



UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER 33

March 2007

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No. 33, March 2007

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names Information Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) (ISSN 1014-798) is published by United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo>

Impressum

U N G E G N

I N F O R M A T I O N

B U L L E T I N

(FORMERLY NEWSLETTER)

The *Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* (formerly UNGEGN Newsletter) is issued approximately twice a year by the Secretariat of the Group. The Secretariat is established within the Statistics Division (UNSD), Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Secretariat of the United Nations. It publishes contributions/reports from the Experts of the Group, its Linguistic/Geographical Divisions and its Working Groups. Contributions for the Information Bulletin can only be considered when they are made

available in digital form. They should be sent to the following address:

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Preface

Message from the Chairperson

Dear Colleagues

1. Staff changes in the UNGEGN Secretariat

Since the last UNGEGN Information Bulletin, you will be aware that there have been some staff changes in the UNGEGN Secretariat.

I wish to pass on our very grateful thanks to Mr. Amor Laaribi for his ongoing interest and support of UNGEGN activities over the past six years. We shall most certainly miss his wealth of expertise and enthusiasm for our work—however, as he takes on new duties in the Statistics Division we are fortunate to have his continued input into substantive matters concerning geographical names in preparation for the Ninth UN Conference!

At this time we are very pleased to welcome Mr. Yacob Zewoldi, who has moved from his previous duties in the Statistics Division and will on a day-to-day basis be handling the matters of geographical names, the Conference and UNGEGN sessions. I am sure he will provide excellent leadership for us as the Conference approaches.

2. Ninth UN Conference (August 21-30) and 24th UNGEGN (August 20, 31)

As I write, the Ninth Conference is only five months away, and as we know this time will pass very quickly! Items concerning the organization of the Conference were recently discussed by the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation. Their recommendations are included in the section of this Bulletin which addresses information on the Confer-

ence, presented for the benefit of all delegates and experts.

We are working hard to implement as many of your suggestions as possible to help make the Conference a success and useful to all participants. I direct your attention to this section of the Bulletin, and request your help with suggestions for topics and speakers for pertinent mini-workshops during the mid-day break.

Please also watch the UNGEGN website (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo) for new information!

3. UNGEGN activities

I am very pleased to tell you that, among current activities are the following:

- various Divisions and Working Groups have met (or will meet before August)
- a training course was successfully completed in Mozambique in September and another will have been held in Tunisia by the time you receive the Bulletin
- the UNGEGN website is in the process of update; UN translations of the *Manual for the national standardization of geographical names* are nearing final stages; and the English text of the *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names* will be published very soon
- through the efforts of UNGEGN experts the UNGEGN brochure is translated into various languages, including German, Greek, Italian, Turkish and now Portuguese

- the Working Group on Exonyms has published a book on the subject (see the report of Peter Jordan)
- a small new brochure to encourage geographical names standardization for use in spatial referencing is being prepared through the Working Group on Publicity and Funding—hopefully it can be published in time for the Conference.

I wish you all the best and look forward to meeting you again in New York in August.

Helen Kerfoot
Chairperson, UNGEGN
Ottawa, Canada
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News from Headquarters

Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, August 21-30, 2007

Twenty-fourth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, New York, August 20 and 31, 2007

Information for participants

1. Note verbale

The note verbale, the provisional agenda (E/CONF.98/1), and information about documentation for the Conference (E/CONF.98/INF/1) were sent to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in January 2007. The provisional agenda and the information on documentation are on the UNGEGN website (unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo) and have also been e-mailed to UNGEGN experts.

2. Documents for the Conference

Documents for the Conference should be sent (digitally) to the UNGEGN Secretariat before June 15 (zewoldi@un.org and kacha@un.org). Each document should include a short summary and the appropriate item on the provisional agenda must be indicated.

Those documents received before the deadline will be processed by the United Nations and put on the UNGEGN website. Only a limited number of copies will be available at the Conference so delegates are encouraged to bring their own copies. (The UNGEGN Secretariat will work with late papers, but cannot promise the same consideration.)

3. Organization of work

The following proposals have been discussed by the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and reviewed by the UNGEGN Bureau:

- The following four Technical Committees are proposed for the Ninth Conference:
 - I. National standardization (agenda item 9)
 - II. Datafiles, websites (agenda items 12 and 13)
 - III. Exonyms, pronunciation, writing systems, country names (agenda items 10, 11, 16, 18)
 - IV. Terminology, features beyond a single sovereignty, education, cooperation (agenda items 14, 15, 17)
- Other agenda items would fall under the Plenary Sessions.
- The position of Editor-in-Chief should be retained to help coordinate the report of the Conference.

4. Oral presentation of Country reports (and also Division reports)

In a similar way to the organization of presentations at the last Conference and recent UNGEGN sessions, country reports will be scheduled for a particular time slot in the first

week. Presentation time will be limited to 5 minutes and presenters asked to highlight their work, particularly noting items not included under other agenda items. The reports received by the deadline will be the first to be considered for presentation. A similar process will be followed for Division reports—which should focus on collective activities of the Divisions. Only if time permits will some other presentations from agenda items 4 and 5 be considered by the Conference during the second week.

5. Special presentations

As in Vienna, we shall try to highlight some “special presentations” and as far as possible spread them over the days of the Conference. Your suggestions for such presentations are still invited. Other reports of general (rather than specific) significance can be highlighted within agenda items.

6. Workshops

To address the request for workshops, we are suggesting that 10-minute mini-presentations, followed by discussion could be held in the Conference Room from 14.00–14.30. We are open to your suggestions for topics and for

people interested in presenting. These presentations could be in any of the UN languages (but without any official UN interpretation); audio-visual equipment can be available, if requested.

7. Division meetings, etc.

Some time that is normally assigned to plenary sessions and technical committee work will be assigned to UNGEGN Division meetings, drafting resolutions, and (if necessary) completing the report.

8. Weekend activities

At the present time we can only suggest that individual participants contact travel agents for weekend activities. We have not been able to find any organizers for special toponymic events.

9. Further information

Details concerning photo identification passes, possible hotel accommodation and other organizational matters for the UNGEGN Session and the Conference will be posted on the UNGEGN website.

From the Divisions

Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Status Report on the Project EuroGeoNames—developing a European geographical names infrastructure and services

The EuroGeoNames (EGN) project started successfully on 1 September 2006 and will last for 30 months until 28 February 2009. EGN is co-financed by the European Commission (contributing 50% of the total costs) within the so-called *eContentplus Programme*. The project budget is 1,9M € and it is coordinated by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).

1. Participants and roles

The project Consortium brings together partners from the public (3 National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies—NMCAs from Austria, Slovenia and Germany), academia (Utrecht University, EDINA National Data Centre) and the private sectors (Geodan IT Holding, GeoTask/ProDV Group, ESRI Geoinformatik GmbH) as well as the association of European NMCAs, EuroGeographics, embracing the full 'value chain' from data providers > technology partners > value added service applications. These partners have well established working relationships based on other work, including the Survey/Inventory on European Geographical Names data (SI-EGN) that was completed in advance of the project proposal in 2005.

Fifteen countries, i.e. 15 National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies—NMCAs from Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey—form the *EGN Reference Group*. The NMCAs have all signed a 'Declaration of Participation', testifying to their cooperation in providing access to their geographical names

data sources, thus populating the EGN infrastructure.

Furthermore, the EGN project established a so-called *EGN Group of Interest*. This group will be comprised of the aforementioned stakeholders and provide a conduit by which their views can be incorporated into the evolution of the EGN infrastructure. Twenty-four GI stakeholders have indicated their willingness to be registered as a member in the *EGN Group of Interest* by signing a 'Letter of Support'.

2. Workplan

The establishment of the EGN infrastructure and associated services consists of four periods, the *initiation phase* (month 1 to 8), the *development phase* (month 9 to 17), the *implementation phase* (month 18 to 26) and the *completion phase* (month 27 to 30). Accordingly, this status report comprises the major part of the *initiation phase*.

2.1 Meetings and workshops

After the kick-off meeting, which was held in Luxembourg on 18 September 2006, two regular Consortium Meetings were conducted in Paris on 7 and 8 December 2006 and on 7 March 2007 in Madrid, in conjunction with the 3rd EGN Workshop (see below).

As for the broader stakeholders and/or for the EGN partners listed above, the following workshops were organized and conducted, characterized by the attached objectives:

1st Workshop of the EGN Consortium with the EGN Reference Group (23–24 October 2006, Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

- Clarifying the aims, expectations and deliverables of the EuroGeoNames project;
- Discussing the preliminary evaluation and assessment of geographical names data to be provided by the Reference Group;
- Identifying the key technical issues to be addressed;
- Reaching consensus on a preliminary common EGN data model against which the national data models have to be converted to by the Consortium.

Forty-four participants discussed intensively key technical issues as well as summary documents about the different data models and data contents at the NMCAs, which were prepared before and updated after the workshop. The outcome of the workshop led to preparing a table by Reference Group partner, quantifying the data to be aggregated during the project as well as the first approach of a EGN conceptual data model.

2nd Workshop on user/business requirements (15th January 2007, Utrecht, The Netherlands)

- Analyse the market in terms of potential applications and related business actors and stakeholders from both public and private sectors.
- Provide a detailed description of user and business requirements based on the outcome of the market analyses.

Amongst the 22 participants were representatives from the Tourist industry (hotel booking agency), Navigation system developers, cartographic editors, and national mapping agencies. After an introductory session in which representatives of NMCAs described the continuing input necessary in order to keep geographical

names files up to date, representatives of user groups described their requirements in a 'needs and wants' session started off by Geodan. Then GeoTask started a session on the data and functionality needed, and ESRI started the discussion in a session on commercial applications. Both Geodan, GeoTask and ESRI had done surveys in order to gather input for their sessions. A final session targeted the Information model.

3rd Workshop of the EGN Consortium with the EGN Reference Group jointly with the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the UNGEGN (6 March 2007, Madrid, Spain)

- Evaluation of the outcome of the workshop on user/business requirements—Utrecht, 15 January 2007;
- Discussion on a Draft EGN Conceptual Data model;
- Status of EGN web services architecture development (including data access security issues), Discussion;
- Identification of NMCAs for the first phase of EGN services implementation.

About 50 participants discussed intensively the technical implications caused by the proposed EGN architectural model as well as the first draft for a EGN conceptual data model. Both documents were prepared before the workshop as a rationale for the discussions. The outcome of the workshop will help to finalize the EGN conceptual data model and led to a general agreement with the proposed EGN architectural model. The members of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers contributed substantially to the workshop as well as EuroGeoNames constitutes a best-practice-project by demonstrating in which way multilingual geographical names related-issues can be dealt with in a globally and technically high-level environment.

2.2 Status of work

In addition to the tasks described in the contract with the European Commission, the need for a general data access security concept (technical and access rights) was raised at the Kick-off Meeting in Luxembourg on 18 September 2006 and underlined at the first workshop of the EGN Consortium and the EGN Reference Group in October 2006. The EGN Consortium agreed that this task will be tackled in the course of the project.

The market potential for the EGN web service was estimated by conducting a cost/benefit analysis, which is now publicly available through the EGN website (www.eurogeo.names.com). A final report of user and business requirements will be based on the outcome of the market analyses and will follow at the end of the initiation phase (in May 2007).

All dissemination activities led to a dissemination plan covering the project lifetime. It will be regularly expanded and maintained as part

of the dissemination activity. The already existing EGN section in the EuroGeographics website was extended.

Additionally a PowerPoint presentation (start version) of the project that can be automatically run was created. To raise awareness a new EGN flyer/brochure was created, describing the project for general communication (more simple and for general purpose). The later one is publicly available through the EGN website (see above).

The interdependencies between EuroGeographics, the association of the European National mapping and Cadastral agencies, the INSPIRE initiative of the European Union and the UNGEGN were safeguarded through the involvement of these groups in document review processes or the invitation of members to specific meetings and workshops.

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Africa South Division

UNGEGN Training Course on Toponymy, Maputo, Mozambique 18–25 September 2006

The second UNGEGN Training Course on Geographical Names for the Africa South Division was held at the Offices of the Eduardo Mondlane University from 18–25 September 2006 in Maputo. The Course was organized in conjunction with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and by the Government of Mozambique through the Ministry of State Administration taking into account the revitalization and coordination of

geographical names activities in Africa, an issue of special concern, and one that the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa had requested the assistance of UNGEGN in addressing. The opening ceremony was officiated by Her Excellency the Vice-Minister of State Administration, Dr. Carmelita Namashulua.

1. Aims of the Course

To introduce participants to:

- the importance of standardized geographical names for various applications; concepts and understanding of the processes of standardization;
- the UNGEGN and UN Conferences on the standardization of geographical names and to resolutions pertaining to geographical names;
- means of and the importance of establishing names authorities;
- collecting, researching, treating, standardization and dissemination of geographical names;
- promote co-operation and future training opportunities between divisions of UNGEGN, in particular the member countries of the Africa South Division.

2. Attendance and lectures

The course was attended by 38 participants from Angola, Brazil, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, representing countries of the Africa South, Africa East, Africa Central and the Latin America Divisions, respectively.

3. The lecturers were:

- Ms Helen Kerfoot, Chairperson of the UNGEGN - **Canada**;
- Prof. Ferjan Ormeling, Couvornor of the Working Group on Training Course on Toponymy - **Netherlands**;
- Dr. Peter E. Raper, former Chairman of the UNGEGN - **South Africa**;
- Dr. Lucie Möller, UNGEGN expert - **South Africa**;
- Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, UNGEGN expert - **Germany**; and

- Mr. Luís Abrahamo- Chairman of the Africa South Division of the UNGEGN - **Mozambique**

4. Programme

The programme was divided into modules, covering:

- Introduction to standardization and UNGEGN; introduction to and standardization of geographical names, rational for names committees, role of the United Nations;
- Introduction to standardization, toponymic terminology, sources and field collection;
- Office treatment and dissemination of geographical names, recording and storage, data base management, digital production of names lists and gazetteers;
- National geographical names authorities, establishment of national authorities, functions and practical standardization;
- International issues: languages, scripts, transliteration and transcription; endonyms, exonyms, trans-boundary features, etc;
- Preparation workshop for fieldwork, collection procedures, planning, consideration, compiling lists for data capture, language issues and GPS use, introduction to cartographic applications, coordinate and reference systems;
- Practical fieldwork exercise in the area of the Manhiça District (78 km north of Maputo city) and Palmeira Locality at the same district; meeting with local authorities (governmental and traditional leaders);
- Multilingual situations (national consideration): multilingual areas, orthographic rules and international issues;
- Automation: geographical names system, demonstration and practical workshop in automation and populating databases

from lists of names, questionnaires, field work and verification processes and output.

- Technical visit to National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing (visit to Toponymy Data Base Section).

5. Course Facilities

The National Centre of Cartography and Remote Sensing provided the topographic maps at 1:50 000 scale and GPS's for fieldwork. For each participant the training course included ongoing network computer access. UN Resolutions arranged alphabetically by subject were prepared by Dr. Raper and Dr. Möller, and training manuals were provided by all lecturers

Arabic Division

Workshop on Standardization of Geographical Names Tunis, 2–6 April 2007

The African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) and Regional Center of Remote Sensing for North Africa (CRTEAN) are organizing with the cooperation of UNGEGN a workshop on Standardization of Geographical Names in Tunis 2–6 April 2007. Mrs. H. Kerfoot, Chair and Mr. B. Atoui, Vice Chair of UNGEGN will be in Tunis with a group of UN experts to give lectures on important topics related to Geographical Names that are planned to be covered in the workshop. All African Members States at AOCRS have been invited to participate in this workshop. Arab countries that are active in UNGEGN meetings have also been invited to this workshop.

and the UNGEGN secretariat. Power Point Presentations of all lectures on CD-ROM were provided to the trainees.

6. Graduation and Closing Ceremony

The graduation and closing ceremony was done by Dr. António V. Soares de Pombal, National Director of the Territorial Organization, on behalf of Her Excellency the Vice-Minister of State Administration, Dr. Carmelita Namashulua.

Luís Abrahamo

*Chair, Africa South Division
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Arabic Division of UNGEGN Meets in Tunis

A meeting of Arabic Division of UNGEGN will take place in Tunis on 7 April to discuss issues in preparation for the Ninth UN Conference to be held in August in New York. Dr. Anwar Siala Chair of UNGEGN Arabic Division has invited all members of the Division and it is expected to have a successful meeting.

Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI-V)

Upon the request of the Secretary General of AOCRS, United Nation Economic Commission for Africa has included an item about Africa and UNGEGN on the agenda of the forthcoming CODI-V meeting, 30 April to 4 May 2007.

Mohamed Anwar A. A. Siala

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From the Working Groups

Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Summary Report on Joint Meeting with Working Group on Publicity and Funding held in Honolulu, U.S.A., 22–24 January 2007

The Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had a joint meeting with the Working Group on Publicity and Funding at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, in January 2007. Participants were conveners of the Working Groups, Ki-Suk Lee and David Munro, UNGEGN Chair Helen Kerfoot, Vice Chair Brahim Atoui, Botolv Helleland, Rapporteur of the Working Group, and Sungjae Choo, Professor of Kyunghee University, Korea. Stefan Schweinfest and Amor Laaribi from the UN Statistics Division participated through a tele-conference for a part of the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a short introduction of the East-West Center by Dr. Choong Nam Kim, research fellow, and by a special presentation on Hawaiian place names by Ms. Kapa Oliveira, Professor at University of Hawaii.

The meeting was generally intended to review the current working conditions and procedures of UNGEGN and prepare for the coming 9th Conference and 24th Session in August 2007. First of all, the Working Group reviewed the results of the survey on UNGEGN evaluation conducted during the 23rd Session in Vienna and made some suggestions for the Ninth Conference in 2007. Country reports should meet the deadline for submission and be limited to 5 minutes presentation, providing a few important highlights. Oral presentations of division reports should focus on collective activities, not individual country activities. For details about organizational matters for the Ninth Conference see the note elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The technical committees for the past eight conferences were reviewed and the following committees were recommended for the Ninth Conference:

- I. National standardization (provisional agenda item 9)
- II. Toponymic data files, Toponymic websites (12, 13)
- III. Exonyms, Pronunciation, Writing systems, Country names (10, 11, 16, 18)
- IV. Terminology, Features beyond a single sovereignty, Toponymic education and international cooperation (14, 15, 17)

There were also discussions on the implementation of resolutions and future of current Working Groups. It was suggested that Working Groups review resolutions relevant to their activities and Divisions review resolutions for their implementation. It was also suggested that all Working Groups consider whether they have fulfilled their mandates and whether they should continue.

A part of the meeting was allocated to discuss how to encourage participation of member states and outreach to other organizations. It was agreed that possible funding sources need to be found to help participation of delegates of developing countries. Mr. Atoui reported on the work of Task Force for Africa and proposed that, in order to promote its work more efficiently, a working group be established for Africa through a resolution at the Conference. It was also suggested that UNGEGN extend invitations to UN and other agencies, and outreach

to multinational companies for their use of geographical names.

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in August 2007 during the Ninth UN Conference in New York. More complete minutes

of the Working Group meeting are available, on request, from the Convenor.

Ki-Suk Lee

Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

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Working Group on Exonyms

Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms to be held in Prague, 17-18 May 2007

Hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre, the 6th Meeting will be held in Prague on 17 and 18 May 2007 in the framework of a larger meeting on geographical names which starts on 16 May and the 18th Session of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN.

The 6th Working Group itself will be part of a joint meeting with the EuroGeoNames Project Consortium. All the meeting sessions will be organised as plenaries, so that mutual participation is possible.

The agenda of the 6th Working Group Meeting will focus on

- (1) Considerations on the use of exonyms (categories of exonym use, criteria for the decision between exonym and endonym)
- (2) Progress reports on lists (files) of exonyms and exonym-related projects
 - a. Status report on identifying, evaluating and assessing variant names ("exonyms")
 - b. Presentation of the EuroGeoNames conceptual data model
 - c. Collating of ideas for an EuroGeoNames exonyms data base (content and structure)

- d. Consolidation of a communication network of exonyms experts

- (3) Possible contributions to the UNGEGN Geographical Names Database

Paper proposals had been invited for submission by 28 February.

The venue of the meeting is The Land Survey and Cadastral Offices Building (Conference Room at the 6th floor), Pod sídlíštěm 9/1800, CZ-182 11 Praha 8. For registration, contact by 31 March the main organiser Mr. Pavel Boháč, Zeměměřický úřad (Land Survey Office), Pod sídlíštěm 9, CZ-182 11 Praha 8, e-mail: pavel.bohac@cuzk.cz, fax: +420 284 041 416. He will also provide you with information on accommodation facilities.

For questions or suggestions related to the 6th WG Meeting agenda, please approach Mr. Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Postgasse 7/4/2, A-1010 Wien (www.oeaw.ac.at/isr), e-mail: peter.jordan@assoc.oeaw.ac.at, peter.jordan@univie.ac.at, for questions related to the EuroGeoNames Project Mr. Joern Sievers, joern.sievers@bkg.bund.de.

Should you be interested in participation, but have missed a deadline, do not hesitate to approach us. We are sure to find a solution!

Book on Exonyms published

Peter JORDAN, Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ, Paul WOODMAN (eds.) (2007): *Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names. Approaches towards the Resolution of an Apparent Contradiction*. Wien, Berlin: LIT Verlag. = Wiener Osteuropastudien, vol. 24 (EUR 24.90).

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 - 2.3 A linguistic classification of exonyms (Jarno RAUKKO)
- 3 **How to define exonyms?**
 - 3.1 The exonym and the endonym— Attempting to define the undefineable? (Naftali KADMON)
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 - 3.5 Considerations on the definitions of “endonym” and “exonym” (Peter JORDAN)
 - 3.6 Endonym and Exonym. Polishing the definitions (Roman STANI-FERTL)

Peter Jordan

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4 Trends in exonym use

- 4.1 On the disappearance of exonyms (Pavel BOHÁČ)
- 4.2 Types of exonyms in Slovene language (Drago KLADNIK)
- 4.3 Exonyms and the treatment of geographical names in multilingual areas (Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ)
- 4.4 The use of exonyms in Slovene language with special attention on sea names (Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ)
- 4.5 Further thoughts on exonyms of the Hungarian language. A historical review (Béla POKOLY)
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- 4.7 Exonyms or endonyms? How the orthographical norms of foreign place names became established in Finnish in the 19th century (Sirikka PAIKKALA)
- 4.8 Māori names for countries. Endonyms or exonyms? (Philip W. MATTHEWS, Peeter PÄLL)

An **appendix** comprises a.o. UNGEGN Glossary definitions, texts of United Nations Conferences resolutions relevant to the consideration of exonyms (compiled by Helen KERFOOT) and a bibliography (compiled by Peter JORDAN).

You may order the book directly with the publisher LIT Verlag, Greverer Str./Fresnostr. 2, D-48159 Münster (<http://www.lit-verlag.de>, vertrieb@lit-verlag.de) or via Peter Jordan, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, Postgasse 7/4/2, A-1010 Wien (www.oeaw.ac.at/isr), peter.jordan@assoc.oeaw.ac.at, peter.jordan@univie.ac.at

Working Group on Country Names

The principal objective of the Working Group on Country Names is to develop and maintain a list of the names of all countries in the world in the language or languages used in an official capacity within each country, and to present an updated version of this document at each UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

The Working Group on Country Names held two informal meetings at the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna in 2006. These meetings focused on updating the content and format of the “List of country names (Draft version)” (Working Paper No. 40). This document, to be presented in final form at the Ninth UNCSGN, lists not only the names of countries in the local official languages, in local script, romanized where appropriate, but also the country names in the six official languages of the UN, which have been extracted from the UN Multilingual

Terminology Database (UNTERM—available on the Internet at <http://unterm.un.org>).

Since the 23rd UNGEGN Session, the Working Group has updated and submitted Part III of the upcoming UNGEGN *Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names*. Part III is titled “Names of countries of the world (abridged version).” Unlike the list described in the preceding paragraph, this version contains only the local official country names and not the names in the six official UN languages. Both versions of the list have been completely reformatted and are rendered in Unicode-compliant digital fonts.

Leo Dillon

Convenor

Working Group on Country Names

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Working Group on Publicity and Funding

1. Media and publicity activities since the 23rd Session

At the conclusion of the 23rd Session of UNGEGN held in Vienna in March-April 2006 David Munro, Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, drafted a press release that was subsequently sent to the media by the UNGEGN Secretariat. As a result of this, the Working Group Convenor was invited to take part in a radio interview for Media Live, a US news agency. This interview was distributed to a number of networks.

Members of the Working Group have continued to promote geographical names issues and the activities of UNGEGN in a variety of ways. In 2006 the Convenor provided text on the subject of geographical names standardization for the website of the British Cartographic Society following an address given to that Society in London. In the autumn he assisted a postgraduate student from Oman studying toponymy at the University of Glasgow with a view to a place-name authority being established in that country. Dr. Munro also raised awareness on the subject of geographical names with the

Scottish Executive in response to a consultation paper on the development of a geographic information strategy for Scotland. Mr. Botolv Helleland edited a special of the ICOS publication *ONOMA* (39) which focussed on name research and teaching with articles on standardization issues.

2. Joint Working Group Meeting

A three-day Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (Convenor, Ki-Suk Lee) and Working Group on Publicity and funding (Convenor, David Munro) was held at the East-West Center in Honolulu, 22–24 January 2007. Working Group mandates and action items from previous meetings were reviewed and it was agreed that, while joint meetings would be beneficial from time to time, both Working Groups should continue as separate groups.

2.1 Publications

Since the presentation of the English language version of the Basic Manual at the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna, progress has been made on the translation of the text into all UN languages. It is hoped that all versions will be available on the web and in published form before the 2007 Conference in New York. It was noted that a Portuguese language version of the Basic Manual had been requested and, as with previous promotional publications, it was recommended that this and any other language versions should be advanced in consultation with the UNGEGN Secretariat. It was reported that the text of the Technical Manual is com-

plete and a cover design is in progress with a view to publication at the earliest opportunity. UNGEGN experts are reminded that any new proposals for major publications should be presented to the Conference through a resolution prepared in consultation with the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding. Smaller publications can be included in the regular UNGEGN Secretariat plans.

The meeting looked at the draft of a new promotional leaflet aimed at mapping, survey and geographical information system organizations in countries that do not have names authorities. It is hoped that an English language version of this leaflet will be available in time for the Conference in New York.

2.2 Funding

Funding in support of trainees attending training courses and trainees from non-participating countries attending the Conference in New York was discussed with the UNGEGN Secretariat which will assess individual needs within an agreed budget. The Working Group on Publicity and Funding will continue to explore other sources of funding and would welcome any suggestions.

David Munro

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Identifying Funding for Geographical Names Projects

At the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna, David Munro (Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding) presented a paper outlining some ideas on sourcing funds to assist with names projects or with attendance at training courses, UNGEGN sessions and UN conferences. What follows is an updated summary of that paper.

1. Preparing funding applications

It is important at the outset to have (1) a clear idea of the nature of the project to be funded and (2) a realistic budget for the project. Do you need funds to support, for example, publications, training courses, website development, educational outreach, and travel to conferences or access to professional advice? What is the aim of the project? Who will carry the project forward? How long will it take? What are the outcomes? Who will benefit? How will the success of the project be assessed or monitored? These are all questions potential funders will want to ask. A clear proposal incorporating all the relevant information will have a better chance of success.

2. Identifying potential funders

In attempting to identify appropriate sources of funding it is useful (1) to summarise key words that help define the nature of the project, i.e. education, IT, training and publications and (2) to define the geographical area of the project. This will help you narrow down the field, since many funding agencies are quite specific about the type of projects they are prepared to support and the part of the world in which they operate. If you are successful in obtaining funds, always be clear about the obligations and conditions attached to the receipt of sponsorship, grants or donations.

It is important to think imaginatively about fundraising. If you cannot identify an obvious funding agency that might support your type of project exactly, can you adopt an approach that

integrates with other related disciplines such as land surveying, GIS, or mapping. A partnership approach with another organization could be attractive to funders.

Some countries have charitable agencies that help identify sources of funding and many libraries have directories of funding bodies. If you have access to the internet, it is worth searching the web for sources of funding. Look particularly at the websites of other place name bodies to see if they have developed any collaborative links that have helped fund names projects. Papers presented at the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna provided many good examples of sourcing funds. Amongst these were support from the Federal Office of Metrology and Survey in Austria for the production of the Vienna Toponymic Training Course CD-Rom; the funding of a French language website training course by the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie; and financial support for the collection of Inuit names in Canada from the Inuit Heritage Trust and a diamond mining company.

3. Types of funding bodies

The following is a general list of sources of funding to be explored:

- (i) Government Departments linked to the subject area.
- (ii) Non-Government agencies or Government-funded agencies, such as research councils, universities.

- (iii) Bilateral or multilateral aid programmes with other countries or with agencies such as the World Bank.
- (iv) International regional organizations with funds to support research or economic development, for example, the European Union and associated States, the Commonwealth, ASEAN, CARICOM, OAS, etc.
- (v) International Charitable Trusts and Foundations.
- (vi) National or local Charitable Trusts and Foundations.
- (vii) The Corporate Sector—companies that have an obvious interest in your aims and might benefit from a sponsorship arrangement, i.e. mapping, mining, travel, IT companies.

4. And after

Once you have received support, do not forget to express your thanks and appreciation to sponsors and donors. Keep them informed of progress and show them the outcomes. They might want to support another project in the future. Share your thoughts and experiences with other UNGEGN experts. What you have achieved may help others planning similar projects.

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Working Group on Romanization Systems

Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems Institute of the Estonian Language, Tallinn, Estonia 9–10 October 2006

Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting was opened by the host and Convenor of the Working Group, Mr. Peeter Päll. Mr. Päll welcomed the participants and invited the Director of the Institute of the Estonian Language, Urmas Sutrop, formally to open proceedings.

Mr. Päll had received correspondence from the UNGEGN Chair, Helen Kerfoot, who had been unable to attend, but who sent wishes for a successful meeting. One of the UNGEGN Vice-Chairs, Brahim Atoui, attended the meeting.

The provisional agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 2 - Status of Romanization Systems

The Convenor presented a report which had been prepared by the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre in **Ukraine**, outlining considerations to modify the 1996 national system for Ukrainian. It was likely that any alteration would be restricted to a simplification of the rules of application. The Working Group would recommend this system for international use, when presented to the United Nations.

The Convenor reported on a romanization system that had been prepared by the Institute of Bulgarian Language in **Bulgaria**. The system and an accompanying transliteration tool could be viewed at <http://transliteration.mdaar.government.bg>. This system was likely to be officially

approved in Bulgaria later this year, and had been in use in some official sources since 2000.

The Convenor reported on romanization in **Belarus**, describing the *Instructions* which had been followed for romanization since 2000, and which had been used on a number of official cartographic products and encyclopaedias. There had been some subsequent minor revisions to the *Instructions*. The Convenor hoped to clarify the application of the system with Belarus. It was hoped that Belarus would present the revised system to the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) to be held in August 2007.

The Convenor had visited **Georgia** and was able to confirm that the 2002 national system of romanization was in some use in that country, if not yet fully implemented. This system employed the apostrophe to denote the abruptive consonants rather than the aspirated consonants as the BGN/PCGN system did.

Mr. Woodman discussed the official procedures for romanization in the countries of south Asia, particularly in **India** and **Pakistan**, and demonstrated that these did not accord with the 1972 UNCSGN Resolution on this subject, which had approved separate romanization systems for each of the major languages.

Mr. Viechnicki reported on the status of the new **BGN/PCGN Romanization Guide**, which was to be published shortly; the systems to be included in the Guide had been reviewed in collaboration with the UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. The Guide was to be published both in hard-copy and electronically, and copies would be available on request. Mr. Viechnicki also reported that the United States had recently prepared and approved a number of country policies, and that development of romanization systems for a number of minority languages was being discussed.

The **Armenian** Centre of Geodesy and Cartography had proposed a romanization system to their government's Special Committee on Geographical Names. The Convenor had recently lost contact with the Armenians, which he would try to re-establish.

Mr. Kadmon reported on recent activities by the Academy of the Hebrew Language concerning amendments to the system for **Hebrew**. The principal changes, to the romanization of three consonants, were intended to simplify spellings for English-language readers. The modifications had been approved and would soon be published in the official government gazette. Mr. Kadmon would provide the Working Group with details; in summary, the proposed changes were $w \rightarrow v$; $\underline{z} \rightarrow ts$ and $q \rightarrow k$.

In addition, the Royal Jordanian System was currently under consideration to be adopted for Arabic names in Israel.

The Convenor described a provisional system for **Khmer** prepared by the Geography Department in Cambodia. The Working Group discussed the presentation of a number of the vowels and agreed on the necessity to continue correspondence with Cambodia.

The Convenor explained orthographic reforms which were potentially under consideration in **Kazakhstan** and ranged from changes to the Cyrillic inventory to the adoption of a Roman script.

Mr. Woodman outlined language development in the countries of the former Yugoslavia and presented a paper on the effect of **Montenegrin** independence on language.

The Convenor presented some background information on systems which were being used for internal purposes in Estonia. The Working Group discussed the possibility of gathering information about **nationally-applied systems**.

Mrs. Calvarin distributed copies of systems being applied in France.

A brief update on the system for **Amharic** was presented by the Convenor. The Working Group discussed whether the system being applied in Ethiopia, which appeared to omit diacritical marks, was a new system or a simplification. The Convenor would attempt to contact the Ethiopian Mapping Agency for further details. Mr. Atoui, who was planning to attend the UN Cartographic Conference for Africa in Ethiopia in May 2007, offered to assist in this endeavour.

The Convenor reported that contact had been lost with authorities in Bhutan with whom he had been communicating on a system for **Dzongkha**.

The Convenor had approached Mongolia to request information on any potential romanization systems for **Mongolian**. However local efforts were currently concentrating on the establishment of a national committee on geographical names. Mr. Viechnicki offered to pass any questions on through his US colleagues who were arranging a visit to Mongolia in November 2006.

The romanization of **Arabic** was likely to be discussed at a meeting of the Arabic Division and an accompanying toponymic training course being planned in north Africa in 2007.

The Working Group examined the status of each of the other romanization systems, included in the Working Group report (available at <http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/>): the status of **Persian** required further investigation; the introduction to the system for **Serbian** required rewording following the independence of Montenegro; an Act concerning geographical names had been adopted in Tajikistan, but the question of the romanization of **Tajik** had not yet been considered. It was proving difficult to acquire

official information on the status of Lao, Maldivian and Tigrinya.

Agenda Item 3 - Update to the Report on Status of Romanization Systems

The Working Group detailed changes to be made to the Report of the Working Group. It was agreed that amendments would be made to the text for **Amharic**, **Armenian**, **Korean**, **Maldivian**, **Serbian** and **Sinhala**; and to the tables for **Bulgarian**, **Hebrew**, **Khmer**, and **Lao**.

Agenda Item 4 - Working Group Activities

The **website** of the Working Group was examined (<http://www.eki.ee/wgrs/>). Some tables were also available in html format, to facilitate manipulation of the text, but a Unicode-compatible font was necessary in order to display the contents correctly. The Convenor would continue to make further systems available in this format. The addition of a link to the Unicode Consortium website would assist users.

Agenda Item 5 - Preparation for the 9th UNCSGN, 2007

The Working Group discussed its preparations for the forthcoming Ninth Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and potential Resolutions. A presentation from Ukraine on a system for Ukrainian was anticipated. The Working Group discussed the question of national implementation of romanization systems and mooted the possibility of drafting a Resolution recommending a time allowance for implementation. Mr. Woodman would prepare a first draft.

Agenda Item 6 - Other Issues

The Convenor reported on correspondence with the President of the Unicode Consortium, who was keen to learn about UN-approved romanization systems and include a number of sys-

tems in trialling his Locale Data Markup Language (LDML) model.

The Vice-Chair of UNGEGN thanked the hosts for organizing the meeting and the UNGEGN Experts for taking part in the session.

Peeter Päll,
Convenor,
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Working Group on Terminology

1. A new convenor

In 1989, at its 15th session, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names set up a working group on toponymic terminology and elected Prof. Naftali Kadmon (Israel) as convenor. In 1991 the convenor, as editor, submitted a first version of a new glossary of toponymic terms. The 6th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 1992, in Resolution VI/11, approved the formation of the working group on terminology. The working group has been active since then, and the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*, with 375 terms defined in the six official languages of the United Nations, was published by the U.N. Secretariat in 2002 (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/85, sales No. M.01.XVII.7). The terms of reference of the working group, as approved by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names in resolutions VI/11 (1992) and VIII/3 (2002), recommend that the working group continue to function, with the aim of reviewing the *Glossary* periodically and updating it as required, by a procedure to be agreed upon by the members of the group.

At the forthcoming Ninth Conference the convenor of the working group will have completed 30 years of serving on the U.N. Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and on the Group of Experts, and wishes to retire from the convenorship of the working

group and from the editorship of the *Glossary*. According to the Statute of UNGEGN (para. IV/3/2.2), the convenor should be elected by the members of the working group. It is, therefore, proposed that a new convenor be chosen at a meeting of the working group on terminology at the 24th session of UNGEGN in August 2007.

2. New terms

At the 23rd session of UNGEGN in Vienna in March 2006, activities relating to the working group on toponymic terminology were discussed twice, once under agenda item 9, and once at a meeting of the members of the working group. Nine new terms were approved, together with their definitions. The following terms, some with temporary definitions, will have to be discussed at the next meeting of the working group in August 2007 in order to arrive at final definitions. Thus it was decided to include the terms *oikonym* and *anoikonym* which had been discussed in the past, using temporary definitions proposed by Mr. M. Harvalik (Czech Republic) to (but not yet accepted by) the International Conference on Onomastic Science (ICOS), as follows:

oikonym—in some languages (e.g. Slavonic, German) a synonym for *populated place*.

anoikonym—in some languages (e.g. Slavonic, German) a name of a non-inhabitable natural feature or of a man-made firmly fixed uninhabitable one. *Examples:* names of some terrain formations such as lava fields, water bodies or lines of communication.

These terms should now be finalized. Further terms to be discussed at the next meeting, for some of which definition proposals are in hand:

nominative form (of a toponym), univocity, corrupted toponym, oronym hypsographic feature, choronym, ethnonym, lacustrine name, commemorative name, toponymization.

3. Membership of the Working Group on Terminology

The following experts attended the meeting of the working group in Vienna on 31 March 2006: David Blair (Australia), Pavel Boháč (Czech Republic), Dutko András (Hungary), Isolde Hausner (Austria), Peter Jordan (Austria), Naftali Kadmon (Israel), convenor; Helen Kerfoot (Canada), UNGEGN chair; Maroum Khraish (Lebanon), André Lapierre (Canada), Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands), rapporteur; Roger Payne (USA), Jörn Sievers (Germany), Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), Peter Viechnicki (USA), Paul Woodman (U.K.), Maciej Zych (Poland).

Naftali Kadmon,
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Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names

At the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Berlin in 2002, resolution VIII/1 recommended that geographical names authorities throughout the world be invited to present a summary of their activities relating to minority group and indigenous geographical names, for a report to be presented in 2007. As a result, this UNGEGN Working Group was established to prepare a database of such information, to be provided by UN member states.

Interested countries are invited to submit information to populate the database showing where activities relating to the collection and promotion of indigenous or minority group

place names are taking place. It would be appreciated if information could be made available to the Convenors by 1 April 2007.

The details of the request for data can be found on the UNGEGN website, and the forms for providing this information are available there as Word and Excel files (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/questionnaire_IM.htm). The completed files should be e-mailed directly to me at Watt.William@saugov.sa.gov.au.

For all those who have not submitted information for the first report, could you please do so as soon as possible to enable the compilation of the map and report to proceed.

My thanks to those who have already supplied information.

Bill Watt,
Co-Convenor
Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names
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Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

A joint session of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and the EuroGeoNames Reference Group and Consortium was held at the Palacio de Zurbano, Madrid, Spain, 5–7 March 2007. The Working Group session was attended by sixteen members from ten countries.

The Working Group discussed its website. Mr. Leskinen offered to re-create it and to take on maintenance responsibilities. Suggestions for content included a draft exchange standard, the 1998 Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards Report as updated for the UN Technical reference manual, relevant papers from previous UNGEGN sessions, exemplar data models, and links to national geographical names databases.

Liaison with the Unicode Consortium was considered by the Working Group to be important, in order to communicate anomalies in Unicode standard to the Consortium and to collaborate to resolve these. The co-ordinators would be Mrs. Burgess, Mr. Päll and Mr. Viechnicki. A representative from the Unicode Consortium would also be invited to the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

UNGEGN had established liaison with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 211 (Geographic Information/Geomatics) in 2002. The Working Group agreed that a representative of TC 211 should be invited to the 9th UNCSGN. The Convenor would resume the co-ordination

process through contact with appropriate individuals at the US National Center for Geospatial Information Standards.

The Working Group would update and expand its draft toponymic data exchange standard (see draft below). Once the draft had been examined by Working Group and then UNGEGN members, it would be presented to ISO with a view to its being adopted as a formal ISO standard for toponymic data exchange. The Convenor would co-ordinate the review of the draft.

The Working Group agreed that it would focus on the provision of information in the form of the development of standards, rather than attempt to become closely involved in practical programmes and/or workshops of toponymic data exchange. With this in mind, the Working Group's terms of reference would need to be reviewed and amended.

Mrs. Burgess gave a presentation (to be posted on the Working Group's website) on the Working Group's contribution to the UN Technical reference manual which was about to be published. Section II comprised an update of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards Report. The annexes to this report contained a detailed study of encoding standards treating Roman-script characters used in geographical names, along with a draft toponymic data exchange standard (see above). The Working Group agreed that these annexes should be maintained and the original authors of the report (specifically Mrs. Burgess and Mr. Päll) would take on that responsibility,

posting updates on the Working Group's website. The Working Group considered the expansion of document to cover non-Roman writing systems. Although an enormous task, the Working Group would investigate the feasibility¹.

The UNGEGN Chair gave a presentation on the status of the UN Geographical Names Database. UNGEGN Divisions would be approached to provide input and verification of data. The Working Group reviewed the presentation and discussed information integrity. A Resolution of the 9th UNCSGN would be drafted to support the continuing evolution of the database. The population data being included (but subject to update/correction) could be found on the UN Statistics Division web page at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/densurb/urban.aspx>. A copy of the UN database model would be posted on the Working Group website.

The Working Group recognised that there were differences in capabilities supporting the development of toponymic data files and would consider whether the Working Group could assist in narrowing this capability gap.

The importance of training was recognised by the Working Group and co-ordination with the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy would be encouraged to improve the content of courses in relation to toponymic data files and the basic elements of database construction. The Working Group also considered the collation of previous UNGEGN working papers into a single handbook to aid organisations in development of toponymic databases.

The Working Group received copies of the draft of a new UNGEGN brochure, compiled by the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, for review and comment. The Working Group recommended that a Resolution be drafted

¹ It was later mooted that other Working Group/regional UNGEGN Division assistance could be sought.

for the 9th UNCSGN to support the continuation of an UNGEGN publication programme.

The UNGEGN Chair reported recent communication with representatives of GoogleEarth. A number of geographical names issues had come to light with GoogleEarth's use of third party data. A pilot project had been initiated with Finland to seek methods of improving the quality of the names data. The Working Group acknowledged the need for UNGEGN liaison. GoogleEarth had made a verbal commitment to attend the 9th UNCSGN.

Mr. Ferland gave a presentation to facilitate discussion among the Working Group on the future of gazetteers and gazetteer services. The Working Group agreed to set up a sub-committee to consider such issues further. Mr. Ferland's presentation would be posted on the Working Group's website.

The Convenor reported on a Digital Gazetteer Research and Practice Workshop, which had taken place in Santa Barbara, CA, USA in December 2006. The University of California website at www.ncgia.ucsb.edu contained a draft report of the meeting and a research agenda.

The Convenor also outlined an US NGA experiment to host its Geographic Names Data Base in a WikiEnvironment to encourage collaborative toponymic information exchange. It was agreed that an entry on the Working Group should be prepared for posting on the Wikipedia site.

The Working Group discussed preparations for the 9th UNCSGN to be held in New York in August 2007. Two poster-format panels for an exhibit area at the Conference would be contributed by the Working Group. Members would pass ideas and recommendations to the Convenor who would arrange the creation of the posters.

The Working Group considered it would be beneficial for a number of presentations to be given at the 9th UNCSGN, specifically by GoogleEarth, the Unicode Consortium, ISO/TC211, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Geospatial Information Group (UNGIWG), Michael Goodchild of the US National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA) and the University of California Santa Barbara, and Allen Carroll of US National Geographic Society. An invitation to the relevant ISO technical committee concerning language standards should also be considered. The Working Group also recommended that small workshops be held during the Con-

ference, on data exchange standards, legal issues relative to place names (e.g. place names acts), and WikiGazetteers.

The next meeting of the Working Group would be held during the 9th UNCSGN. Future joint meetings with other UNGEGN working groups/divisions/EuroGeoNames would also be investigated.

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Convenor

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Draft toponymic data exchange standard

Part 1 - Data elements

The following data elements, identified in Resolution 4 of the first United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, comprise the minimum set of critical geographic names information for digital exchange.

1.0 GEOGRAPHIC NAME - the spelling of a standardized name referring to a feature. Spellings of variant names, if any, follow the standardized name with suitable delimiters. An explanatory note accompanying the data set must define all conventions used in the presentation of GEOGRAPHIC NAME; e.g., sorting order, reversal of generic terms, meaning of special flags such as asterisks, etc.

Data Type: text. An explanatory note accompanying the data set must define the text format and encoding; e.g.,
char, ASCII
char, ISO 8859 (2)

char, KOI 8
wchar_t, ISO 10646

2.0 FEATURE TYPE - a characterization of the kind of feature represented by GEOGRAPHIC NAME. An explanatory note accompanying the data set must define the characterization scheme employed.

Data Type: text

3.0 LOCATION - the position associated with GEOGRAPHIC NAME or FEATURE TYPE expressed in latitude and longitude (based on the Prime Meridian, Greenwich). For most toponymic data sets, the preferred format would be positions specified by degrees and minutes, rounded down to the nearest integer minute. This format allows future update to include seconds or decimal minutes. An explanatory note accompanying the data set must identify alternate formats if applicable; e.g., decimal degrees, integer degrees and minutes, integer degrees and decimal minutes, etc.

3.1 LATITUDE - the latitude value of LOCATION.

Data Type: integer
Domain: 90 00S <= LATITUDE <= 90 00N

3.2 LONGITUDE – the longitude value of LOCATION.

Data Type: integer
Domain: 180 00E <= LONGITUDE <= 180 00W

4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE AREA - an identification of the country and administrative division in which LOCATION falls.

Data Type: text
Domain: (the domain is the content of ISO/DIS 3166, Parts 1 and 2)

5.0 MAP SHEET REFERENCE - an identification of the sheet (within a standard national map series) containing LOCATION. An explanatory note accompanying the data set must provide citation for the referenced map series.

Data Type: text

Part 2 - Metadata²

The notes to Part 1 of this annex refer to additional information required by the user of a data set to interpret competently the data contained therein. This additional information is generally referred to as *metadata*.

Metadata serves to answer four questions:

- What sets of data exist for a geographic location?
- Does a set of data meet a specific need?
- How is a set of data acquired?
- What information is required to process and use a set of data?

² The information presented here is summarized from Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata, Federal Geographic Data Committee (USA), April, 1997

Metadata characterizing geographic names data sets would typically comprise the following subsets:

- Identification information—basic information about the data, including publisher.
- Text encoding standard—identification of the national, international, or proprietary standard used to represent the text digitally in the data set.
- Data quality information—a general assessment of the quality (accuracy, currency) of the data set.
- Spatial data organization (if applicable)—the mechanism (text, point, vector, raster) used to represent spatial data in the data set.
- Spatial reference information (if applicable)—the description of the reference frame for coordinates in the data set.
- Entity and attribute information—the description of the content of a data set including entity types, their attributes and domains (Part 1 of this Annex qualifies as entity and attribute metadata).
- Software information—identification of the software configuration used to create the data set, including identification of operating system and application.
- Distribution information—information about the distribution of and options for obtaining the data set.

Part 15 of ISO 15046 is a draft standard for metadata pertaining to geographic information. It is based largely on the Metadata Standard developed by the United States Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). While it was beyond the scope of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Exchange Formats and Standards to define rigorously a metadata standard specific to toponymic data, it is appropriate and necessary to emphasize the importance of describing the content of geographic names data sets in sufficient detail to

ensure their utility in a program of exchange of digital information.

Part 3 - Illustration

The following listing is an abbreviated example of a print-out of a digital toponymic data set adhering to the guidelines recommended by the Working Group. Two files are represented; the first is the toponymic data, the second is a text file (conventionally known as a “readme” file) containing the metadata necessary for a recipient to determine the data’s content and utility. These examples are provided for the sole purpose of illustration.

Data.txt

Aakre Peatus	RSTP	5804N
	2616E	EE
	19	NO35-05
Aaksi Saar → Aksi	ISL	5935N
	2505E	EE
	01	NO35-01
Aamse	PPLX	5855N
	2342E	EE
	07	NO34-06
Aamsi → Aamse	PPLX	5855N
	2342E	EE
	07	NO34-06
Aandu	PPL	5909N
	2443E	EE
	13	NO35-01
Aardla	PPL	5818N
	2646E	EE
	18	NO35-05

Readme.txt

This file describes the content, lineage, and utility of the toponymic data contained in the file data.txt.

Data Identification: Place name spellings for features in Estonia.

Text encoding standard: Eight-bit ASCII (ISO 8859 Latin 1). Two characters (Roman small letter c with caron; Roman small letter i with macron) are encoded in a pro-

prietary scheme, and may be viewed using the Monotype Special G1 family of fonts.

Data quality: Name spellings are current for most features as of 1993, and have been taken from the following authoritative Estonian sources:

Eesti Topograafiline Kaart, 1:200,000, 1993.

Eesti Ülevaatekaart, 1:400,000, 1993.

Eesti Sood, 1:400,000, 1993.

Eesti Veed, 1:400,000, 1991.

Settlement names were taken from a list provided by Eesti Keele Instituut, Tallinn, in 1994.

Data organization: Data is provided alphabetically by name spelling. Data elements within a record are tab delimited (ASCII character 09). Records are delimited by carriage return (ASCII character 0D) Single geographic coordinates are provided for each record.

Data reference: Coordinates are referenced to the World Geodetic System 1984.

Entity and attribute information: Each record contains the following data elements and associated attributes:

Geographic name. Name spellings conform to standard Estonian orthography with the exception that initial letters of generic terms are capitalized. Variant names are cross referenced to standard names by use of the greater than sign (ASCII character 3E).

Feature type. A five character designation denoting the type of feature to which the name refers. The designation scheme is that employed by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in its data base of foreign geographic names. This data element is left justified, and space filled (ASCII character

20) in cases where the designation is fewer than five characters.

Latitude. The geographic latitude of the named feature, taken at the centre of spot and areal features, and at one end of linear features. The data element is five characters in length; the first two represent integer degrees, the second two integer minutes (rounded down), and the fifth the compass point N.

Longitude. The geographic longitude of the named feature, taken at the centre of spot and areal features, and at one end of linear features. The data element is five characters in length; the first two represent integer degrees, the second two integer minutes (rounded down), and the fifth the compass point E.

Country code. The country code digraph taken from ISO 3166 "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions."

Administrative division code. The two character administrative division code taken from ISO 3166 "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions." The administrative division identified for each name is the division in which the geographic location for the record falls. Features that cross administrative or international boundaries are given the general code 00.

Map sheet reference. The map sheet number of the standard 1:250,000

map series on which the geographic coordinate of the record falls. The feature and its name may not necessarily actually appear on the referenced sheet.

Software requirements. This data set was compiled using Microsoft Word 7.0 for Windows 95. The only known special requirement is the use of the Monotype Special G1 font for display of certain characters.

Distribution information. There are no restrictions on the distribution and use of the information contained in these data sets. Additional copies of this data set may be obtained from the producer.

Producer point of contact. This data set was produced by the staff of the Foreign Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Questions, corrections, and requests for additional information may be referred to:

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Information

Equipe de travail sur l'Afrique/Task Force for Africa

1. Activités enregistrées

Conformément à ce qui a été décidé lors du Panel sur l'Afrique qui s'est tenu lors de la 23 session du GENUNG, à Vienne, et lors de la réunion conjointe du Groupe de Travail sur l'Evaluation et l'Implémentation et du Groupe de Travail sur la Publicité qui s'est déroulé à Honolulu (USA), plusieurs actions ont été entreprises par l'équipe de travail sur l'Afrique.

2. Premièrement

Organisation au profit des pays africains, d'une Ecole sur la normalisation des noms géographiques à Tunis (Tunisie) du 2 au 6 avril 2007. Cette Ecole est organisée avec le concours du Groupe de travail sur la Formation du GENUNG.

En plus des pays d'Afrique du Nord, plus de 10 participants des pays d'Afrique Subsaharienne seront présents à cette Ecole. Il est à signaler que trois candidats africains seront pris en charge respectivement par l'ONU et par l'Organisation Africaine de Cartographie et de Télédétection.

Cette Ecole sera mise à profit pour discuter et voir dans quelle mesure dynamiser les différentes Divisions géographiques et linguistiques africaines du GENUNG.

Il est à signaler que cette Ecole a été élargie également aux pays arabes. (Voir à ce sujet le rapport de la Division Arabe)

3. Deuxièmement

Inscription du thème de la normalisation des noms géographiques dans l'ordre du jour de la cinquième réunion du Comité de Développement de l'Information en Afrique (CODI V) qui aura lieu à Addis Abeba du 30 avril au 5 mai 2007. Cette réunion sera aussi mise à profit pour sensibiliser les pays africains pour leur participation aux réunions du GENUNG et de leur faire prendre conscience des bienfaits et de l'importance de la normalisation des noms géographiques.

Brahim Atoui

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Further notes on the UNGEGN Toponymy Training Workshop, 2–6 April 2007, Tunis, Tunisia

The training course on toponymy will address the technical and cultural aspects of geographical names, the need for national standardization in geographical names and the importance of their dissemination internationally. The economic and communication benefits of standardization are considered; and the process from field recording to authorization and database development is followed. Students will be introduced to the concepts and details of terminology, multilingual situations, writing systems, romanization and exonyms.

The workshop is organized through Centre Régional de Télédétection des États de l’Afrique du Nord / North African Centre for Remote Sensing (CRTEAN), located in Tunis. The

workshop will be conducted in Arabic, English and French (with interpretation provided) and is addressed at countries of the UNGEGN Arabic Division (primarily countries of North Africa and the Middle East) and the neighbouring UNGEGN divisions of West, Central and East Africa.

It is hoped that around 40 students will participate. UNSD is providing return airfares for three trainees from Africa to participate in the course.

The contact person for the workshop is Mr. Brhim Atoui, Vice-Chair, UNGEGN (atoui.khalil@caramail.com).

Twenty-five years ago: the first UNGEGN Pilot Training Course in Indonesia in 1982

Pursuant to Resolution II/18 on Technical Training of Personnel in 1972, it was recommended that pilot training courses in the collection and treatment of names should have all possible support from the authorities that are able to give it.

Professor Ferdinand Ormeling Sr, from the Netherlands, who was at that time chairman of the UNGEGN Working Group on Training, approached the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL) to start working with me on the endeavour. I, then Deputy Chairman of this National Mapping Agency in charge of national topographic mapping, was fully aware of the need of such training on toponymic data collection, office treat-

ment and preparing gazetteer, even though at that time we did not yet have a national names authority. With the support of government funding we set a time table for conducting such training. Professor Ormeling Sr., as convenor, was in charge of recruiting the trainers, while Indonesia covered the cost of lodging and food and in-country travel. UNGEGN should take care of the trainers’ air travel from the city of origin to Jakarta.

The pilot training course took place at Cisarua, a hilly town south of Bogor City, a resort 80 km from Jakarta, from 7–18 June 1982. The UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Training was able to recruit lecturers from UK, USA, Hungary, Federal Republic of Germany,

the Netherlands. This pilot training course was also sponsored by the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division. Trainees were from countries in the Division: Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia, with a total number of 40 participants.

During the conduct of the training course, all participants and instructors were housed in bungalows in this hilly town with beautiful surroundings, so that there was a close contact between participants and lecturers/instructors and even during the night discussions were held. Field exercises took place in the vicinity of the training site.

This training course was one of two pilot training courses held in pursuance of the above resolution; the other one was held in Morocco in 1985. Indonesia has been pleased to host two further UNGEGN training courses in toponymy—1989 in Cipanas and 2005 in Batu, Malang.

Jacub Rais

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