

14 February 2019

Original: 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*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Hungary****Summary****

The report covers the period from 1 August 2017 to 20 January 2019.

Legal basis

Government Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm. on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary continues to be the legal basis for standardizing geographical names in the country and the activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names.

In accordance with this decree, the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names is responsible for the establishment of names of physical features (landscapes, relief and hydrographic forms), those of protected natural areas, transport and communication features and small rural features. The Committee advises on the names of administrative units, localities, parts of localities, public places (streets, squares) and minor transport features. It is also responsible for the use of exonyms and minority names. Decision-making regarding administrative names is within the scope of authority of the Parliament; the naming of localities is within the scope of authority of the President of the Republic; and the naming of public places and parts of localities is within the scope of authority of the local governments.

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Tamás Koós, Gábor Mikesy, Attila Mártonfi and Béla Pokoly of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/1st_session_UNGEKN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/53/CRP.53.



Names of administrative units*Regions according to the European Union Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics*

On 1 January 2018 the European Union Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) 2 region, Közép-Magyarország, was divided into two parts, Budapest and Pest county.

County name

The name Csongrád county will change to Csongrád-Csanád county). The Parliament made this decision, which will come into force in June of 2020.

Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names

The Committee has held six sessions since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, has discussed 73 items and has taken 37 decisions, including:

- Country names: the Committee discussed two proposals. The Hungarian form of Eswatini/Kingdom of Eswatini remained Szváziföld/Szváziföldi Királyság following official news of the name change of Swaziland. In the same way, the Committee did not support the change of the Hungarian form Fehéroroszország to Belarusz, because the Hungarian form is historically well-founded and linguistically not problematic.
- New exonym: for the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Committee established the form Kazan (other forms used have included Kazany, Kazány and Kazán).

Other decisions and opinions are mostly related to place names of local importance, such as streets, farmsteads and bridges.

Gazetteer of Hungary

The Gazetteer of Hungary database is maintained by the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest. The website of the Department contains some examples in the International Phonetic Alphabet, together with MP3 audio files, to support correct pronunciation and transcription.¹

The project for standardizing geographical names for maps on a scale of 1:10,000 through field work as part of the Gazetteer of Hungary has covered 70 per cent of the country.

The latest data on settlements and their parts can be found on the website of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.²

¹ See www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekcink/magyarorszag-foeldrajzinev-tara.

² See www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.egyeb?p_lang=EN&p_sablon=LETOLTES.