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Report of the divisions

Report of the Baltic Division *

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REPORT OF THE BALTIC DIVISION

Resume

The report provides information on current composition activities of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN for the period from 27th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 2012 – 2014 on cooperation of Baltic Division with other regional divisions.

Report includes information on activities in the field national standardization of geographical names, held in the states – members of Baltic Division; national authorities for standardization of geographical names; condition of legislative, regulative and methodological framework of the work on the establishment, normalization and use of geographical names; state of work on the creation of national geographical names databases (catalogs, registers, inventories); gazetteers or reference-books of geographical names already issued or under development; general mapping writings, applicable national system of Romanization of geographical names development of lists of exonyms.

The composition of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

The Baltic Division of UNGEGN was formed in 1992, comprising experts from five countries: Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (2012), Russian Federation, Estonia. Experts from other regional divisions take part in Baltic Division meetings as observers.

The Russian Federation acts as coordinator of Baltic Division since 10th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 2012).

For the period between the 10th and 11th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2012-2017) the Division has the following elected officials: Chair Ms. Morozova Marina (Russian Federation), Vice-Chair Ms. Vita Strautniece (Latvia).

Website of Division is maintained by Estonian specialists (http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/bd_ru.htm). It contains all the records of the meetings of the Baltic Division since 1992 (reports, pictures).

Meetings of Baltic Division

The 16th meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) took place on September 18, 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia upon the invitation of the Estonian Ministry of the Interior. Co-organizers of the event were also the Estonian Land Board and the Institute of the Estonian Language.

Experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russian Federation took part in the meeting. Observers were from Belarus and from the Norden Division (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) who had their meeting the same day in Tallinn.

Participants of the meeting exchanged information about the status of legal, methodical and organizational base of national standardization of geographical names, about the status and development perspectives of national toponymic databases (cadastres, registers etc.); the use of geographical names in maps, the use and preservation of geographical names as part of a cultural and historical heritage (12 papers). Less discussed topics are exonyms, multilingual and dialectal names Romanization and toponymic guidelines.

There was a small exhibition of specific cartographic production, e.g. specifically for the blind people (Poland), toponymic glossaries and dictionaries that had been published in participating countries.

In conjunction with the joint Baltic and Norden Division Meetings, a Baltic-Nordic seminar on the possible Integration of onomastic data with data in National Spatial Data Infrastructures was held at the Estonian Land Board in Tallinn. The next meeting according to rotation principle is anticipated in Warsaw, Poland in the second half of 2014.

Cooperation between Divisions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names and other cooperation

As observers, experts of the Baltic Division by invitation of the State Agency for Land Resources of Ukraine participated in the 11th meeting of the Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia UNGEGN (Yalta, Ukraine, April 2013), which was dedicated to the exchange of information and experience in the field of standardization of geographical names and participation in the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Member-states of Baltic Division are also active participants of UNGEGN and other activities: Working Group of the Toponymic data files and Gazetteers; in the meeting of WG on Toponymic Terminology and the meeting of WG on Exonyms, (Korfu, Greece, May 2013); Czech-Polish meeting on terminology used in the standardization of geographical names (November 2013, Prague); German-Polish meeting on geographical names, jointly organized by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (March, 2014, Görlitz).

Baltic Division continues to participate in the project *EuroGeoNames* developing the European geographical names data infrastructure and services: <http://www.eurogeonames.com/refappl/>

Taken part as observers in the work of the 26th meeting of the Subcommittee on the name of Undersea Feature united Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization (26th Meeting SCUFN), which dealt with issues for establishing names of objects the World Ocean, outside the jurisdiction of specific States, for use in graphics and digital editions of the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (Tokyo, Japan, September 2013).

National standardization geographical names

The Republic of Latvia

National names authorities

A consultative expert body with recommendatory rights, the Place Names Sub-commission of the Latvian Language Experts Board, the State Language Centre, was re-established in May 18, 2012. The Sub-commission appraises the official names proposals, takes care of straighten out Latvian toponymy and protection of geographical names as a cultural heritage. It consists of 9 experts in linguistics, geography and cartography. The Sub-commission should be in session at least once per 2 months, the consulting and conclusion making via e-mail is being practiced, too.

Toponymic data files and gazetteers

The Geographical Names Database of Latvia, maintained by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency (LGIA) contains 133.600 names for 105.000 objects (data on 1st November, 2013).

The concise public version of the Geographical Names Database (6th edition) is available at <http://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv> (only in Latvian still). It contains 89.000 names for 66.000 geographical objects.

The National Address Register maintained by the State Land Service contains names of all administrative and territorial units (including 110 counties, 497 civil parishes, 76 cities and towns), 6.807 villages (number of official villages is decreasing), 16.948 streets, 500.389 houses and other buildings (data on 1st December 2013). The National Address Register is available on the Web with user interfaces in Latvian and English at the Data distribution portal of State Land Service of Latvia – <https://www.kadastrs.lv>. State Land Service is working actively now on the data harmonization with other registers – Land Registry, Population Register, Register of Enterprises etc. Address data maintenance system currently is under the serious improvement aimed to automate and shorten the process of address registration in State Address Register.

A new volume of “Latvijas vietvārdu vārdnīca” (Latvian Place Names Dictionary, in Latvian), comprising toponyms beginning with “R”, is prepared and going to be issued by the Institute of Latvian Language, University of Latvia in 2014.

Geographical names in mapping projects, exonyms

LGIA has continued the state mapping projects. The most significant of them regarding the geographical names:

- the 2nd edition of the Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000 was completed in 2013;
- the 3rd edition of Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:10 000 is being prepared in digital format only, it covers 60 % of the territory of Latvia currently.

LGIA maintains the Map Browser “LGIA Karšu pārliks”. It offers geographical names search on the latest maps in various scales (1: 1 000 000 - 1:10 000) prepared by LGIA. The Map Browser is available on: <http://kartes.lgia.gov.lv/kartes.html> (with user interface in Latvian and English).

Concise rules for rendering the place names from **Greek** into Latvian have been worked out by linguist Ilze Rūmniece and were published by the Latvian Language Agency in 2012.

The most significant in Latvia database of exonyms is maintained by the Map Publishing Company “Jāņa sēta Map Publishers”. It contains 218.000 geographical names in their original languages, as well as renderings: 91.000 - into Latvian, 34.000 – into Estonian, 14.000 into Lithuanian, 10.000 into Russian.

The Republic of Lithuania

National institutions working in the field of standardization of geographical names

The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language is in charge of the standardization of place names on the national level, while the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for official maps. In this respect nothing has changed.

Administrative units, wards, residential areas, street names and addresses are stored in the Register of Address. The register is administered by the State Enterprise Centre of Registers.

The representatives of the National Land Service and the National Center of Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics State Enterprise “GIS-Center” (SE “GIS-Centras”) are involved in working group of Lithuanian Standards Board Technical Committee LST TC Geographic Information. It has

developed a standard “Geographic Information”, “Requirements for Presentation of Places on Maps”.

The expert group working on naming Lithuanian geographical objects was formed by the National Land Service in the end of 2013. Seven government institutions have representatives in this group: the National Land Service, the State Lithuanian Language Commission, the State Enterprise Centre of Registers, State Enterprise “GIS-Centre”, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, JSC “Institute of Aerial Geodesy”, the Institute of the Lithuanian Language.

The legal framework, the state of normative and methodological documents while performing the geographical names standardization

- The provisions of a new version of Address Register of the Republic of Lithuania were confirmed by the Government of Lithuania on 31 May 2013 based on Resolution No. 715.
- The project of Lithuanian standard “Geographic Information. Requirements for Presentation of Places on Maps” was prepared in 2013.
- State Lithuanian Language Commission made a decision on the addition of place names of Lithuania (four ethnic region names of Lithuania have been added, a name of one lake has been revised and corrected) decisions on the replacement of names of the states, domains and also capital cities (according to ISO 3166-1). About 20 names of residential areas (mostly – names of the restored villages) was expertise by linguists; according to the request of managers of the Address Register the accentuation of 90 village names have been reviewed; about 300 street names have been evaluated according to the request of municipalities.

The state of national geographic name database, catalogues, registry information

The main datasets of geographical names of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania are as follows:

- Georeferential spatial dataset (GDR10LT) of the Republic of Lithuania M 1:10 000 in which data is stored on the surface of the Earth's natural and anthropogenic objects in the territory of the Republic of Lithuania as well as the names of places or objects. This dataset consists of formal place names (out of the state registers and cadasters e.g.: rivers, lakes and ponds, cultural heritage, residential areas) and informal names (e.g.: parks, lake coves, islands names). Place names have been stored since 2005 in the GDR10LT dataset and by now there are 43200 place names stored. During the period of 2012-2013 GDR10LT updated / newly introduced 350 (the set is administered by SE “GIS-Center”).
- Address Register of the Republic of Lithuania. According to the data of 1 November 2013 there are: 10 counties, 60 municipalities, 549 wards, 21 252 residential areas (103 cities, 249 towns, 19 185 villages and 1715 steadings) and 50 186 street names registered. (The register is administered by the State Enterprise Centre of Registers.)
- Lithuanian Language Institute began to create Lithuanian website of geo-information database of place names (<http://lvvgdb.lki.lt>) in 2007. At the end of 2013 there were about 17 thousand units of place names described in the database. The place names of Ignalina dist. municipality, Birštonas and Rietavas municipal areas were described during the period of 2011-2013.

Dictionary publishing of geographic names

The fourth volume of the dictionary “World Place Names” have been published in 2013 (the first part of “Asia”). The first volume “Europa” was digitized, the database published online (<http://www.melc.lt/lt.php/e--zodynai/pasaulio-vietovardziai--europa/>; <http://pasaulio-vietovardziai.terminai.vlkk>). The search options: endonym (including Cyrillic and Greek alphabets), Romanized form; Lithuanized form as well as country, object. The dictionary is designed for the standardizing of spelling and pronunciation of foreign place names in Lithuanian language.

Exonyms

The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language consulted administrators of Lithuanian “Wikipedia” (Vikipedija) on the use of exonyms in Lithuanian articles.

Basic cartographic work released during 2012-2013.

Continuously updated and published online multi-scale online map that is used on Lithuanian spatial information portal (<http://www.geoportal.lt>), various state information systems and on other websites publishing geographic information was created using GDR10LT.

In 2012-2013 JSC „Institute of Aerial Geodesy” published:

- **Global political wall maps in Lithuanian language**
M 1:41 000 000 and M 1:29 000 000
- **European political wall maps in Lithuanian language**
M 1:7 000 000 and M 1:4 400 000
- **Wall map of the Republic of Lithuania**
M 1:300 000

State Enterprise Centre of Registers has developed a public map of the Address Register of the Republic of Lithuania where you can find objects of the register (county, municipality, ward, residential area, street or address) http://www.registrucentras.lt/adr_pub/.

Republic of Poland

National standardization of geographical names

In Poland there are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names: Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, affiliated to the Minister of Administration and Digitization, establishes names used within Poland’s boundaries. After receiving the opinion of the Commission the Minister publishes names’ changes in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*.

Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, responsible for: standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland on UNGEGN forum, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to standardization of geographical names.

National gazetteer: “List of official names of localities and their parts”

The national gazetteer entitled “List of official names of localities and their parts” (“Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części”) was published at the end of 2012 (http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php). The list contains 103,225 official names of localities and their parts, of which: 908 names of towns and cities, 43,051 names of villages, 6,708 names of parts of towns and cities, 36,349 names of parts of villages, 5,136 names of hamlets, 4,641 names of hamlets of villages. The list is arranged in a table with eight columns: the name of locality is indicated in the first column, in the second – officially established type of locality, in the third, fourth and fifth columns – administrative unit: commune, county and voivodship, in the sixth column – the identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT), in the seventh – genitive ending for names of localities, in the eighth column – adjective (only for names of towns and villages).

Changes of the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*. In the past two years the following changes were made: 27 new names of localities or its parts were established; 66 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 59 localities or parts of localities were changed, and 111 names of localities or its parts were abolished.

Multilingual areas

According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages traditional names in a minority language may be used as “additional names”. 285 new names of localities were established in the years 2012-2014 – 18 German, and 267 Kashubian.

Since 2005 additional names in minority languages were introduced for 1072 localities (http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf). This number consists of 342 German names in 29 communes, 664 Kashubian names in 18 communes, 30 Lithuanian names in one commune, 27 Belarusian names in one commune and 9 Lemko names in 2 communes.

Exonyms

The new list of Polish exonyms, entitled “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” (“Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata” http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/wykaz_polskich_nazw_geograficznych.pdf), was published in the end of 2013. It lists Polish names for 13,359 geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland. For each object, there are given: the Polish name, and the original name (endonym). For names in languages that are written in non-Roman scripts, Romanized forms are given in accordance with the principles adopted by the Commission for use in Poland for geographical names in a given language. Following these names, the objects’ coordinates have been posted. If necessary, the additional information and observations are provided, such as information about localization of the transboundary object in other countries, additional characteristics of the object or its localization, information about the location of part of locality in the boundaries of independent locality, and selected historical names of the object.

The list has been divided into eight parts (chapters): seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, Antarctica), the eighth one is devoted to undersea objects. Next, the names are posted according to alphabetically arranged countries and non-self-government territories. Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories are arranged by categories.

Romanization systems

One of the scopes of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland refers to establishment of romanization rules governing names of geographical objects originally expressed by means of non-Roman writing systems (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/latynizacja.php>). Since 2012 the following rules were adopted: Bulgarian (revised rules), Ukrainian (revised rules), Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Sinhalese, Maldivian, Urdu, Arabic, Tamil, Amharic, Hebrew, and Lemko.

Country names

In consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Council for the Polish Language the second edition of the “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” was published in the end of 2013 (<http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>). The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status and others. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The footnotes explaining the status of countries and territo-

ries have been provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adjectives derived from names of countries and territories, as well as names of citizens and inhabitants have been provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Unit of the Council for the Polish Language.

Russian Federation

National institutions working in the field of standardization of geographical names

The Ministry of Economic Development and Federal Service of State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) are the authorized federal executive authorities in the field of geographical names. The Ministry of Economic Development is imposed with a responsibility to frame up and implement the state policy as well as normative and legal regulation of geodesy and cartography. Rosreestr develops and maintains the State Catalogue of Geographical Names, provides for standardization of geographical names in Russian, and prepares experts reports for proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects.

Between 2012 and 2013, experts' reports of Rosreestr for naming and renaming proposal resulted in 41 federal normative acts passed to assign new names to 141 objects and to rename 24 objects.

In some subjects of the Russian Federation, toponymic commissions were organized to regulate use of geographical names of urban objects, their registration and conservation as a constituent part of historical and cultural heritage. One of these commissions works in the Moscow branch of the Russian Geographical Society. In 2013, the Commission organized Students' conference on toponymy.

Legal framework on establishment, normalization and use of geographical names

Legal framework for naming and renaming of geographical objects as well as for standardization, use, registration, and storage of geographical names is set by the Federal Law № 152-FZ 'On names of geographical objects' that was passed on December 18, 1997.

In 2012, the Federal Law 'On ratifying amendments to the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects' was adopted to refine some regulations of the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects', make changes in a procedure of submitting proposals on naming and renaming of geographical objects, and detail some statements related to financing of operations in the field of geographical names.

On November 15, 2012, the Government of the Russian Federation adopted the Decree 'On procedure of coordination of proposals on naming of some geographical objects or on renaming of these objects'. The Decree sets a procedure to coordinate proposals on naming of railway stations, sea and river ports, airports, objects within inland waters, territorial sea, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation as well as of features discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean and Antarctica, and on renaming of these objects between all federal executive bodies concerned.

In 2013, the Federal Law 'On federal address system and on introducing amendments into the Federal Law "On basic principles of local self-government in the Russian Federation"' was adopted. The Law regulates relations which emerge in connection with introduction of the state address registry as well as use of the addresses available in it.

The subjects of the Russian Federation independently make solutions on naming and renaming of urban objects (streets, squares, parks etc.) Local administrations are empowered to assign addresses to addressing objects.

Revision of the instructions for rendering of geographical names in the languages of the Russian Federation's peoples in Russian is carried out. In 2013, the instructions for Russian rendering of Ossetic, Nogai and Buryat geographical names were revised.

Works on creation of national data bases of geographical

In pursuance of the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, development and maintenance of the State Catalogue of Geographical Names is entrusted to the newly organized budgetary state institution 'Federal scientific and technical center of geodesy, cartography and infrastructure of spatial data'.

More than 760,000 geographical names of the Russian Federation and accompanying information were input into the State Catalogue (more than 23 million data items to specify geographical names and objects). The information was taken from normative acts, topographic maps at scale 1:100,000, reference-books, gazetteers and other sources.

The current task is to provide reliable and valid information on geographical names and to make the Catalogue to meet the requirements set for basic state information resources. The data input into the State Catalogue are submitted to an approval of the government bodies in appropriate subjects of the Russian Federation. It is planned to populate the State Catalogue with the names of geographical objects located on continental shelf, exclusive economic zone as well as with the names of geographical objects discovered or determined by the Russian explorers in the World Ocean or Antarctica. The State Catalogue will be integrated with other databases of spatial data.

To timely provide users with geographical names and accompanying information, the data from the State Catalogue were made accessible on an official site of Rosreestr. To meet informational needs of users, Bulletins of official changes of geographical names in the Russian Federation between 1997-2013 and e-Bulletin to reflect changes in geographical names in the CIS countries within the period 1991-2013 are compiled. The Bulletins are available on Rosreestr's official site: https://rosreestr.ru/wps/portal/p/cc_ib_other_lines_activity/cc_ib_cartographical_activity/cc_ib_names_geographical_objects/cc_ib_works_names_geographical_objects

Dictionaries and gazetteers

In accordance with the Federal Law 'On names of geographical objects' Rosreestr is responsible for endorsement of gazetteers and references of geographical names. Reference-books of administrative division of the subjects of the Russian Federation submitted by their executive authorities to Rosreestr were scrutinized and endorsed (administrative division of Mary El Republic, Murmanskaja oblast' (region) and some other).

Main cartographic works, the national system of romanization of geographical names, exonyms

On the maps intended for international circulation, the Romanization system for the Cyrillic characters GOST-83 approved by the Fifth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (Montreal, 1983) continues to be used.

The instructions for Russian rendering of foreign-language geographical names includes lists of exonyms. While revising the instructions, the resolutions of the UN Conferences on Geographical Names which recommended to reduce the number of exonyms and not to introduce new ones are taken into consideration.

Estonian Republic

National names authorities and legislation on geographical names

The Place Names Board of Estonia has held usually two meetings per year, lately it has also made decisions voted by e-mail. Much of the work is done in working groups dealing with specific questions. Since 2012, 3 new populated places have been reconstituted, and for some populated places the status (generic term) has been changed. In October 2013 some administrative units merged (see the Annex), and as a result, there are currently 215 municipalities in Estonia.

In 2013 amendments to the Place Names Act were adopted by Parliament. The changes mainly concern the requirements of the National Place Names Register. The register will now have a clear mandate to include all unofficial geographical names in the register and to function as the single source of geographical names data to all other registers. Some other clarifications to the approval and use of geographical names were also made.

Important for the understanding of the principles of geographical names standardization is training and providing assistance to names authorities. The Estonian Land Board has compiled an online handbook for the management of Address Data. This includes about 240 pages of instructions, one third of which concern directly geographical names. The handbook is being constantly updated, especially since the amendments to the Place Names Act were approved in 2013. An ongoing process that is being supervised by the Land Board is the check on the validity of cadastral names. These names were hurriedly registered in the 1990's using old lists containing many orthographic errors, and names that still reflect the old spelling (used until the 1870's). Sometimes the revision of spelling causes controversy with land owners, and one such case was vividly reported by the media in August–September 2013. Many high officials expressed their opinion on that matter, so the attention to place names must in general be considered as positive.

The annual Place Names Days have become a traditional public event of the Board since 2003. In 2012 it was organized in Kärđla and in 2013 in Põlva. The event is attended by local officials and researchers of local history and folklore. Papers delivered at seminars deal with the implementation of the Place Names Act, principles on names standardization, information on the Place Names Register and with the place names of the local county.

Toponymic data files and gazetteers

The National Place Names Register is maintained since July 2008 by the Estonian Land Board which has integrated the register with its other spatial data, especially the Address Data Register. The register has the status of national supporting register. By the end of 2013 the register contained 41,577 records, incl. traffic features (streets and squares, etc.) – 15,900; land roads – 8292; minor address units (areas) – 656; lakes – 4583; islands – 1280; rivers, etc. – 1793. The average annual input of new records is about 2600. Main efforts are concentrated into adding unofficial geographical names from the printed version of the Basic Map of Estonia (1 : 20 000).

Recently names of maritime areas (banks, straits, bays) have been added to the register. The spatial extension of the named features is constantly under review. Currently there is an effort to thoroughly review and standardize the list of rivers, for this end there is a map application whereby local governments may supply their comments on the planned changes. It is expected that the Place Names Board will approve the list in 2014.

The National Place Names Register is available at <http://gmaps.maaamet.ee/knr/> in Estonian and English.

The project of compiling a one-volume dictionary of Estonian places names (2009–2013) is undertaken by the Institute of the Estonian Language in collaboration with the Võru Institute, as well as several organizations, including other onomasticians, historians, geographers, etc. By the end of 2013 roughly 90 % of the articles were compiled, the publication of the dictionary is expected in 2015. In 2013 the first stage of scanning the collections of geographical names was completed, an online version gives access to 652,198 cards on names collected since the 1920's.

Exonyms and romanization

The Language Committee at the Mother Tongue Society gives recommendations on the correct usage of foreign names in Estonian. As in 2013 the publication of the Dictionary of Standard Estonian was due, the Committee also briefly handled the topic in 2012–2013. There were minor changes with some exonym preferences in Estonian but the overall principles still apply. The recent UN-approved romanization for Bulgarian (2012) was recommended for use in Estonian, while for others the Committee will await further implementation of the UN systems (for Ukrainian there is an Estonian system of transcription in use). For the Republic of Korea geographical names it was recommended to use the system approved in that country (2000).

Annex

List of merged municipalities (October 2013)

<i>County</i>	<i>Former municipalities</i>	<i>New municipality</i>
Harjumaa	Kose, Kõue	Kose
Hiiumaa	Kärdla (town), Kõrgessaare	Hiiu
Ida-Virumaa	Lüganuse, Maidla, Püssi (town)	Lüganuse
Läänemaa	Oru, Risti, Taebla	Lääne-Nigula
Põlvamaa	Põlva (town), Põlva	Põlva
Pärnumaa	Audru, Lavassaare	Audru
Viljandimaa	Paistu, Pärsti, Saarepeedi, Viiratsi	Viljandi