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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 Slovakia

Submitted by Slovakia **

Summary:

The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic has been conducting activities related to the standardization of geographical names inside and outside the territory of Slovakia.

The database of standardized geographical names from the territory of Slovakia was developed between 1995 and 2003. Since then, the updating of the database has been continuous. Since 2015, the content of the database has been gradually expanded through the addition of names from cadastral and forest maps and, since 2018, through another source of names relating to watercourses managed by various administrators.

Each year, specific districts of the territory of Slovakia are chosen to be surveyed and added to the database. Documentation on activities and selected lists of geographical names are published and updated.¹

The Authority allows free downloading of data from the database in the following formats: Esri shapefile, Esri Microsoft database, Esri geodatabase and comma-separated values.² An interactive web map application of spatial

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¹ See www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/.

² For more details, see www.geoportal.sk/en/zbis-smd/download-section/.

data and data from the database is also available,³ as is an interactive web map application of exonyms.⁴

In 2022, the aerial laser scanning project was completed, resulting in a digital terrain model 5.0, digital surface model 1.0 and a classified point cloud. The digital terrain model 5.0 achieves an average vertical accuracy of less than 0.20 m, and the classified point cloud even less than 0.11 m. On the basis of these very precise data, the authority has started checking the heights of mountain peaks, and densifying and refining the position of the Tatra Mountains features.

International meetings

- Twenty-fourth meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (virtual)
- 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (virtual)
- Twenty-first meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (virtual)
- Working meeting of the Commission on Geographical Names of the Czechia Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre and the Commission on Geographical Names of Slovakia (virtual)
- Twenty-fifth meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (virtual)
- Twenty-sixth meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Prague, 18 May 2022
- Sixth joint meeting of the nomenclature commissions of the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, Bratislava, 14 June 2022

³ See <https://zbgis.skgeodesy.sk/mkzbgis/sk/zakladna-mapa?pos=48.800000,19.530000,8>.

⁴ See <https://zbgis.skgeodesy.sk/mkzbgis/en/geograficke-nazvy?bm=worldoceanbase&z=8&c=19.255902,48.659730&sc=n.&pos=48.800000,19.530000,3>.

National report of Slovakia for the period May 2021 – May 2023



A	<p>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></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the activities related to the standardization of geographical names inside and outside the territory of Slovakia are ensured continuously, - ZBGIS (topographic) database is continuously updated, the content of the database has been gradually expanded through the addition of names from cadastral and forest maps and names of watercourses, - documentation on activities and selected lists of geographical names are published and updated, - the standardized geographical names are provided free of charge in these formats: Esri SHP, Esri MDB, Esri GDB and CSV. The data is accessible through WMS and WFS mapping services, - Map Client ZBGIS - an interactive web map application of spatial ZBGIS data allows, among other things, analysing, viewing and searching through: standardized geographical names, variant and historical names and standardized exonyms, - the project „Comprehensive revision and updating of geonames in the Tatra Mountains”
B	<p>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 geonames in the country, progress of ongoing projects, finished projects, issues and use cases for inspiration for other countries, changes in database of geonames).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the progress in the standardization of geographical names is described in items C, Eb, F, G, Hb, Hc, I, Ma, Mf, N, O, P
C	<p>National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24th session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names - virtual meeting (28th of April 2021, Bratislava), - 2nd session of new UNGEGN - virtual meeting (1st - 5th of May 2021, New York, USA), - 21st Meeting of the Baltic Division of the UNGEGN – virtual meeting (23rd - 24th of September 2021, Tallin, Estonia),

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>date of the meeting</i> - <i>name of the meeting</i> - <i>place of the meeting</i> - <i>main theme</i> - <i>useful information from the meeting</i> - <i>in case of publications, guidelines: how often are they issued, what is the content of these publications</i> - <i>publicity: articles in international professional magazines, publication of own professional magazines.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working meeting of Commissions on Geographical Names of Czechia and Slovakia (8th of November 2021, Bratislava), - 25th session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (9th of November 2021, Bratislava) - virtual meeting, - Implementation of INSPIRE themes in NMCAs – participation in a webinar (3rd of March 2022), -26th session of the East Central and South - East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (18th of May 2022, Prague, Czechia), -6th joint meeting of the Nomenclature commissions of Czechia, Poland and Slovakia (14th of June 2022, Bratislava, Slovakia) <p>We have continued in publishing of the periodical publication called Geographical Names Information. Twice a year we provide information about activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in international and national content.</p>
D	<p>Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits</p> <p><i>Information, recommendations, guidelines in legislative, control management.</i></p>	without changes
E	National standardization	
<i>Ea</i>	Field collection of names	without changes
<i>Eb</i>	Office treatment of names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - geographical names standardization of names from cadastral and forestry maps and managed watercourses names according to schedule (21% districts of Slovakia are finished, 18% semifinished), - improvement of the methodological procedure and technology in the Ha item, - names standardization of protected areas, protected trees, caves, Habitats Directive Sites SCI
<i>Ec</i>	Treatment of names in	without changes

	multilingual areas	
Ed	Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures	without changes
Ee	Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors	without changes
F.	Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity <i>Including indigenous, minority and regional language names.</i>	variant names are non-standardized local names supplemented with standardized names and are for the sole purpose of searching through any form of the name. The sources for variant names are available map materials or publications, and they are supplemented continuously.
G.	Exonyms <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Map Client ZBGIS allows searching through standardized exonyms of rivers, canals, straits, islands, archipelagos, bays, countries, dependencies, - we respect the UNGEGN recommendation and if it is not necessary, we do not create new exonyms, - we recommend using official endonyms
H.	Toponymic data files and gazetteers	
Ha	Content requirements and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - project of densifying the content of the database of standardized geographical names by names from cadastral and forestry maps and managed watercourses names - methodical procedure was updated, - the Feature Catalogue (KTO ZBGIS) was updated.
Hb	Data management and interoperability	- upgrade Oracle, upgrade SW from ESRI
Hc	Data services, applications and products <i>Including gazetteers and web services.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we are continuously updating the geonames in the ZBGIS database and gradually expanding the content of the database, - Map Client ZBGIS allows searching through standardized endonyms, variant and historical names
I	Terminology in the standardization of geographical names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminological gazetteer – http://www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/terminologicky-slovnik/

	<i>New or changed definitions and terms.</i>	
J	Writing systems and pronunciation	
<i>Ja</i>	Romanization	without changes
<i>Jb</i>	Conversion into non-Roman writing systems	without changes
<i>Jc</i>	Writing of names in unwritten languages	unsolved
<i>Jd</i>	Pronunciation	unsolved
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>	without changes
L	Toponymic education <i>Toponymical courses, works in organisation, issues and solution of problems.</i>	without changes
M	Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	
<i>Ma</i>	Features common to two or more nations	project of harmonization of geonames at national borders with neighbouring countries: - Czechia-Slovakia border – watercourses, - Slovakia-Poland border
<i>Mb</i>	Bilateral and multilateral agreements	without changes
<i>Mc</i>	Coastal seas	without changes
<i>Md</i>	Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters	without changes
<i>Me</i>	Geonames in Antarctica	without changes
<i>Mf</i>	International cooperation <i>Cooperation with institutions,</i>	- Nomenclature commissions of Czechia, Poland and Slovakia, ECSEED, UNGEGN, - special project with another countries – in the Ma item

	<i>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>	- The Template of National Report was created and introduced at the 24 th session of the ECSEED, commented on and published on the ECSEED website and provided to UNGEGN Secretariat.
O	Supporting sustainable development <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i>	- in the Eb item
P	Other <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i>	-project “Comprehensive revision and updating of geonames in the Tatra Mountains” In 2022, the Aerial Laser Scanning project was completed, resulting in DTM 5.0, DSM 1.0 and a classified point cloud. DTM 5.0 achieves an average vertical accuracy of less than 0.20m and the classified point cloud even less than 0.11m. Based on the accurate DMR 5.0 data, we started to refine the height and position of the Tatra Mountains features, along with adding suggestions for the names of new unnamed features.

Points for discussion:

The Group of Experts is invited to:

- (1) review and express an opinion on the draft of the Template of National Report provided by ECSEED which was prepared in relation to the recommendation from the 5th UNGEGN conference in Montreal in 1987.
- (2) create a section on the main page of UNGEGN website where all news, updates and changes will be displayed in one place.