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**Eleventh United Nations Conference on the  
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and  
task teams since the Tenth Conference**

**Report of the Working Group on Exonyms**

Submitted by the Working Group on Exonyms\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Convenor, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms

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## 1 Organizational aspects

The Working Group on Exonyms was established in 2002 by the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin. Resolution VIII/4 specifies its tasks with taking measures for “the categorization of exonym use, the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms and the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms”.

### 1.1 WG meetings held

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Conference
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Ljubljana**, May 19-20, 2005, hosted by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Timișoara**, September 9-11, 2008, hosted by the West University of Timișoara, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Romanian Military Institute of Cartography and the Adam Mueller-Guttenbrunn House
- 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Nairobi**, May 11, 2009, in the framework of the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Tainach** (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas”
- 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], May 4, 2011, in the framework of the 26<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN Session, but outside UN facilities, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Gdańsk**, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography
- 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, August 6, 2012, in the framework of the 10<sup>th</sup> UN Conference
- 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Corfu** [Kerkyra], May 23-25, 2013, hosted by the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **New York**, April 29, 2014, in the framework of the 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Hermagor** (Austria), June 5-7, 2014, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names

- 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Zagreb**, May 14-16, 2015, hosted by the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, Zagreb
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Bangkok** [Krung Thep], April 26, 2016, in the framework of the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session
- 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], April 4-6, 2017, hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office [Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální] and Land Survey Office [Zeměměřický úřad]

## 1.2 WG proceedings published

JORDAN Peter, OROŽEN ADAMIČ Milan, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2007), *Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names. Approaches towards the Resolution of an Apparent Contradiction* (= Wiener Osteuropa Studien, 24). Wien – Berlin: LIT Verlag, 240 p., ISBN 978-3-8258-0035-2, ISSN 0946-7246.

JORDAN Peter, BERGMANN Hubert, BURGESS Caroline, CHEETHAM Catherine (eds.) (2011), *Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Tainach, 28-30 April 2010* (= Name & Place, 1). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 328 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-5656-0.

WOODMAN Paul (ed.) (2012), *The Great Toponymic Divide. Reflections on the definition and usage of endonyms and exonyms*. Warszawa: Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, 302 p. ISBN 978-83-254-1967-7.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2014), *The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013* (= Name & Place, 3). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 295 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-7747-3.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2015), *Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014* (Name & Place, 4). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 244 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8422-8.

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2016), *Criteria for the Use of Exonyms. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Zagreb, 14-16 May 2015* (Name & Place, 6). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 170 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8946-9.

## 1.3 Members, convenors

Currently the Working Group comprises 83 official members and associated experts from 34 countries (see Appendix). A core group of about 30 participates in most of the meetings.

### Convenors:

2002-2004: Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ (Slovenia)

2004-2006: co-convenors Peter JORDAN (Austria), Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ

2006-2012: convenor in charge Peter JORDAN, co-convenor Milan OROŽEN ADAMIČ

2012-: Peter JORDAN ([peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at))

## 1.4 WG website

The WG maintains a website accessible under <http://ungegn.zrc-sazu.si>. It is hosted by the Institute of Geography of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and updated by Matjaž GERŠIČ.

It contains a.o. detailed reports of all WG meetings as well as links to all publications of the WG. The full text of the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Gdańsk, May 16-18, 2012, is available.

## 2 Activities since the last UNCSGN in 2012

Since the 10<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in New York, 31 July to 9 August 2012, the Working Group held three business meetings and four workshops and published three books of proceedings.

### 2.1 Meetings

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting (business meeting), New York, 6 August 2012

The WG met on August 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 during the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the UN Headquarters in New York (United States). The Working Group's acting co-convenor, Peter JORDAN, chaired the meeting.

JORDAN gave an **overview on activities** of the WG since the last UNGEGN Session in Vienna [Wien], Austria, in 2011, especially on the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG, held in Gdańsk, Poland, from May 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2012. He expressed his gratitude to the host of this meeting, the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography, and to Katarzyna PRZYSZEWSKA, the responsible organizer in place. The meeting had been organized as a joint meeting together with the UNGEGN WG on Romanization Systems (Convenor: Peeter PÄLL). JORDAN pointed out that at and after this meeting the following main topics were on the table:

- (a) **Endonym/exonym divide, definitions of the endonym and the exonym:** The current definitions were regarded not applicable, because they do not focus on essential criteria. The discussion on this issue was in Gdańsk characterized by a remarkable convergence between the positions of JORDAN and WOODMAN, who had earlier rather different views. They convened that neither language nor official use can be regarded as essential criteria for the endonym/exonym divide.
- (b) **The question whether a third term for international waters is needed:** Regarding the status of names for international waters related to the endonym/exonym divide three opinions are on the table: (i) A name of a coastal dweller community has endonym status all over a sea and names used by other communities have exonym status; (ii) A name of a coastal dweller community has endonym status only in coastal waters, but a name from outside can anyway be classified as an exonym, also in international waters, since an exonym does not necessarily need an endonym as a counterpart; (iii) A name of a coastal dweller community has endonym status only in coastal waters, but a name from outside can only be classified as an exonym, where an endonym exists. Thus for international waters a third term is needed. It was stated that this question was not as urgent as the need for new definitions of endonym and the exonym.

The report of the convenor was followed by the **election of officers**. JORDAN explained that MILAN OROŽEN ADAMIČ was the first convenor of the WG, the person who had made the engine run. He had convinced JORDAN in 2005 to become his co-convenor, but in 2006 OROŽEN ADAMIČ was appointed ambassador of Slovenia in Zagreb and from that moment on JORDAN actually acted as convenor of the WG and was confirmed in this function in Nairobi (2009). According to him the WG has – in spite of quite a number of activities like

the organization of workshops and the publication of proceedings – not reached its goals yet (e.g., viable definitions of the endonym and exonym, guidelines for the use of exonyms etc.). So he announced that he would be willing to run for another term as convenor in order to accomplish at least parts of its mission. OROŽEN ADAMIČ apologized for not having acted as convenor for several years and announced, that he wanted to step back, also because he had been elected chair of his division. He proposed that JORDAN should become the one and only convenor of the WG. JORDAN asked if a secret vote was demanded. This being refused by the WG members present JORDAN was elected unanimously convenor of the WG on Exonyms. JORDAN announced to establish a sort of steering committee for the WG.

**Future activities:** JORDAN proposed to focus in the next meetings on the following agenda items: (a) Thorough discussion of new definitions; (b) Criteria for a politically sensitive use of exonyms; (c) Categorisation of exonyms. As a starting point for agenda item (a) JORDAN presented the following definitions for the terms endonym and exonym:

*Endonym* = the name applied by the local community for a geographical feature conceived to be part of the area, where this community lives, if there is not a smaller community in place that uses a different name.

*Exonym* = the name applied by a community for a geographical feature outside the area, where this community lives and differing in its written form from the respective endonym.

JORDAN pointed out that neither language nor official use (as highlighted as criteria by the current definitions) were decisive criteria, while the relation between local community and geographical feature was in fact the essential criterion. He illustrated this by the examples of the river *Mureş* [RO], which is named by the local German community *Mieresch*, while the usual German exonym is *Marosch*, and of the Polish city Łódź, which under German occupation in World War II was officially named *Litzmannstadt*, while the local German community called it *Lodsch*. These examples proved that the endonym/exonym divide may exist also within a language (example 1) and an official name must not necessarily be an endonym in the sense of a name “from within” (example 2). This statement was followed by a vivid discussion, in which a.o. PÄLL, ZACCHEDDU, STAVROPOULOS, MANDOLA, ALNIȚEI, ZYCH and PAIKKALA took part.

### **14<sup>th</sup> Meeting (workshop), Corfu, Greece, 23-25 May 2013**

The WG met in the Saint Michael & Saint George Palace, Corfu City, hosted by the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu. The meeting was organized in conjunction with a meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Terminology (Convenor: Staffan NYSTRÖM), which met 25<sup>th</sup> May afternoon. The meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms (WGE) was attended by 33 experts from 20 countries.

The convenor opened the meeting and thanked the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by the Greek UNGEGN experts Emmanuel GOUNARIS and Alexandros STAVROPOULOS, as well as the city of Corfu, represented by its vice-mayor, for hosting the meeting in such a convenient atmosphere. He stressed that the thematic focus of this meeting is on the definitions of the endonym and the exonym and hinted at the proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Gdańsk (2012), edited by Paul WOODMAN and published under the title “The Great Toponymic Divide” by the Polish Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography.

After Peter JORDAN, Staffan NYSTRÖM welcomed the audience on behalf of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology and the vice-mayor on behalf of the city. The latter gave also a short survey over the history of the city and the island.

This opening was followed by a sequence of three sessions with in total 17 papers, 30 minutes presentation time each, including discussion. These papers are listed below.

**Session 1: The Great Divide – comprehensive approaches** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): The scope of activities of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, and the definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Arguments for new definitions of *endonym* and *exonym*

NYSTRÖM, Staffan (Sweden): Endonym and exonym: basically linguistic concepts after all?

MATTHEWS, Philip (New Zealand): Endonyms and exonyms: New definitions

CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): The matter of “reading” in the exonym discussions

HELLELAND, Botolv (Norway): Why *Hellas* in Norway and *Grekland* in Sweden?

BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia): Two kinds of exonyms – two kinds of classification problems

**Session 2: The Great Divide – specific aspects** (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Exonyms: special case of countries with non-Roman scripts

ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław R. (Poland): Some problems of exonym use in Arabic

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): Toponymic teleology: the Great Divide from a Nubian perspective

TANABE, Hiroshi; WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): A reflection on names of large seas

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): Country names in Polish as an example of using exonyms and endonyms

**Session 3: Exonyms – documentation and use** (Chair: Sungjae CHOO, Republic of Korea)

MANDOLA, Malgorzata (France, Poland): Reflections about *endonym* and *exonym* as proper place names

KLADNIK, Drago; GERŠIČ, Matjaž (Slovenia): A gazetteer of Slovenian exonyms

CREȚAN, Remus (Romania): South-Danubian place names reflected in Theodor Capidan’s seminal works

CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): Use of place names on maps in the border area with Russia: The territory of former Abrene

PAIKKALA, Sirkka (Finland): Finnish exonyms: a pragmatic approach to defining *exonym* and *endonym*

In a general discussion on new definitions of endonym and exonym lasting three and a half hours and moderated by the convenor, the convenor proposed at first a sequence of main questions to be addressed, which was approved by the audience:

- (1) Do we agree to Phil MATTHEWS’ unconventional approach?
- (2) Do we agree that we have to define umbrella terms, even if they are not operational for standardization purposes?
- (3) Do we agree that language is not an essential criterion for the endonym/exonym divide and that it needs therefore not to be part of the definitions?
- (4) Do we agree that officiality is not an essential criterion for the endonym/exonym divide and that it needs therefore not to be part of the definitions?
- (5) Do we agree that the divide should be confined to differences in writing?
- (6) Do we agree that there is no third term necessary besides endonym and exonym – even not for oceans and large seas?

Ad 1) Phil MATTHEWS had in a very comprehensive and sophisticatedly elaborated paper defined a name “as an endonym when the members of a linguistic community use the name in a written, spoken or signed mode that conforms to their language's norms at a certain point in time”. This means that the status of endonym and exonym is independent of a feature's location. It is just conformity with the user's language that counts. According to this definition *Milan* is an English endonym for the Italian city Milano, *États-Unis d'Amérique* a French endonym for the United States of America. MATTHEWS argues that in this way the number of exonyms will be reduced to a minimum (more or less to uncorrect spellings) and the mission of the UN to reduce the use of exonyms will be accomplished. To the counter-argument that such a reduction is only apparently achieved by the new interpretation of a still existing fact, he responds that none of the assumptions and interpretations is more “real” than the other and that our current view on the endonym/exonym divide is an inappropriate burdening of this divide by a meaning that it actually does not have. In the further discussion it is stated that although MATTHEWS's approach was consistent and logical, it was a purely linguistic approach and very much in contrast to what was discussed in this context within and outside UNGEGN so far. Following this approach would mean to reformulate several UN resolutions not only referring to exonyms, but also to other toponymic fields (Helen KERFOOT and others). It is then decided not to follow this path further at the moment, but to keep MATTHEWS's proposal on the agenda for further consideration.

Ad 2) As already in his paper, the convenor stresses the necessity to define endonym and exonym as umbrella terms, even if they are not operational for standardization purposes. All the terms in the UNGEGN Glossary have to be referred to their umbrella term. If, e.g., the term standardized endonym is defined in the Glossary, the reader has also to find a definition of the endonym in principal, in its widest possible and most inclusive sense. And to define this umbrella term was the primary and basic task. Subterms derived from the umbrella term can be defined subsequently, after the umbrella term has been defined. This opinion meets no major objection.

Ad 3) Whether language is an essential criterion for the endonym/exonym divide and has therefore to be part of the definitions, is vigorously discussed. Paul WOODMAN as well as the convenor had argued in their papers that an endonym (like a name for a house) can very well not correspond to the local language, what proves that language is not necessarily a criterion for the endonym/exonym divide. WOODMAN in contrast to the convenor, however, wishes to preserve the language criterion in the definitions in order to make them less contrastive compared to the current definitions and to make it easier for linguists to accept them. While Peeter PÄLL shares WOODMAN'S view, Staffan NYSTRÖM argues that language is already included in the term name (which is anyway part of the definitions) and that the fact that a name is a part of the language needs not always to be repeated. Dadfar MAANAVI supports the opinion not to mention language as a criterion by hinting at the fact that many names used by a certain community originate from another language not anymore spoken in the place. It becomes obvious that opinions in favour of and opposing language as a criterion are very much divided. The divide, however, crosses the lines of linguists and geographers/cartographers and coincides by no means with the scientific disciplines represented.

At this point of a deadlock Alexandros STAVROPOULOS comments not only on the language question, but extends his statement to the criterion of officiality and raises the question, why so much stress is laid on the role of endonyms as emotional ties between a human community and a feature (by WOODMAN as well as the convenor in several papers) and why all sizes and kinds of human communities had to be taken into account. He rather pleads for a more distanced and state/nation-related view, which was more practicable in the field of standardization. This comprehensive statement and the heated debate following

makes Paul WOODMAN proposing to abandon the planned sequence of agenda items and to take Staffan NYSTRÖM's two alternative definitions of the endonym as a basis for further discussion. He would be ready to withdraw his definitions' proposal in favour of Staffan NYSTRÖM's. This motion is approved by the audience and the convenor, who adds that he, too, would be ready to withdraw his proposed definitions in favour of Staffan NYSTRÖM's. Thus, after a short break the discussion continues on the following two definitions of the endonym proposed earlier by Staffan NYSTRÖM in his paper:

NYSTRÖM, Alternative 1: "Locally accepted name of a geographical feature used in a language that is well-established in the area where the feature is situated."

NYSTRÖM, Alternative 2: "Name of a geographical feature locally accepted and used in the area where the feature is situated."

They were replacing

WOODMAN: "Locally accepted name of a geographical feature in a language that is well-established in the area where the feature is situated."

JORDAN: "Name for a geographical feature used by the population autochthonous in the feature's location."

Staffan NYSTRÖM's alternatives differed just as regards inclusion or exclusion of language as a differentiating criterion, while both did not require officiality as a prerequisite for endonym status. This caused a debate on the question, whether for standardization purposes official names, names in official languages or at least standardized names were not the most and perhaps even only important. It was argued that it is often difficult to find reliable sources for other than standardized names (Alexandros STAVROPOULOS, Maciej ZYCH, Bogusław ZAGORSKI and others). In response, the convenor argued that for many practical purposes like the rendering of place names on maps and in gazetteers standardized names or even only official names or names in official languages were of course the most relevant, but that they were only a part of all endonyms. The definition of the endonym in the Glossary, however, had to be all-comprehensive, to include all kinds, status versions and linguistic forms of a name. Certainly, these definitions were not operational for the purposes of standardization. But purpose-orientation was not the task of defining umbrella terms. Umbrella terms had just to be defined in such a way that these definitions are true and valid under all circumstances, that there is not a single case, which they do not cover. Departing from these umbrella terms, subterms can be defined or are already defined, like it is with the term *standardized endonym*. A map editor or the editor of a names gazetteer will then have to declare, which subterms/subcategories of the endonym he takes into account. He/she will have to make his/her method of selection transparent to the reader, which was in the interest of scientific clarity. Maciej ZYCH hinted at the danger to arouse China's opposition, if, e.g., Tibetan place names would figure as endonyms and defended officiality as a criterion for the endonym/exonym divide. Reminded of his critical attitude opposite the current definitions and his pleading for "more practicable" definitions at the last WGE workshop in Gdańsk, he advocated a return to the definitions valid up to 2007. Generally speaking, during this part of the debate a divide between "etastic" views and approaches granting also subnational communities the right to call their names endonyms became obvious.

Facing significantly divided opinions related to language as well as officiality as criteria for the endonym/exonym divide and taking into account that the time available was



almost exhausted, other questions like whether the divide should be confined to differences in writing or whether a third term besides endonym and exonym was necessary for large unpopulated features are not discussed anymore.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Meeting (business meeting), New York, April 29, 2014**

The WG met on April, 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 during the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the UN Headquarters in New York (US). The Working Group's convener, Peter JORDAN, chaired the meeting.

The convener gave an overview on activities of the Working Group since the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting in New York in 2012.

At first, he reported on the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG in Corfu, Greece, 16-18 May 2013. and expressed his gratitude to the hosts of this meeting, the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu.

Secondly, the convener presented the proceedings of the Corfu Meeting, which had in 2014 been published under the title "The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 3), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2014, ISBN 978-3-8300-7747-3. 295 p. They contained the 17 papers presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Corfu plus additional four papers to the case in point written by authors who intended to join the meeting in Corfu, but had finally been prevented to come or could not present a paper already in Corfu: Halīm SABBĀR (United Kingdom), Ivana CRLJENKO (Croatia), Gábor MIKESY (Hungary) and Maria del Mar BATLLE (Spain).

The convener reported on the discussion conducted in Corfu and on the main questions raised in this context: (1) Should we aim at umbrella terms focusing on the essence of the two concepts? (2) Is language to be mentioned as a differentiating criterion between endonym and exonym? (3) Is officiality to be mentioned as a differentiating criterion between endonym and exonym? He mentioned also the very different approach of Phil MATTHEWS, who regards endonyms as names conforming to the rules of a certain language independent of the spatial speaker-feature relation. These explanations were followed by a longer discussion in which the following opinions prevailed:

- The current discussion on the endonym/exonym divide is academic, while UNGEGN needs practice-oriented definitions.
- In order to comply to its terms of reference and its tasks within UNGEGN the WG should stop the discussion on new definitions of the endonym and the exonym and turn to more practice-oriented agenda items.

The convener concluded that the next 16<sup>th</sup> WG meeting in Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014, will be the last opportunity to discuss the matter of new definitions and the last attempt into this direction. Should the WG not arrive at an agreement on new definitions in Hermagor the discussion will not be continued.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Meeting (workshop), Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014**

The WG met in the Alpen-Adria Hotel in the Municipality of Hermagor-Preseggersee, Austrian federal state of Carinthia [Kärnten]. The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and attended by 28 experts from 17 countries.

The convener opened the meeting and welcomed all participants in his home town and place of birth as well as the representatives of federal state and municipality. He emphasized that according to the business meeting in New York (15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, WGE) and the 28<sup>th</sup>

UNGEEN Session this meeting has to see the last attempt to find new definitions of endonym and exonym and that the next meeting of the WG will be devoted to another agenda item, i.e. criteria for the use of exonyms.

Gabriele SCHAUNIG, Deputy Governor of the Federal Province of Carinthia, as well as Siegfried RONACHER, Mayor of Hermagor-Pressseggersee, extended a warm welcome to all participants on behalf of province and municipality, respectively. These welcome addresses were followed by a geographical and historical introduction to place and region by the convenor as well as by a historical account of Carinthia and an introduction into the namescape of southwestern Carinthia by the Klagenfurt-based linguist Heinz-Dieter POHL.

This opening was followed by a sequence of three sessions with in total 18 papers, 30 minutes presentation time each, including discussion. These papers are listed below and have been published as Volume 4 of *Name & Place*, edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

**Session 1: The endonym/exonym divide – general aspects** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter: The endonym/exonym divide – On the state of our discussions

NYSTRÖM, Staffan (Sweden): Endonym and exonym: definitions and some useful subterms

HAUSNER, Isolde (Austria): Are exonyms and endonyms onomastic or toponymic terms?

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Spelling differences and exonyms

CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia): Practical benefits of knowing the definitions of exonym and endonym when creating the list of exonyms/foreign names

MATTHEWS, Phil (New Zealand): Endonyms, exonyms, boundaries and standardization

BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia): Don't we have at least some endonyms for foreign geographical features?

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): A multilingual environment: Its relevance for defining 'endonym' and 'exonym'

SABBĀR, Halim (United Kingdom), in the author's absence presented by Herman BELL: Disenfranchising indigenous languages. The need to define 'endonym' and 'exonym' with accuracy and fairness

**Session 2: The endonym/exonym divide – macroregional views** (Chair: Sungjae CHOO, Republic of Korea)

TANABE, Hiroshi (Japan): Difficulties of the exonym/endonym dichotomy from the viewpoint of East Asian place names

CHOO, Sungjae; KIM, Heesu (Republic of Korea): The endonym/exonym divide in the context of the Korean language

ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław R. (Poland): Endonym-exonym divide: observations based on Polish-Persian toponymic equivalences

MIKESY, Gábor; POKOLY, Béla; BÖLCSKEI, Andrea (Hungary): The exonym/endonym divide: Examples highlighting different aspects in Central Europe

CALVARIN, Élisabeth (France) in the author's absence presented by Peter JORDAN: La toponymie et l'or noir - ou la toponymie dans le monde industriel (Toponymy and the crude oil – or the toponymy in the industrial world).

**Session 3: The endonym/exonym divide – national views** (Chair: Béla POKOLY, Hungary)

MAREK, Tomáš (Czech Republic): View of members of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names on exonyms

GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): Slovenian geographical names as exonyms

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): The new list of Polish exonyms

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Endonyms and exonyms in the "Near Abroad": The role of Russian in the toponymy of Kazakhstan

Before starting the general discussion on new definitions of endonym and exonym the convenor provided some information on the excursion to Lake Weißensee on the last day of the meeting and addressed briefly three more items:

- (1) **Proceedings of the Hermagor meeting:** He proposed to publish them again in the book series Name & Place, invited Paul WOODMAN to function again as his co-editor and proposed to define 31 October 2014 as the deadline for submission of manuscripts. This was accepted by Paul WOODMAN and the audience.
- (2) **Homepage of the WG:** The convenor noted that the website has completely been refurbished, is constantly updated and contains comprehensive information on WG meetings and publications. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Matjaž GERŠIČ, who did all this work and will further maintain the homepage.
- (3) **Next WG meeting:** The convenor reminded of the Algerian offer, officially expressed by Brahim ATOUI at the business meeting New York, to host the next WG meeting in Oran, Algeria, in 2015. He also mentioned that he had received some other preliminary and so far unofficial offers. He added that the question of a next meeting had not to be decided now and that the WG had still some time for consideration.

Starting the general discussion lasting three hours and moderated by the convenor, the convenor initially noted that this was – according to the decisions in New York – the last opportunity to arrive at a conclusion regarding new definitions. He also stated that it will very likely be too much to expect that every expert present will agree to new definitions and suggested that a qualified majority should be sufficient for having them passed. As starting point for the discussion he proposed to depart from the definitions of endonym and exonym as they had been proposed by Staffan NYSTRÖM (2014, p. 38) and just slightly been amended as regards the definition of the exonym by himself (amendments in bold letters):

Endonym: “Name of a geographical feature locally accepted and used in the area where the feature is situated. *Examples:* [...]”

Exonym: “Name of a geographical feature not locally accepted or used in the area where the feature is situated and differing in its form from the endonym(s) in **its (their) nominative singular of the noun** in the same **non-ideographic** script. *Examples:* [...]”

He then proposed to structure the discussion into the following subitems:

- (1) Do we agree that we have to define umbrella terms that are not operational for standardization purposes?
- (2) Do we agree that officiality is not an essential criterion for the endonym/exonym divide and that it needs therefore not to be part of the definitions?
- (3) Do we agree that language is not an essential criterion for the endonym/exonym divide and that it needs therefore not to be part of the definitions?
- (4) Do we agree that the divide should be confined to differences in writing?
- (5) Do we agree that there is no third term necessary besides endonym and exonym – even not for oceans and large seas?

In response to the convenor’s suggestion that a qualified majority should be sufficient for having new definitions passed, since the full consent of every expert present to new definitions can never be expected, Alexandros STAVROPOULOS referred to UNGEGN’s rules of procedure and the statute of UNGEGN ruling that all decisions in UNGEGN and in the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) have to be taken unanimously.<sup>1</sup> The convenor replied that strict reference to this principle would

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<sup>1</sup> UNGEGN Rules of Procedure, Rule 23, para. 1, entitled "Consensus" stating "On all except procedural matters, the Group of Experts, its linguistic/geographical divisions and its working groups shall arrive at decisions by consensus. In the event that a consensus is not achieved, the matter shall be deferred for reworking and resubmission". Statute of UNGEGN (Principles), article II, para 1: "The Group of Experts shall act as a

obstruct any innovation and scientific discussion, since it was always so that new ideas need some time to gain ground and that it is rarely so that everybody is at the same level of the discussion.

He added that he conceives UNGEGN and especially its working groups rather as scientific discussion fora with the task to prepare and elaborate UN resolutions on a scientific basis than as political bodies. UNGEGN and its working groups should make it possible to discuss items thoroughly and propose results on a sound scientific basis.

He questioned also, whether it was in fact so that UN resolutions can only be taken unanimously. His experience with the Romanization systems of the Bulgarian and the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabet adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN in 2012 was a different one: Although a certain group of countries had expressed their objection against these systems up to the very end in the 8<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN and already earlier in UNGEGN sessions and working group meetings, these systems were finally adopted. Alexandros STAVROPOULOS responded that if this group of countries would have insisted on the rules of procedure, the respective resolutions could not have been passed. Staffan NYSTRÖM stated that he was not sure, whether every single term in the UNGEGN Glossary of Toponymic Terms would find the consent of every single UNGEGN expert and UNCSGN delegate. Paul WOODMAN remarked that he would like to avoid a voting on new definitions in the WG (which, however, had not been intended by the convenor).

The convenor concluded this discussion item by stating that the WG will try to find a compromise acceptable for everybody as regards new definitions.

Before entering into the discussion according to the structure proposed by the convenor, Alexandros STAVROPOULOS, supported by Maciej ZYCH, Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI, Monica DUMITRASCU and others demanded not to start the discussion from new definitions, but to take the current definitions as the point of departure:

**Endonym** – Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in that area where the feature is situated. Examples: Vārānasī (not Benares); Aachen (not Aix-la-Chapelle); Krung Thep (not Bangkok); al-Uqşur (not Luxor); Teverya (not Tiberias). (UNEGN Glossary 2002 + Addendum 2007, p. 10)

**Exonym** – Name used in a specific language for a →geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated. Examples: Warsaw is the English exonym for Warszawa; Londres is French for London; Mailand is German for Milano. The officially romanized endonym Moskva for Москва is not an exonym, nor is the Pinyin form Beijing, while Peking is an exonym. The United Nations recommends minimizing the use of exonyms in international usage. See also →name, traditional. (UNEGN Glossary 2002 + Addendum 2007, p. 10)

He then addressed specifically officiality as the criterion, which is still part of the current definitions, while it is to be eliminated as a differentiating criterion of the endonym/exonym divide from the new definitions, which means that unofficial names, e.g. names used by local linguistic minorities, can have endonym status while official names authorized by the state were not necessarily endonyms. Supported and supplemented mainly by Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI, he hinted at the following two problems arising from this new approach:

- (1) Dissociation of officiality and endonym status would mean that in several countries a number of official names would lose their endonym status and turn into exonyms. This category of names, however, was certainly not in the scope of UNGEGN experts, when they passed UN resolutions demanding the reduction of exonyms. Eliminating officiality as a criterion for the endonym/exonym divide would therefore lead to a

contradiction between the definitions of endonym and exonym on the one hand and UN resolutions on the other, which cannot be accepted. Together with new definitions it would be necessary to modify also these resolutions.

- (2) “Mother countries” of cultural minorities could use the endonym status of non-official minority place names as a pretext and excuse for territorial claims or at least protective measures related to these minorities and their territories.

The convenor argued that already the current definitions classify place names in “well-established languages” – which need not to be official – as endonyms, conceded however, that according to the current definitions no name in an official language is an exonym. Staffan NYSTRÖM stressed in a comprehensive statement that besides terms operational for standardization purposes also umbrella terms are needed, which highlight the essence of a concept. Umbrella terms of endonym and exonym do not prevent the definition of operational subterms in line with the requirements of standardization in general and the needs of individual countries in particular.

Hiroshi TANABE hinted at the ambivalent role of UNGEGN as an expert group on the one hand, but also as a political body established for special purposes and representing countries and their governments on the other. This second role has also to be taken into account and will sometimes lead to discordance between scientific and practice-oriented, politically acceptable approaches. “Politics is always a matter of compromises and not just of scientific ‘truth’.”

After a short break the convenor recognized in a final statement that

- (1) new definitions of endonym and exonym are not accepted by a larger group of experts present;
- (2) convincing arguments especially against the elimination of officiality as a criterion for the endonym/exonym have been brought forward in this meeting;
- (3) the current definitions of endonym and exonym are in the given situation the optimum achievable.

He added that the long and intensive discussion on the endonym/exonym divide and on new definitions of endonym and exonym had nevertheless been fruitful and by no means been in vain. It had revealed a lot of aspects that had never been addressed before. By exploring all other possibilities and directions it had also made us sure that the current definitions are the best of all possible solutions. The whole discussion was moreover well-documented by four book volumes (and will additionally be documented by a next volume with the proceedings of the Hermagor meeting), so that all the arguments and findings will remain accessible and can be taken as a basis for future research.

He repeated that the main topic of a next WG meeting will be “Criteria for the use of exonyms”. This means resuming a practice-oriented agenda item, which had already intensively been discussed up to the meeting in Tainach in 2010. The results of this earlier discussion can serve as starting point.

He expressed also the WGs intention to continue its tradition of annual workshops. This means that the venue of a next meeting in 2015 had to be found and decided upon.

The convenor then closed the discussion as well as the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG. He thanked all experts for their presence and valuable input, especially the paper presenters, the session chairs and the convenors of other UNGEGN working groups. He extended special thanks also to Paul WOODMAN, who – in spite of a sad event in his family – managed to come at least for the general discussion and the excursion. Bogusław ZAGÓRSKI thanked the convenor on behalf of all participants for hosting and conducting this meeting.

The day after the workshop most participants joined a bus excursion to Hermagor and Lake Weißensee.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Meeting (workshop), Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015**

The WG met in the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography [Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža] in Zagreb, Croatia, and was kindly hosted by this Institute including an invited dinner in the first evening. 33 experts from 15 countries attended the meeting.

Peter JORDAN, the convenor, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked the hosts and local organizers of this meeting, Ivana CRLJENKO, who had managed the local organization excellently, Mladen KLEMENČIĆ, the competent guide of a city tour at the evening of the second meeting day and an excursion to the Hrvatsko zagorje at the last day, as well as Bruno KRAGIĆ, the director of the Institute. He emphasized the importance of the project of a Croatian list of exonyms conducted at this Institute by Ivana CRLJENKO and extended special thanks to Matjaž GERŠIČ for maintaining the WG website so well. He presented also the proceedings of the last WG Meeting in Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014, which had been edited by Paul WOODMAN and the convenor and had just some days ago been published under the title “Confirmation of the Definitions” as Volume 4 of the toponymic book series “Name & Place”.

Director Bruno KRAGIĆ cordially welcomed then all participants on behalf of the Institute. Ivana CRLJENKO provided a survey of the activities regarding exonyms conducted at the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography. They include the Croatian list of exonyms already mentioned as well as a joint Croatian-Slovenian project on exonyms. Mladen KLEMENČIĆ gave a short introduction into history and geography of Zagreb and its hinterland, to which the excursion at the last day of the meeting would lead. Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ from the University of Zadar, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, earlier representing Croatia in UNGEGN, concluded the opening session by presenting a survey of the Croatian namescape.

This opening was followed by a sequence of three sessions with in total 16 papers, 30 minutes presentation time each, including discussion. The structure of these sessions is presented below. Almost all papers have been published as Volume 6 of Name & Place, edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

#### **Session 1: Criteria for the use of exonyms – comprehensive approaches** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Criteria for the use of exonyms – resuming an interrupted discussion

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Advice on exonyms and their usage

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): Criteria for the use of exonyms – the Polish perspective

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Evolution of criteria on the usage of exonyms in Estonian

CHOO, Sungjae; CHI, Sang-Hyun; KIM, Heesu (Republic of Korea): Exonym use in Korean geographical names: Implications for the “criteria”

HEĆIMOVIĆ, Željko; DIVJAK, Dragan (Croatia): Croatian practice and policies of endonym and exonym use considering INSPIRE and NSDI

MIKESY, Gábor; POKOLY, Béla; BÖLCSKEI, Andrea (Hungary): Examples of exonym use in Hungary

#### **Session 2: Exonyms – concept and terminology** (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)

BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia): Exonymoids and endonymoids?

MÁCHA, Přemysl (Czechia): Exonyms as metaphoric endonyms: World history and geography in local landscapes

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): The goal of an exonym: Networks of intangible culture

GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): The Croatian-Slovenian bilateral project on exonyms

**Session 3: Specific fields of exonym use** (Chair: Maciej ZYCH, Poland)

PAULIG, Helge (Germany): The use of exonyms in German school atlases since 1945

STANI-FERTL, Roman (Austria): Non-official toponyms (exonyms and other name variants) in national names data bases

WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): Scale matters – names of large seas and continents

MAREK, Tomáš (Czechia): Czech names of seas and international territories

CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): The use of exonyms when a geographical feature extends across language boundaries

Before starting the general discussion on criteria for the use of exonyms the convenor addressed briefly three more items:

- (1) **Next UNGEGN session:** The next UNGEGN session will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-29 April 2016. The convenor encouraged the participants to submit working papers on exonyms. He also hinted at intentions expressed in a teleconference recently held between the UNGEGN Bureau and the WG convenors to “empower” the convenors in the conduct of sessions on the activities of their WGs and to open the possibility for a thematic focus defined by the convenor. The thematic focus of the session related to activities of the WG on Exonyms within the next UNGEGN session could be “Criteria for the use of exonyms”.
- (2) **Next WG meeting:** The convenor informed the meeting of the offer he had received from Tomáš MAREK and his institute, the Czech Land Survey Office, to host the next WG meeting in Prague [Praha], Czechia.<sup>2</sup> This offer is gratefully accepted by all experts present. The question arises, whether it should be held in 2016 or 2017. Since the year 2016 is already “occupied” by the next UNGEGN session in Bangkok, in the framework of which anyway a (short) business meeting of the WG will be organized, it is decided to schedule it for spring 2017.
- (3) **Inventory of lists of exonyms:** The existence of an already larger number of lists of widely used exonyms in several countries would be a good reason to establish an inventory of all such lists and gazetteers at the WG website. It could be a valuable source of information for comparative studies on the use of exonyms and beyond. The experts present would agree to this proposal. The convenor would then announce that he would disseminate a template to all WG members and associated experts and ask them to fill in the data of their gazetteer or list according to several characteristics and criteria.

Starting the general discussion lasting two hours and moderated by the convenor, the convenor initially reminded the audience that it is one of the tasks of the WG to develop guidelines for the use of exonyms. Resolution VIII/4 (UN Conference in Berlin, 2002) defined as the WG’s major tasks the categorisation of exonym use; the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms; the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms. He also hinted at efforts already taken in complying to this latter task, i.e. at the WG Meeting in Prague (2003); the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference in New York (2007), where already a detailed list of criteria was presented and discussed; the WG Meeting in Timișoara (2008), where this list of criteria was again discussed and modified; the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Nairobi (2009), where the attempt to propose an essentially reduced version of this list as a model for a UN resolution failed. He mentioned also that at the 10<sup>th</sup> WG Meeting in Tainach 2010 the aim was not a UN resolution anymore, but just a kind of hand-out for people asking for advice and that then the WG’s discussion on this topic was interrupted by

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<sup>2</sup> Tomáš MAREK has left the Office in the meantime, but the Czech Land Survey Office has confirmed this offer.

the seemingly more urgent issue of new definitions of the endonym and the exonym. He also argued that when this discussion on criteria was resumed now, it should be done with the intentions (1) to produce as the final result a UN resolution and (2) to respect UN resolutions on exonyms already passed. Referring to the latter item further, he noted (with some ironical undertone) that UN resolutions were similar to dogmas of the Roman-Catholic Church insofar as new resolutions/dogmas must not contradict older ones, but can only slightly amend or modify them. All existing UN resolutions on exonyms (6 of them passed between 1972 and 2002), however, demand more or less explicitly their reduction. It had, however, also to be stated that all these resolutions, except the last one passed in Berlin 2002 and establishing the WG, date from a period, when exonyms were banned for political reasons. In the meantime minority names have been acknowledged as legitimate additional endonyms by UNGEGN and UN softening the rigid one name/one feature principle; place names in general, but exonyms explicitly included, have been acknowledged as a valuable part of the cultural heritage. All these developments after the 1980s resulted also in an addition to the definition of the exonym in the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms (version 2007, p. 10) saying that “The United Nations recommends minimizing the use of exonyms in international usage.” Since this is not really a necessary addition to the definition, it can be understood as having the intention to stress that the UN’s former aim of reducing the use of exonyms in general has been confined to their reduction in international usage. So it was worthwhile to discuss and to find out, in which fields of communication and in which applications the functionality of exonyms was strongest and exonyms were not necessary – of course bearing in mind the still valid mission of the UNGEGN and UN rather to reduce the use of exonyms, or at least to confine their use. In this regard, Alexandros STAVROPOULOS asked the convenor for a clarification on whether the proposed resolution would also cover cases of international usage of exonyms. The convenor stated that this would not be the case.

The convenor then proposed to return to the state of discussion reached in Tainach 2010 and to depart from a draft resolution on this topic presented in a common working paper of Paul WOODMAN, Phil MATTHEWS and himself submitted to the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Nairobi 2009 (WP 11). He presented it in a version slightly modified by himself as regards the main text and – complying to a request of Alexandros STAVROPOULOS – with a categorization of criteria added that was not part of this WP, but of earlier versions. Both kinds of modifications are marked in red in the text below.

The Conference,

Recalling the various resolutions with reference to exonyms adopted by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (II/28, II/29, II/31, II/38, III/18, III/19, IV/20, V/13, VIII/4);

Further recalling the general intention of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to reduce the use of exonyms in international communications;

Recognizing that the customary option for the portrayal of geographical names in international communications will involve use of the standardized endonym;

Acknowledging however that exonyms exist and that an exonym is a function of language;

Further acknowledging that there exist both donor languages (relevant to the endonym of a particular feature) and receiver languages (relevant to the publication or audience for which that feature is to be identified);

Recommends that, where donor and receiver languages differ **and the communication does not involve speakers of other languages**, an exonym be considered suitable for use in publications as the customary option for the names of features in the following limited circumstances:



- for the names of countries (unless the specific purpose of the publication is to show endonyms)
- for the names of features of shared or divided sovereignty (especially in publications where space is limited)
- for the names of exclusively historical features without any corresponding current endonym;

Further recommends that, if considered useful for communication **between speakers of the same language**, an exonym may additionally be used in publications for the names of selected features within a single sovereignty (where donor and receiver languages differ), provided that the exonym is deployed in the following manner:

- it should be apolitical, and sensitively chosen
- in running text the corresponding endonym for the feature should be noted at suitable junctures.

**In communication between speakers of the same language** for features within a single sovereignty an exonym may thus be taken into consideration

#### **Audience-related criteria**

- rather in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an unofficial or informal way than in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an official or formal way;

#### **Context-related criteria**

- rather in a historical context than in a context referring to the present situation;

#### **Medium-related criteria**

- rather with the spoken and written word than with technical and scientific means of communication;
- rather with means of communication used predominantly outside the area of the donor language than with means of communication used predominantly in the area of the donor language;

#### **Feature-related criteria**

- rather with names of features currently important or for historical reasons well known to the community of the receiver language than with names of (in history or present) less important features;
- rather with names of features of the nature sphere than with names of features in the cultural sphere;

#### **Language-related criteria**

- rather with names in less frequent trade languages with speakers of the receiver language than with names in frequent languages;
- rather with names composed of a specific and a semantically transparent generic term than with names consisting of a single word.

Paul WOODMAN remarked that the additions later inserted by the convenor, demanding that exonym use be confined to communication between speakers of the same language, were too restrictive. Also in communication between speakers of different languages, exonyms can be useful, e.g. when speakers of different languages communicate in a third (trade) language. He also remarked that a resolution might not necessarily be the best way of convincing UNGEGN that exonyms are sometimes appropriate.

Maciej ZYCH expressed his principal objection against any interference into national affairs related to exonyms. Poland, e.g., had already defined its list of exonyms for Polish users. The convenor responded that even if a list of standardized exonyms exists, it is still the

question in which fields of communication they should be used. A UN resolution like the one proposed would not mean any interference into national sovereignty as regards the scope of exonyms to be used. It just offers advice when the question arises, in which fields of communication exonyms are functional and thus recommendable.

Maciej ZYCH and Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ questioned then the validity of several criteria, especially the advice to use exonyms “rather in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an unofficial or informal way than in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an official or formal way” and “rather with the spoken and written word than with technical and scientific means of communication”. “Why should a Croatian politician not address his electorate by using exonyms?” and “Why should a table included in a text book use the endonym, while in the written text the exonym is used?” Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ asked. Several other participants brought forward similar objections. They reflected a picture completely different from earlier discussions on this topic up to the WG meeting in Tainach: Exonym use seemed now to be well accepted, to be a matter of national sovereignty and corresponding to the aim of preserving a cultural heritage, while international, more specifically UN intervention into this field was regarded as inadequate. The vast majority of participants expressed explicitly or implicitly opinions disfavouring the definition of guidelines for the use of exonyms, leaving Alexandros STAVROPOULOS and the convenor as the only remaining explicit defenders of this idea.

Thus, the convenor found himself in a role contrary to earlier occasions and reminded the meeting of several items: of the WG’s terms of reference committing it to the “formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms”; of the fact that this meeting of the WG stands in the continuity of WG meetings, which means that earlier considerations referring to this field have to be taken into account; of the fact that the WG is not an independent body, but a subunit of UNGEGN and will have to defend its opinion in this wider community. He also addressed the tactical aspect that a slightly and moderately exonym-friendly resolution will have good chances to be passed by a UN conference and would then help to overcome the former direction of UNGEGN and UN to avoid exonym use completely. It would at least mean a small step forward in the direction represented and expressed by the majority of this meeting. However, the opinion to avoid any resolution or guideline for the use of exonyms remained prevailing. This led to the conclusion not to discuss the draft resolution further.

Roman STANI-FERTL proposed to depart from a relatively exonym-friendly older resolution, e.g. UN Resolution II/28 recognizing “that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages” and to connect it with guidelines for the use of exonyms.

Peeter PÄLL then suggested presenting in a next UNGEGN session a working paper just noting the current trends in exonym use and avoiding any normative attitude. This could by those looking for advice be taken as a guideline. It will thus fulfil the same purpose as explicit guidelines for the use of exonyms and comply to the WG’s task of formulating guidelines. The audience and the convenor accepted this suggestion as a convenient and practicable compromise. The convenor expressed his intention to elaborate such a working paper for the next UNGEGN session in Bangkok on behalf of the WG and to circulate it among all WG members for amendments and modifications before submitting it.

The day after the workshop most participants joined a bus excursion to the Hrvatsko zagorje, the northern hinterland of Zagreb, including visits to the fortified castle of Veliki Tabor, Tito’s birthplace and an ethnographical museum in Kumrovec and a Franciscan monastery in Klanjec. Mladen KLEMENČIĆ most competently guided the excursion.

## **18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (business meeting), Bangkok, April 26, 2016**

The WG met on April, 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in the UN premises in Bangkok for three quarters of an hour. The Working Group's convenor, Peter JORDAN, chaired the meeting.

The convenor gave an overview on activities of the Working Group since the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting in New York in 2014.

At first, he reported on the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG in Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014, where the discussion on new definitions of endonym and exonym had been concluded and hinted at the proceedings of this meeting, which had been published under the title "Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 4), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2015, ISBN 978-3-8300-8422-8, 244 p. They contained the 19 papers presented. Then, he reported of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the WG in Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015, where the discussion on criteria for the use of exonym had been resumed and expressed his gratitude to the hosts of this meeting, the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography and more specifically to Ivana CRLJENKO and Mladen KLEMENČIĆ. He presented the proceedings of this meeting, which had recently been published under the title "Criteria for the Use of Exonyms. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Zagreb, 14-16 May 2015, ed. by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN (= Name & Place, Vol. 6), published by Dr. Kovač, Hamburg 2016, ISBN 978-3-8300-8946-9, 178 p. They contained the 16 papers presented. The convenor also explained that he had not complied to the intention expressed in the Zagreb meeting of drafting a working paper on the use of exonyms and to submit it to the UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, since he had noted a lack of empirical evidence on exonym use in different parts of the world for such an undertaking. He proposed devoting the next WG meeting in Prague, a workshop, to investigating into exonym use in various countries and to derive then from these findings such a working paper. Thus, this would be the main agenda item of the WG up to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference in New York. As an additional agenda item he hinted at the inventory of exonym lists, which contained already several entries, and asked the WG members present to augment this inventory. He also explained his proposal in a working paper submitted to the 29<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session to introduce "international name" or "koinonym" as an additional term besides "endonym" and "exonym".

The meeting ends with hints at the WGs homepage so well maintained by Matjaž GERŠIČ.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (workshop) Prague, Czechia, 6-8 April 2017**

The workshop, organized in conjunction with a meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (Chair: Peeter PÄLL), was hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office [Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální], and Land Survey Office [Zeměměřický úřad], in person by Irena ŠVEHLOVÁ and Klara STEINEROVÁ. The 26 participants from 16 countries enjoyed a great hospitality, an interesting program with 19 scientific papers, a general debate on the use of exonyms and at the last day of the meeting a common excursion to a bright example of Bohemian urban and ecclesiastical culture, Kutná Hora. After an introduction into the Czech namescape by Milan HARVALÍK (Czechia) the following papers were presented:

### **Session 1: General approaches (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)**

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): The endonym/exonym divide – questions resolved and still open at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Working Group on Exonyms

POKOLY, Béla (Hungary): Exonyms and endonyms, national names and foreign names  
 GAMMELTOFT, Peder (Denmark): The exonym – A problem or a benefit for communication?  
 ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław (Poland): Endonym-exonym divide (?) in practice – Observations based on two World maps in Arabic  
 BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): The Dynamics of exonyms and an accusation of ‘cultural suicide’  
**Session 2: Exonym use by countries** (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)  
 HELLELAND, Botolv (Norway): Norway – still going strong on the endonymy line  
 WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Toponyms and the definite article in English language text and speech  
 BATLLE, Maria del Mar (Spain): Handling exonyms in Catalan: general use and criteria for standardizing  
 BOHÁČ, Pavel (Czechia): List of Czech exonyms. Standardized forms, variants  
 GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): Colour in Slovenian exonyms  
 CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia): Comments on the proposed list of criteria for the use of exonyms – Croatian perspective  
 BÖLCSKEI, Andrea; GERCSÁK, Gábor; MIKESY, Gábor (Hungary): Use of exonyms in present-day Hungary  
 JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Exonym use in Austria  
 CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): Exonym use in Latvian  
 WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): Current use of exonyms in Japan  
 LIŠČÁK, Vladimír (Czechia): Endonyms and exonyms in Taiwan  
 CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): Use of exonyms in Korea: results of a survey

The proceedings of the workshop will be published in the toponymic book series *Name & Place* (Vol. 7) edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

The concluding general debate on the use of exonyms, chaired by the convenor, started from a comprehensive list of potential criteria for the use of exonyms and resulted in an agreement on a small set of globally common characteristics and criteria that will be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names as a Conference Paper:

## **Globally common characteristics and criteria of exonym use**

### **(1) Language-related criteria**

Exonyms tend to be used,

- in receiver language environments;
- if the endonym is composed of a specific and a semantically transparent generic word.

### **(2) Feature-related criteria**

Exonyms tend to be used, if the geographical feature marked by the name

- has close and traditional relations to the community of the receiver language;
- is historically or currently important (for the receiver community);
- extends across language boundaries.

In a final statement, the convenor announced his intention to step back from the convenor function after eleven years in office at the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names expressing his gratitude for all the support and cooperation he had enjoyed as well as his satisfaction about remarkable achievements such as the series of workshops and proceedings that had explored all the aspects of the endonym/exonym divide. He also mentioned that he would not leave his function, had he not found an expert willing and able to continue this work, Kohei WATANABE (Japan).

## 2.2 Proceedings

### Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Corfu

The proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting contain the papers presented as well as four additional articles, whose authors were prevented from attending the Meeting. The book can be ordered from publisher Dr. Kovač, Hamburg (email: [info@verlagdrkovac.de](mailto:info@verlagdrkovac.de), website: <http://www.verlagdrkovac.de>). It corresponds to Volume 3 of the toponymic book series “Name & Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN and has the following full title:

Peter JORDAN, Paul WOODMAN (eds.), *The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013 (= Name & Place, 3)*. Hamburg, Dr. Kovač.

### Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Hermagor

The proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting contain 19 papers presented at the meeting and comprises 244 pages. They corresponds to Volume 4 of the toponymic book series “Name & Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN and have the following full title:

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2015), *Confirmation of the Definitions. Proceedings of the 16<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014 (Name & Place, 4)*. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 244 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8422-8.

### Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Zagreb

The proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting contain 16 of the papers presented at the meeting and comprise 172 pages. They corresponds to Volume 6 of the toponymic book series “Name & Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN and have the following full title:

JORDAN Peter, WOODMAN Paul (eds.) (2016), *Criteria for the Use of Exonyms. Proceedings of the 17<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Zagreb, 14-16 May 2015 (Name & Place, 6)*. Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač, 170 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-8946-9.

Both books can be ordered from publisher Dr. Kovač, Hamburg (email: [info@verlagdrkovac.de](mailto:info@verlagdrkovac.de), website: <http://www.verlagdrkovac.de>).

## 3 Future directions

The WG will convene for a next business meeting in the framework of the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 8-17 August 2017.

Having intensively discussed the endonyms/exonym divide and the definitions of both concepts as well as criteria for the use of exonyms and finally decided that

- the current definitions of the Glossary are not to be changed (16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Hermagor)
- just a few language- and feature-related criteria are globally relevant and can be taken as a guideline (19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Prague),

**clarifying the margins between the concepts of the endonym and the exonym** based on the current definitions is still a necessity. It is still unclear and regarded differently, whether

- the translation of the generic part of a composite place name constitutes an exonym;
- the omission of diacritics constitutes an exonym;
- the omission of an article constitutes an exonym;
- transliteration constitutes an exonym;
- phonetic transcription recommended for national use constitutes an exonym;
- phonetic transcription recommended for international use (e.g. the UN-recommended English-phonetic Romanization systems for the Bulgarian and the Ukrainian Cyrillic alphabets) constitutes an exonym;
- place names recommended for international use by international organisations and institutions like IHO, SCAR, ICAO can in this function be regarded as exonyms;
- sea names – missing the counterpart of an endonym – can be regarded as exonyms.

An accompanying project proceeding in the background is an **inventory of lists of exonyms** at the WG website. It will be a valuable source for studies on the use of exonyms.

## Appendix

### **Members and associated experts of the UNGEEN Working Group on Exonyms (updated: 18 May 2017)**

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