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National standardization: toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Estonia

Summary**

“Toponymic guidelines for Estonia” (4th edition, 2012) presents information on Estonian, the official language of Estonia, its alphabet and main spelling rules for geographical names, and 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.

The Place Names Act of Estonia, adopted in 1996, was revised in 2003. The Act sets forth the main requirements for geographical names and determines the competence of various bodies in establishing place names. The Place Names Board of Estonia is the main national names authority.

The document gives a brief description of maps and gazetteers available on Estonia. The document also contains a glossary of appellatives and other words used in maps, a list of abbreviations, and data on the administrative division of Estonia.

* E/CONF.101/1.

** The full report was prepared by Peeter Päll (Estonia) and will be available in booklet form at the Conference.

