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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

Report of Hungary

Paper submitted by Hungary**

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** Prepared by the Department of Lands and Mapping of the Ministry of
Agriculture, Budapest.

Committee on Geographical Names

The Committee on Geographical Names is a decision-making and advisory body organized in the Ministry of Agriculture under Order No. 71/1989 of the Council of Ministers (see annex). It makes, and in some cases coordinates, advises on and records, all decisions concerning official geographical names used in Hungary. It has about 25 members from Hungarian ministries and national authorities particularly interested in the use of geographical names.

It establishes the official geographical names within its competence, i.e., names of physical relief and regions, areas, waters, nature reserves, transport and communication. It gives expert opinion on new town and village names, names of built-up areas of cities and communities, names of outskirt settlements and of streets suggested by local governments.

It establishes the use on maps and spelling of toponyms falling outside the frontiers of the country.

The former Committee on Geographical names, established in 1963, acted until 1989 within the framework of the Hungarian national authority on geodesy and cartography. From 1990 it was transformed into an interdepartmental committee, by which measure

(a) It became independent (at least legally) of the national authority on geodesy and cartography;

(b) On the other hand, it may directly turn to national authorities on toponymic questions falling within their competence.

Names authorities and names standardization

Administrative names

Decisions on names of communes, towns, and cities are made by the president of the Republic; names of countries, by the Parliament. The standardized form of this group of names is regularly published by the Central Statistical Office, and can be ordered at the following address:

Statisztikai számítástechnikai könyvesbolt
H-1024 Budapest
Keleti Károly utca 10.

Other names

For other geographical names, responsibility is split between the local governments (street names, names of the parts of cities, towns and communes, including the names of outskirt settlements) and the Committee on Geographical Names (Földrajzinév-bizottság), which decides on all other names. The

Committee is an inter-ministerial body situated in the Ministry of Agriculture at the following address:

Földrajzinév-bizottság
Földművelésügyi Minisztérium
H-1860 Budapest
Kossuth Lajos tér 11.

Registration and maintenance of standardized geographical names is carried out in the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing:

Földmérési és Távérzékelési Intézet
H-1373 Budapest
V.Sas utca 19.
P.O. Box 546

Gazetteers

Gazetteer of inhabited places of the Hungarian People's Republic (A Magyar Népköztársaság helységnévtára); Budapest, Statisztikai Kiadó Vállalat, 1985.

Contains the names of communes, towns and cities as well as smaller inhabited places, with population, area and other data as of 1980. This is the most recent source available at present on names inside cities, towns and communes. For names of counties, cities, towns and communes, a gazetteer will be published in mid-1992.

Gazetteer of Hungary I. The more important names of the relief, regions and hydrography (Magyarország Földrajzinév-tára I. Fontosabb domborzati, táj-és víznevek); Budapest, Kartográfiai Vállalat, 1983.

Contains more than 700 standardized geographical names. Includes a 1:500,000 map supplement.

Gazetteer of Hungary II. (Magyarország Földrajzinév-tára II); Kartográfiai Vállalat, 1979-1981.

A series of county gazetteers in 19 volumes with the title as given above and the county name added.

Four volumes appeared in 1978:

Győr-Sopron megye (new name: Győr-Sopron-Moson megye)

Vas megye

Veszprém megye

Zala megye.

Seven volumes appeared in 1979:

Somogy megye

Baranya megye

Tolna megye

Fejér megye

Komárom megye (new name: Komárom-Esztergom megye)

Pest megye, Budapest

Csongrád megye

Six volumes appeared in 1980:

Bács-Kiskun megye

Nógrád megye

Heves megye

Borsod-Abauj-Zemplén megye

Szolnok megye (new name: Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok megye)

Békés megye

Two volumes appeared in 1981:

Hajdu-Bihar megye

Szabolcs-Szatmár megye (new name: Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye)

Each volume is supplemented by a 1:150,000-scale map.

Recent activities of the Committee on Geographical Names

The formation of large (socialist) agricultural farms during the 1950s and 1960s has endangered the use and existence of many local names on the outskirts of communities. Collection, identification and standardization of these names, as part of the national heritage, is coordinated by the Committee. At the same time, this work involves the enlargement of the already existing Gazetteer of Geographical Names.

The long-range programme on the network of settlements (1971) of the former regime had counted on ending the independence of many so-called

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"un-economic" small settlements. In the new economic-social situation a large number of former settlements, now parts of larger communities, want to regain their former independence. The Committee gives advice for establishing their names. Original names are always given priority.

With the change of political system the changing of the names of thousands of streets, squares etc. has become an issue. Here also the Committee suggests the restoration of former names to the decision makers, on request.

Minority languages

The following minority languages may have a role in the use of geographical names: Croatian, German, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak and Slovenian. Cities or communes with a considerable number of minorities are usually designated by an additional sign-post on the road with the minority language name of the city or commune.

According to clause 6, paragraph (4) of the Order of the Council of Ministers No. 71/1989 (see annex) "A minority language name can also be established, based on the rules given in the previous paragraph (1). A minority language name for features belonging to the categories mentioned in clause 3, paragraphs a) and d) to h), can be established parallel with the Hungarian name." This means that in cases of names of the relief and regions, names of nature reserves, names of systems of transport and communications, names of built-up areas of cities and communes, names of outskirt settlements, and street names, parallel minority language names can be applied. In all other types of geographical names a single minority language name can be given as the official name. It should be noted that administrative names are decided upon by separate orders, where neither parallel nor single minority language names can be given officially.

Exonyms

The list of exonyms in Hungary is being prepared, based on the Great Hungarian World Atlas (Budapest Cartographia, 1985, and 5th edition, 1989). Research work is being done to establish firm principles on the use of exonyms with special regard to territories having Hungarian minorities. An interesting feature in this matter is the decision of the Ukrainian Parliament concerning the official names of two villages in Carpathian Ukraine. The villages formerly officially called Ясеново (Hungarian exonym: Eszeny) and Минеральное (Hungarian exonym: Tiszaásvány) are now officially named and written Eszeny (Есень) and Tiszaásvány (Тисзаашвань). These names are therefore no longer exonyms in Hungary.

Country names

The name list of the countries of the world is constantly updated in view, especially, of recent developments in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The forms of names recommended by the Committee are generally

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accepted in Hungarian cartography and public life, but in certain fields, such as diplomacy, foreign trade etc. other forms may be used in Hungarian official texts owing to special interests.

Gazetteer of Geographical Names-Database (FNT)

Aim of the database

The already existing manual (card) record of official geographical names had become increasingly more cumbersome and difficult to handle, owing to the growing number of names and the need for more frequent updating. Putting the names into a computerized system not only aimed at solving these problems, but to affording other institutions and organs access to official geographical names.

The basic set of names for the database dates from 1977-1980. Initially recorded on the 1:150,000 county gazetteer series, the set of names has since been updated continually and enlarged, in line with the process of publishing the new 1:10,000 topographic series. The aim is to include all officially established geographical names on the 1:10,000 series in the database, besides the names of larger geographical features.

Input of data is being done on IBM PC, and transferred (export-import) to a Micro Vax computer. The database FNT in the Micro Vax is accessible on line for other institutions and organs on the X.25 network.

Content of the database

Each geographical name in the database is furnished with the following information:

Source material

Type of feature

Location (country and settlement)

Coordinates (grid and geographical)

Altitude (height above sea level) for relief features

Population (census data of settlements and parts of settlements)

Reference to other settlements (e.g., in case of larger features)

Variant names.

By mid-1992 the database consisted of 50,000 records. By the end of 1993 it is planned to have about 60,000 records, i.e. the size of the 1977-1980

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series. By the end of the project the database will hold about 320,000 records (or, with the different name variant included, about 1,000,000 geographic names).

Methods of data retrieval may be by:

Location data (county, settlement)

Name (and elements of names)

Type of feature

Variant name

Grid coordinates (= map sheets).

The project has been subsidized by the National Council for Technical Development (OMFB), and is being implemented by the Hungarian Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing.

FÓMI

1373 Budapest, P.O.B. 546

Fax (361) 2527918;

Tel. (361) 163-6670

Attention: Dr. József Gergely.

Annex

LEGAL BACKGROUND OF NAME STANDARDIZATION IN HUNGARY

A

Excerpts from the Constitution of the Republic of Hungary

§19

(2) The Parliament ...

§30A

(1) The President of the Republic ...

m) decides on all matters that fall under his authority by the force of a Law.

(2) The President of the Republic needs the Prime Minister's or the competent Minister's counter signature for all of his measures and orders defined in the previous section (1), with the exception of points a), d), e), f), and g).

§74

The capital of the Republic of Hungary is Budapest.

B

Excerpts from the Law No. LXV 1990, on local governments

§10

Authority from the local government cannot be transferred concerning ...

h) the naming of public grounds [i.e. streets etc.] ...

l) an opinion about matters in which the Law prescribes that a statement has to be given by the Local Government; ...

§52

(2) In case of an initiative to establish a new commune ... a preparatory committee has to be formed. The preparatory committee ... on the basis of an expert opinion ... makes suggestion for the name of the commune ... In preparing the suggestion ... either the Commissioner of the Republic or another body may give professional help.

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§54

(1) Interested local governments may initiate the amalgamation of communes on the basis of a plebiscite where the built-up areas have been joined, or of cities and communes, suggesting at the same time the name of the new commune. The name of a commune no more existing because of amalgamation, has to be preserved as the name of that part of the new commune.

§58

The name of a commune or city has to be established in a way that it could not be taken for the name of another commune or city elsewhere in the country. If an amalgamation is declared void, the commune usually gets back its name used before the amalgamation. About a new name of a commune the opinion of a professional body competent in geographical names has to be asked.

§93

(4) The Parliament decides on the territorial division of the State, and - after asking the opinion of the interested self-governments - on amalgamating and separating counties, on changing their boundaries, on their names and centres, on giving the status of city with county rights, and on establishing the districts of the capital.

§94

The President of the Republic ...

b) on the initiative of the interested local government decides on giving the title of city, on establishing or amalgamating a commune, on making void an amalgamation, on the name of a city or a commune.

C

Parliament Decision No. 88/1990 on the counties of the Republic of Hungary on the name of the counties, and on their centre

1. The Parliament, on the basis of §93, section (4) of the Law No. LXV 1990 on local governments, defines the county division

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of the Republic of Hungary with their present territory, the names of the counties and their centres, as follows ["megye" means county]

1. Bács-Kiskun megye, its centre: Kecskemét;
2. Baranya megye, its centre: Pécs;
3. Békés megye, its centre: Békéscsaba;
4. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye, its centre: Miskolc;
5. Csongrád megye, its centre: Szeged;
6. Fejér megye, its centre: Székesfehérvár
7. Győr-Moson-Sopron megye, its centre: Győr;
8. Hajdú-Bihar megye, its centre: Debrecen;
9. Heves megye, its centre: Eger;
10. Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok megye, its centre: Szolnok;
11. Komárom-Esztergom megye, its centre: Tatabánya;
12. Nógrád megye, its centre: Salgótarján;
13. Pest megye, its centre: Budapest;
14. Somogy megye, its centre: Kaposvár;
15. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye, its centre: Nyíregyháza;
16. Tolna megye, its centre: Szekszárd;
17. Vas megye, its centre: Szombathely;
18. Veszprém megye, its centre: Veszprém;
19. Zala megye, its centre: Zalaegerszeg.

2. This decision is effective as of the day of the 1990 election of the representatives of the local governments.

D

Excerpt from the Law No. XX 1991 on the duties of the local governments

(2) It falls under the authority of the local government ... the approval and change of geographical names as defined by another Law or Order.

E

Excerpt from the Law No. XXIV 1990 on the Capital

§10

(3) The duty and authority of the local government of the Capital is especially ...

i) Naming parts of the Capital, naming public grounds [i.e. streets etc.] after persons, or those located in more than one district.

F

**Order No. 71/1989 of the Council of Ministers
as modified by the Government Order No. 19/1992
on official geographical names in Hungary
*Texts originating from the 1992 modification,
are given in italics***

§1

(1) This order covers the establishment, the use, and the recording of geographical names.

(2) Names of counties, cities, and communes are decided upon separate regulations.

§2

In official publications, in proceedings of the authorities, governmental organizations, geographical names should be used as established according to this order.

§3

In applying this order geographical names are as follow:

a) names of the relief and regions: those identifying hills, mountains etc., and those identifying significant geographic or ethnic regions;

b) names of areas: those identifying territorial units in agriculture and forestry, the parts of these units as well as those identifying any area separated by another unit or by some significant feature or object, including names which identify

two or more such areas together;

c) names of waters: names of natural water courses and artificial canals, lakes, swamps, sources, wells, etc.;

d) names of nature reserves: names of national parks, reserve districts, protected areas and caves even if such a name falls under one of the previously mentioned points a) to c);

e) names of the transport and communication: names of features in connection with transport (railway station, bridge, port, etc.), and names of telecommunication objects (post offices, etc.);

f) names of built-up areas of communes and cities: those identifying the central and other built-up area in cities and communes, as well as parts of these areas;

g) names of outskirt settlements: those identifying inhabited parts of a commune or city outside of the built-up area;

h) street names: those identifying public grounds such as streets, roads, squares, etc.

§4

(1) The competence of establishing or changing geographical names falls

(a) in case of geographical names belonging to points a) to e), §3, under the Committee on Geographical Names (further on: the Committee);

(b) in case of geographical names belonging to points f) and g), §3, on the basis of §39 of the Law No. XX. of 1991, under the Board of Local Government.

(2) In case of points f) and g), §3, the Committee gives advice on draft resolutions sent by the local government's administrator in the preparatory stage of decision-making.

§5

(1) Permanent members of the Committee are one representative of the National Population Recording Office, one representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, three representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, one representative of the Ministry of Defence, three representatives of the Ministry for Environmental

Protection and Regional Development, three representatives of the *Ministry of Transport, Telecommunication and Water Resources*, two representatives of the *Central Statistical Office*, one representative of the *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, five representatives of the *Hungarian Academy of Sciences*, and two representatives of the *Ministry of Culture and Education*. The *Chairman of the Committee* may invite experts in some cases to discuss special items, and has to ask the opinion of the interested social organization(s).

(2) The Committee operates in the *Ministry of Agriculture*. Its *Chairman* is appointed by the *Minister of Agriculture*. Decisions are taken by the Committee in agreement with the representatives of the organizations interested in the establishment and in the use of the geographical name in question, as well as by a simple majority vote of the permanent members.

(3) The Committee gives advice before decisions concerning the names of communes and cities according to §58 of the Law No. LXV, 1990 on local governments.

(4) The Committee takes decision on matters outside of the provision of the law, and on questions concerning the domestic map use of foreign geographical names.

§6

(1) In establishing a geographical name, it should be taken into account the present day usage by the local population, the opinion of the local government, social and economic organizations, results of the sciences, historical traditions, especially local research on these matters, names of settlements that have been laid waste, the structure of agriculture and forestry, the ethnic circumstances, and the linguistic requirements.

(2) Features given in §3 - with the exception of those referring to farmsteads - cannot be named after a living person.

(3) A name - with the exception of those reflecting historical traditions - can be changed, if similar names cause confusion, if there is a change in the usage of a name, if a feature has been changed or reshaped to which the name refers, if a name does not comply with public interest, and if the memory of a deceased outstanding person is to be preserved by the new name.

(4) A minority language name can also be established based on the rules given in the previous point (1). A minority language name for features belonging to points a) and d) to h), §3, can be established parallel with the Hungarian name.

(5) The use of a letter *and/or* a numeral instead of a geographical name is not allowed except in the form and in the cases given in a national standard, and also for automated data bases and data processing. The unofficial identification of codes with geographical names must be ensured.

(6) In names of artificial canals and lakes, and city districts, the generic element can be preceded by a numeral.

§7

(1) *The local government's administrator, the National Population Recording Office, The Institute of Surveying and Remote Sensing, and the Central Statistical Office keep a record of geographical names within their competence, provide their publication, and make the names accessible.*

(2) Materials and documents should be given by the Committee to the Institute of Surveying and Remote Sensing, after the procedure have been concluded, and the name adopted.

(3) Geographical names must be given on cadastral maps. The responsible regional Land Office takes care of the representation of names in connection with the preparation and the updating of cadastral maps. In case of missing or incorrect names, and areal changes, the Land Office suggests the revision of names to the Committee in accordance with the *local government*. The adopted names should be applied on maps used in agriculture, and - in accordance with aims and functions - on topographic and geographic maps of the Unified National Map System, as well as on maps in commercial circulation.

§8

(1) The adopted names, together with the coordinates of the National Grid, are recorded and continuously maintained in the Gazetteer of Geographical Names by the Institute of Surveying and Remote Sensing.

(2) The Gazetteer of Geographical Names contains the following names:

- a) names of communes and cities according to the Gazetteer of Administrative Place Names;
- b) geographical names defined in points a) to g), §3, including minority language names;
- c) designations used on maps (such as of museums, ruins, look-out towers, uninhabited buildings in outskirt areas, etc.).

§9

This order is effective as of 1 August, 1989. At the same time, the order No. 10/1974 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as well as point (4) §2, point (2) §5, and point (2) §7 of the Decree No. 1/1976 of the Office for Councils, Council of Ministers, modified by the Decree No. 2/1984 of the same Office, are void.

signed: Miklós Németh

President of the Council of Ministers

§7 of the modifying Order No. 19/1992.

This order is effective as of 15 February, 1992...

signed: Dr. József Antall

Prime Minister
