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

**2019 session**

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**Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda \***

**Report: Divisions of the Group of Experts**

**Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

Submitted by ECSEED\*\*

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## **I. ECSEED chairing**

Slovakia took over the division chairing of the East Central and South-East Europe Division in January 2018. This is a report of main activities from this chairing.

## **II. The Session reporting and documents**

The twenty-second Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) convened by the ECSEED's Chairperson was held in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 13 February 2019.

26 participants attended the Session. There were 23 participants from ECSEED countries and 3 from non-ECSEED countries: Austria (2), Germany (1).

There were 5 national reports submitted to the Session: national report of Slovakia, national report of Hungary, national report of Ukraine, national report of Czechia and national report of Slovenia. Special presentations followed the national reports. The main topics were:

1. Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
2. Harmonization of geographical names on the state border
3. Geographical names in practical use – web applications

Future recommendations concerned the harmonisation of geomorphological units, mistakes in Google maps and model of national reports.

All papers, national reports and special presentations are published on the ECSEED web site.

The delegates of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN held on 13 February 2019 in Bratislava made the following recognitions, conclusions and recommendations:

- a) The delegates from participating countries recognized positive achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical name standardization. The delegates recommend that the ongoing process must continue.
- b) The delegates agreed to encourage their national geographical authorities to initiate the cross-border harmonization of the boundaries of the geomorphological units.
- c) The delegates agreed to check the Google maps and similar web applications for potential errors in geonames displayed in these web applications.
- d) The next 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the division is planned to be held in 2021 in Bratislava ahead of the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> UNGEGN session on geographical names standardization.

<b>List of documents</b>			
<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	22 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN	Katarína Leitmannová Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia
2	11 <sup>th</sup> Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and 30 <sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEEN)	Klára Steinerová Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre	Czechia
3	National Report of Slovakia	Eva Miklušová Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia
4	National Report of Hungary 2017-2019	Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names Tamás Koós, Gábor Mikesy, Attila Mártonfi, Béla Pokoly	Hungary
5	The report of Ukraine about standardization of geographical names	Olexandr Soliienko, Nataliia Kizilova The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre	Ukraine
6	Report of Czechia	Vladimír Liščák, Irena Švehlová Commission on Geographical Names, Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre	Czechia
7	National report of Slovene governmental commission for standardization of geographical names	Matjaž Geršič, Marija Brnot	Slovenia
8	The endonym/exonym divide related to transboundary features	Peter Jordan	Austria
9	Geonames in Slovakia	Darina Porubčanová, Chairperson of ECSEED Geodetic and Cartographic Institute	Slovakia
10	Hungarian country names: history, cultural context, new cases	Béla Pokoly	Hungary
11	The issue of standardization of geographic names of units of geomorphological division	Imrich Horňanský Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic	Slovakia
12	Geonames in web applications and map services	Ľuboslav Michalík Geodetic and Cartographic Institute	Slovakia
13	Geographical Names in Practical Use - Web Applications	Marija Brnot Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia	Slovenia
14	EuroRegionalMap and the European Regional Gazetteer Service	Roman Stani-Fertl EuroGeographics	Austria

### III. Divisional homepage

The East Central and South-East Europe Division has its own web site: <http://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Home.aspx>. Since January 2018 there were some updates of the homepage in the experts and authorities section.

All documents from the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the division (which was held in Bratislava) were added to the website.

### IV. National activities

Below is brief information about the latest activities in some ECSEED countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

#### **Bulgaria**

This report highlights, on the one hand, the main directions in the work of the **Bulgarian** National Authority for Standardization of Geographical Names - the Council for Standardization of Geographical Names of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works: socio-cultural description and survey of geographical names and the establishment of uniform norms for keeping and organizing them in accessible and functional registers. It is an activity similar in nature and significance to that of preserving the monuments of culture and is based on a complex approach in which the geographic names are considered

- as part of the historical and cultural heritage;
- as part of the spatial data infrastructure;
- as systems of writing and pronunciation.

On the other hand, it presents the registry of geographic names - a web-based application, which ensures uniformity and steadiness in the usage of geographic names, their storage, timely updating and dissemination.

#### **Croatia**

In December 2018, the Croatian Parliament passed the new Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (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. 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 Cadastre (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 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.

Currently there are 132 881 toponyms of geographic objects entered 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 that scale from 1:300 000 to 1:25 000. Each geographical name in the register contains following attributes: 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.

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

Metadata documents of the dataset as well as network services are available on the national Geoportal of the Republic of Croatia.

Data model is fully compliant to INSPIRE data model for the theme Geographical names. Data is maintained in geodatabase PostgreSQL with PostGIS extension and it is located in the State Geodetic Administration. Geographical names database is published via OGC WMS and WFS services with INSPIRE extension using Geoserver. Data is available for download in GML format with no limitations on public use.

## Cyprus

The report refers to the period 2017-2018, in relation to the activities of the Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Republic of Cyprus (CPCSGN).

**The first section** of the report includes background information regarding the establishment and operation of the CPCSGN, the legislation and the structure under which it operates, and the main principles followed.

**The second section** includes a brief description of the main duties of CPCSGN.

**The third section** includes the main achievements, which are briefly described and explained.

The CPCSGN regularly maintains a website ([www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://www.geoportal.gov.cy)), where all relevant information and editions are available. Among others, a very helpful tool is provided for the automatic transliteration of geographical names from Greek to roman alphabet, based on ELOT 743.

CPCSGN maintains one major gazetteer for all geographical names in Cyprus. All geographical names and toponyms, that are included in this gazetteer, were derived from the official large-scale cadastral maps and the land registers of the Department of Lands and Surveys. This gazetteer is available on-line.

A new edition was recently prepared by the CPCSGN titled: “Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus”. The gazetteer was initially presented and submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names that took place in New York, in August 2017. The book is also available on-line.

Odonyms in Cyprus are given and maintained by the Municipal and Community Councils. Odonyms are under the approval of the respective District Officers, which operate under the Ministry of Interior. All official street names are communicated to the CPCSGN, for checking and correction, in order to achieve uniformity all over the island. A complete catalogue of toponyms is maintained by the Department of Postal Services and is available on-line.

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: [www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://www.geoportal.gov.cy). Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading, printing, and direct accessing via GIS.

The CPCSGN continues the tasks for the collection, the standardization and the romanization of the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus, according to ELOT 743. All geographical names are gathered by authorized bodies and are based on sound historical and official information.

CPCSGN recently prepared a poster regarding the standardization and transliteration of geographical names. This poster was distributed to all high schools. The Committee also published a book marker which was distributed to all schools and government departments. The poster and the book marker include brief information regarding CPCSGN and the transliteration rules that are followed. The poster is available on-line.

CPCSGN participates actively in UNGEGN conferences, sessions and committees. In addition, CPCSGN submitted a series of technical papers which are included in UNGEGN Bulletins.

Geographic names are a vitally important part of geospatial information, and they express tangibly the human activity on earth with meaning and memory. CPCSGN, within the framework of its duties, supports UN principles and internationally promotes the official geographical names of Cyprus by all available means.

## Czechia

Since the recent UN conference, the Czech Republic has continued both the standardization of the names for the territory of the Czech Republic and the standardization of the names outside this territory. The already standardized names are updated and we maintain the updated list of names of countries on the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (CUZK) website <http://www.cuzk.cz>. We maintain standardized names according to the plan, especially names on the territory of the Czech Republic, which are maintained with an array of attributes in the national database of geographical names - Geonames since the year 1997. All terminology data are gradually centralised and converged in one office. Non-standardized names (official, especially names of settlements) are kept in the national database which is administered by CUZK. Links have been made to the registry of names in the cadastral map and data is being harmonized. The Czech Commission on Geographical Names (CCGN) has issued a new edition of Index of Czech Exonyms which is published as a public application. The database Geonames is completed by grammatical characteristics (grammatical gender and grammatical number) of Czech endonyms.

## Hungary

The report covers the period between 1 august 2017 and 20 January 2019.

### 1. Legal basis:

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

In accordance with this decree establishment of names of physical features (landscapes, relief and hydrographic forms), those of nature protection, transport, communication as well as of small rural features are within the competence of HCGN. HCGN gives its opinion on names of administration, localities, parts

of localities, public places (streets, squares) and minor transport features. Its responsibility also includes the use of exonyms and minority names. Decision on administrative names belongs to the scope of authority of the Parliament, the name of localities to the president of the republic and the names of public places and parts of localities to the local governments.

### 1. Names of administration

- a) NUTS regions: on 1 January 2018 the NUTS 2 region called *Közép-Magyarország* [Central Hungary] was divided into two parts, *Budapest* and *Pest megye* [Pest county].
- a) County name: the name of *Csongrád megye* [Csongrád County] will change to *Csongrád-Csanád megye* [Csongrád-Csanád County]. The Parliament made this decision, which will come into force in June of 2020.

### 2. Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names

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*. 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 no problematic.
- a) New exonym: for the capital of the Republic of *Tatarstan* HCGN established the form *Kazan* (other used forms have included *Kazany*, *Kazány* and *Kazán*).

Other decisions and opinions are mostly related to place names with local importance: streets, farmsteads, bridges etc.

### 3. Gazetteer of Hungary

Database Gazetteer of Hungary is maintained by the Department of Geodesy, Remote Sensing and Land Offices of Government Office of the Capital City Budapest. On its website some examples are given in IPA alphabet and MP3 audio files for supporting right pronunciations and transcriptions.

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

The project of standardizing geographical names for 1:10 000 scale maps through field work as part of the Gazetteer of Hungary have reached a *readiness* of 70 percent for the country.

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](http://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.egyeb?p_lang=EN&p_sablon=LETOLTES)

<b>Poland</b>
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In this national report of Poland the progress on geographical names issues made since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (8-17 August 2017) is presented.

**National names authorities.** There are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland: the *Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects*, affiliated to the Minister of the Interior and Administration, which establishes names used within Poland's boundaries, and the *Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland*, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, which is responsible for: standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland on UNGEGN forum, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to geographical names.

**National gazetteer.** The last edition of the Polish national gazetteer entitled *List of official names of localities and their parts*, which contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, was published in October 2015. Changes of the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*, and come into force on January 1.

**Multilingual areas.** According to the *Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages* traditional names in a minority language may be used as "additional names". Since

2005 minority names were introduced for 1246 localities: 359 German names, 821 Kashubian names, 30 Lithuanian names, 27 Belarusian names, and 9 Lemko names.

**Exonyms.** The list of Polish exonyms, entitled *Official list of Polish geographical names of the world*, was published at the end of 2013. It lists Polish names for **13,358** geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland. The second edition of the list is scheduled to be published in the end of 2019.

**Toponymic data files.** The National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG) is maintained by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography subordinated to the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently the Register holds approximately 252,000 names.

**Country names.** The fourth edition of the *Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories* was published at the end of 2017. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The fifth updated edition of the list is scheduled to be published in the second half of 2019.

## Slovak Republic

The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic (authority) has been ensuring the following activities related to the standardization of geographical names:

1. Since 2015 the authority has been gradually expanding the content of the database of geographical names from the territory of the Slovak Republic (database) by names from cadastral and forest maps according to the districts planned for each year. Since June 2018 we have also begun to address another source of names related to watercourses that are managed by different administrators (managed watercourses). We compare, edit to the necessary extent, standardize and integrate the names from cadastral maps, forest maps and managed watercourses names into the database. The goal of standardization is to unify the names of each named feature, standardize one name for one feature and provide approved names for national and international use.

Within the standardization of geographical names we are gradually adding variant names, mainly from map sources, to the unfinished districts.

2. The database is being continuously updated.
3. We provide free download of data from the database in the following formats: Esri SHP, Esri MDB, Esri GDB and CSV. See more here: [https://www.geoportal.sk/sk/zbgis\\_smd/na-stiahnutie/](https://www.geoportal.sk/sk/zbgis_smd/na-stiahnutie/).
4. ZBGIS Map client - interactive web application of spatial ZBGIS data which now allows, among other things, analysing, viewing and searching through:
  - standardized geographical names,
  - variant and historical names,
  - standardized exonyms.
5. In 2018 we published an amendment of the Directive for the Standardization of Geographical Names. This amendment specifies other types of names that should be edited or maintained in the proposed form in order to take into account the name forms used at the local level.
6. Documentation on our activities and selected lists of geographical names are published and updated on the authority's website: <http://www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/>.
7. In 2017 the authority organized a one-day seminar on standardized geographical names to inform participants about activities related to this area.
8. The authority is chairing the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations (2018-2022).

## Slovenia



After the Eleventh UNCSGN the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CSGN) has continued with standardization of the geographical names within and outside the territory of Slovenia.

The CSGN met on 22 occasions: 5 meetings and 17 corresponding meetings. Information and activities related to the Commission are posted on the website:

[http://www.gu.gov.si/en/delovnapodrocja\\_gu/projekti\\_gu/slovene\\_governmental\\_commission\\_for\\_the\\_standardisation\\_of\\_geographical\\_names/#c17314](http://www.gu.gov.si/en/delovnapodrocja_gu/projekti_gu/slovene_governmental_commission_for_the_standardisation_of_geographical_names/#c17314) .

The main task of CSGN was preparing decisions of correctness and suitability of new names and renames of streets and settlements. This engagement is provided by the law of defining territories and naming of settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of CSGN is obligatory for municipalities that finally officially announce new or changed names. In 2017 CSGN was deciding about 20 street names, in 2018 about 13 street names and in 2019 about 2 street names.

Slovenia has two national minorities, the Hungarian and Italian. On ethnically mixed territories it is declared the equality of the use of Italian and Hungarian language by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. Within Slovenia are standardized Hungarian and Italian names only for the settlements. Other, non-standardized names cause considerable errors on various maps and in databases. Since 2014, the effort to standardize all Hungarian and Italian geographical names for the scale level 1:25,000 is underway. The lists of Hungarian and Italian names were prepared by both national communities with the participation of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia (SMA) and CSGN. The list of Italian names is almost finished – only a few names remain open. On the other side much work is needed to complete the Hungarian list, since there are uncertainties for more than half of the names in the list. The initiative to complete both lists is on the side of the national communities.

Geographical names (standardized and non-standardized) are kept in Register of Geographical Names which is maintained by the SMA. SMA is actively involved in the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the UNGEGN.

Slovenia actively participates in the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms and also otherwise is very active in the field of exonyms, especially researchers of the Anton Melik Geographical Institute. They regularly publish articles on exonyms in domestic and foreign publications.

Country names are among the rare foreign geographical names that are standardized in Slovenian (names of 198 independent and 51 non-self-governing territories). It is planned to resume the standardization in February 2019, which will include new country names (eg Eswatini).

## **Ukraine**

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" and other normative-legal acts the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>) coordinates activities related to the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names in Ukraine.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre provides the creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names as an electronic database of standardized geographical names, as well as the information about the naming and renaming of geographical objects, change of their status, type, etc. constant update.

The creation of the electronic database of the State Register of Geographical Names, that contains more than 100 000 geographical names of Ukraine (names of settlements and administrative-territorial units,

physical-geographical and socio-economic objects and objects of the nature reserve fund) was completed in 2017.

The data of the State Register of Geographical Names include the registration number, the standardized name of the geographical object in Ukrainian and Latin alphabet, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (for settlements), the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) and are published on the official web-site of the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua/info/informatsiia-pro-derzhavnyi-reiestr-heohrafichnykh-nazv/>)