

# **Minority place-name standardization**

## **A comparison of regulations and approaches in Europe**

**Peter Jordan**

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research  
University of the Free State (South Africa), Faculty of Humanities

## **Minority place-name regulations in Europe** differ by

- definition of the minority
- feature categories included
- the administrative level where the decision is taken
- the share of minority population necessary for taking advantage of the regulation
- additional procedures necessary to effectuate the right on the name
- the choice between standard language and dialect name versions
- the kind of visual representation of the minority name
- comprehensiveness of the fields where the minority name has (in addition to the majority name) to be used
- the level of officiality of the minority name
- a.o.

# Contents

**1 Introduction (Peter Jordan)**

**2 Relevant concept fields: minorities/non-dominant groups, toponymy and place-name standardization (Peter Jordan)**

**3 International standards in minority place-name standardization (Peter Jordan)**

# **Contents (continued)**

## **4 Minority place-name standardization by countries**

### **By country**

- Ethnic and linguistic structure: Historical development and current state
- State formation
- Political system, administrative structures, governance
- Cultural characteristics (language, religion etc.)
- National and other space-related identities
- External relations
- Minority legislation with special regard to place names

# Europe's cultural macroregions



Source: Jordan  
2005

# **Contents (continued)**

## **4 Minority place-name standardization by countries**

### **By country**

- Ethnic and linguistic structure: Historical development and current state
- State formation
- Political system, administrative structures, governance
- Cultural characteristics (language, religion etc.)
- National and other space-related identities
- External relations
- Minority legislation with special regard to place names

# **Contents (continued)**

## **By individual minority situations**

- Who is the minority? (identity markers)
- Geographical and historical setting of the minority
- Settlement and cultural history of the minority region
- Minority life (education, organizations, cultural life, language, religion, media)
- Minority toponymy
- History and current state of minority place-name standardization
- Political and inter-cultural climate, satisfaction with existing regulations and standards

## **4.1 Central Europe**

4.1.1 Austria (Peter Jordan)

4.1.2 Croatia (Ivana Crljenko)

4.1.3 Czechia (Tadeusz Siwek)

4.1.4 Estonia (Peeter Päll & Tiina Laansalu)

4.1.5 Germany (Helge Paulig)

4.1.6 Hungary (Gábor Mikesy & Attila Sasi)

4.1.7 Latvia (Valts Ernštreits, *expected*)

4.1.8 Luxemburg (Sam Mersch)

4.1.9 Lithuania (Rita Baranauskienė & Ilona Mickienė)

4.1.10 Poland (Maciej Zych)

4.1.11 Slovakia (Vladimir Ira)

4.1.12 Slovenia (Matjaž Geršič & Drago Perko)

4.1.13 Switzerland (Alfred Gut et al.)

## **4.2 North Europe**

4.2.1 Denmark (Peder Gammeltoft, *expected*)

4.2.2 Finland (Sami Suviranta, Ulla Onkamo, Teemu Leskinen)

4.2.3 Norway (Kaisa Rautio Helander)

4.2.4 Sweden (Staffan Nyström)



## **4.3 West Europe**

4.3.1 Belgium (Christian Vandermotten)

4.3.2 France (Pierre Jaillard)

4.3.3 Ireland (Aindi Mac Giolla Chomhghaill)

4.3.4 Netherlands (Jasper Hogerwerf)

4.3.5 United Kingdom (Guy Puzey & Ruairidh Tarvet)

4.4.1 Italy (Elena Dai Prà, Andrea Cantile, Viviana Ferrario & Guido Lucarno, *expected*)

4.4.2 Spain (Joan Tort i Donada & Maria del Mar Batlle)

## **4.5 Southeast Europe**

4.5.1 Albania (Dhimiter Doka)

4.5.2 Bulgaria (Boian Koulov)

4.5.3 Greece (Konstantinos Tsitselikis)

4.5.4 Moldova (Dorin Lozovanu, *expected*)

4.5.5 Romania (Zsombor Bartos-Elekes)

## **4.6 East Europe**

4.6.1 Russian Federation, European part (Andrej Herzen, Yuliana Gordova & Olga Herzen)

4.6.2 Ukraine (Yaroslav Redkva, *expected*)

**5 Comparative discussion of current situations (Peter Jordan)**

**6 Conclusion (Peter Jordan)**

# Work plan (adapted)

**December 2021:** Contract with Springer Publishers settled

**by summer 2025:** Delivery of all country sections (Chapter 4)

**2023-2025:** Elaboration of chapters 1-3, 5-6; editorial work; peer-reviewing

**by Summer 2026:** final manuscript delivered to the publisher

**End of 2026:** Book (900-1,000 pages in 3 volumes) published

- in the series “Local and Urban Governance” edited by Carlos Nunes Silva
- under the auspices of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy and the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance

# Audience

- Political and other human geographers, cartographers, related sciences (linguists, historians, cultural anthropologists...)
- Administrators at all levels, most specifically in minority regions
- Minority associations and organizations and their representatives
- Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) representing the interests of European minorities including minority rights

Thank you for your attention!

[peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at)