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Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography - Greece

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## TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR CARTOGRAPHY

### GREECE

#### I. LANGUAGE

##### 1. Greek alphabet

Greek is the national language of Greece.

Its non-Roman alphabet consists of 24 letters as follows :

A α	H η	N ν	T τ
B β	Θ θ	ξ ξ	Υ υ
Γ γ	Ι ι	Ο ο	Φ φ
Δ δ	Κ κ	Π π	Χ χ
Ε ε	Λ λ	Ρ ρ	Ψ ψ
Ζ ζ	Μ μ	Σ σ(ς)	Ω ω

##### 2. Spelling rules for Greek geographical names

According to the rules officially used by the Hellenic Military Geographical Service and the Hellenic Hydrographic Service, all words forming part of geographical names are capitalized. Examples : Lamia, Aigalon Pelagos, Lefka Ori, Saronikos Kolpos.

##### 3. Types of Greek toponyms

There are two types of toponyms :

Urban toponyms denoting inhabited places, and country or microtoponyms specifying various geographical features.

a. As to their origin Greek toponyms are classified in

five groups :

- (1) Prehellenic with endings mainly in -ssos, -ttos, -nthos, -ndos (Parnassos, Ymittos, Olynthos, Pindos).
- (2) Ancient-Greek (Apollonia, Parthenon, Thermopylai, Tripolis etc)
- (3) Byzantine-Greek (tou Kalouka, tou Foka, Vigla etc)
- (4) Modern-Greek
- (5) Foreign

b. As to their morphology they are classified as follows :  
(1) Simple, i.e. nouns or adjectives (Vrachos=Rock, to Vathy=the Deep one, to Platy=the Wide one).

(2) Compound i.e. a combination of two nouns (Siafonisos=Island of the deer); of an adjective and a noun (Aspropyrgos=White Tower); of a numerical and a noun (Eptalofos=Seven Hills); of an adverb and a noun (Exochori=External village).

(3) Two-word toponyms i.e. names formed of two words in succession; of an adjective and a noun (Nea Liosia=New Liosia); of an adverb and a noun (Ano Chora=Up Country); of a numerical and noun (Dyo Choria=Two Villages).

c. As to their formation, they are usually derived from their location (Pera Vouno=Far away Mountain), form of terrain (Myti=Nose), quality of terrain (Petrovouni=Rocky Mountain), colour of terrain (Mavropotamos=Black River), type of water or lack of it (Xerochori=Dry Village), flora (Aetos=Forest), animals (Alepochori=Fox Village), birds (Aetos=Forest), population transfers (Nea Smyrni=New Smyrna), new settlements by groups of people from other areas (Kritika=that of the Cretans), names of saints or hagionyms (Agios Nikolaos=St. Nicholas), names of owners of a specific place (Makryanni=belonging to Makryanni), myths and tales (Neravidovouni=Mountain of the fairies), institutions (Pyrgos=Tower), and others.

d. As to their grammar form they may be distinguished by the nominative case in the singular or plural forms, by the genitive case or by the endings. The most frequent endings are : -ada (Paraklada), -ado (Machairado), -aika (Vrahnaika), -ata (Metaxata), -ea (Milea), -iana (Cavalliana), -ianika (Logothetianika), -latika (Mykoniatika), -lotika (Anafiotika), and many others.

##### II. Names authorities and names standardization

The names of inhabited places of all categories are standardized by the Committee of Toponyms, Ministry of Interior and are published by the National Statistical Service of Greece 14-16 Eykouryou str., Athens (112)

The geographical names other than inhabited place names, i.e. the names of mountains, hills, valleys, rivers, lakes, woods etc., are also standardized by the Committee of Toponyms, Ministry of Interior and published in maps by the Hellenic Military Geographical Service Pedion Areas, Athens.

or the : Hellenic Hydrographic Service Athens (DST 902).

III. SOURCE MATERIAL

1. Maps and Nautical charts
  - 1.1 Maps of the Hellenic Military Geographical Service
    - 1.1.1 Maps at scales 1:50.000, 1:100.000, 1:250.000, 1:500.000 and 1:1000.000 covering all the country.
    - 1.1.2 Maps at scale 1:10.000 of the main cities of Greece
    - 1.1.3 Diagrams at scale 1:5.000 (sixty per cent coverage of the country).
  - 1.2 Nautical charts of the Hellenic Hydrographic Service
 

Nautical charts and plans of various scales between 1:1000.000 and 1:2.000 have been published by the Hellenic Hydrographic Service.
  - 1.3 Maps of the National Statistical Service of Greece
 

Maps of the 1:200.000 scale have been published in 1971 for each prefecture of Greece by the National Statistical Service. (54 sheets)
- 2 Gazetteers
  - 2.1 Two volume gazetteer containing all the geographical names of the 1:50.000 scale map has been published by the Hellenic Military Geographical Service.
  - 2.2 The Hellenic Hydrographic Service has published gazetteers of the coastal topographical features of Greece in the four volumes of the "Sailing Directions for the Greek Coasts."
 

The same Service, in the frame-work of the construction of the bathymetric charts of the 1:250.000 scale for the Mediterranean and Black Seas under the auspices of UNESCO, has compiled a gazetteer of maritime and undersea feature names.
  - 2.3 The National Statistical Service of Greece has published in 1971 the "Gazetteer of Municipalities, Communities and Localities of Greece".

IV. Glossary and Abbreviations in official maps of Greece

Greek name	Romanized	Gr. Abbr.	Roman Abbr.	English equivalent
*Αγίος	Agios	*Αγ	Ag	Saint
*Αεροδρόμιον	Aerodromion	*Αερ	Aer	Airfield
*Ακρά	Akra	*Ακ	Ak	Point, Cape
*Ακροτήριον	Akrotirion	*Ακρ	Akr	Cape
*Αμμος	Ammos	*Α	A	Sand
*Αρχαία	Archala	*Αρχ	Arch	Ancient
Βράχος	Vrachos	Β	V	Rock
Βρύση	Vrissi	Βρ	Vr	Fountain
Γέφυρα	Gefyra	Γέφ	Gef	Bridge
*Επαρχία	Eparchia	*Επ	Ep	2nd Class Adm. Division
*Ερείκη	Eripin	*Ερ	Er	Ruins
*Ιλός	Ilyis	*Ι	I	Mud
*Ιχθυοτροφεόν	Ichthyotrofon	*Ιχθ	Ichth	Pond
Καλύβα	Kalyval	Καβ	Klv	Huts
Κόλπος	Kolpos	Κ	K	Gulf
Κοράλια	Korallia	Κο	Ko	Coral
Κορυφή	Koryfi	Κορ	Kor	Peak
Λίθος	Lithol	Λ	L	Stones
Λίμνη	Limni	Λ	L	Lake
Μεγάλος	Megalos	Μεγ	Meg	Great
Μεταλλεύον	Metallion	Μτλ	Mtl	Mine
Μνημείον	Mnimion	Μν	Mn	Monument
Μονή	Moni	Μ	M	Monastery
Μύλος	Mulos	Μλ	Ml	Mill
Νήσος	Nisos	Ν	N	Island
Νομός	Nomos	Ν	N	1st Class Adm. Division
*Όριος	Ormos	*Όρι	Orm	Bay
*Όρος	Oros	*Όρ	Or	Mountain
Παλιός	Palaios	Παλ	Pal	Old
Πέλαγος	Pelagos	Πέλ	Pel	Sea
Πηγάδι	Pigadi	Πηδ	Pgd	Well
Ποταμός	Potamos	Π	P	River
Προφήτης	Profitis	Προφ	Prf	Prophet
Ρέμα	Rema	Ρ	R	Stream

<u>Greek name</u>	<u>Romanized</u>	<u>Gr. Abbr.</u>	<u>Roman Abbr.</u>	<u>English Equivalent</u>
Σιδηρ. Σταθμός	Sidir. Stathmos	Σ.Σ.	S.S.	Railroad Station
Σιδηρ. Στασις	Sidir. Stasis	Σ.Στ.	S.St	Railroad Halt
Σπήλαιον	Spilaion	Σπ	Sp	Cave
Συνοικισμός	Synokismos	Συν	Syn	Settlement
Φύκη	Fyki	Φ	F	Seaweed
Χείμαρρος	Chimaros	Χμ	Chm	Stream