

Agenda item 9

A data file on toponyms of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe at
the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies.
A report on progress achieved.

Paper submitted by Austria*

* Prepared by Peter JORDAN and Elisabeth TOMASI, Austrian Institute of East
and Southeast European Studies, presented by Mrs. Isolde HAUSNER

1. Intended contents

- Current official names of a settlement or an administrative unit: current name of a physio-geographical feature (mountain, river etc.) according to the official language; (transliterated form in cases of official non-Latin script, transliteration according to the recommendations of the United Nations)
- Non-Latin-script form (for names from languages using Cyrillic script)
- Language classification of the current official name
- Current official allonyms, in cases of more than one official language, including language classification and original spellings in non-Latin script. Identification of features ("settlement", "river" etc.)
- Other allonyms of the feature: Names rendered obsolete since the beginning of the 20th century on account of renaming, change of the official language, change of national sovereignty: exonyms of the languages English, German, French, Russian as well as current exonyms of other languages used in the area represented.

(with settlements)

- Number of inhabitants around the years 1910 and 1990
- Administrative status today and before World War I
- Administrative affiliation today and before World War I
- Altitude above sea-level
- Geographical coordinates
- Fact of river, lake- or seaside situation

(with landscapes)

- Country location
- Geographical coordinates

(with mountains)

- Altitude above sea-level of the highest peak
- Country location
- Geographical coordinates of the highest peak

(with mountain peaks)

- Altitude of the peak
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with mountain passes)

- Altitude of the pass
- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with islands)

- Geographical coordinates
- Country location
- Area

(with capes)

- Geographical coordinates
- Country location

(with water bodies)

- Identification ("river", "lake", "bay" etc.)
- Country location
- Geographical coordinates of the mouth of a river of the lake
- Length of a river
- Rank of a river
- Area of a lake

- Affiliation of a bay to a sea

Sources of the thematical, especially the historical information.

2. Intended spatial coverage

Czechia, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldavia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, Larvia, Estonia.

3. Modes of use

- Search for attributes of a definite geographical feature (e.g. official name and administrative affiliation of a settlement in 1910, of which the present name is known)
- Search for all geographical features with common attributes (e.g. settlements within a given administrative unit: names of a given language: identical names)

4. Mode of set-up

1st step: Storing of all features represented on a map in a 2 million scale covering Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, southern parts of Poland, Moldavia, partly the Ukraine, Eastern and Central Austria (about 10 000 features).

2nd step: Extension of the spatial coverage to Poland, Austria, the Ukraine in total, to Belorussia and the Baltic republics.

3rd step: Densification within the covered area extending the contents to smaller settlements and smaller or less important physio-geographical features.

It is projected to conclude the 1st step within 2 years.

5. Accessibility of the data file

The data file will be at everybody's disposal at the Austrian Institute of East and South-east European Studies, Vienna, Josefsplatz 6. Contributing and cooperating institutions might receive the file free of charge. Special evaluations of a more comprehensive character for other institutions and individuals would have to be remunerated. The data file will be available in digital and analogous form.

6. Progress achieved so far

The original intention to set up the data file by adapting a standard programme ("Reflex", displayable on Apple-Macintosh) could not be realized economically. The main difficulty proved to be the necessity of various alphabets.

Thus, in spring 1993 a new effort was started by testing a programme compiled by the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences ("Geotable", displayable on MS-DOS personal computers). The programme answers queries for every combination of attributes. The use of various alphabets, however, needed also further adaption. Also some other aspects of handling the programme (e.g. copy-function) had to be modified and need further modification. Thus, storing of names has not yet started. There are profound prospects to start storing in summer 1994.

Authors' address:

Dr. Peter Jordan. Dr. Elisabeth Tomasi
Austrian Institute of East and Southeast
European Studies, Geographical Department
Josefsplatz 6
A1010 WIEN
Austria