



## **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General

27 June 2007

Original: English

---

**Ninth United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**  
New York, 21 - 30 August 2007  
Item 12 (f) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Toponymic data files: National gazetteers**

**Work on Gazetteers, Populated Places Databases, Historical Names  
and Map Series Conducted in Turkey (2002-2007)**

Submitted by Turkey\*\*

---

\* E/CONF.98/1

\*\* Prepared by the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN\_T), Turkey.

## **Summary**

The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN-T) established several working groups to generate and update gazetteers and toponymic data files of Turkey.

These working groups are namely on:

- “Determining Deficiencies in use of Populated Places Names and Standardization of anomalies about use of Geographical Names”,
- “Medium Scale Gazetteer”,
- “World Gazetteer”,
- “Geographical Names of Surroundings of Turkey”.

The geographical names are depicted on topographic and nautical maps produced by the General Command of Mapping of the Ministry of National Defence and Hydrography and Oceanography of the Turkish Naval Forces.

There is ongoing work on the following:

- Inhabited places and administrative units
- Concise Gazetteer of Turkey at scale 1:1 million
- Mid-scale Gazetteer of Turkey at scale 1:250 000
- Enhancement of Positional Accuracy of Populated Places Data Base of Turkey (PPDB)
- Concise Gazetteer of the World at scale 1:30 M
- Contributing EuroGeoNames Project as a member of Reference Group
- Topographic and nautical map series

## **1. Gazetteer and Geographical Names Database**

The Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey (BEGeoN-T) established several working groups to create and update gazetteers and toponymic data files of Turkey. These working groups are namely on ‘Determining Deficiencies in use of Populated Places Names and Standardization of anomalies about use of Geographical Names’, ‘Medium Scale Gazetteer’, ‘World Gazetteer’, and ‘Geographical Names of Surroundings of Turkey’.

### **1.1 Inhabited places and administrative units:**

The document “Administrative Units in Turkey” (Türkiye Mülki Idare Bölümleri) published several times by the General Directorate for Provincial Management (first 1978, last 2003) contains standardized official names of 36,546 inhabited places by administrative units (1 August 1977 status). The Ministry of Interior updated the registry of all residential areas in Turkey in 2001 and made it public in print and electronically. The residential entities (populated places) in hierarchical order from the upper level to the lower are as follows: province, district, sub-district, village and suburb.

## **1.2 Concise Gazetteer of Turkey at scale 1:1 million**

Some deficiencies exist with regard to standardized geographical place names in Turkey and its surroundings on atlases and maps produced by governmental agencies and the private sector, as well as geographical documents and maps used by educational institutions. In 2005, a concise gazetteer was produced comprising around 3500 names of geographical features extracted from the physical map of Turkey produced by the General Command of Mapping at scale 1:1 million. This gazetteer may resolve existing problems in meeting the requirements at small scale mapping, place definition, education etc.

## **1.3 Mid-scale Gazetteer of Turkey at scale 1:250 000**

The first version of Mid-scale Gazetteer at scale 1:250.000 (Gazetteer\_250\_v1) containing features rendered on Joint Operations Graphic (JOG) maps at scale 1:250.000 was completed by the General Command of Mapping during the period 1997–1998. It consists of almost 45.000 names in NATO STANAG-2213 standards. It comprises some 58 geographical features such as populated places, places of cultural importance, transportation, lakes, streams, mountains, physiography, vegetation, and regions of major importance.

Integrating Populated Places Database of Turkey (PPDB\_Y) and Gazetteer\_250\_v1, the second version (Gazetteer\_250\_v2) is created by means of extracting natural features and populated places from Gazetteer\_250\_v1 and PPDB respectively in July 2006. This gazetteer comprises 52.500 geographical names.

The Gazetteer is being continuously updated by using produced JOGs which covers more than two thirds of Turkey. The attributes captured for each feature are as follows; name, feature type, easting, northing, longitude, latitude, JOG sheet and date of publication. The feature type is in compliance with NATO geo-name databases.

## **1.4 Enhancement of Positional Accuracy of Populated Places Data Base of Turkey (PPDB)**

The residential entities (populated places) in hierarchical order from the upper level to the lower are province, district, sub-district and village. The information collected for a populated place contains a unique ID number, nationally authorized name of the place, position (title of the 1:25.000 map sheet and grid numbers), geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude), population, old names of the place and elevation of the center of the village/town. Positional accuracy of locations (latitude and longitude) of populated places is improved from  $\pm 1000$  to  $\pm 100$  m. by using raster images of topographic maps at scale 1:50 000.

The database is used for topographic and mid-scale map production by the General Command of Mapping. The database is open to users on intranet with monthly updates since January 2004. Moreover, several universities, research institutions, military organizations, private and public organizations requests for different purposes. PPDB\_T is updated continuously using both the toponymy collected during field campaigns and the reports by the Ministry of Interior on renaming or the establishment of a populated place.

This work was accomplished for the populated places ranging from province to village in April 2006.

The second version of the gazetteer at scale 1:250.000 (Gazetteer\_250\_v2) was created by using PPDB\_T and first version. Around 50.000 features of small populated places bound to villages such as hamlets or permanent or temporary small settlements are not considered within the context of this work. A new project will be initiated to amend these features by means of using organizational data sources, inter-governmental and provincial information sources and field works.

### **1.5 Concise Gazetteer of the World at scale 1:30 M**

A World Political Map at scale 1:30 M was produced by the General Command of Mapping of the Ministry of Defense in May 2007. This map contains names of geographical features such as main rivers and lakes, major regions, coastal features, major cities, water bodies like the seas and oceans. Geo-names of this data set are being extracted and structured in the form of a gazetteer. Following the publishing of the World Physical Map, names of natural and physiographical features will be added to the gazetteer in the second half of 2007. With more than 7500 geographical names, this gazetteer will meet the needs of Turkish map users, map and other editors for standardized geographic names of the world.

### **1.6 Studies to Preserve Cultural Heritage and Historical Names**

Studies to preserve the cultural heritage names of historical places are carried away by different bodies, in particular by the Turkish History Society. Research is underway in order to determine the structure of settled and non-settled population between the 15th and 17th centuries in Turkey whereby extensive information about historical names of settlements and other geographical names is stored in a database. The database may help define the relationship between the old and contemporary societies, as well as historical and actual geographical names. 'Atlas of the Turkic World' from beginning to present and publications on historical geography are other studies in the frame of preserving cultural heritage names of historical places.

## **2. International Cooperation: Turkey is a Reference Group member of EuroGeoNames Project**

A new project named EuroGeoNames has been designed and proposed to Eurogeographics by German-Dutch cooperation. This project addresses critical issues for the implementation of an operational European Spatial Data Infrastructure at the European level. EuroGeoNames project is in line with the goals and aspirations of INSPIRE and resolutions of UNGEGN.

Turkey participates in and contributes to the project as a Reference Group member. Turkey is planning to make its (official) national geographical names database deposited in the General Command of Mapping accessible, free of charge for non-commercial personal inquiries. Commercial use will be agreed upon an agreement to be reached between the Project Coordinator and participating institutions.

### **3. Map Series**

The official topographic and administrative maps of Turkey are produced by the General Command of Mapping, whereas production of official nautical charts is the responsibility of the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography (Seyir, Hidrografi ve Oşinografi Dairesi, Çubuklu, İstanbul).

Topographic map series are produced at scales 1:25.000, 1:50.000, 1:100.000, 1:250.000, 1:500.000 and 1:1.000.000. Scales of nautical charts vary from 1:1 000 000 to 1:12 500.

Political and physical maps of Turkey, the surrounding regions of Turkey and the World are produced at various scales such as 1/1.000.000, 1:3.500.000 and 1/30.000.000. These maps are used as a source for gazetteer production.