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Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress
made in the standardization of geographical names since the Ninth Conference
(for distribution only).**

Report of Croatia

Submitted by Croatia **

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Introduction

This is a report on the activities related to the standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Croatia since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 21-30 August 2007.

East Central and South-East Europe Division Sessions (Item 6 of the agenda)

Since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Croatia has presided over the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN. Two ECSEED Division Sessions were organized; e.g. 19th ECSEED Division Session (Zagreb, 2008) and Joint UNGEGN and EuroGeoNames (EGN) meeting (Zagreb, 2011). The Twentieth ECSEED Division Session was organized as part of the joint UNGEGN and EuroGeoNames (EGN) meeting. The joint meetings included:

- 20th Session of the East Central and South - East Europe Division (ECSEED),
- Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG),
- EuroGeoGraphics - EuroGeoNames workshop (EGN).

UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (Item 7 on the agenda)

Croatia participates in the UNGEGN World Geographical Names database. The State Geodetic Administration takes care of the Croatian data.

National standardization (Item 8 on the agenda)

In Croatia, there is no national body for the standardization of geographical names. Pursuant to the *Law of State Survey and Real Estate Cadastre*, the State Geodetic Administration (SGA) establishes and keeps the register of geographical names. It is also responsible for publishing official topographic maps, main cadastre and register of spatial units of the Republic of Croatia while the Croatian Hydrographic Institute is responsible for publishing sea maps. These are the main sources of toponyms in Croatia.

The Croatian Parliament has the authority to name and specify territories of the counties, cities and municipalities. The municipal committees are responsible for naming and making decisions on territories of settlements. Name changes of counties, towns and municipalities are published in *Narodne novine*, the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, while the changes in settlements are published in official papers of a particular municipality. The names are kept in the Register of Spatial Units in the State Geodetic Administration (SGA).

Names of parts of settlements and names within settlements are under the authority of local municipalities. They have the authority to define the names of parts of settlements and names of streets, squares, etc. Major Croatian cities usually have a local committee that decides upon various proposals for street name changes.

Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures changed in Croatia (Item 8d on the agenda)

According to the Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre, the State Geodetic Administration (SGA) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the register of geographic names in Croatia. According to the Law on the Amendments to the Law of State Survey and the Real Estate Cadastre, the Croatian Geodetic Institute has merged with the State Geodetic Administration (hrv: *Državna geodetska uprava, DGU*). According

to the Law, the SGA took over the tasks, employees, equipment, rights and obligations of the Croatian Geodetic Institute.

Register of the minorities geographical names (Item 9 on the agenda)

Ethnic minorities are defined according to the *Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and of the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Narodne novine, the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No.105/2000)*.

In the Republic of Croatia, according to the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian language and the Latin script are in official use. In communities where certain minorities constitute more than one third of the population, the minority language and other scripts may be introduced into official use under conditions specified by law.

In some local administrative units, apart from the Croatian language and Latin script, the languages of local minorities can also be used. The national minorities are living predominantly in different parts of Croatia and their languages have a local character. Their language is used in schools, public names, on official documents and so on.

Exonyms (Item 10 on the agenda)

Most of the Croatian exonyms are related to the neighboring countries and the majority of them are related to the settlements in Italy, Austria and Hungary. Therefore, in Croatian the most numerous exonyms are those for place names in Italy, Austria and Hungary. There are also many exonyms recorded in older Croatian dictionaries and written texts that are not used anymore. Those are listed as historical exonyms.

The gazetteer of the Republic of Croatia (Item 11e on the agenda)

The gazetteer of the Republic of Croatia is made public on the Internet address <http://cgn.dgu.hr>. The gazetteer includes geographical names of the Croatian territory. The gazetteer contains names of: counties, cities/municipalities, settlements, islands, rivers, lakes, mountains, peaks, cultural heritage of Croatia under the UNESCO protection, airports, national parks, nature parks, other protected natural objects (features), new official map sheets names in the scales of 250k, 100k, 50k and 25k, the names used in the EuroRegionalMap, EuroGlobalMap v.3.0, and other dominant geographic objects (features).

Each gazetteer record contains: a record number of geographical names sorted alphabetically, the name of geographic objects (features), administrative area of the geographical feature (object), E East and N North coordinates in the new Croatian projection terrestrial reference system (HTRS96/TM), the classification of geographic objects (features) and the geographic objects (features) code.

Group populated place is the most dominant in the gazetteer. It has subclasses such as town, city, capital, county center, municipality, settlement, village, touristic village, economy settlement, etc.

Croatian gazetteer web site (Item 11e of the agenda)

The Gazetteer web service is available at the Internet address <http://cgn.dgu.hr> (see Fig. 1). The gazetteer contains endonyms. The service provides search of geographical names in the Croatian territory by name or part of the name, according to the classification of geographic objects and spatial search by counties. Name querying is not case insensitive (e.g. query for „Knin” or „kNiN” or „knin” are giving the same results). As additional

option „identical” or „contains” type of query could be chosen. Identical querying will give results with identical geographical names, and „contains” will give geographical name that contain the text requested. Spatial querying by county gives an opportunity to search for names only in selected counties. Visualization of a name could be made by choosing Google Map background (see Fig. 1 and 2). The service enables to report on or off-line correction of a name or name attribute. The service also enables to make on or off-line proposal of the new geographical name.

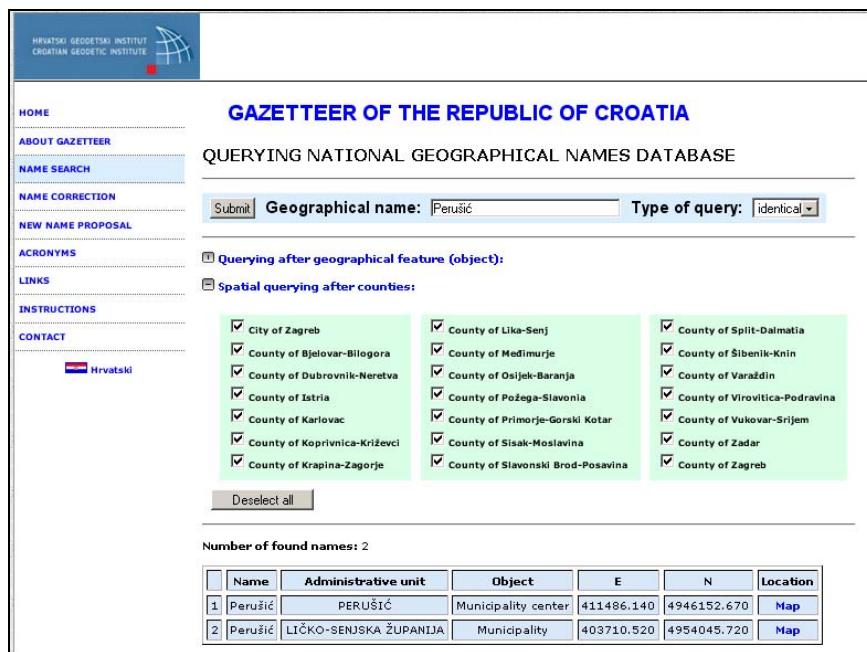


Fig. 1. Croatian Gazetteer users Internet interface.

The mapping between Croatian and EuroGeoNames feature systems has also been produced and feature classification is given the queried name after EuroGeoNames system in ten languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Hungarian, Slovenian, Slovakian and Czech.

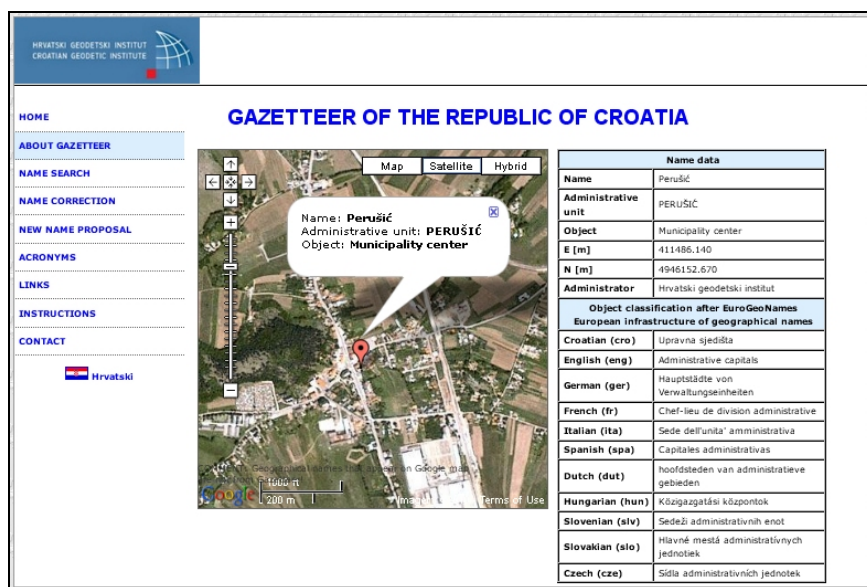


Fig. 2. Name visualization in the Croatian Gazetteer users Internet service.

**ECSEE Division web site
(Item 11e on the agenda)**

Croatia is presiding over the ECSEE Division and the Division websites <http://ungegn.dgu.hr> was first published in September 2008. It is the main ECSEE Division information point and is continuously updated and changed. The division website is a central point for getting the data about: ECSEED, the main national data, standardizations bodies, experts, organization of ECSEED Sessions and other Division activities.

**Register of the names of the new official maps sheets of the Republic of Croatia
(Item 11e on the agenda)**

New map sheet names are given for new Croatian map grids in the new Croatian projection terrestrial referent system (HTRS96/TM). The criteria for judging candidate toponyms are defined in order to choose the most appropriate name for the map sheet. Compared are toponym and feature elements such as: importance of the geographical feature, usage of the similar toponym, number of inhabitants for oikonyms, usage of toponym as the name in old map sheets, etc. The names are assigned to the new maps sheet in the scales of 1:250 000, 1:100 000, 1:50 000, 1:25 000, 1:10 000 and 1:5 000.

Writing systems

(Items 13 on the agenda)

In Croatia, the official language is Croatian and Latin script is used throughout the whole territory. The basic Roman system and extensions for Croatian characters are in use.

Pursuant to the *Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and of the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Narodne novine, the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No.105/2000)* the equal official use of the minority languages and script is applied by local authorities when members of a particular national minority comprise at least one third of the population of such a unit. The use of national minorities' languages and script privately, publically and officially is guaranteed. The usage of the language and scripts of the national minorities in the school system is also guaranteed.

The National and University Library of Croatia, Croatian Standards Institute (HZN), National Library of Serbia and Institute of Standardization of Serbia (ISS) have applied jointly for the change of language codes for Croatian and Serbian language for bibliographic use in ISO 639-2 (B) - Codes for the representation of names of languages - Part 2: Alpha - 3 codes. The codes "scr" - Serbo-Croatian-Roman and "scc" - Serbo-Croatian-Cyrillic have been in use since 1998. Since Croatian and Serbian are officially recognized as two separate languages, the language codes are changed to "hrv" 3-letter codes for Croatian and "srp" 3-letter code for Serbian. The 3-letter code "hrv" has already been used in the library and information community in Croatia, but this was made official on 17 June 2007 by the Joint Advisory Committee of the ISO 639-2 Registration Authority.

**List of country names and capitals
(Item 14 of the agenda)**

Most of the country names are in use in the traditional Croatian forms. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration has compiled the list of country names. Those country names are used in diplomatic correspondence.