

**Twenty-ninth session
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda

Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms

Report of the Working Group on Exonyms

Submitted by the Working Group on Exonyms*

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Summary

The report highlights the activities of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms since the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, New York, 28 April to 2 May 2014. In this period, the Working Group held one business meeting and two workshops.

The WG met on 29th April 2014 during the 28th UNGEGN Session in the UN Headquarters in New York and decided that the next WG workshop in Hermagor will – after having discussed this topic now in several meetings already very intensively and profoundly – be the last opportunity to eventually arrive at new definitions of the endonym and the exonym.

The WG met then for its 16th meeting in Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014. It had the character of a workshop and was hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names. The meeting was attended by 28 experts from 17 countries and saw 18 paper presentations on several aspects of the endonym/exonym divide. This sequence of paper presentations was followed by an intensive discussion on proposals of new definitions of the endonym and the exonym. It resulted in the decision that (1) new definitions of endonym and exonym are not accepted by a larger group of experts present; (2) the current definitions of endonym and exonym as documented in the UNGEGN Glossary are in the given situation the optimum achievable. It could, however, also be stated that the long and profound discussion on the endonym/exonym divide and on new definitions of endonym and exonym had revealed a lot of aspects that had never been addressed before. By exploring all other possibilities and directions it has also made the WG sure that the current definitions are the best of all possible solutions. The whole discussion is moreover well-documented by five volumes of proceedings – all edited by the WG –, so that all the arguments and findings will remain accessible and can be taken as a basis for future research. Also the proceedings of the WG Meeting in Hermagor have in the meantime been published as Volume 4 of the toponymic book series “Name & Place” edited by Peter JORDAN and Paul WOODMAN.

The WG met for its 17th meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015. It also had the character of a workshop and was hosted by the Lexicographical Institute Miroslav Krleža. It was attended by 33 experts from 15 countries. 16 papers were presented dealing with criteria for the use of exonyms – the thematic focus of the meeting –, with terminology in the field of endonyms and exonyms as well as with the actual use of exonyms in various countries. In a general discussion after the sequence of paper presentations, the self-imposed task of defining criteria for the use of exonyms was, however, not achieved. Contrary to an earlier discussion at the 10th WGE Meeting in Tainach, 2010, when a proposal made by the convenor had been regarded as too permissive as regards exonym use, almost the same proposal was now found as much too restrictive. Exonym use – this was the prevailing opinion now – is the sovereign right of languages and countries and exonyms are an important part of the cultural heritage. Finally, the mediating proposal was accepted that instead of elaborating criteria for the use of exonyms, the WG should rather head at noting the current trends in exonym use and avoid 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. Besides complying to this task it was also decided that the WG will elaborate an inventory of lists of exonyms at the WG website. It could be a valuable source of information for comparative studies on the use of exonyms and beyond. Also the proceedings of the WG Meeting in Zagreb have in the meantime been published as a

volume of the toponymic book series “Name & Place”, i.e. as Volume 6 of this series. A next workshop of the WG will take place in Prague [Praha] in spring 2017.

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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

- 1st Meeting: **Berlin**, September 6, 2002, in the framework of the 8th UN Conference
- 2nd Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], September 24-26, 2003, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre
- 3rd Meeting: **New York**, 2004, in the framework of the 22nd UNGEGN Session
- 4th 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
- 5th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], 2006, in the framework of the 23rd UNGEGN Session
- 6th Meeting: **Prague** [Praha], May 17-18, 2007, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- 7th Meeting: **New York**, August 29, 2007, in the framework of the 24th UNGEGN Session
- 8th 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
- 9th Meeting: **Nairobi**, May 11, 2009, in the framework of the 25th UNGEGN Session
- 10th Meeting: **Tainach** (Austria), April 28-30, 2010, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names and the Catholic Educational Centre “Sodalitas”
- 11th Meeting: **Vienna** [Wien], May 4, 2011, in the framework of the 26nd UNGEGN Session, but outside UN facilities, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
- 12th Meeting: **Gdańsk**, May 16-18, 2012, hosted by the Polish Main Office of Geodesy and Cartography
- 13th Meeting: **New York**, August 6, 2012, in the framework of the 10th UN Conference
- 14th Meeting: **Corfu** [Kerkyra], May 23-25, 2013, hosted by the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu

15th Meeting: **New York**, April 29, 2014, in the framework of the 28th UNGEGN Session
16th Meeting: **Hermagor** (Austria), June 5-7, 2014, hosted by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names
17th Meeting: **Zagreb**, May 14-16, 2015, hosted by the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography, Zagreb

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 10th 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 14th 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 16th 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 17th 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 88 official members and associated experts from 37 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)

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 12th Meeting in Gdańsk, May 16-18, 2012, is available.

2 Activities since the last UNGEGN Session in 2014

Since the 28th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, New York, 28 April to 2 May 2014, the Working Group held one business meeting, two workshops and published two books of proceedings.

2.1 Meetings

15th Meeting, (business meeting) New York, April 29, 2014

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

The convenor gave an overview on activities of the Working Group since the 13th Meeting in New York in 2012.

At first he reported on the **14th Meeting of the WG in Corfu, Greece, 16-18 May 2013**. He expressed his gratitude to the hosts of this meeting, the Greek UNGEGN delegation, the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the City of Corfu. The meeting had been organized as a joint meeting together with the UNGEGN WG on Toponymic Terminology (Convenor: Staffan Nyström). The meeting was focused on the endonym/exonym divide and new definitions of endonym and exonym and consisted of three sessions: the first session was dedicated to general approaches to the endonym/exonym divide and saw papers presented by Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom), Peter JORDAN (Austria), Staffan NYSTRÖM (Sweden), Phil MATTHEWS (New Zealand), Sungjae CHOO (Republic of Korea), Botolv HELLELAND (Norway), Ojārs BUŠS (Latvia) and Małgorzata MANDOLA (France/Poland). The second session highlighted specific aspects of the "Great Divide". Papers were presented by Peeter PÄLL (Estonia), Bogusław R. ZAGÓRSKI (Poland), Herman BELL (United Kingdom), Hiroshi TANABE and Kohei WATANABE (Japan) and Maciej ZYCH (Poland). The third session referred to documentation and use of exonyms and included papers presented by Drago KLADNIK and Matjaž GERŠIČ (Slovenia), Remus CREȚAN (Romania), Zane CEKULA (Latvia) and Sirkka PAIKKALA (Finland). A general discussion of new definitions resulted in no solution or decision. Opinions were especially divided on whether language or officiality were essential criteria for the endonym/exonym divide. Other questions like whether the divide should be confined to differences in writing or is to include names of larger unpopulated features like seas were just randomly addressed.

Secondly, the convenor presented the **proceedings of the Corfu Meeting**, which had recently been published under the title "The Quest for Definitions. Proceedings of the 14th 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 14th 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 convenor 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 mentions 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 are followed by a longer discussion in which the following opinions prevail:

- 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 convenor concludes that the next 16th 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.

16th Meeting (workshop), Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014

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

The convenor opened the meeting and welcomed all participants in his home town and place of birth as well as the representatives of federal province and municipality. He emphasized that according to the business meeting in New York (15th Meeting, WGE) and the 28th UNGEGN 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-Preseggersee, 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 just listed below, they have been published as Volume 4 of *Name & Place*, edited by Paul WOODMAN and Peter JORDAN.

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.¹ The convenor replied that strict reference to this principle would 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 8th 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 8th 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

¹ 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 collegiate, consultative body; accordingly, agreement on non-procedural matters shall be reached by consensus and not by voting."

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). (UNGEGN 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. (UNGEGN 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 recognizes 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 adds that the long and intensive discussion on the endonym/exonym divide and on new definitions of endonym and exonym has nevertheless been fruitful and by no means been in vain. It has revealed a lot of aspects that had never been addressed before. By exploring all other possibilities and directions it has also made us sure that the current definitions are the best of all possible solutions. The whole discussion is 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 repeats 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 expresses also the WGs intention to continue its tradition of annual workshops. This means that the venue of a next meeting in 2015 has to be found and decided upon.

The convenor then closes the discussion as well as the 16th Meeting of the WG. He thanks all experts for their presence and valuable input, especially the paper presenters, the session chairs and the convenors of other UNGEGN working groups. He extends 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 thanks 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.

17th 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.

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 Paul WOODMAN and Peter JORDAN.

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 addresses briefly three more items:

- (1) **Next UNGEGN session:** The next UNGEGN session will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-29 April 2016. The convenor encourages the participants to submit working papers on exonyms. He also hints 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 informs 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.² 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 reminds 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 hints at efforts already taken in complying to this latter task, i.e. at the WG Meeting in Prague (2003); the 9th 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 25th 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 mentions also that at the 10th 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 the seemingly more urgent issue of new definitions of the endonym and the exonym. He also argues that when this discussion on criteria is 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 notes (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

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

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 proposes 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 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi 2009 (WP 11). He presents 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 remarks 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 remarks that a resolution might not necessarily be the best way of convincing UNGEGN that exonyms are sometimes appropriate.

Maciej ZYCH expresses 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 responds 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 question 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 asks. Several other participants bring forward similar objections. They reflect a picture completely different from earlier discussions on this topic up to the WG meeting in Tainach: Exonym use seems 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 is regarded as inadequate. The vast majority of participants express explicitly or implicitly opinions disfavoured 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 finds himself in a role contrary to earlier occasions and reminds 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 addresses 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 remains prevailing. This leads to the conclusion not to discuss the draft resolution further.

Roman STANI-FERTL proposes 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 suggests 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 accept this suggestion as a convenient and practicable compromise. The convenor expresses 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.

2.2 Proceedings

Proceedings of the 16th Meeting in Hermagor (see also the specific WP)

The proceedings of the 16th 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 16th 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 17th Meeting in Zagreb (see also the specific WP)

The proceedings of the 17th 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 17th 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, website: <http://www.verlagdrkovac.de>).

3 Future directions

The WG will convene for a next business meeting in the framework of the 29th UNGEGN Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-29 April 2016, and for a next workshop in Prague [Praha], Czechia, spring 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 (16th Meeting Hermagor)
- the WG should refrain from defining criteria for the use of exonyms (17th Meeting Zagreb),

the main aim of future discussions will be – subject to agreement in the Bangkok business meeting – **to clarify the margins between the concepts of the endonym and the exonym** based on the current definitions. 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

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