
**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names
2019 session**

New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019

Item 5 (a) of the agenda *

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

Report of Croatia

Submitted by Croatia**

Summary:

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament passed the new Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre, according to which all geographical names in Croatia are recorded in the register of geographical names, which is maintained and managed by the State Geodetic Administration. Within the same Law, it was determined that geographic name standardization tasks were to be performed by public authorities in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names. The new Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre came into force in December 2018, and the Government of Croatia therefore has yet to appoint members to the Commission.

The Law empowers the Commission to perform the following tasks:

- Monitoring the implementation of regulations on settlements and their application in geographical names
- Revising toponyms and, if necessary, proposing new ones
- Defining principles on the writing and use of foreign geographical names to be applied in, for example, education, science and Croatian diplomacy
- Providing suggestions and recommendations on the standardization of geographical names in Croatia and foreign geographical names
- Providing recommendations on improving the register of geographical names
- Participating in the work of international organizations dealing with geographical names

Currently, there are 132,881 toponyms of geographic objects in the register of geographical names. The main source for entering geographical names in the database are official topographic maps issued by the State Geodetic Administration on a scale from 1:300 000 to 1:25 000. Each geographical name in the register contains the following attributes: geographical identifier, name of geographic feature, administrative

* GEGN.2/2019/1

** Prepared by the State Geodetic Administration

unit, classification, begin lifespan version, end lifespan version, native value, language, letter, status, source, grammatical gender, grammatical number, historical start of change, historical end of change, reason for change and romanized name.

Resource locators for accessing the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) and viewing and downloading network services are available on the web page of the gazeteer of geographical names (<http://rgi.dgu.hr/home/>). Metadata documents of the dataset as well as network services are available on the geoportal of Croatia.

The data model is fully compliant with the INSPIRE data model for the theme geographical names. The data are maintained in a geodatabase using PostgreSQL and the software extension Post GIS and are located in the State Geodetic Administration. The geographical names database is published using Open Geospatial Consortium web map and web feature services with INSPIRE extension using Geoserver. Data are available for downloading in geography mark-up language format (GML) with no limitations on public use.

Contents

1. National standardization	4
1.1. Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures 4	
2. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names)	5
3. Toponymic data files and gazetteers	5
3.1. National Gazetteer.....	6
4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.....	6
5. Country names	6
6. Toponymic websites.....	7
7. Geographical names databases.....	7
7.1. Data model and classifications	7
7.2. Data maintenance	7
7.3. Data standards and interoperability	7
7.4. Data services, applications and products.....	8

Version	Author	Comment
1.0	Tanja Rodin, Zvonko Štefan	First draft
1.1	Tomislav Ciceli	Minor revision
1.2	Tanja Rodin	Final draft

1. National standardization

1.1. Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament passed the new Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadaster (Official Gazette, NN 112/18) according to which all geographical names in the Republic of Croatia are recorded in the Register of Geographical Names which is maintained and managed by the State Geodetic Administration. The register contains names of geographical units, relief forms, land and sea water, islands and peninsulas, buildings and other objects, areas, settlements, roads as well as general names. Within the same Law, it was determined that geographic name standardization tasks are performed by public authorities in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Since the new Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadaster (Official Gazette, NN 112/18) came into force in December 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia is yet to appoint the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

The Commission shall be chaired by the president who comes from the central state administration body responsible for the Register of Geographic Names and it shall consist of other ten members that include nominees of the central state administration body competent for cultural heritage, central state administration body responsible for science and education, Croatian Hydrographic Institute, Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics, Croatian Institute of History, Croatian Cartographic Society, Croatian Geographical Society, Lexicographic Institute Miroslav Krleža and Universities dealing with education and research in the field of geographic names.

The Law empowers the Commission, to perform the following tasks:

- to monitor the implementation of regulations on settlements and their application in geographical names,
- to perform toponyms revision and, if necessary, to determine new ones,
- to determine the principles of writing and using foreign geographical names for applications in education, science, Croatian diplomacy, etc.,
- to make suggestions and recommendations for the standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Croatia and foreign geographical names,
- to make recommendations for improving the Register of Geographical Names,
- to participate in the work of international organizations dealing with geographical names.

In Croatia the appointment of names of geographical objects, depending on the type of object, is under the jurisdiction of various institutions.

Appointments and designation of counties, cities and municipalities are under the jurisdiction of the Croatian Parliament, and the decisions on areas of settlements under the jurisdiction

of the county assemblies. Names of counties, municipalities and cities are established by the Law on Areas of Counties, Towns and Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, NN 110/15). Names changes of counties, towns and municipalities are published in the official gazette of the Republic of Croatia, while the changes in settlements are published in official papers of a particular municipality.

Names of settlements, streets and squares are determined by the assembly of the municipality with the opinion of local communities in the area, according to the Law on Settlements (NN 54/88).

2. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names)

In the Republic of Croatia, in accordance with Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, NN 85/10), the Croatian language and Latin script are in official use. In some local units together with the Croatian language and the Latin alphabet, another language may be introduced for official use and Cyrillic or any other letter under the prescribed conditions.

According to the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities (NN 155/2002) members of national minorities have the right to use freely their language and script in the area of the local self-government units where they comprise at least one third of the population.

In municipalities and cities where the language and script of a national minority is in equal official usage, minority language is used for following purposes:

- written traffic signs,
- the names of streets and squares,
- names of places and geographic locations.

The largest national minority in Croatia is the Serbian minority, representing 4.4% of the population. Serbian minority is populating the area in Croatia along the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina in the central part of Croatia. Other national minorities have far fewer members. The Italian minority which makes up a second large minority group in Croatia with 0.4% of the population, mostly lives in Istria and Rijeka. Hungarian minority group make up 0.3% of the population and live in the villages of eastern Slavonia and Baranja, along the border with Hungary.

The Register of National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia was created and published in 2011 on the basis of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Croatia regulating the rights of national minorities (NN 155/2002).

3. Toponymic data files and gazetteers

3.1. National Gazetteer

State Geodetic Administration is responsible for establishing and maintaining Register of Geographical Names according to the Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadaster (Official Gazette, NN 112/18).

The main source for entering geographical names in the database are official topographic maps issued by the State Geodetic Administration. Topographic maps used as basic input data for the Register are of scales 1:300 000, 1:200 000, 1: 25 000 and they cover the whole territory of the Republic of Croatia.

Geometry and official names of administrative units are taken from the Register of Spatial Units which is also maintained by the State Geodetic Administration.

Other official sources for entering the names of features in the register include official documents of various public and other state institutions that have these features in their jurisdiction.

Currently there are 132 881 toponyms of geographic objects entered in the Register of Geographical Names including names of counties, cities / municipalities, settlements, islands, rivers, mountains, peaks and other built up features such as roads, schools, hospitals, post offices, theaters, beaches, etc.

According to the existing data model of the Register, for each geographical name, attribute values of following attributes may be entered in the database: geographical identifier, name of geographic feature, administrative unit, classification of feature, begin lifespan version, end lifespan version, native value of the name, language, letter, status of the name, source of the name, grammatical gender, grammatical number, historical start of change, historical end of change, reason for change, romanized name and note.

4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Toponymic Guidelines for the Republic of Croatia were created and published in 2008. The content is arranged under the following main headings: population, official languages, the Croatian alphabet, Croatian dialects, rules of writing geographical names, nomenclature bodies and the standardization of geographical names, toponymic sources, dictionary of general names, adjectives, and descriptive marks on maps, abbreviations on maps and the administrative division of Croatia.

5. Country names

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs prepared and published Official Abbreviated and Full Names of Countries in English and Croatian languages in 2012 in accordance with documents of United Nations. The publication includes short names and official names of countries in English and Croatian.

6. Toponymic websites

All information about Gazetteer of Geographical Names is available on the following web page <http://rgi.dgu.hr/home/>. It also includes resource locators for accessing INSPIRE view and download network services.

On the same web page there is also an application for Register of Geographical Names which enables access to database, discovery and view of data. There is also option for crowdsourcing, allowing unregistered users to make proposals for new geographical name or changing the existing one through an online user interface of the application.

Metadata documents of the dataset as well as network services are available on the NSDI Geoportal of the Republic of Croatia (<http://geoportal.nipp.hr/hr>). Metadata is regularly maintained and updated when necessary.

7. Geographical names databases

7.1. Data model and classifications

Data model is fully compliant to the INSPIRE data model for the theme Geographical Names. According to the application schema for the Geographical Names the core data include feature type Named Place with following attributes: geometry, unique identifier, classification (type) and one or several geographical name with information on spelling, language, native value, status, name source, pronunciation, grammatical gender and grammatical number.

Geometry type of Named Place object is a reference point.

Beside INSPIRE data model, data is also available in the reduced national data model and published through the OGC WFS service which is open to use with no limitations on public access.

7.2. Data maintenance

Data is maintained in geodatabase PostgreSQL with PostGIS extension and it is located in the State Geodetic Administration. Network services are published via Geoserver.

7.3. Data standards and interoperability

Geographical names database is published via OGC WMS and WFS services with INSPIRE extension. Data is available for download in GML format.

Data is conformant to Commission regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services.

Data is documented by metadata for discovery and interoperability according to INSPIRE Technical Guidelines based on EN ISO 19115 and EN ISO 19119.

7.4. Data services, applications and products

Dataset Register of Geographic Names is available for viewing and downloading through the web services WMS (Web Map Service) and WFS (Web Feature Service) that are INSPIRE compliant and comply to Technical guidelines on Network Services issued by INSPIRE. INSPIRE view and download services are available as open data without any authorization.

Besides data in INSPIRE model, there is also WFS for data in national model.

Catalogue of geographical objects is created and contains description of all geographical object types included in the Register of Geographical Names.