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**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).**

National Report of the Republic of Cyprus for 2012-2017

Submitted by Cyprus**

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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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*Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 8-17, August 2017*

National Report of the Republic of Cyprus for 2012-2017

Cyprus Permanent Committee
for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN)

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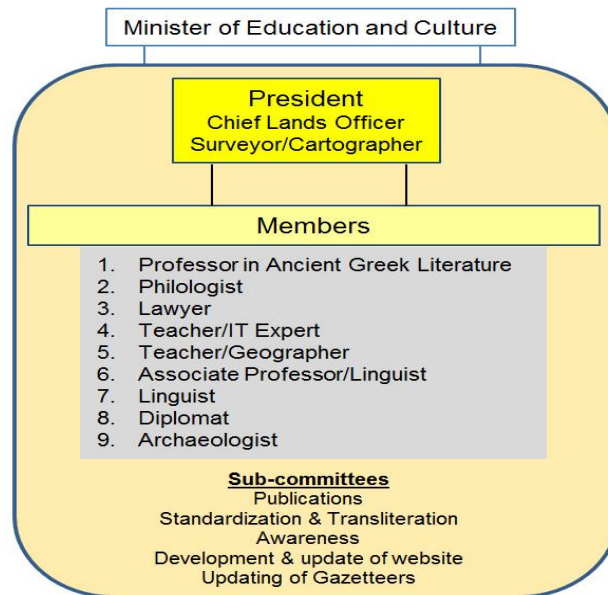
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1. Background Information

Cyprus is privileged to have most of its geographical names included in ancient texts from Homer to Herodotus, the tragic poets and Strabon, up to ancient cartographers, like Claudius Ptolemaeus, and from medieval cartographers, like Abraham Ortelius, up to lord Horatio H. Kitchener, who mapped Cyprus in the 19th Century at the beginning of the British rule of the island. The name of the island “Kypros” was mentioned by Homer 3000 years ago.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and the regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee acts under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

According to Law N.66(I)/98 and regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Minister of Education and Culture, as the Competent Authority appoints the President and the members of the Committee every five years. The Committee consists of a President and nine members.



CPCSGN Organizational Structure

The Committee is subdivided into five subcommittees which deal with specific issues as follows:

1. Publications
2. Standardization and transliteration
3. Awareness
4. Development and update of website
5. Updating of Gazetteers

In the exercise of its powers, the Committee selects from the existing types of geographical names, a single type for official and international use, after examining them, based on linguistic, grammatical, aesthetic, social and historical criteria.

The Committee collects data from the fields of history, linguistics, archaeology, literature, cartography and folklore that help the etymology, spelling and standardization of toponyms and names of the municipalities and the communities of Cyprus.

According to Law N.71(I)/2013, which was recently voted for by the Parliament, an amendment was added to the law, by creating a new section, which criminalizes the alteration of geographical names and toponyms and the illegal issue, import, circulation, supply, distribution and trade of maps, books or other documents, in conventional or digital form, which contain geographical names and toponyms of the Republic, imprinted differently than those specified in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law, or those contained in the official Toponymic Gazetteer.

2. Goals and National Programmes

The Committee mainly deals with the following topics and programmes:

1. Handles all matters related to the standardization of geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus.
2. Records the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus, studies all related issues, and submits to the Competent Authority for approval its suggestions on standardization and coding of geographical names.
3. Represents the Republic of Cyprus in international meetings of the United Nations (UN) on issues of its competence, and cooperates with the UN and other international organizations, and the

corresponding national committees of other countries, to attain the objectives provided in legislation.

4. Advises the competent local authorities for naming or renaming of streets, and the spelling of geographical names.
5. Monitors the implementation of the standardization of geographical names and the Greek to Roman alphabet transliteration system of the Greek Organization for Standardization (ELOT 743), which was accepted by the Fifth Conference of the United Nations, as a standard of the International Standardization Organization (ISO 843.3) and was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

3. Achievements

3.1 CPCSGN Website

The CPCSGN regularly maintains a website, where all relevant information is available. The address of this website is: <http://www.geonoma.gov.cy>. The website includes information regarding the historic background of CPCSGN, legislation and regulations regarding its operation, the organizational structure, announcements, activities, documents from our participation in conferences and other events, documents regarding the transliteration of geographical names in roman alphabet, several editions, maps, etc. The website also includes a complete and fully searchable national gazetteer. A very helpful tool was developed for the automatic transliteration of geographical names from greek to roman alphabet, based on ELOT 743, which is available on-line at: (<http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/index.php/typopoiisi/metagrafi-ellnikou-alfavitou>).

3.2 Book – Names of Countries and Capitals

A book including a list of names of countries and capitals was submitted during the 10th UN Conference and the 27th Session of UNGEGN and was also distributed to many government departments, ministries, academic institutions, and schools. It is also available on CPCSGN's website for viewing and downloading. This book is also regularly distributed to any interested persons in hardcopy form. The book is also available on-line at: <http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/chores-protevouses/index.html>.

3.3 National Gazetteers

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The "*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*" (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The "*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*" (about 67000 entries)

All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus is currently available on CPCSGN's website at: <http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/cygazetteer/index.html>.

All cadastral maps of Cyprus have already been digitized and their information was categorized and stored in digital relational databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Based on these databases, it is possible to easily identify and locate any geographical name in Cyprus. It is also technically possible to produce a new, more precise gazetteer. This task is currently under study and development by CPCSGN and its associates.

A new book was recently prepared by CPCSGN entitled: "**Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus**". This edition is based on a scientific study that was implemented in cooperation, between CPCSGN and the Department of Lands and Surveys, which are the competent authorities for the collection, the processing, the cartographic representation, the standardization, the transliteration, and the protection of the geographical names of Cyprus. The sea geographical names constitute a

supplement to the official Gazetteer, that was submitted by the Republic of Cyprus to the 5th Conference of the United Nations for the Standardization of Geographical Names, that was held in Montreal, Canada in 1987. This new edition is a significant contribution to the cultural heritage and the educational system of Cyprus. This book will be available for downloading on CPCSGN's website at www.geonoma.gov.cy, after August 2017. Hardcopies of the book will also be available for display during the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. Additional hardcopies can be supplied by the CPCSGN upon request.

3.4EuroGeoNames

All geographical names and toponyms were included in a distributed European database named "EuroGeonames" through EuroGeographics, and they are available on-line at: <http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNol/>

3.5Geoportal of Cyprus

The majority of the official geographical names of Cyprus, along with other relevant geospatial datasets, can also be accessed through the INSPIRE geoportal of Cyprus at: www.geoportal.gov.cy.

Additionally, all geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: www.geoportal.gov.cy. The Geoportal of Cyprus consists of two main parts these being: (a) INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, and (b) DLS Portal (The portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys). Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading and direct accessing via GIS.

The Geoportal is heavily based on the Integrated Land Information System which is operated by the Department of Lands and Surveys since 1997. This is a multifunctional portal which offers a large variety of information, functions, applications, and e-services. The Geoportal of Cyprus is a pioneer project for the country. It allows the access to a large volume of official, and updated geospatial datasets, including among others all official geographical names, directly from the organizations that produce and maintain these datasets. All relevant information and descriptions are included in the metadata of the geospatial datasets. The geoportal is a very useful tool for government departments, government services, semi-government organizations, universities, schools, technical offices and citizens. It is expected that the geoportal will significantly improve the existing procedures, will reduce processing time, and will significantly assist the citizens and the improvement of the economy of our country.

The New Internet Services platform is a landmark in the modern history of the Republic of Cyprus, as following intensive efforts lasting many years, geo-spatial information was given full access to the outside world, with on-line services via the Internet, through a platform of electronic services. The whole concept is based on a 24-hour available, fast and friendly service. A new IT customer-centric culture is embedded in the platform, focusing on the citizen via the availability of electronic services. The Government's target is the elimination of time-consuming bureaucratic procedures in the acceptance of applications and the ease of access into core data. The whole effort is just the start; the target is to continuously improve currently available services offered, through the gradual inclusion of new applications in the near future.

3.6Collection and Standardization of Geographical Names

The CPCSGN continues the tasks for the collection, the standardization and the Romanization of the Greek alphabet, according to ELOT 743, of the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus. All

toponyms were gathered by appropriate and authorized bodies during the mapping of Cyprus in 1878 and later periods. During the last five years, more than 3000 geographical names, including among others odonyms, have been examined and processed, offering services to the central government, and local government authorities, for the standardization and transcription from the Greek Alphabet to the Roman script according to ELOT 743.

3.7 Poster and Book Marker on the Standardization and Transliteration of Geographical Names

CPCSGN recently prepared a poster regarding the standardization and transliteration of geographical names. This poster was distributed to all high schools. The Committee also published a book marker which was distributed to all schools and government departments. This book marker includes brief information regarding the tasks undertaken by the Committee and also includes the transliteration rules followed.

3.8 Participation in Meetings and Conferences

In April 2014, the President of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus represented the Republic of Cyprus in the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts for Geographical Names (UNGEGN) in New York.

In March 2015, the President of the Committee participated in the UNGEGN Romano-Hellenic Division Meeting and the International Scientific Symposium on Geographical names as intangible cultural heritage, which took place in Florence, Italy. A paper was submitted, along with a powerpoint presentation entitled: “Toponymic Standardization in Cyprus Geographical Names - Intangible Cultural Heritage”. A short report regarding this event is included in UNGEGN Bulletin no. 48, May 2015.

In April 2016, the President of the Committee participated in the 29th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts for Geographical Names (UNGEGN), that took place in Bangkok, Thailand, April 25 – 29.

3.9 Publication of Papers

In November 2015, the Committee prepared a paper entitled: “The Benefits of Geographical Names Standardization in Cyprus”, which was published in UNGEGN Bulletin no. 49. (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Bulletin/FINAL_ungegn%20bulletin%2049_revised.pdf).

In November 2016, the Committee prepared a paper entitled: “Cyprus National Names Authority - Structure and Operations”, which was published in UNGEGN Bulletin no. 51. (https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/Bulletin/UNGEGN%20bulletin%2051_FINAL.pdf)

The Committee has also submitted a paper entitled: “Making Geographical Names Accessible and Available”, which was published in UNGEGN Bulletin no. 52, May 2017. (<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/bulletin.html>).

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Geographical names identify and reflect the history and cultural heritage of each country. The respect of correct and legal geographical names and their proper use, effectively help to defuse political pressure and to promote peace among nations.

The UN calls strictly against any arbitrary change of historical-traditional geographical names, considering such actions as illegal and criminal.

CPCSGN, within the framework of its duties, supports these principles and internationally promotes the official geographical names of Cyprus by all available means. The CPCSGN strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the U.N. for the standardization of geographical names and aims to comply and implement the U.N. and UNGEGN Conferences resolutions for the standardization of geographical names.

The Republic of Cyprus gives a great importance on the implementation of the U.N. Conference resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, as a part of its duties for safeguarding the cultural heritage.



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