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**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 5 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 Tenth  
Conference (for distribution only).**

**Report of Hungary 2012–2017**

Submitted by Hungary \*\*

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## **A. Jurisdiction on Geographical Names**

### **A/1. Jurisdiction**

As regards new legal measures following 2012 and affecting geographical names in Hungary, these measures had direct impact only on the existing administrative division and the system of postal addresses.

1.) The Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names continues to work on the legal basis of Gov. Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm., on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary, supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.) Act. No. XLVI. of 2012 on land surveying and mapping activity confirmed that creation, continuance and data service of Database Gazetteer of Hungary has been a basic state task, which has been provided by the public authority for land surveying and remote sensing. This public authority was the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI) until the end of 2016, which continues its work as the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of Government Office of the Capital City Budapest from 1 January 2017.

3.) Act No. CLXVII stipulates that since 1 January 2013 municipalities may not include in the names of streets, squares or public institutions the proper names of persons participating in establishing, forming or maintaining any 20th century totalitarian political system, or any phrase or organization that can directly be associated with such a system.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences was given the role of deciding on the individual proper names deemed acceptable or undesirable for naming purposes. A large number of streets lost their former names in the past few years, that had carried names of communist or far-right Nazi persons, yet survived the wave of renaming following the fall of Communism.

4.) Act No. XCIII of 2014 established a central address register in Hungary. Related amended government decrees also affect the decisions on official geographical names, among others Gov. Decree 303/2007 already mentioned. Major rulings of the law are as follows:

- Each real property in Hungary (buildings and parcels) must have an address established by a regulated process. The municipal clerk is responsible for the correct establishment of addresses.
- An address must include the name of the street (public space), its type and the house number. Possible types of public spaces can be defined according to a fixed list.
- Addresses must be unmistakable and unequivocal. Criteria for establishing addresses are included in Gov. Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.).
- Only farmsteads may be named after a living person.

### **A/2. Names of administration**

#### **Districts:**

As of 1 January 2013, Act No. XCIII of 2012 established a new administrative unit, *járás* (district), which corresponds to the LAU1 level in the nomenclature of the EU. At the same time, the statistical subregion (former LAU1) was annulled. The districts received important administrative tasks from government level as well as tasks that formerly belonged to the

authority of local governments. The district is a historical administrative category, which existed from the Middle Ages to 1983. The Hungarian term, *járás* (meaning ‘walking’) refers to the places that can be reached on foot from a central place in a day. The districts, with one exception, bear the name of their seats with an addition of the derivative -i. The exception is *Hegyháti járás* in Baranya County, the seat of which is *Sásd*. Altogether 175 districts were established; further, the 23 districts of Budapest received the same authority as other districts. In 2015, *Polgárdi district* was cancelled, and there were also transformations. The list of districts and the maps of districts are annexed.

### **New village:**

On the day of general elections in 2014, one new village was formed when *Balatonakarattya* seceded from *Balatonkenese*. As a consequence, the name of the railway station also changed.

### **A/3. Other names (physical features, transport etc.)**

Decisions on these other types of names fall within the competence of the *Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names*. The existence of the Committee is also based on Government Decree No. 303/2007.

The Committee, having representatives from all government and non-government fields with an interest in geographical names (ministries of agriculture, defence, national development, foreign affairs, human resources, interior; self-governments, minorities, official cartography, linguistics, cartographic higher education, geography, statistical office) is acting in the Ministry of Agriculture, because this ministry is responsible for the major part of official mapping.

The Decree empowers the Committee to decide on the names of physical features (landscapes, relief and hydrographical forms), those of nature protection, communication as well as of small rural features. In the case of naming new independent settlements (e.g. when parts of larger municipal units choose to secede) the new name must have the expert opinion of the Committee by law.

### **B. Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2012–2017**

The Committee held 20 sessions since the 10th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, and has taken 160 decisions.

1.) Seventy-three of the decisions concerned the names of streets and other public spaces proposed by local governments, because the number of cases increased due to the above two acts. Suggestions to mark the names of businesses and indicate the titles of persons (e.g. Dr, General) in street names are most problematic; the Committee does not support such proposals. The Committee firmly supported the only partly minority name proposal, the German *Deggenhausertal köz*. It should be noted that naming of public spaces is under the authority of local governments in Hungary, consequently there are also minority street names in use without the affirmation of the Committee.

2.) Hungarian names of NUTS regions of the EU: there were hesitations in choosing and using the correct Hungarian forms, because the names includes not only traditional names but

also new types of names that did not comply with the Hungarian usage of geographical names. The Committee defined the list following the principles below:

- The existing exonyms should be used: *Sachsen ~ Szászország, País Vasco ~ Baszkföld, Pomorskie ~ Pomeránia, Iónia Νησιά ~ Jón-szigetek;*
- Differentiating common words should be translated: *Niederbayern ~ Alsó-Bajorország, Inner London ~ Belső-London, Северна и Югоизточна България ~ Észak- és Délkelet-Bulgária;*
- The names of regions fully or partly made of common words that can be translated should used following the rules of the Hungarian language: *Départements d'outre-mer ~ Tengerentúli megyék, Highlands and Islands ~ Felföld és szigetek, Comunidad Foral de Navarra ~ Navarrai autonóm közösség;*
- The duplication of names should be avoided in NUTS by completing the less known name with reference to the country if the name contains only points of the compass or geographical position: *Noroeste ~ Északnyugat-Spanyolország, Nord-Ovest ~ Északnyugat-Olaszország, Nord-Vest ~ Északnyugat-Románia.*

3.) Hungarian place names outside the borders of Hungary: noticing the unsettled usage of names, the misunderstandings caused by homonyms, and due to the administrative changes (separation and fusion of settlements), the Committee has been compiling recommendations for the Hungarian usage of names of settlements that have significant Hungarian population in the neighbouring countries; these settlements also have Hungarian names, which are considered endonyms by the local law. The Hungarian recommendations respect several aspects: bringing the local and Hungarian usage of the names in harmony, if possible; avoiding homonyms; unifying the orthography; retaining the traditional names. It has been completed for Hungarian names of communes in Slovakia and Slovenia.

Fig. 1. A detail of the list of names in Slovenia:

<b>Official name in Slovenian</b>	<b>Official Hungarian name in Slovenia</b>	<b>Hungarian name recommended for use in Hungary*</b>
Banuta	Bánuta	Bánuta
Čikečka vas	Csekefa	Csekefa
Čentiba	Csente	Csente (>< old <i>Csentevölgy</i> )
Dobrovnik	Dobronak	Dobronak
Dolga vas	Hosszúfalu	<i>Lendvahosszúfalu</i>
Dolgovaške Gorice	Hosszúfaluhegy	Hosszúfaluhegy
Dolina pri Lendavi	Völgyifalu	Völgyifalu
Dolnji Lakoš	Alsólakos	Alsólakos
Domanjševci	Domonkosfa	Domonkosfa
Gaberje	Gyertyános	<i>Zalagyertyános</i>
Genterovci	Göntérháza	Göntérháza
Gornji Lakoš	Felsőlakos	Felsőlakos
Hodoš	Hodos	<i>Órihodos</i>

\*The Hungarian names in italics are different from the official Hungarian names in Slovenia.

4.) Further decisions: the Committee gave expert advice on the names of parts of settlements in 21 cases. It is a tendency that the proposals intend to include foreign, first of all English elements in the name (*Tranquility, Silver Major*); the Committee has a consistent stand not to support such proposals. The Committee has taken decisions on the names of railway stations (10 cases): *Aquincum, Cifrakapu, Csittényhegy, Hantakert, Imremajor, Kimle-Károlyháza, Máriaszőlőtelep, Máriahullámtelep, Millér, Újszolnok*. The Committee endeavours mostly to have simple, one-word (non-hyphenated) names accepted. The competence of the Committee includes the naming of larger bridges: the naming of 9 bridges were approved in 5 cases: *Munkácsy Mihály híd* (Békéscsaba), *Nyári Lőrinc híd, Laki Kálmán híd, Kaposvári Gyula híd* (Szolnok), *Böhm Ferenc híd, Dáró híd, Dombó Pál híd* (Dombóvár), *Gubányi Károly híd* (Bakonyzentlászló), *Bodrog híd (Sárospatak)*.

Further decision were taken on the names of landforms brought under nature protection, hydrological establishments, a spring, and gave expert opinion on the names of institution-like geographical names.

5.) In 2015, a new scientific initiative became accessible on the Internet with the title Magyar Nemzeti Helynévtár [Hungarian National Toponym Registry] (<http://mnh.unideb.hu/>). It is important to state that this website is not related to Hungarian standardizing of Hungarian geographical names. The Committee raised the attention of the editors to its shortcomings, as well as asked for the revision of the concept so that they could show geographically and linguistically appropriate data.

6.) At Károli Gáspár University, a team of Hungarian experts in terminology lead by Andrea Bölcskei prepared a new Hungarian translation of *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names* and its *Addendum* in cooperation with the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names.

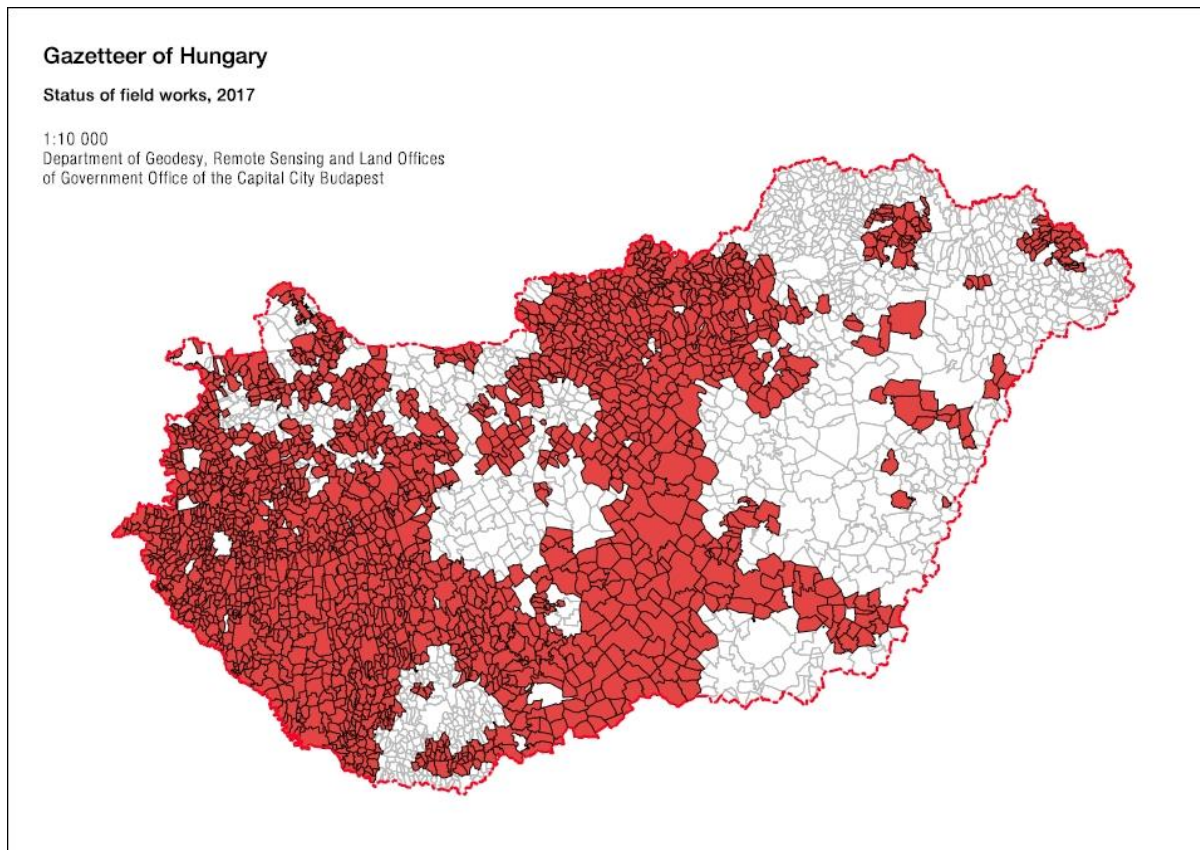
### **C. Database Gazetteer of Hungary**

1.) The names in the Database Gazetteer of Hungary are recorded by the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest (earlier Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing - FÖMI). The version at medium scale contains 79 thousand records and covers the whole country. The administrative changes are continuously upgraded. Internet address:

<http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekeink/magyarorszag-foeldrajzinev-tara>  
This website contains a search interface. For the access of the complete version of the database personal contact is needed (see Toponymic Guidelines).

2.) The field work related to the large scale version of the Database Gazetteer of Hungary are still in progress. At present, this task has been completed for two thirds of the area of the country, and 10% of the area has been digitally processed. In this version, a geometrical form (polygon, line or dot) corresponds to each toponym. The establishment of names is supported by topographic and cadastral maps as well as by orthophotos and digital elevation models. The names are confirmed and entered into the database in cooperation with the local governments. In the last five years field works of geographical names of further 86 communes was completed on cca. 250 000 hectare area.

Fig. 2. Status of the large scale field works in 2017



3.) The transcription of geographical names in the IPA system (International Phonetic Alphabet) was recently completed using language technology to give the exact pronunciation by respecting the assimilation of sounds (examples see below). Internet address: [http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/kozerdeku-adatok/dokumentumok/doc\\_view/160-foldrajzi-nevi-mintaallomany-fonetikai-kodokkal-ipa-azaz-international-phonetic-alphabet-](http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/kozerdeku-adatok/dokumentumok/doc_view/160-foldrajzi-nevi-mintaallomany-fonetikai-kodokkal-ipa-azaz-international-phonetic-alphabet-)

Fig. 3. IPA transcription of the names of Hungarian towns with more than 25 thousand inhabitants:

Ajka	'ɟkɟ
Baja	'bɟɟ
Békéscsaba	'be:ke:ʃtʃɟɟ
Budapest	'budɟpeʃt
Cegléd	'tʃegle:d
Debrecen	'debre:ʃen
Dunakeszi	'dunɟkesi
Dunaújváros	'dunɟu:ɟva:roʃ
Eger	'eɟer
Érd	'e:rd

Esztergom	'e:ʃte:rgom
Gödöllő	'gødø:lø:
Gyöngyös	'ɟøŋɟøʃ
Győr	'ɟø:r
Gyula	'ɟulɟ
Hajdúböszörmény	'hɟdubø:sø:ɟme:ɟn
Hódmezővásárhely	'ho:dme:zø:va:ʃa:rʃej
Jászberény	'ja:zbe:ɟe:ɟn
Kaposvár	'kɟo:poʃva:r
Kazincbarcika	'kɟo:zindzbo:ɟɟsiko

Kecskemét	'kɛʃkɛmɛ:t
Kiskunfélegyháza	'kiʃkumʃe:lɛcha:zɔ
Kiskunhalas	'kiʃkunɦɔɓʃ
Komló	'komlo:
Makó	'mɔko:
Miskolc	'miʃkolts
Mosonmagyaróvár	'moʃom:ɔʃpro:va:r
Nagykanizsa	'nɔʃkɔniʒɔ
Nagykőrös	'nɔckø:røʃ
Nyíregyháza	'ɲi:rɛcha:zɔ
Orosháza	'oroʃha:zɔ
Ózd	'o:zd
Pápa	'pa:pɔ

Pécs	'pe:ʃ
Salgótarján	'ʃɔlgo:tɔrja:n
Sopron	'ʃopron
Szeged	'sɛgɛd
Székesfehérvár	'se:kɛʃʃɛ:rva:r
Szekszárd	'sɛksa:rd
Szentés	'sɛntɛʃ
Szolnok	'solnok
Szombathely	'sombɔtɦɛj
Tatabánya	'tɔtɔba:ɲɔ
Vác	'va:ts
Veszprém	'vespre:m
Zalaegerszeg	'zɔɓɛgɛrsɛg

4.) MP3 format audio files of a selection of names of major cities and natural objects in Hungary have also been prepared. The set of files containing several hundred Hungarian names may also be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekeink/magyarország-foeldrajzinev-tara>