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**Agenda 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 Lithuania**

Submitted by Lithuania\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Ramūnė Žygaitė (Adviser of Geodesy and Real Property Cadastre Division, Department of Geodesy and Land Use Control, the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania) using data provided by the National Land Service; The State Enterprise „GIS-Centras“; The State Enterprise Centre of Registers; Vilnius University.

## **Summary\*\***

The Report of Lithuania is prepared for the 1<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which will be held from 29 April–3 May 2019. The report covers the activities performed in the field of standardization of geographical names in 2016–2018.

The report covers the main activities in Lithuania with respect to the standardization of geographical names: national institutions work, the legal framework, the state of normative and methodological documents while performing the geographical names standardization, the status of national geographical names data sets, catalogues, registry information, main cartographic works released during 2016-2018 and information about participation in international events related with standardization of geographical names.

## **REPORT OF LITHUANIA**

The report of Lithuania is prepared for the 1<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names which will be held from 29 April–3 May 2019

### **1. National institutions working in the field of standardization of geographical names**

The State Lithuanian Language Commission is in charge of the standardization of place names on the national level, while the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for official maps. In this respect nothing has changed.

Names, addresses and geographical location of administrative units, wards, residential areas, streets as well as names given to buildings, structures or other objects are stored in the Register of Address. The Register is administered by the State Enterprise Centre of Registers (SE Centre of Registers).

The representatives of the National Land Service and the State Enterprise National Centre of Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics “GIS-Centras” (SE “GIS-Centras“) are involved in working group of Lithuanian Standards Board Technical Committee LST TC Geographic Information.

The expert group working on naming Lithuanian geographical objects was formed at the end of 2015 by the National Land Service. The group consists of nine representatives of the state institutions:

- the National Land Service,
- the State Lithuanian Language Commission,
- SE Centre of Registers,
- SE “GIS-Centras”,
- the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania,
- the Institute of the Lithuanian Language,
- the Lithuanian Cartographic Society

- the Institute of Geosciences of Vilnius University.

## **2. The legal framework, the state of normative and methodological documents while performing the geographical names standardization**

- The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania issued Resolution No XIII-1273 as of 14 June 2018, whereby the year 2019 was announced as the Year of the Place Names.
- The Spatial Data Set of Geographic Place Names for the Republic of Lithuania was added to the List of State spatial data sets and maps (adopted by the order by the minister of Agriculture, 2017-07-25 No. 3D-488 <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/0192de90713411e7827cd63159af616c/yUWmjtuPlP>)

## **3. The status of national geographical names data sets, catalogues, registry information**

The main operations of developing national geographical names data sets, catalogues and registry information are as follows:

3.1. The spatial data set of (geo)reference base cadastre (GRPK) is the official state cadastre and the main topographic data set at scale up to 1:10 000. According to the laws the manager of GRPK is SE “GIS-Centras”.

The spatial objects of GRPK represent natural and anthropogenic features of terrene. The name-places (such as names of the rivers, lakes, forests, landmarks and other significant objects) as element of topographic maps are part of GRPK since 2005 as well. Name-places are collected as polygon, linear or point objects. During 2016-2018 the GRPK name-places were not updated proactive. The main works were to collect names of swamps as polygon objects and ensure that names in GRPK correspond to names in other official data sources (e.g. the State Cadastre of Rivers, Lakes and Ponds, IS of State Roads, etc.).

3.2. By 1 January 2019, there were 10 counties, 60 municipalities, 544 neighbourhoods (local administrative units), 21088 residential areas (out of it: 103 cities, 252 small towns, 19115 villages, 1599 single-homestead settlements and 19 other residential areas) and 56462 street names registered in the Address Register of the Republic of Lithuania, the Keeper of which is the State Enterprise Centre of Registers. By the same date, i.e. 1 January 2019, the Address Register stored data on the approved accurate boundaries of 12078 residential areas. (The Register is administered by the SE Centre of Registers.)

3.3. Creation and upgrading of the spatial data set of Geographic Place Names of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – GV\_DRLT) carried out in 2016-2018 and is maintained continuously.

The service for the review, search, provision and statistical analysis of the Spatial Data Set of Geographic Place Names for the Republic of Lithuania (GV\_DRLT) is provided in geoportal.lt since 2014. The service was significantly improved in 2018. The service is provided in national spatial data portal using at [www.geoportal.lt/vietovardziai](http://www.geoportal.lt/vietovardziai).

Using the service there is possibility to review the place names in geoportal.lt web browser, to make data search and statistical analysis of the content of GV\_DRLT. Registered users can offer to include missing place names to the GV\_DRLT data set, inform about

GV\_DRLT issues. SE “GIS-Centras” is the administrator of Lithuanian spatial data infrastructure (SDI) portal [www.geoportal.lt](http://www.geoportal.lt).

The GV\_DRLT is an official data set for the territory of Lithuania (the order by the Minister of Agriculture, 2017-07-25 No. 3D-488 <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/0192de90713411e7827cd63159af616c/yUWmjtuPlP>). In 2016 and 2017 it has been complemented with almost 1 000 historical names, the most of which are the names of the settlements that are not anymore extant.

3.4. The provision of The Service of Place Names for the Territory of Lithuania to INSPIRE portal. The Service of Place Names for the Territory of Lithuania has been provided to INSPIRE portal <http://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/> in 2015 and continued to maintain (SE “GIS-Centras”).

#### **4. Main cartographic works released during 2016-2018**

In 2017, the National Land Service released the third Volume of the National Atlas of Lithuania devoted to the development of demographic, socio-economic and cultural environment. The maps have been created by the cartographers of Vilnius University. The main scale of maps is 1: 1 000 000 that allows accurate mapping of various phenomena for the entire territory of Lithuania.

Using the boundary plans of the territories of residential areas stored in the archive, the Centre of Registers started a pilot project on marking the boundaries of former (historical) territories of residential areas in the territory of two municipalities, i.e. a layer “Historical residential areas” was produced within the layer group “Boundaries of Address Register objects” in the interactive map of the objects of the Address Register of the Republic of Lithuania *REGIA* ([www.regia.lt](http://www.regia.lt)). This new layer contains the boundaries of the territories of former (historic) residential areas in Vilnius District Municipality and Pasvalys District Municipality. This map shows the following public data of residential areas: boundaries of territories, names and data of the documents, which served as a background for abolishing the residential area. In 2019, the Centre of Registers intends to mark the boundaries of the territories of former (historic) residential areas, which are in the archival documents of the Address Register, in the entire territory of the Republic of Lithuania, thereby contributing to preservation and monumentalization of the place names, i.e. the names of residential areas.

Maps of Lithuanian oikonyms that originate from the names of fauna and flora have been created at the Institute of Geosciences of Vilnius University and distributed by the Lithuanian Cartographic Society. In 2019, they will be made available at Lithuanian spatial information portal [www.geoportal.lt](http://www.geoportal.lt).

#### **5. Information about participation in international events related with standardization of geographical names**

The representatives of the National Land Service, SE “GIS-Centras”, SE Centre of Registers, Vilnius University and Lithuanian Language Institute participated with presentations in the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNGEGN Baltic division that was organized by the National Land Service and held in Vilnius (Lithuania) from 21 to 24 May, 2018.

**Report prepared by:**

National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

Mrs. Ramūnė Žygaitė,

Adviser of Geodesy and Real Property Cadastre Division

Gedimino pr. 19,

LT-08105, Vilnius

Lithuania

Fax: INT +370 7068 6949

Tel.: INT +370 7068 5179

E-mail: [Ramune.Zygaite@nzt.lt](mailto:Ramune.Zygaite@nzt.lt)

<http://www.nzt.lt>

The State Enterprise „GIS-Centras“

Mrs. Rita Viliuvienė

Products analyst

Mrs. Lina Papšienė, PhD

Head of the Spatial Data Department

Sėlių g. 66

LT-08109, Vilnius

Lithuania

Tel: INT +370 5272 4741

E-mail: [R.Viliuviene@gis-centras.lt](mailto:R.Viliuviene@gis-centras.lt), [L.Papsiene@gis-centras.lt](mailto:L.Papsiene@gis-centras.lt)

<http://www.gis-centras.lt>

The State Enterprise Centre of Registers

Mr. Zenonas Lapėnas

Lvovo g. 25-101,

LT-09320, Vilnius

Lithuania

E-mail: [zenonas.lapenas@registrucentras.lt](mailto:zenonas.lapenas@registrucentras.lt)

Tel: +370 5268 8334

Fax: +370 5268 8311

<http://www.registrucentras.lt>

Vilnius University

Department for Cartography and Geoinformatics of the Institute of Geosciences

Mrs. Giedrė Beconytė, PhD

M. K. Čiurlionio g. 21,

LT-03101 Vilnius

Lithuania

E-mail: [giedre.beconyte@gf.vu.lt](mailto:giedre.beconyte@gf.vu.lt)

Tel: +370 5239 8298