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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  
SIXTH CONFERENCE

- Standardization of Geographical Names in Croatia

Paper submitted by Croatia \*\*

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## **National standardization**

As Croatia is a country which gained independence at 1991, this is Croatian first attendance and national report at United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. No national body of standardization of geographical names exists in Croatia as yet, but after collecting a huge amount of documents at the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts (IJNGEGN) some steps have been taken regarding establishing such authority. According the law, the Parliament House of Representatives of Republic of Croatia decides on names of counties, towns and municipalities while decisions on names of settlements are made by the Council of Counties. Local government (Town or Municipality Council, and Assembly of Town Zagreb) are responsible for naming streets and squares within their boundaries. Geographic names for natural features are not officially standardized.

The entire Geodetic and spatial system (GEOPS) of Croatia has been remarkably disturbed due to the whole lot of inherited reasons. The consequences of such situation vary in the individual parts of that system. At the time of former Yugoslavia the topographic and photogrammetric survey and production of topographic maps 1:25 000 and smaller scales were exclusively in the hands of military authorities at the federal level (Military-geographic Institute in Belgrade), and Croatia has only a definite number of printed maps, while a part of cartographic material at large scales (Basic state map 1:5000) was based on the geodetic potential of Croatia. The independent Republic of Croatia was left without topographic structures and equipment remaining in other parts of the former federation. Geodetic Administration being competent for official cartography of the State, has initiated the necessary activities to provide the essential presumptions for updating the situation in the geodetic and cartographic system of the Republic of Croatia. Thus, there is the project concept of the initiating programs and structures of topographic and cartographic systems elaborated in the project titled "Execution of rapid changes and conceptual solution of GEOPS".

Furthermore, the "Treatise on the constitution of the Official Topographic and Cartographic Information System of the Republic of Croatia (STOKIS)" was made, as well as the "Conceptual project STOKIS", and in December 1995 the "Treatise on the substitution of reproduction sources and updating of topographic maps at middle and small scales" was finished. Now the State Geodetic Administration has competence for production of topographic maps at the scale of 1:25 000 and smaller scales, but it has no productive section. The official plans and maps are mostly produced in a few companies, on the basis of the order submitted by the State Geodetic Administration. The principal work is at the present updating topographic maps 1:25 000 and Croatian State Map 1:5000 (using digital methods), on the basis of aerophotogrametric survey.

There is also a military cartographic office, organized within the frame of the Administration for Civil Engineering in the Ministry of Defence. The Hydrographic Institute in Split is the only institution which makes and publishes the nautical charts in Croatia. The most significant thematic maps for the whole territory of Croatia are the Fundamental geological map at the scale of 1:100 000 (work stopped a few years ago), the Fundamental pedological map at the scale of 1:50 000 (work is reduced), the Vegetation map 1:100 000 (two sheets

have been published) and the Geomorphological map 1:100 000 (11 sheets have been finished, and sheets of the original geomorphological map 1:500 000 have been published)

Various other towns or country maps have been issued by private companies. The official language is Croatian, written in Roman script. In some local administrative units, some other languages and scripts can be in use, behind Croatian language and Roman script, which is regulated by the law. Local self-governing administrative units can decide on official use of two or more languages and scripts having in mind a number of representatives and interests of ethnics and national communities or minorities. Official use of languages of national minorities is carried out in Istria (Italian language) and in the area of Bjelovar and Daruvar (Czech language). In cartographic maps geographic names are given mostly in the official Croatian language.

The study of geographical names and terms has largely been undertaken by linguists, geographers and cartographers, who collect them and use them at their work. There is a lot of such published works on toponymy (Toponymy of Istria, Cres and Lošinj; Anali, Lexicographical Institute, Zagreb, 1956, Toponymy of the outer and middle chain of islands of Zadar, Književni krug, Zagreb 1996, etc.) As yet, there has been no organized co-operation between specialists, though the need for it is urgent - especially for cartographers and for encyclopedia publishers who have an increasing demand for correct geographical names and terms.

### **Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors**

As yet there is no toponymic guideline for map and other editors. UNGEGN recommendation of publishing guidelines will be considered. By then, rules of Croatian grammatic and spelling of geographic names are followed.

### **Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers**

A gazetteer of settlements (6694 settlements) containing all types of administrative names (county-*županija*, municipality-*općina*, seat of municipality) was published by Central Bureau of Statistics at the beginning of the 1996 (Directory of Settlements of the Republic of Croatia/Alphabetical List of Settlements and Systematic List of Settlements by Counties and Municipalities, 1995). Because of introducing new administrative division of Croatia in January 1997, a new edition will be issued in February 1998.

The Commission for boundaries of local self-governing units was found at Central Bureau of Statistics at the end of 1997. This Commission is going to deal with problems of changing names of settlements and administrative units.

The Ministry of Defense has financed the establishment of the data-base about the trigonometric points of all orders at the territory of Croatia and the neighboring countries (about 50 000 points) for the military cartographic system.

The Photogrammetric Company from Zagreb produced the data-base of political and territorial division of Croatia on the basis of the order submitted by State Geodetic Administration, digitizing the maps at the scales of 1:25 000 and 1:100 000.

The State Hydrographic Institute has a data-base that consists of hydrographic-cartographic geobase (batimetry, digital model of sea floor, isobaths and geodetic points)

### **Romanization Systems**

Croatia generally follows the UN-recommended transliteration systems. The system of romanization for non-Roman script of different countries recommended by UNGEGN is applied by maps and other editors. For some non-Roman scripts geographical names are compiled from digital or published sources of other countries.

### **Country Names**

The list of country names and territories made for the use in state administration was prepared according to ISO 3166 in 1994. It contains short and long form names in Croatian and in English. The names on that list in some cases differ from Croatian traditional names for countries and territories and are not obligatory for publishers of cartographic works, in the press and other media.

### **Exonyms**

The use of exonyms in Croatia is rather limited, especially in cartographic production where the usage of endonyms is preferred. In postal communication, in diplomatic and economic documents and on maps, all foreign geographical names are written as in the country to which they belong, and are pronounced as close as possible to the native manner. Exceptionally, on the maps names can be written as exonym (it is the best to put them in bracket), but original names should also be written.

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