Standardization of geographical names in Ukraine over the period 2007-2012

Summary**

There have been a number of changes in the Ukrainian Government system dealing with issues of the standardization of geographical names. In accordance with resolution No. 200 of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 22 February 2012, the State Geodetic, Cartographic and Cadastral Service is being abolished and the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food will be responsible for implementing the Government policy pertaining to the standardization of geographical names. The Ukrainian State Land Resources Agency will be in charge of coordinating activities relating to the determination, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names. The Interdepartmental Scientific and Advisory Council on Geographical Names will remain in operation.

On 27 January 2010, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted decision No. 55, ratifying the table for the romanization of the Ukrainian alphabet. Following the adoption of that decision, Ukrainian proper names (geographical names and personal names) shall be romanized in accordance with a single system of rules for transliteration in official documents, including cartographical publications and notices and signs showing the names of places of habitation, streets, bus-stops, subway stations and other localities. Ukraine is submitting the table for the romanization of the Ukrainian alphabet, which has been officially ratified at the national level and is now in wide use, for international approval.
The “Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, for international use: Ukraine” were published in Ukraine in 2011 and are intended to assist persons outside Ukraine using Ukrainian maps and other sources of information about Ukrainian place names.

Preparatory work was concluded in 2011 on the creation of the State Geographical Names Register, a computerized system for recording the standardized names of Ukrainian geographical entities.