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Report of the divisions

Report of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division *

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RESUME

The report provides information on current composition of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names as well as a brief description of the national standardization status in each of the Division's countries.

The report also describes:

- status of legislative and normative base for standardization of geographical names and their usage in the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

- developments of national catalogues, registers and databases of geographical names in the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

- gazetteers or reference-books of geographical names already issued or under development;

- national Romanization systems applied in the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

- development of lists of exonyms;

- meetings of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and participation in the international arrangements devoted to geographical names issues.

Composition of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

A resolution to form the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names was adopted at the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held on August 25–September 3, 1992 in New York. Currently, the Division is composed of 10 permanent country-members: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kirghizia, Russia, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan, and the Ukraine. Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Estonia participate in the activities of the Division as observers.

National standardization of geographical names in the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

Azerbaijan

The State Law ‘On geographical names of the Azerbaijan Republic’ adopted in March 2009 by the Parliament (Milly Medglis) and approved by the President of the Republic laid the legal foundation for national standardization of geographical names.

The Law authorized the State Committee on Land and Cartography to carry national standardization and registration of geographical names, compile gazetteers and references of geographical names and develop and maintain the National Catalogue of Geographical Names. The State Committee is working in cooperation with the other state authorities of the Republic.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, since August 1, 2001, all paper work in the country, including *national standardization of geographical names has been carried in the Roman script*.

In May 2008, the Council of Ministers adopted ‘Regulations for registration of geo-graphical names, requirements to compilation of gazetteers and references of geographical names and development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names’.

Standardization of geographical names is held in accordance with the national program that provides for development of computer databases of geographical names; use of list of full and short names of the world states and territories in the UN languages to develop databases of foreign countries names; development of computer systems to process data related to geographical names; study of the world’s most advanced technologies applied to geographical names processing.

The reference-book ‘Administrative and territorial division of Azerbaijan in 1828-2010’ was issued. The book describes administrative division of the country and enlists the names of all its administrative and historical units.

A gazetteer of all populated places of Azerbaijan was compiled and published.

All appropriate changes, including those of geographical names, are tracked and reflected at 1:100,000 scale maps that are available in the Azerbaijani language.

By now, the State Committee on Land and Cartography completed about 80% of work related to accumulation and standardization of geographical names for the topographical maps of scale 1:50,000 which were previously issued in Russian. Simultaneously with accumulation of geographical names, maps are digitized, and standardized names in the Azerbaijani language are recorded together with geo coordinates of location of their first characters on the map. Spelling of the Azerbaijan geographical names is verified and appropriate corrections are made. Some difficulties concerning geographical names in the languages or dialects of small nations or ethnic groups which live in the Republic are overcome.

Development of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names of Azerbaijan has been started. A full list of geographical names on the base of 1: 25,000 map series is compiled in cooperation with the specialists from the Institute of Geography of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. Now the names from the list are verified on the spot.

Names of geographical objects connected with economic activity of people are accumulated by different organizations. For example, names of railway stations, ports, airports and other transportation objects were stored in the Ministry of Transportation; names of objects connected with mining – in geological agencies; names of populated places – in the Parliament of the country, etc. It is planned to bring together and standardize all these geographical names to be then input in the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

Compilation of the reference-book that will include full and short forms of names of the world's countries and territories in the Azerbaijani language is planned.

Armenia

A legal basis for naming and renaming of geographical features in the Republic of Armenia as well as for standardization, storage and usage of geographical names is determined by the State Law “On geographical names” passed by the National Assembly of the country in November 1999. In 2008, some amendments were introduced into the Law.

The Committee on Real Estate and Cadastre of the Armenian Government is a national body responsible for standardization of geographical names in the country.

In 2010, some amendments were made in the “Procedure of collection and registration of geographical names and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names in the Republic of Armenia” adopted by the Government in 2001.

Naming and renaming of geographical objects is regulated by the “Instruction for naming and renaming of geographical names in the Republic of Armenia”.

Special Commission on naming and renaming of geographical objects established by the Government's Decree in 2000 is responsible for evaluation of all suggestions connected with

naming, renaming of objects and names spelling. In 2009, composition of the Commission was partially renewed. *Approval of geographical names is the terms of reference* of the Armenian Government. Lists of approved geographical names are published in the official government bulletin and available at the site: [http://www.arlis.am /](http://www.arlis.am/). All changes in the *populated places names* are approved by the National Assembly (Parliament) of the country.

In 2010, ‘Regulations for rendering of geographical names of the Republic of Armenia in the Russian and English languages’ was completed together with the supplements which included names of all large objects available on 1:400,000 map of administrative division of the Republic.

In 2008, development of the State Computer Catalogue of Geographical Names of the Republic of Armenia on the base of 1: 25,000 map was completed in the main. Its development was started in 2002. Since 2008 the Catalogue has been systematically populated with the names taken from the maps of larger scales (1: 10,000 and 1: 5,000). For January I, 2014, the Catalogue comprises more than 41,000 geographical names.

In 2008, ‘Gazetteer of the Armenian geographical names’ was completed. The Gazetteer is issued in 11 volumes – each for one marz (region) plus the city of Yerevan. It is planned to publish the Gazetteer in English.

In 2012, compilation of the world’s gazetteer of geographical names that includes approximately 200,000 names was finished.

In Armenia, a great attention is paid to issuing gazetteers and references of geographical names. Among those published the following could be mentioned - ‘Populated places of Armenia’, ‘Concise gazetteer of the Republic of Armenia’ (2008), ‘Concise reference of the states and territories of the world’(2010). The reference-book ‘Political and administrative division of the Armenian Republic’ was re-issued in 2012. In 2014, a concise reference ‘Large world’s cities’ shall be released.

Compilation of lists of exonyms is in process. A large list of exonyms that includes more than 3,000 names in the Armenian language was published (2008). The reference-book of exonymic names of the world’s states and capitals in the Armenian language is completed.

Standardized geographical names and related data are used to manufacture maps and atlases. Recently, more than 15 titles of school, tourist and road maps were issued. Development of the two-volume ‘National Atlas of Armenia’ in the Armenian language and the ‘Historical and Geographical Atlas of Yerevan’ was finished. Updating and preparation for publication of the ‘National Atlas of Armenia’ in English is started.

Belarus

The Law of the Republic of Belarus ‘On naming of geographical objects’ adopted in 2010 is a legal basis for naming and renaming of geographical objects, standardization of

geographical names, their registration and saving as a component of the historical and cultural heritage of the people of Belarus.

A new edition of the Law that will take into consideration its practical application is under development now. Review of the Law as well as the accompanying legal acts shall be undertaken in 2014.

In compliance with the Law ‘On geodetic and cartographic activities’ passed in 2008, standardization of geographical names is attached a state significance, its *state contracting authority* being the State Committee on Property of the Republic of Belarus.

Standardization of geographical names is coordinated by the Toponymic Commission of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus. Decisions taken by the Toponymic Commission are mandatory to all the state and local authorities as well as agencies, companies and organizations. In 2013, the Toponymic Commission held 10 meetings to consider names of 1 railway station, 65 administrative units (27 populated places and 38 rural municipalities.)

With a view to make the existing legislation concerning naming and renaming of geographical features as well as maintaining of the address register of Belarus plain, the specialists from the State Committee on Property hold seminars for local administrations’ staffers in situ.

Based on the existing practice, some technical instructions in rendering of geographical names and generic terms of the Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in the Byelorussian language are developed.

The task to develop the *State Catalogue of Geographical Names* of Belarus is successfully pursued. The Catalogue consists of an automated retrieval system and computer database that is being constantly populated and updated on the base of official sources of information on geographical names. More than 40,000 geographical names were already input into the database. Names of geographical objects are input in the database in the *Byelorussian and Russian* languages as well as in the *Roman script*. Now, capabilities to provide more customers with standardized geographical names stored in the Catalogue are developed. The State Catalogue *makes for a unified and stable use of geographical names* in all spheres of social life.

The *national Romanization system* approved by the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2012) is applied to manufacture maps and atlases intended for international circulation. The State Committee on Property of the Republic of Belarus adopted the updated ‘Instruction for rendering geographical names of the Republic of Belarus with the *Roman characters*’. A number of maps, atlases and city plans based on the adopted Romanization system were issued in the Republic and the reference-book ‘Names of populated places in the Republic of Belarus’ was prepared for publication.

Gazetteers that include names of populated places of six Belarus' regions were published. The names are available in the Byelorussian and Russian languages as well as in the Roman script.

In 2008, the dictionary that contains about 3,000 entities on etymology of the names of Belarus' populated places was published. Additionally, the book includes plenty of names of rivers, lakes, creeks, marshes, fields, grasslands and forestlands as well as personal names, family names, and nicknames. The dictionary is rich in various linguistic, geographic, mythological and folklore data as well as folk legends and tales. It also enlists historical and current names, dates when geographical names were first mentioned in ancient written sources.

Standardization of names of the road network elements that is carried out in accordance with the President's Decree 'On address system' continues. The State Committee on Property coordinates development and maintenance of *the Register of Addresses in the Republic of Belarus* that is available in two languages - Byelorussian and Russian.

Gazetteer of the world's states and territories that includes standardized names of countries, territories and their capitals or centers in Byelorussian, Russian and English was published. For the names in Russian and English, the *database developed by the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (UNGEGN) was used. The Gazetteer comprises names of 194 independent states and 40 territories.

In Belarus, atlases, maps and city plans are issued in the Byelorussian, Russian and English languages as well as in the Roman script. During recent years, more than 60 cartographic products were manufactured, including reference and tourist maps of the world, Belarus, its regions as well as city maps and atlases. The 'Road Atlas of the Republic of Belarus' at scale 1:200,000 was created. Annually, maps and atlases for schools and colleges are released. Publication of the three-volume 'Great Historic Atlas' became a significant achievement of the cartography of Belarus.

Bulgaria

In accordance with the State Law of Bulgaria "On geodesy and cartography", the Agency of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre at the Ministry of Investment Planning is an authorized body responsible for standardization, rendering of geographical names and their provision to users.

The Council on Standardization of Geographical Names deals with toponymic issues. The Council is entitled to develop and submit rules and procedures for standardization, spelling and registration of geographical names of Bulgaria, rules for rendering of foreign geographical names in the Bulgarian language, and of the Bulgarian geographical names in the Roman script.

In 2012, for the purpose to provide for a consistent use of geographical names, development of the *Register of Bulgaria's Geographical Names* was started. The Register shall provide a

uniform and consistent use of geographical names which will be stored and regularly updated. The information system shall register, store and update geographical names as well as retrieve required information in the database. The information system will be accessible via a web site. It shall allow users making queries and searching for geographical names by different criteria. When selected, a geographical name will be displayed on the map of Bulgaria.

A long-term use of the earlier adopted Romanization system revealed a need in its modification. At the 10th UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (2012), a resolution was adopted that recommended the updated Bulgarian Romanization System for international use. This Romanization System is applied to render both geographical and personal names.

Within the framework of the joint European project-EuroGeographics–EuroGeoNames - a digital map is developed in Bulgaria that will include current geographical names, their Romanized rendering, former names of populated places, history of an area, geographical info, etc.

The policy aimed at the national standardization of geographical names that is pursued in Bulgaria results in cartographic products recently released.

Among achievements of the Bulgarian cartography, the first photo-atlas of the Sofia's municipality could be mentioned. It contains monochrome and colour orthophotos of Sofia's municipality at scale 1:5000 and some thematic maps to demonstrate how the city has recently changed and its infrastructure developed.

Kirghizia

Issues related to geographical names *are regulated* by the State Law 'On geographical names in the Kirghiz Republic' adopted in September 1997 and some decrees aimed to achieve the Law. The latest decree was adopted in April 2012 to approve the 'Procedure of naming and renaming of geographical features and registration of geographical names in the Kirghiz Republic'. All the laws and decrees passed by the Government (including those related to naming and renaming of geographical objects) are published in the journal 'Normative documents of the Kirghiz Republic'.

In accordance with the State Law 'On geodesy and cartography' adopted in 2002, the State Cartographic and Geodetic Service of the Kirghiz Republic is determined an authorized body to coordinate standardization, registration and use of geographical names.

The Inter-department Commission on Administrative Division Issues and Geographical Names of the Kirghiz Government works on permanent basis. Decisions on naming or renaming of geographical features are taken by the Inter-department Commission and the Academy of Sciences and then formalized as state laws.

All officially approved changes in geographical names are mirrored on the working maps of Kirghizia at scale 1:100,000.

In documents, cartographic or other publications, standardized geographical names in both Kirghiz and Russian languages are used.

Standardization and use of geographical names comply with the rules and norms of the Kirghiz language. Into Russian geographical names are rendered in accordance with the 'Instruction for Russian rendering of Kirghiz geographical names'.

Rendering of geographical features is determined by instructions and rules approved by the Government of the Kirghiz Republic to be mandatory on the entire territory of the country. Scientific and methodic work in terms of standardization of geographical names is carried out by the National Academy of Sciences.

In December 2010, the Government of the Kirghiz Republic passed a decree to detail the 'Regulations for *rendering of geographical names of the Kirghiz Republic in the Roman script*' that was adopted in 2008. The national Romanization system for geographical names is based on BGN/PCGN 1979 for Kirghiz Cyrillic.

The database that includes about 18,000 names of geographical objects is regularly updated. Each geographical object is accompanied with its name in the national and Russian language, generic term, geo coordinates, sheet of topographic map of 1:100,000 scale where a given object is placed, average altitude of an object above the sea level in meters. The previously developed database of geographical names is now upgraded with ArcGIS retrieval system.

Lists of *exonyms* in use are compiled.

In Kirghizia, maps are issued in the state Kirghiz language and in the official Russian language. Some maps are published in English.

Russian Federation

The Ministry of Economic Development and Federal Service of State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) are the authorized federal executive authorities in the field of geographical names. The Ministry of Economic Development is imposed with a responsibility to frame up and implement the state policy as well as normative and legal regulation of geodesy and cartography.

Rosreestr develops and maintains the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, provides for standardization of geographical names in Russian, and prepares experts reports for proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects.

Between 2012 and 2013, experts' reports of Rosreestr for naming and renaming proposal resulted in 41 federal normative acts passed to assign new names to 141 objects and to rename 24 objects.

In some subjects of the Russian Federation, toponymic commissions were organized to regulate use of geographical names of urban objects, their registration and conservation as a constituent part of historical and cultural heritage. One of these commissions works in the Moscow branch of the Russian Geographical Society. In 2013, the Commission organized Students' conference on toponymy.

Legal foundations for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, use, registration, and storage of geographical names are set by the Federal Law № 152-FZ 'On names of geographical objects' that was passed on December 18, 1997.

In 2012, the Federal Law 'On ratifying amendments to the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects' was adopted to refine some regulations of the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects', make changes in a procedure of submitting proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects, and detail some statements related to financing of operations in the field of geographical names.

On November 15, 2012, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Decree 'On procedure of coordination of proposals on naming of some geographical objects or on renaming of these objects'.

The Decree sets a procedure to coordinate proposals on naming of railway stations, sea and river ports, airports, objects within inland waters, territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica, and on renaming of these objects between all federal executive bodies concerned – Ministry of Transportation, 'Russian Railways' Corp., Russian Service of River Fleet, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2013, the Federal Law 'On federal address system and on introducing amendments into the Federal Law "On basic principles of local self-government in the Russian Federation"' was adopted. The Law regulates relations which emerge in connection with introduction of the state address registry as well as use of the addresses available in it.

The subjects of the Russian Federation independently make solutions on naming and renaming of urban objects (streets, squares, parks etc.) Local administrations are empowered to assign addresses to addressing objects.

Revision of the instructions for rendering of geographical names in the languages of the Russian Federation's peoples in Russian is carried out. In 2013, the instructions for Russian rendering of Ossetic, Nogai and Buryat geographical names were revised.

In pursuance of the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is entrusted to the newly

organized budgetary state institution ‘Federal scientific and technical center of geodesy, cartography and infrastructure of spatial data’.

More than 760,000 geographical names of the Russian Federation and accompanying information were input into the State Catalogue (more than 23 million data items to specify geographical names and objects). The information was taken from normative acts, topographic maps at scale 1:100,000, reference-books, gazetteers and other sources.

The current task is to provide reliable and valid information on geographical names and to make the Catalogue to meet the requirements set for basic state information resources. The data input into the State Catalogue are submitted to an approval of the government bodies in appropriate subjects of the Russian Federation. It is planned to populate the State Catalogue with the names of geographical objects located on continental shelf, exclusive economic zone as well as with the names of geographical objects discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean or Antarctica.

To timely provide users with geographical names and accompanying information, the data from the State Catalogue were made accessible on an official site of Rosreestr. To meet informational needs of users, Bulletins of official changes of geographical names in the Russian Federation between 1997-2013 and e-Bulletin to reflect changes in geographical names in the CIS countries within the period 1991-2013 are compiled. The Bulletins are available on Rosreestr’s official site: https://rosreestr.ru/wps/portal/p/cc_ib_other_lines_activity/cc_ib_cartographical_activity/cc_ib_names_geographical_objects/cc_ib_works_names_geographical_objects

In accordance with the Federal Law ‘On names of geographical objects’ Rosreestr is responsible for endorsement of gazetteers and references of geographical names. Reference-books of administrative division of the subjects of the Russian Federation submitted by their executive authorities to Rosreestr were scrutinized and endorsed (administrative division of Mary El Republic, Murmanskaja oblast’ (region) and some other).

On the maps intended for international circulation, the Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1983) continues to be used.

The instructions for Russian rendering of foreign-language geographical names includes lists of exonyms. While revising the instructions, the resolutions of the UN Conferences on Geographical Names which recommended to reduce the number of exonyms and not to introduce new ones are taken into consideration.

Tadzhikistan

Work in the are of geographical names is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Tadzhikistan ‘On names of geographical objects’ passed in 2006.

Issues related to naming and renaming of geographical objects are the terms of reference of the Government of the Republic of Tadjikistan, while practical work connected with use of geographical names is carried out by the *authorized state body*. This state body is the Agency on Land Surveying, Geodesy and Cartography of the Government of the Republic of Tadjikistan. The Agency records all changes in the names of regions, cities, districts and other populated places published in the Decrees of the Government of the Republic of Tadjikistan and also examines proposals to name or rename mountains (peaks) on the territory of the Republic submitted by juridical and natural persons.

More than 30 titles of maps were issued, including administrative, tourist, city maps as well as maps and atlases for schools and colleges.

Uzbekistan

The *main law* to regulate activity in the field of geographical names is the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On geographical names’ approved by the President of the Republic in October, 2011. Some issues related to naming of geographical objects are regulated by the State Laws ‘On the state language in the Republic of Uzbekistan’ and ‘On geodesy and cartography’.

The State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy, Cartography and State Cadastre is *the national authority* responsible for standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In pursuance of the Decree passed by the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan ‘On coordination of naming of administrative units, populated places and other geographical objects’ the Republican Toponymic Commission was organized. Its terms of reference are to coordinate naming and renaming of geographical features and to preserve historical toponyms.

Earlier developed instructions for Uzbek rendering of geographical names are now updated. The following normative acts were adopted:

- ‘Regulations for maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names’;
- ‘Regulations for state expertise of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects’;
- ‘Republican Toponymic Service Regulations’;
- ‘Instructions for maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names of the Republic of Uzbekistan’
- ‘Instruction for Uzbek rendering of geographical names of Karakalpakstan’;
- ‘Rules of Uzbek spelling of geographical names’;

In accordance with the State Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On introduction of the Uzbek alphabet based of the Roman script’ systematic transition to the Roman script in all spheres, including rendering of geographical names as well as creation and publication of cartographic products was completed. In conformity with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan the modern Uzbek language is based on the Roman script.

The State Register of Geographical Names is created. Presently, its database is developed with MicrosoftAccess.

Between 2011 and 2013, gazetteers of Karakalpakstan and some other regions of Uzbekistan were compiled

Under the considered period, compilation of exonyms' list was not carried out.

National standardization of geographical names pursued in Uzbekistan is embodied in releasing cartographic products. Among the main achievements the following could be mentioned - 'Atlas of Uzbekistan', series of geographical and economical maps of Karakalpakstan and some other regions of Uzbekistan, 'Energetic resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan' and 'Irrigation of the Republic of Uzbekistan' wall maps, atlases of local history of some regions.

Ukraine

Legislative foundations for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, use, registration and storage of geographical names were laid down by the State Law 'On geographical names' passed in 2005. In July 2012, some changes were introduced into Article 6 of the State Law 'On geographical names. The changes concerned spelling of geographical names in the state, regional and minor nations' languages.

In October 2012, the Law was amended to detail the terms of reference of central executive bodies in the sphere of topography and geodesy and to exclude nonrelevant competences of the President in terms of geographical names and to terminate the powers of the Inter-department Research and Methodic Council on Geographical Names.

By the Decree of the President issued on April 8, 2011, the State Agency of Land Recourses of the Ukraine was made responsible for coordination of standardization, storage of geographical names and development and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names.

Since some functions of the central executive bodies in the field of geodesy and cartography were changed, the appropriate amendments were made in the 'Statute of the State Register of Geographical Names', and the 'Procedure of expertize of proposals and solutions of the state authorities on naming and renaming of geographical objects'. Some normative acts related to geographical names are also revised.

In compliance with the 'Statute of the State Register of Geographical Names' adopted by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine in 2006, development of the State Register is continued. Structure and content of the State Register of Geographical Names were adopted and basic principles of inputting geographical names of the Ukraine and the world into the database were determined. For January 1, 2014, nearly 36,000 registration

forms for the names of the Ukrainian populated places were filled. The State Registry development shall be continued till 2015.

The 10th UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (2012.) adopted Resolution X/9 'On Romanization of the Ukrainian geographical names that recommended to adopt the submitted *Ukrainian Romanization System* as international system for rendering Ukrainian geographical names. The Ukrainian Romanization System is based on the 'Table for rendering of proper names of Ukraine with Roman script' passed by the Decree of the Ukrainian Government in 2010 and widely used within the country.

The 10th UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names adopted the 'Toponymic guidelines for map makers and other editors (for international use). Ukraine' that contains rules of spelling of the Ukrainian geographical names and their rendering with the Ukrainian Romanization system: (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic_guidelines_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf).

In December, 2012, Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of the Ukraine issued the reference-book 'Ukraine: Administrative territorial division' (784p.) for January 1, 2012. All changes in the administrative territorial division of the country during the past 25 years are reflected in the publication.

In 2012, the State Agency of Land Resources of the Ukraine opened the geoportal 'Administrative territorial division of the Ukraine'. The state boundary, boundaries of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regions, cities of Kiev and Sevastopol' urban and rural municipalities are shown on the maps at scale 1:170,000-1:250,000 (<http://atu.gki.com.ua>). Between 2010 and 2013, a large number of reference, thematic and teaching maps and atlases were issued, the most significant of which are the following – 'Teacher's atlas', 'Atlas of Ukrainian history', 'Reference world atlas', 'Tourist atlas of Ukraine', 'Europe: map of postal indexing', 'Atlas of Ukrainian railroads', 'Tourist atlas: Saint-Petersburg – Odessa', 'Family's world atlas', 'Relief map of the world', 'Ukraine and adjacent states' wall map, 'Pocket world atlas'.

In between 2010 and 2012, the city plans of Donetsk, Kiev, Lvov and Kharkov, tourist maps of the Ukraine of 1:1,000,000, 1:1,250,000, road maps of the Ukraine of 1:1,000,000, 1:250,000, tourist map of the Carpathians of 1:300,000, tourist maps of some regions in the Crimea and Carpathians of 1:50,000, 'Comprehensive atlas of Kiev's region' were released. Geographical names on these cartographic products are given in accordance with the 'Table for rendering of proper names of Ukraine with Roman script'

Regularly updated normative and reference publications, gazetteers and dictionaries are used to provide for accurate spelling of the Ukrainian geographical names.

In 2010, the reference-book 'Countries of Europe: Names of their administrative units and capitals' was issued and the reference 'Names of states and territories of the world' was republished.

The periodical 'Bulletin of Verkhovna Rada (Parliament)' issued on regular basis is an official source to reflect all changes in the administrative division of the country. Current information on naming and renaming of geographical objects and changes in the administrative division of the country is available on the official site of the Ukrainian Parliament (www.rada.gov.ua).

Instructions for Ukrainian rendering of geographical names and generic terms of other countries are used to create cartographic products. These instructions include name rendering rules, lists of most frequent generic terms, lists of exonyms, brief information on the Ukrainian language.

Compilation of a unified list of *exonyms* continues. The list of Europe's exonyms that includes most frequently used exonyms is prepared. The e-gazetteer of the world's geographical names includes more than 1300 exonyms which widely circulate in the Ukraine.

Participation of the countries of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division in international activities in the area of geographical names

Between 2008 and 2010, the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names held two Working Meetings. The Tenth meeting of the Division took place in October, 2012 in Baku (Azerbaijan). The Eleventh meeting was held in April 2013 in Yalta (Ukraine). The meetings were devoted to the results of the 10th UN Conference on standardization of geographical names and tasks to pursue its resolutions. The participants discussed the main trends in the national and international standardization of geographical names; held elections of Division's Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Boginsky V. M. (Russia) was once again elected as Chairman and Rudenko I.S. (Ukraine) – as Vice-Chairman.

The participants discussed and adopted some recommendations concerning preparation of the report on the Division's activities for the Twenty Eighth Session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 2014).

Experts from the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names attended meetings of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division as observers. In their turn, some experts from the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division participated in two meetings of the Baltic Division (Russia as a permanent member, Belarus and the Ukraine as observers).

Many countries forming the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kirghizia, Russia,

Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine) took part in the actions held by the Working Group on Geographical Names of the CIS Member-states Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing. The task pursued by the Working Group is to provide a regular exchange of information on changes in geographical names. As a result of their cooperation, the e-Bulletin 'Changes in geographical names in CIS State-members' was released and annually updated. The 'e-Bulletin' includes information on changes in the names of more than 3,600 geographical objects in 11 countries after 1990. Geographical names are given in the Russian and national language of a corresponding country.

A number of the countries from the Division participated in the international data exchange project carried out by the Eurographics Association.

The experts of the Division attended the 27th UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the 10th UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 2012.)

The experts from Russia took part in the 24th (Peking, 2011), 25th (Wellington, 2012) and 26th (Tokyo) meetings of the Sub-Committee on names of undersea features and united Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission and International Hydrographic Organization. The results of the attendance were reported at the Division' working meetings.

Summary

The report testifies to a significant progress made in the countries forming the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names for the recent years. Most of the countries adopted and some are on the way of doing this the state laws that laid down legislative foundations for recording, standardization, usage and storage of the national geographical names. Government decrees were issued to provide for achievement of the laws.

In the Division's countries, official bodies were formed which are authorized to take decisions on issues related to geographical names. Special commissions on geographical names are working and coordinating efforts of experts from organizations and agencies concerned.

Substantial progress was made in developing and maintaining of the national electronic catalogues, registers and databases of geographical names. Some of them already operate and provide state authorities, organizations, companies and general public with official information on geographical names. Every year, volume and content of these services are growing.

Most countries managed to resolve the issue of national Romanization systems use.

Lists of exonyms are compiled and issued in a few countries of the Division. Most countries have not yet started this work.

Considerable success achieved in geographical names standardization greatly contributes to development of cartography. Recently, this has resulted in an increase in titles and volumes of cartographic products released.

Exchange of information and experience at the international level makes a great input into achieving progress in the national and international standardization of geographical names.

Countries forming the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names are strongly interested in international cooperation and this is proved by their active participation in the UN conferences and sessions as well as in regional meetings devoted to geographical names issues. This is also confirmed by constancy of the Division's composition where 10 permanent country-members and 4 country-observers have been working for more than 20 years.