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Item 5  
of the Provisional Agenda

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

**Report of Slovenia for the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the East-  
Central and South East Europe Division of UNGEGN**

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Submitted by Slovenia

# REPORT OF SLOVENIA

FOR THE

## 15<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE DIVISION OF UNGEEN

April 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Agenda item 4: National standardisation (field collection and office treatment of names, treatment of names in multilingual areas, administrative structure of national names authorities)**

### **4 (a): Field collection and office treatment of names**

The main source for standardisation of geographical names in Slovenia is a digital Register of Geographical names. Names are collected from basic topographic maps at scale 1 : 5 000, 1 : 10 000 and from topographic maps at scale 1 : 25 000. This year we are going to collect all the missing geographical names from topographical maps at scale 1 : 50 000 and 1 : 250 000. Through that we plan to complete the capturing of all geographical names from all contemporary maps of Slovenia.

### **4 (b): Treatment of names in multilingual areas**

For border regions in Italy, Austria, and Hungary we used national 1 : 25 000 scale maps and carefully adopted the names on them in co-operation 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/Borovlje (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.

#### **4 (c): Administrative structure of national names authorities: The Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names**

In 1986, on the initiative of Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and the Geographical Society, the Executive Council of Slovenia appointed a Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia reappointed in 1995 the Commission for Standardisation of Geographical Names. In 1998 we started a new reappointment of our Commission, mostly because of the change of the members of the Commission. That reappointment is in the procedure on the Executive Council of Slovenia and we plan to be finished till the end of the June this year.

#### **5: Toponymic guidelines for Map and Other Editors:**

##### **Toponymic Guide for Slovenia**

At the initiative of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, the Toponymic Guide for Slovenia was elaborated in 1995 and published it in Slovene and English language.

The content is arranged under the following main headings: population, official languages, the Slovene alphabet, Slovene dialects, rules of writing geographical names, nomenclature bodies and the standardisation of geographical names, toponymic sources, dictionary of general names, adjectives, and descriptive marks on maps, abbreviations on maps, and the administrative division of Slovenia.

In the following years we are planning to make a new edition of the Toponymic Guide for Slovenia in which we are going to pay special attention to all remarks collected since 1995.

#### **Agenda item 6: Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers:**

##### **6 (a): Register of Geographical Names (RGN)**

Slovenia have around 200 000 geographical names which appears in various sources. The current situation (unstandardised geographical names scattered throughout different sources) causes considerable confusion, errors in various maps and data bases, and communication problems. The intention of establishing the RGN is to overcome these problems and ensure uniform information in the field of geographical names.

At the end of 1992, the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia began the project of preparing technological bases for the establishment of the RGN. In the 1997 and 1998 we modernised the concept of RGN. Instead of two separated databases we built one unique database (in ORACLE) and special application for capturing, processing and archiving geographical names data. For controlling captured data a special application run on intranet too.

Establishing the register of geographical names in the last two years, parallel with the producing digital ortophoto maps and digital topographic maps runs database at scale 1 : 5 000. Between 1993 and 1999, 70 % of geographical names from sheets of the basic 1 : 5 000 and 1 : 10 000 scale topographic maps were processed and also all geographical names from sheets of 1 : 25 000 scale national topographic maps. By the year 2001 we are planing to capture all the remaining geographical names from 1 : 5 000 and 1 : 10 000 scale topographic maps, all the missing geographical names from topographic maps at 1 : 50 000 scale and also from the general map of Slovenia at the scale of 1 : 250 000.

Geographical names appearing in the source material are not standardised. The names taken from 1 : 25 000 scale national topographic maps are inspected and checked by a work group of the Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names with the goal of preparing professional data bases for the process of standardisation of these names. The inspected names represent the source for the upgrading of the 1 : 25 000 scale national topographic maps.

#### **6 (b): Gazetteer**

In 1997 the Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names has in its program the partial publication of the Gazetteer which will contain undisputed names of settlements. Names of settlements, the first part of national gazetteer, is prepared to be printed, it is now reachable in working digital form. We start to wok on hydronyms of Slovenia and plan to elaborate other types of geographic names in future.

#### **6 (c): Other publications: Publication Communes 1999**

The Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia has published the publication Communes 1999 and review maps at scale 1 : 250 000 and 1 : 750 000 with overlay of communes. The new Law of Changes on the Establishment of Communes and the Definition of Their Territories (Official Gazette RS No. 56/98 and 75/98) defines 192 communes in the Republic of Slovenia. Through the number of communes has increased from 147 to 192.

The publication "Communes 1999" contains basic information about communes: name, code, number of settlements and the list of settlements, number of streets, numbers of house, etc.

In Enclosure 1 it is presented a graphical survey of new communes with a list of the names.

### **Agenda item 7: Terminology in the standardisation of geographical names**

#### **Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology**

Along with the Toponymic Guide for Slovenia, the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology was also prepared and published.

The Dictionary includes Slovene translations of English terms, Slovene synonyms, the original English terms with synonyms, and the translated definition of the terms with additional practical examples. The Dictionary is intended for use of cartographers, geodesists, and geographers.

It was done a very attentive elaboration of geographical names in special orthographic study of Slovene language. All other aspects of Slovene grammar were also fully elaborated.

## **Agenda item 8: Writing systems and guides to pronunciation**

### **Romanization Systems**

In Slovenia there is no serious problems with romanization, because only three special characters are used (Č, Š, Ž it is C, S Z with caron). Cyrilic or other non roman systems are not in use. For Italian or Hungarian names on the territory of Slovenia Italian and Hungarian system is extensively used.

## **Agenda item 9: Country Names**

### **A Slovene Standard for Names of Countries**

In Slovenia discussion has dragged on for about ten years on how to write the names of certain countries. Therefore, the Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names prepared a document on 195 names of countries. The basis for the preparation of this document was the ISO-3166 standard. Revisions of this document shall be published in future.

## **Agenda item 10: Exonyms**

### **The Use of Foreign Geographical Names in Slovenia**

In Slovenia we use about 1400 foreign geographical names. Among the Slovene public a relatively lively discussion was developed on this topic. On one side is the group which believes that the number of translated names should be higher. On the other side is the conception of a relatively small but ever-increasing group, mostly of experts (geographers, geodesists) who are persistently striving for the reverse principle of only a modest amount of translations or Slovenization of geographical names. The Slovene version of foreign name must be written in a way that it is clearly understandable. The Slovene form of the name must be in brackets or written in smaller with different typography. Slovene gazetteer of foreign names is in the final phase and shall be printed at the end of this year.

## **Agenda item 11: Toponymic websites**

All the information about the standardisation of geographical names in Slovenia and about the Slovene Commission for the standardisation of geographical names are on

home page address: <http://www.sigov.si/kszl/>

That website also includes information about:

- United Nations Group Of Experts On Geographical Names with connections too similar pages,
- East Central and South-East Europe Division,
- 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. That page included session description, general program and agenda, participants, how to register, invitation letter, registration form, other information about the session. After the session also national reports, final report of the session and other documents will be published.

In the future we plan to inform Division and public through this website.

## **Agenda item 12: Co-operation with other regional groups in neighbourhood countries**

Because Slovenia is located at the close contact with Slavic, Hungarian, Romanic and German speaking countries it is understandable that we are faced with diversity of view an solutions. In close and long term co-operation with neighbourhood countries we believe all problems can be solved.

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