

18 March 2019

English

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

New York, 29 April – 3 May 2019

Agenda item 5(a) of the provisional agenda *

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

Report of Hungary

Submitted by 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.

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.

* GEGN.2/2019/1

**Prepared by Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names – Tamás Koós, Gábor Mikesy, Attila Mártonfi, Béla Pokoly.

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

National Report of Hungary 2017-2019*

A. Jurisdiction on Geographical Names

A/1. Jurisdiction

The legal framework related to the establishment and registration of official Hungarian geographical names has not changed since the last country report from 2017. The only change concerns the name of the supervising ministry but only in its Hungarian version (see next paragraph).

1.) The Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (hereinafter HCGN) continues to work on the legal basis of Gov. Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm., on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary, supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Hungarian name of the ministry has changed from *Földművelésügyi Minisztérium* to *Agrárminisztérium* in 2018.

2.) Act. No. XLVI. of 2012 on land surveying and mapping activity confirmed that creation, continuance and data service of Database Gazetteer of Hungary has been a basic state task, which has been provided by the public authority for land surveying and remote sensing. This public authority has been the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of Government Office of the Capital City Budapest since 1 January 2017.

3. Works on an unequivocal register of addresses have been in progress for several years. Act No. XCIII of 2014 established a Central Address Register in Hungary, which also has affected the decisions on official geographical names. Major rulings of the law are as follows:

- Each real property in Hungary (buildings and parcels) must have an address established by a regulated process. The municipal clerk is responsible for the correct establishment of addresses.
- An address must include the name of the street (public space), its type and the house number. Possible types of public spaces can be defined according to a fixed list.
- Addresses must be unmistakable and unequivocal. Criteria for establishing the correct constituting parts (communes, public spaces) of addresses are included in Gov. Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14)]
- Only farmsteads may be named after a living person.

A/2. Names of administration

The naming of administrative units belongs to the scope of authority of the Parliament.

a) NUTS regions

From 1 January 2018 the NUTS 2 region called *Közép-Magyarország* [Central Hungary] has been divided into two parts, *Budapest* and *Pest megye* [Pest county]. Consequently, because on NUTS 1 level the region name remained *Közép-Magyarország*, and on NUTS 3 level it remained *Budapest* and *Pest megye* as well, the change did not concern the names but the structure of nomenclature.

b) County name

In Hungary's interior administration Budapest and 19 counties (Hung. *megye*) belong to the highest level. The Parliament decided changing a county name, which will come into force next year: the name of *Csongrád megye* will be *Csongrád-Csanád megye* from June 2020.

c) Other

In the name of districts and municipalities there were no changes.

A/3. Other names (physical features, transport etc.)

Decisions on these other types of names fall within the competence of the *Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names*. The existence of the Committee is also based on Government Decree No. 303/2007.

The Committee, having representatives from all government and non-government fields with an interest in geographical names (ministries of agriculture, defence, national development, foreign affairs, human resources, interior; self-governments, minorities, official cartography, linguistics, cartographic higher education, geography, statistical office) is acting in the Ministry of Agriculture, because this ministry is responsible for the major part of official mapping.

The Decree empowers the Committee to decide on the names of physical features (landscapes, relief and hydrographical forms), those of nature protection, communication as well as of small rural features. In the case of naming new independent settlements (e.g. when parts of larger municipal units choose to secede) the new name must have the expert opinion of the Committee by law.

B. Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2017–2019

The Committee held 6 sessions since the 11th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, discussed 73 items and has taken 37 decisions.

a) Country names

HCGN discussed two proposals. The Hungarian form of *Eswatini/Kingdom of Eswatini* remained *Szváziföld/Szváziföldi Királyság* following official news on the name change of *Swaziland*. The Hungarian forms *Szváziföld* and *Szváziföldi Királyság* are exact equivalents in meaning of *Eswatini* and *Kingdom of Eswatini*. The name *Eswatini* and their derived adjectives can not fit into Hungarian speech and writing without problems.

In the same way HCGN did not support the change of the Hungarian form *Fehéroroszország* to *Belarusz*, because the Hungarian form is historically well-founded and linguistically not problematic. The Hungarian word “fehérorosz” has a 500-year-old history in written sources, its use was exclusive until 1945, afterwards Russian-based *Belorusszia* and *belorusz* gained some publicity. The Hungarian forms *Fehéroroszország* and *fehérorosz* promote more positive associations compared to other solutions.

HCGN amended the list of official Hungarian country names in both cases with the remark that in diplomatic contacts the forms *Eswatini* and *Belarusz* may be used as well. The list includes a few similar dichotomies, e.g. Nagy-Britannia/Egyesült Királyság [Great Britain/United Kingdom], Vatikánvárosi Állam/Szentszék [Vatican City State/Holy See].

b) New exonym

There were three widely used Hungarian forms for the capital of Tatarstan, Russia: *Kazán*, *Kazany*, *Kazány*. The growing contacts called for standardization. HCGN voted for a new form: *Kazan*. This form – in accordance with the decision of HCGN – matches the transcription from Russian and Tatar languages, the rules of Hungarian language and international use as well.

c) NUTS regions

HCGN has been active in advising changes and upgrades on the list of Hungarian names of NUTS regions of European Union. 254 of 352 NUTS1 and NUTS2 regions have Hungarian or partly Hungarian forms. In the table below the Czech regions are shown as examples.

CZ01	Praha	Prága
CZ02	Střední Čechy	Közép-Csehország
CZ03	Jihozápad	Délnyugat-Csehország
CZ04	Severozápad	Északnyugat-Csehország
CZ05	Severovýchod	Északkelet-Csehország
CZ06	Jihovýchod	Délkelet-Csehország
CZ07	Střední Morava	Közép-Morvaország
CZ08	Moravskoslezsko	Morvaszilézia

d) Names of bridges

HCGN gave names for two bridges after coordinated proposals of local governments and the ministry responsible for transport.

Nagy Ernő híd (Eger, Eger-patak, 47.941418, 20.366152)

Klatsmányi híd (Győr, Mosoni-Duna, 47.726637, 17.701739)

e) Public spaces (streets, squares, parks), parts of settlements

More than half of all items and decisions were expert advice on or taking cognizance of names of public spaces, parts of settlements etc. for local governments, mostly connected with the development of the Central Address Register. In such cases decision is in the competence of local governments. HCGN helps to find the linguistically, orthographically and practically best forms. HCGN does not support commemorative naming of living persons (except singular farmsteads).

f) Other activities

During its field work HCGN often faces controversial and false situations on the use of geographical names. In the absence of the competence to decide on names on its own HCGN attempts to persuade by correspondence other national and local governmental institutions to cooperate, in other words the Committee has the power to establish names or give opinion on them, if they are proposed by the proper authority. HCGN has also approached the capital mayor's office of the City of Budapest to cooperate in standardizing linguistically correct name forms of some neighbourhoods and important stations of city transport in Budapest.

g) Minority settlement names

In order to promote a consolidated use and registration of minority place names HCGN turned to minority self-governments. The detailed gazetteer of Hungary by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office is today the only state-level official source of minority place names. This is based on the minority place name town sign (name plate) by the information of local governments. There is no limitation in the allocation of such minority town signs. Unfortunately, the Gazetteer does not contain all minority place names that can be found on the town signs in Hungary, besides sometimes it uses grammatically incorrect forms.

C. Database Gazetteer of Hungary

a) The names in the Database Gazetteer of Hungary are recorded by the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest (earlier Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing - FÖMI). The version at medium scale contains 79 thousand records and covers the whole country. The administrative changes are continuously upgraded.

Internet address:

<http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekeink/magyarorszag-foeldrajzinev-tara>

The data are not free of charge. For accessing the data turn to the data service:

Web: <http://www.geoshop.hu/index.php?module=StaticPage&pageid=21&lang=en#fnt>

E-mail: szolgaltato.osztaly.ftf@bfkh.gov.hu

<http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekeink/magyarorszag-foeldrajzinev-tara>

Contact persons for the content of the database:

Mikesy Gábor - e-mail: mikesy.gabor@bfkh.gov.hu

Sasi Attila e-mail: sasi.attila@bfkh.gov.hu

b) MP3 audio files

On this website you can find MP3 format audio files of a selection of names of major cities and natural objects:

<http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/termekeink/magyarorszag-foeldrajzinev-tara>

c) IPA codes

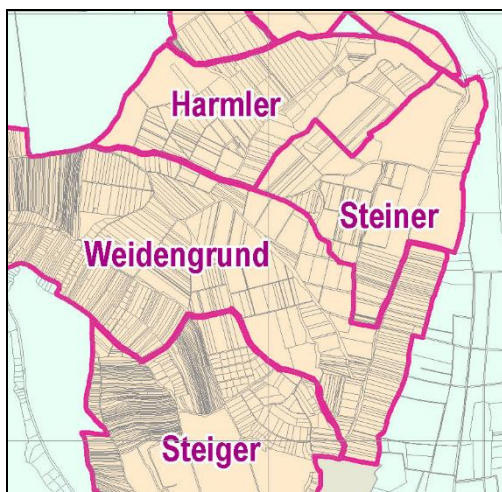
The most remarkable Hungarian toponyms are available in IPA codes on website http://www.ftf.bfkh.gov.hu/portal/index.php/kozerdeku-adatok/dokumentumok/doc_view/160-foldrajzi-nevi-mintaallomany-fonetikai-kodokkal-ipa-azaz-international-phonetic-alphabet-

Balaton	'bɒlɒton	lake
Balatonalmádi	'bɒlɒtonɒlma:di	city, town, administrative place
Balatonboglár	'bɒlɒtonboglɑ:r	city, town, administrative place
Balaton-felvidék	'bɒlɒtonfelvide:k	mountain range
Balatonföldvár	'bɒlɒtonföldva:r	city, town, administrative place
Balatonfüred	'bɒlɒtonfy:red	city, town, administrative place
Balatonfűzfő	'bɒlɒtonfy:sfø:	city, town, administrative place

d) The field work related to the large scale version of the Database Gazetteer of Hungary are still in progress. At present, this task has been completed for 70 percent of the area of the country, and 10%

of the area has been digitally processed. In this version, a geometrical form (polygon, line or dot) corresponds to each toponym. Establishment of names is supported by topographic and cadastral maps as well as by orthophotos and digital elevation models. The names are confirmed and entered into the database in cooperation with the local governments. In the last one and a half years field work on geographical names of 24 communes was completed covering a total of cca. 60.000 hectares.

e) It is an important task to record minority names in the Gazetteer of Hungary. Microtoponyms on territories populated by minorities can be entered in gazetteer and maps in minority form alone (except street names) or parallel with a Hungarian form, there is no limitation.



A perfect solution is yet to be found for writing dialectal minority microtoponyms in those cases, where the dialects are far from standard language or dialectal names are based on the Hungarian alphabet, e.g. *Stirgrom* (~Stiergraben; German, Vaskeresztes), *Honivacker* (~Hanfacker; German, Kiszsidány), *Va sinokoš upira* (Croatian, Und), *Nutarne veliki lug* (Croatian, Felsőcsatár), *Kosztolka*, *Vinyicska* (Slovakian, Keszeg), *Nad vágás* (Slovakian, Ósagárd), *Douga zemlja* (Slovenian, Szakonyfalu), *Türnjek* (Slovenian, Szakonyfalu), *Pasa mári*, *Padure alu Drávi*, *Krucse alu Tirguluj* (Bayash, Muntenian dialect, Alsószentmárton).

f) The latest data of settlements and their parts can be found on the website of Hungarian Central Statistical Office: http://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.egyeb?p_lang=EN&p_sablon=LETOLTES