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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 9 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**National standardization: toponymic guidelines for map
editors and other editors**

**Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors,
Italy (revision)**

Submitted by Italy**

* E/CONF.94/1.

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INTRODUCTION

The given attention to the correct toponymic transcription and pronunciation for cartographic purposes dates back to the end of the XIX century, while the creation of a national commission for the toponymic revision of the Italy's Map, representing the main Italian scientific, technical and cultural institutions, dates from March 5th 1911.

The work of the said commission, chaired by the IGM Director, gave out the first definition of precise rules for the normalization concerning the collection, transcription and pronunciation of the place names in Italy, useful for the realization of the first official map of Italy.

After almost a century, during which a vast scientific production has been published on this issue, the first edition of the "*Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Others Editors of Italy*" has been realized by Mr. Sandro Toniolo and presented at the 5th UNGEGN Conference, which took place in Montreal during 1987 (E/CONF. 79/L30).

Later this paper has been updated and discussed within the 7th UNGEGN Conference, held in NY during 1998 (E/CONF. 91/CRP20).

Recently has been started a new general work of revision and update of this document, whose conclusion should take place within the next year and so give way to the realization of a new broadened and updated edition, to be presented on the occasion of the next UNGEGN Conference.

The work till now done, besides the corrections, improvements and integration, that are not listed here for reasons of synthesis, has indicated the necessity to give a better reference frame as for the legal aspects, due to the existence of too many laws on the subject (about 20 including laws and presidential decrees), which discipline the Italian complex matter of toponyms.

The above quoted regulations concern mostly the paragraphs "*Minority languages and Names authorities and names standardization*" of the previous edition of the "*Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Others Editors of Italy*" and will be the main object of a deep revision of the said paper, which Italy wishes to re – publish in both web version and hard copy edition, following the indications by the Working Paper n. 6, of Twentieth Session UNGEGN, prepared by Helen Kerfoot (Canada) and Eeva Maria Narhi (Finland).

However it has been considered useful to submit to the attention of this Conference a first integration of the "*Toponymic Guidelines of Italy*", concerning, in particular, the paragraphs "*Minority languages*", "*Names authority and names standardization*" and "*Source material*".

MINORITY LANGUAGES

According to the law N. 482, of December 15th 1999, "*Norme in materia di tutela delle minoranze linguistiche storiche*", and of the Presidential Decree N. 345 of May 2nd 2001, "*Regolamento di attuazione*

della legge n. 482, del 15 dicembre 1999 recante norme di tutela delle minoranze linguistiche storiche, has been enacted and controlled the guardianship of the language and the culture of the "Albanian, Catalans, Germanic, Greek, Slovenian and Croatians and of those speaking French, French-Provencal, Friulan, Ladin, Occitan and Sardinian" populations.

The dispositions of guardianship are applied in the territorial and sub-municipal ambits on the base of special delimitation, approved by the Provincial Council and felt the interested communes.

In the communes where the delimitation of the areas has been approved to be submitted to application of the dispositions of guardianship, "in addition to the official toponyms, the town Council can deliberate the adoption of toponyms conforming to the traditions and to the local uses".

NAMES AUTHORITY AND NAMES STANDARDISATION

In general it doesn't exist in Italy some law that controls in organic way the toponymy in his complex, but they are still in vigor the following norms:

- for how much it concerns in general to the administrative so-called names, the Constitution of the Italian Republic, to the art. 133, establishes that: "The Region felt the interested populations, is able with his laws to found in his own territory new communes and to modify their areas and denominations"; such disposition is confirmed by the Presidential Decree N. 1, of January 14th 1972 *Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di circoscrizioni comunali e di polizia locale urbana e rurale e del relativo personale*, that to the art. 1 establishes that "they are transferred to the regions with ordinary statute overalls the functions practiced by the central and peripheral organs of the state in subject of town areas. Particularly the functions relating to: [...] the denomination of communes, of hamlets and of villages; [...]";
- more particularly, especially for the territories of the regions with special statute, followings rules are valid:

for the region Valle d'Aosta, the constitutional law n. 4 of February 26th 1948, *Statuto speciale per la Valle d'Aosta*, to the Title II, art. 2, establishes that the same region has legislative power for the toponymy, using an expression of general character, that doesn't seem to limit its competencies only to the denominations of the communes, while to the Title VIII, art. 42, integrally take back the constitutional law of art. 133, for what it pertains to the denomination of the communes; the general competencies in toponymy is confirmed then by the law n. 196, of May 16th 1978, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Valle d'Aosta*;

for the region Trentino-Alto Adige, the constitutional law n. 5 of February 26th 1948, *Statuto speciale per il Trentino-Alto Adige*, and the following Presidential Decree n. 670 of August 31st 1972, *Approvazione del testo unico delle leggi costituzionali concernenti lo statuto speciale per il Trentino-Alto Adige*, to the Title I, item II, art. 7, c. 1, take back the Constitution of art. 133, for what it pertains

to the denomination of the communes; while to the following item III, art. 8, establish that the provinces of Trento and Bolzano have the power to emanate legislative norms regarding the toponymy, “without prejudice to the disposition regarding the obligation of the bilingualism in the territory of province of Bolzano”; besides, the Title XI, art. 101, provides that “in the province of Bolzano the public administrations has to use, in the respects of the citizen of German language, also the German toponymy, if the provincial law has verified the existence of it and approved the diction”; and still to the same Title XI, art. 102, provides that “the Ladin population and those Mochen and Cimbri of the communes of Fierozzo, Frassilongo, Palù del Fersina and Luserna have the right [...] to the respect of the toponymy”; finally, according to Presidential Decree n. 574 of June 30th 1951, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Regione Trentino-Alto Adige*, to the Title XIV, art. 73, “in the Ladines valleys [...], it can be used the Ladin in the local toponymy, in addition to the Italian language and the German language ”;

for the region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, the constitutional law n. 1 of January 31st 1963, *Statuto speciale della Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, to the Title II, item I, art. 5, establish the legislative power of the same region to the toponymy; besides, for the modification of the denomination of the communes, the Presidential Decree n. 834 of August 9th 1966, *Norme di attuazione dello statuto speciale della Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, provides the realization of special referenda; regarding to the Slovenian linguistic minority, the law n. 38 of February 23th 2001, *Norme a tutela della minoranza linguistica slovena della regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia*, to the art. 10, provides that “with Decree of the President of Regional Junta, on the base of the proposal of the Committee [...], they are individuated, on the base of the list of which to the article 4, the communes, the hamlet, the places and the corporate [...] in which the use of the Slovenian language is provided in addition to the Italian language [...] for the indications of place-names” (for hamlet, the same law, to the art. 29, precise that we have to intend him as “an autonomous center endowed with an own individuality”);

for region Sicily, the constitutional law n. 2 of February 26th 1948, *Conversione in legge costituzionale dello Statuto della Regione siciliana, approvato con decreto legislativo 15 maggio 1945, n. 455*, doesn't make explicit references to the toponymy, but to the Title II, Section I, art. 15, attributes the competence to the region in the subjects of “administrative district, organization and control of local government units”;

for the region Sardinia, the constitutional law n. 3 of February 26th 1948, to the Title V, Art. 45, punctually provides “the region, consulted the interested populations, is able with law to found in own territory new communes and to modify their districts and denominations”;

- for the revision of the place-names brought on official map of the state, to the senses of the law June 8th 1949, n. 605, *Composizione della Commissione permanente incaricata di dirigere il lavoro di*

revisione toponomastica della Carta d'Italia, after the constitution of the Italian Republic, the assignment was entrusted to a committee, whose composition resulted the following:

- President: the commander of the Italian Military Geographic Institute;
- Members: the president of the Italian National Committee for the Geography of the National Council of the searches or his delegate, the commander of the Italian Hydrographic Institute of Navy or his delegate, the president of the Italian Touring Club or his delegate, the president of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Alpine Club or his delegate, the president of the Italian Geographic Society or his delegate, a representative of Presidency of the Council of the Ministers, a representative of the Department of the Interior; and, for the part regarding their region or their province: the president of the provincial Junta of Bolzano or his delegate, the president of the Provincial Junta of Trento or his delegate, the head of the Provincial administration of Gorizia or his delegate, the head of the provincial administration of Udine or his delegate, the president of the Regional Junta of Valle d'Aosta or his delegate, a representative of the regional Deputation of history; the directors of the institutes of Geography of the universities or them delegates, the directors of the regional centers of study or them delegates;
- Secretary: an employee or an official of the Italian Military Geographic Institute;
- Regarding to the areas of national territory in which the disposition of guardianship of the historical linguistic minorities are applied, to the sense of the law n.482 of December 15th 1999 and of the Presidential Decree n. 345 of May 2nd 2001, to the Town Councils is attributed the faculty to deliberate the adoption of place-names conforming to the traditions and to the local uses, in addition to the official toponyms.

SOURCE MATERIAL

In addition to what has been reported in this paragraph of the previous edition of *Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Others Editors of Italy*, the main characteristics of toponymic database, named "DBTopo" are pointed out. The DBTopo contains all the toponyms existing in the official maps of Italy, called "*Carta topografica d'Italia alla scala 1:25000*" (last edition of old series). The Italian Military Geographic Institute has inserted it in its catalogue.

The main characteristics of this database can be so summarized:

- toponymic georeferentiation is expressed by coordinates in meters, Gauss-Boaga projection, using the national datum "Roma 40" and, only for the application point of the toponym, the "European Datum 1950";
- compilation source of the database is obtained from IGM 25Ks "Tavolette";
- DBF (DBIII) is the format of this DB;
- planimetric accuracy of every single toponym is of about 1 mm graphic (25 m);
- a post thematic accuracy check has outlined an error presence of about 3% out of the total records;

- the peculiarity of this DB consists in its historical toponyms, being its first compilation source formed of maps already out of production, realized more or less during the years 1940 / 1990;
- total dimensions of this DB correspond to about 850.000 records.

This DB contains information concerning three categories of toponyms:

- toponyms referred to topographic elements represented on the map by punctual elements, like isolated houses, mines, grottoes, wells, whose position is expressed with reference to the center of the graphic element to which they are related;
- toponyms referred to topographic elements of linear type, like rivers, roads, whose position is expressed with reference to its point nearest to the center of development of the toponym, being careful as for the repetition of the same toponym every time it appears on the map, with the sole variation of its position; roads, whose position is expressed with reference to the point of this topographic element closer to the toponym center of development, being careful as for the repetition of the same toponym every time it appears on the map, with the sole variation of its position;
- toponyms referred to topographic elements of spatial type, like inhabited centers, lakes, woods, whose position is expressed with reference to the barycenter area to which everyone of them refers, being careful as to express, in case this barycentre is not included in the considered area, the toponym position by a point always belonging to the same particular and as much as possible nearest to the barycentre of the area;
- toponyms referred to topographic elements of extended spatial type, like geographic regions, mountain chains, plains, beaches, whose position is expressed with reference to the barycentre of the rectangle of minor obstruction in whose interior the toponym stands.

Every record forming the database is structured by alphanumerical data containing the following information:

- TOPO: complete form of its name, according to its transcription given on the map;
- SCNO: eventual second name;
- FACC: code FACC (Feature and Attribute Coding Catalogue) of DIGEST (Digital Geographic Exchange Standard), which identifies it, whose complete list is reported in a proper file, MDB format (Access 7.0) and DBF format (DBIII);
- ATTR: attributes, maximum number of 4;
- TAVO: acronym of seven alphanumerical features, identifier of the cartographic element where the toponym is included, where the first three numbers identify the Italy Map sheet at scale 1:100K (from 001 to 277), the fourth number identify the grid at scale 1:50K (from 1 to 4), the fifth number identify the orientation of the "tavoleta" (from 1 to 4), the sixth element is a feature that can take the form of S or W, in order to indicate that is respectively a cartographic element of "bis" type of a normal element,

and the seventh element is also a feature which can appear with the form of a W or E, for indicating the zone, respectively, West or East;

- EDIZ: edition of the same cartographic element;
 - NSER: series number of the same map;
 - DATA: year in which the survey has been carried out;
 - ESTP: East coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, given in the Gauss-Boaga national system, referred to punctual objects;
 - NORP: North coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, given in the Gauss-Boaga national system, referred to punctual objects;
 - ESTL: East coordinate lower left, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
 - NORL: North coordinate lower left, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
 - ESTR: East coordinate upper right, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
 - NORR: North coordinate upper right, in meters, of the rectangle of minor obstruction where the particular to which the toponym is referred is contained, in the Gauss-Boaga national system;
 - EUTM: East coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, in the ED 50 system, referred to punctual objects;
 - NUTM: North coordinate, in meters, of the toponym, in the ED 50 system, referred to punctual objects.
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