

**Twenty-fifth session
Nairobi, 5 – 12 May 2009**

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms *

* Prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Co-convenor, Working Group on Exonyms.

1. Organizational aspects

The Working Group on Exonyms was established in 2002 by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin. Resolution VIII/4 specifies its tasks with taking measures for “the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms”.

WG meetings held:

1st Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8th UN Conference

2nd Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre

3rd Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22nd UNGEGN Session

4th Meeting: **Ljubljana**, May 19-20, 2005, hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

5th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23rd UNGEGN Session

6th Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.

7th Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24th UNGEGN Session

8th Meeting: **Timișoara**, September 9-11, 2008, hosted by the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography and the Adam Mueller-Guttenbrunn House

Currently the Working Group comprises 61 official members and associated experts from 27 countries (see Appendix).

Elected co-convenors are Peter JORDAN (Austria, peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at) and Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ (Slovenia, milan@zrc-sazu.si). After Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ had been appointed Slovenian ambassador in Croatia in 2006, Peter JORDAN acts as the convenor in charge.

The WG maintains a website accessible under <http://www.zrc-sazu.si/wge>. The webmaster is Mimi URBANC (Slovenia).

2. Activities

Two meetings of the WG were held since its last report to the 24th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, New York, 20 and 31 August 2007 (WP 11):

7th Meeting, New York, August 29, 2007

In the framework of the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the Working Group on Exonyms had a short business meeting. It was attended by 22 experts. It was agreed to elaborate guidelines for the use of exonyms as the next major project of the WG. Such guidelines would have to be based both on the acceptance of the exonyms' functionality as well as on political sensibility. It was postulated that the next meeting of the WG should have the

character of a workshop with the main task of drafting guidelines. It was decided to come back to an earlier invitation by Mr. Remus CREȚAN (Romania) confirmed by the Romanian delegation to the Conference, to hold the meeting in Timișoara, Romania, in September 2008.

8th Meeting, Timișoara, September 9-10(11), 2008

The 8th Meeting was organized as a joint meeting with the ICA Commission on National and Regional Atlases (CNRA) and took place in Timișoara (Romania). It was hosted by the West University Timișoara (represented by Rector Ion TALPOS), the Romanian Academy of Sciences (represented by Șerban DRAGOMIRESCU), the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography (represented by Colonel Marin ALNIȚIEI) and the Adam Mueller Guttenbrunn House, the cultural center of Germans in the East of the Pannonian Basin, the Meeting's actual venue. Remus CREȚAN, professor of geography and toponomastics at the West University, was the main local organizer, made the engine running and provided for a very convenient atmosphere.

It was the intention of the meeting to gather experts on geographical names and cartographers to discuss

- (1) the topic of exonyms and their application in various communicative situations
- (2) the general structure and in particular the chapter on geographical names of a “cook book” for atlas editors.

The two subsequent meetings were accessible not only for the members of the respective subgroup, but for all other participants interested. The meetings were linked by a common excursion to the city of Timișoara and its multicultural surroundings guided by Remus CREȚAN and his colleagues. The meetings were preceded by a UNGEGN toponymic training course for young toponymists in Romania and neighbour countries.

A participation of 48 colleagues from 18 countries and 4 continents exceeded most expectations. The organizers were especially pleased to welcome Helen KERFOOT, UNGEGN Chair, and Ferjan ORMELING, UNGEGN Vice-Chair. It was very valuable to have UNGEGN experts also participating in the ICA commission meeting. This resulted in many inputs to the “cook book” chapter on geographical names and thus had indeed the synergy effects that were expected.

The first day of the WGE Meeting (9th September) saw the following paper presentations:

Introduction into city and region and into the Romanian namescape

Sorina VOICULESCU (Romania): Cultural aspects of Timișoara

Remus CREȚAN (Romania): On the toponymy of the Banat

Șerban DRAGOMIRESCU (Romania): Exonyms in Romania – an evaluation of the last 30 years

Ioan Sebastian JUCU (Romania): A short analysis of the street names of Lugoj. A comparative approach before and after 1990.

Exonyms

Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom): The spelling of the country name Romania in British official usage: from uncertainty to standardization

Pierre JAILLARD (France): Exonymes et diversité culturelles

Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland): Exonyms in the Arab World – in Arabic and international cartography

Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia): Exonyms in Croatian lexicographical editions: Some remarks about their uneven and inconsistent use

András DUTKO (Hungary): List of Hungarian exonyms

Zsombor BARTOS-ELEKES (Romania): The discussion on terminology of the terms exonym and endonym

Most of these papers will be published in a special issue of the *Reviews of Historical Geography and Toponomastics (RHGT)* edited by Remus CREȚAN.

The full second day (10th September) was devoted to the discussion and elaboration of guidelines for the use of exonyms and had the character of a workshop.

As a starter into the discussion Peter JORDAN presented again his paper E-CONF-98-36-Add1 (“Criteria for the use of exonyms”). After most intensive discussions highlighting and confronting in fact all the various opinions brought forward in more recent debates in UN Conferences, UNGEGN Sessions and Working Group meetings, the outlines of future guidelines were formulated and accepted by all experts present. Peter JORDAN (Austria) and Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand) were charged to elaborate them into a paper to be disseminated once again to the members of the Working Group before it will be submitted to the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi.

Appendix:

Members and associated experts of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms

Co-convenors:

Peter **Jordan** (convenor currently in charge)
Austrian Academy of Sciences
Institute of Urban and Regional Research
Postgasse 7/4/2
A-1010 Wien
Austria
E-mail: peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at
WWW: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/isr>

Milan **Orožen Adamič**
Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Anton Melik Geographical Institute
Gosposka ulica 13
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
E-mail: milan@zrc-sazu.si
WWW: <http://www.zrc-sazu.si/wge>

Members:

1	Alniței,	Marin	Romania	marinalnitei@yahoo.com
2	Ardelean	Mircea	Romania	mircea@cbg.uvt.ro
3	Banica	Alexandru	Romania	alexandrubanica@yahoo.com
4	Beinstein	Bernd	Germany	Bernd.Beinstein@bkg.bund.de
5	Bell	Herman	United Kingdom	h.bell@exeter.ac.uk
6	Bermann	Hubert	Austria	hubert.bergmann@oeaw.ac.at
7	Bohač	Pavel	Czech Republic	pavel.bohac@cuzk.cz
8	Burgess	Caroline	United Kingdom	cburgess@pcgn.org.uk
9	Buza	Mircea	Romania	geoinst@rnc.ro
10	Calvarin	Elisabeth	France	elisabeth.calvarin@ign.fr
11	Champoux	Gilles	Canada	Champoux.GJ@forces.gc.ca
12	Cheetham	Catherine	United Kingdom	ccheetham@pcgn.org.uk
13	Choo	Sungjae	Republic of Korea	sjchoo@khu.ac.kr
14	Cekula	Zane	Latvia	zane.cekula@lgia.gov.lv
15	Crețan	Remus	Romania	cretan_remus@yahoo.com
16	Crljenko	Ivana	Croatia	ivana.crljenko@lzmk.hr
17	Dillon	Leo	United States	dillonli@state.gov

18	Dorion	Henri	Canada	henridorion@videotron.ca
19	Dragomirescu	Serban	Romania	serbangheorghe@k.ro
20	Dumitrescu	Bianca	Romania	geoinst@rnc.ro
21	Dutkó	András	Hungary	dutko@espolarte.com
22	Evangelidis	Dimitrios	Greece	dcd@hnhs.gr
23	Ferland	Yaïves	Canada	yaives.ferland@drdc-rddc.gc.ca
24	Hausner	Isolde	Austria	isolde.hausner@oeaw.ac.at
25	Helleland	Botolv	Norway	botolv.helleland@iln.uio.no
26	Heyda	Charles	United States	cheyda@yahoo.com
27	Jordan	Peter	Austria	peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at
28	Kadmon	Naftali	Israel	msnkadmo@mscc.huji.ac.il
29	Kerfoot	Helen	Canada	HKerfoot@NRCan.gc.ca
30	Kladnik	Drago	Slovenia	drago.kladnik@zrc-sazu.si
31	Kováčová	Mária	Slovakia	maria.kovacovam@skgeodesy.sk
32	Lapierre	André	Canada	lapierre@uottawa.ca
33	Lee	Ki-Suk	Republic of Korea	leekisuk@plaza.snu.ac.kr
34	Lejeune	Sylvie	France	Sylvie.lejeune@ign.fr
35	Mac Giolla Easpaig	Dónall	Ireland	dmacgiollaepaspaig@pobail.ie
36	Makridis	Georgios	Greece	giorgom1@otenet.gr
37	Matthews	Philip	New Zealand	philmatthews19@hotmail.com
38	Méndez Fernández	Luz	Spain	luz.mendez@crtvg.es
39	Mikesy	Gábor	Hungary	mikesy.gabor@fomi.hu
40	Nanova	Milka	Bulgaria	milkananova@yahoo.com mnanova@mrrb.government.bg
41	Nicolae	Ion	Romania	ionnicolae1945@yahoo.com
42	Ormeling	Ferjan	Netherlands	F.Ormeling@geog.uu.nl
43	Orožen Adamič	Milan	Slovenia	milan@zrc-sazu.si
44	Paikkala	Sirkka	Finland	sirkka.paikkala@kotus.fi
45	Päll	Peeter	Estonia	peeter@eki.ee
46	Palmer	Trent C.	United States	trent.c.palmer@nga.mil
47	Papaioannou	Ioannis	Greece	dcd@hnhs.gr
48	Pokoly	Béla	Hungary	bela.pokoly@fvm.hu
49	Przyszevska	Katarzyna	Poland	katarzyna.przyszevska@gugik.gov.pl
50	Ratovoarison	Nivoarimang	Madagascar	nivo@mail.ftm.mg

51	Raukko	Jarno	Finland	jarno.raukko@helsinki.fi
52	Sievers	Jörn	Germany	joern.sievers@web.de
53	Stani-Fertl	Roman	Austria	stani_fertl@utanet.at
54	Tatomirović	Slaviša	Serbia	slavisa.tat@sbb.rs
55	Turcotte	Danielle	Canada	danielle.turcotte@toponymie.gouv.qc.ca
56	Viechnicki	Peter D.	United States	peter.d.viechnicki@nga.mil
57	Vlahova-Angelova	D. Maya	Bulgaria	mvlahova@abv.bg
58	Woodman	Paul	United Kingdom	pwoodman@pcgn.org.uk
59	Zaccheddu	Pier-Giorgio	Germany	pier.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de
60	Zagórski	Bogusław R.	Poland	boguslaw.zagorski@transmontana.pl
61	Zych	Maciej	Poland	mzych@poczta.onet.pl ; ksng@gugik.gov.pl ; mzych@uw.edu.pl