



Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CONF.91/CRP.22  
14 January 1998

ENGLISH ONLY

---

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE  
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
New York, 13-23 January 1998  
Item 5 (e) of the agenda\*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR  
MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

Toponymic Guidelines for map editors and other editors

Paper submitted by Greece \*\*

\* E/CONF.91/1

\*\* Prepared by A. Ioannidou, A. Pallikaris, I. Papaioannou-  
Working Group for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL USE  
FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS - GREECE

## 1. Languages

### 1.1. General remarks

The official language of Greece is modern Greek (Νέα Ελληνικά). The term «modern Greek» is used for the differentiation from ancient Greek (Αρχαία Ελληνικά). Modern Greek is used in written and in speech in every area, also in the administration.

### 1.2. Forms of modern Greek language («dimotiki» and «katharevousa»)

Until the early 1980s the modern Greek language was divided in an oral (simple) and a written (official, administrative) form. The official form of the language was generally being used in the administrative life and was named «katharevousa» in opposition to «dimotiki». At the beginning of the 1980's «dimotiki» was introduced by law as the only official form of the modern Greek language, also in administrative life. In older maps and geographical publications, though, one can still observe the use of the «katharevousa». The main difference between the two forms is of morphological, not of lexicological substance, i.e. geographical names remain the same except of their endings and of the accentuation system<sup>1</sup>

### 1.3. The Greek Alphabet (letters and phonemes)

The Greek language has 24 letters:

Αα (alfa), Ββ (vita), Γγ (gama), Δδ (delta), Εε (epsilon), Ζζ (zita), Ηη (Ita), Θθ (thita), Ιι (giota), Κκ (kapa), Λλ (lamda), Μμ (mi), Νν (ni), Ξξ k(ksi), Οο(omikron), Ππ (pi), Ρρ (ro), Σσ ς (sigma), Ττ (taf), Υυ (ipsilon), Φφ (fi), Χχ (chi), Ψψ (psi), Ωω (omega).

The letter Σ/σ at the end of a word is written ς.

The Greek language has 25 phonemes:

[a, ε, i, o, u, v, γ, d, z, θ, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, f, x, b, d, g, ts, dz]

### 1.4. Basic rules of the Greek spelling and pronunciation<sup>2</sup>

The Greek alphabet has not a corresponding letter for each sound (phoneme).

- For the sounds [b], [d], [g], [ts], [dz] two letters are being used:  
[b] = **μπ**, [d] = **ντ**, [g] = **γκ**, [ts] = **τσ**, [dz] = **τζ**.
- The same happens with the sound [u] = *Ου/ου*.  
*Example*; Βουρβουρού = [Vurvuru]
- On the other side, for the sound [i] several letters or combinations of letters are being used: *Ι/ι, Υ/υ, Η/η, Ε/ε, Ο/ο, Υ/υ*.  
*Examples*: Υλίκη = [Iliki], Ημαθία = [Imaθia], Ίμια = [Imia], Ηλεία = [Ili] etc.  
Note, that there is no phonetic difference between the different [i]'s in Greek.
- It also has to be stressed that [e] is not only being written with *Ε/ε*, but also with the letters combination *Αι/αι*.  
*Example*. Αίγινα = [Ejina].
- The same occurs to the sound [o], which is being written either with the letter *ο* or with the letter *ω*.  
*Example*. Κορώνη = [Koroni].

<sup>1</sup> About the old and the new accents see par 1.5

<sup>2</sup> It has to be stressed, that in brackets [] the phonetic transcription is being indicated. The phonetic transcription is undertaken on the basis of the «International Phonetic Alphabet»

- In Greek there are also two “double letters”, i.e. letters which list two sounds: Ξ/ξ = [ks], and Ψ/ψ = [ps].
- The combinations of letters *Av/av and Ev/ev* have a double pronunciation, i.e. they are being pronounced [av], [ev] when a vowel or a voiced consonant follows and they are being pronounced [af], [ef], when a voiceless consonant follows.  
*Examples:* Γαύδος = [Gavdos], Ναύπλιο = [Nafplio], Βεύη = [Vevi], Πεύκο = [Pefko]
- Again, some letters are not pronounced when certain letter combinations occur.
  1. So the letter *Υ/υ* becomes voiceless, when it is followed by *Β/β* or *Φ/φ*.  
*Examples:* Εύβοια = [Evia], Ευφροσύνη = [Efrosyni]
  2. The one of two identical consonants.  
*Example.* Παλλήνη = [Palini]
  3. The letter *π* within the combination *μππ*.  
*Example.* Πέμπτη = [Pemti].
- Geographical proper names begin with a capital letter (*Αιγίνα*), nouns, though which are derived from them do not begin with a capital letter (*αιγινίτικο κρασί*), unless they name the ethnicity or the descent of a person (*Αιγινίτης*).

### 1.5. Accentuation system

After the language reform which made «dimotiki» the official language of Greece, one of the main changes that took place was the introduction of the monotonic accentuation system, i.e. the abolition of the different accents which were being used in the «katharevousa» form of the language? The main rule of the new accentuation system, helpful for cartographers and for other users of geographical editions is that one accent (normally a vertical dash - ´ - or simple a point - · -) is put above the vowel of the accentuated syllable in words with more than one syllables.

*Example:* Διδυμότειχο/Didimóteicho.

There is no stress above the vowel of monosyllabic words<sup>4</sup>

*Example.* Κως / Κος.

If the word begins with an accented vowel the stress is written on the left side of the first letter.

*Example:* Ήπειρος / Ήπειρος. In cases of a double letter, consisting of two vowels (οι, ει, αι, υι, ου), the stress is put on the second letter.

*Example:* Αιγίνα / Aigina.

### 1.7. Basic Rules of the Greek grammar applying in Geographical Names

#### 1.7.1. Genders and articles

The Greek language has a masculine, a feminine and a neutral gender. Geographical names can be of all the a.m. genders. The gender of the geographical names can be concluded out of either its ending or its article.

- The ending for the feminine gender is *-n* or *-a*. The ending for the masculine gender is *-ος*, and the ending for the neutral gender is *-ο*.
- The 3 definite articles are: *ο* (*masc.*), *η* (*fem.*), *το* (*neut.*) / *οι* (*pl. fem. and masc.*), *τα* (*pl. neut.*)

<sup>3</sup> A simple way for non-speakers of Greek to recognise, whether a map or a geographical publication is written in katharevousa or dimotiki is the accentuation system. Where different stresses are used, i.e. where the acute, grave and the aspiration marks, psili and daseia, are used the publication is most probably in katharevousa, or at least in a non-modern form of the language.

<sup>4</sup> To this rule there are some exceptions, which are not of importance in the cartography.

### 1.22 Numeri

The Greek language has a singular and a plural.

- Geographical names are normally being used only in singular, unless the sense of the sentence demands the use of the plural.

*Example:* "Η Ελλάδα έχει δυο Πηνειούς και πέντε Ολύμπους" (= "Greece has two rivers with the name Pineios and five places with the name Olympus").

- Among the geographical names the following are used only in plural: Σέρρες, Σπέτσες, Σφακιά, Χανιά, Δελφοί, Άγραφα, Καλάβρυτα and the exonyms Ουράλια, Πυρναία.

### 1.7.3. Declination

Geographical names are being normally declined, according to the Greek-language declination rules. Some of them, though, are not declinable.

*Example:* το Κιλκίς, του Κιλκίς.

It has to be stressed, that often on Greek maps, on road-signs etc. the toponym is written not in the nominative but in genitive if there is a previous word, describing the geographical feature, such as "valley" (κοιλιάδα), "gorge" (χαράδρα, φαράγγι), "bay" (κόλπος).

*Examples:* Κοιλιάδα Αλφειού (not in nom.: Αλφειός) = "Valley of the river Alpheios", whereas Alpheios is in genitive; Φαράγγι Σαμαριάς (not in nom.: Σαμαριά) - "Gorge of Samaria", whereas "Samaria" is in genitive, Λιμνή Θεσσαλονίκης (not in nom.: Θεσσαλονίκη).

The main cases used in the cartography are the nominative and the genitive of both, singular and plural. The following table presents the nominative and genitive case of singular and plural reflecting the basic categories of the Greek declination system, divided accordingly to the ending of the nominative singular:

Gender	Ending in nom. sg.	ending in nom. pl.	ending in gen. Sg.	ending in gen. pl.
<b>masc.</b>	-ac	-EC	-a	-wv
<b>masc.</b>	-ης, -ης	-ες, -είς, -ήδες, -ηδες	-η, -ή	-ων, -ών, -ήδων
<b>masc.</b>	-ος, -ός	-οι, -οί	ου, -ού	-ων, -ών
<b>fem.</b>	-α, -ά	-ες, -ές	-ας, -ας	-ων, -ών
<b>fem.</b>	-η, -ή	-ες, -ές	-ης (-εως), -ης	-(ε)ων, -ών
<b>fem.</b>	-ός, -ος	-οί, -οί	-ου	-ών
<b>fem.</b>	-ου	-ούδες	-ούς	-ούδων
<b>neut.</b>	-ο, -ό	-α, -ά	-ου, -ού	-ων, -ών
<b>neut.</b>	-ι, -ί	-ια, -ιά	-ιού	-ίων
<b>neut.</b>	-ος	-η	-ους	-ών
<b>neut.</b>	-α	-ατα	-τος	-των
<b>neut.</b>	-ιμο	-ίματα	-ίματος	-ιμάτων
<b>neut.</b>	-ον, -όν	-όντα	-όντος	-όντων
<b>neut.</b>	-αν, -εν	-αντα, -εντα	-αντος, -εντος	-όντων
<b>neut.</b>	-ς	-τα	-τος, -τός	-των

### 1.24. Partition in syllables

The main rules for the partition in syllables are the following:

- One consonant between two vowels follows the second vowel.

*Example:* Ρόδος = Ρο -δος

- Two consonants between two vowels follow the second vowel, when a Greek word begins with these consonants.  
*Example:* Μοσχάτο = Μο -σχα -το (σχοινί), but: δάλασσα = δά -λασ -σα.
- Three or more consonants between two vowels follow the second vowel, when a Greek word begins with at least the two first among them.  
*Example :* Κάστρο= Κά-στρο ( στρώμα)
- The consonants *μπ, ντ, γκ* are not to be separated.  
*Example:* Κάμπος = Κα -μπος.
- The composites do obey the same rules.
- The double vowels, the diphthongs, and the letter combinations *αυ, ευ* are to be considered as one vowel.  
*Example:* Πειραιάς = Πει -pat -άς.

## 1.8. Romanization

The transcription of geographical names from Greek to Latin alphabet is performed according to the romanization system EL0T 743 adopted as an international standard during the Fifth Conference of the United Nations for the Standardisation of Geographical Names (1987).

## 2. Names authorities and names standardization

### 2.1. General remarks

In Greece there is no governmental agency for the centralized function of collection, registration and standardization of all the types of geographical names. However, according to the type of toponym (inhabited places, geographical features, odonyms etc), standardization is accomplished by the work of a number of different authorities and coordinating bodies as described in these guidelines.

A Working Group for the Standardisation of Geographical Names, consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and governmental cartographic organisations, was established in July 1997. The primary task of this Working Group is to study the status, structure and function of a National Committee on Geographical Names and propose amendments to existing national legislation for the enhancement of the recommendations of the UN for the Standardisation of Geographical Names. Another task of this Working Group is the promotion of the coordination of the various national authorities, currently involved in the standardisation of geographical names, according to existing laws and practice that will continue until this legislation will be revised.

### 2.2 Inhabited places.

The duty of determination of official geographical names rests with the Ministry of Interior. The decision is normally taken after a recommendation of the **Committee of Toponyms**, consisting of, representatives from the Directorate of Toponyms of the Ministry of Interior, regional and local authorities, governmental cartographic agencies and linguists from the academic community. This committee considers proposals for new names, usually submitted by local authorities, from the linguistic, aesthetic, social and historical aspect and recommends their approval or rejection.

Geographical names of regions, departments and provinces are usually determined by the Ministry of Interior, without a relevant recommendation of the committee of toponyms.

### **2.3. Geographical features.**

Toponyms of geographical features such as mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, gulfs, bays, capes etc., are collected and registered by the two governmental cartographic agencies namely the Hellenic Military Geographic Service (HMGS) and the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS). The two agencies coordinate their work for the proper depiction of these toponyms on maps and charts, the development of toponymic data files and the publication of relevant gazetteers. The final decision for the determination of the official names of these features rests with the ministry of interior after a recommendation of the above-mentioned committee of toponyms.

### **2.4 Odonyms and other microtoponyms.**

Odonyms and other microtoponyms (squares, parks etc.) within the area of jurisdiction of municipalities are determined by decisions of the council of the elected representatives of the local municipalities.

## **3. Source Material**

### **3.1. Maps and Nautical Charts**

The official maps and nautical charts are produced by the Hellenic Military Geographic Service (HMGS) and the Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service (HNHS) respectively and are the following :

- Land maps 1:50.000 : 387 sheets covering the whole Greek territory.
- Land maps 1:250.000 : 32 sheets covering the whole Greek territory.
- Land maps 1:500.000 : 12 sheets covering the whole Greek territory.
- Land maps 1:1.000.000 : 5 sheets covering the whole Greek territory.
- Nautical charts of various scales : 180 charts covering the Greek coasts of which 8 are International charts published according to the relevant cartographic program of the International Hydrographic Organisation for the Mediterranean and Black Seas area.

### **3.2. Gazetteers and toponymic data files**

- **HMGS Gazetteer of Greece** edition 1997 : Contains approximately 90.000 geographical names shown on 1:50.000 maps.
- HMGS Toponymic data file of geographical names shown on 1:50.000 maps.
- HNHS Maritime toponymic database consisting of approximately 10.000 entries shown on nautical charts and other nautical publications (pilots etc.).
- Toponymic data file of the administrative division of Greece. Prepared by the Working Group for the Standardisation of Geographical Names.

### **3.3. Other sources**

- HNHS Symbols and Abbreviations used on Hellenic issue nautical charts.
- Administrative Division of Greece in Regions, Departments, Provinces and Municipalities. Bilingual edition in Greek and Roman alphabet, prepared by the Working Group for the Standardisation of Geographical Names

#### 4. Glossary of words necessary for the understanding of maps.

Greek	Romanized	English
Άγιος, a	Agios	Saint
Αεροδρόμιο	Aerodromio	Airfield
Άκρα	Akra	Point, Cape
Ακρωτήριο	Akrotirio	Cape
Άμμος	Ammos	Sand
Αμμόλοφος	Ammolofos	Sandhill
Αμμώδης	Ammodis	Sandy
ΑΝΟ	Ano	Upper
Αρχαίος, a, ο	Archaios, a, ο	Ancient
Βράχος	Vrachos	Rock
Βρύση	Vrysi	Fountain
Γέφυρα	Gefyra	Bridge
Γιαλός	Gialos	Beach, seashore
Ερείπια	Ereipia	Ruins
Ιχθυοτροφείο	Ichthyotrof eio	Fishfarm
Καλύβες	Kalyves	Huts
Κάτω	Kato	Lower
Κόλπος	Kolpos	Gulf
Κοραhhia	Korallia	Coral
Κορυφή	Koryfi	Peak
Λίθοι	Lithoi	Stones
Λίμνη	Limni	Lake
Μεγάλος, η, ο	Megalos, η, ο	Great
Χείμαρρος	Cheimarros	Stream
Μακρύς	Makrys	Long
Μεταλλείο	Metalleio	Mine
Μικρός	Mikros	Small
Μνημείο	Mnimeio	Monument
Μονη	Moni	Monastery
Μύλος	Mylos	Mill
Νέος, a, ο	Neos, a, ο	New
Νήσος	Nisos	Island
Νομός	Nomos	Department
Όρμος	Ormos	Bay
Όρος	Oros	Mountain
Παλαιός, a, ο	Palaios, a, ο	Old
Πέλαγος	Pelagos	Sea
Πηγάδι	Pigadi	Well
Πλατύς	Platys	Wide
Πόλις, polin	Polis, poli	City
Ποταμός	Potamos	River
Προφήτης	Profitis	Prophet
Ράχη	Rachi	Side
Ρέμα	Rema	Stream
Σιδηρ. Σταθμός	Sidir. Stathmos	Railroad Station
Σιδηρ. Στάση	Sidir. Stasi	Railroad Halt
Σπήλαιο	Spilaio	Cave
Συνοικισμός	Syνοikismos	Settlement
Φύκια	Fykia	Seaweed

## 5. Abbreviations used on official land maps and nautical charts.

### 5.1 Abbreviations used on land maps.

Abbreviation	Decoding	Romanized	English
Άγ	Άγιος, α	Agios	Saint
Αερ	Αεροδρόμιο	Aerodromio	Airfield
Άκ	Άκρα	Akra	Point, Cape
Ακρ	Ακρωτήριο	Akrotirio	Cape
Α	Άμμος	Ammos	Sand
Αρχ	Αρχαίος, α, ο	Archaios, a, o	Ancient
Β	Βράχος	Vrachos	Rock
Βρ	Βρύση	Vrysi	Fountain
Γέφ.	Γέφυρα	Gefyra	Bridge
Ερ	Ερείπια	Ereipia	Ruins
Ιχθ	Ιχθυοτροφείο	Ichthyotrofeio	Fishfarm
Κλβ	Καλύβες	Kalyves	Huts
Κ	Κόλπος	Kolpos	Gulf
Κο	Κοραhhία	Korallia	Coral
Κορ	Κορυφή	Koryfi	Peak
Λ	Λίθοι	Lithoi	Stones
Λ	Λίμνη	Limni	Lake
Μεγ	Μεγάλος, η, ο	Megalos, i, o	Great
Χμ	Χείμαρρος	Cheimarros	Stream
Μτλ	Μεταλλείο	Metalleio	Mine
Μν	Μνημείο	Mnimeio	Monument
Μ	Μονή	Moni	Monastery
Μλ	Μύλος	Mylos	Mill
Ν	Νήσος	Nisos	Island
Ν	Νομός	Nomos	Department
Ορμ	Ορμος	Ormos	Bay
Ορ	Ορος	Oros	Mountain
Παλ	Παλαιός, α, ο	Palaios, a, o	Old
Πιέλ	Πέλαγος	Pelagos	Sea
Πγδ	Πηγάδι	Pigadi	Well
Π	Ποταμός	Potamos	River
Πρφ	Προφήτης	Profitis	Prophet
Ρ	Ρέμα	Rema	Stream
Σ.Σ.	Σιδηρ. Σταθμός	Sidir. Stathmos	Railroad Station
Σ.Στ	Σιδηρ. Στάση	Sidir. Stasi	Railroad Halt
Σπ	Σπήλαιο	Spilaio	Cave
Συν	Συνοικισμός	Synoikismos	Settlement
Φ	Φύκια	Fykia	Seaweed

### 5.2 Common abbreviations used on nautical charts.

Abbreviations used on nautical charts are contained in the HNHS publication ((Symbols and Abbreviations used on Hellenic issue nautical charts)).

## 6. Administrative division

### 6.1. General remarks

Greece is divided in 13 regions (perifereies). Each region (perifereia) is further divided hierarchically in departments (nomoi), provinces (eparchies), municipalities (dimoi) and communities (koinotites). In this edition the names of the regions, departments, provinces and municipalities appear in both greek and romanized versions. The romanized version has been derived according to ELOT 743 romanization system.

### 6.2. List of regions

I. Anatoliki Makedonia kai Thraki	VIII. Sterea Ellada
II. Kentriki Makedonia	IX. Attiki
III. Dytiki Makedonia	X. Peloponnisos
IV. Ipeiros	XI. Voreio Aigaio
V. Thessalia	XII. Notio Aigaio
VI. Ionioi Nisoi	XIII. Kriti
VII. Dytiki Ellada	

### 6.3. List of departments

#### *Anatoliki Makedonia kai Thraki*

1. Drama
2. Evros
3. Kavala
4. Xanthi
5. Rodopi

#### *Kentriki Makedonia*

6. Imatheia
7. Thessaloniki
8. Kilkis
9. Pella
10. Pieria
11. Serrai
12. Chalkidiki

#### *Dytiki Makedonia*

13. Grevena
14. Kastoria
15. Kozani
16. Florina

#### *Ipeiros*

17. Arta
18. Thesprotia
19. Ioannina
20. Preveza

#### *Thessalia*

21. Karditsa
22. Larisa
23. Magnisia
24. Trikala

#### *Ionioi Nisoi*

25. Zakynthos
26. Kerkyra
27. Kefallinia
28. Lefkada

#### *Dytiki Ellada*

29. Aitolia kai Akarnania
30. Achaia
31. Ileia

#### *Sterea Ellada*

32. Voiotia
33. Evvoia
34. Evrytania
35. Fthiotida
36. Fokida

#### *Attiki*

37. Attiki

#### *Peloponnisos*

38. Argolida
39. Arkadia
40. Korinthia
41. Lakonia
42. Messinia

#### *Voreio Aigaio*

43. Lesvos
44. Samos
45. Chios

#### *Notio Aigaio*

46. Dodekanisos
47. Kyklades

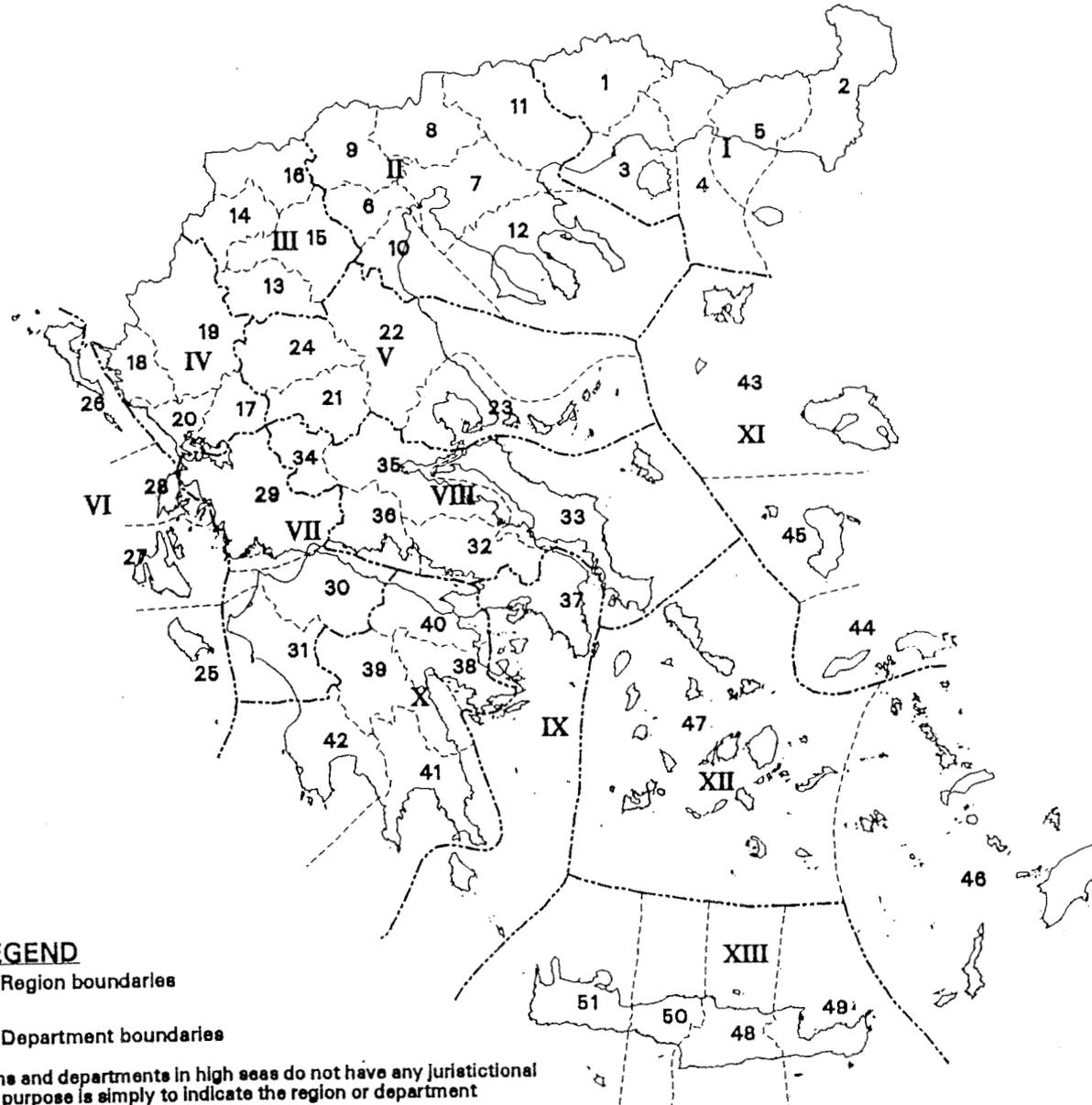
#### *Kriti*

48. Irakleio
49. Lasithion
50. Rethymnon
51. Chania

#### **6.4. Lists of provinces and municipalities**

Bicriptual (Greek and Romanized) lists of provinces and municipalities are contained in the publication "Administrative Division of Greece in Regions, Departments, Provinces and Municipalities" edition 1997, prepared by the Working Group for the Standardisation of Geographical Names.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF GREECE



## LEGEND

----- Region boundaries

..... Department boundaries

**NOTE**  
Limits of regions and departments in high seas do not have any jurisdictional meaning; their purpose is simply to indicate the region or department where each Greek island belongs.