

1 July 2002

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**Eighth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports by divisions of the Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names on the situation in their  
divisions and on the progress made in the standardization  
of geographical names since the Seventh Conference**

**Reports of the divisions: Finland**

**Submitted by Finland\*\***

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\* E/CONF.94/1.

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Helsinki.

Since the seventh conference on the standardisation of geographical names in 1998, Finland has continued its work on place names standardisation. The following report mainly reflects the progress made since the conference.

### **National standardisation and official planning of place names**

The National Land Survey of Finland and the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland are jointly responsible for the standardisation of cartographic names.

Since 1998, the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland has revised the Finnish, Swedish and Saami language place names in a total of 767 basic maps on the scale of 1 : 20,000, drafted by the National Land Survey.

The report on place names, drafted at the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland in 1997, has not been discussed further. The law on place names has to do with the new language law that is currently being prepared.

### **Field collection of place names and training courses**

The place names collection project is nearly complete. The Finnish place name collections have been supplemented with 23,000 names.

Since 1996, the Research Institute has arranged onomastic training courses for employees of the National Land Survey. Since 1998, the Research Institute has arranged two annual seminars for all Finnish onomastic researchers and name planners.

### **Toponymic databases**

The Geographic Names Register of the National Land Survey of Finland includes over 800,000 toponyms presented on the basic map on the scale of 1:20,000. The place names database Nordic Place Names, a joint project of the Nordic countries, is available at <http://nondb.nls.fi>.

### **Names in multilingual areas**

The name planners of Finnish, Swedish and Saami of the Research Institute for the Languages of Finland published guidelines for the planning of names in bilingual Finnish Swedish and Finnish Saami areas in 2001. The guidelines are based on the equality of the languages, and their core objective is that the old place names should be preserved in their original linguistic form even in official names in the other language of the area.

### **Onomastic research and education**

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland has also launched two research projects related to name planning in cooperation with the universities: one of them was the Change in place names project that ended in 2000 and the other one is Urban place names, introduced in 2001.

In 2001, the Research Institute and the University of Helsinki founded a joint professorship in onomastics.

### Meetings and conferences

The Research Institute for the Languages of Finland, together with the University of Helsinki, arranged the 12th Nordic congress of onomastics in Helsinki in June 1998. All Nordic countries took part in the congress, and the topic was "Names in a Changing World".

The theme of the European Heritage Days in Finland in 1999 was "Place Names – The Memory of Places". Seminars were arranged for name experts and name-related events were offered to the general public.

### Publications

Ainiala, Terhi (2000). Paikannimistön muuttuminen. Summary: Change in place names. Virittäjien Kotikielen Seuran aikakauslehti 3/2000. Helsinki. p. 355–372.

Ainiala, Terhi (2000). Orttnamn i förändring. Summary: The changing of place names. Namn och Bygd. Tidskrift för nordisk orttnamnsforskning. Uppsala: Kungl. Gustav Adolfs Akademien. p. 25–40.

Orttnamnen – minnen i miljön : dagarna för Europas byggnadsarv 11. 12.9.1999. [Place names – memory of places: European Heritage Days 11–12 September 1999]. Helsinki: Ministry of the Environment. 36 p.

Paikkala, Sirkka 2000: Place names in Finland as Cultural Heritage. Onoma Vol. 35. Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. Leuven. p. 145–164.

Paikkala, Sirkka, ed. (1999). Kaavanimien hankastakaste : nimistön suunnittelu kunnissa 1999 [Emergency baptism of place names: name planning in municipalities 1999]. Helsinki: Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland. 103 p.

Paikkala, Sirkka & Ritva Liisa Pitkämänen & Peter Slotte (ed.) 1999. Yhteinen nimiympäristö : nimistön suunnittelun opas [Our common names environment: guidelines for name planning]. Helsinki: Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Research Institute for the Languages of Finland. 225 p.

Heprealaisen kirjaimiston translitteraatio [Transliteration of Hebrew characters]. Suomen Standardisoimisliitto SFS [Finnish Standards Association SFS]. SFS 5824. Ratified 30 March 1998, 7 pp.

Kyriillisten kirjainten translitterointi. Slaavilaiset kielet [Transliteration of Cyrillic characters. Slavic languages]. Suomen Standardisoimisliitto SFS [Finnish Standards Association SFS]. SFS 4900. Ratified 17 August 1998, 7 pp.

Maiden ja niiden osajaluiden nimien tunnuksat. Osa 1: Maiden nimien tunnuksat [Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions. Part 1: Country codes]. Suomen Standardisoimisliitto SFS [Finnish Standards Association SFS]. SFS EN ISO 3166-1. Ratified 20 April 1998, 18 pp.