

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Report of the Divisions

Report of Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

Submitted by the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division *

*The Report is prepared by the Chairman of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, using the information provided by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Russia, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

REPORT OF EASTERN EUROPE, NORTHERN AND CENTRAL ASIA DIVISION

RESUME

The Report contains 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 countries.

The report also describes:

- status of the legislative and normative framework for the standardization of geographical names and their usage in the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division;
- development of national catalogues, registers and databases of geographical names in the countries of the Division;
- gazetteers or references of geographical names already issued or under development;
- national Romanization systems applied in the countries of the Division;
- 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 dedicated 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 by 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 11 permanent country-members: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, 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 by the Parliament (Milly Medglis) in December, 2007 and approved by the President of the Republic in March, 2008 made a legislative framework 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, to compile gazetteers and references of geographical names and to develop and maintain the National Catalogue of Geographical Names. Presently, the Geodesy and Cartography Agency of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is responsible for standardization of geographical names. The Agency works in cooperation with other state authorities of the Republic.

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

The Council of Ministers adopted the ‘Regulations for registration of geographical 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 carried 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’s states and territories in the official 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 reference describes administrative division of the country and enlists all territorial formations and their historical names existed in the Azerbaijan Republic.

The Gazetteer of all populated places of Azerbaijan was compiled and published.

All appropriate changes, including those in 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 the work on accumulation and standardization of the geographical names available on topographical maps of scale 1:50,000 which had been previously issued in Russian. Simultaneously with geographical names accumulation, maps are digitized, and standardized names in the Azerbaijani language are recorded together with geo coordinates of their first characters' locations on the map. Spelling of the Azerbaijani geographical names is verified and, if needed, appropriate corrections are made.

Development of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names of Azerbaijan has been started. In cooperation with the specialists from the Institute of Geography of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, a full list of geographical names available on 1: 25,000 map series is compiled. The names included in the list are later verified at the local level.

Armenia

A legislative basis for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, storage and usage of geographical names in the Republic of Armenia 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 in the Law.

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

In 2010, some amendments were made in the 'Procedure of collection and registration of geographical names, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names in the Republic of Armenia'.

Naming and renaming of geographical objects is regulated by the 'Instruction in naming and renaming of geographical features 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 examination of all proposals on naming, renaming and spelling of geographical names. *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 <http://www.arlis.am>. Changes in the *names of populated places* are approved by the Parliament (National Assembly) of the Republic of Armenia.

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

Development of the State Computer Catalogue of Geographical Names of the Republic of Armenia on the base of 1: 25,000 topographic map was completed. The Catalogue is supplemented with the data taken from maps of larger scales (1: 10,000 and 1: 5,000).

The 'Gazetteer of geographical names of Armenia' is issued in 11 volumes – each for one marz (region) and the city of Yerevan. In 2016, it is planned to publish the Gazetteer in English.

The world's gazetteer of geographical names that includes about 200,000 names was finished.

In Armenia, much attention is paid to issuing gazetteers and references of geographical names. Among those published, the following could be mentioned - 'Populated places of Armenia', 'Con-

cise gazetteer of geographical features in the Republic of Armenia', 'Concise reference of the states and territories of the world', 'Concise gazetteer of orographic objects in Armenia' 'Concise reference of historic and architecture monuments in Armenia'. The reference-book 'Political and administrative division of the Republic of Armenia' was re-issued in 2012. The concise reference 'World's largest cities' is under development.

Compilation of lists of exonyms is in process. An extensive list of exonyms that includes more than 3,000 names in the Armenian language was published. The reference-book of exonymic names of the world's states and capitals in the Armenian language was completed.

Standardized geographical names are used to manufacture maps and atlases. Recently, more than 50 titles of school, tourist and road maps were issued. The two-volume 'National Atlas of Armenia' in the Armenian language and 'Historical and Geographical Atlas of Yerevan' were completed. The 'National Atlas of Armenia' in English is updated. The first volume of the Atlas is already fully finished and the second one shall be finished and published in 2017.

Belarus

The Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On naming of geographical objects' adopted in 2010 forms a legislative framework for naming and renaming of geographical objects, standardization of geographical names, their registration and conservation as a component of the historical and cultural heritage.

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

The 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 which deal with geographic names.

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

The task to develop the *State Catalogue of Geographical Names* of Belarus is successfully pursued. The Catalogue includes an automated retrieval system and computer database that is being constantly populated and updated by official sources of information on toponyms. Names of geographical objects are input in the database in the *Byelorussian and Russian* languages as well as in the *Roman script*. The Catalogue's data are available to users at www.maps.by.

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 updated 'Instruction in rendering of geographical names of the Republic of Belarus with the *Roman characters*' was approved by the Decree of the State Committee on Property. The reference 'Names of populated places of the Republic of Belarus' was compiled. It includes current place-names of six regions in the Byelorussian, Russian languages and Romanization system as well as names of places earlier existed on the territory of the Republic.

The dictionary that contains about 3,000 entities on etymology of the place-names of Belarus 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.

In compliance with the President's Decree 'On address system', standardization of geographical names is continued. The *Register of Addresses of the Republic of Belarus* is compiled in two languages - Byelorussian and Russian. The Gazetteer of world's states and territories that contains standardized names of countries, territories and their capitals or centers in Byelorussian, Russian and English was published.

Cartographic products including comprehensive and tourist maps of the world, standalone countries, Belarus and its regions as well as city plans are issued in the Byelorussian, Russian and English languages as well as in the Romanization system. The 'Road Atlas of the Republic of Belarus' at scale 1:200,000 was created. Maps and atlases for universities, schools and colleges are annually released. Publication of the 'Great Atlas of History' in four volumes was a significant achievement.

Bulgaria

In accordance with the State Law of Bulgaria 'On geodesy and cartography', the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works is an authorized body responsible for standardization and rendering of geographical names.

The Council on the Standardization of Geographical Names is working in the country. The Council is entitled to develop and submit for approval rules and procedures for standardization, spelling and registration of geographical names of Bulgaria, rules of rendering of foreign geographical names in the Bulgarian language and of the Bulgarian geographical names in the Romanization system.

With the purpose to ensure a uniform and consistent use of geographical names, the *Register of Bulgaria's Geographical Names* was compiled. The information system of the Register provides recording, storage and update of geographical names as well as search of required information in the database. The information system of the Register is accessible via a web site. It allows users making queries and searching geographical names by different criteria. When a specific name is selected, an appropriate geographical object is displayed on the map of Bulgaria.

The Resolution adopted at the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2012) recommended the updated Bulgarian Romanization System for international use. This Romanization System is used to render both geographical and personal names.

The policy aimed at the national standardization of geographical names that is followed in Bulgaria, results in released various cartographic products.

Kazakhstan

The national standardization of geographical names is regulated by the State Law ‘On geodesy and cartography’ passed in 2002 and by the national program ‘On functioning and development of languages’ adopted for the period till 2020.

The Committee on Construction, Housing and Communal Services and Land Management of the Ministry of National Economy is authorized to co-ordinate standardization, registration and circulation of geographical names.

In compliance of the State Law ‘On administrative and territorial division’, the Republican Onomastic Commission of Kazakhstan’s Government was organized. In the executive bodies of regions, cities of republican significance and the capital of the country, onomastic commissions pursue the task to provide a uniform approach to naming and renaming of geographical objects, their circulation, restoration and conservation of historical names as a constituent part of cultural heritage of the peoples of Kazakhstan.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names of Kazakhstan is successfully developed. The Catalogue includes an automated retrieval system and database of geographical names taken from 1: 100,000 topographic map and constantly updated by official sources. The Catalogue comprises more than 146,000 geographical names standardized in accordance with the ‘Instruction in Russian rendering of Kazakh geographical names and Kazakh rendering of Russian geographical names in the Republic of Kazakhstan’ adopted by the State Onomastic Commission of the Government.

Gazetteers comprising geographical objects of all 14 regions of Kazakhstan were released in 32 books, in the Kazakh and Russian languages separately. The Catalogue is populated by geographical names taken from 1:25,000 maps.

The State Catalogue is available via Internet at the site of the Language Committee – www.til.gov.kz. The Classifier of the world’s countries is accessible at www.stat.gov.kz.

The Russian-Kazakh ‘Dictionary of geographical terms’ and Kazakh-Russian explanatory ‘Dictionary of folk geographical terms’ were published.

The standardized geographical names are widely used in map-making, namely to manufacture topographic, general physical, tourist and school maps of the Republic and its regions as well as city guides in Kazakh, Russian and English. Among the recent publication the tree-volume ‘National Atlas of the Republic of Kazakhstan’ in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages and the ‘Great Atlas of History and Culture of Kazakhstan’ could be mentioned.

Kirghizia

Issues related to geographical names *are regulated* by the State Law ‘On geographical names in the Kirghiz Republic’ adopted in September 1997 and subsequent decrees passed 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 issued by the Government are published in the ‘Normative documents of the Kirghiz Republic’ journal.

The Commission on Official Language of the President of the Kirghiz Republic is working in the country. The Inter-department Commission on Geographical Names of the Kirghiz Government deals with the issues of administrative-territorial division of the country and with naming and renaming of geographical objects. Decisions on naming or renaming taken by the Inter-department Commission together with the National Academy of Sciences are formalized as state laws.

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 as an authorized body to coordinate standardization, registration and usage of geographical names.

Officially approved changes in geographical names are reflected on 1:100,000 working maps of Kirghizia.

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

Geographical names are standardized and used in compliance with the rules and norms of the Kirghiz language. Geographical names are rendered into Russian in accordance with the ‘Instruction in Russian rendering of Kirghiz geographical names’.

Spelling of names of geographical features is regulated by instructions and rules approved by the Government of the Kirghiz Republic which are mandatory on the entire territory of the country.

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 with the Roman characters’ that was adopted in 2008. The national Romanization system for geographical names is based on BGN/PCGN 1979 for the Kirghiz Cyrillic.

The database that includes nearly 18,000 names of geographical objects is regularly updated. Each geographical object is accompanied with its name in the national and Russian languages, generic term, geo coordinates, sheet of 1:100,000 topographic map where an object is available, and its average altitude above the sea level in meters. The earlier developed database of geographical names is now upgraded with ArcGIS software.

Compilation of *exonyms* lists is presently under work.

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

Russia

The *legislative base* for naming and renaming of geographical objects is specified by the Federal Law ‘On names of geographical objects’ and other legal acts passed to make the Law’s statements work.

In 2014-2015, the following legal acts were adopted:

1. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development to approve the Procedure for examination of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects and conclusion issuing.
2. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development to approve the Procedure for registration of geographical names, releasing of gazetteers and dictionaries of geographical names as well as development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.
3. Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development to approve the Procedure for detection of available names of geographical objects within inland waters, territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or specified by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica.
4. Resolution of the Ministry of Economic Development to approve the Rules of assignment, alteration and cancellation of addresses so that they should contain place-names which coincide with those registered in the State Catalogue.
5. Resolution of the Ministry of Economic Development to approve the Rules of inter-departmental information cooperation to maintain the State Address Register, including provision of data from the State Catalogue of Geographical Names.

Normative legislative documents relating to names of geographical objects are accessible at the site of the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) - <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/zakonodatelstvo-rf-o-naimenovaniyakh-geograficheskikh-obektov/>.

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 sets and implements the state policy and normative and legal regulation of geodesy and cartography.

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

Between 2014 and 2015, based on Rosreestr experts' reports, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted 40 normative acts to assign new names to 72 objects and to rename 23 objects. In December 2015, the Federal Law was passed to name a new town in Amur region in honour of the great Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

The State Catalogue of Geographical Names is further developed. More than 780,000 geographical names of the Russian Federation were input into the Catalogue's database. The data were taken from normative acts, topographic maps at scale 1:100,000, reference-books, gazetteers and other sources.

For the purpose of providing reliable and valid information, the geographical names of 85 subjects of the Russian Federation available in the Catalogue are submitted to an approval of the government bodies in the appropriate subjects of the country. The Catalogue's data are accessible via Internet at Rosreestr's site - <https://rosreestr.ru/site/activity/geodeziya-i-kartografiya/naimenovaniya-geograficheskikh-obektov/gosudarstvennyy-katalog-geograficheskikh-nazvaniy/>.

Bulletins of official changes in geographical names of the Russian Federation between 1997-2015 and Bulletins of changes in geographical names of the CIS countries within the period 1998-2015 are constantly updated. These documents are available on the official site of Rosreestr - 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.

The reference-book 'States and territories of the world' containing names of all the world's states and territories (dominions and territories with a specific status) and their capitals and centers is re-compiled.

The Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names (Montreal, 1983) is used as before.

Lists of exonyms (traditional names) are included in the instructions in Russian rendering of foreign-language geographical names.

Revision of the instructions in rendering of geographical names from languages of the Russian Federation into Russian is carried out. The rules to render geographical names from the Tatar, Ossetic, Nogai, Buryat and Mansi languages into Russian are completed.

Tadzhikistan

The Law of the Republic of Tadzhikistan 'On names of geographical objects' passed in 2006 serves as the basis to carry out all the works in the field of geographical names.

Issues related to naming and renaming of geographical objects are the terms of reference of the Government of Tadzhikistan, while practical work connected with usage of geographical names is performed by the *authorized state body* - the Committee on Land Surveying and Geodesy of the Government of Tadzhikistan that records all changes in the names of regions, districts, cities, and other populated places. The Committee also examines proposals to name or rename mountains (peaks) on the territory of the Republic.

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

Uzbekistan

The *main legislative act* 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 Uzbekistan in October, 2011. Some issues related to geographical names 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 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 October 16, 2012 "On measures to regulate naming of geographical objects according to the State Law 'On geographical names'" the Republican Toponymic Service was organized within the Committee. Its main terms of reference are to examine proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects, carry toponymic researches and standardization of geographical names, develop the State Register of toponyms.

The following normative and legislative documents were developed and put in force:

- Regulations for development of the State Register of Geographical Names;
- Regulations for state expertise of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects;
- Statute of the Inter-department Commission to perform state expertise of proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects;
- Statute of the Republican Toponymic Service;
- Instructions in maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Instruction in Uzbek rendering of geographical names of the Republic of Karakalpakstan;
- Rules of geographical names spelling in the Uzbek language.

In accordance with the State Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan ‘On introduction of the Uzbek alphabet based of the Roman script’ a planned transition to the *Roman script* in all spheres, including toponymy and map-making was completed.

The State Register of Geographical Names is actively developed and maintained. Its database is created on SQL platform and comprises more than 72 thousand geographical names.

Gazetteers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and some other regions of Uzbekistan were compiled

Ukraine

Legal foundations of naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as of standardization, usage, registration and storage of geographical names were set by the State Law of the Ukraine ‘On geographical names’ passed in 2005.

In 2015, some amendments were introduced in Articles 5 and 8 of the Law of the Ukraine ‘On geographical names’ taking into account provisions of the State Law ‘On condemnation of communist and national-socialist (nazi) totalitarian regimes in the Ukraine and the prohibition of their symbolism propaganda’.

The Law of the Ukraine ‘On voluntary integration of territorial communities’ regulates relations which arise in the process of voluntary integration of adjacent rural settlements and towns. Voluntary integration of territorial communities does not result in any changes in the status of populated places and the integrated territorial community gets the name of the settlement that is specified as its center.

Issues pertaining to geographical names are within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Communal Services of the Ukraine (in 2012-2014 – Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food) and the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Ukraine that is responsible for standardization, registration, usage and storage of geographical names as well as of development and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names.

The State Register of Geographical Names is developed in accordance with the ‘Statute of the State Register of Geographical Names’ adopted by the Ukrainian Government in 2006. For January 1st,

2006, 58,000 registration forms for geographical names of the Ukraine taken from 1:100,000 map were filled.

The 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2012.) adopted Resolution X/9 on the Romanization of the Ukrainian geographical names that recommended to adopt the *Ukrainian Romanization System* for rendering the geographical names of the Ukraine. In 2010, the System was officially approved by the Ukrainian Government and now it is widely used in the country.

The 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names adopted the ‘Toponymic guidelines for map makers and other editors (for international use): Ukraine’ that contained rules of spelling of geographical names of the Ukraine and their rendering with the Ukrainian Romanization System.

In 2013-2014, the Rules of spelling of the geographical names of the Ukraine on maps and in other publications as well as 9 normative documents containing rules of rendering of foreign geographical names and terms into Ukrainian were adopted.

The state policy aimed at providing the national standardization of geographical names is reflected in numerous cartographic products issued in the country.

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

The references: ‘Countries of Europe. Names of their administrative units and capitals’ and ‘Names of states and territories of the world’ were republished.

The ‘Bulletin of Verkhovna Rada of the Ukraine’ issued on regular basis is an official source of all changes in the administrative division of the country. Constantly updated information on naming and renaming of geographical objects and changes in the administrative division is available on the official site of Verkhovna Rada - www.rada.gov.ua.

Compilation of a general list of *exonyms* continues. The list of European exonyms including those most frequently used in map-making, is prepared.

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

The Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names held its Eleventh Meeting in April, 2013 in Yalta. The meeting was dedicated to the results of the 10th UN Conference on the 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.

Experts from Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine took part in two meetings of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Many countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Russia, Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan and the Ukraine) participate in the Working Group on Geographical Names of the Council on Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of CIS State-members. The task pursued by the Working Group is to ensure a regular exchange of information

on changes in geographical names. Their cooperation resulted in releasing the annually updated e-Bulletin 'Changes in geographical names of CIS State-members'. The e-Bulletin contains information on changes in the names of more than 5,500 geographical objects in 11 countries after 1990. Geographical names are given in Russian and in a national language of a corresponding country. The Bulletin is accessible at the official site of Rosreestr.

Azerbaijan, the Ukraine and Bulgaria participated in the international data exchange project held by the Eurographics Association.

The experts of the Division attended the 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and 28th Session of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Conclusions

The report indicates a significant progress recently achieved by the countries of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

All the countries adopted state laws that laid down legislative foundations of recording, standardization, usage and storage of national geographical names. Government decrees were passed to provide achievement of the laws.

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

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

Most of the countries solved the problem of national Romanization systems use.

Lists of exonyms are compiled and issued in some countries of the Division.

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 that was a part of the international cooperation contributed to the progress in the national standardization of geographical names made by the countries.