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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors: Italy**

Paper submitted by Italy

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1) LANGUAGES

1.1 General remarks

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Italy is essentially a multilingual Country with Italian (italiano/lingua italiana) being the primary language used nationwide. Minority languages occupy a subordinate position and are only used locally or regionally.

The Italian language is understood by every person, also by those who normally use other languages or Italian dialects for their colloquial speech.

In a few parts of the State the following non Italian idioms are used:

- a) The French language with Franco-Provençal dialects (see 1.3.1)
- b) The German language with Bavarian dialects (see 1.3.2);
- c) Slovenian dialects (see 1.3.3);
- d) Ladin dialects (see 1.3.4.1);
- e) Sardinian dialects (see 1.3.4.2);
- f) Provençal dialects (see 1.3.4.3);
- g) Croatian dialects (see 1.3.4.4);
- h) a Catalan dialect (see 1.3.4.5);
- i) Greek dialects (see 1.3.4.6);
- j) Albanian dialects (see 1.3.4.7).

1.2 Official languages

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1.2.1 General remarks

Italian is the official language of the Italian Republic; it is official also in the small Republic of San Marino and is one of the three official languages of Switzerland.

Italian is a member of the Roman branch of the Indo-European language family. It is sometimes bracketed with Rumanian in the East Romance subdivision, the main distinguishing feature from the West Romance subdivision being the formation of the plural in West Romance by the addition of the ending -s, while in East Romance there is a vowel change in plural formation.

Besides Italian, also French and German have an official status in the autonomous region of the Aosta Valley and in the autonomous province of Bolzano/Bozen respectively. In these areas such languages have the same status as the Italian language.

Italian is written in the Roman script and has its own alphabet.

1.2.2 The Italian alphabet

Aa	Dd	Gg	Ll	Oo	Rr	Uu
Bb	Ee	Hh	Mm	Pp	Ss	Vv
Cc	Ff	Ii	Nn	Qq	Tt	Zz

The letter Jj, always followed by a vowel, is considered a semivowel, and can often be found in ancient words and in names of ancient origin; it occurs also in some place names as a variant of the vowel Ii (e.g. Mar Jonio, Jesi, Jesolo).

The letters Kk, Ww, Xx, Yy occur only in words of foreign origin or in the orthography of words of some Italian dialects.

1.2.3. Pronunciation of Italian words

Italian pronunciation is essentially melodious. It is marked by purity of vowel sounds, by heavy stress, and by its vocalic character. All Italian vowels are pure, pronounced with the voice well forward in the mouth, with no nasal resonance, and with a clear-cut sound.

a	/a/
b	/b/
c	/k/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> , and consonant /tʃ/ before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
cc	/kk/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> , and consonant /tʃtʃ/ before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
cch	/kk/ only before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
ch	/k/ only before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
cq	/kk/ always followed by the semivowel <u>u</u>
d	/d/
e	/e/ /ɛ/ (1)
f	/f/
g	/g/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> , and consonant /dʒ/ before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
gg	/gg/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> , and consonant /dʒdʒ/ before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
ggh	/gg/ only before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
gh	/g/ only before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
gl	/gl/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>e</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> /ʎ/ /gl/ (2) before: <u>i</u>
gn	/ɲ/
h	(3) is silent
i	/i/ /j/ (4)
j	/j/
k	/k/
l	/l/
m	/m/
n	/n/
o	/o/ /ɔ/ (5)
p	/p/
q	/k/ (6)
r	/r/
s	/s/ /z/ (7)
sc	/sk/ before: <u>a</u> , <u>o</u> , <u>u</u> , <u>h</u> , <u>l</u> , <u>r</u> /ʃ/ before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
sch	/sk/ only before: <u>e</u> , <u>i</u>
t	/t/
u	/u/ /w/ (8)
v	/v/
w	/v/ /w/ (9)
x	/ks/
y	/i/ /j/ (10)
z	/ts/ /dz/ (11)

Notes on the pronunciation

-
- (1) When not stressed, always /e/; when stressed, the pronunciation may be /e/ or /ɛ/.
 - (2) In some words /ʎ/, in other ones /gl/.
 - (3) Used especially in the digraphs ch, gh in order to give the sound /k/, /g/ respectively to the consonants c, g when put before: e, i

- (4) /j/ only in the diphthongs: ia, ie, io, iu with the stress on the second letter; and in the diphthongs: ai, ei, oi, ui, with the stress on the first letter.
- (5) When not stressed, always /o/; when stressed, the pronunciation may be /o/ or /ɔ/.
- (6) The consonant g can be found only before the semivowel u, with which it forms the digraph gu.
- (7) In some words /s/, in other ones /z/.
- (8) /w/ only in the diphthongs: ua, ue, ui, uo with the stress on the second letter; and in the diphthongs: au, eu, iu, ou with the stress on the first letter.
- (9) Only in words of German or English origin; the pronunciation is the same as in the German words or in the English ones.
- (10) Like the vowel/semivowel i.
- (11) In some words /ts/, in other ones /dz/.

1.2.4 Characteristics of the Italian language and orthography necessary for the understanding of maps.

1.2.4.1 Diphthongs and triphthongs

The diphthongs are formed by the combination of the vowel/semivowel i, u and an always stressed vowel. The diphthongs are ia, ie, io, iu, ua, ue, ui, uo (with the semivowel in front position); ai, ei, oi, ui, au, eu, iu, ou (with the stressed vowel in front position).

The combination of the vowel i, u with another vowel does not automatically form diphthongs. In some words i, u are followed or preceded by other vowels without forming diphthongs: in these cases we have to speak of hiatus.

There are also some triphthongs like: iai, iei, iuo, uai, uoi where the stress cannot be on the semivowel i, u.

1.2.4.2 Digraphs and trigraphs

As we have seen in a preceding section, the following digraphs exist: ch, gh, gl, gn, qu, sc; moreover the two digraphs ci, gi followed by another vowel, where i is used to give the sound /tʃ/, /dʒ/ respectively to the consonants c, g when i is followed by the vowels a, o, u.

There are moreover two trigraphs gli, sci, where i is used to give the sound /ʎ/ /ʝ/ respectively to the digraphs gl, sc when followed by the vowels a, o, u.

Double consonants, so much used in Italian orthography, are not considered digraphs; they are only used to intensify the sound of such consonants, which is longer and more vigorous than that of single consonants. We can compare this sound with the relatively uncommon doubling which occurs in English when a word ending in a consonant is followed by a word beginning with the same consonant or consonant sound (e. g. pen nib, black cat).

1.2.4.3 Spaced-out lettering and division into syllables

Every non monosyllabic word can be divided into syllables; therefore it is necessary to be able to distinguish Italian syllables.

A syllable is always formed by at least one vowel with or without one or more consonants (e. g. A-sti, Mo-de-na, Grap-pa).

/...

Diphthongs and triphthongs are considered single vowels; digraphs and trigraphs are regarded as single consonants. Therefore diphthongs, triphthongs, digraphs and trigraphs cannot be spaced-out (e. g. Ie-si, Gio-ia Tau-ro, Dob-bia-co, Sir-mio-ne, Bre-scia, Fo-li-gno, Ca-sti-glio-ne; whereas Ga-e-ta, A-o-sta, Cu-ne-o, can be spaced-out since the combination of vowels ae, ao, eo does not form diphthongs but are hiatus).

As it is not always possible to distinguish between diphthongs and hiatus, it is preferable not to separate two or three linked vowels.

The double consonants, namely bb, cc, dd, ff, gg, ll, mm, nn, pp, qq, rr, ss, tt, vv, zz, to which we have to add cch, ggh, cq, are to be divided in this way: b-b, c-c, d-d, f-f, g-g, l-l, m-m, n-n, p-p, q-q, r-r, s-s, t-t, v-v, z-z; c-ch, g-ggh, c-q (e.g. Chiog-gia, Co-mac-chio, Pol-li-no, Tir-re-no, A-rez-zo, Cal-ta-nis-set-ta, Luc-ca).

The other groups of consonants are mainly the following:

- a) s + consonant/consonants;
 - b) l, m, n, r + consonant/consonants;
 - c) consonant + l, r;
 - d) other uncommon combinations.
- a) Preconsonantic s is always to be united with the following consonant/consonants (e.g. Pe-sca-ra, To-sca-na, A-sti, A-o-sta).
 - b) l, m, n, or r, followed by one or two other consonants, is to be separated from such consonant/consonants, since it belongs to the preceding syllable (e.g. Mon-te-pul-cia-no, Val-tel-li-na, Val-da-gno, Val-sta-gna, Cam-po-sam-pie-ro, Ta-ran-to, Gen-nar-gen-tu, Po-ten-za, I-gle-sien-te, San-gro, Ber-ga-mo, Ar-sie-ro, Ter-ni).
 - c) l, or r, preceded by another consonant, is to be united with such consonant in the same syllable (e.g. I-blei, A-bruz-zo, Or-tles, O-tran-to, En-trac-que).
 - d) There are, moreover, two other groups of consonant combinations: 1) bd, cn, ct, gm, mn, pn, ps, pt, tm; and 2) ph, rh, th, which are extremely rare in modern place names (e.g. Rho, Santhià), whereas they can often be found in place names from the ancient Greek and Roman times, i.e. in some historical maps of Italy. The consonants of the first group can be separated from each other, whereas the two consonants of the second group are to remain united (e.g. Lac-ta-rius Mons, Ze-phy-rium, San-thià).

1.2.4.4 Capitalization

Every word considered part of a proper geographical name is capitalized, including adjectives and common nouns, but excluding articles and prepositions in the middle of compounds names (e.g. Monte Rosa, Bassano del Grappa, San Donà di Piave, Chiesa in Valmalenco, Lago di Como, Isola d'Elba).

There is no rule about the way articles are to be written at the beginning of proper place names: with a capital or a lower case. It is preferable that the initial letter of such articles be lower case, with the exception of La Spezia and L'Aquila, where the articles La, L' have to be written, according to an Italian act, with the capital L.

1.2.4.5 Stress and accents

Stress normally falls on the last but one syllable (i.e. the penultimate syllable). Variations are usually not marked in the written language, although dictionaries do indicate it. A written accent exists for showing unusual stress (e.g. Cantù, Santhià, Forlì, San Donà), i.e. when stress falls on the last syllable of nouns formed by two or more syllables. We can find accents in some monosyllabic nouns to distinguish

homophones or homographes, i.e. words with the same sound or with the same orthography, but this does not occur in place names.

In the most accurate texts acute accent (e.g. perché, né) points out the close sound /e/ /o/ respectively of the vowels e, o; while the grave accent (e.g. sè, città) is used either to indicate the open sound /ɛ/ /ɔ/ of the same vowels, or to show the stress on the vowels a, i, u. Circumflex accent may be used (but now very rarely) only on the final i of some homographes (e.g. principî=principles, in order to be distinguished from principi=princes, the former noun stressed on the last but one syllable, the latter one on the last but two syllables).

In cartography, only grave accent is to be used and solely on the stressed last syllable, if ending in a vowel, of polysyllabic nouns.

On the road maps 1:200,000 of the Touring Club Italiano one can find the accent also on every place name ending in a consonant (e.g. Cormòns, Barcis) and on place names ending in a vowel, in which stress is on the last but two vowels (not syllables) (e.g. Génova, Venézia). Such an accent, which is grave on the last vowel and acute in the other cases, is only a graphic sign to indicate how nouns are to be stressed.

1.2.4.6 Gender

Only two noun genders exist: masculine and feminine. In general, words ending in -o are masculine and those ending in -a are feminine; there are only a few exceptions. Many nouns end in -e and some in -i: these nouns can be either masculine or feminine.

Normally the Italian names of cities are feminine, since the word città (city, town), which is feminine, is implied in the proper nouns; so, not only Roma, Venezia, Londra(=London), ending in -a are feminine, but also Milano, Torino, Firenze, Napoli, Berlino (=Berlin), Parigi (=Paris).

On the contrary, the Italian names of small towns and villages are very often masculine, as the word villaggio or paese (village), which is masculine, is implied in the proper nouns (e.g. Mogliano Veneto, Cividate Camuno, Fara Vicentino); but there are many villages which are feminine, like Galliera Veneta, Villafranca Padovana.

1.2.4.7 Formation of the plural

In general, masculine nouns ending in -o change the o into i (e.g. anno=year; anni=years); feminine nouns ending in -a change the a into e (e.g. settimana=week, settimane=weeks). There are a few masculine nouns ending in -a and a few feminine nouns ending in -o. Masculine and feminine nouns ending in -e change the e into i (e.g. masculine mese=month, mesi=months; feminine luce=light, luci=lights). Nouns ending in -i do not change in the plural.

1.2.4.8 Articles

Articles may be definite or indefinite. The masculine definite articles are il, lo, l' (in the singular), i, gli, gl' (in the plural); the feminine definite articles are la, l' (in the singular), le (in the plural). The masculine indefinite articles are un, uno; the feminine indefinite articles are una, un'.

Il, i, un are used before nouns beginning with every consonant except the z, the preconsonantic s, or the digraph gn. La, una are used before nouns beginning with a consonant. Lo, uno are used before nouns beginning with: z, the preconsonantic s, or the digraph gn. L', un' (which are the elision of the articles lo, la, una) are used before nouns beginning with a vowel. Gli is used before nouns beginning with: a vowel, z, the preconsonantic s, or the digraph gn. Le is used before nouns beginning both with a consonant and with a vowel. Gl' (which is the elision of the article gli) may be used only before nouns beginning with i.

1.2.4.9. Adjectives

Adjectives are most often placed after the nouns they qualify, with which they agree both in gender and in number, whether used attributively or predicatively.

In general, adjectives end in -o if masculine, in -a if feminine; some belonging to both genders end in -e. Normally those ending in -o, -a change these vowels in the plural respectively into i, e; e.g. Monte Alto, Croda Alta, Poggi Alti, Serre Alte; while those ending in -e for both genders change this vowel into i; e.g. Lago Verde (masculine), Grotta Verde (feminine), Piani Verdi (masculine), Terre Verdi (feminine).

1.2.4.10 Prepositions

Among the many Italian prepositions the following are to be found in place names: di (=of), a (at, in), da (=by, from), in (=in), con (=with), su (=on), per (=for, to), sotto (=under), sopra (=on), dentro (=in, into), fuori (out), presso (=by), fra (=among, between), tra (=among, between).

In colloquial speech and also in many compound place names some prepositions are combined with definite articles to form the following contracted prepositions: del (di+il), dello (di+lo), della (di+la), dei (di+i), de' (di+i) degli (di+gli), delle (di+le), dell' (di+lo, di+la); al (a+il), allo (a+lo), alla (a+la), ai (a+i), agli (a+gli), alle (a+le), all' (a+lo, a+la); dal (da+il), dallo (da+lo), dalla (da+la), dai (da+i), dagli (da+gli), dalle (da+le), dall' (da+lo, da+la); nel (in+il), nello (in+lo), nella (in+la), nei (in+i) ne' (in+i), negli (in+gli), nelle (in+le), nell' (in+lo, in+la); sul (su+il), sullo (su+lo), sulla (su+la), sui (su+i), sugli (su+gli), sulle (su+le), sull' (su+lo, su+la).

1.2.4.11 Elision

An apostrophe is very often used to indicate the loss of a final unstressed vowel of a word followed by another word beginning with a vowel. In toponymy, apostrophes may be found easily in place names preceded by an article, in a few compound place names, especially those linked by a preposition (usually d' from di) or a contracted preposition (e.g. L'Aquila, Colle Val d'Elsa, Reggio nell'Emilia). Apostrophes may be found also in other place names, like Castell'Arquato.

1.2.4.12 The apocope of nouns

Some Italian words ending in a vowel preceded by l, n, r lose their final part (one or two letters) when followed by another word beginning with a vowel or with a consonant (excluded x, z, preconsonantic s and the groups gn, ps) without assuming an apostrophe. A few place names, too, are usually written and pronounced without the last syllable; e.g. San (from Santo), Val (from Valle), Mar (from Mare); therefore we can find in the maps place names like the following: San Marino, Val Venosta, Mar Tirreno.

1.2.4.13 Compound geographical names

While the names of populated places and of regions are very often formed only by one noun (e.g. Roma, Torino, Napoli, Lombardia, Lomellina) the majority of the other geographical names consist of two or more nouns: a generic part (e.g. monte, lago, valle) and a specific one; so we have Monte Bianco, Lago Maggiore, Val Sugana.

Some specific terms may sometimes be used without the generic term, especially for a few major geographical features, i.e. for some mountains (e.g. Cervino, Cimone, Dolomiti), passes (e.g. Brennero, Bernina, Futa), islands (Sicilia, Sardegna, Egadi, Pelagie), lakes (e.g. Garda, Trasimeno), and for all the rivers (e.g. Tevere, Arno, Po, Brenta). But in colloquial speech it is always necessary to use the article before the specific (e.g. il Cervino, le Dolomiti, la Futa, le Egadi, il Garda, l'Arno), with the exception of the specific of many islands, which refuses the article (e.g. Ischia, Capri, Pantelleria).

Among compound names formed by two or more nouns one has to distinguish the names of inhabited places from other names (municipalities, regions, mountains, lakes, capes, islands, etc.).

The compound names of inhabited places can be written as one word (e.g. Montebelluna, Valdobbadiene, Camposampiero, Portoferraio, Orzinuovi, Orzivecchi), or formed by two or more parts, which are linked by a preposition (e.g. Bassano del Grappa, Palazzolo sull'Oglio, Reggio di Calabria, Reggio nell'Emilia, Sannazzaro de' Burgondi, Castelnuovo ne'Monti, Francavilla al Mare), or by an article (e.g. San Giorgio la Molara, Sant'Angelo le Fratte), or by a hyphen (e.g. Giardini-Naxos, Barcellona-Pozzo di Gotto). In many cases the two parts of the compound names of inhabited places are placed side by side without prepositions or articles; the latter part may be an adjective, agreeing in number and gender with the noun of the former part (e.g. Vittorio Veneto, Camisano Vicentino, Corte Franca, Ascoli Piceno, Petralia Soprana, Petralia Sottana, Odalengo Grande, Odalengo Piccolo, Muro Lucano) or another noun/other nouns (e.g. Recoaro Terme, Porto Garibaldi, Lignano Sabbiadoro, Bosco Chiesanuova, Castel Gandolfo, Sesto San Giovanni, Castel San Pietro Terme, Castiglione Olona, Fratta Polesine, Gabicce Mare, Palma Campania).

The compound names of mountains, lakes, islands, capes, etc. are usually written separately and often linked by a preposition (e.g. Po di Volano, Lago di Como, Alpi Marittime, Monti Berici, Monte Bianco, Colle di Cadibona, Isola d'Elba, Valli di Comacchio, Val Venosta, Monte Sant'Angelo a Tre Pizzi, Bonifica del Mantello); in a few cases only they are united in one word (e.g. Valtellina, Valsassina, Monviso). The hyphen linking together the two parts of a compound name is used only in the names of some regions (e.g. Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna), of one province (Massa-Carrara), and of a few municipalities (e.g. Zibido-San Giacomo, Serrara-Fontana, Olivetta-San Michele, Pontecagnano-Faiano).

In some maps one may find a hyphen also in bilingual areas between Italian names in former position and French/German names in latter position (e.g. Bolzano-Bozen, Passo del Brennero-Brennerpass, Val Gardena-Grödnertal). But it is much better to separate Italian names from French/German ones by means of a shilling-mark in order to show clearly that both names are official and are equally valid (e.g. Bolzano/Bozen, Bressanone/Brixen, Aosta/Aoste, Val Gardena/Grödnertal).

In the compound names of inhabited places the latter part of the name, called in cartographical jargon sottonome, that is to say "undername", is usually written in a smaller size with the exception of names linked by means of a hyphen.

The two or more parts of the names of geographical features other than inhabited places are written in the same size.

Double names in the bilingual areas, which are separated by means of a hyphen or a shilling-mark, should be written in the same size; but for shortage of space in the maps the latter name is very often written in a smaller size than the former one.

1.2.5. Italian dialects

In Italy many, often widely diverging, Italian dialects exist, that can be gathered in two very large families: Northern Italian dialects and Middle-Southern Italian dialects, separated by an ideal boundary which runs along the Northern Apennines between La Spezia on the West and Rimini on the East.

To the Northern Italian family belong the following groups of dialects: Gallo-Italic (the regions of Piedmont, Lombardy, Liguria, Emilia-Romagna, and part of Trentino); Venetian (the region of Veneto and part of Trentino); and moreover Istrian, spoken in Istria, now in Yugoslavia.

To the Middle-Southern Italian family belong the following groups of dialects: Tuscan (the region of Tuscany); Median (the regions of Latium, Umbria, and the Marches); Southern intermediate (Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Basilicata, and Northern part of Apulia regions); Southern extreme (the region of Sicily and the Southern parts of Apulia and Calabria).

All Italian dialects come directly from the vulgar Latin as does the Italian language. As a matter of fact Italian also is nothing but one of the Italian dialects, that of Florence, which acquired the dignity of a literary language in the 14.th century and later on became the administrative language of the then Italian states.

The geographical names hardly reflect the regional and local dialects, because the geographical names were usually recorded in Italian; therefore it seems not necessary to give a detailed description of the dialects in these guidelines for cartography.

1.2.6. Linguistic substrata recognizable in Italian place names

Italy is a Country of ancient civilization, and it was inhabited several centuries B.C. by peoples speaking different languages. In historical times the languages spoken in what is now the Italian Republic were mainly Ligurian in the NW, Venetian in the NE, Celtic in the North, Etruscan, Umbrian and Latin in the middle part of the peninsula, and Greek in the South and in Sicily; but before the advent of these peoples there surely lived other groups speaking pre-Indoeuropean languages (maybe also some languages mentioned above are pre-Indoeuropean).

All these languages, of which, save Latin and Greek, neither the structure or the vocabulary are known, left a lot of place names on the territory. The most important of such names were latinized later on, so that it is now even more difficult to understand the meaning of a large part of the Italian place names.

In the Middle Ages the advent of Longobardian and Arabian peoples in the North and in the South respectively added a few more place names to Italian toponymy. We can understand the meaning of such names as well as of the old Greek names and of the ones given by Romans to a few cities (e. g. Napoli from the Greek Neapolis, Piacenza and Aosta respectively from the Latin Placentia and Augusta), and also the meaning of the names formed in recent times, whereas we cannot know the meaning of the more ancient place names. But it is sometimes possible to learn the origin of several place names by taking into account some suffixes: in fact, a number of place names ending in -asco (e.g. Buccinasco, Binasco) are considered to be of Ligurian origin, those in -ago, (e.g. Arnago, Crescenzago) and those in -ate (e.g. Lambrate, Brunate) are probably of Celtic origin, and those in -engo (e. g. Albarengo, Martinengo) of Longobardian origin. Moreover, a number of names ending in -ano (e.g. Bassano, Conegliano) are likely predial names from Roman times.

1.3 Minority languages

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Among the many non Italian languages used in Italy only French and German play an important rôle, as they are considered official together with Italian respectively in the autonomous region of the Aosta Valley and in the autonomous province of South Tirol. Every language used in Italy is written in the Roman script and has its own alphabet.

As for geographical names, minority languages in Italy are treated unequally. The French-speaking minority in the Aosta Valley is done justice to as far as toponymy is concerned, but not the German-speaking minority in South Tirol, which nevertheless finds itself in the same legal situation. The Slovenian minority, which inhabits a less coherent area, is not legally protected. The same applies to the other idioms, that is to say Ladin and Sardinian, which are not yet normalized and therefore not considered as real languages, as well as to the Provençal, Croatian, Albanian, Greek and Catalan dialects, spoken in very small areas in several parts of the Country.

1.3.1 French language with Franco-Provençal dialects

French, the official language of the French Republic and one of the three official languages of Switzerland, has an official status in Italy, beside Italian, in the autonomous region of the Aosta Valley, which is situated close to the French border. But people normally use Franco-Provençal dialects.

In a few valleys of Piedmont (Stura, Lanzo, Orco, Soana, Dora Riparia, Dora Baltea) and moreover in two municipalities of the province of Foggia (the region of Apulia) Franco-Provençal dialects are also spoken.

1.3.1.1 The French alphabet

A a	G g	M m	S s	Y y
B b	H h	N n	T t	Z z
C c	I i	O o	U u	
D d	J j	P p	V v	
E e	K k	Q q	W w	
F f	L l	R r	X x	

/...

1.3.1.2 Pronunciation

See "Guide de Toponymie - France".

1.3.1.3 Geographical names

Since the Second World War only the traditional French names are recorded in the official basic maps representing the Aosta Valley and consequently in the maps of private cartography firms. But although the names of the region and of the region's capital are both officially bilingual they are written only in the Italian form (i.e. Valle d'Aosta or Val d'Aosta; Aosta) instead of in both forms, Italian and French (i.e. Valle d'Aosta/Vallée d'Aoste; Aosta/Aoste), separated, as it would be right, by means of a shilling-mark. Only the maps produced by the Touring Club Italiano give both versions of the two names.

The dialects spoken in the two municipalities of Foggia have not influenced the toponymy of this small area, which is exclusively Italian.

1.3.2 German language with Bavarian dialects

German, the official language of the bordering Republic of Austria, of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the German Democratic Republic, and moreover one of the three official languages of Switzerland, is widely spoken also in the autonomous province of Bolzano/Bozen (= South Tirol), which is part of the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tirol. When this region was allocated to Italy after the First World War, the total number of German-speaking people in South Tirol was estimated at 233,000, against 7,000 Italian-speaking inhabitants: the former made up 97% of the total population. Due to immigration of Italian people, almost only directed at the towns, the share of the German-speaking people was gradually reduced to 60% (1971) of the total population (but in the countryside this figure was 90%).

As a result of the peace treaty of Paris in 1947, South Tirol was again allocated to Italy and in 1948 it was accommodated together with the province of Trento (= Trentino) in an autonomous region. With the new autonomy statute of 1972 the use of German in official administration was again permitted, and all official documents have to appear both in German and Italian. In colloquial speech the inhabitants of South Tirol normally use Bavarian dialects very similar to those spoken in bordering Tirol, a Bundesland of Austria.

Other German dialects are spoken in a few areas of the Alps and of the Pre-Alps (the regions of Piedmont, Aosta Valley, Lombardy, Veneto, and the province of Trento).

1.3.2.1 The German alphabet

A a	G g	M m	S s	Y y
B b	H h	N n	T t	Z z
C c	I i	O o	U u	
D d	J j	P p	V v	
E e	K k	Q q	W w	
F f	L l	R r	X x	

1.3.2.2 Pronunciation

 See "Toponymic guidelines for Cartography - Germany" and "Toponymic guidelines for Cartography - Austria".

1.3.2.3 Geographical names

 Though the Italian government recognizes the principle of equal status of German and Italian for South Tirol since 1948, the place names of this province are recorded in their Italian form only in all the official basic maps 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 of the Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano, whereas in many maps produced by private cartography, like those issued by the Touring Club Italiano 1:200,000, both names versions are given where space permits, with the Italian name in former position followed by the German form in latter position, separated from each other by means of a shilling-mark (e.g. Bressanone/Brixen, Adige/Etsch, Val Pusteria/Pustertal, Passo del Rombo/Timmelsjoch). German-speaking people of South Tirol, however, very often refuse and reject the Italian forms of many place names only recently (that is after the First World War) established and officially recognized by the Italian government.

In the small areas of the other regions where German dialects are spoken or were spoken until recently, German place names are numerous only for landscape features of the microtoponymy, seldom so for populated places which were the first to be Italianized in the past.

1.3.3 Slovenian dialects

Slovenian, the official language of the Yugoslav constituent republic of Slovenia, is spoken besides Italian in the extreme North-Eastern part of Italy (the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia) along the border with Yugoslavia.

The areas where Slovenian dialects are used are the Natisone valley and the surroundings of Tarvisio, Gorizia and Trieste. Of these areas, only the Natisone valley was Italian before the First World War, while the remaining areas became Italian after that war. Whereas in the Aosta Valley and in South Tirol the minority languages, i.e. French and German, are officially acknowledged, a similar recognition does not exist for Slovene in the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. The Slovenian minority is legally protected to a certain extent in the provinces of Gorizia and Trieste, but the same does not apply to the province of Udine.

1.3.3.1 The Slovenian alphabet

A a	E e	J j	O o	T t
B b	F f	K k	P p	U u
C c	G g	L l	R r	V v
Č č	H h	M m	S s	Z z
D d	I i	N n	Š š	Ž ž

1.3.3.2 Pronunciation

 See "Toponymic guidelines for Cartography - Yugoslavia".

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1.3.3.3 Geographical names

In the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, a number of place names adopted from Slovenian dialects have been assimilated into Italian and therefore lack the diacritical marks which were once recorded in the original spelling. In areas where only Slovenian is spoken and in bilingual ones, proper Slovenian place names occur frequently in road signs alone or together with Italian or Italianized forms.

But the Italian census statistics only give Italian toponyms, whereas, in the case of South Tirol, bilingual names are given, and for the Aosta Valley, nearly only French names. Also the official basic maps 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 only record Italian names.

In a few recent maps produced by private cartography firms the Slovenian forms of some place names appear in latter position separated from the Italian forms put in former position by means of a shilling-mark.

1.3.4 Other non Italian dialects spoken in Italy

In some parts of Italy there are other non Italian dialects spoken by a few minorities. They are chiefly the Ladin and the Sardinian dialects, followed by the following ones: Provençal, Croatian, Catalan, Greek, and Albanian, used in some much smaller areas.

1.3.4.1 Ladin dialects

Ladin, which belongs to the Roman group of the Indo-European family, is the fourth national language of Switzerland beside the three official languages, German, French and Italian.

In Italy some Ladin dialects, often very much diverging from each other, are spoken in two distinct areas:

a) in the Dolomitic area, especially in the four valleys of Badia, Marebbe, Fassa, and Gardena (the autonomous region of Trentino-South Tirol) and in the valleys of the North-Western section of the province of Belluno (the region of Veneto); b) in the historical region of Friuli, that is to say in the Northern and Middle parts of the autonomous region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

As already referred to, the differences among Ladin dialects are very strong, owing to the difficult connections among the several valleys in the past, so that each dialect was formed in isolation, from already different forms of vulgar Latin. As a matter of fact, there are some scholars who do not recognize any unity in the Ladin dialects, and refuse to confer them the status of a language.

1.3.4.2 Sardinian dialects

All over in the autonomous region/island of Sardinia Sardinian dialects are spoken, except in some small areas where a Catalan dialect (Alghero and its surroundings) and two Ligurian dialects (areas of Carloforte in the island of San Pietro; and of Calasetta in the island of Sant'Antioco) are normally used.

Sardinian is one of the languages of the Roman group derived directly from Latin. Owing to the insularity of the region it preserved a striking and clear archaic look both in its structure and in its vocabulary, so that it appears to be the Roman language most similar to Latin. Some of the most evident peculiarities of this language with regard to Italian are the plural forms ending with the consonant s and the articles su, sa, sos, sas derived from the Latin pronoun ipse instead of from the pronoun ille as in other Roman languages.

No one among the Sardinian dialects spoken in the region is standardized, just as in the case of Ladin, so that it is not deemed appropriate to speak of a language.

1.3.4.3 Provençal dialects

These are very similar to those used on the French side of the Western Alps; in Italy they are spoken in the upper parts of some valleys in the region of Piedmont along the border with France, and moreover in the small area of Guardia Piemontese (the region of Calabria). The valleys of Piedmont where Provençal dialects are spoken are the following: Vermenagna, Gesso, Maira, Varaita, Po, Pellice, Chisone, Dora Riparia.

1.3.4.4 Croatian dialects

These are connected with those spoken in the Republic of Yugoslavia, where the Croatian language is official, and are used in three municipalities (Acquaviva Collecroce, Montemitro, and San Felice del Molise) of the province of Campobasso, in the Molise region.

1.3.4.5 Catalan dialect

It is linked with the Catalan dialects used in Catalonia, that is to say in the North-Eastern part of Spain, where Catalan is the official language beside Spanish; in Italy it is spoken only in the small area of Alghero and its surroundings (the region of Sardinia).

1.3.4.6 Greek dialects

Greek is the official language of Greece and one of the two official languages of Cyprus. In Italy it is spoken in the form of a few rather archaic dialects in the Southern parts of the two regions of Apulia and Calabria.

1.3.4.7 Albanian dialects

Albanian is the official language of Albania. In Italy some Albanian dialects are spoken in many areas of South Italy, especially in the regions of Abruzzo, Molise, Apulia, Basilicata, and Calabria, and in the autonomous region/island of Sicily.

1.3.4.8 Geographical names

In the region of Sardinia, a large part of names both of inhabited places and of other geographical features is written in Sardinian and accurately recorded in official documents and in the basic topographical maps issued by the national geographic survey. The situation is very different in the regions where Ladin is spoken: Ladin place names are numerous only in the microtoponymy, but almost all names for important objects are now Italian or Italianized. Nearly the same is valid for the Provençal toponymy.

Owing to the late immigration of Croatian, Catalan, Greek, and Albanian people, that is to say when the Italian region was already densely populated, only very few place names have been recorded in these dialects and all these names are of rather recent origin. Place names like Napoli (from the Greek form Neapolis) and a few others of ancient origin are an exception to the rule.

2 NAMES AUTHORITIES AND NAMES STANDARDIZATION

There exists no specific law covering place names in Italy. The power of decision for so-called administrative names in different categories belongs to the regions according to a decree of the President of the Italian Republic dated 14th January 1972 (No.1). Since the names of geographical features other than inhabited places of administrative category are recorded in the basic topographic maps of Italy in the scales 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 issued by the Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano, they are considered official and are usually reproduced in private cartography too.

3 SOURCE MATERIAL

3.1 Maps

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The official basic maps of Italy are those produced by the Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano = IGMI (Florence, via Cesare Battisti 10) and are the following series:

- Carta topografica d'Italia (Topographic Map of Italy), scale 1:25,000: 3545 tavolette (map sheets) covering the whole Italian territory.
- Carta topografica d'Italia (Topographic Map of Italy), scale 1:50,000: 636 fogli (map sheets), not yet completed (252 sheets published till the end of 1986), covering entirely only five regions (Trentino-South Tirol, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Apulia, Sicily) and limited areas of other regions.
- Carta topografica d'Italia (Topographic Map of Italy), scale 1:100,000: 278 fogli (sheets) covering the entire Country.

Whereas the topographic maps in the scales 1:25,000 and 1:100,000 are no more issued and sold only in a non updated edition, the topographic map 1:50,000 is produced regularly but with a very low frequency (only a few sheets every year).

The official nautical charts are prepared by the Istituto Idrografico della Marina (IIM) (Genoa, Passo Osservatorio 4) and cover all the Italian seas at different scales.

Some regions, moreover, are producing a series of maps (Carta tecnica regionale, that is a technical regional map) in the scales 1:5,000 or/and 1:10,000, which cover only a part of the national territory.

3.2 Gazetteers

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There exists no official place names gazetteers in Italy, since the Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano has never produced the lists of names recorded in the basic topographical maps in the scales 1:25,000 and 1:100,000.

As regards inhabited places a complete list of names can be found in the regional volumes of the last Censimento Generale della Popolazione (General Census of Population), taken in 1981; the volumes are issued by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica = ISTAT (Central Institute of Statistics) in Rome (via Cesare Balbo, 16).

More easily available is a work issued by the Touring Club Italiano = TCI (Milano, corso Italia 10) in 1980: Annuario Generale dei comuni e delle frazioni d'Italia (General Year-Book of Italian municipalities and their territorial subdivisions), which, however, only gives the situation for 1971.

Very obsolete and since many years out of stock is the Indice generale della Carta d'Italia del TCI alla scala 1:250.000 (General Place Names Index of the Map of Italy 1:250,000 issued by the TCI), produced by the Touring Club Italiano in 1916; in this work all the 115,000 place names recorded in the Carta d'Italia del TCI (scale 1:250,000) are inserted; this work continues to be the gazetteer which is the most complete and most rich in place names produced till now in Italy.

Rich in place names, but not so complete as the previous work, is the Indice dei nomi (Place Names Index) of the Atlante Stradale d'Italia 1:200,000 in three volumes, issued by the Touring Club Italiano in the years 1980-1981.

4 GLOSSARY OF APPELLATIVES, ADJECTIVES AND OTHER WORDS NECESSARY FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF MAPS

4.1 General remarks
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Owing to the presence in Italy of so many place names written in languages other than Italian, the geographical generic terms, too, are very numerous. In order to avoid a too long and articulate list of such generic terms, the French, Franco-Provençal, Provençal, German, and Slovenian geographical generic terms are not presented here, as they can be easily found in the Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors issued by the Countries concerned. Only the most important and most widespread Italian terms, together with some Ladin and Sardinian ones distinguished from Italian terms by means of the letters (L) (S) put in brackets, are given here.

When necessary, terms are given also in feminine forms and in plural, especially adjectives. In these cases singular forms are separated from the plural by means of a semi-colon (;), masculine forms are separated from the feminine by means of a comma (,): e.g. alt-o, -a; -i, -e show respectively the following forms of the Italian adjective alto (high): singular masculine (alto), singular feminine (alta), plural masculine (alti), plural feminine (alte); Ligur-e; -i show respectively the singular form (both masculine and feminine) and the plural (both masculine and feminine) of the Italian adjective Ligure; Liguri (Ligurian). The same occurs with many substantives: e.g. lag-o; -hi show respectively the singular form and the plural one of the Italian noun lago (lake); laghi (lakes).

