

**Thirtieth session  
New York, 7 and 18 August 2017**

**English**

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**Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda\***

**Reports of the working groups**

## **Report of the Working Group on Exonyms**

Submitted by the Working Group on Exonyms\*\*

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\* GEGN/30/1

\*\* Prepared by Peter Jordan, Convenor, Working Group on Exonyms

## Summary

The report highlights the activities of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms since the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in Bangkok in 2016. In this period, the Working Group held one business meeting and one workshop.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG on April, 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 was a short business meeting during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the UN premises in Bangkok.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting took place in Prague, Czechia, in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (Chair: Peeter PÄLL). It was hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office and Land Survey Office. 26 participants from 16 countries saw 19 scientific papers presented. A general debate on the use of exonyms and at the last day resulted in an agreement on a small set of globally common characteristics and criteria that will be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names as a Conference Paper. Proceedings of this meeting will appear as Volume 7 of the book series Name & Place.

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## 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”.

### 1.1 WG meetings held

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Conference
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNGEGN Session

- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Nairobi**, May 11, 2009, in the framework of the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Tainach** (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas”
- 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], May 4, 2011, in the framework of the 26<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN Session, but outside UN facilities, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Gdańsk**, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography
- 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, August 6, 2012, in the framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference
- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Corfu** [Kerkyra], May 23-25, 2013, hosted by the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, April 29, 2014, in the framework of the 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Hermagor** (Austria), June 5-7, 2014, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Zagreb**, May 14-16, 2015, hosted by the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, Zagreb
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Bangkok** [Krung Thep], April 26, 2016, in the framework of the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], April 4-6, 2017, hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office [Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální] and Land Survey Office [Zeměměřický úřad]

## 1.2 WG proceedings published

JORDAN Peter, OROŽEN ADAMIĆ Milan, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2007), *Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names. Approaches towards the Resolution of an Apparent Contradiction* (= Wiener Osteuropa Studien, 24). Wien – Berlin: LIT Verlag, 240 p., ISBN 978-3-8258-0035-2, ISSN 0946-7246.

JORDAN Peter, BERGMANN Hubert, BURGESS Caroline, CHEETHAM Catherine (eds.) (2011), *Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010* (= Name & Place, 1). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 328 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-5656-0.

WOODMAN Paul (ed.) (2012), *The Great Toponymic Divide. Reflections on the definition and usage of endonyms and exonyms*. Warszawa: Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, 302 p. ISBN 978-83-254-1967-7.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2014), *The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013* (= Name & Place, 3). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 295 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-7747-3.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2015), *Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014* (Name & Place, 4). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 244 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8422-8.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2016), *Criteria for the Use of Exonyms. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Zagreb, 14-16 May 2015* (Name & Place, 6). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 170 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8946-9.

### **1.3 Members, convenors**

Currently the Working Group comprises 83 official members and associated experts from 34 countries (see Appendix). A core group of about 30 participates in most of the meetings.

#### **Convenors:**

2002-2004: Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ (Slovenia)

2004-2006: co-convenors Peter JORDAN (Austria), Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ

2006-2012: convenor in charge Peter JORDAN, co-convenor Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ

2012-: Peter JORDAN ([peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at))

### **1.4 WG website**

The WG maintains a website accessible under <http://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si>. It is hosted by the Institute of Geography of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and updated by Matjaž GERŠIČ. It contains a.o. detailed reports of all WG meetings as well as links to all publications of the WG. The full text of the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Gdańsk, May 16-18, 2012, is available.

## **2 Activities since the last UNGEGN session in 2016**

Since the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, 25-29 April 2016, the Working Group held one business meeting and one workshop.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (business meeting), Bangkok, April 26, 2016**

The WG met on April, 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the UN premises in Bangkok for three quarters of an hour. The Working Group's convenor, Peter JORDAN, chaired the meeting.

The convenor gave an overview on activities of the Working Group since the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting in New York in 2014.

At first, he reported on the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG in Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014, where the discussion on new definitions of endonym and exonym had been concluded and hinted at the proceedings of this meeting, which had been published under the title "Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 4), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2015, ISBN 978-3-8300-8422-8, 244 p. They contained the 19 papers presented. Then, he reported of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG in Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015, where the discussion on criteria for the use of exonym had been resumed and expressed his gratitude to the hosts of this meeting, the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography and more specifically to Ivana CRLJENKO and Mladen KLEMENČIĆ. He presented the proceedings of this meeting, which had recently been published under the title "Criteria for the Use of Exonyms. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Zagreb, 14-16 May 2015, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 6), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2016, ISBN

978-3-8300-8946-9, 178 p. They contained the 16 papers presented. The convenor also explained that he had not complied to the intention expressed in the Zagreb meeting of drafting a working paper on the use of exonyms and to submit it to the UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, since he had noted a lack of empirical evidence on exonym use in different parts of the world for such an undertaking. He proposed devoting the next WG meeting in Prague, a workshop, to investigating into exonym use in various countries and to derive then from these findings such a working paper. Thus, this would be the main agenda item of the WG up to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference in New York. As an additional agenda item he hinted at the inventory of exonym lists, which contained already several entries, and asked the WG members present to augment this inventory. He also explained his proposal in a working paper submitted to the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session to introduce “international name” or “koinonym” as an additional term besides “endonym” and “exonym”.

The meeting ends with hints at the WGs homepage so well maintained by Matjaž GERŠIČ.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (workshop) Prague, Czechia, 6-8 April 2017**

The workshop, organized in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (Chair: Peeter PÄLL), was hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office [Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální], and Land Survey Office [Zeměměřický úřad], in person by Irena ŠVEHLOVÁ and Klara STEINEROVÁ. The 26 participants from 16 countries enjoyed a great hospitality, an interesting program with 19 scientific papers, a general debate on the use of exonyms and at the last day of the meeting a common excursion to a bright example of Bohemian urban and ecclesiastical culture, Kutná Hora. After an introduction into the Czech namescape by Milan HARVALÍK (Czechia) the following papers were presented:

#### **Session 1: General approaches** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): The endonym/exonym divide – questions resolved and still open at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Working Group on Exonyms

POKOLY, Béla (Hungary): Exonyms and endonyms, national names and foreign names

GAMMELTOFT, Peder (Denmark): The exonym – A problem or a benefit for communication?

ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław (Poland): Endonym-exonym divide (?) in practice – Observations based on two World maps in Arabic

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): The Dynamics of exonyms and an accusation of ‘cultural suicide’

#### **Session 2: Exonym use by countries** (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)

HELLELAND, Botolv (Norway): Norway – still going strong on the endonymy line

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Toponyms and the definite article in English language text and speech

BATLLE, Maria del Mar (Spain): Handling exonyms in Catalan: general use and criteria for standardizing

BOHÁČ, Pavel (Czechia): List of Czech exonyms. Standardized forms, variants

GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): Colour in Slovenian exonyms

CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia): Comments on the proposed list of criteria for the use of exonyms – Croatian perspective

BÖLCSKEI, Andrea; GERCSÁK, Gábor; MIKESY, Gábor (Hungary): Use of exonyms in present-day Hungary

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Exonym use in Austria

CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): Exonym use in Latvian

WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): Current use of exonyms in Japan

LIŠČÁK, Vladimír (Czechia): Endonyms and exonyms in Taiwan

CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): Use of exonyms in Korea: results of a survey

The proceedings of the workshop will be published in the toponymic book series Name & Place (Vol. 7) edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

The concluding general debate on the use of exonyms, chaired by the convenor, started from a comprehensive list of potential criteria for the use of exonyms and resulted in an agreement on a small set of globally common characteristics and criteria that will be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names as a Conference Paper:

### **Globally common characteristics and criteria of exonym use**

#### **(1) Language-related criteria**

Exonyms tend to be used,

- in receiver language environments;
- if the endonym is composed of a specific and a semantically transparent generic word.

#### **(2) Feature-related criteria**

Exonyms tend to be used, if the geographical feature marked by the name

- has close and traditional relations to the community of the receiver language;
- is historically or currently important (for the receiver community);
- extends across language boundaries.

In a final statement, the convenor announced his intention to step back from the convenor function after eleven years in office at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names expressing his gratitude for all the support and cooperation he had enjoyed as well as his satisfaction about remarkable achievements such as the series of workshops and proceedings that had explored all the aspects of the endonym/exonym divide. He also mentioned that he would not leave his function, had he not found an expert willing and able to continue this work, Kohei WATANABE (Japan).

## **3 Future directions**

The WG will convene for a next business meeting in the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 8-17 August 2017.

Having intensively discussed the endonyms/exonym divide and the definitions of both concepts as well as criteria for the use of exonyms and finally decided that

- the current definitions of the Glossary are not to be changed (16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Hermagor)
- just a few language- and feature-related criteria are globally relevant and can be taken as a guideline (19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Prague),

**clarifying the margins between the concepts of the endonym and the exonym** based on the current definitions is still a necessity. It is still unclear and regarded differently, whether

- the translation of the generic part of a composite place name constitutes an exonym;
- the omission of diacritics constitutes an exonym;
- the omission of an article constitutes an exonym;
- transliteration constitutes an exonym;
- phonetic transcription recommended for national use constitutes an exonym;

- phonetic transcription recommended for international use (e.g. the UN-recommended English-phonetic Romanization systems for the Bulgarian and the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabets) constitutes an exonym;
- place names recommended for international use by international organisations and institutions like IHO, SCAR, ICAO can in this function be regarded as exonyms;
- sea names – missing the counterpart of an endonym – can be regarded as exonyms.

An accompanying project proceeding in the background is an **inventory of lists of exonyms** at the WG website. It will be a valuable source for studies on the use of exonyms.

## Appendix

### **Members and associated experts of the UNGEEN Working Group on Exonyms (updated: 18 May 2017)**

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