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EXONYMS

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Exonyms

In principle the Czech Republic respects the preference of endonyms namely in the cartographic production. Along with endonyms, the exonyms are referred to within the necessary extent in the cartographic production intended for the schools. In such school publications the exonyms are stated in the brackets behind the endonyms. For example : Thames (Temže), München (Mnichov), Huang He (Žlutá řeka), Warszawa (Varšava). Single exonyms without brackets are used only exceptionally, for example : Loira, Visla, Dinárské hory, Apeniny. These exceptions are not valid for the exonyms of settlement objects. On the other hand in the form of an exonym the names of states, continents and large natural units (choronyms) are used on the maps edited in the Czech Republic as well as the names of large geographical objects, rivers and water areas which are spreaded into several countries, and finally the names of oceans, seas and other objects which are beyond the sovereignty of a respective state. As a matter of fact the letter case gives no other possibility for the relevant endonyms to the above names do not exist.

Generally, we can say that the world-wide tendency to reduce the using of exonyms in international and national communications is also applied in the Czech Republic. Almost exclusively this tendency has prevailed in the names of settlements on the maps and also on the half-official or official bearer of informations (traffic marks, official documents). This tendency is followed by a process of natural decrease of some exonyms in the Czech language. Czech exonyms which are becoming nearly historical : Pětikostelí (Pécs), Varadín (Oradea), Brunšvik (Braunschweig), Báňská Bystřice (Banská Bystrica), Tubinky (Tübingen), Lehnice (Legnica), and some others can be mentioned as an example. At the same time we must point out that on the oposite side some other exonyms coming into their existence spontaneously or are being used much widely. The reason is an outstanding boom of tourism after 1989 on one side and on the other side the constitution of new official names on the territory of former Soviet Union where the types of names like Alma-Ata (Almaty), Charkov (Kharkiv), Krivoj Rog (Kryvyi Rih), Kišiněv (Chisinău), Giandža (Gjence) are de facto becoming the new Czech

New edition of the publication "The List of Current Czech Geographic Proper Names" could not be realized for the time being because of the vast changes in the geographic names on this territory, even if the contents of its first edition is out of date.