

13 March 2023

English

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

2023 session

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda *

Cooperation and liaison with other organizations:

International organizations

**Report of the Liaison Officer, International Council of
Onomastic Sciences (ICOS)**

Submitted by the Liaison Officer, ICOS**

Summary:

The full report contains seven sections. The first section provides information about the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (<https://icosweb.net>), including a short description of the aim of the organization and information about its membership terms. Section 2 provides information about the ICOS newsletter, of which newsletter no. 10–31 can be read on the website, while in section 3 you can read about the ICOS journal *Onoma*. Section 4 describes the working groups within ICOS: the *ICOS Terminology Group* standardizes scientific onomastic terminology and the *ICOS Bibliography Group* maintains an on-line bibliographic anthology. The third working group is the *ICOS Young Scholar Network* that aims to help young researchers integrate with the international scientific onomastic community. Section 5 reports on a new activity that arose in the wake of the pandemic, namely *Onomastics online* – on-line lectures by different scholars and on different subjects, which you can either follow in real time on Zoom or afterwards on the ICOS YouTube channel. Section 6 deals with the *ICOS Summer School*, which in 2023 under the theme ‘The Interdisciplinary uses of Onomastics’ will bring together young researchers at the University of Glasgow. In the last section you find information about the most recent congress, held in Kraków in 2021, and about the upcoming congress in Helsinki, which will be held in 2024.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** Prepared by Leila Mattfolk, Institute for Language and Folklore, Sweden, UNGEGN liaison with ICOS

1. The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) (<https://icosweb.net>)

The International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) is the international organization for all scholars who have a special interest in the study of names (place names, personal names, and proper names of all other kinds). The aim of ICOS is the advancement, representation and coordination of name research on an international level and in an interdisciplinary context. Everyone who is actively engaged in scholarly name research may become a member of ICOS. The official languages of ICOS are English, French, and German.

The annual membership subscription is 20 Euros (10 Euros for students) which entails a reduced fee at the ICOS congresses. The congresses, which normally are held every three years, are organized on behalf of ICOS by one or more of its members. The General Assembly of ICOS, including the election of officers, is usually held in conjunction with the congresses. Dr. Reszegi Katalin (Hungary) was elected president in 2021 and will serve until the next congress in 2024.

ICOS's statutes are to be found on the website.

2. Newsletters

The ICOS board issues newsletters in English, French, and German with information of interest to the members. Links to all the newsletters from no. 10 onwards are available on the website. Since the last UNGEGN session, newsletters number 29, 30 and 31 have appeared.

3. *Onoma* (<https://onomajournal.org/>)

Members receive the journal *Onoma*, the official publication (yearbook) of the council. *Onoma* contains topical research reports as well as basic theoretical articles concerning all areas of scholarly name research, including name standardization. Since vol. 34 (1999), each issue has been thematic with a guest editor (or guest editors) appointed for each volume. Currently Dr. Oliviu Felecan of Romania is acting editor-in-chief, and is supported by an editorial board.

Recent volumes:

- *Onoma* 57 (2022) 'West Slavic Onomastics' (ed. by Urszula Bijak, Iveta Valentová and Milan Harvalík)
- *Onoma* 56 (2021) 'Dynamics of the Anthroponymic System' (ed. by Anna Choleva-Dimitrova)
- *Onoma* 55 (2020) 'Personal Names and Cultural Reconstructions' (ed. by Lasse Hämäläinen, Jaakko Raunamaa and Johanna Virkkula)

Forthcoming themed volume:

'Place Names as Cultural Heritage' (guest editor: Peter Jordan)

4. Working groups of ICOS

ICOS has three working groups.

The ICOS Terminology Group is currently chaired by Artur Gałkowski of Poland, and the group consists at the moment of some 25 members representing different countries and languages. The aim of the group is to standardize scientific terminology in the field of onomastics. On the ICOS website the group has published lists of key onomastic terms in English, French and German, as well as in twenty other languages. The group has from time to time been cooperating with members of the UNGEGN working group on Toponymic Terminology.

The ICOS Bibliography Group (IBOS) is currently chaired by Márcia Sipavicius Seide of Brazil. The members of the Bibliography group, together with volunteers from many countries, maintain and update an Onomastic Bibliographic Anthology that is to be found at <https://icosweb.net/bibliographic-databases/>. The group has furthermore created an open bibliographical resource for all who are interested in the scientific study of names. The project is made with the help of Zotero libraries. See https://www.zotero.org/groups/1001877/icos_bibliography_group_onomastics?/.

The ICOS Young Scholar Network is a group for young scholars of onomastics. The purpose of the network is “to help young scholars integrate to the international onomastic community and to bring young scholars together by organizing various events”. See <https://icosweb.net/icos-young-scholar-network/>.

5. Onomastics online

Since 2022, ICOS has organized online lectures on different topics related to names and naming. The lectures can be followed either in real time via a Zoom platform, or afterwards on YouTube. Recordings of the lectures will be published on the ICOS YouTube channel usually within a couple of days.

<https://icosweb.net/onomastics-online/>
<https://www.youtube.com/@theinternationalcouncilof2460>

6. Summer School

The ICOS Summer School 2023 will be hosted by the University of Glasgow on 21-25 August. The theme is ‘The Interdisciplinary uses of Onomastics’. The idea of an ICOS Summer School is to bring together young onomastic researchers from all over the world, to help them network and expand their onomastic knowledge.

See <https://icosweb.net/blog/2023/01/31/icos-summer-school-2023/>

7. Congresses

The 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, with the conference theme ‘Onomastics in Interaction with Other Sciences’ was arranged by the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, August 23–28, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the congress was entirely in

virtual mode, and some 250 scholars from almost 50 different countries took part and listened to 210 papers. The key note speakers were Sheila Embleton, Peter Jordan and Mariusz Rutkowski. The proceedings of the congress will be published online in open access. A printed version will be available on request.

The 28th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will be organized in Helsinki on August 19–23, 2024, by the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with the University of Turku and ICOS. The congress theme is ‘Sustainability of names, naming and onomastics’. The Congress website: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/28th-international-congress-onomastic-sciences>.