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ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON PROGRESS IN THE STANDARDIZATION
OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FOURTH CONFERENCE

Progress report on the standardization and treatment of
geographical names in Finland, 1982-1987**

Paper submitted by Finland

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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Field collection of names

The systematic recording and archiving of names is the responsibility of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages.

The field investigation of names has continued in Finland throughout the entire period lasting from 1982 to 1986. An average of 31 researchers every year have participated in the field investigations, each for a period lasting from one to two months. The researchers have had a linguistic training. This collection of names covers the recording of geographical names created in popular use during ages; in other words it does not involve the names of streets and roads or other microtoponyms given by official bodies at their discretion. These names can easily be obtained from national and municipal registers of addresses.

The results and present situation of collection is as follows:

Finnish names: The collections increased by a total of 172,000 new name cards during the period from 1982 to 1986. These cards contain a considerable amount of information about the name itself and the place it designates. The original collections of geographical names contain 2,416,000 archive cards. The work of collection is still somewhat incomplete, but an effort is being made to complete it within the next few years.

Swedish names: The collections of Swedish geographical names have increased by 14,600 new cards. The collections contain a total of 235,000 archive cards. The systematic collection of the Swedish names in Finland is practically complete. Only minor sporadic replenishment is needed.

Lappish (Sami) names. The collections of Lappish geographical names increased by 800 archive cards during the period from 1982 to 1986, and they now contain a total of approximately 9,200 archive cards. The field collection of Lappish names continues. The work is made more difficult by the fact that only a very small number of people speak Lappish (approximately 2,000 inhabitants of Finland), and they are sparsely dispersed over a large area. Significant is the fact that the use of the Lappish language and interest in reviving it have increased during the past few years. The State has actively worked to strengthen the maintenance and scientific study of the Lappish language. The new Lappish orthography has been drawn up in accordance with a resolution made by the Nordic Sami Council, and in Finland it has been in use since July 1, 1979. It is presented in the Toponymic Guidelines. Finland (E/CONF.74/L.41 P.10,11). Since not all basic and topographical maps (1:20,000) have not been revised since 1979, names according with the older orthography still exist, and they appear on some maps. /...

Official treatment of names and national name authorities

During the period from 1982 to 1986 the Onomastic Division and the Swedish Language Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages, which function as the linguistic authorities responsible for names, provided testimonies concerning approximately 4,200 geographical names in Finnish and 210 geographical names in Swedish. Additionally, in collaboration with the National Board of Survey they checked the names of a total of 1,300 sheets of the basic map (1:20,000) in conjunction with their revision. The sheets contained a total of 364,000 names. In conjunction with the revision a new standardized name was added or a previously standardized name was corrected in 66,100 cases.

The addresses of the institutes responsible for the treatment and standardization of geographical names are:

- Onomastic Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages, Liisankatu 16 A, 00170 Helsinki, Finland
- Swedish Language Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages, Fabianinkatu 7 B, 00130 Helsingfors, Finland
- National Board of Survey, PL 84, 00521 Helsinki, Finland

TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH PUBLIC INFORMATION MEDIA

All students studying to be teachers of the mother tongue take a short course in toponymy at the university. Continuing education for teachers also includes training in onomastics. The Onomastic Division of the Finnish Research Centre for Domestic Languages has provided all interested parties with directions and recommendations concerning the use of names. Issue 2/1985 of Kielikello, the publication giving information about language maintenance contained twenty-four pages devoted exclusively to articles dealing with issues pertaining to the correct use of proper names. Advice concerning names is also regularly disseminated through the press and radio. Training in onomastics has been provided for reporters working in the mass media and for the employees of publishing houses. It has not been possible to arrange for the systematic checking of the names appearing in privately published textbooks and maps.

GAZETTEERS, LISTS OF EXONYMS, LISTS OF COUNTRY NAMES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

An extensive national gazetteer of names has not yet been compiled. Plans to prepare a computerized gazetteer of the names appearing on the basic map (1:20,000 about 750,000 names) have been drawn up, but economic considerations have precluded their being implemented. A computerized database of inhabited places with their names will be created simultaneously with the transfer of the real estate register covering the entire country to computerized form. The coding work at the National Board of Survey is estimated to be approximately halfway completed. When finished

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in 6 - 7 years it will comprise three million estates and sites with names.

Since the year 1982 a gazetteer containing approximately 9,500 names has been published to the 1:250,000 scale Finnish atlas: Uusi Suomen matkakartasto /The New Finnish Travel Atlas/, edited by Pertti Kosonen, 1st edition Helsinki 1983, 2nd revised edition Helsinki 1984, 3rd revised and updated edition Helsinki 1987, ISBN 951-9079-42-4.

A revised publication Swedish toponyms in Finland suitable for use both domestically and in the other Nordic countries, Svenska ortnamn i Finland /Swedish place names in Finland/, edited by Kurt Zilliacus and Ulla Ådahl-Sundgren, 4. edition, Helsingfors 1984, 112 pages (ISBN 951-9475-37-0). It contains approximately 4,250 names.

The book Maailman paikannimet: oikeinkirjoitusopas /The World's Place Names: an Orthographical Guide/, edited by Kerkko Hakulinen, Keuruu 1983, 281 pages (ISBN 951-1-07207-2) is intended for national use. It contains the exonyms used in Finland as well as a list of the exonyms which are no longer in use or obsolescent.

In its new format the bulletin Statsnavn og nasjonalitetsord /The names of countries and words for nationalities/, Nordisk språksekretariat 1987 (ISBN 82-7433-000-5), 25 pages, contains the names of countries and their adjectival and substantival derivatives in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish.

A list of the names of countries in which the names are given in Finnish, Swedish, English, and French is in print and will appear this fall.

Two directives have been issued concerning the alphabetization of names: Aakkostus. Valtionhallinnon standardi /Alphabetization. Standard for the State Administration/. VHS 1014. The Ministry of Finance 1984. 10 pages + appendix. Aakkostaminen ja siihen liittyvä ryhmittely. Order of characters and numerals. Publ. Suomen standardisoimisliitto SFS 4600. 1986. 10 pages.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Finland participated in the 11th and 12th sessions of the UNGEGN in 1984 and 1986, as well as in the congress arranged in Leipzig, German Democratic Republic, by the International Committee of Onomastic Sciences in 1984, the international Finno-Ugric conference held in 1985 in the USSR, at Syktyvkar as well as in the annual congresses, seminars, and symposia arranged by NORNA, the Nordic co-operative organ for co-operation in the field of onomastics.

The national meetings have been devoted to such problems as the standardization of names (1983) and the basis for the classification of new sets of names (names of parts of cities, streets, etc.) from the perspective of the requirements posed by planning, research, and automatic data processing (1984).