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

New York, 8-17 August 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the  
progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for  
distribution only).**

**Report of Italy**

Submitted by Italy \*\*

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## NATIONAL REPORT OF ITALY

### **1.. Progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference.**

Since the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names Italy has completed the following activities.

#### *The World Geographical Names database*

Italy has cooperated with the UNGEGN Secretariat for the updating of the UNGEGN World Geographical Names, multilingual and multiscriptual dataset of names of countries, capitals and major cities, implementing the list of Italian cities with more than one hundred thousand inhabitants and relative audio-file.

#### *The Italian Toponymic database*

The old *Italian Toponymic Database 25K* (DBTopo25) was created in 1997 for cartographic purposes by recording all the texts on the topographic map sheets at scale 1: 25000. In order to update this database, during last years, IGMI has systematically checked all records of DBTopo25 to:

- Correct any error in the orthographic forms of each toponym;
- Explain the abbreviations and acronyms;
- Insert any missing diacritical signs;
- Verify logic congruence between place names and their attributes;
- Eliminate spurious texts, such as route distances, heights of subways, and so on.

Furthermore, in order to increase this database, all the toponyms of the Topographic map of Italy at scale 1:50000 and Chorographic map of Italy at scale 1:250000 are recorded in two separate databases: DBTopo50 and DBTopo250.

#### *The Italian Odonymic database*

With the promulgation of the law 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012, n. 221 (Article. 3, paragraphs 1 and 2), Italy was provided the establishment of the National Archive of Roads and Civic Numbers. This Archive, now under construction, is carried out by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the Italian Cadastre Agency (“Agenzia delle Entrate”) and populated by all the Italian Municipalities. This Archive will be also used by the ISTAT as the only toponymic and odonymic reference for the Italian permanent census and the production of territorial statistics.

#### *Commission for the Italian Official Toponymy*

The last but not least progress made by Italy in the standardization of geographical names is the establishment of the Commission for the Italian Official Toponymy at the Italian Geographic Military Institute, which remedies the repeal of the law that in 2008 decreed the suppression of the old “Permanent Committee charged of direction of toponymic revision of Map of Italy” (created by the law n. 605/1949).

#### *Other activities*

Besides these main initiatives, other activities have been conducted in Italy as follows:

- Adhesion of Italy to the EuroGeoNames and setting up a national working group to organise all available toponymic data for the loading in the European database;
- Signing of special agreements of cooperation between IGMI and the Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces in the fields of geographical information;
- Organization of National conference “Toponymy common heritage. History, knowledge and valorisation”, promoted by the Commission of Cultural Heritage of the Order of Architects of Rome and Province (Rome, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013);
- Execution of the International Scientific Symposium “Place-names changes”, organised by Joint IGU/ICA Commission/Working Group on Toponymy, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Rome, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2014);
- Organization of the International Scientific Symposium “Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage”, held in Italy, under the auspices of the Accademia della Crusca, the Italian

Geographic Military Institute and the Government of the Tuscany Region, hosted by the Italian Geographic Military Institute (Florence, 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2015);

- Publication of the proceedings of the International Scientific Symposium “Place Names as Intangible Cultural Heritage”, editors Andrea Cantile and Helen Kerfoot, published by the Italian Geographic Military Institute, Florence 2016;
- Creation of a new toponymic website of the IGMI with content related to the Italian official place names and the Romano-Hellenic Division activities;
- Publication of new lemma about the Romano-Hellenic Division activities;
- Translation in Italian and publication of the Wikipedia lemma UNGEGN.

## **2. National programs**

The next initiatives in program are:

- Signing of special agreements of cooperation between IGMI and the Region of Veneto for increasing the DBTopo25 with the geographical names of Technical Regional Map at the scale of 1:10000 and achievement of phonetic verification phase of DBTopo25;
- Celebration of World Geographical Names Day in cooperation with Italian Universities and Academic and Public Institutions;
- Arranging of the International Scientific Symposium “Geographical names and Cartography between History and Geography” in cooperation with the Romano-Hellenic Division of the UNGEGN;
- Organizing of series of lectures/conferences for dissemination of the toponymic standardization principles and methods in cooperation with Italian Universities and Academic and Public Institutions;
- Updating of the Italian *Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors*.