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Standardization of Geographical Names
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National standardization: office treatment of names

Problems encountered in the standardization of
names of waters

Submitted by Poland**

Summary

This paper is devoted to methodological issues encountered in the
standardization of names of waters: rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, artificial lakes, etc.
It contains a short discussion of the following:

• The definition of standardization and the standardization of geographical
names according to United Nations recommendations

• The state of work on the standardization of Polish geographical names, in
particular the names of physiographic features

• The names authorities in Poland

• The principle that only one standardized name is assigned to one feature.

The principal groups of issues encountered in standardization work on names
of waters are enumerated. These are:

• Issues connected with the natural character of water features (e.g. many source
streams) and with human activity (e.g. canals changing a river’s natural flow)

• Issues of terminology

• Linguistic issues (e.g. eliminating variant names and the place of dialectic
variants and names in minority languages).

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** Prepared by Ewa Wolnicz-Pawlowska, Vice-Chairman, Commission for Standardization of
Geographical Names Outside Poland, affiliated with the Surveyor-General of Poland, Warsaw.