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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (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 Poland for the period 2019–2021****Summary****

The report of Poland covers the progress on geographical names issues made since the 2019 session of the new United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held from 29 April to 3 May 2019.

National names authorities

Poland has two commissions that standardize geographical names. The first is the commission on names of localities and physiographic objects, which reports to the Minister of the Interior and Administration and establishes names used within Poland's boundaries. The second is the commission on standardization of geographical names outside Poland, which reports to the Surveyor General of Poland and is responsible, among other things, for standardizing Polish geographical names around the world, representing Poland in the Group of Experts, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to geographical names.

National gazetteer

The latest edition of the Polish national gazetteer, the list of official names of localities and their parts, which contains 102,875 official names, was published in December 2019. Changes to the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws*, and come into force on the following 1 January.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Maciej Zych, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/14/CRP.14, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.



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 Belarusian, German, Kashubian, Lemko and Lithuanian names have been introduced for 1,252 localities.

Exonyms

The second edition of the list of Polish exonyms, the official list of Polish geographical names of the world, was published at the end of 2019. It contains the list of Polish names for 13,599 geographical objects that lie outside the country's boundaries.

Toponymic data files

The national register of geographical names is maintained by the head office of geodesy and cartography under the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently the register holds approximately 256,000 names.

Country names

The fifth updated edition of the official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories was published at the end of 2019. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
