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

New York, 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****National report of Italy**

Submitted by Italy**

Summary:

The Italian Geographic Military Institute, as the body in charge of compiling, updating and publishing the official map of Italy, ensures the standardization of geographical names in Italy through its Commission for Italian Official Toponymy.

In accordance with the relevant laws, the Commission acts in cooperation with other national, regional and provincial public institutions and with the support of academic organizations.

Since it previously reported, Italy has carried out the following activities for the standardization of geographical names:

- Continuation of the Veneto Region toponymic database, on the basis of the agreement between the Institute and the Veneto Region
- Signing of a new cooperation agreement between the Institute and the Directorate General for the Government of the Territory of the Regional Council of Campania
- Publication of the proceedings of the second international scientific symposium, on the theme “Toponymy and cartography between history and geography”, held in Venice in 2018
- Organization of the third international scientific symposium, on the theme “Permanence, transformation, substitution and oblivion of geographical names”, in cooperation with the Romano-Hellenic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- Organization of the 30th International Cartographic Conference, scheduled to be held in Florence from 14 to 18 December 2021

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1. Progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the last conference.

New toponymic database produced by the cooperation between IGMI and the Region of Veneto

IGMI and the Region of Veneto cooperated for increasing the National Geographical Names Database (DBTopo25K) with the toponyms contained in the Technical Regional Map of Veneto at the scale of 1:10,000 and checking for correct spelling and pronunciation of all regional geographical names. At present, the new database is being completed and needs only a final check, after which it will be published on the websites of the IGMI and the Region of Veneto.

New toponymic agreement between IGMI and the Campania Region

IGMI and the Campania Region - Directorate General for the Government of the Territory underwriting a cooperation agreement for increasing the National Geographical Names Database (DBTopo25K) with the toponyms contained in the Technical Regional Map of Campania at the scale of 1:10,000 and checking for correct spelling and pronunciation of all regional geographical names.

Second International Scientific Symposium “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”

IGMI published the proceedings of the second International Scientific Symposium of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division, held in Venezia [Venice], Italia [Italy], from 26th to 28th September 2018 and focused on “Toponymy and Cartography between History and Geography”.

The symposium was prepared in close cooperation with the IGMI, the Region of Veneto and the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti under the auspices of the Italian scientific Associations of Cartography and Geography. For details about this activity, please see the Report of the Romano-Hellenic Division.

Third International Scientific Symposium of the Romano-Hellenic Division of the UNGEGN

Italy is taking care of the organization of the third International Scientific Symposium of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division, focused on the theme: “Permanence, substitution, transformation and the oblivion of the Geographical Names”. The event will be held in Napoli [Naples], Italia [Italy], from 22nd to 24th September 2021. Members of the UNGEGN, linguists, historians, geographers, planners and cartographers are cordially invited to take part in the symposium. Participation is free of charge. The symposium will be organized in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Regional Council of Campania – Directorate General for the Government of the Territory, and under the auspices of: Italian Association of Geographers, Italian Association of Geography Teachers, Italian Cartographic Association, Italian Centre for Historical and Geographical Studies, Italian Geographical Society and Society of Geographical Studies (Italia). Topics of the symposium are: preservation of the toponymic heritage, historical maps and toponymy, *genius loci* and identity, etymological studies, place names of historical linguistic minorities, vernacular place names, new toponyms, role of national and regional geographical names authorities. Announcements of papers and submissions of abstracts (max. 400 words – in English) may be e-mailed no later than May 30, 2021. For details about this activity, please see the UNGEGN Information Bulletin No. 58, May 2020, page 29.

Organization of the 30th International Conference of Cartography

Italy is also taking care of the organization of the 30th International Conference of Cartography scheduled in Firenze [Florence] from 14th to 18th December 2021. Among the 36 topics under discussion in the Conference, as usual, there will also be a collective reflection on "Toponymy and Cartography". For details about this activity, please see <https://www.icc2021.net/>.

Achievement of the National archive of urban streets and house numbers

Italy has completed the National archive of urban streets and house numbers required by the Italian law no. 221/2012 and the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 12 May 2016. This archive was created thanks to the cooperation between the Italian National Statistical Institute and the Italian Revenue Agency (which takes care of keeping and updating the urban and the land cadastre), with the help of all the Italian municipalities, which were entrusted with the final verification of the street names and house numbers. Currently, the publication of the database is subject to the evaluation of the Italian Data Protection Authority. For details about this topic, please see:

<https://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/portale/schede/fabbricatiterreni/portale-per-i-comuni/servizi-portale-dei-comuni/toponomastica> (text available only in Italian).

2. National programs

The future activities in program in Italy are:

- Organization of a meeting between the IGMI and all the regional bodies in charge of collecting and processing territorial geographical data aimed at applying the toponymy cooperation model started with the Region of Veneto;
- Updating of the web page of the UNGEGN, Romano-Hellenic Division;
- Organization of a series of conferences and lectures aimed at spreading the importance of standardization of geographical names among geography teachers, in cooperation with the Italian Association of Geography Teachers.