

9 March 2023

English

**United Nations Group of Experts On
Geographical Names
2023 session**

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

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 Ukraine

Submitted by Ukraine **

Summary:

During the intersessional period 2021–2022, the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>) carried out activities in the following key areas of geographical names standardization:

- Improvement of the legislative framework of activities related to geographical names
- Creation and updating of the State Register of Geographical Names
- Utilization and maintenance of geographical names
- Implementation of international cooperation on geographical names

On 20 September 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine amended the Law of Ukraine “On Geographical Names” to improve activities related to the establishment, regulation, accounting, registration, utilization and maintenance of geographical names. Among other things, these amendments establish the transparency of the State Register of Geographical Names and identify the holder and administrator of the State Register of Geographical Names.

On 1 February 2021, the Law of Ukraine “On National Spatial Data Infrastructure” came into force, which served to define the legal and organizational framework for the creation, functioning and development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, in accordance with the INSPIRE Directive.

The electronic database of geographical names of Ukraine of the State Register of Geographical Names contains more than 105,000 names of settlements, administrative-territorial units, physical-geographical and socioeconomic objects and objects of the nature reserve fund.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

**The full report was prepared by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre ensures constant updating of the State Register of Geographical Names and their publication. Current information of the State Register of Geographical Names is published on the website of the cadastre (<https://land.gov.ua/derzhavnyi-reiestr-heohrafichnykh-nazv/>).

In 2021, user access to data on the geographical names of Ukraine was provided through the geoportal of the pilot project of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, which is still in its trial phase (www.nsd.gov.ua).

However, since 24 February 2022, owing to the armed invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, free access to the data of the State Register of Geographical Names and the geoportal of the pilot project of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure has been temporarily restricted under the period of martial law.

Ukraine has participated in the following online events:

- Second online session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 3–7 May 2021);
- 24th and 25th online meetings of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Bratislava, 28 April and 9 November 2021);
- 21st online meeting of the Baltic Division of the Group of Experts (Tallinn, 23–24 September 2021);
- 26th meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the Group of Experts (Prague, 18 May 2022);
- 12th session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (New York, 3–5 August 2022).

National bodies on standardization of geographical names

State administration in the sphere related to geographical names is carried out by:

central executive body which ensures the formation of state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (<http://me.gov.ua>);

central executive body which implements the state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>).

The Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine:

defines the state policy on naming geographical objects as well as on standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

develops and approves normative-legal and normative-technical regulations on the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre as a specially authorized executive body on geographical names:

carries out coordination of activities related to establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

arranges the conduction of appropriate expertise of proposals and decisions of public authorities on naming and renaming geographical objects;

ensures the creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

controls the use and preservation of geographical names;

carries out an international cooperation on the matter of establishment, standardization, preservation, recording, registration of geographical names.

Main activities in the sphere of geographical names standardization in the inter-sessional period

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre provided such activities in the sphere of standardization of geographical names in the inter-sessional period:

improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework for activities related to geographical names;

provision for the state and local authorities, institutions, organizations and citizens with standardized geographical names;

implementation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

use and preservation of geographic names;

realization of international cooperation in the field geographical names.

Status of legal and regulatory base in the sphere of geographical names

The Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" (2005) indicates legal background for regulation of relations and activities related to naming of the geographical objects as well as standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

On January 1, 2021, the Law of Ukraine "On the National Spatial Data Infrastructure" came into force, which defined the legal and organizational framework for the creation, operation and development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

In 2022, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine amended the Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" to improve activities related to geographical names.

These amendments define the powers of the Government, establish the principle of openness of the State Register of Geographical Names, determine the holder and administrator of the State Register of Geographical Names, regulate the procedure for conducting expertise of proposals and decisions of state authorities and local self-government bodies on naming and renaming geographical objects, etc.

Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2006, defines the order of creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names, conduction of works on establishment, standardization, recording, registration and use of geographical names.

The Order for conducting the examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects issues that was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of

Ukraine in 2009, establishes the procedure for carrying out an appropriate examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects of Ukraine, continental shelf, exclusive (marine) economic zone, geographic objects of Earth discovered by Ukrainian researchers and scientists.

There are established regulations for the transliteration of geographical names and terms of foreign countries to the Ukrainian language, which also include lists of major geographical terms and exonyms.

Development and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names

The State Register of Geographical Names is implemented and maintained by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre in the form of an electronic database of standardized geographical names with the use of an automated information system, that provides permanent information updating about naming and renaming of geographical objects, physical-geographical, socio-economic objects, changing their status, type etc.

The State Register of Geographical Names consists of two parts:

information about the names of geographical objects located on the territory of Ukraine;

information about the names of geographical objects located in other countries and used in Ukraine.

Information about geographical names is submitted electronically to the registration forms of the State Register of Geographical Names, approved by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine in 2014, according to 46 indicators.

The data of the State Register of Geographical Names includes the registration number, the standardized name of the geographical object in Ukrainian and Latin, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (for settlements), the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) etc.

The electronic database of Ukraine geographical objects names of the State Register of Geographical Names contains more than 105,000 names of settlements, administrative-territorial units, physical-geographical and socio-economic objects, and objects of the nature reserve fund.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre ensures that the State Register of Geographical Names is constantly updated and made public.

In 2021, users were provided with access to data on the geographical names of Ukraine through the geoportals of the pilot project of the national geospatial data infrastructure, which is in trial mode.

However, starting from February 24, 2022, because of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, free access to the information of the State Register of Geographical Names and the geoportals of the pilot project of the national geospatial data infrastructure has been temporarily restricted for the period of martial law.

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors

The "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use: Ukraine" was adopted at the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names (2012) ([http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic guidelines PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic_guidelines_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf)).

"Regulations on writing Ukrainian geographical names within maps and other publications" (2014) that determines the basic principles and rules for standardization and writing Ukrainian geographical names in official documents, mass media, cartographic, reference, encyclopedic, educational and other publications and their transliteration to the Latin alphabet (<http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0957-14>) were adopted by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.

National system of Romanization of geographical names

For the transliteration of Ukrainian proper names (surnames, names and geographical names) in letters of the Latin alphabet in official documents, during the issuance of cartographic works, on the plates and road signs, as well as in other areas, the officially established by the Government in 2010 "The Table of Transliteration of the Ukrainian Alphabet in Latin" is used, which is recommended by resolution of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names X/9 "Romanization of Ukrainian Geographical Names".

In accordance with the Ukrainian system of Romanization, geographical names on administrative maps created by the SSPE Kartographia during the intersessional period for international organizations such as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were transferred to the territory of Donetsk, Luhansk, Chernivtsi, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Vinnytsia and Khmelnytskyi regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

International cooperation in the field of geographical names

Ukraine participates in the work of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Ukraine participates as an observer in meetings of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

The representatives of the StateGeoCadastre has participated in the following online events:

Second online session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (New York, 3–7 May 2021);

24th and 25th online meetings of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Bratislava, 28 April 2021 and 9 November 2021);

21st online meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Tallinn, 23–24 September 2021);

26th meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (Prague, 18 May 2022);

12th session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (New York, 3–5 August 2022).