

24 January 2023

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**

### **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.

#### **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*.

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\* GEGN.2/2023/1

\*\* The full report was 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). The report will be available under

This change affects all the 19 counties:

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