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**National standardization**

**b) Office treatment of names**

### *Svenska ortnamn i Finland* – an inventory of Swedish place names in Finland

Submitted by Finland\*\*

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## ***Svenska ortnamn i Finland* – an inventory of Swedish place names in Finland**

*Svenska ortnamn i Finland* [Swedish place names in Finland] is a book-length inventory of the most important Swedish-language place names in Finland, which has Finnish and Swedish as national languages. The volume provides information about e.g. the spelling and pronunciation of the place names together with (where appropriate) the name of the place in Finnish. The inventory is descriptive, but since it makes a difference between established names and obsolete names it is often also used in a normative way by its end-users (e.g. journalists, authorities and researchers). The inventory is presently being revised; the new edition will contain about 5,000 entries. Some 2,000 of the place names used as entries have names both in Swedish and in Finnish. The inventory will be available on-line.

The oldest populations in Finland are the Saami, the Swedish-language population and the Finnish-language population. The Saami languages have minority status, whereas Finnish and Swedish are both national languages. The different languages are naturally reflected in the onomasticon. On the maps published by the National Land Survey of Finland there are names in five different languages, Finnish, Swedish, and in three Saami languages, and a substantial number of the places marked are presented with names in more languages than one. Most of the Swedish geographical names are to be found on the west coast and the south coast of Finland and on the Åland Islands, but there are also Swedish parallel names for places that are monolingually Finnish. The Finnish authorities do not consider a name of a place in a second language as an exonym, but as a parallel name, an equivalent to be used in the respective other language. The two language groups have been living side-by-side for a long time, and have mutually influenced the onomasticon in both languages, either through direct borrowing or through integration of the names.

Since 1897 there has been an inventory of Swedish place names in Finland, *Svenska ortnamn i Finland*. The inventory contains Swedish names frequently used for the most important places in Finland, and their possible Finnish equivalents. It has been revised four times, and the last edition of the inventory, compiled by Kurt Zilliacus and Ulla Ådahl-Sundgren, was published in 1984. Since the municipality structure in Finland has changed extensively since 1984, through new settlements and municipality mergers, there was a clear demand for a revised edition of the inventory. This is at the moment being compiled at the Institute for the Languages of Finland. The editors of the forthcoming revised on-line edition of the inventory are Leila Mattfolk and Maria Vidberg, in cooperation with a group of seven experts on onomastic, linguistic and legal matters.

The new edition of *Svenska ortnamn i Finland* will consist of about 5,000 names, that is, some 800 names more than in the inventory published in 1984. Slightly more than 2,000 of the place names used as entries have Finnish equivalents. The list is extended primarily through information provided by officials at the municipalities. The names included in the inventory are mainly names for settlements: municipalities, towns, parts of municipalities, suburbs, villages etc. but also names for more important nature objects, e.g. mountains, islands, lakes, are included. The entries are the Swedish names, and the inventory will also provide information about pronunciation (if this diverges from the standard norm), information of what kind of a place the name stands for, where the place is located (in some cases with a link to the map of the on-line map of the National Land Survey of Finland), and what the parallel Finnish name is (if there is one). (See Figure 1.) The inventory is descriptive, but since it makes a difference between established names and obsolete names it is used in a normative way by e.g.

journalists and translators, for them to have information on whether a place has a Swedish name, or if the Finnish name is to be used also in a Swedish-language text.

The screenshot shows the website 'Svenska ortnamn i Finland' from the Swedish Institute for Language Research. It features a search bar and a list of 22 entries. A callout box highlights entries 13-17, with labels pointing to various parts of the text: 'entry', 'pronunciation', 'province', 'the Finnish name of the place', 'description of the place', 'close location (former municipality)', and 'administrative location (present municipality)'.

13. **Olofsborg** (-bå'rfj) slott i Nyslott (Nyslotts stad), Södra Savolax, fi. *Olavinlinna*

14. **Olofsnäs** by i Geta (Geta kommun), Åland

15. **Olsböle** by och egendom i Tenala (Raseborgs stad), Nyland

16. **Olsön ö** i Malax (Malax kommun), Österbotten

17. **Ominaisfjärden** fjärd i Nagu (Pargas stad), Egentliga Finland, fi. *Omenaistenuukko*

Figure 1. Screenshot with commentary of the on-line version of the forthcoming revised edition of *Svenska ortnamn i Finland*.