general. A particular discussion focused on the nuanced distinction between ‘all over’, meaning at each individual location within a feature, and ‘entire’ meaning the feature in its entirety as a single whole and how these terms had been intended and interpreted in Paul WOODMAN’s paper. The essence of the terms ‘endonym’ and ‘exonym’, either as a fundamental characteristic, or as a reflection of an externally-given status, was also discussed. And the significance of the cultural context, noting that a name might differ in its endonym status according to a specific culture, was also acknowledged. An example was noted by Bill WATT of certain Aboriginal people of Australia who had a close relationship with coastal waters, but whose affinity did not extend to the entire body of water. The ‘entire’ sea might therefore not have what could be considered an endonym in certain Aboriginal languages. The meeting recalled also the WG’s previous consideration of the establishing of guideline criteria for the appropriate use of exonyms. A proposal for such guidelines had been considered at the WG’s meeting during the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi, Kenya, though consensus had not been achieved. Peter JORDAN had drafted a revised document “Criteria for the use of exonyms – a next approach” (WP 64) for the WG’s consideration. It was noted that the title *Criteria for the Use of Exonyms* was somewhat suggestive of promoting exonym use, and the WG agreed that any subsequent discussions should be considered with the understanding that the goal was to ‘ensure the politically sensitive use of exonyms’. The Co Convenor asked the WG to consider whether, in addition to 'endonym' and 'exonym', a third term might be required where there was contention about the application of either of the existing terms, specifically for features beyond sovereignty. The viewpoints of various WG members were again re-stated. Gholamreza KARIMZADEH presented a paper “Mechanism for standardizing the exonyms of features beyond sovereignty”, suggesting historical evidence should be considered when identifying valid exonyms. The WG noted that there could, however, be practical difficulties in determining the validity of such sources.

The WG also considered trends in exonym use. Maciej ZYCH presented his paper “Polish lists of geographical names of the World” (WP 24) describing the list of exonyms approved for use in Poland, noting that only those Polish exonyms included in the list were recommended for use in Poland. The WG discussed the future direction and appropriate themes to be considered. Suggestions included the categorisation of exonyms (e.g. such as of their phonological/morphological type, or whether they were a translation of a relevant endonym) and an expansion of the current questions into a more focused look at their relevance and application in languages outside Europe, perhaps especially in East Asia.

A next WG meeting prior to the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardisation of Geographical Names (to be held in New York, August 2012) and in preparation for it will be held on three days (one day excursion) in the bilingual region of Kashubia in Poland in May 2012. The place for this next WG meeting was chosen due to the kind offer of Katarzyna PRZYSZEWSKA and Maciej ZYCH, who offered to provide for the local organisation.

12th Meeting (workshop), Gdańsk, Poland, 16-18 May 2012

The meeting had the character of a workshop and was kindly hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Katarzyna PRZYSZEWSKA being the responsible organizer in place. It was organized jointly with the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems (Convenor: Peeter PÄLL). After opening speeches by Peter JORDAN, Peeter PÄLL, Helen KERFOOT and a representative of the host institution, Jan WENDT, professor of geography at the Gdańsk University, conveyed a geographical and historical introduction to city and region of Gdańsk.

The first session on the endonym/exonym divide filled the first day of the meeting completely and saw papers presented by Peter JORDAN (Austria), Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom, two papers), Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand), Ojārs BUŠS (Latvia), Maciej ZYCH (Poland), Herman BELL (United Kingdom) and Małgorzata MANDOLA (France/Poland). All of them except BELL and MANDOLA complained about insufficiencies of the current definitions of the endonym and exonym and made partly new proposals.

The two sessions on the second day of the meeting were devoted to trends in exonym use and minority toponyms. On trends in exonym use reported Béla POKOLY (Hungary), Sungjae CHOO, (Republic of Korea), again Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom), Maria del Mar BATTLE (Spain), Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland), Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia) and Pavel BOHÁČ (Czechia). To names in minority languages referred Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES (Romania), Ewa WOLNICZ-PAWŁOWSKA (Poland) and András DUTKÓ in a common paper with Mónika MÁNDOKI (both Hungary).

A general discussion on goals and tasks of the WG chaired by the convenor highlighted once more the prevailing dissatisfaction with the current definitions of the endonym and the exonym. It was repeatedly criticized that they were not practicable (esp. ZYCH). Especially WOODMAN and the convenor held the opinion that not primarily language, but the community-feature relation were the essential criterion for defining this divide and that the differentiation between official and unofficial names or languages had nothing to do with the endonym/exonym divide.

It was not time enough to discuss the various proposals for new definitions thoroughly that were on the table. But it was found that this should be done in a next workshop and as carefully as possible. It should be avoided that the WG comes up with new definitions “every other year”, since this would not throw a good light on the WG's reliability (KERFOOT). Viable definitions ready for the purposes of standardization, however, were the primary task of the WG.

A bus excursion to the bilingual Kashubian region nearby Gdańsk including visits to a university for education in minority culture, a bilingual school with teaching and dancing performances and a broadcasting station emitting also features in Kashubian language as well as a dinner invitation by the Polish hosts to a brewery completed the program in the most interesting and convenient way. It is planned to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

2.2 Other activities

Book “Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010”

As the first volume of the new toponymic book series “Name and Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (publisher Dr. Kovač, Hamburg) the book “Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010”, edited by Peter JORDAN, Hubert BERGMANN, Caroline BURGESS and Catherine CHEETHAM has been published and can be ordered on the

publisher's website (www.verlagdrkovac.de). The book reflects more or less the papers presented at the 10th WGE Meeting in Tainach and is composed of 30 contributions on four major topics: (1) The edonym/exonym divide, (2) Practice, policies and trends of exonym use in various countries and regions, (3) Exonym use in various fields, (4) Place name, environment and culture.

3 Future directions

The WG will in the first line have to re-discuss the definitions for the endonym and the exonym, since they are the basis for all other activities in this field. Basic requirements for appropriate definitions are that they (1) refer to the essence of the endonym/exonym divide and (2) are practicable for standardization. Also important – compared to the definition issue secondary – questions are the categorisation of exonyms and guidelines for the use of exonyms.

The WG intends to hold a next workshop in spring 2013.

Appendix

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