



UNITED NATIONS  
**GROUP OF EXPERTS ON  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names  
standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery

2023/3rd session UNGEGN | 1-5 May 2023 | @unsd\_gegn



# National Dialogue

## Agenda item 4a

*Governments on the situation in their countries  
and on the progress made in standardization of  
geographical names*



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**



# Day 2

## Theme: Cultural aspects of geographical names standardization

### *Topics:*

- a. Impact of cultural heritage on geographical names standardization
- b. Recognition and significance of minority and Indigenous geographical names and language in standardization programmes
- c. Treatment of names in multilingual areas
- d. Addressing and urban feature naming



## 2a. Impact of cultural heritage on geographical names standardization

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Australia

Austria

Cabo Verde

Islamic Republic of Iran

Lithuania

Mozambique

Kingdom of the

Netherlands

Norway

Oman

Peru

Russian Federation

South Africa

Sweden

United Kingdom



**THEME 2b: Work of the National Commission of Toponymy (CNT), particularly with regard to recognizing geographical names in Creole and/or Portuguese**

# CABO VERDE

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Executive Board Member

National Institute of Territorial Management

02 May



# National Commission of Toponymy (CNT)

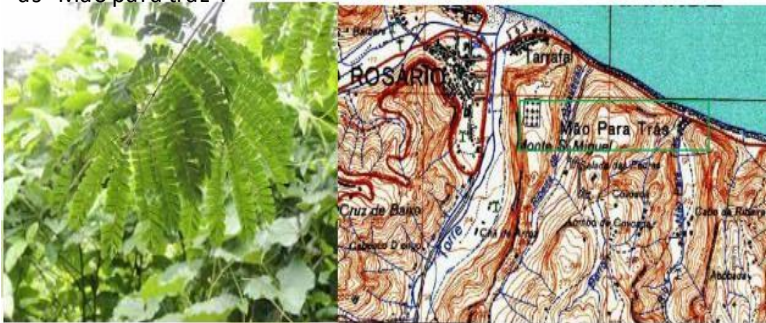
The National authority on toponymy, functioning as a multidisciplinary body, assuming the responsibilities regarding the:

DL no. 05/2012, the Commission's main functions are:

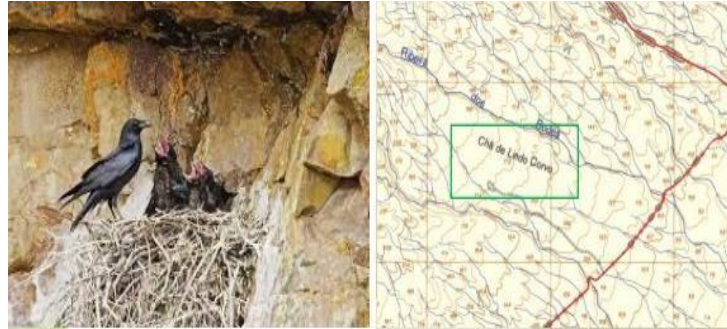
- **Standardization;**
- **Compilation;**
- **Validation;**
- **obliging, stimulating and supporting the municipalities**

## Misrepresentation in the translation of toponyms from Portuguese to Creole and vice-versa

**Example 1:** Below are two examples of mistranslation, of the word "Mampatraz", a species of plant that is prevalent in that stream, and which, due to the similarity of sound, was translated as "Mão para traz".



**Example 2:** Another paradigmatic example is the translation of "Lin d'corvo", which in Creole means "Linha do Corvo", and which was translated into Portuguese as "Lindo Corvo".



## Solutions:

- Correct the mistranslated names;
- Remain in both languages, for example the case of "Ilha Brava" written in Portuguese and "Djabraba" in Creole.
- Toponyms that exist only in Portuguese/Creole, so they should remain in Portuguese/Creole: For example, **Djongotó, Gongon, Godim** etc.



## 2b. Recognition and significance of minority and Indigenous geographical names and language in standardization programmes

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Australia

Latvia

Peru

Cabo Verde

Mozambique

Republic of Korea

Canada

Kingdom of the

Slovenia

Cyprus

Netherlands

South Africa

Denmark

New Zealand

Sweden

Hungary

Norway

United Kingdom



# THEME 2b: Minority names - status of Italian & Hungarian names

## SLOVENIA

Dr. Matjaž Geršič

Geographer

Governmental Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names

May, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

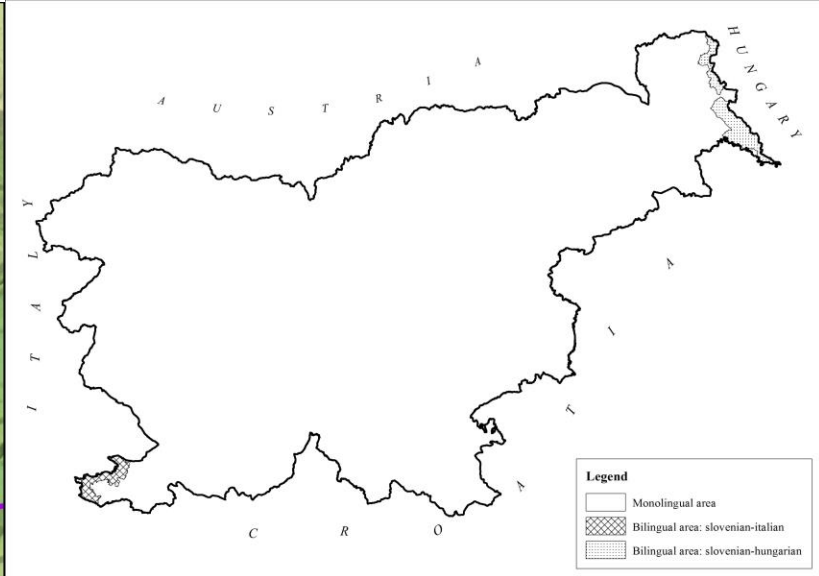




**Legend**

- Country border
- Bilingual Slovenian–Italian settlement border

Author of the map: Matjaž Geršič  
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**Legend**

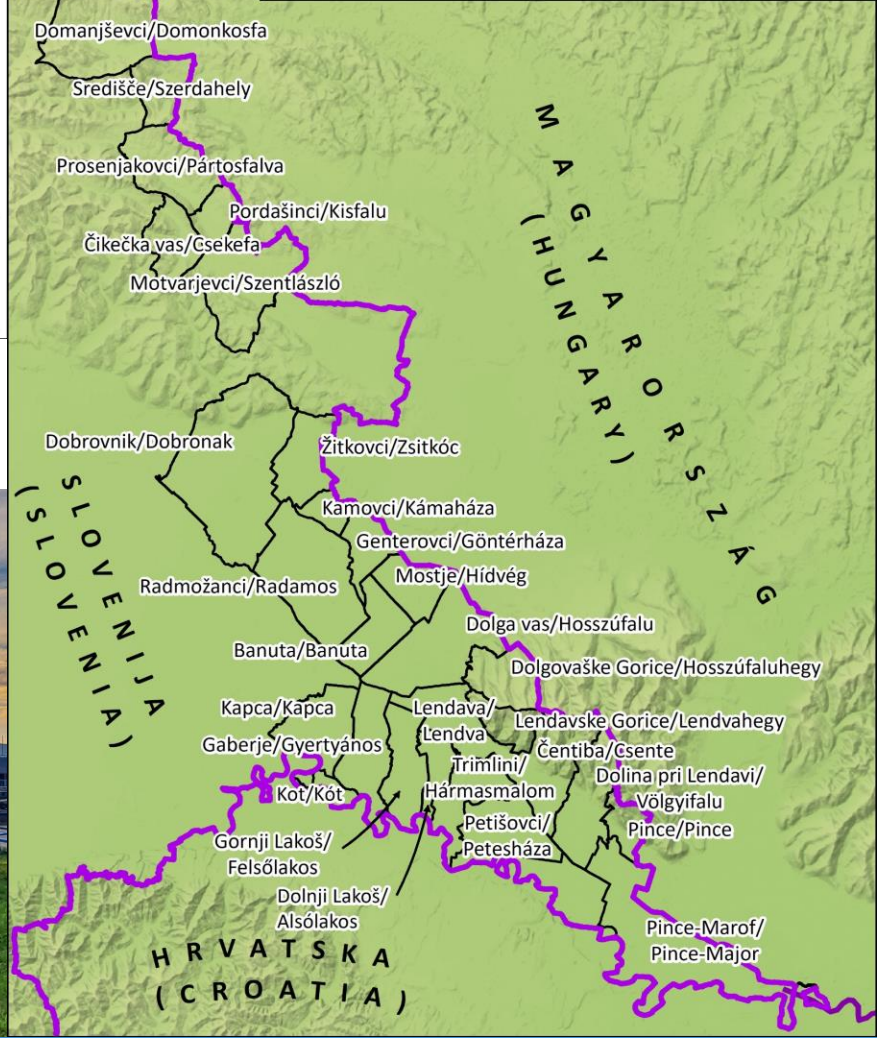
- Monolingual area
- Bilingual area: slovenian-italian
- Bilingual area: slovenian-hungarian



**Legend**

- Country border
- Bilingual Slovenian–Hungarian settlement border

Author of the map: Matjaž Geršič  
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## 2c. Treatment of names in multilingual areas

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Australia

Finland

Peru

Austria

Hungary

Slovenia

Cabo Verde

Latvia

South Africa

Canada

Mozambique

Sweden

Croatia

Kingdom of the

Thailand

Czechia

Netherlands

United Kingdom

Estonia

New Zealand

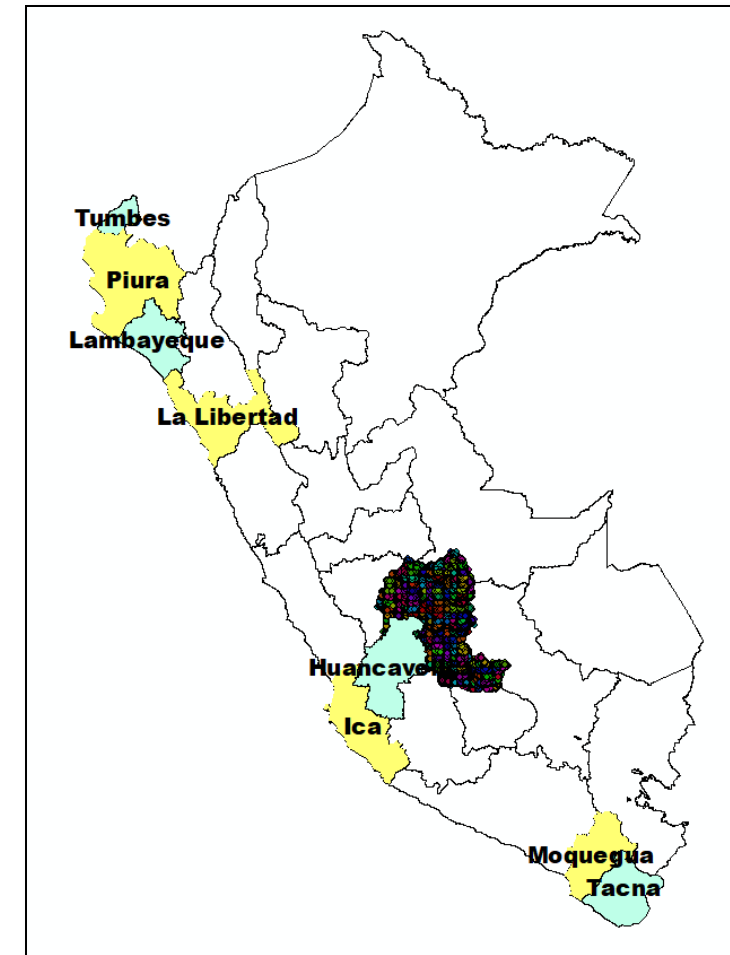
Norway





# Avances del Instituto Geográfico Nacional en la Estandarización y Normalización de los Nombres Geográficos

Departamentos	Cantidad de Nombres Geográficos
Tumbes	1146
Piura	12922
Lambayeque	6938
La Libertad	22418
Huancavelica	47471
Ica	49 596
Moquegua	61858
Tacna	62563
VRAEM	21 065
Total de nombres geográficos:	<b>215316</b>





# GRACIAS



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## 2d. Addressing and urban feature naming

*National reports that consider this topic:*

Armenia

Hungary

Austria

Latvia

Cabo Verde

Lithuania

Cyprus

Oman

Denmark

Slovenia

Estonia



# THEME 2d: Cultural aspects of geographical names standardization

## ESTONIA

TIINA LAANSALU

Head, Department of Language History, Dialects, and Finno-Ugric Languages

Institute of the Estonian Language

2 May 2023



**United Nations Group of Experts  
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

# Handbook of Estonian Place Names and Address Data

## Content:

1. Concepts, historical and cultural background
2. Instructions for practical implementation of legal acts
3. Guidance for municipalities
4. Advice for users of address and place name data

## Link:

<https://maaamet.ee/ruumiandmed-ja-kaardid/aadressid-ja-kohanimed/aadressiandmete-kasiraamat>





# THEME 2d: Cultural aspects – urban feature naming

Summary of Studies on politically charged street  
names and their handling in Austrian major cities.

## AUSTRIA

Roman Stani-Fertl

Cartographer

University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research

2023-05-02



# Critical Naming

- Categories of critical street names
  - politically charged
  - antisemitic
  - misogynic
  - racist
  - antidemocratic

# Applied Policies

- Applied measures by cities
  1. Renaming of the street
  2. Leaving the street name unchanged but enhanced by an descriptive additional sign
  3. Leaving the street name as it is (for now)

Report of Austria - [GEGN.2/2023/35/CRP.35 \(f\)](#)





## *Cultural aspects of geographical names standardization*

# Some general questions

- What types of name changes are currently being seen or considered as a result of changing social and cultural norms?
- In countries where more than one name may be approved as a result of multilingual situations, how is the actual usage of one or more forms on products determined? Does a names board make recommendations, or do mapping agencies and document producers make their own independent decisions?
- In urban naming – for instance, for new street names – how much influence does a housing developer have on municipal decision-making?

