

18 March 2019

English

**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names**

2019 session

New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in
the standardization of geographical names**

Report of Italy

Submitted by Italy**

Summary

With regard to the standardization of geographical names, Italy has undertaken the following activities since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names:

- Signed special agreements of cooperation between the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Region of Veneto aimed at expanding the Italian toponymic database (DBTopo25) to include the geographical names of the technical regional map at a scale of 1:10,000; and completed the phonetic verification phase of the database
- Celebrated World Geographical Names Day in cooperation with Italian universities and academic and public institutions
- Arranged an international scientific symposium on the theme “Toponymy and cartography between history and geography”, in cooperation with the Romano-Hellenic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Organized a series of lectures and conferences on toponymic standardization principles and methods, in cooperation with Italian universities and academic and public institutions
- Initiated updating of Italian toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

* GEGN.2/2019/1

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NATIONAL REPORT OF ITALY

2. PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE LAST CONFERENCE.

Agreement of cooperation between IGMI and the Veneto region

The IGMI and the Veneto region signed a special agreement of cooperation for increasing the National Geographical Names Database (DBTopo25K) with the toponyms contained in the Technical Regional Map of Veneto at the scale of 1:10,000 and to check the correct pronunciation of regional names existing in the DBTopo25K.

Celebration of the Geographical Names Day

Italy celebrated the Geographical Names Day on 27th October 2017. The session took place at the Italian Geographic Military Institute, in Firenze [Florence], on the occasion of the 145th anniversary of the IGMI.

More than two hundred people participated in the ceremony with large attendance of geographers, cartographers, linguists, planners, scholars and students.

Papers presented in the first session explained the role of the UN and Italy for the standardization of geographical names and the importance of the toponymy in all human activities.

The discussion, developed during the panel, offered considerable reflections on the topic and suggested the way for the achievement of new toponymic survey in Italy.

The greeting of the Honorary Chairperson of the UNGEGN, with video message, was greatly appreciated.

International Scientific Symposium “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”

Italy organized the second International Scientific Symposium of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division, held in Venezia [Venice], Italia [Italy], from 26th to 28th September 2018 and focused on “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”.

The symposium was prepared in close cooperation with the IGMI, the Veneto region and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti under the auspices of the Italian scientific Associations of Cartography and Geography.

For details about this activity, please see the Report of the Romano-Hellenic Division.

Lectures and conferences on the standardization of geographical names

During the last two years IGMI organized a series of lectures and conferences to disseminate the importance of the toponymic standardization principles and methods. These activities have carried out in cooperation with some Italian Universities and Academic and Public Institutions.

Updating of the Italian Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

IGMI started the update of the *Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors (Italy)*. The revision of the book is still in progress. IGMI estimates that it will be completed for the next Session of the UNGEGN.

3. NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The next initiatives in program in Italy are:

- Achievement of the project for increasing the DBTopo25K with the geographical names of Technical Regional Map at the scale of 1:10000 by the cooperation between IGMI and the Veneto region;
- Organization of a meeting between the IGMI and all the regional bodies in charge of collecting and processing territorial geographical data aimed at applying the toponymy cooperation model started with the Veneto Region;
- Updating of the web page of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division;
- Achievement of the *Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors (Italy)*;
- Organization of a series of conferences and lectures aimed at spreading the importance of standardization of geographical names among geography teachers, in cooperation with the Italian Association of Geography Teachers;
- Cooperation with the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division in the organization of the third International Scientific Symposium on geographical names, in 2020.