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English

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**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 Hungary for the period 2021–2023**

Submitted by Hungary \*\*

Summary:

**Legal basis**

Government Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm. on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary continues to be the legal basis for standardizing geographical names in the country and for the activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN). The Committee is supervised by the Prime Minister's Office. In accordance with this decree, the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names is responsible for the establishment of names of physical features (landscapes, relief and hydrographic forms), those of protected natural areas, bridges, transport features and rural features. The Committee advises on the names of administrative units, localities, parts of localities, public places (streets, squares), minor transport features and minority names. It is also responsible for the use of exonyms. Decision-making regarding administrative names is within the scope of authority of the Parliament; the naming of localities is within the scope of authority of the President of the Republic with the consent of the HCGN and a local referendum; and the naming of public places and parts of localities is within the scope of authority of the local governments.

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* Prepared by Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names – Tamás Koós (chairman of HCGN), Gábor Mikesy (expert of geographical names, Lechner Nonprofit Ltd.), László Lippmann (secretary of HCGN, Prime Minister's Office), Andrea Bölcskei (linguist, Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary)

### Names of administrative units - County names

The name of the basic territorial unit of Hungarian public administration (which is also the NUTS3 statistical unit of the European Union) has changed: the official generic term for *county* was *megye* until 31 December 2022, from 1 January 2023 it has been *vármegye*.

This change affects all the 19 counties:

Old name	New name
<i>Bács-Kiskun megye,</i> <i>Baranya megye,</i> <i>Békés megye etc.</i>	<i>Bács-Kiskun vármegye,</i> <i>Baranya vármegye,</i> <i>Békés vármegye, etc.</i>

### Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names

The Committee has held seven sessions since the Second United Nations Session of the Group of Experts on Geographical Names, has discussed 80 items and has taken 51 decisions, which are mostly related to place names of local importance, such as railway stations, part of settlements, streets, small water features, etc. The decisions are available in Hungarian here: <https://kormany.hu/miniszterelnokseg/foldrajzinev-bizottsag>

Minority names: The HCGN, noting the shortcomings and anomalies in minority place names, devoted a special thematic session to the issue, inviting interested institutions. A detailed database of settlements inhabited by minorities and of minority name forms has been prepared, and the national organisations of minorities have been asked to comment on and complete it. The responses and evaluation are being processed.

Exonym: The HCGN confirmed on the basis of historical sources that the name form *Kijev* (Київ) is a traditional exonym in Hungarian, and not a transcription from modern Russian. In foreign language texts and in bilingual display, however, the transcription from Ukrainian is expected: *Kyiv*.

### Gazetteer of Hungary

The Gazetteer of Hungary database is maintained by the Department of Land Registry and Geodesy of Lechner Nonprofit Ltd: <https://lechnerkozpont.hu/en>

Both essential parts of the gazetteer are being significantly developed as part of the National Geoinformatic Basemap project. In the medium-scale part (1:50,000), the localisation (sometimes also the name form) is being revised on the basis of new mapping and statistical sources, while the large-scale part (1:10,000) is in the process of digitising new field survey material.

The latest data on settlements and their parts can be found on the website of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office:

[http://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.egyeb?p\\_lang=EN&p\\_sablon=LETOLTES](http://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.egyeb?p_lang=EN&p_sablon=LETOLTES)

## National report

<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b>Summary</b>  <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>	<p>The legal and structural framework for the standardization of geographical names in Hungary has not changed, the Government Decree No. 303/2007 (XI. 14.) is in force. The committee held all its scheduled meetings (one online meeting).  The most important change in the Hungarian geographic nomenclature is that the generic term <i>megye</i> 'county' has been changed to <i>vármegye</i> from 1 January 2023.  The Geographical Names Committee paid special attention to the issue of nationality names.  Significant improvements have been made in both substantive parts of the Gazetteer of Hungary.</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b>Member state report on the situation in their country</b>  <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>	<p>Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN):  it has held 8 sessions since the last report in March 2021, one of them was online meeting at the beginning of the period due to the Covid situation. It has discussed 86 items, and has taken 54 decisions. which are mostly related to place names of local importance, such as railway stations, part of settlements, streets, small water features, etc. The decisions are available in Hungarian here:  <a href="https://kormany.hu/miniszterelnokseg/foldrajzinev-bizottsag">https://kormany.hu/miniszterelnokseg/foldrajzinev-bizottsag</a></p> <p>Gazetteer of Hungary:  The Gazetteer of Hungary database is maintained by the Department of Land Registry and Geodesy of Lechner Nonprofit Ltd: <a href="https://lechnekozpont.hu/en">https://lechnekozpont.hu/en</a>  Both essential parts of the gazetteer are being significantly developed as part of the National Geoinformatic Basemap project. In the medium-scale part (1:50,000), the localisation (sometimes also the name form) is being revised on the basis of new mapping and statistical sources, while the large-scale part (1:10,000) is in the process of digitising new field survey material. The latest data on settlements and their parts can be found on the website of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office:  <a href="https://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.main?p_lang=EN">https://www.ksh.hu/apps/hntr.main?p_lang=EN</a>  National Geoinformatic Basic Map Project (in progress):  integration of thematic databases; of the 9 basic layers one is for geographical names. The level of detail is not limited.  Availability by arrangement.</p> <p>Names of administrative units - County names:  The name of the basic territorial unit of Hungarian public administration (which is also the NUTS3 statistical unit of the European Union) has changed: the official generic term for county was <i>megye</i> until 31 December 2022, from 1 January 2023 it has been <i>vármegye</i>. The change only affects the name, the territory and status of the counties remain unchanged. The word <i>vármegye</i></p>

		<p>originated in the Middle Ages and was previously official for many centuries until 1950.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Old name</th> <th>New name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Bács-Kiskun megye, Baranya megye, Békés megye etc.</i></td> <td><i>Bács-Kiskun vármegye, Baranya vármegye, Békés vármegye, etc.</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Issues to be resolved: strengthening consistency across different geographic name datasets (statistical registry, naming of municipalities, nature conservation, water sector etc.)</p>	Old name	New name	<i>Bács-Kiskun megye, Baranya megye, Békés megye etc.</i>	<i>Bács-Kiskun vármegye, Baranya vármegye, Békés vármegye, etc.</i>
Old name	New name					
<i>Bács-Kiskun megye, Baranya megye, Békés megye etc.</i>	<i>Bács-Kiskun vármegye, Baranya vármegye, Békés vármegye, etc.</i>					
<b>C</b>	<p><b>National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications</b></p> <p>- date of the meeting - name of the meeting - place of the meeting - main theme - useful information from the meeting - in case of publications, guidelines: how often are they issued, what is the content of these publications - publicity: articles in international professional magazines, publication of own professional magazines.</p>	<p>IGU Conference on Heritage Geographies – May 26–28, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MIKESY, G.: Two groups of place names preserving Hungarian cultural heritage</li> </ul> <p>ECSEED meeting – May 18, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SASI, A.: The Problems of Minority Language Settlement Names in Hungary</li> </ul> <p>UNGEGN Exonym and Terminology Working Groups Meeting – 31 August–3 September, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BÖLCSKEI, A., MIKESY, G.: Hungarian exonyms as cultural heritage</li> </ul> <p>MIKESY, G.: Egységesítés a földrajzi nevek használatában [Standardization in the use of geographical names]. In: <i>Catastrum</i> 9 [2022], 2: 39–50., 4: 55–64.</p>				
<b>D</b>	<p><b>Measures taken and proposed to implement United</b></p>	without changes				

	<p><b>Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits</b></p> <p><i>Information, recommendations, guidelines in legislative, control management.</i></p>	
<b>E</b>	<b>National standardization</b>	
<i>Ea</i>	<i>Field collection of names</i>	Digitizing of paper-based detailed (1:10 000) fieldwork materials is in progress. Fieldwork has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, but the framework is still in place to continue.
<i>Eb</i>	<i>Office treatment of names</i>	without changes
<i>Ec</i>	<i>Treatment of names in multilingual areas</i>	A database of settlements with potential minority name use by population, minority self-government and other criteria has been created. This has been submitted to the national minority organisations for consultation. HCGN stressed the role of minority names in preserving identity and cultural heritage and wants to promote their more frequent and appropriate use.
<i>Ed</i>	<i>Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures</i>	without changes  Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN): <a href="https://kormany.hu/miniszterelnokseg/foldrajzinev-bizottsag">https://kormany.hu/miniszterelnokseg/foldrajzinev-bizottsag</a>
<i>Ee</i>	<i>Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors</i>	without changes
<b>F.</b>	<b>Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity</b>	HCGN, noting the shortcomings and anomalies in minority place names, devoted a special thematic session to the issues of preservation, representation and accurate recording of minority names. IGU Conference on Heritage Geographies – May 26 <sup>th</sup> –28 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 – participation.

	<i>Including indigenous, minority and regional language names.</i>	
<b>G.</b>	<b>Exonyms</b> <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i>	
<b>H.</b>	<b>Toponymic data files and gazetteers</b>	
<i>Ha</i>	<b>Content requirements and standards</b>	A general coordinate correction in the Database Gazetteer of Hungary.
<i>Hb</i>	<b>Data management and interoperability</b>	without changes
<i>Hc</i>	<b>Data services, applications and products</b> <i>Including gazetteers and web services.</i>	National Geoinformational Base Map: <a href="https://nta.lechnerkozpont.hu/">https://nta.lechnerkozpont.hu/</a>
<b>I</b>	<b>Terminology in the standardization of geographical names</b> <i>New or changed definitions and terms.</i>	without changes * Hungarian translation for Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names exists.
<b>J</b>	<b>Writing systems and pronunciation</b>	
<i>Ja</i>	<b>Romanization</b>	Generally without changes. In an odonym, the HCGN defined the name of a medieval historical person in the traditional Hungarian way ( <i>Yunus Emre</i> > <i>Júnusz Emre</i> ), otherwise accepting the Turkish script in Latin letters.
<i>Jb</i>	<b>Conversion into non-Roman writing systems</b>	without changes
<i>Jc</i>	<b>Writing of names in unwritten languages</b>	unsolved
<i>Jd</i>	<b>Pronunciation</b>	without changes

<b>K</b>	<b>Country names</b> <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>	The Hungarian list of country names has been amended so that <i>Nepal</i> no longer uses a formal country name.
<b>L</b>	<b>Toponymic education</b> <i>Toponymical courses, works in organisation, issues and solution of problems.</i>	Toponymic program in the Department of Geoinformatics of Óbuda University.
<b>M</b>	<b>Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation</b>	
<b>M a</b>	<b>Features common to two or more nations</b>	
<b>M b</b>	<b>Bilateral and multilateral agreements</b>	
<b>Mc</b>	<b>Coastal seas</b>	without changes
<b>M d</b>	<b>Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters</b>	without changes
<b>Me</b>	<b>Geonames in Antarctica</b>	without changes
<b>Mf</b>	<b>International cooperation</b> <i>Cooperation with institutions, countries – specific project.</i>	Following the initiative of Slovenian colleagues, a new survey of the geographical names of the Slovenian minority in Hungary has been carried out. We have collected the sources for both parts. Through joint fieldwork, the living geographical names have been identified and their localisation have also been corrected. The work covered the entire minority region.
<b>N.</b>	<b>Arrangements for the UNGEGN</b> <i>Creating national and other reports, creating articles for</i>	National Report of Hungary in 2022 has been sent to the ECSEED.

	<i>Bulletin, communication, cooperation and fulfilment of tasks from the UNGEGN.</i>	
<b>O</b>	<b>Supporting sustainable development</b> <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i>	
<b>P</b>	<b>Other</b> <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i>	