

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Eighth Session of the
Group of Experts
on Geographical Names
New York, 26 February - 8 March 1979

STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN GREECE:

Work carried out since the Seventh Session of the Group of Experts
on Geographical Names held in Athens on 16 August and 8 September 1977

PAPER PRESENTED BY GREECE

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GREEK GOVERNMENT REPORT

1. Since the seventh session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names further work has been carried out in Greece in the fields of collection, office treatment and standardization of geographical names. The main agencies involved were : The Center for the Historical Dictionary of the Greek Language and the Mediaeval Hellenic Research Center, both of the Academy of Athens; the Departments of Linguistics of the Universities of Athens, Thessaloniki and Ioannina; the Army Geographical Service; the Hydrographic Service; the Committee of Toponyms in the Ministry of Interior, and the National Statistical Service.

In a period of one and a half year ~~more~~ since the seventh session more than 40,000 new geographical names have been collected by the various institutes and specialized agencies.

2. All geographical names thus collected are transferred on individual cards, their proper spelling is verified by trained linguists and finally arranged in alphabetical order, ready to be used in the gazetteers. Final decisions on the proper orthography of the geographical names are reached at the level of the Committee on Toponyms of the Ministry of Interior.

3. In the sphere of specialized publications the following activities should be noted:

3.1. The Center for the Historical Dictionary of the Greek Language, Academy of Athens, continued the preparation of the Etymological Dictionary of toponyms and proper Greek names. Its director Dr. D.Vayacacos has prepared the Bibliography on Greek toponyms and proper Greek names for the years 1977-78 which will be published in the Onoma.

3.2. The Department of Linguistics, University of Athens, continued the preparation of the Bibliographical Bulletin of the Greek Language. The third volume of this bulletin covering the period 1975-76 has already been published, while the fourth volume corresponding to the years 1977-78 is under preparation. This journal contains abstracts of all publications referring to Greek geographical names ancient, mediaeval and modern.

3.3. The Army Geographical Service completed the publication of the two-volume gazetteers of Greek geographical names contained in the map of Greece of 1:50,000 scale.