

**Twenty-second Session
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EXONYMS

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms*

*** Prepared by Milan Orožen Adamic, Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms**

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

The Working Group was established in Berlin (6 September 2002), based on the 4th resolution of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The first constitutional meeting of the Working Group was held in Berlin. The most important meeting after establishment of the Working Group was the **2nd Meeting of the Working Group in Prague, September 24-26, 2003**.

The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre hosted this meeting in collaboration with the Czech Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. In keeping with resolution 5 of the Eighth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Working Group met in conjunction with the 17th Session of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN. Our thanks are expressed to Mr. Pavel Bohác for his excellent organization of these two events.

Great thanks were addressed to the Czech Office of Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre and Czech Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic for hospitality and outstanding organization of the meeting.

Participants (for details see Appendix 3).

Working Group Members

Bohác, Pavel	Czech Republic
Burgess, Caroline	United Kingdom
Cheetham, Catherine	United Kingdom
Jordan, Peter	Austria
Kerfoot, Helen	Canada
Kladnik, Drago	Slovenia
Makridis, Georgios	Greece
Orožen Adamic, Milan	Slovenia
Päll, Peeter,	Estonia
Pokoly, Béla	Hungary
Ratovoarison, Nivoarimang	Madagascar
Sievers, Jörn	Germany
Syvák, Nina	Ukraine
Woodman, Paul	United Kingdom

Observers

Christodoulou, Menelaos	Cyprus
Delagrammatika, Anna	Greece
Gounaris, Emmanouil	Greece
Harvalík, Milan	Czech Republic
Kováčová, Mária	Slovakia
Krauze-Tomczyk, Izabella	Poland
Mikesy, Gábor	Hungary
Šrámek, Rudolf	Czech Republic
Švehlová, Irena	Czech Republic
Vasileiou, Prodromos	Cyprus
Vasilatou, Regina	Greece

Wolnicz-Pawlowska, Ewa Poland

After extensive work (see Appendix 1: Programme of the meeting and Appendix 2: List of papers presented) and fruitful discussion, the following can be reported.

1. The convenor opened the session. Mrs Kerfoot presented a paper detailing the text of UN Resolutions pertinent to exonyms. This included a Resolution at the 8th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) establishing the UN Working Group on Exonyms.
2. Mr Woodman presented a paper that considered the overlap present in the current UN glossary between the definitions of endonym and exonym. The Working Group members agreed that further work needed to be undertaken, centring on the words 'official', 'well-established' and 'indigenous'. Mr Woodman offered to coordinate further discussion on the subject and it was agreed that a proposal would be submitted to the UN Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
3. Mr Woodman also recalled the unhappy relationship between UNGEGN and exonyms, and recommended that the establishment of the Working Group presented an ideal opportunity to take a fresh look at the subject. There was discussion as to whether exonyms impeded or aided international communication.
4. Mr Jordan gave a thorough account of all the criteria for the use of exonyms, and underlined the political sensitivity of exonym use.
5. Mr Päll presented a paper demonstrating that the application of a currently valid romanization system did not produce an exonym. This observation meant that it may prove necessary to supplement the categories of toponyms which should not be included in lists of exonyms, as noted in Resolution III/19.
6. Mr Harvalík presented a paper concerning a linguistic view of the boundaries between exonyms and endonyms. The question of pronunciation versus written names was considered beyond the scope of this Working Group.
7. Mr Woodman presented a paper outlining the place of exonyms in today's toponymy, highlighting their relevance whilst noting their sensitivity and at the same time underlining that in international cartography it is usually official endonyms, rather than exonyms, which will provide the toponyms of choice. The Working Group discussed the natural life-cycle of exonyms and whether misspellings constituted exonyms. It was generally agreed that exonyms were a useful reference nationally.
8. Mr Orožen Adamic presented his paper on the treatment of names in multilingual areas. He stressed the importance of co-operation between neighbouring countries in the establishment of geographical names, particularly in border areas.
9. In his paper Mr Bohác discussed the gradual disappearance of exonyms in the Czech Republic. He demonstrated that the knowledge of Czech exonyms appeared to be on the wane.

10. A paper compiled by Mr Kladnik presented a draft of how a list of exonyms might look. Mr Orožen Adamič outlined the background to the compilation of this paper and described the main problems encountered. The different categories elaborated in the paper were discussed by the Working Group.
11. Mrs Kerfoot informed the Working Group of an initial concept for a UN Statistics Division database of geographical names, which was to be linked to an interactive map. The Working Group supported the inclusion of data fields for exonyms as an adjunct to the endonym and would discuss the details with the UN Secretariat.
12. Ms Ratovoarison presented a paper outlining the use of exonyms in Madagascar.
13. Ms Syvak reported on activities regarding exonyms in Ukraine, focussing on different language forms of names, and the definition of endonym and exonym.
14. The Working Group discussed its future work plan and the formulation of the terms of reference of the group. The objectives and appropriate action items as identified by the Working Group are attached.
15. The members examined a draft of a website for the Working Group. It would be hosted on the server of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovene Academy of Science <www.zrc-sazu.si>, and edited by UK members of the Working Group. The members would provide comments on the proposed content to the Convenor.
16. The Working Group examined the list of current Working Group members.
17. The next meeting of the Working Group would be held during the 22nd Session of UNGEGN, New York, 20-29 April 2004. Mr Makridis offered to host a future Working Group meeting in Athens.
18. The Convenor and Mr Jordan would prepare a paper on the Working Group to be included in the forthcoming UNGEGN Information Bulletin.
19. A report for presentation to the next UNGEGN session would also be compiled.
20. The meeting was closed with thanks to the Convenor and to the Czech hosts.

Some areas for action were identified for the following objectives:

- Clarify definitions of relevant terminology
Action- Recommend possible revised definitions to the Working Group on Terminology to eliminate overlap-ambiguity
- Provide guidance on production of lists of exonyms (as noted in UN Resolutions), and underline the importance of the use of standardised endonyms
Action- Create a template for national lists of exonyms, taking into account the format of existing national lists
- Develop advice on use of exonyms

Action- Identify categories of exonyms, and the scope of their application (Resolution II/28)

Support the creation of UN Statistics Division geographical names database through the provision of exonyms, as an adjunct to the endonym

- Test the efficacy of existing UN Resolutions on exonyms
Action- Examine Resolutions and consider the drafting of a new Resolution

In January the convenor met in Vienna with Dr. Peter Jordan. Among other questions and discussions, the book on exonyms was the central one. Later Dr. Jordan confirmed the intention to publish in Austria a volume on exonyms in a book series "Wiener Osteuropastudien". This will be without cost for the Working Group and the contributors. The book would be published early in 2005. As we have already agreed, papers from Prague will be published and it would also be possible to incorporate interesting papers presented at the UNGEGN session in New York in April 2004. Until now not a great deal on exonyms has been published, but on the other hand a lot of discussion has taken place on the topic. The establishment of the Working Group is the opportunity to take a fresh look at exonyms - and perhaps to consider them in a more favourable light - has surely arrived. Of all the subjects discussed under our UNGEGN agendas, the subject of exonyms is one of the most significant since it is probably the most apparent - and the most contentious - to the general audience, as was underlined by Paul Woodman.

The first idea for a title for the book "About Exonyms" was proposed by the Convenor. With an e-mail circular (12 February) all Working Group members were informed about the idea for the book. Jordan later discussed the title and proposed: "Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names"; subtitle: "Approaches towards the Suspension of a Seeming Contradiction". He admits that the subtitle has a certain bias and might not be agreeable for all members of the Working Group. Then the title could also be left alone.

However the important task in New York will be discussion about the book, its concept, and the collection of papers to be published.

Appendixes:

1. General Program of Joint International Meeting on Geographical Names (17th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division and Working Group on Exonyms, Praha, 24 –26 September, 2003).
2. List of papers presented in Working Group on Exonyms in Praha.
3. List of participants of Joint Meeting on Geographical Names, Praha, 24 – 26 September 2003.

Appendix 1: Joint International Meeting on Geographical Names

17th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), Praha, 24 –26 September, 2003.

General Program

24th September, Wednesday

Joint meeting

- 8.00– 9.00 Registration of the delegates
9.00– 9.30 Opening of the meeting (Item 1 of the agenda)
Oldrich Pašek, Vice-President of the Czech Office for Surveying
Mapping and Cadastre;
Karel Oliva, Director of the Czech Language Institute of the Academy
of Sciences of the Czech Republic;
Helen Kerfoot, Chair-person of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names
Milan Orožen Adamic, Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on
Exonyms;
9.30– 10.30 Session I (Items 2 – 4 of the agenda)
10.30– 10.50 Coffee break
10.50– 12.30 Session II (Items 4 – 5 of the agenda)
12.30– 13.30 Lunch break
13.30– 15.30 Session III (Items 6 – 9 of the agenda)
15.30– 15.50 Coffee break
15.50– 17.30 Session IV (Items 11 – 15 of the agenda)

25th September, Thursday

Joint Guided Visit to the National Library, Prague

9.00– 11.00

Joint meeting

- 13.30– 15.30 Session V (Item 10 of the agenda)
15.30– 15.50 Coffee break
15.50– 17.30 Session V (continued) (Item 10 of the agenda)

26th September, Friday

Separate meetings

- 9.00– 10.45 Session report – discussion (Item 16 of the agenda)
10.45– 11.45 Coffee break
11.45– 14.00 Session report – discussion and acceptance

Joint meeting

- 14.00 Closing the meeting
Jirí Cernohorský, Director of the Land Survey Office

Appendix 2: List of papers presented in Working Group on Exonyms in Praha

- 1. TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF EXONYMS
(1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002)**
Helen Kerfoot, Canada

- 2. THE UNGEGN DEFINITIONS OF “ENDONYM” AND “EXONYM”**
Paul Woodman, United Kingdom

- 3. EXONYMS AND UNGEGN: AN UNHAPPY HISTORY**
Paul Woodman, United Kingdom

- 4. CRITERIA FOR THE USE OF EXONYMS**
Peter Jordan, Austria

- 5. ENDONYMS/EXONYMS AND WRITING SYSTEMS**
Peeter Päll, Eastonia

- 6. ENDONYMS VS. EXONYMS A LINGUISTIC VIEW OF THE
DETERMINATION OF THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THEM**
Milan Harvalik, Czech Republic

- 7. EXONYMS: A STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION AND A FRESH
APPROACH**
Paul Woodman, United Kingdom

- 8. TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN MULTILINGUAL
AREAS**
Milan Orožen Adamic, Slovenia

- 9. PAPER ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EXONYM**
Pavel Bohác, Czech Republic

- 10. TYPES OF EXONYMS IN SLOVENE LANGUAGE**
Drago Kladnik, Milan Orožen Adamic, Slovenia

- 11. THE UNGEGN WORKING GROUP ON EXONYMS - LIST OF
MEMBERS**
Convener, Milan Orožen Adamic, Slovenia

- 12. LIST OF SELECTIVE EXONYMS IN UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE FOR
THE TERRITORY OF EUROPE**

Appendix 3: List of participants of Joint Meeting on Geographical Names, Praha, 24 – 26 September 2003

- 1. Mr. Pavel Boháč**
Commission on Geographical Names
Land Survey Office
Pod sídlištěm 9
CZ-182 11 Praha 8
Czech Republic
+ 420 284041671, fax + 420 284041416
pavel.bohac@cuzk.cz
- 2. Ms. Caroline A. Burgess**
Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
c/o The Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR
United Kingdom
cburgess@pcgn.org.uk
- 3. Ms. Catherine Cheetham**
Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
c/o The Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR
United Kingdom
ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk
- 4. Mr. Menelaos Christodoulou**
Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names,
Ministry of Education and Culture
Thesaurus Linguae Cypriae Graecae
Georgiou Kariou 7
2014 Lefkosia
Cyprus
- 5. Ms. Anna Delagrammatika - Gerakaki**
Ministry of Interior
27 Stadion Str.
101 83 Athens
Greece
+302103249349, fax: +302103310465
www.dioikisi.ypes.gr
- 6. Mr. Emmanouil Gounaris**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D1 Directorate
Academias 3
10 71 Athens
+30210-3682235, fax: +30210-3682239
Greece
- 7. Mr. Milan Harvalík**
Czech Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Dpt on Onomastics
Valentinská 1
CZ-116 46 Praha 1
Czech Republic
+ 420 221775516
harvalik@ujc.cas.cz
- 8. Mr. Peter Jordan**
Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies
Josefsplatz 6
AT-1010 Wien
Austria

+43-1/512 18 95/41, fax +43-1/512 18 95/53
peter.jordan@osi.ac.at

9. Ms. Helen Kerfoot

Chairperson of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names,
Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada
750B - 615 Booth Street
Ottawa ON K1A 1E9
Canada
fax: +613 943 8282
hkerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca

10. Mr. Drago Kladnik

Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Anton Melik Geographical Institute
Gosposka ulica 13
SI – Ljubljana
Slovenia
+386 1 200 27 31, fax: +386 1 200 27 34
drago.kladnik@zrc-sazu.si

11. Ms. Mária Kováčová

Geodetic and Cartographic Institute
Chlumeckého 4
SK-82745 Bratislava
Slovakia
+421 2 43334801, +421 2 43427511
kovacova@gku.sk

12. Ms. Izabella Krauze -Tomczyk

Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names,
Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Department of Cartography and Photogrammetry
Wspólna 2
PL-00-926 Warszawa
Poland
+48 22 661 81 24, +48 22 628 32 06
izabella.krauze@gugik.gov.pl

13. Georgios Makridis

Army Geographical Service
Evelpidou 4
113 62 Athens
Greece
fax: +30-210-8817376
giorgom1@otenet.gr

14. Mr. Gábor Mikešy

Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing
Pf. 546
HU-1373 Budapest
Hungary

15. Mr. Karel Oliva

Czech Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
Letenská 4
CZ-118 51 Praha 1
oliva@ujc.cas.cz
Czech Republic

16. Mr. Milan Orožen Adamič

Convenor of the Working Group on Exonyms,
Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Anton Melik Geographical Institute
Gosposka ulica 13
SI – Ljubljana
Slovenia
+ 386 1 470 63 65, fax: + 386 1 425 77 93
milan@zrc-sazu.si

- 17. Mr. Peeter Päll**
 Convenor of the Working Group on Romanization Systems
 Institute of the Estonian Language, Dpt of Grammer
 Roosikrantsi 6
 EE-10119 Tallinn
 Estonia
 +3726446153, fax: +3726411443
 peeter@eki.ee
- 18. Mr. Béla Pokoly**
 Committee on Geographical Names,
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dpt of Lands and Mapping
 Kossuth ter. 11
 HU-1860 Budapest 55
 Hungary
 +36 1 301 4144, +36 1 301 4691
 pokolyb@posta.fvm.hu
- 19. Ms. Nivoarimanga O. Ratovoarison**
 National Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names
 Madagascar
 nivo@mail.ftm.mg
- 20. Mr. Jörn Sievers**
 Vice-Chairperson of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names,
 Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy
 Richard-Strauss-Allee 11
 DE-60598 Frankfurt am Main
 Germany
 + 49 69 6333 313, fax: + 49 69 631 49 05
 sievers@ifag.de
- 21. Ms. Nina Syvak**
 Laboratory of Standardization of Geographical Names, State Scientific and Production Enterprise
 „Kartographia“
 Popudrenko, str. 54
 02094 Kyiv
 Ukraine
 + 380 44 552 33 87, fax: + 380 44 568 53 14
 marketing@ukrmap.kiev.ua
- 22. Mr. Rudolf Šrámek**
 Commission on Geographical Names
 M. Steyskalové 70
 CZ-616 00 Brno
 Czech Republic
 + 420 549 247 669, fax + 420 549 247 669
- 23. Ms. Irena Švehlová**
 Commission on Geographical Names
 Land Survey Office
 Pod sídlíštěm 9
 CZ-182 11 Praha 8
 Czech Republic
 + 420 284041613, fax + 420 284041416
 irena.svehlova@cuzk.cz
- 24. Mr. Prodromos Vasileiou**
 Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names,
 Ministry of Education and Culture
 Aisopou 15
 Aglangia 2113
 CY-Lefkosia (Nicosia)
 Cyprus
 +357-22-332732, +357-22-496183
- 25. Ms. Regina Vasilatou**
 Ministry of Interior

Stadiou 27
101 83 Athens
Greece
+30-210-3238653, fax: +30-210-3233027

26. Ms. Ewa Wolnicz-Pawlowska

Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names Outside Poland
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University
Faculty of the Humanities
Dewajtis 5
PL-01-815 Warszawa
Poland

27. Mr. Paul J. Woodman

Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
c/o The Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
London SW7 2AR
United Kingdom
+44 20 7591 3120, fax: +44 20 7591 3127
pwoodman@pcgn.org.uk