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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
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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 Croatia on the activities in the field of
standardization of geographical names from 2019 to 2020****Summary****

The report of Croatia will present activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in the country, with reference to the previous report, during the period from March 2019 to December 2020. On the basis of the Law on State Survey and Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, 112/2018) and with the aim of the uniform standardization of geographical names in Croatia, the Government of Croatia created the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names at the end of March 2019. The Commission, as a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional body, is composed of experts in the fields of geodesy, geography, linguistics, cartography, hydrography, history, culture, international relations, and science and education. The President of the Commission is the Director-General of the State Geodetic Administration of Croatia, Damir Šantek, as a representative of the central State administration body responsible for the register of geographical names.

The Commission, within its tasks prescribed under the law, monitors the implementation of regulations on settlements and their application in geographical names; conducts revisions of toponyms and, if necessary, determines new ones; and determines the principles of writing and use of foreign geographical names for application in, for example, education, science and Croatian diplomacy. In addition, the Commission makes proposals and recommendations for improving the register of geographical names, and participates in the work of international organizations dealing with geographical names.

The tasks associated with the standardization of geographical names are performed by public law bodies in accordance with the recommendations of the

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

** The full report was prepared by the State Geodetic Administration of Croatia. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/21/CRP.21, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.



Commission. From the beginning of June 2019 to the middle of December 2020, the Commission held four sessions and adopted two recommendations for the standardization of geographical names in Croatia: on the naming of settlements, streets and squares, and the writing and use of geographical names from foreign languages. In November 2020, the Government, for the first time in its history, adopted a conclusion in which it supported the implementation of those recommendations.

The Law on State Survey and Real Property Cadastre defines, among other things, the term “geographical name” and the role of the register of geographical names in which data on geographical names in Croatia are kept and maintained. In May 2020, the Ordinance on the Register of Geographical Names (Official Gazette, 59/2020) was published, which prescribes the content, manner of keeping and maintaining the register of geographical names. Keeping and maintaining the register of geographical names is the responsibility of the State Geodetic Administration. The Catalogue of Geographical Objects and the Specification of the Register of Geographical Names are an integral part of the Ordinance.

In June 2019, the functionality of the online application of the register of geographical names was improved (see <https://rgi.dgu.hr/rgiapp/>), and all information in the register in Croatia is available on the website. At the international level, at the end of January 2020, a bilateral meeting was organized between the representatives of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Croatia and representatives of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Slovenia.
