

**Twenty-third Session  
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

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**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:  
Reports of the divisions**

**Report of the Baltic Division (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)**

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**Prepared by Baltic Division, Lithuania**

This report covers the period since the 22-th Session of UNGEGN: 2004-2005. Three countries - Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania present this report. In order of the schedule Lithuania coordinated the activities of the Division.

## **1. Meetings**

The Baltic division held three meetings. The 7-th divisional meeting took place during the 22-th session of UNGEGN in New York, April 2004. The National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania hosted the 8-th divisional meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October 2004. The State Land Service of Latvia hosted the 9-th divisional meeting in Jurmala, Latvia, in October 2005.

The 8-th and 9-th meetings were attended by wide circle of experts and people having an interest in geographical names. The agendas of the meetings covered all the main items of the geographical names standardization. 40 participants from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia attended the 8-th meeting.

The 9-th meeting was attended not only by participants from all Division member states, but involved also observers from Republic of Byelorussia, Poland and Ukraine. Total number of participants was 66. 20 papers and reports were presented. The most actual topics were geographical names registers and databases, conversion of geographical names, place names on the national maps, legislative acts concerning geographical names.

## **2. Web site**

The web site of the Baltic division (<http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn>) is maintained in Estonia. The general information about the Division and materials from the divisional meetings are displayed on it.

## **3. Interdivisional cooperation**

Experts of the Baltic division have taken part as observers in meetings of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia division of UNGEGN (Moscow, 2004, Kiev, 2005) and in the International conference on Minority Names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas Geonames 2005 (Leuwarden, 2005).

## **4. Participation in UNGEGN activities**

Experts from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania participated in 22nd UNGEGN session (New York, 2004) with reports about current activities in the Baltic division. Also experts from the Baltic division participated in UNGEGN working groups: Peeter Päll (Estonia) is convenor of the Working group on Romanization Systems (since the 20-th session of UNGEGN), Vita Strautniece (Latvia) is member of WG on Gazetteers and Toponymic Data Files.

## **I. ESTONIA**

### **5. National standardization in Estonia**

A new version of the **Place Names Act** entered into force on July 1, 2004. According to the Act, the Place Names Board is the main names authority in Estonia, being a consultative body responsible to the Minister of Regional Affairs. Members of the Place Names Board were newly nominated in July 2004. An important difference with the old (1997) version of the Act is that the Place Names Board has now the statutory right to approve by a resolution official geographical names. This can be done in cases when no other names authorities have initiated procedures to establish a geographical name.

There were minor amendments in the official list of populated places in 2005, adding three new names, and renaming four populated places (including those where generic terms only were changed, for details see [www.eki.ee/knn/asmuu2.htm](http://www.eki.ee/knn/asmuu2.htm)). On January 1, 2006 there were 4631 populated places in the list: 14 towns (*linn*), 10 boroughs (*alev*), 174 small boroughs (*alevik*), and 4433 villages (*küla*).

Another reorganization of local government units took place prior to the local elections in October 2005. Several municipalities were merged into larger units. On January 1, 2006 there were 227 municipalities in Estonia: 194 rural municipalities (*vald*) and 33 urban municipalities (*linn*).

Amalgamated municipalities	New name	Date of decision*
Avanduse vald + Väike-Maarja vald	Väike-Maarja vald	16 June 2005
Jõhvi linn + Jõhvi vald	Jõhvi vald	16 June 2005
Kabala vald + Oisu vald + Türi linn + Türi vald	Türi vald	30 June 2005
Kilingi-Nõmme linn + Saarde vald + Tali vald	Saarde vald	16 June 2005
Kuusalu vald + Loksa vald	Kuusalu vald	30 June 2005
Lehtse vald + Saksi vald ( <i>partly</i> )** + Tapa linn	Tapa vald	16 June 2005
Olustvere vald + Suure-Jaani linn + Suure-Jaani vald + Vastemõisa vald	Suure-Jaani vald	16 June 2005
Tamsalu linn + Tamsalu vald	Tamsalu vald	16 June 2005

\* These changes took effect in October, 2005, after the local elections.

\*\* Smaller part of *Saksi vald* was annexed to *Kadrina vald*.

At various meetings of the Board principles of standardizing street names, cadastral names and lake names have been discussed and recommendations adopted. After thorough discussions by *ad hoc* working group the Board approved on November 15, 2005 an official listing of 1166 lake names that are to be used in the list of publicly accessible water bodies. This was the first case of approving official names by the Place Names Board.

Following a successful start in 2003 the Board has continued annual public events (place names days) for wider audience that deal with issues of place names standardization. These are meant primarily for local officials but are open to all interested persons. Usually there is a prominent guest (MP, politician, writer, etc.) who is invited to give a talk on the importance of toponyms. As the events take place in different locations, there are also papers dealing with local toponymy and cultural history. In October 2004 the event was held in Haapsalu, with special emphasis on historical place names. In October 2005 the place names day was held in Rakvere, papers concerned, *inter alia*, minority names.

All the materials concerning the activities of the Place Names Board have been published on its website (<http://www.eki.ee/knn/>), mainly in Estonian but also with English and Russian summaries. News on the current activities of the Board are regularly updated in all three languages.

## 5.2. Field collection of place names, mapping programmes and training courses in Estonia

Field survey of place names is being carried out in two directions. At the Institute of Estonian Language there are collections of place names which are expanded mainly with the help of students and local enthusiasts. Field work is also being done by the Võru Institute, the data are entered into a database. Cartographic enterprises, when preparing new basic map sheets, conduct their own field collections, consulting both the local governments and the collections held at the Institute of Estonian Language.

*Base Map of Estonia (Eesti baaskaart, 1 : 50 000)* is a digital map that can be used in GIS applications and in the production of thematical maps. In printed version there are 103 sheets, these were issued in 1997–1998.

*Basic Map of Estonia (Eesti põhikaart, 1 : 10,000)* is a digital topographic database providing information on settlements, hydrography, relief, toponyms and land use. Digital production includes orthophotos, vector maps and raster maps. By the end of 2003 almost all of the territory of Estonia had been covered by digital mapping. In printed version (1 : 20,000) there are currently 364 map sheets available (of these, 107 were printed in 2004, and 28 sheets in 2005). These have been published by the National Land Board, some sheets also by the Estonian General Staff of Defence Forces and the Board of Border Guard. The overall number of printed map sheets will be *ca.* 500.

*Defence maps.* By the end of 2005 all of Estonia's territory has been covered by mapping at 1 : 50,000 produced according to NATO standards. The maps are generalized from a digital version (1 : 10,000) of the Basic Map.

*Air navigation charts.* The Estonian Civil Aviation Administration has produced in 2004 an air navigation chart of Estonia (1 : 500,000).

*Sea charts.* Estonian Maritime Administration (EMA) has produced 61 sheets in the scale 1 : 100,000 and 1 : 50,000, etc. Since 1998 these are available in digital form. Combined atlas of map sheets (1. Narva-Jõesuu to Osmussaar 2. West-Estonian Archipelago, 3. Saaremaa-Ruhnu) and a chart of the river Emajõgi (from Praaga to Tartu) are available for small craft.

*Other maps.* Tallinn City Administration has in 2005 published a detailed official atlas of the capital (1 : 5,000). The most comprehensive privately produced cartographic work is the Estonian Road Atlas 2005/2006 (1 : 150,000) by AS Regio, an annually updated version of the atlas of 1997/98. The atlas includes an index of over 11,000 place names, it is also available on a CD. An online-version (<http://regio.delfi.ee/>) includes a search engine with about 4000 place names.

Other maps include several road maps of Estonia, county and municipality maps. Map companies have also published world atlases and maps for schools. At the end of 2005 the Estonian Encyclopaedia Publishers completed a large World Atlas, containing about 60,000 toponyms. Cartographic basis and layout of the maps was produced by Jana Seta Publishers in Riga, Latvia.

There have been several courses on onomastics at the Universities of Tartu and Tallinn which deal with topics like applied toponymy and names standardization.

### **5.3. Registers, gazetteers and toponymic data files of Estonia**

The National Place Names Register (<http://www.ekk.ee/knr>) has entered into its database during 2004 and 2005 6,500 names of geographical features, mainly names of streets and roads, altogether the Register contains appr. 22,000 entries. The Register has opened a public user interface but a more advanced one on the Map Server of the Estonian Land Board is being developed.

Two other databases should also be mentioned. A database of standardized place names, including names from Estonia and abroad (KNAB, appr. 89,000 entries at present, <http://www.eki.ee/knab/knab.htm>) is being compiled at the Institute of Estonian Language. The Institute has also the largest collection of Estonian place names, containing about 600,000 entries, collected in field work. The database of place names of the historical county of Võrumaa (AVKA, appr. 23,000 entries, <http://www.ekk.ee/avka/>) is being compiled by the Institute of Võru, the public interface includes at present the data of four parishes (out of eight).

Discussions are held on how to best integrate the three mentioned databases, in order to avoid duplication and contradictory data. It has in general been agreed that while the National Place Names Register is primarily concerned with documenting official place names and related data, it will not have the resources to do any research into the history and origins of the names. These will be the priority for two other databases that are linguistically oriented. It is envisaged that the databases will use unified feature ID codes that would allow to link various data in a later phase. Experimentally the possibilities of integrating ID codes are tested between the National Place Names Register and KNAB.

In 2004 the Estonian Maritime Administration produced the English translation of the Sailing Directions in Estonian waters (the Estonian edition was published in 2003). This richly illustrated reference book contains many toponyms of coastal areas. An updated version of the List of Lights was published in 2004, a new version is due in 2006.

No new gazetteers have been issued since the 22nd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. A publication on lake names is being planned.

#### 5.4. Standardization of names in multilingual or dialectally diverse areas in Estonia

The Place Names Act supports the use of minority place names, in some cases two parallel names are officially established. For example, there are parallel Estonian and Swedish names in the municipality of Noarootsi. More needs to be done in order to raise awareness on minority rights in toponyms in the areas of autochthonous Russian population along the coast of Lake Peipsi.

In South East Estonia the names of populated places in several municipalities of the counties of Võrumaa and Põlvamaa have been standardized in their local form, i.e. in the Võru variety. This has been done with the aid of the Võru Institute. The Basic Map of Estonia (printed version) uses almost exclusively local name forms for natural features. Differences with the formerly used name variants are mainly phonetic.

#### 5.5. Exonyms and principles of writing foreign place names in Estonia

Recommendations on the spelling of foreign geographical names are given by the Estonian Language Committee at the Mother Tongue Society jointly with various institutions (Geography Institute at the University of Tartu, Estonian Encyclopaedia Publishers, BNS News Agency). The overall policy has not changed during the last 15-20 years: the use of exonyms is limited and in principle any endonym used in an Estonian text should not be considered a "mistake". The new large World Atlas by Estonian Encyclopaedia Publishers follows closely recommendations by the Estonian Language Committee. In 2005 a monograph by Peeter Päll was published on the principles of standardizing foreign names.

#### 5.6. Divisional co-operation

Estonian experts have participated at the divisional meetings in Vilnius (October 2004) and Jurmala (October 2005), an observer also participated at the meeting of the UNGEGN Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division in Kiev (May 2005).

Estonia's representative, Elvi Sepp served as Vice-Chair of the Baltic Division. Due to her retirement, Aule Kikas was elected as new Vice-Chair at the divisional meeting in 2005.

#### 5.7. Publications (Estonia)

Peeter Päll. *Võõrnimed eestikeelses tekstis [Foreign Names in Estonian Texts]*. Dissertationes philologiae estonicae Universitatis Tartuensis. 15. Tartu Ülikooli kirjastus, Tartu 2005. 198 pp. • Marja Kallasmaa. Estonian Settlement Names. In: *Onomastica Uralica 3. Settlement Names in the Uralian Languages*. Debrecen–Helsinki 2005, pp. 17–33. • Marja Kallasmaa. Eesti kohanimede liigitamisest [On the Classification of Estonian Toponyms]. In: *Keel ja Kirjandus* 2005, 2, pp. 136–140. • Mariko FASTER. Laenulisi maastikusõnu Võru- ja Setumaa kohanimedes [Borrowed Landscape Terms in the Toponyms of Võrumaa and Setumaa]. In: *Tartu ülikooli Lõuna-Eesti keele- ja kultuuriuuringute keskuse aastaraamat III*. Tartu 2004, pp. 23–32. • Marja Kallasmaa. Abro-, Abru-, Abru- ja Abrak. In: *Emakeele Seltsi aastaraamat 49*. Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia Emakeele Selts, Tallinn 2004, pp. 83–86. • Marja Kallasmaa. Läänemaa ja kohanimed [Toponymy of Läänemaa]. In: *Läänemaa muuseumi toimetised VIII*. Läänemaa Muuseum, Haapsalu 2004, pp. 69–77. • Evar Saar. Ajaloolise Võrumaa kohanimede andmebaas [Database of Toponyms of Historic Võrumaa]. In: *Tartu ülikooli Lõuna-Eesti keele- ja kultuuriuuringute keskuse aastaraamat III*. Tartu 2004, pp. 98–107. • Evar Saar. Karula mäenimede süsteemist [System of Oronyms in Karula Parish]. In: *Tartu ülikooli Lõuna-Eesti keele- ja kultuuriuuringute keskuse aastaraamat III*. Tartu 2004, pp. 11–22. • Enn Tarvel. Kuressaare ja Põide. In: *Keel ja Kirjandus* 2004, 10, pp. 778–780.

#### 5.8. Further information may be obtained from Estonia:

Kohanimenõukogu  
(Place Names Board)  
Pikk 61  
15065 TALLINN  
<http://www.eki.ee/knn/>  
fax: +372-6935801  
(Ms. Aule Kikas, tel +372-6125147,

AS Eesti Kaardikeskus  
(Estonian Map Centre)  
Mustamäe tee 33  
10616 TALLINN  
<http://www.ekk.ee>  
(Mr. Lui Hubel, tel +372-6527656,

e-mail: Aule.Kikas@sisemin.gov.ee)

e-mail: jyri.jagomagi@regio.ee)

Eesti Keele Instituut  
(*Institute of Estonian Language*)  
Roosikrantsi 6  
10119 TALLINN  
<http://www.eki.ee>  
fax: +372-6411443  
(Mr. Peeter Päll, tel +372-6446153,  
e-mail: Peeter.Pall@eki.ee)

Eesti Veeteede Amet  
(*Estonian Maritime Administration*)  
Valge 4  
11413 TALLINN  
<http://www.vta.ee>  
fax: +372-6205506  
(Ms. Malle Hunt, tel +372-6205645,  
e-mail: malle.hunt@vta.ee)

Maa-amet (*National Land Board*)  
Mustamäe tee 51  
10621 TALLINN  
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## II. LATVIA

### 6. National standardization in Latvia.

There is no centralized geographical names authority or board in Latvia.

Names of the highest-level administrative units are approved by the Parliament (Saeima). The Cabinet of Ministers approves names of other administrative units. The corresponding ministries approve names of railway stations, ports, navigation aids, airports, and state roads. Local governments are fully responsible for the official naming of villages, farmsteads, dwelling houses, buildings, real estates, streets, cemeteries etc.

The State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia is reorganized at the end of 2005. The Geospatial Information Agency of Latvia as state mapping and geodesy authority under the supervision of the Ministry of Defence is established on the basis of Cartography, Large Scale Mapping and Geodesy Boards. Thereof the rights, responsibilities and duties of the State Land Service in standardization of geographical names (except the maintenance of the State Register of Addresses) have moved to the Agency and the Ministry of Defence. The Geospatial Information Agency of Latvia started working in January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

A consultative expert body – the Place Names Sub-commission (consisting of specialists in linguistics and geography) of the Latvian Language Experts Board with the State Language Centre works successfully since 2002.

6.1. Place names law. There is no particular place name act in Latvia yet. Different laws and normative documents regulate some standardization procedures and competence of the listed below different authorities. Since such practice often causes a lot of problems, a draft of the Latvian Place Name Act was been prepared by the Place Names Sub-commission during 2005 and submitted to the Government in January 2006.

6.2. Field collection of place names has been performed previously for checking the

existing information within framework of mapping projects, and for scientific purposes.

### 6.3. Office treatment of place names (names on the maps, in registers etc.).

The State Land Service of Latvia, a state surveying and mapping authority (in period from 1994 till 2005), has continued the state mapping projects: the Topographic Map of Latvia 1:50 000; the Topographic Map of Latvia 1:25 000; the Topographic Map of Latvia 1:10 000; city, town and settlement plans 1:2 000 000; military mapping projects in scales 1: 250 000 – 1:10 000.

The toponymic data for all maps were compiled or checked by the experts of the Laboratory of Toponymy.

Names of natural features and villages according to the local use or rendered close to the dialectal forms are widely used on maps. They often are given in brackets, if official names are unconformable to traditional local use.

A short update list for the Gazetteer of Latvia 1:1000 000 (as appendix) is prepared by the Laboratory of Toponymy, State Land Service of Latvia.

The State Register of Addresses (managed by the State Land Service) maintains the official names of features used in addresses (e.g. names of cities, towns, villages, streets, farmsteads, buildings etc.). The entire information is based on legislative acts and decisions of local governments. The official address information about cities, towns, villages and streets is available on <http://www.vzd.gov.lv> (in Latvian).

The private map publishing company “Jana seta Map Publishers” has continued the production of regional maps of Latvia (1:100 000 and 1:200 000), city and town plans (1:15 000 – 1:20 000), school maps and atlases, maps of foreign countries. The updated version (May 2005) of CD-ROM JS Latvija, containing all the latest maps of territory of Latvia produced by “Jana seta Map Publishers” with a data base containing information about more than 15 000 settlements, natural objects and points of interest was issued.

The “Great Atlas of World“ (ordered by publishing house “Estonian Encyclopaedia”) with more than 70’000 place names was issued by “Jana seta Map Publishers” in 2005. Data base of world geographical names was prepared together with that.

### 6.4. Standardization of dialectal place names

The standardization of village, house and natural feature names more close to their local dialectal forms, especially in the eastern region of Latvia, is being recommended since 1993. One part of the village and house names has been standardized according that.

### 6.5. Standardization based on local use of place names

In 2003, recommendations for standardization of civil parish and village names based on their local use have been prepared by the Place Names Sub-commission, Latvian Language Experts Board, and presented to local authorities.

### **6.6. Exonyms (Latvia)**

The Latvian Language Experts Board with the State Language Centre is responsible for standardization of Latvian forms of foreign geographical names. Consultations concerning spelling of foreign geographical names etc. are available at the Consultation Department, State Language Agency.

Foreign place names in their original or romanized forms are used on all state topographic maps, road maps and atlases except school maps and atlases.

### **6.7. Terminology (Latvia)**

The Place Names Sub-commission is preparing a Latvian translation of the Glossary

### **6.8. Writing systems. Romanization (Latvia)**

The Romanization System GOST-83 is used for place names in the territory of Russian Federation. The Romanization System for Byelorussian, approved by State Committee for Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography of Republic of Belarus on November 23, 2000 is used for place names in the territory of Republic of Belarus.

### **6.9. Toponymic education and practice (Latvia)**

Lecture courses on Toponymy are being delivered at the Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences and the Faculty of Philology, University of Latvia. Students' papers on toponymic topics are being compiled at the University of Latvia each academic year.

### **6.10. Country names (Latvia)**

The official country names list in Latvian is maintained by the state agency "Translation and Terminology Centre", Ministry of Education and Science.

### **6.11. Further information can be obtained from Latvia:**

LU Latviešu valodas institūts  
(*Latvian Language Institute,  
University of Latvia*)  
Akademijas laukuma 1  
LV-1050 RĪGA  
Fax: +371-7227696  
(Dr. Ojars Bušs, phone: +371-7213606;  
e-mail: [ojaars@lycos.com](mailto:ojaars@lycos.com)).

LU Reģionālas ģeogrāfijas un  
toponimikas zinātniskā  
laboratorija  
(*Scientific Laboratory for  
Regional Geography and  
Toponymy, University of Latvia*)  
Raina bulvaris 19  
LV-1586 RĪGA.

Latvijas Ģeotelpiskās informācijas aģentūra,  
Toponimikas laboratorija  
(*Toponymy Laboratory,  
Geospatial Information Agency of Latvia*)  
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LV-1009, RĪGA  
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Tel.: (+371) 7 317 540  
Fax: (+371) 7 317541  
<http://www.kartes.lv>.

## **II. LITHUANIA**

### **7. National standardisation in Lithuania**

The official usage of place names in the Republic of Lithuania is defined by Article 14 of the Law on the State Language: "Official, standardised forms of place names are written in the official language in the Republic of Lithuania." The standardisation of the place names was basically carried out before World War II in 1935 and 1936. Since the re-establishment of

the independence of Lithuania in the early 1990s, it has been the responsibility of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language. The Commission's Sub-Committee for Proper Names, which consists of a panel of linguists, geographers, cartographers and, when the need arises, of historians, deals with issues related to the correct forms and usage of individual place names and their lists.

Changes to the names of territorial administrative units and residential areas of Lithuania are made by the resolutions of the central Government passed at the initiative of the local governments. According to the 1996 Government resolution (the 2000 edition), the Language Commission is to give its recommendations based on the decision taken by the experts of the Proper Names Department of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language. In 2005, for instance, the Commission approved new names for two residential areas; in three instances changes in place names were not recommended.

The official forms of place names – of residential areas, streets, etc. - are entered in the Address Register (managed by Registru centras VI).

At the end of 2003, amendments were made to the provision of the Law on the Territorial Administrative Units of the Republic of Lithuania and their Boundaries stipulating that streets, buildings and other constructions under the jurisdiction of local governments should be given names by the resolutions of the local government councils with the approval of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language (Article 9). It has been established that names to such places should be given in accordance with certain criteria set by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2004, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the criteria for giving names to streets, buildings and other constructions (*Valstybes Žinios* (Official Gazette) No 88-3225), while the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language approved the 'Recommendations for the Forming and Spelling of Street Names'. On average, the Commission receives about 100 requests every year for its opinion on new street names.

In 2005, the newly established highest point (hill) on the territory of the Republic of Lithuania was given the name of *Aukštojas*.

The Law on Geodesy and Cartography of the Republic of Lithuania passed by the Seimas in 2001 provides that the place names on maps and in geo-referential databases should be given in line with the recommendations of the UN Standards, after they have been approved by the Language Commission and entered in the relevant lists and reference books.

## **7.2. Dictionaries, Databases and Official Lists of Place Names (Lithuania)**

In 2002, the Language Commission approved the *Dictionary of Place Names (Lietuvos vietovardžiu žodynas, Vilnius, 2002)*, which contains the names of about 12,000 residential places, rivers, lakes, forests, marshes, hillforts, etc. It also includes the names of Lithuanian ethnic lands and places of exile.

2004 saw the publication of the 5<sup>th</sup> enlarged edition of *Modern Lithuanian Dictionary*, supplemented with a List of Place Names (gazetteer) (compiled by L. Bilkis; *Dabartines lietuviu kalbos žodynas/Lietuviu kalbos institutas, Vilnius*; <http://www.autoinfo.lt/webdic/>).

In 2004, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania decreed (Resolution No 101 of 2 February 2004) that "the names of rivers and lakes shall be changed only with the approval of the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language." At the request of the Language Commission and the proposal of the Ministry of Environment, the experts of place names of the Commission launched an expert linguistic examination of the names included in the Classification of Lakes and the Classification of Rivers and Ponds; the aim of the examination is to establish precise and correct hydronyms. That should help eliminate the use of incorrect hydronyms both in formal and informal registers of language use. Additionally, the Institute of the Lithuanian Language is developing an electronic database of Lithuanian hydronyms (the project is also supported by the Language Commission).

### The main sources:

*Lietuvos TSR administracinio teritorinio suskirstymo žinynas ('Territorial Administrative Units of the Republic of Lithuania')* (Vilnius, 1974, p.1; Vilnius, 1976, P. 2, about 30,000 names of residential areas).

*Lietuvos TSR upiu ir ežerų vardynas* ('Names of Rivers and Lakes of the Lithuanian SSR') (Vilnius, 1963, about 7,000 hydronyms).

*List of Lithuanian Place Names*, approved by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language on 28 August 1997, <http://www.vlkk.lt/nutarimai/lietuvos-vietovardziai.html>.

*List of Ethnic Exonyms* (pdf), approved by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, <http://www.vlkk.lt/lt/article.poo/72>

*List of the Names of States and Capitals* (based on ISO 3166-1), approved by the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language, <http://www.vlkk.lt/nutarimai/svetimvardziai/valstybiu-ir-sostiniu.html>

*Modern Lithuanian Dictionary. List of place names*, <http://www.autoinfo.lt/webdic/>

*Vietovardžių žodynas* ('Dictionary of Place Names') (by Aldonas Pupkis, Maryte Razmukaite, Rita Miliunaite. – Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidybos institutas, 2002.

In 2006, the Institute of Scientific Publications and Encyclopedias is expected to complete Part I "Europe" of the *Dictionary of the World's Place Names* commissioned by the Language Commission. The Dictionary will present original and adapted forms of Europe's place names and Lithuanian exonyms. The entry words will be accented.

Official mapping and charting production (with toponyms) of National Mapping Authority - National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania in 2005:

*Georeference Vector Database GDB10LT at scale 1:10 000 on the basis of Orthophoto Maps of Lithuania all territory (27 000 toponyms);*

*Topographic maps at scale 1:50 000 printed 131 sheets of all territory, LKS-94 coordinates system;*

*Digital color raster topographic maps at scale 1:50 000 TOP50LKS - SRP – covered 100% territory, 131 sheets, LKS -94 coordinates system;*

*Aeronautical charts at scale 1:250 000 – covered 100% territory,, WGS – 84 coordinates system;*

*Digital color raster aeronautical charts at scale 1:250 000 AN 250LT and TOP250LT series – covered 100% territory, WGS – 84 coordinates system.*

*Navigation charts of Port Klaipeda at scale 15 000 and 1:7 500 compiled by Hydrographic Service of the Lithuanian Maritime Safety Administration in Klaipeda port ([www.msa.lt](http://www.msa.lt)).*

The State Cadastre of rivers, lakes and ponds, the State Cadastre of Forest is in process (The Ministry of Environment).

Updated State Register of administrative units, populated places and streets of Lithuania and renamed: The State Register of Addresses (10 June, 2004, coordinated The Ministry of Justice).

Other public information about toponyms (cities and streets, villages, rivers, lakes, ponds, forests, protected areas of Lithuania see on web site <http://www.maps.lt> .

### **7.3. Names of Countries (Lithuania)**

On the basis of the changes to Standard ISO 3166-1 (the information is provided by the Department of Standardisation), the State Language Commission amends the List of the Names of Countries (their Lithuanian equivalents), which subsequently approved by a resolution of the Government.

### **7.4. Usage of Foreign Place Names (Lithuania)**

The Commission recommends that in academic literature, advertising, information

publications and special texts the original spelling of foreign place names should be retained except for common popular place names, which are mostly adapted, while in fiction, popular and juvenile literature the spelling of foreign place names (in Roman alphabet) should be adapted to the norms of the Lithuanian language. In 2004, the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language adjusted the rules for the adaptation of Latvian place names.

### **7.5. Exonyms (Lithuania)**

At the instruction of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Language Commission approved the lists of traditional place names of the ethnic Baltic lands, i.e. in the Kaliningrad (Karaliaucius) Region, in 1997, about 450 place names), in Poland (in 1998, about 300); in Belarus (in 1999, about 1,150); and in Latvia (in 2000, about 70). The list of the exonyms is not shortened; exonyms are given preference to endonyms in all kinds of literature, except on maps. The public is not too eager to use the original forms of toponyms because of their adapted forms that came into use through the Russian language and were in use for 50 years during the Soviet occupation. The Language Commission, however, is conducting a broad examination of the principles to be applied to the use of the adapted and traditional forms, and the use of the original forms is gaining ground.

At the request of the Language Commission, the Department of Proper Names of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language is continuing the development of the database of *Historical Ethnic Place Names* (in the border areas of Lithuania and beyond).

### **7.6. Plans for the Future (Lithuania)**

Lithuania supports the initiative of the European Commission for the INSPIRE directive to encourage EU Member States to collect information on the available geographic, cartographic, etc. data and to harmonise their databases to enable broad exchanges and applications. In the preparation for such undertakings, Lithuania has developed Project LGII for a Lithuanian database of geographical information, which should seek the harmonisation of all the databases of geographical information available at various public institution of Lithuania.

In addition, by a special resolution passed in 2004 the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the action plan for the implementation of the State Linguistic Policy in 2004-2008. The plan includes the following measures: the electronic database of the territorial administrative units and residential areas of the Republic of Lithuania (the Ministry of the Interior); the database of the geographical names of Lithuania (VDB10LT) (National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture).

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