Standardization of multilingual areas

The upgrading of 1:25,000 scale maps

Submitted by Slovenia.
REPORT OF SLOVENIA

Standardization in Multilingual Areas

The Upgrading of 1:25 000 Scale Maps

The upgrading of the 1:25,000 scale maps which cover the entire territory of the country is on-going. The basis of these maps was made about twenty years ago in the former Yugoslavia at the Military Geography Institute in Belgrade. The maps are in Latin letters and for the territory of Slovenia the principles of Slovene spelling were applied, an exception of a special kind owed to General Peterca who is a Slovene and who took part in several international meetings on problems of terminology. For other regions of Yugoslavia, Serbo-Croatian spelling was used. In Slovenia, which was the only territory of the former Yugoslavia concerned with the on-going updating of the map, there were regular efforts to maintain the map. Thus today we have no major problems within the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in writing geographical names or problems of an ordinary nature such as changes to names of settlements and the like.

According to Serbo-Croatian spelling rules, the principle "spell as you pronounce" was applied to the original drawing of the map. This is unacceptable according to Slovene spelling rules and internationally recognized standards. Therefore, in upgrading this map we decided on a thorough renovation of this territory of the map. For border regions in Italy, Austria, and Hungary we used national 1:25 000 scale maps and carefully adopted the names on them in cooperation with local experts. In brackets we added the second Slovene name if there was one. In cases where the map covers officially bilingual territory as in Slovene Istria, Prekmurje, and partly Carinthia in Austria, the Slovene and foreign variations of the name is divided by a slash (/), for example, Koper/Capodistria (SLO), Lendava/Lendva (SLO), and Ferlach/Borovlj (A). A large part of these territories is autochthonously inhabited by Slovene populations. Overall this was an extremely difficult task, and our work, of course, drew on the most diverse sources in addition to
maps. We believe it would be ideal in future for individual countries to exchange information on nomenclature in border regions. We are sure that this would be to the benefit of both sides.

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