



24th session of East Central and South-East Europe Division

Side meeting of 2nd session of UNGEGN
Wednesday 28 April 2021, worldwide – virtual platform
Darina Porubčanová, chairperson of ECSEED

Meetings

- last ECSEED meeting - Side meeting of the 1st session of new UNGEGN 1 May 2019 in New York
- till today – no meetings – Coronavirus crisis
- the most of the ECSEED activities - regarding recognitions, conclusions and recommendations from the 22nd Session of ECSEED 13 February in Bratislava

Conclusions, recognitions and recommendations from the 22nd session of ECSEED 13 February 2019 in Bratislava:

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



Activities in 2019-2021

- Updating contacts – several times
- Harmonisation of geomorphological units on the state border
- Mistakes in Google maps
- Model of National report
- Unfortunately no meetings – corona crisis

Discrepancies between the course of borders and the geonames of geomorphological units at state borders

Slovakia as a presiding country has done these activities:

- Slovak national geonames authority has addressed this problem to the competent authority (Institute of Geography, Slovak Academy of Sciences), which manages the geomorphological division of the country
- Institute of Geography - improves the geomorphological division of the country
- However, harmonization of geomorphological units between neighbouring countries on state borders - **very difficult, even impossible**
- **The reason** – **the geomorphological division is not the same** (each country has its own division), therefore at present it is not possible to harmonize geomorphological units with neighbouring countries

Member countries - informed about these activities

Small research - how member countries proceeded – the results – in Divisional report:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/GEG_N.2_2021_CRP115_4b_ECSEED_Report_revised.pdf

Mistakes in Google maps

Google maps - one of the most used web map applications, unfortunately there are mistakes in geonames

First time - introduced this problem – divisional meeting in Ljubljana in 2015

Opened again - divisional meeting in 2019 in Bratislava

The recommendation from the session in Bratislava: each member country - check their geonames in Google maps and other web applications

Presiding country(Slovakia) - checked some parts of its area in this application - found several mistakes in geonames

- Slovakia **contacted the administrator of Google maps application**, explained the problem, **suggested to provide the database** (either Slovakia provides to Google or Google provides to Slovakia) and correct found mistakes – most efficient way
- Google maps administrators diplomatically avoided this option
- Google administrators recommended - **Geo Data Upload tool** (for correcting mistakes with the possibility to communicate with operators of Google Maps)

Presiding country tried it.

Experiences and findings:

advantages: easy to use, corrections made by Google administrators - only few days

disadvantages: lengthy process - finding mistakes by checking all the area on the maps with all categories; better solution is direct comparison of the databases

Member countries - informed about these activities

Divisional report:

Point for discussion – recommendation for UNGEEN to create a suggestion for Google maps application to use the official databases of standardised geonames for avoiding mistakes in the geonames

Small research - how member countries proceeded – the results:

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/GEEN.2_2021_CRP115_4b_ECSEED_Report_revised.pdf

What could help in motivating the Google maps administrators to provide geonames databases?

1. if more countries contacted Google maps administrators
2. if UNGEEN prepared a recommendation for Google Maps and similar applications to use only standardised geonames

Model of National report

- 5th conference in Montreal in 1987 - resolution recommended to create a detailed plan (model) for drafting of national reports
- useful recommendation, but it hasn't been carried out
- 22nd session of the ECSEED - decision - presiding country will prepare model
- the proposal of model was created and sent to member countries in February 2021
- 24th session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division the member countries – discussion about the model proposal



Model of the National report

- the use of the model is voluntary
- contains all geonames themes
- added proposed new themes
- in the form of a **table for better clarity**
- additional instructions for filling the table

Model of National report

Meeting document code (ECSEED)/year of creation/ country code
date of creation

Name of the meeting, organizer, place, date item/theme (in case of arrangement)



United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

National report of (country) for the period (years)

Place for your flag

Author and his/her job position, organisation, link - where experts can find the report
Participation of the country in the division (divisions)



National report

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| A | Summary <i>A short summary, which describes main points of the national report. This part is also usually sent in a separate document before the national report.</i> | |
| B | Member state report on the situation in their country <i>The progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the last UNGEGN session (news in the field of <u>geonames</u> in the country, progress of ongoing projects, finished projects, issues and use cases for inspiration for other countries, changes in database of <u>geonames</u>).</i> | |
| C | National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications <i>- date of the meeting - name of the meeting - place of the meeting - main theme - useful information from the meeting - in case of publications, guidelines: how often are they issued, what is the content of these publications - publicity: articles in international professional magazines, publication of own professional magazines</i> | |
| D | Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits <i>Information, recommendations, guidelines in legislative, control management.</i> | |
| E | National standardization | |
| <i>Ea</i> | <i>Field collection of names</i> | |
| <i>Eb</i> | <i>Office treatment of names</i> | |
| <i>Ec</i> | <i>Treatment of names in</i> | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| | <i>multilingual areas</i> | |
| <i>Ed</i> | <i>Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures</i> | |
| <i>Ee</i> | <i>Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors</i> | |
| F. | Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity <i>Including indigenous, minority and regional language names.</i> | |
| G. | Exonyms <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i> | |
| H. | Toponymic data files and gazetteers | |
| <i>Ha</i> | <i>Content requirements and standards</i> | |
| <i>Hb</i> | <i>Data management and interoperability</i> | |
| <i>Hc</i> | <i>Data services, applications and products</i> <i>Including gazetteers and web services.</i> | |
| I | Terminology in the standardization of geographical names <i>New or changed definitions and terms.</i> | |
| J | Writing systems and pronunciation | |
| <i>Ja</i> | <i>Romanization</i> | |
| <i>Jb</i> | <i>Conversion into non-Roman writing systems</i> | |
| <i>Jc</i> | <i>Writing of names in unwritten languages</i> | |
| <i>Jd</i> | <i>Pronunciation</i> | |
| K | Country names <i>New or changed country names from the UNGEGN List of Country Names that were imported to the list of geonames in this country (in language of this country).</i> | |
| L | Toponymic education <i>Toponymical courses, work in organisation, issues and solution of problems.</i> | |
| M | Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation | |
| <i>Ma</i> | <i>Features common to two or more nations</i> | |
| <i>Mb</i> | <i>Bilateral and multilateral agreements</i> | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| <i>Mc</i> | <i>Coastal seas</i> | |
| <i>Md</i> | <i>Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters</i> | |
| <i>Me</i> | <i>Geonames in Antarctica</i> | |
| <i>Mf</i> | <i>International cooperation</i> <i>Cooperation with institutions, countries – specific project.</i> | |
| N. | Arrangements for the UNGEGN <i>Creating national and other reports, creating articles for Bulletin, communication, cooperation and fulfilment of tasks from the UNGEGN.</i> | |
| O | Supporting sustainable development <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i> | |
| P | Other <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i> | |

Additional instructions:

*if the country has no news or information relevant to the theme, please fill in: **without changes**: the country is solving or has solved the theme but has no news in this period

*if the country hasn't solved the theme, please fill in: **unsolved** (the theme hasn't been solved in this country yet – it hasn't been necessary or it hasn't been possible)

*please, fill in the national report with a few key words, concisely and clearly (except Summary), but if it is necessary, describe it in more detail

*this is the model of the national report, which is recommended to use when creating the national report of your country. It is only a recommendation. It's up to you/your choice, if you follow this model or you create your own format of the national report.

Comments and reminders

- Change or add something
- Deadline: **14 May 2021**

Comments:

1. now
2. via e-mail: darina.porubcanova@skgeodesy.sk

After incorporation of comments – will be sent to
UNEGN Secretariat

Conclusion and plans for the future

- mistakes in Google maps – information for UNGEGN in Divisional report of ECSEED, maybe discussion with UNGEGN or UNGEGN member countries
- model of the national report – incorporating comments and sending it to UNGEGN
- contacts updating of geonames experts and geonames authorities of member countries

Changes via e-mail: darina.porubcanova@skgeodesy.sk

- 25th meeting of ECSEED – regarding Coronavirus situation, maybe in the end of 2021
- we would like to hand over the presidency to the next country beginning from 2022

Thank you for your attention

