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**Making Geographic Names Accessible and Available**

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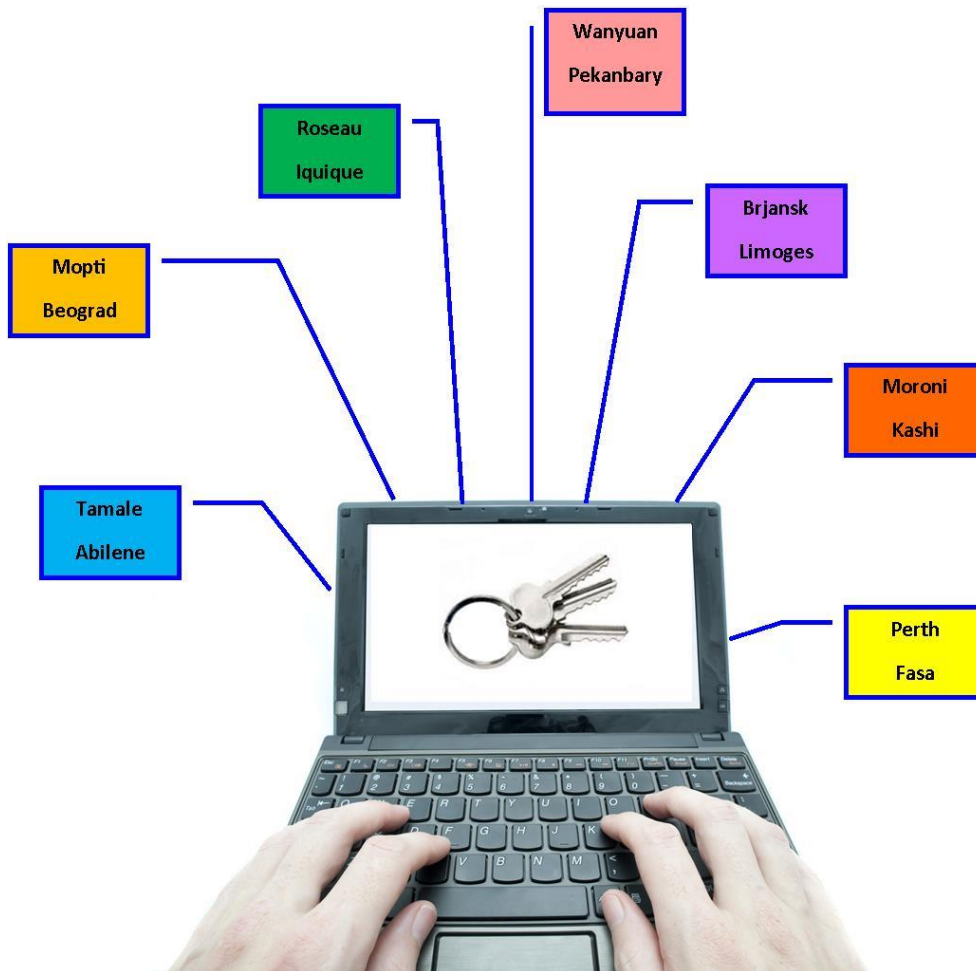
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## Making Geographic Names Accessible and Available





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*Previous issues of the Bulletin (formerly Newsletter) can be found at*

[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn\\_info\\_bulletins.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn_info_bulletins.htm)



## Message from the Chairperson

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Dear Colleagues,



We are rapidly approaching the next conference, to be held in August this year in New York. I am looking forward to this session for a number of reasons.

It is always good to meet with you and renew friendships and continue to benefit from the sharing of knowledge. To this end

I would like, as in the past, to encourage countries to submit papers that consider the issues we are facing, with solutions or questions we can discuss together. By all means, prepare papers that report on the progress of previous initiatives, but consider if these should be for information only.

As you prepare your papers, please remember the technical focus of UNGEGN and ensure that we avoid all the potential political implications through a careful review of the contents. We certainly do not want a repeat of the situation at the last conference where we were unable to finalise the report so please take all due care.

I look forward to greeting new delegates and can advise that we will be holding a short introductory session for new delegates (although anyone can attend) An Orientation Briefing on Monday, 7 August at 9:30am in a room to be

announced. The aim of this session is to provide some insight into the running of the conference and any protocols involved. As has been discussed in previous sessions and bulletins, we have a lot to consider at this conference. As well as the normal place naming matters, we also need to come to a decision on the future of UNGEGN operational modalities and determine what is the best option for the future. A position paper has been circulated for both information and comments. Please ensure that you look at it and consider carefully what is suggested so when we meet in the conference we can come to a consensus on the future operational methodology.

As a Bureau, we have also been considering the relationship of UNGEGN with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and again a position paper has been presented for consideration. We have also had discussions with the Bureau of UNGGIM and we will be holding a joint bureau meeting in New York to further this development.

I look forward to seeing you all in New York.

**Bill Watt**

Chair, UNGEGN

Email: [William.Watt@sa.gov.au](mailto:William.Watt@sa.gov.au)



## Message from the Secretariat

Dear UNGEGN Experts,



The Secretariat and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding are pleased with the positive feedback we have been receiving on the themed Bulletins. Thanks to our Experts who have made this new feature a success by submitting their articles. This 52<sup>nd</sup> edition which features

*Making Geographic Names Accessible and Available* has nine themed articles. We are pleased to announce that thanks to the members of the Innsbruck meeting in April 2017 we now have themes for the Bulletin for the next five years. The next bulletin to be issued in November will feature the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN). Members are invited to submit stories, pictures, articles and citations recognising Experts who have contributed to the UNGEGN's work.

In this issue the special feature articles were submitted by: Algeria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Jordan, New Zealand and Spain. In addition there are the usual divisional and working group reports and a few articles from Member States. A special section is dedicated to the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session which features, guidelines for participating in the UNGEGN exhibition, the announcement of the new event, the *Orientation Session* and a call for contributions to the 50<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN anniversary activities.

UNEGN's terms of reference as set out in report E/2001/INF/3 of 12 April 2001 mandates the Group of Experts to share and disseminate geographical names standardization practices and information. The following three clauses from the terms of reference specifically refer to making information available:

- *To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of these results to States Members of the United Nations;*
- *To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the*

*national and international standardization of geographical names; and*

- *To make standardization principles and standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible, through all appropriate media.*

In alignment with its mandate UNGEGN has conducted training sessions, created the geographical names database and updated its website to make technical material easily available and accessible to its stakeholders. This issue of the bulletin is therefore dedicated to sharing how Member States are providing access to their geographic names databases, gazetteers and geographic information web services.

I now focus on the **11<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) and the 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session** to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 8–17 August 2017 and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 respectively. We are just about two months away from the meetings and hope that your preparations for participation are underway. The note verbale UNCSGN/DPAB (11) issued on 13 March 2017 to all Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the provisional agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference E/CONF.105/1, and Documentation for the Conference E/CONF.105/INF/1 are all available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/ungegnConf11.html>.

With regards to **DOCUMENTATION**, Experts who are unable to meet the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 deadline are encouraged to submit their papers on or before 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Please note that the summary for documents received after 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 will not be translated. We kindly ask Experts when submitting their papers to indicate the agenda item, the related Conference resolution and whether the paper is for information or discussion.

Member States are encouraged to submit **COUNTRY REPORTS** to address agenda item 5. *Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference*. These are for information and distribution only. We implore delegates to submit specific items of your country's work under appropriate agenda items should you wish to have it considered for discussion. After the documents have been processed they will be posted to the UNGEGN



conference website. As has become the practice minimal to no paper documents will be issued. Delegates are therefore encouraged to access the documents from their laptops. The detailed **ORGANISATION OF WORK** is under discussion and will be posted on the conference web site in due course. It should be noted that its completion is dependent on the timely submission of your papers/reports.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** on current topical technical issues will be delivered over the days of the conference. Your suggestions for such presentations are welcomed.

As has been the custom over the past years, rooms will be made available for **SIDE EVENTS** such as meetings of Working Groups and Divisions and special workshops. Should you wish to have a side event and or have related questions, please send the completed side event [sign-up sheet](#) to the Secretariat at [frani@un.org](mailto:frani@un.org). Side event requests will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. The deadline for submission of side events is **Friday 16 June 2017**.

On page 40 of the Bulletin invitation to showcase your work at the **UNGEKN EXHIBITION**, from 31 July to 18 August 2017 has been issued. Guidelines to exhibit are provided and please note that the deadline for submission of posters is **3 July 2017**.

General information on conference logistics, meeting rooms, identification passes, hotel accommodation, visas and other matters will be provided in the New York Resource Guide. Please visit the UNGEKN website for updates regarding preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference and 30<sup>th</sup> Session <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/ungegnConf11.html>

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. We also wish to remind our global experts and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy that they can pursue the online BSc level, web course at: [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/\\_data\\_ICA\\_courses/index.html](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEKN/docs/_data_ICA_courses/index.html). It is a 20 module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents.

Your comments on this issue and contribution to forthcoming bulletins are welcomed. Please circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and we hope you enjoy reading. Remember to tweet your geographical names activities **@UNSD\_GEGN**.

**Cecille Blake**  
UNGEKN Secretariat  
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## SPECIAL FEATURE

# Making geographic Names Accessible and Available

### *Accessibilité et disponibilité des noms géographiques - Algeria*

#### **Introduction**

**T**oponymes, noms de lieu, nom géographique ou peu importe, l'appellation attribuée à ce lien quotidien avec l'espace, nous renvoie implicitement vers une réflexion souvent philosophique : les origines.

Afin de pouvoir justement remonter aux origines et enfin comprendre tout le sens de ce lien qui parfois est sacré et même vital, une approche sociologique conjuguée avec l'histoire et la linguistique s'impose.

A ce propos, le fond des noms des lieux algérien est issu de différentes origines, où l'apport des conquêtes et campagnes de colonisation est considérable, de même que le vaste territoire qu'occupent les pays de l'Afrique du nord, ainsi que la diversité topographique de ce dernier à savoir : mer, montagnes, déserts, plateaux, forêts ...

Et comme la conservation de ce patrimoine n'est pas une finalité en soi, l'enjeu est de le partager et en faire bénéficier les parties intéressées, à travers notamment des espaces accessibles et ouverts à toutes suggestions. Maintenant reste à déterminer qu'est-ce que l'accessibilité veut dire.

#### **Etat des lieux et perspectives**

Depuis sa création, l'INSTITUT NATIONAL DE CARTOGRAPHIE ET DE TELEDETECTION (INCT), l'organe diffuseur de l'information géographique de l'Algérie, ne cesse de collecter les noms des lieux à travers des campagnes de complètement et d'alimenter des bases de données à différentes échelles issues de différents fonds cartographiques.

Et comme la toponymie vient s'ajouter aux couches cartographiques, telles que : Orographie, Hydrographie ou Planimétrie, elle jouit d'une grande importance au sein de la chaîne de production de l'Institut, elle représente à elle seule un total de toponymes de 140738 au 1/50 000, 36504 au 1/200 000 et 11650 au 1/500 000. Pour aider l'utilisateur de ce patrimoine, une approche informative est adoptée en enrichissant les bases de données en matière d'informations attributaires dans le but de satisfaire des besoins d'ordres techniques ou administratifs.

La particularité du fond toponymique algérien est qu'il est l'apport de plusieurs langues à commencer par le berbère en passant par le romain, le phénicien, l'arabe l'espagnole et le français sans oublier que ces noms sont souvent altérés par les différents dialectes, un plurilinguisme qui a contribué à le diversifier et à l'enrichir. Dans le soucis de fournir une information toponymique fiable, les équipes de complètement s'appuient sur la collecte à la source, c'est-à-dire, chez les habitants, à travers les guides touristiques, ou les administrations locales, afin justement de rapporter fidèlement les noms des lieux en les écrivant dans les deux langues en usage en Algérie à savoir le français en respectant les règles de la romanisation et en Arabe, ce qui permet même de véhiculer une sorte de phonétique (Prononciation).

L'élaboration de la base de données des toponymes au niveau de l'INSTITUT NATIONAL DE CARTOGRAPHIE ET DE TELEDETECTION (INCT), a pris en considération les besoins des clients en incluant toute information jugée utile, c'est là que la notion d'accessibilité prend son sens, à partir du moment où toutes les parties intéressées s'y trouvent du simple usager jusqu'aux professionnels, car il ne suffit pas que les noms des lieux soient disponibles ou accessibles à travers les différents canaux : cartographies, bases de données web ou autres mais en plus du toponyme et sa position, il faut le soutenir en informations complémentaires mais essentielles à savoir son origine, son ancien nom (souvent d'origine coloniale) et pourquoi pas sa prononciation; Sans oublier la catégorie de ce dernier à savoir : oronyme, hydronyme, hagionyme, ondonyme, ou ethnonyme.

Les bases de données toponymiques gérées au niveau de l'INCT fournissent des informations attributaires ainsi que les informations spatiales enrichies avec des informations administratives. Pour un nom de lieu en plus de ses coordonnées, il est appuyé par des attributs tels que son générique et son spécifique, l'appartenance administrative (Commune et Wilaya) ainsi que le nom de la carte topographique à laquelle il appartient, de telle sorte à ce que l'utilisateur puisse interroger la base de données à partir de requêtes simples ou complexes, par exemple un employé municipal, le nombre et l'emplacement des lieux habités dans sa circonscription s'avèrent d'une grande utilité.



Extrait d'une table de noms de lieux

L'exploitation de l'information géographique en Algérie, s'est vue confrontée à une contrainte non négligeable dans le volet des noms des lieux, où les dénominations coloniales continuent à être utilisées, par une frange de la société en omettant que lesdits noms sont changés par de nouveaux au lendemain de l'indépendance du pays.

Vue la richesse linguistique de l'existant en Afrique du nord en général et spécialement en Algérie, une approche phonétique s'impose dans la collecte et le traitement de l'information toponymique, pour se faire, Une application informatique appelée « **TOPOVOICE** » a été développée par les techniciens de l'institut, pour consolider la richesse du fond toponymique.

Les experts de l'INCT, par leur rôle de diffuseurs de l'information géographique, et afin de mettre à la disposition des usagers une information riche et surtout fiable, ont procédé à répertorier les anciens noms des lieux dans un dictionnaire avec leurs nouvelles dénominations et leurs circonscriptions administratives en vigueur afin de lever toute ambiguïté à l'exemple de **Sour El Ghozlane** dans la wilaya de **Bouira** s'appelait **Aumale** par l'administration coloniale.



TOPOVOICE

Ancien nom	Nom actuel	Ancien nom	Nom actuel
	-A-		-C-
Abbo	<b>Sidi Daoud</b> (35) <i>Boumerdes</i>	Cerez	<b>Belimour</b> (34) <i>Bordj</i> <b>Bou Arreridj</b>
Aboukir	<b>Mesra</b> (27) <i>Mostaganem</i>	Champlain	<b>El Omaria</b> (26) <i>Médéa</i>
Aboutville	<b>Aïn El Hadjar</b> (10) <i>Bouira</i>	Changarnier	<b>Oued Zebboudj</b> (44) <b>Ain Defla</b>
Affreville	<b>Khemis Miliana</b> (44) <i>Ain Defla</i>	Chanzy	<b>Sidi Ali Ben Youb</b> (22) <b>SidiBel –Abbés</b>
Arthur	<b>Seghouane</b> (26) <i>Médéa</i>	Chassériau	<b>Bouzeghaia</b> (02) <i>Chlef</i>
Auguste Comte	<b>Baghai</b> (40) <i>Kenc hela</i>	Chateaudun du RhumelRrhumelrrrr. rRrHURRRRummel	<b>Chelgoum El Aid</b> (43) <b>Mila</b>
Aumale	<b>Sour El Ghozlane</b> (10) <i>Bouira</i>	Chevreul	<b>Ain el Kebira</b> (19) <b>Sétif</b>
Auribeau	<b>Ain Cherchar</b> (21) <b>Skikda</b>	Chiffalo	<b>Port Khemisti</b> (42) <b>Tipaza</b>

Dictionnaire des anciennes appellations

Des efforts considérables sont fournis par les experts de l'institut en consolidant les différentes bases de données, à travers la dotation des structures de serveurs de données et d'applications qui fourniront une plate-forme pour notamment l'exploitation interne et leur publication, une cellule de veille est créée au sein de l'établissement afin de veiller et être à l'écoute de ce qui a trait à la toponymie.

**M. Hassen ABDELLAOUI**

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## Making geographic Names Accessible and Available - Botswana

### Background

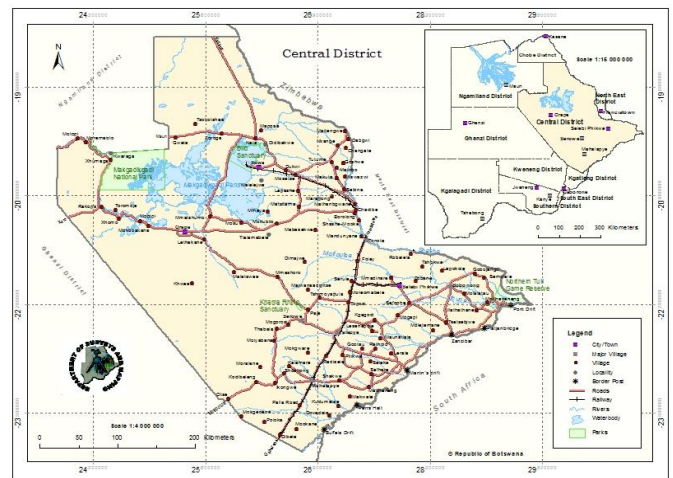
Botswana has since the establishment of the Botswana Place Names Commission in 1967 proceeded steadily with geographical names work district by district. The Commission realized the need for public involvement, as a result in 1975/76 several meetings were recorded and broadcast by Radio Botswana, public reaction at the time was limited, few responses on important place names was received. However, the Commission progressed with its work and published four reports which are still in use today. Although Botswana is in process of resuscitation of the Botswana Place Names Commission, efforts in drawing up a place names act are at advanced level.

Botswana has realized that modern society depends on the use of standardized Geographical Names for accurate and efficient administration and communication hence, an effort in resuscitation of the Botswana Place Names is being addressed at high level. This resuscitation will assist government in saving time and money by increasing operational efficiency in all levels of government, industry, commerce, education etc. This also relate to other disciplines such as map and chart production; census operations; national defence agencies transportation, water and mineral surveys; water safety; disaster control; cultural, etc. however it is hoped that with this resuscitation of PNC, the public will be encouraged to discuss and communicate with the Commission and provide assistance in its work. In this way the Commission will derive better answers on the place name standardization processes.

### Names Availability

The first Place Names Commission list of names and recommended spellings was published in 1970 and this contained over one thousand names including over one hundred spellings approved under the Presidential Directive CAB 59/70, these are names appearing on Botswana Laws. Since the early 1980 the Commission's visits to various villages has been useful, both as a means to talk about the work of the commission and to get information on local place names from local people. The four reports published specifically examined names of all geographical names as per the commissions terms of reference to ascertain the correct spelling of names i.e. the language, local pronunciation, recognized meaning, historical background in relation to orthographies. The available names appearing on the reports are structured into ten districts of the country.

Place names were compiled as per district and Central District being the largest region. Names on each district were arranged into four divisions i.e. recommended spelling, description, derivation and its location on the topographic map (degree square). These are names of settlements, localities, rivers etc. and their derivation from either names of people or an incident that happened at the place.



Central

However, more names have been collected and are available. These will await the finalization of policy for standardisation of Place Names, so that only official and authoritative sources are entitled for the naming of places and the collection of place names in Botswana.

### Names Accessibility

Consistent use of accurate place names is an essential element of effective communication worldwide, and supports socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. Botswana has benefited from the unearthing of historical names, cultural beliefs and this has continued to give more light during our fiftieth (50th) anniversary of Independence in September 2016.

All villages of Botswana were visited and more information on spelling of some place names were explained, these are the names which need to be discussed and gazetted for preservation/future generations.

More names from the published reports of the PNC, have been accessed and are in use in official government documentation, parastatal organizations, and the general



public. There is still a high demand for accurate geographical names data by various organizations notably; Botswana Telecommunications Agencies, Security organizations, Research Institutions and other geographic information institutions. The available names have been accessed and used as they are. Some notable publications are; Botswana Tourist Maps, Census Maps, Botswana National Atlas and various books by researchers. Geographical names are disseminated in various forms as requested by the customers.

Furthermore, it should be noted that although most names are accessed from Botswana maps, measures have been put in place to facilitate the enactment of an act for Botswana Place Names to have a legal backing in its work. Botswana will be in a position to formulate Toponymic Guidelines on usable and consistent written forms of toponyms in line with resolution 1/4 adopted by the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

**Way Forward**

Major developments and achievements in Botswana have been realized. These major activities on new geographical features/names need to be documented and easily accessed by all. Therefore, a National gazetteer should be compiled by the Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM) a national mapping agency of the country which coordinated Botswana Place Names Commission since its inception. The national gazetteer will cover standardized geographical names, a reference for all administrators of government, private institutions, educators, editors, mass media, and the general public. This will enable consistent place names availability and accessibility for effective communication and preservation by all.

**Re tlisa ditlamelo tsa CEDA ko Batswaneng!**

Dikolotšana o-e-ka-diofioi tsa CEDA di tlaa etela mafelo a a latelang ka malatsoi a a beilweng:

Dikgaolo tsa Borwa:

Lekalana	Kgaolo	Kgwedi	Lefelo
Kenya	Maruyana	3 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Kenya	Mashupe	4 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Kenya	Lothakane West	5 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Kenya	Pitsang	6 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Gaborone	Oodi	10 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Gaborone	Medigene	11 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Gaborone	Ramotswa	12 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Gaborone	Diwa	13 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Molapalala	Laphape	18 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Molapalala	Sojwa	19 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Molapalala	Mmankgodi	20 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Molapalala	Kumekwane	21 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle
Hukuntzi	Bokopitz	24 Moreneng 2017	Kgotle

*CEDA Publication - indicates primary importance of giving location to areas.*

Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency (CEDA) published its visits to various locations/villages on a newspaper as an element of effective communication to their valued customers with the headline translated to read “We take CEDA Services to Batswana.”

This deals with provision of financial and technical support for business developments in promotion of viable and sustainable citizen owned business enterprises.

**Baboloki Gabalape**

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## Geographical Names of Bulgaria – Accesable and Available

The standardization of geographic names in Bulgaria is carried out in compliance with the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Act which regulates the status and tasks of the Council for Standardization of Geographical Names and its Institutional Affiliation with the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency. Based on the problematic situation in the country and the requirements imposed by international communications, we have formulated both as a long-term and current task - the development of the National Concept for the Standardization of Geographical Names and the Bulgarian Names System Act.

The main principles of standardization are

- the choice of common use of local names when there is more than one name,
- historically established names in bilingual regions,
- unified transliteration.

We aim to maintain a maximum of practicality, objectivity and conservatism needed in order to be protected by the National System of Nation Act in order to guarantee the best results in the process of national standardization.

One of the steps in the standardization process aimed at modernization and the implementation of modern technologies in order to meet the expectations and needs of the users was the creation of a register of geographical names in the Republic of Bulgaria that would ensure uniformity and sustainability of the use of the names of the geographical objects, their storage, timely updating - tracking historical changes of names of the same objects, as well as archiving this information. Apart from the practical experience, this task also has a significant cultural value, because in the processes of cultural, economic and social cohesion among the countries in the modern world, the geographic names are also the bearer of national identity and native culture. Their correct use predetermines the effectiveness of both immediate communication and inter-institutional interaction.

Geographical names are an important part of the overall capacity of the geospatial information, so it was important to achieve technological compatibility with other registers and databases. It was also important to add to each geographic name the corresponding attributes and characteristics corresponding to the geographic name groups.

The main sources used to create the Registry are:

- Digital Model of a Resettlement Map by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests;
- Large-scale topographic maps in M 1: 5000 and 1: 10000;
- Alphabetical index of the settlements in the Republic of Bulgaria;

- Nature-geographic map of Bulgaria M 1: 350000;
- Medium-scale topographic maps M 1: 25000;
- Registry to identify geographic names;
- Data on geographic names of settlements;
- Data on geographic names of orographic objects;
- Catalogs with Coordinates and Quotas of the Triangulation Points of DMM and GMMP;
- EKATTE;
- Register of Protected Areas and Protected Areas in Bulgaria;
- Integrated Water Management Project (JAICA).

The full information about geographic names, elements and features of geographic objects extracted from different sources is organized into uniform digital data using the same format.

Structuring and preparation of the source matter was done using leading softwares, which have the necessary functionality and tools for collecting / accessing available data / information and their subsequent structuring, including:

- Access to data / information and data / information repositories;
- Access to raster formats and raster surfaces;
- Converters for access to national standards and storage, exchange and spatial and design data formats (in accordance with current regulations);
- Data collection and structuring, including: digitization, automatic and semi-automatic debugging, transformation (translation and / or rotation and / or scaling) between coordinate systems;
- Complex topology models, including access / control and execution of topological applications;
- Maintains full CAD (ComputerAidedDesign) functionality etc.

The outlined functionality demonstrates the relevance of the used leading software for collecting and structuring output data to create interoperable data / digital models.

For the implementation of the Geographic Names Register, a specialized software was created - MKAD for Geographic Names, containing all components / structures (pre-defined and configured) for the successful realization of the task. The software is implemented in a Windows operating system environment and has an intuitive interface, the tools and functionality required.

MKAD for Geographic Names also contains all the necessary objects, rules, layers, styles for inscribing and visualizing data, shapes, parameters, settings and everything else needed to perform the intended activities. In order to minimize possible

mistakes and inconsistencies drop-down menus, panels, rules of conduct, automated replenishment of fields, etc. are being used.

When searching for a geographical name from the territory of Bulgaria, information about the geographical object is being shown - polyline for linear objects, polygon or polygons for area objects is given, as well as a table with the following fields:

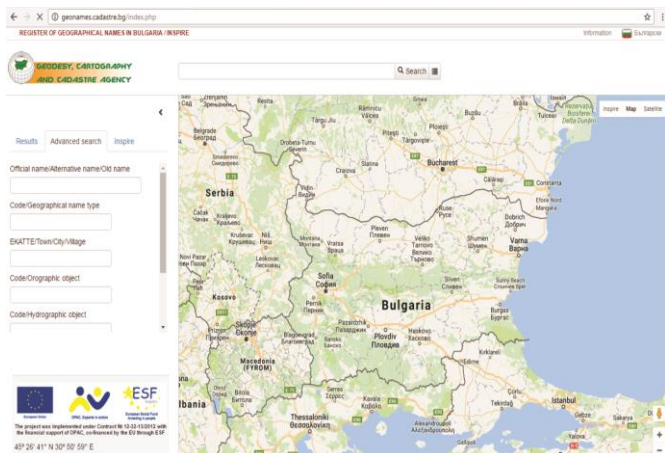
- Name of the geographic object;
- A transliterated geographic name;
- Alternative / old name of the geographic object;
- Type of geographic object to which the geographical name refers - settlement, municipality, orographic object, river system; Belonging to the geographic location, administrative affiliation or affiliation of the sites and tourist sites to the relevant orographic object or system or hydrographic object or system:
  - reflecting the affiliation of settlements, neighborhoods and neighborhoods to a settlement;
  - reflecting the affiliation of the site and tourist sites to the relevant orographic object or system;
  - reflecting the hydrographic object (rivers, lakes and dams) belong to the respective river system.
- Nomenclature of the map list -CS1970;
- Nomenclature of the map list - Bulgarian Geodetic System (BGS2005) (UTM);
- The source from which the name is derived;
- Appurtenance of the geographic location, administrative belonging or affiliation to a larger orographic or hydrographic site or system;
- Coordinates of a point in the site in the Bulgarian Geodetic System (BGS2005);

criteria and visualization of the obtained results are provided in KML format. The system maintains an interface in Bulgarian and English.

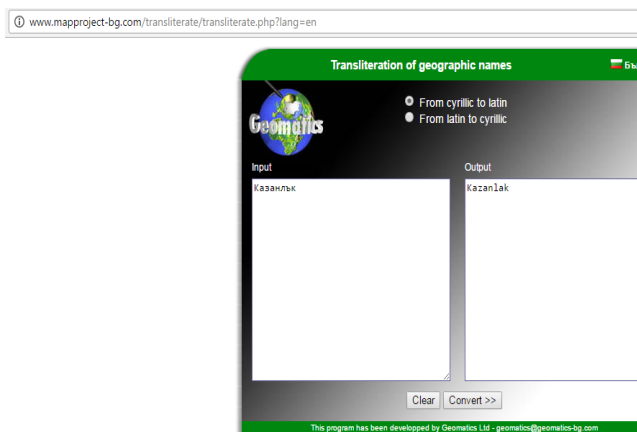
Visualization in Google Maps previews a point, caption, line, or polygon, depending on the type of object. An additional window can display all the geographic name data from the Registry.

Search for geographical names is done using the full data in the register. A separate module for editing the registry (input, deletion and editing of geographic names) has been implemented. This module only works with authorized users with security system, usernames and passwords, and a protocol for the changes made to the registry and its nomenclatures.

The Transliteration System of the Bulgarian Alphabet of Latin is used for transliteration of the geographical names in the Register, which was adopted by the Bulgarian legislation in 2009. Internationally, the system was endorsed at the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, where Resolution X / 8 of the Conference recommended that it be adopted as an international system for the romance of Bulgarian geographic names.



Register of Geographical Names



Transliteration System of the Bulgarian Alphabet

The Register of Geographical Names of Bulgaria is accessible via the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency website and allows users to search for geographic names according to different criteria and characteristics.

**Mima Chaleva**  
 Executive Director  
 Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency,  
 Bulgaria  
 Email: [acad@cadastre.bg](mailto:acad@cadastre.bg)

In order to maintain the database in an up-to-date form and to provide reference and visualization, a Web-based application was developed. Geographic names are displayed on a Google map. The Search capabilities are being performed on different

## Making Geographical Names Accessible and Available – Cyprus

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was initially created in 1967. It was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years.

The Committee has issued various independent publications that help in understanding the issues which relate to geographical names, and contribute to the solution of problems arising. The creation of its website ([www.geonoma.gov.cy](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy)), among other actions, is another step forward in upgrading its services and activities:



CPCSGN Website – [www.geonoma.gov.cy](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy)

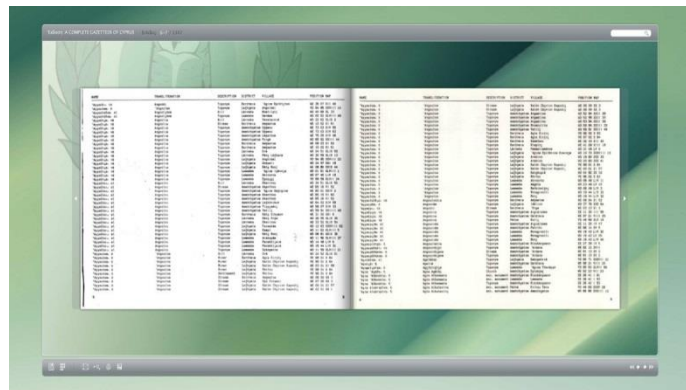
In this website you will find information on the history, the legislation and the Committee’s operating regulations, information with respect to its members, communications and activities, texts from its participation in conferences and events, reports on efforts to tackle unauthorised alteration of historical names of Cyprus, maps, material for the transliteration of names into the Roman alphabet, etc.

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The “*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The “*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 67000 entries)

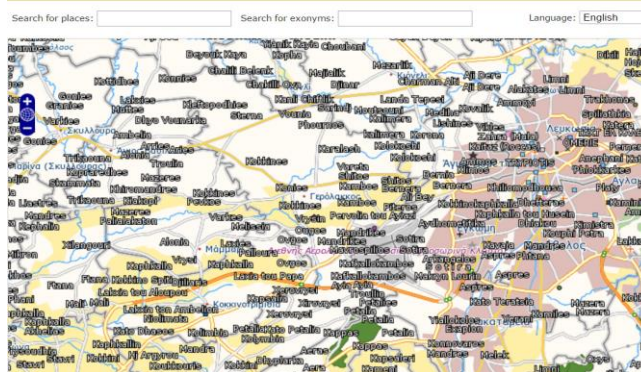
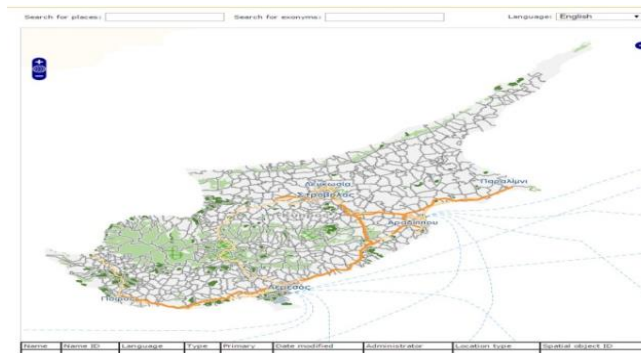
All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral

map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN’s website in full searchable format.



Complete on-line Gazetteer of Cyprus  
(<http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/cygazetteer/index.html>)

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in a distributed European database named EuroGeonames, through EuroGeographics, and they are available on line:



EuroGeonames Database – Geographical Names and Toponyms of Europe including Cyprus

Additionally, all geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: [www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://www.geoportal.gov.cy). The Geoportal of Cyprus consists of two main parts these being: (a) INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, and (b) DLS Portal (The portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys).

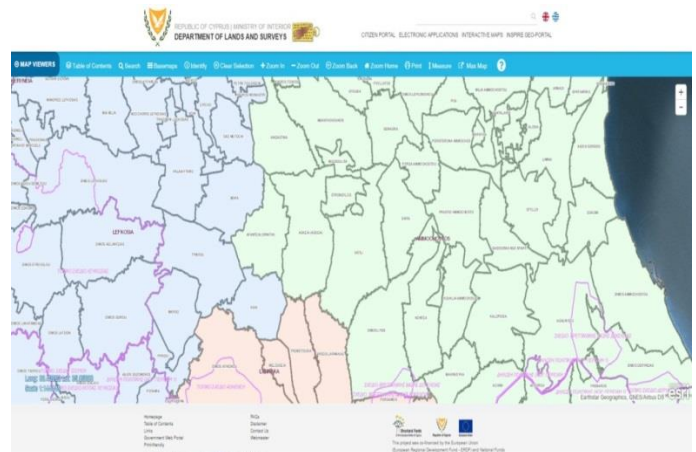


**DLS Portal (<http://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/en-us/homepage/pages/default.aspx>)**

Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading and direct accessing via GIS.

The New Internet Services platform is a landmark in the modern history of the Republic of Cyprus, as following intensive efforts lasting many years, geo-spatial information was given full access to the outside world, with on-line services via the Internet, through a platform of electronic services. The whole concept is based on a 24-hour available, fast and friendly service.

A new IT customer-centric culture is embedded in the platform, focusing on the citizen via the availability of electronic services. The Government's target is the elimination of time-consuming bureaucratic procedures in the acceptance of applications and the ease of access into core data. The whole effort is just the start; the target is to continuously improve currently available services offered, through the gradual inclusion of new applications in the near future.



**DLS Portal – Interactive Maps (<http://eservices.dls.moi.gov.cy/#/national/geoportalmapviewer>)**

The new Internet Services Platform consists of four (4) main pillars:

- **A New and Dynamic Front Page with Static Information and Services.** The new page includes all relevant static information, access to data, free maps and cadastral plans, fees calculating tools, etc.
- **Ability to Navigate to a Property through an On-line Free Web Application.** The applications use modern GIS (Geographical Information Systems) technology, extending them through Web-GIS capabilities. Various layers of information are available, such as: geographical names, administrative boundaries, land parcels, buildings, plan grids, aerial photography, satellite images, planning zones, hydrographic features etc. The ability to identify each property is available with many important parcel characteristics, scanned cadastral plans, the values of the general valuation and many others. Two additional thematic on-line services are also available with very important multi-variable attributes; the topographical and the hydrographical. Search, printing, as well as access via web-services is also offered.
- **Electronic Application Submission.** An "e-Applications Dashboard" is available for every citizen, hosting personal profiling, monitoring of all registered applications and providing the ability to launch and submit an application, purchase static maps, export data and upload data. The selection and provision of GIS data to the citizen is dynamic and specific services are provided to private surveyors and valuers.

- **Adherence and Implementation of the INSPIRE Directive for Cyprus.** The implementation of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) for the Republic of Cyprus (ref. to Law 43(I)/2010) through a specialized and dedicated INSPIRE GeoPortal platform, integrated inside the DLS PORTAL, is now fully available. The European INSPIRE Directive aims to create a European Union (EU) spatial data infrastructure. This implementation enables the sharing of geo-spatial information (classified into 34 different geospatial themes and several layers/e-services), among public sector organizations, and better facilitates public access to geo-spatial information across Europe. INSPIRE is based on the infrastructures for geo-spatial information that are created by the Member States, that are made compatible with common implementing rules, and are supplemented with measures at Community level. Geographical names are included in all major e-services. Network services, such as the INSPIRE GeoPortal of Cyprus make it possible to discover, transform, view and download spatial data and to invoke spatial data and e-commerce services from various Governmental sources, according to the INSPIRE Directive.



*Cyprus INSPIRE Geoportal – Geographical Names of Cyprus*

### **Andreas Hadjiraftis**

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Website: [www.geonoma.gov.cy](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy)

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## **Availability of Geographical Names in Czechia**

Standardization of geographical names in the Czech Republic started in 1918. Collection and storage of geographical names first took place on map basis and in card files. Since then toponyms have been registered with their typology in a standardization card. Until 1951 geographical names were standardized for the scale 1:75,000. Over the years 1951-1958 standardization took place at the map scale 1:50,000 and in the years 1958–2002 on maps at the scale 1:10,000.

Since 1951 an integral part of standardization has been the correct transcription and correct use of foreign geographical names. Standardization was started after the completion of the rules for transcription and transliteration from non Latin scripts.

For more detailed information please take a look at UNEGGN Information Bulletin number 51:  
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/bulletin.html>

From the beginning the Czech Commission on Geographical Names tried to make processed data accessible – on maps, by publishing name lists, by cooperating on publishing a

geographical lexicon of Czechoslovakia and also by cooperating on a bulletin of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names (CCGN).

### **Geonames**

Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the card-index system could no longer satisfy the needs for geographical names administration, therefore in 1997 a database of geographical names called Geonames was created, which replaced the standardization cards and digitized geographical names of all 1:10,000 scale map sheets. Digitization was completed in 2005.

These are the benefits of the Geonames database:

- The registration of geographical names has been made simpler and names can be found more quickly,
- It is possible to perform analysis or onomastic and historical researches,
- A digital layer for the 10,000 scale map script, now from the scale 1:500,000 to 1:1,000 has been created,
- It is possible to search toponyms through Web services,

- Toponyms hold their own geographic location and (until 2009 also held) cartographic representation,
- Named features are categorized in 165 feature types, 100 of them correspond with ZABAGED® feature types. Several other technical feature types serve as instruments for geographical names maintenance.
- Regular update allows users accessibility of valid (correct) geographical names,
- Safe data saving.

Geonames is an interoperable object oriented database. The data are formed in an ORACLE database and are combined with data from ZABAGED®. ZABAGED® is the Fundamental Base of Geographical Data of the Czech Republic using GIS technology. Most geographical names included in Geonames are attached to features of ZABAGED®. Geonames

represents one of the sources for the creation of the digital 1:10,000 base map of the Czech Republic since 2000 and from 2010 also for other map scales. Names from Geonames are used for printing State Map Series of different scales: 1:1,000, 1:5,000, 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and other. Every toponym during processing in digital cartographic line is allocated an annotation considering its feature type and script size proposal acquired from Geonames. The annotation cartographically transforms the name and its parameters may be varied according to specific requirements of a particular map product. Whenever a geographical name is updated in Geonames, annotation remains but a cartographer is alerted of the update and may change the annotation as needed during the map lettering. It is possible to buy the maps or to search them on the Internet. Spatial data are available for users in DGN, SHP and GML formats and descriptive data in XLS, CSV and TXT form.

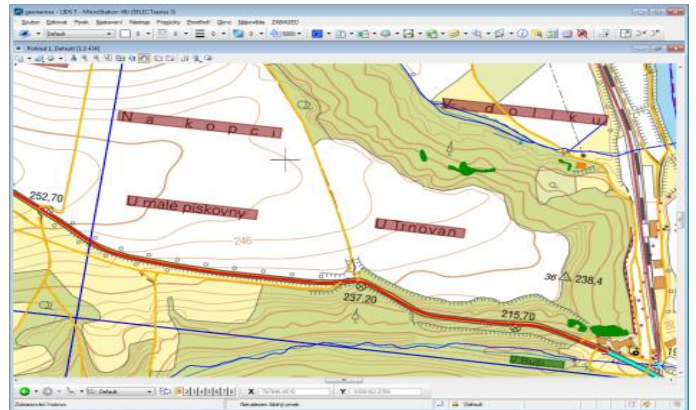
Geographical names data form serves for editing and controlling of inputs and outputs of the database Geonames. There are both obligatory and optional data on every geographical feature with the standardized name. Geonames contains toponyms of the Czech Republic and names of objects on state borders.

Since 2006 the database is being continuously updated in regular cycles. The update is realized via: topographic surveys, local self-governments, cadastre offices, legislation changes (which concerns names of municipalities mainly) and via individual initiatives.

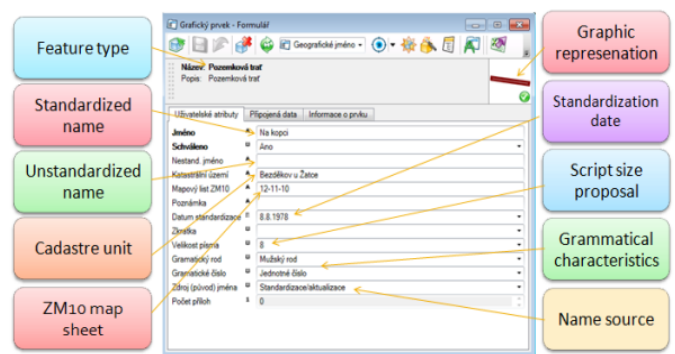
Script size proposal was the only remaining cartographic attribute in Geonames. That's because cartographic representation of toponyms is being conceived in the Information System of the State Map Series, which serves for State Map Series cartographic processing. The series consist of map sheets showing the whole territory of the Czech Republic processed according to common standards and was published by the state authority in public interest.

TOPONYM	UNSTANDARDIZED TOPONYM	FEATURE TYPE	COORDIN. X	COORDIN. Y	CADASTRAL UNIT	MAP SHEET	FONT	HEIGHT	COLOR
Na kopci		lots	1008915	798287	Bezděkov u Žatce	12-11-10	Arial	8	black
Radičevská strouha (Ostrava)	Radičevská strouha	water course	1009392	797767	Bezděkov u Žatce	12-11-10	Arial	6	blue
U Trnovan		lots	1009146	797846	Bezděkov u Žatce	12-11-10	Arial	8	black
U malé pískovny		lots	1009097	798271	Bezděkov u Žatce	12-11-10	Arial	8	black
V Buši		forest	1009436	797615	Bezděkov u Žatce	12-11-10	Arial	6	black

Table 1: Example of geographical names with selected attributes



Display of names from Table 1 in application Geonames



Description of graphic features



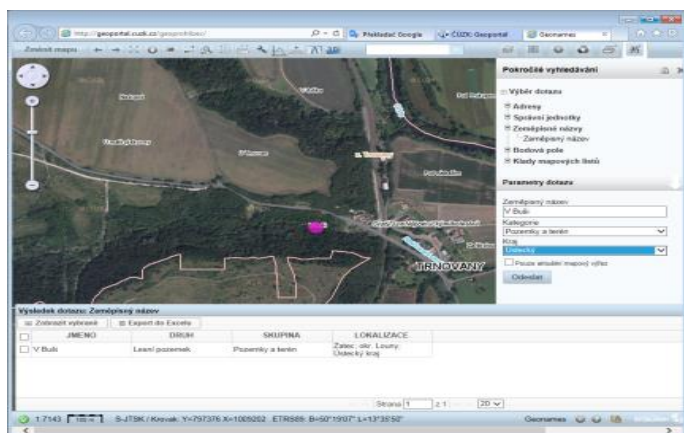
Here is an example of a geographical name form. It carries many attributes.

*Standardized name* is an approved form of geographical name (binding for publishers of the State Map Series and recommended for other editors of cartographic products in the Czechia).

*Unstandardized name* may be a used alternative name or previously standardized name currently out of use. Besides the above mentioned values, the form also carries system attributes (ID codes, create and modification dates and other information).

It is possible to search data from the database Geonames on Geoportál ČÚZK.

<http://geoportal.cuzk.cz/geoprohlizec/?lng=EN>



*Data search on Geoportal ČÚZK; orthophoto map combined with Geonames*

### **EuroGeoNames, ELF, INSPIRE**

Standardized names are published in three European projects INSPIRE and ELF (European Local Framework) according to their specifications. Data with geographical names are also a part of another European project EuroGeoNames (EGN) within the project EuroGeoGraphic. In 2012 the whole content of Geonames was handed over to the project (EGN). Data are available to many users in different projects and through different user interfaces.

### **Names of the world**

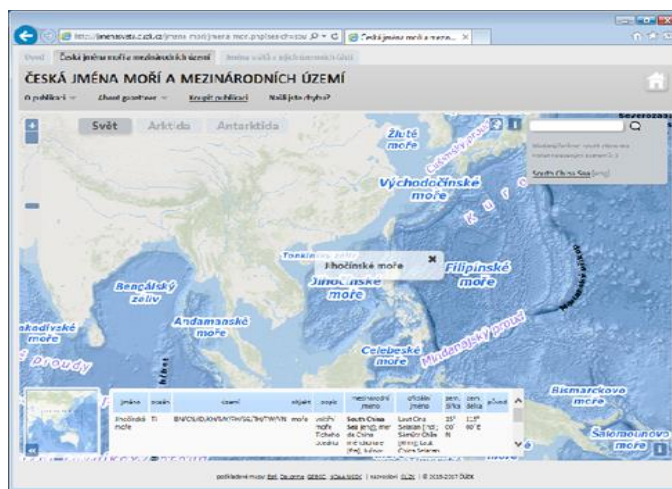
The CCGN has put together a database Names of the world which contains Names of states and their territorial parts and Czech names of seas and international territories. The

database includes a list of Czech exonyms and names in a language of a specific country.

The database is PostgreSQL, spatial extension SDE Geometry from Esri. Every name was generalized to 7 scales between 1:295 828 764 to 1:4 622 324. The scale series is the same that Google and Esri uses. Web Mercator is used in the map application. It is possible to search the data on the Internet. <http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz>

The application is created by a map window, field for searching and a box for information. A pop-up window opens up if you click on a name and shows a standardized name and its variant or an old name if it exists. Simultaneously a table with information displays in a box under the map window.

A big advantage of this database is that it is easy to update when a change occurs. The printed version is valid only to the date of publishing and it is possible to buy it. It is possible to search the names on the Internet for free and with no limit. It is possible to inform the administrator if an error is found on the Internet application Jména světa (Names of the world) and the error will be corrected on the Internet and in the database of standardised exonyms.



*Data search on the Internet application Jména světa (Names of the world)*

### **Irena Švehlová**

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## Making geographical names accessible and available through Web services and applications

### Introduction

Access to consistent and reliable multilingual geographical names is essential for a number of uses including postal services, emergency services, navigation, tourism, property purchases, the mass media and applications such as Google Earth/Maps. In all of these areas, geographic names provide one of the most important keys for referencing and accessing a variety of related information. However, today, a patchwork of heterogeneous international, national and regional geographical names related web services and applications exist. Not all of them are compatible with the requirements and standards for the integration in international, national and regional spatial data infrastructures.

From a spatial data infrastructure or database point of view, the entity 'name' might be one of many attributes related to the geographical object/feature. UNGEGN has continuously adapted its geographical names standardization program as an essential part of spatial data infrastructures. It leads to a significant improvement in this portion of the geospatial data management framework promoted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).

This article deals with use cases for the display and publication of the content of geographical names databases in different output options, through web services or integrated in web applications.

This article is an extract of the "UNEGN Advanced Manual" to be published on the occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Standardization on Geographical Names in August 2017 in New York. The information is far away from being exhaustive, but it might provide an overview of issues and considerations for geographical names experts. More references to further information are provided in other chapters of the UNGEGN Advanced Manual.

### **What are the differences between web services and applications?**

First of all, a web service and a web application need a database as rationale. The database needs a certain structure in order to be understood by the web service or application. How a geographical names database should be designed is not explained in this article. It is part of the "Advanced Manual" in a separate section 'Technical issues: database management'.

Web services are the rationale for accessing geographical names databases content through an application, integrated

in a Geographic Information System (GIS) or as essential part of a spatial data infrastructure.



*The German national geographical names database (GN-DE) published as a web service as part of the national spatial data infrastructure (GDI-DE) and visualized through the Geoportal application (Geoportal.de)*

A complete web service can be described with the following features:

- It is available over the Internet or private (intranet) networks
- It uses a standardized messaging system (e.g. XML - eXtensible Markup Language)
- It is not tied to any operating system or programming language
- It is self-describing via a common (XML) grammar/syntax
- It is discoverable via a simple find mechanism

In a nutshell, web services allow various applications to talk to each other and share data and services among themselves. Thus, different applications can use the same web service if the required standards and protocols are used.

The difference between a website and a web application is simple. A website is defined by its (static) content while a web application is defined by its interaction with the user. E.g. a website can plausibly consist of a static content repository that's accessible for all visitors, while a web application depends on interaction and requires user input and data processing. For example, a daily news site would be a website, but a spreadsheet or a collaborative calendar would be a web application.



## What is a gazetteer (web) service?

A special web service, addressing a specific profile or use case for publishing geographical names data, is the so-called "gazetteer service". In this context, geographical names databases and gazetteers should be distinguished from each other, as gazetteers are only one of many possible outcomes derived/produced from a names database. A gazetteer can be defined as a list, a report or a repository of location information that is used to search for specific locations.

The term 'gazetteer' in a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) context is considered as *"any geospatial dataset which contains 'spatial identifiers'"*. These can be geographical names, postal codes or other indexes for indirect spatial referencing. The intended use of 'gazetteers' in the European INSPIRE initiative (using 'geographic identifiers') followed International Standardization Organization (ISO) 19112 standard. The schema from ISO 19112 was not used as-is to correct errors in that schema and allowed for a better integration in INSPIRE as a SDI. 'Gazetteers' here were simply intended as a channel to publish spatial data from the INSPIRE themes that allows others to use them in indirect spatial referencing. It is obvious, that this technical SDI view on 'gazetteers' is different from the UNGEGN view on 'gazetteers': *"List of toponyms arranged in alphabetic or sequential order, with an indication of their location and preferably including variant names, type of (topographic) feature and other defining or descriptive information."*<sup>1</sup>

Within UNGEGN recommendations and policies, and indeed within the wider research literature, commonly accepted definitions for the terms 'official' and 'unofficial' do not seem to be available as they relate to gazetteer data. Rather, there seems to be a proliferation of terminology used to define both the types of data which are incorporated into gazetteers, and the gazetteers themselves – ranging from official and authorised to unofficial and informal. The need for the officially sanctioned gazetteers to be of a high quality in terms of accuracy and completeness of available data is increasing rapidly<sup>2</sup>. In a nutshell, a gazetteer enables the user to search and find a location of its interest within an application. A gazetteer service uses location data (usually in object/feature

<sup>1</sup> Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, UNGEGN, 2002, [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/docs/pdf/Glossary\\_of\\_terms\\_revised.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNEGGN/docs/pdf/Glossary_of_terms_revised.pdf), last accessed 04/2017

<sup>2</sup> "The Four Faces of Toponymic Gazetteers", Submitted by Australia, Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 2012, E\_CONF.101\_57\_The Four Faces of Toponymic Gazetteers

based format) with information related to location like a location name, coordinates and/or postcodes<sup>3</sup>.

There is growing interest in the development of a common object/feature-based model for access to named objects/features, often referred to as a 'gazetteer' as well. Two major activities can be mentioned here: an Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Best Practice for Gazetteer Services – Application Profile of the Web Feature Service Gazetteer (WFS-G) Implementation Standard, which has been an OGC Discussion paper on gazetteers (but there is currently no activity ongoing concerning this paper), and an International Standardization Organization (ISO) draft standard for geographic identifiers<sup>4</sup>.

## What are the use cases for making geographical names accessible and available through Web services and applications?

Generally, you can find commercially oriented and open source oriented web feature (gazetteer) services software and implementations. From the technical point of view there might be advantages and disadvantages with every software/tools considered for the services architecture, but these are very specific and depend on the envisaged implementation. Very often the existing IT infrastructure and services architecture in an organisation determines the usage of web services software/tools.

In summary, geographical names are used within different web services and applications:

- As search criteria (location), e.g. in a geoportal, for rescue services, geocoding, geoparsing and navigation.
- As geographical identifiers, e.g. in gazetteer services.
- For visualisation, e.g. as information layer in viewing services.
- In standardisation, translation, and compilation of maps, reports, documents and articles. For instance, reliable information on the correct spelling and the status of names is required by press agencies and map producers.
- For the processing of spatial data sets, e.g. for integration of historical data.
- In human and social science, e.g. in linguistic research, onomastic science, archaeology and etymology.

<sup>3</sup> Explanations to gazetteer services, <http://learningzone.rspoc.org.uk/index.php/Learning-Materials/Introduction-to-OGC-Standards/5.3-Example-of-gazetteer-services>, last accessed 04/2017

<sup>4</sup> Best Practices Document "Gazetteer Service - Application Profile of the Web Feature Service Best Practice", Copyright © 2012 Open Geospatial Consortium; To obtain additional rights of use, visit <http://www.opengeospatial.org/legal>



One of many use case examples may be a news portal using geographical names in different languages to search for any information through a web service and application:



*News portal of the European Commission using geographical names in different languages to search for any information*

All these reasons and use cases lead to the publication of geographical names databases as web services or web applications.

## Conclusion

UNGE GN has continuously adapted its geographical names standardization program as an essential part of spatial data infrastructures, leading to a significant improvement in this portion of the geospatial data management framework promoted by the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) as geographical names are definitely very pertinent to it.

Within UNGE GN a trend of activities in the countries/divisions focused on the establishment of multi-functional or multi-usable geographical names databases, services and applications to provide geographical names data for different purposes has been identified – e.g. providing geographical names as an essential dataset to the national or regional spatial data infrastructures (SDI) or for the support of specific services and applications. Web services technologies for the geographical names database provision, visualization and dissemination are increasingly used and by that supporting the vision of a (national or regional) SDI. This very positive trend of supporting multi-purposes of geographical names recognizes Resolution VIII/6 ‘Integration of Geographical Names data into National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures’ of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Berlin, 2002). Res VIII/6 [...] *“recommends that standardized geographical names data should be better considered in the establishment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) and included in their design, development and implementation”*<sup>5</sup>.

As stated at the beginning this article has been extracted from the “UNGE GN Advanced Manual” to be published on the occasion of the 11. UN Conference on the Standardization on Geographical Names in August 2017 in New York. More references to further information are provided in other chapters of the UNGE GN Advanced Manual.

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<sup>5</sup> UNCSGN Resolutions 1967 – 2012, [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGE GN/docs/RES\\_UN\\_E%20up dated\\_1-10%20CONF.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGE GN/docs/RES_UN_E%20up dated_1-10%20CONF.pdf), last accessed 04/2017

## Making geographical names accessible and available in Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the first Arab counties in the field of geographical names in which a committee on the geographical names was formed in 1984 according to the resolution of the Prime Minister. The Committee was reformed in 2000 to include specialists in this field from different government entities and the private sector. This Committee includes representatives from the following institutions:

- Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC)
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
- Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
- Ministry of Public Works & Housing
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- Department of Land & Survey
- Jordan Academy of Arabic
- Greater Amman Municipality
- Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority
- Members from Private Sector who have good experience in this field

The Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre is the permanent headquarter of this Committee that is chaired by the Director General of RJGC.

### Duties of the Committee:

- 1) Unifying writing geographical names in Jordan.
- 2) Perpetuating and publishing the Jordanian Geographical Names Index.
- 3) Nominating the proposed and substitute names of geographical sites which have been approved to be changed, to the Prime Ministry, as well as proposing new names.
- 4) Approving the system of writing names in Roman letters or non-Arabic names in Arabic letters according the system approved by the United Nations.
- 5) Providing a data bank for replacing or adding new names, including historical events, martyrs, political and literary personalities that have had a distinguished role in social life.
- 6) Following up new developments in Arab countries related to geographical names.
- 7) Representing Jordan in all international conferences and with UNGEGN.

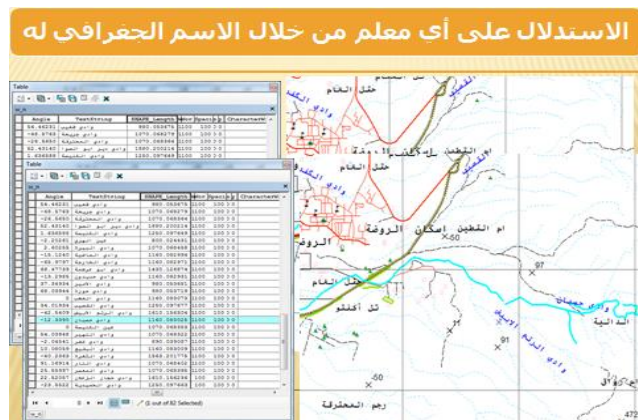
### Authority of the Committee

- 1) Get help from any appropriate experts and specialists from both the public and private sectors if needed.

- 2) Cancel or stop using any new names until it is licensed by the Committee.
- 3) Publish articles, research documents, studies and books, hold conferences and fairs, design posters; use audio-visual media to identify the duties of the committee and its activities in the field of geographical names.
- 4) Conduct research and field studies when necessary.
- 5) Nominate new members (institutions or individuals) or replace working members upon the consent of the Prime Ministry.

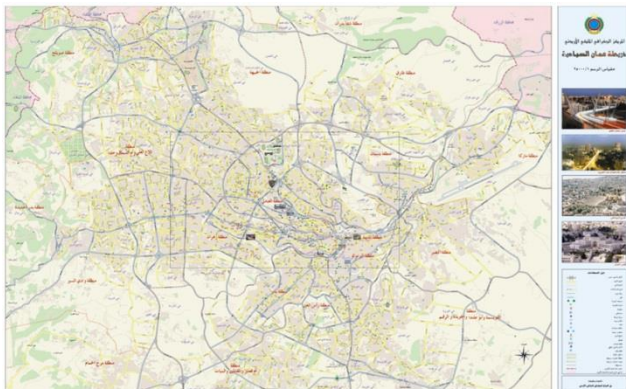
The most important achievements of the National Committee on Geographical Names in the field of preparing databases for geographical names are as follows:

- **The Jordanian Sites Index:**  
This Index was created to be a reference for all sites in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It was arranged and classified according to the plates and alphabets for all cities, villages, urban areas, valleys, mountains, hills, plains and areas. It also included geographic coordinates, Palestine and JTM coordinates and other explanatory notes about the site. This Index includes more than 13,000 names and is available on CD.
- **Maps & Charts:**  
Many maps of various scales for different areas in Jordan were produced for various purposes. These maps include a database for geographical names within establishing and updating the National GIS. Also some of these maps contain names in Arabic language and its opposite in Roman Letters (bilateral writing). These maps are considered an important reference and database of geographical names in Jordan.



Maps and charts

Also guiding charts of Amman city were produced: These charts include names of landmarks in the city (areas, streets, circles, gardens ....etc.).



*Guiding charts*

- **Gazetteers & Indexes:**

The Jordanian Towns Gazetteer, first edition (Balqa Governorate Gazetteer), and second edition (Jarash Governorate Gazetteer) were produced.

Also Jordan is taking care of the Palestinian issue and Palestinian names. An Index of the Israeli settlements in Palestine and an atlas about the Palestinian issue was issued.

- **Atlases:**

RJGC produced the Atlas of Jordan and the World.. This new 2016 edition of the atlas includes maps and information about Jordan and Arab countries, the world and continents, oceans and rivers, flags and dependencies. Romanization was used in the English edition.

Jordan also has a database for the areas, zones and streets (inside and between cities), names of education institutions and names of worship places.

- **Jordan addressing project:**

This project aims to develop and activate the systems of nominating and numbering on the national level, finding an environment and mechanisms that participate in using addresses correctly to improve the life of the Jordanian citizen. Also it aims to prepare Jordan for the electronic works growth and applying electronic patterns to serve development and life goals, opening space for new leading projects, naming streets and gatherings, numbering buildings in cities and towns of Jordan. Many Jordanian cities have accomplished in naming and numbering its urban areas such as: Amman, Zarqa, Fhais and Aqaba.

A database of above-mentioned geographical names was put under the disposal of ministries, public and private institutions in Jordan to be a reference in this concern, depending on the unified Arab system of Romanization. Awareness has been done using various methods through the different media, national and Arab conferences, courses and lectures in the field of geographical names. The web site of the Arab Division ([www.adegn.net](http://www.adegn.net)) in Arabic and English languages was launched. It includes a lot of information about the Arab Division, publications and brochures, a specialized magazine on geographical names has been issued, which is considered the first of its kind in the Middle East, also publishing in Al Meqyas Magazine which is issued by RJGC and contains many articles, research papers and specialized reports on geographical names.

***Dr. Eng. Awni Moh'd Khasawneh***

Director General of RJGC

Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Names

Chairman of Arab Division of Experts on Geographical Names

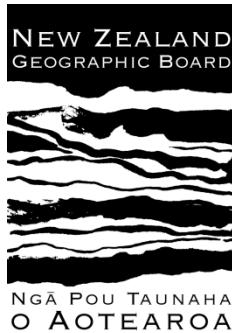
Email: [kawni@yahoo.com](mailto:kawni@yahoo.com)



## New Zealand

### Authority

New Zealand recognises the importance of managing an authoritative list of geographic names and making them freely available and accessible to everyone. The New Zealand Geographic Board Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa (NZGB) is New Zealand’s national naming authority. [Section 13 of the NZGB Act 2008](#) sets out the NZGB’s Gazetteer requirements including establishing and maintaining a publicly available record known as the *New Zealand Gazetteer of Official Geographic Names*.



### New Zealand’s Geospatial Strategy

The New Zealand government recognises geographic names as a fundamental theme of New Zealand’s spatial data infrastructure, and has set [geospatial strategy](#) goals that include access and availability to:

- ensure that government geospatial information and services can be readily discovered, appraised and accessed, and
- ensure that geospatial datasets, services and systems owned by different government agencies and local government can be combined and reused for multiple purposes.

### Departmental Strategic Objective

Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is the government department responsible for administering the NZGB, and one of LINZ’s strategic objectives is to ‘increase the use of geographic information’. This adds further capability for improving delivery of geographic names data.

### NZGB Strategic Goals and Objectives 2015-2025

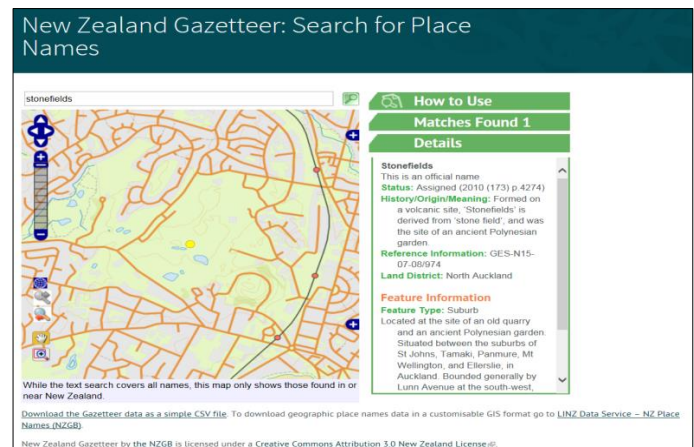
The NZGB has established its own strategic plan to meet:

- the statutory requirements for a Gazetteer,
- the government’s geospatial strategy, and
- LINZ’s strategic objective for increasing the use of geographic information.

The relevant NZGB goal is:

People have easy access to trusted and useful information about geographic names so they can understand the history and culture of these names

- People have easy access to a reliable Gazetteer of New Zealand geographic names and use it in daily life
- Every name in the Gazetteer of New Zealand geographic names, which includes undersea names, has a defined extent and story
- All populated places in New Zealand are officially named and defined
- People have access to historic information about names
- We publish bilingual documents and help people to understand what geographic features look like, and to learn about Māori names
- We play our part in New Zealand’s spatial data infrastructure to ensure standardised, consistent and accurate geodata
- Gazetteer data is openly available for reuse



### Online gazetteer

The NZGB achieves this goal through several strategic actions relating to Gazetteer improvement, by:

- adding NZGB archive information into the Gazetteer database, eg history, origin and meaning,
- defining the extent of all official names in the Gazetteer database, and
- adding links to official names in the online Gazetteer pointing to New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL), for the sign for a geographic name.

To meet its ‘publicly available’ legislative requirement, the NZGB uses:

#### 1. Online Gazetteer

The online Gazetteer has a base map, and browse and search functionality (‘matches found’ panel), offering information about specific geographic names (‘details



panel). The NZGB launched it in 2013. After editing and updating the Gazetteer database system (PostgreSQL database plugged into Q-GIS), it can be published immediately to the online Gazetteer. The online Gazetteer gives easy and uncomplicated access to authoritative geographic names. It provides users with full and free download options of the data, either as a CSV file or through the [LINZ data Service](#) (LDS).

## 2. Download options

- The CSV file lists all geographic names released in the online Gazetteer. This format is useful to identify all official and recorded names for showing in other official publications including maps and charts.
- The LINZ Data Service (LDS) provides numerous options for downloading the data. Users can integrate directly from the data layers via web services into their own GIS applications (ie machine to machine interoperability in real time through WFS<sup>6</sup>, WMS<sup>7</sup> and WMTS<sup>8</sup>). Three LDS layers relate specifically to the [NZGB's geographic names](#) in the online Gazetteer. These three layers are generated at the same time as publishing the online Gazetteer.
  - NZ Place Names (NZGB)
  - NZ Place Names – Polygons (NZGB)
  - NZ Place Names – Lines (NZGB)

Most of LINZ's datasets are free to use and are available under an open Creative Commons license.

## 3. Raising awareness

To raise awareness of the online Gazetteer (and the CSV and LDS layers) the NZGB refers to it in everyday correspondence with users, including government agencies. Use of the online Gazetteer is expected to increase in the community through active promotion of it. The [NZGB webpages](#), which detail the processes for making and submitting on geographic name proposals, include links to the online Gazetteer.

### Main users

The key users of the online Gazetteer are:

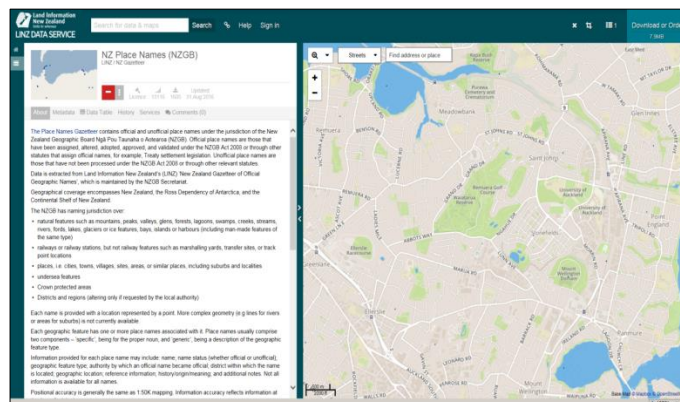
- The general public of New Zealand
- The New Zealand Geographic Board, its three Committees and its Secretariat
- The Minister for Land Information

<sup>6</sup> Web Feature Service

<sup>7</sup> Web Map Service

<sup>8</sup> Web Map Tile Service

- Māori (indigenous New Zealanders) grouped as iwi (tribe) and hapū (sub tribe)
- Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for Māori Development)
- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission)
- The Office of Treaty Settlements, Treaty of Waitangi claimants and the Post Settlement Commitments Unit of the Ministry of Justice
- The Department of Conservation
- Central and local government, Crown Research Institutes, and emergency services such as NZ Police and NZ Fire
- International, such as Antarctic and undersea naming authorities



LINZ Data Service

### Conclusion

A tangible benefit of providing access to and making geographic names available, is the freedom to discover heritage, culture, connection, identity, origin and meaning. Those living in or visiting an area value the stories attached to geographic names – they remind of and protect past events for future generations. The layers of history can enrich us and help with our acceptance and understanding of people and place.

Equally important is the practical needs to orient ourselves and to navigate to other places, without ambiguity or confusion, particularly for emergency management.

Making Gazetteers easy to access and search, freely available, downloadable and interoperable in a range of formats, compliments these associations, and users enjoy authoritative information that provides certainty and a reliable single point of truth.

### Wendy Shaw

Secretary for the New Zealand Geographic Board

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## Accessibility and Availability of Geographical Names in Spain

### Introduction

The Law 14/2010, about geographic information infrastructures and services of Spain, was published on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010, as a transposition of the European Directive 2007/2/CE. According to this Law, spatial information infrastructures and data in Spain must guarantee their interoperability, whatever their source.

Annexes I and II of the Law contain the list and definition of geographic data which constitute the Geographic Reference Information is defined as “the geographic information that any user or application need for referencing their data. It gives a precise location for the information, allows combining data from different sources and serves to interpret data by locating them in a geographic space”. Annex I of the Law includes, as a part of the Geographic Reference Information, the Basic Geographical Gazetteer of Spain (Nomenclátor Geográfico Básico de España, NGBE), other gazetteers georeferenced place names and the Municipalities and Settlements Gazetteer (Nomenclátor Geográfico de Municipios y Entidades de Población, NGMEP).

The Royal Decree 1545/2007, which regulates the National Cartographic System, gives definitions for:

- National Geographical Gazetteer (NGN): a dynamic record of geo-referenced information representing geographic official names to be used in official maps. The National Geographical Gazetteer (NGN) is prepared from the NGBE (made by the National Geographic Institute) and gazetteers made by the Autonomous Communities.
- NGBE is prepared from georeferenced official names on topographic maps at scales of 1: 25.000 and smaller, in Spanish and co-official languages.
- Gazetteers of Autonomous Communities are composed of georeferenced official names on topographic maps at scales larger than 1:25.000.

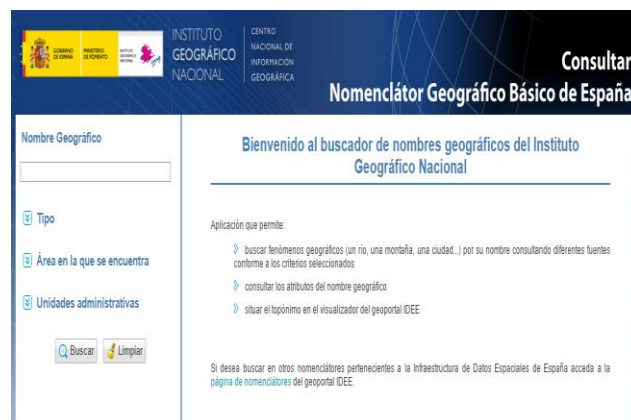
Finally, the Order FOM/2087/2015, for data policy of digital geographic information produced by the IGN, allows free use of NGBE and NGMEP only by providing the name of the creator and attribution parties (IGN) in a way similar to Creative Commons By license. Moreover, IGN must guarantee accessibility and availability of their digital geographic products and services.

### Publication and difussion of gazetteers in Spain

- Basic Geographical Gazetteer of Spain (NGBE)

NGBE is available through a download Web Feature Service (WFS) according to D2.8.1.3 INSPIRE Data Specification on Geographical Names – Guidelines. URL: <http://www.ign.es/wfs-inspire/ngbe>.

NGBE is also available online at <http://www.ign.es/ngbe/Gazetteer.html>



Place names browser

You can also freely download NGBE database at the IGN Download Centre web, according to the conditions previously mentioned in the data policy:

<http://centrodedescargas.cnig.es/CentroDescargas/equipamiento.do?method=mostrarEquipamiento>

NGBE has recorded 1,640 files downloaded, 0,03 million related searches and 4,99 GB of data downloaded.



NGBE download page



NGBE downloadable in this web page does not comply with D2.8.1.3 specification, but is an enlarged data model inside a single table which contains all NGBE place names, as well as multilingual place names. It is currently carried on the task of matching NGBE place names with their correspondent names in Autonomous Communities gazetteers.

- **Municipalities and Settlements Gazetteer (NGMEP)**

The Municipalities and Settlements Gazetteer (Nomenclátor Geográfico de Municipios y Entidades de Población, NGMEP), contains, amongst other fields, the names and locations of municipalities and settlements. It has been compiled from different sources: Local Entities Register (Registro de Entidades Locales, REL), which provides the official names of administrative units and their capital cities; National Statistics Institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, INE), which provides the population figure; Official bulletins, where all changes related to official names are published; other IGN cartographic sources.

NGMEP has recorded over 12.021 files downloaded. The NGMEP is also available at: <http://centrodedescargas.cnig.es/CentroDescargas/equipamiento.do?method=mostrarEquipamiento>



[NGMEP download page](#)

- **National Geographical Gazetteer (NGN)**

The National Geographical Gazetteer (Nomenclátor Geográfico Nacional, NGN) is currently being compiled. It will be continuously being updated as far as the Autonomous Communities finish their regional gazetteers according to INSPIRE data and services specifications.

An application for searching geographical names is currently available at <http://www.idee.es/IDEE-Gazetteer/Gazetteer.html?locale=es>. It is based on interoperable gazetteers services (WFS) according to INSPIRE data model.

The IDEE geoportal offers data and services (OGC, INSPIRE) provided by several Spanish public administrations at three levels (national, regional and local/municipal) and also at an international level (<http://www.idee.es/web/guest/directorio-de-servicios>).

### Conclusions

Spain keeps on making efforts to offer geographic information for free, and complying with interoperability and normalization through standardized services and software. These efforts are divided into updating place names in gazetteers and implementing these information through web services according to INSPIRE specifications.

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## FROM THE DIVISIONS

### Romano-Hellenic Division

*Proceedings of the International Scientific Symposium “Place name as intangible cultural heritage” (Italy).*

The Romano-Hellenic Division is glad to announce the publication of the proceedings of the International Scientific Symposium “Place name as intangible cultural heritage”, that was held in Firenze [Florence], 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, under the auspices of the Accademia della Crusca, the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI) and the Government of the Tuscany Region. The book is edited by Andrea Cantile and Helen Kerfoot and published by the IGMI. It contains the following items:

*Introduction* (Maj. Gen. Gianfranco Rossi);  
*About the Romano-Hellenic Division of the UNGEGN* (Andrea Cantile).

#### **Prolegomena**

- *Place names as intangible cultural heritage: potential and limits* (Andrea Cantile);
- *UNEGN, national geographical names authorities, and the preservation of toponymic cultural heritage* (Helen Kerfoot);
- *Geographical names as part of the cultural heritage: some general thoughts* (Peter Jordan).

#### **Genius loci, identity, safeguard and preservation of the place names**

- *Genius loci and identity* (Cosimo Palagiano, Sapienza University of Rome);
- *The place name in the complexity of transonymic processes. A cultural-historical heritage to be safeguarded and preserved beyond its primary referentiality* (Enzo Caffarelli, University of Roma Tor Vergata);
- *Toponymy as source of (Pre)History: our oldest river names* (Alberto Nocentini, University of Florence);
- *Territoriality and toponyms. Borders and bordering in the historical maps of Trentino* (Elena Dai Prà, University of Trento).

#### **Place names standardization and cultural heritage**

- *Place names as intangible cultural heritage - The example of Sweden* (Leif Nilsson and Annette Torenjö, Uppsala University);
- *Le patrimoine toponymique d’Île-de-France à travers les transports en commun* (Élisabeth Calvarin, French-speaking Division);
- *Situation and developments in the standardization of geographical names in Spain* (Marta Montilla Lillo and

Angélica Castaño Suárez, National Geographic Institute, Spain);

- *Toponymic standardization in Cyprus. Geographical names - intangible cultural heritage* (Andreas Hadjiraftis, Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names).

#### **Historical and geographical point of view**

- *Geographical aspects of place names research. An overview* (Laura Cassi, University of Florence);
- *Place names of Tuscany: From the cartographic sources to the regional index of place names* (Umberto Sassoli and Maurizio Trevisani, Tuscany Region);
- *A cultural heritage: toponymy in Tuscany. An historical, geographical and linguistic enquiry with GIS support* (Giuliana Biagioli, University of Pisa);
- *Cultural heritage and landscape in Tuscan toponymy with special reference to the West Coast* (Matteo Massarelli, University of Florence, and Flora Valbona, Sapienza University of Rome);
- *A changing identity: from an agrarian and manufacturing region to a multi-functional territory* (Nicola Gabellieri, University of Genova, and Massimiliano Grava, University of Pisa);
- *The Projection Overseas of a Toponym. The Placename ‘Ravenna’ in the USA* (Stefano Piastra, University of Bologna);
- *On the origin and persistence of praedial toponyms in Central Italy* (Alessandro Camiz, Sapienza University of Rome);
- *The Progetto Toponomastica Storica (The Historical Toponymy Project) by Società Savonese di Storia Patria* (Furio Ciciliot, Società Savonese di Storia Patria);
- *A territory speaking as people: the dialects in place names of the Lucanian area (Southern Italy)* (Nicola Di Novella, Graziano Ferrari and Gabriele Tarabusi, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology);
- *Cartography and toponymy: the denomination of the African territory in Italian colonial experience* (Andrea Masturzo, University of Bergamo).

#### **Afterword**

The book will be distributed by the IGMI.

#### **Andrea Cantile**

Chair of the Romano-Hellenic Division

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## Norden Division

The Norden Division held its yearly meeting in Oslo, Norway on 24 March 2017. Eleven members from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden were present at the meeting. It was particularly nice to have a representative from the Kven communities present and much valuable new information was relayed.

A number of important and central subjects were discussed at the meeting, among others the latest news from the Norden Division area – including information on developments in geographical names regulations, geographical names databases, the effects of administrative changes to the namespace, minority name issues, new and ongoing projects and recent publications.

Much of the meeting was spent on preparations for the joint 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN Conference and 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEKN Session, which included discussions in relation to the 50 Anniversary of the UNCSGN Conferences and the proposed changes in operational model for UNGEKN – as was the question of the relationship between UNGEKN and UN-GGIM and how to further national cooperation among division members and national UN-GGIM members.

Otherwise, the meeting focused on the change of chairmanship from Denmark to Norway. The current chair has been in charge of the Norden Division for two periods and feels it is time to hand over the chairmanship to Norway, which has kindly accepted. The new Norden Division Chair will be Ingvil Nordland of the Norwegian Language Council (Språkrådet) and she will officially be taking over the chair in August at the 11th UNCSGN Conference (see below). In order to secure a smooth transition, the current chair, Peder Gammeltoft, will continue as secretary of the division.

The next Norden Division Meeting will take place on 8 August 2017 in New York, in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN Conference and 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEKN Session 7 - 18 August 2017. The meeting will take place at the United Nations Headquarters a date and time to be announced.

***Peder Gammeltoft***

Chair of Norden Division

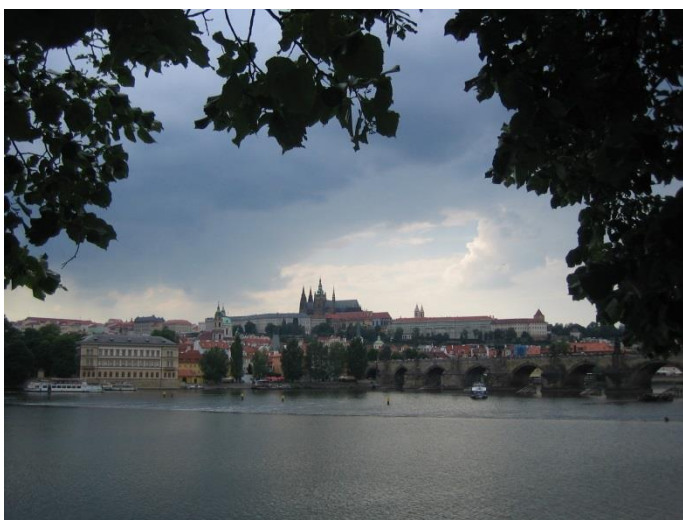
Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)

## FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

### *Working Group on Exonyms*

**19<sup>th</sup> Meeting, UNGE GN Working Group on Exonyms, in conjunction with a meeting of the UNGE GN Working Group on Romanization Systems, Prague [Praha], Czechia, 6-8<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**B**y this meeting in Prague [Praha], the Working Group of Exonyms continued its tradition of extramural workshops in the sense of workshops offside UNGE GN sessions and UN conferences for the standardization of geographical names, occasionally in conjunction with meetings of other UNGE GN working groups, UNGE GN divisions or ICA commissions. This time, the Working Group on Romanization Systems, chaired by Peeter PÄLL, was the partner. The workshop was hosted by the Czech Geodetical Office [Český úřad zeměměřický a katastrální], and Land Survey Office [Zeměměřický úřad], in person by Irena ŠVEHLOVÁ and Klara STEINEROVÁ. The 26 participants from 16 countries enjoyed a great hospitality, an interesting program with 19 scientific papers, a general debate on the use of exonyms and at the last day of the meeting a common excursion to a bright example of Bohemian urban and ecclesiastical culture, Kutná Hora.



*Prague Castle [Pražský hrad] across Vltava River (Photo: Peter Jordan 2011)*

The general debate on the use of exonyms resulted in an agreement on a set of globally common characteristics and criteria that will be submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Conference for the Standardization of Geographical Names as a Conference Paper. The discussion in the session of the Working Group on Romanization Systems focused on the romanization of Arabic

as well as on a proposal to measure the implementation of UN-approved systems.



*Kutná Hora, Saint Barbara's Cathedral [Chrám sv. Barbory] and Jesuit College [Jezuitská kolej] (Photo: Peter Jordan 2017)*

#### **Opening and introduction into the local namespace**

JORDAN, Peter (Austria, Convenor, UNGE GN Working Group on Exonyms)

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia, Convenor, UNGE GN Working Group on Romanization Systems)

BRÁZDIL, Karel (Czechia, Director, Land Survey Office)

HARVALÍK, Milan (Czechia): *Praha, Vltava* and other Czech toponyms

#### **WGE Session 1: General approaches** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): The endonym/exonym divide – questions resolved and still open at the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Working Group on Exonyms

POKOLY, Béla (Hungary): Exonyms and endonyms, national names and foreign names

GAMMELTOFT, Peder (Denmark): The exonym – A problem or a benefit for communication?

ZAGÓRSKI, Bogusław (Poland): Endonym-exonym divide (?) in practice – Observations based on two World maps in Arabic

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): The Dynamics of exonyms and an accusation of 'cultural suicide'



**WGE Session 2: Exonym use by countries** (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)  
HELLELAND, Botolv (Norway): Norway – still going strong on the endonymy line  
WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Toponyms and the definite article in English language text and speech  
BATTLE, Maria del Mar (Spain): Handling exonyms in Catalan: general use and criteria for standardizing  
BOHÁČ, Pavel (Czechia): List of Czech exonyms. Standardized forms, variants  
GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): Colour in Slovenian exonyms  
CRLJENKO, Ivana (Croatia): Comments on the proposed list of criteria for the use of exonyms – Croatian perspective  
BÖLCSKEI, Andrea; GERCSÁK, Gábor; MIKESY, Gábor (Hungary): Use of exonyms in present-day Hungary  
JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Exonym use in Austria  
CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): Exonym use in Latvian  
WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): Current use of exonyms in Japan  
LIŠČÁK, Vladimír (Czechia): Endonyms and exonyms in Taiwan  
CHOO, Sungjae (Republic of Korea): Use of exonyms in Korea: results of a survey

**WGE Session 3: General discussion and drafting a CP on the use of exonyms** (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

**WGRS Session** (Chair: Peeter PÄLL, Estonia): Besides a paper by Paul WOODMAN (United Kingdom) on “Romanization in a changing world”, discussion on the status of various romanization systems with a focus on the romanization of Arabic was held and a proposal to measure the implementation of UN-approved systems discussed.

**Peter JORDAN**

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**Peeter PÄLL**

Convenor, WG on Romanization Systems

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## **Working Group on Publicity and Funding**

The meeting of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding was held on 20 April 2017, in Innsbruck, Austria, in conjunction with the Working Groups on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and Evaluation and Implementation (see below).

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding presented its progress report on the meeting. The main points being: Completed items since last WG meeting; Funding activities, including toponymy training courses, the Toponymic Terminology Database and translation of publicity material; Public outreach, in the form of the Information Bulletin, the UNGEGN website and social media efforts (e.g. facebook and twitter), Wikipedia information and the UNGEGN Media kit. An overview of recent and coming outreach in relation to the IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy, various onomastic and cartographic fora was also presented.

It was an interesting and instructive experience to have a joint meeting with the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and the Working Group of Evaluation and Implementation. There is always much new knowledge to take in from such meetings – to see how the various UNGEGN Working Groups interact and what subjects are particularly

important to individual WGs. It is my expressed hope that similar joint meetings will be held in the future.

Whilst I have the opportunity, I would like to thank Gerhard Rampl warmly for organizing the joint Working Group Meeting in beautiful Tyrol at Innsbruck University. Innsbruck University also deserves thanks for generously hosting the Joint Working Group Meeting. We all had a very productive, memorable and enjoyable meeting.

**Peder Gammeltoft**

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)

## *Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Working Group on Publicity and Funding*

**Joint Working Group Meeting in Innsbruck, Austria, 19 - 22 April 2017**



*Participants of the Joint Meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Innsbruck, Austria, 19-22 April 2017*

Innsbruck provided a spectacular setting for the joint meeting of the Working Groups on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage; Evaluation and Implementation and; Publicity and Funding, 19-22 April 2017. The meeting was attended by 13 experts from Algeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

The meeting started with a mini-symposium on *Local Input*, arranged and moderated by the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage. The two presentations of the symposium: *WebGIS based Place Names Survey in the Tyrol* and *Slovenian farmyard and field names in Carinthia as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage*, provided a solid insight into local Austrian naming questions – at the same time touching on global aspects such as national versus local standardization. The two papers formed the basis of an interesting and in-depth discussion on issues relating to the issues of this working group.

The progress report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation highlighted the efforts of the Working Group for encouraging the implementation of resolutions; results of the workshop on implementing resolutions for the case of commemorative naming, held at the 29<sup>th</sup> session in Bangkok; a review of working papers submitted to the 29<sup>th</sup> session with

regard to resolutions, to name a few. The convenor also reported that the resolutions database, maintained by the National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea, currently contains a full set of resolutions in English, French and Spanish. An Arabic language version of the resolutions text is in preparation and expected to be published soon. A preliminary results of the evaluation survey of the Bangkok session provided good sources to be referred in preparing the upcoming sessions/Conferences.

The convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding reported in the progress report on the following points: Completed items since last WG meeting; Funding activities, including toponymy training courses; the Toponymic Terminology Database and translation of publicity material; Public outreach, in the form of the Information Bulletin, the UNGEKN website and social media efforts (e.g. Facebook and twitter), Wikipedia information and the UNGEKN Media kit. Outreach efforts of recent and coming IGU/ICA Joint Commission on Toponymy, various onomastic and cartographic fora were also discussed.

The main focus of this joint meeting concerned the future structure of UNGEKN and changes to the structure of the organization – for instance, regarding the length of the meetings in UNGEKN in future, as well as the future relationship of UNGEKN and UN-GGIM and joint operational modalities. Through lengthy discussions during the three meeting days, the participants in the meeting reached consensus on a number of points – which will be presented at the venue in New York in August.

Next joint meeting between the Working Group Monday 14 August 2017 at the UN Headquarters 9:00-9:45am

We, the convenors all feel that the joint Working Group meeting was a great success. There is always much to learn from the joint meetings and see how the various UNGEKN Working Groups interact and what subjects are particularly important to individual WGs. It is my expressed hope that similar joint meetings will be held in the future.

The convenors would like to warmly thank Innsbruck University for its generous support for the meeting and to Gerhard Rampl for the organization of the joint Working Group Meeting in the wonderful city of Innsbruck. The excursion led by him on the last day to the higher points in the city endowed a great chance to take a general grasp of the city's namescape as well as to taste its beautiful scenery. All



participants had a very enjoyable and memorable time here – and not least very productive.

Participants of the meeting:

1. Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
2. Catherine Cheetham (United Kingdom)
3. Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)
4. Naima Friha (Tunisia)
5. Peder Gammeltoft (Denmark)
6. Helen Kerfoot (Canada)
7. Leila Mattfolk (Sweden)
8. Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)
9. Gerhard Rampl (Austria)
10. Annette Torensjö (Sweden)
11. William Watt (Australia)
12. Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany)
13. Elisabeth Gruber (Austria)

Through teleconference:

1. Cecile Blake (UNSD/UNEGGN)

***Sungjae Choo***

Convenor, Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation  
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***Annette Torensjö***

Convenor, Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage  
Email: [annette.torensjo@sprakochfolkminnen.se](mailto:annette.torensjo@sprakochfolkminnen.se)

***Peder Gammeltoft***

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding  
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## FROM THE COUNTRIES

### Croatian names of countries, capitals and dependent territories

#### Introduction

Within the project "A Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names", that has been initiated and conducted at the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography in Zagreb since 2013, the first reference book on exonyms, *Hrvatski egzonimi I.: imena država, glavnih gradova i njihovih stanovnika* ("Croatian exonyms I: names of countries, capitals and their inhabitants"), was published in November 2016. The second volume, *Hrvatski egzonimi II.* ("Croatian exonyms II"), the one that would comprise all registered Croatian exonyms, not only names of countries, their capitals and dependent territories but also names of settlements, regions, seas, oceans, continents, rivers, lakes, mountains, coastal relief forms, historical regions and sites, etc., should be published in 2018. The final third output of the project will be a comprehensive, web-friendly database of exonyms and their geographical and lexical attributes. It should be released in 2018.

Since a unique Croatian national authority for the standardization of geographical names that would register exonyms, as well as endonyms, has not been established yet, the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography currently possess the most comprehensive list of exonyms. The list is not finished yet, but even at this moment, it is extensive enough to make a solid foundation for a highly anticipated standardization process, and also for studying (and deleting) exonyms. Besides the recommended Croatian name of geographical feature, the list includes some other geographical and lexical attributes that describe the name, such as: original name in official (and well established) language(s) in Latin, official (and well established) language(s), type of geographical feature, location of the feature, allonyms if appear, forms of exonym registered in 18 sources (each in different column), and comments if necessary. The extensiveness of the list implies that all attributes cannot be published in the printed publication, but could be accessible and browsed through the web database.

#### Croatian exonyms I

Reference book *Hrvatski egzonimi I.: imena država, glavnih gradova i njihovih stanovnika* offers the recommended Croatian names of countries, capitals and dependent territories in general, not official use, i.e. for the usage in education, publishing, media, lexicography, etc. The official forms of country names should be used in strictly official,

diplomatic purposes. Most of country names have already undergone a process of adaptation in the Croatian language; they are well accepted and unambiguous. However, some names, even the official ones, still do not have a unique form.



*Hrvatski egzonimi I*

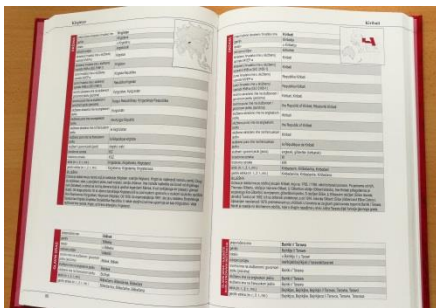
There are some country names and names of dependent territories in the Croatian language equal to the original names (e.g. Argentina, Crna Gora, Venezuela, Curacao, Jersey, and Tokelau), so they are not exonyms. To keep the totality, all country names and names of dependent territories, regardless of whether they are exonyms or the original names, are presented in the book. There are few reasons for including names of capitals in the book: a) capitals are centres of political power and therefore among the most important towns (usually the most important ones), within the national territory, b) necessity for their presentation in an increasing number of printed and virtual maps is rising, c) information of any kind are rapidly disseminating, hence people are getting more informed about world events daily (which means the introduction of "new" geographical names or more frequent use of remote and less known ones is taking place more than ever before), d) in public discourse names of towns are frequently use metonymically, as identifiers of the entire country. In general use, we often have to write or read names of inhabitants, relative adjectives, genitives and locatives of country names and names of capitals. Therefore, these forms of words are also included in the reference book.

More than 40 sources abundant with names of countries, capitals and dependent territories have been consulted during the preparation of "Croatian exonyms I". These sources can be divided into three main groups: geographical, linguistic and lexicographical. This means that the world atlases, lexicons, encyclopaedias, official lists of country names, orthographies, dictionaries and other linguistic reference books have been reviewed. The oldest one is *Kozenov atlas svijeta* ("Kozen's World Atlas") issued in 1887, and the latest ones are the web databases such as ISO Online Browsing Platform, Geonames,

UNTERM, *Hrvatska enciklopedija on line* ("Croatian Encyclopaedia on line"), etc.

Some Croatian names of countries, capitals and dependent territories appear in different forms in various sources. Thus, for the purpose of recommendation of one or rarely two Croatian forms of names, we had to establish some basic principles. These are: a) systematic principle (to be as systematic and coherent as possible, i.e. by using the analogy we have tried to recommend the forms of names according to the previously confirmed patterns), b) principle of tradition (takes into account the tradition of usage of a certain form of name), c) verification and prevalence in the usage (this principle was very useful in solving the problems of dualities), d) principle of simplicity (implies the most simple form of name should be used so the name could be easily remembered, written and read), e) principle of adaptability to the modern language (we have considered the contemporary trends in the development of the Croatian language). The recommendations were often made by combining more principles.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part consists of 198 tables with country names (placed in the book in alphabetical order), 198 tables of names of capitals and 198 small scale locational maps. On each page, there are tables of country name, its corresponding capital, and small locational map of country



The following geographical and lexical attributes describe each country name (each in its own row):

- 1) recommended short Croatian name,
- 2) genitive,
- 3) locative,
- 4) relative adjective,
- 5) short Croatian name in the official usage of Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
- 6) short Croatian name in the official usage of Croatian National Bank (ISO 3166-1),
- 7) full Croatian name in the official usage of Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs,
- 8) full Croatian name in the official usage of Croatian National Bank (ISO 3166-1),
- 9) original short name in official and well established language(s),
- 10) original full name in official and well established language(s),
- 11) official short name in English,

- 12) official full name in English,
- 13) official short name in French,
- 14) official full name in French,
- 15) official and well established language(s),
- 16) alpha-2 code,
- 17) alpha-3 code,
- 18) name of inhabitant (male, female, plural),
- 19) genitive of name of inhabitant (male, female, plural),
- 20) notes.

Notes include information on:

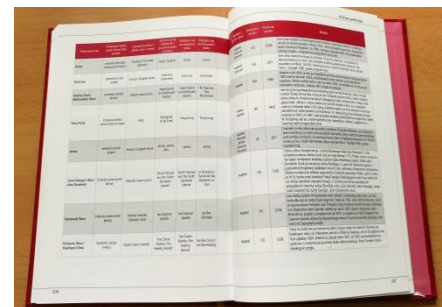
- a) motivation of naming,
- b) origins (etymology) and history of Croatian name, rarely of the original name,
- c) short historical data (in relation to the name itself),
- d) former names – renaming,
- e) variants (forms) of names in the Croatian language (if there are more than one),
- f) differences in official form of names if appear,
- g) reasons for recommending a certain form of name,
- h) interesting facts.

Each name of capital is described by the following attributes (rows):

- 1) recommended Croatian name,
- 2) genitive,
- 3) locative,
- 4) relative adjective,
- 5) original name in and well established language(s),
- 6) official name in English,
- 7) official name in French,
- 8) name of inhabitant (male, female, plural),
- 9) genitive of name of inhabitant (male, female, plural).

The second part of the book includes one extensive table with the names of 51 dependent territories, described in 10 columns (attributes):

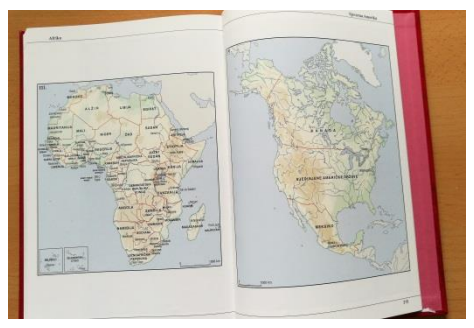
- 1) recommended name,
- 2) affiliation and administrative status within the country to which it belongs,
- 3) location,
- 4) original name in official and well established language(s),
- 5) official name in English,
- 6) official name in French,
- 7) official and well established language(s),
- 8) alpha-2 code,
- 9) alpha-3 code,





10) notes (structurally similar to the one for country names, but without motivations of naming).

The third part of the book is a cartographical part. It includes six maps of continents. The only names recorded on the maps are those of



recommended Croatian country names and names of capitals.

For more efficient browsing the book, a name index with 472 listed names is included at the end of the book (which makes the fourth part of the book).

Ivana Crljenko
Geographer and lexicographer
The Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography
Email: ivana.crljenko@lzmk.hr

Peru - Mediso De Difusión De La Base De Datos De Los Nombres Geográficos

La Dirección de Nombres Geográficos a través del Instituto Geográfico Nacional es la encargada del Registro, Verificación, Validación y publicación de los Nombres Geográficos a través del siguiente proceso:

1. Etapa de campo, actividad principal en el cual se registran los nombres geográficos, el cual cuenta con las siguientes actividades:

- Entrevistas a los pobladores: Se realiza las entrevistas a los pobladores más antiguos del lugar y se va registrando cada entidad geográfica con su respectivo topónimo.
Posicionamiento de las entidades geográficas: Se toman puntos de coordenadas con navegador GPS para ubicar la entidad geográfica.
Toma de Fotografías: Se registra las entidades a través de fotografías.
Datos complementarios: Se anota todos los datos históricos, geográficos, etimológicos de la entidad.
Registro de la Información toponímica: Todos los datos o la información tomada en campo se registran en una ficha técnica.

FICHA DE CAMPO PARA REGISTRO DE NOMBRES GEOGRÁFICOS
(1) Nombre Genérico: Centro Poblado
(2) Nombre Específico: Los Chiveros
(3) Nombre Variante:
(4) Posición Geográfica: Zona: 17, 9430402 N, 526458 E, Lat -5,15315099, Long -80,76127513
(5) Lugar donde pertenece: Departamento: Piura, Provincia: Piura, Distrito: Veintiséis de Octubre
(6) Origen del Nombre (lengua Nativa)
(7) Reseña Histórica:
(8) Descripción:
(9) Observaciones: Informantes: Sr. Pedro Villegas Matias, Sra. Francisca Sillipú Prieto
(10) Responsable: SO. J. Amasifuen C., Supervisor: My. S. Galindo Q., Fecha: 12/06/2016



2. Etapa de Gabinete, se valida toda la información recopilada en campo, y se elabora una base de datos de acuerdo a las siguientes actividades:

- Se descarga toda la información registrada en el GPS Navegador, utilizando el sistema de información geográfica.
En el Software utilizado se elabora una base de datos para el registro de la toponimia.

Table with columns: N°, NOMBRE\_GEN, NOMBRE\_ESP, FECHA, COOR\_UTM (X, Y), COOR\_GEO (X, Y), ALTITUD, CODIGO DE HOJA, ESCALA, OBSERV.

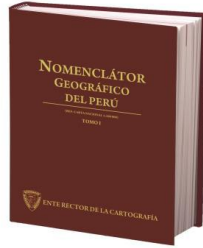
- Luego de crear y llenar la base de datos, se guardara como archivo DBF, la cual se abrirá en Excel y se editara para guardarlo como archivo xls.

Excel spreadsheet showing a detailed data table with columns for N°, NOMBRE\_GEN, NOMBRE\_ESP, NOMBRE\_VAR, ZONA, X, Y, LATITUD, LONGITUD, AL.



MEDIOS DE DIFUSIÓN

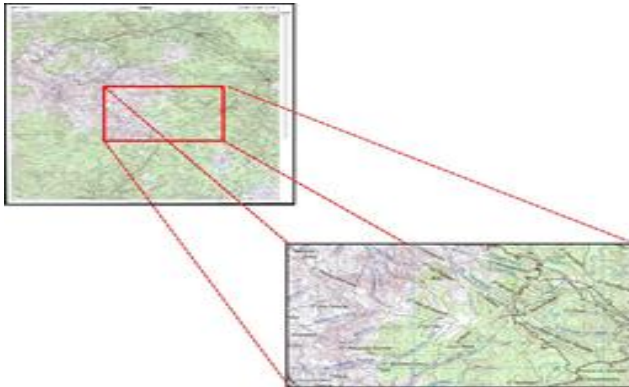
- **Nomenclator Geográfico;** como producto final se elabora los Nomenclátor Geográfico, en el cual va ir registrado alfabéticamente todos los topónimos levantados en campo con sus respectivas coordenadas.



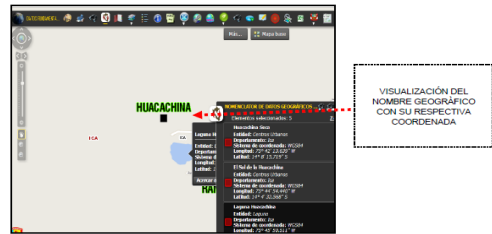
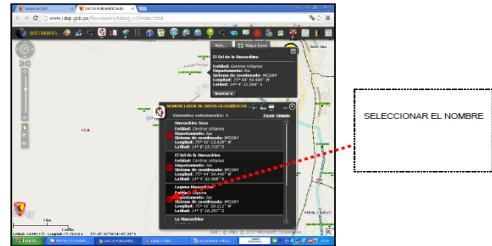
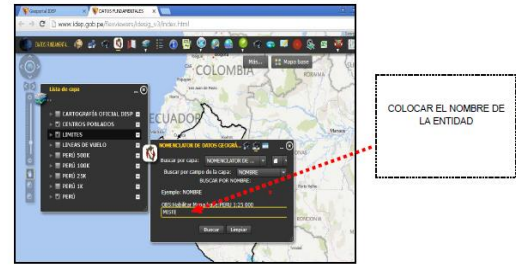
Estos Nomenclátor son difundidos a todas las instituciones a nivel nacional, entre las cuales comprenden:

- Gobiernos Regionales
- Gobiernos Provinciales
- Gobiernos Locales
- Instituciones Públicas y privadas

- **Cartas Nacionales:** La base de datos realizada con la información recopilada en campo, se utiliza para la actualización de la carta nacional la cual va estar accesible para el usuario en general.



- **Geoportal:** El GEOPORTAL del Instituto Geográfico Nacional es una sitio web para obtener información de los datos geográficos, entre ellos podemos encontrar la publicación de la toponimia a escala 1:100 000 y 1:25 000 y es accesible a todo público usuario ([www.idep.gob.pe](http://www.idep.gob.pe))



**Tte Crl CyT Oscar Victor Paucar LLaja**, Director General de Geografía  
**My CyT Sergio Galindo Quicaño**, Director de Nombres Geográficos  
**Ing. Geógrafa Rosa Casapia Armendáriz**, Asistente Técnica de la Dirección de Nombres Geográficos  
**Email:** [nombres\\_geograficos@ign.gob.pe](mailto:nombres_geograficos@ign.gob.pe)



## Poland - National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG)

The **National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG)** is an official, centrally maintained reference database of reliable and up-to-date names of geographical objects recommended for official use. In Poland, according to the *Geodetic and Cartographic Law of 17 May 1989 (Dziennik Ustaw 2016, item 1629, as amended)*, the body responsible for matters related to maintaining the national register of geographical names containing current and historical information about names of localities, parts of localities and physiographic features, as well as Polish versions of geographical objects located outside of the Republic of Poland, is Surveyor General of Poland. The idea of establishing a database of geographical names dates back to the 1990s, and in 1994 works to create the National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG) commenced, which have involved several stages.

Currently they are focused on providing the PRNG database with missing names, resolving inconsistencies, and developing lists of physiographic feature names for purposes of standardisation by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects by the minister in charge of public administration.

The information included in the register is the most complete data set containing current and former names of localities and physiographic features within the Republic of Poland, which also includes their comprehensive characteristics.

The manner of maintaining the data included in the PRNG and its thematic scope is specified by the regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 14 February 2012 on the national register of geographical names (*Dziennik Ustaw 2012, item 309, as amended*). The regulation specifies:

- the detailed scope of information collected in the PRNG database,
- the organisation, procedure and technical standards of creating, updating, verifying and disclosing the register data.

The PRNG includes data on the official, standardised and non-standardised names of geographical objects (names of localities and physiographic features) along with detailed attributes of the names and the objects they denote. All items (names) included in the PRNG database have spatial references (geographic coordinates).

The PRNG uses 7 classes of geographical objects:

- 1) for localities → locality;
- 2) for physiographic features → topographic feature, flowing water feature, stationary water feature, other water feature, water body floor topographic feature, other physiographic feature.

The regulation on the national register of geographical names defines several object types for each class, for example for locality: town, village, part of village, hamlet, settlement, colony and other, and for physiographic features: lowland, plain, valley, hill, prominence, mountain, summit, lake, pond, river, bay, canal, dyke, bog, island, dune, field, meadow, forest, part of forest, and many others.

Each geographical object located within Poland included in the national register of geographical names has 48 attributes, including the following mandatory attributes:

- main name, type of object,
- country, voivodship, county, commune,
- identifier of the country territorial division unit,
- name status, source of information,
- PRNG identifier,
- geographic coordinates, X and Y coordinates,
- type of representation (specifying the geometry type of object).

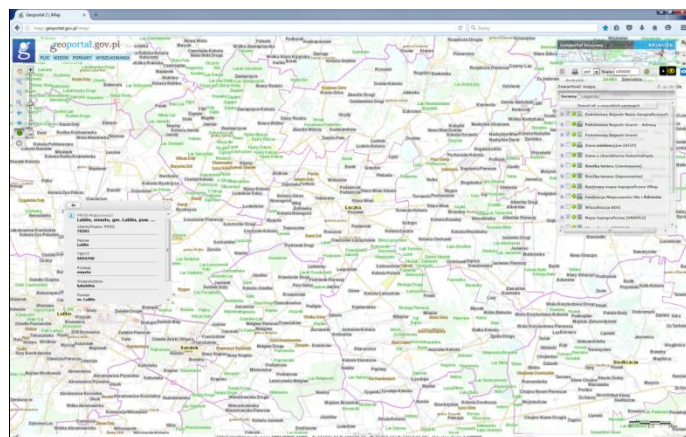
The National Register of Geographical Names is maintained in an ICT system with data import and export features, data search, view and download services, and functions for handling the processes of geographical name creation, verification, completion and update.

PRNG data update and verification is a continuous process carried out under:

- legal acts related to the determination, modification or cancelling names (for official names),
- lists of names adopted by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects (for standardised names within Poland),
- lists of names adopted by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (for standardised names outside of the national borders),
- validation and supplementation based on topographic maps and information included in other collections and registers of geographical names (for other names).

Names of localities are also supplemented based on reports on inconsistencies with the PRNG database prepared while updating the Topographic Object Database (BDOT10k). The reports are results of field works involving name collection. While verifying the geographical names in the PRNG, inconsistencies were identified in the existing official lists of names related to affiliation with the administrative unit or superordinate locality, type of object, and names themselves.

As of 10 April 2017, the PRNG has a total of 247,099 names of geographical objects located in the Republic of Poland, including 122,453 locality names and 124,646 names of physiographic features. The PRNG database has grown substantially over the last 6 years. In 2011 (as of 16/9/2011) the PRNG included 195,632 geographical names, 46,203 less than now. Over a longer period of time, the amount of data changed as follows: 160,000 geographical names (locality and physiographic features) in 1999, and 168,000 names in 2006. Under the *Surveying and Cartographic Act* amended in 2014, the PRNG data are available free of charge at the website of the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre: [www.codgik.gov.pl](http://www.codgik.gov.pl)<sup>9</sup> The data is available in three formats: gml., shp. and xls., divided into locality names and physiographic feature names, and updated on the website every 3 months.



PRNG data available on Geoportal

**Centralny Ośrodek Dokumentacji Geodezyjnej i Kartograficznej**

Start O CODGIK Zawiad. Skorowidze Dane bez opłat Kalkulator Obsługa Klienta Usługi Kontakt BIP Projekty

Jesteś tutaj: Start > Dane bez opłat > PRNG

### 2. zbiory danych państwowego rejestru nazw geograficznych

Nazwa	Rozmiar	Rozszerzenie	Data modyfikacji
PRNG - nazwy miejscowości	22 MB	shapefile	10-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy obiektów fizjograficznych	25 MB	shapefile	08-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy miejscowości	21 MB	*.xlsx	08-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy obiektów fizjograficznych	20 MB	*.xlsx	08-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy miejscowości	19 MB	*.gml	10-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy obiektów fizjograficznych	22 MB	*.gml	08-02-2017
PRNG - nazwy miejscowości oraz obiektów fizjograficznych	36 MB	*.rdf (Turtle)	30-12-2016
PRNG - repozytorium RDB	36 MB	*.zip	29-03-2017

**Aktualności**

- Ogłoszenie wyników naboru: Geodeta w Wydziale Fotogrametrii
- Ogłoszenie o naborze: Geodeta w Wydziale Fotogrametrii
- Moduł zdjęć lotniczych w Portalu PZGIK

**Komunikaty**

- 24 grudnia w CODGIK dniem wolnym od pracy
- W dniu 14 sierpnia 2015 roku – CODGIK nieczynny
- Nieczymne konto PKO SA

PRNG data sets available for free download at [www.codgik.gov.pl](http://www.codgik.gov.pl)

The data is also available as spatial data services via the national portal of spatial data infrastructure [www.geoportal.gov.pl](http://www.geoportal.gov.pl), where it is possible to display, search, browse and download (including via ATOM service) names and attributes according to specific criteria. The PRNG data available on Geoportal is updated once a week.

This way, Geoportal enables access to information on geographical names to a wide audience, from institutions, to research and cartographic communities, to individuals, and promotes the use of the geographical names included in the register. The interaction of Geoportal users is also beneficial to the PRNG database: the errors, inconsistencies and omissions they report enable continuous improvement of the quality of geographical name data.

The register aims to serve as the primary, correct and up-to-date reference database containing proper, officially recommended geographical names with attributes, as well as outdated names.

The main tasks currently carried out in the PRNG include:

- verifying supplementing and updating names of localities and physiographic features based on official name lists and other information sources,
- processing and giving access to the data and information in the database,
- preparing materials and taking part in meetings of the Commission for the Determination of Locality and Physiographic Feature Names in respect of name standardisation.

The Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography plans to conduct further works involving the upgrade of the National Register of Geographical Name database soon, including:

1. The development and deployment of an upgraded PRNG IT system module in respect of Polish geographical names of the world. According to the regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 14 February 2012 *on the national register of geographical names*, PRNG consists of:
  - a) a register of geographical names within the Republic of Poland, which includes names of geographical objects located in part or in full in the Republic of Poland,

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.codgik.gov.pl/index.php/darmowe-dane/prng.html>

- including its internal sea waters, territorial sea and the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone of the Baltic Sea;
- b) register of Polish names of geographical objects located outside of the Republic of Poland, which includes Polish names of geographical objects located outside of the Republic of Poland.
2. The upgrade of the database schema in respect of geographical names within the Republic of Poland, including:
- a) adding an application feature to search by map scale, and adding an application feature to search by endonyms and exonyms,
  - b) automatic completion of cancellation or removal date (last modification date) in the database,
  - c) implementation of new geometry types: linear and surface, for data edition, importing and exporting.

**PRNG applications:**

1. Unambiguous identification of locality names during population censuses.
2. Inheritance proceedings and property ownership.
3. Spatial planning.
4. Recovery from natural disasters and providing aid in emergency situations and search & rescue operations.
5. Creating maps and atlases.
6. Navigation.
7. Development of tourism and communication (including mail and information services).

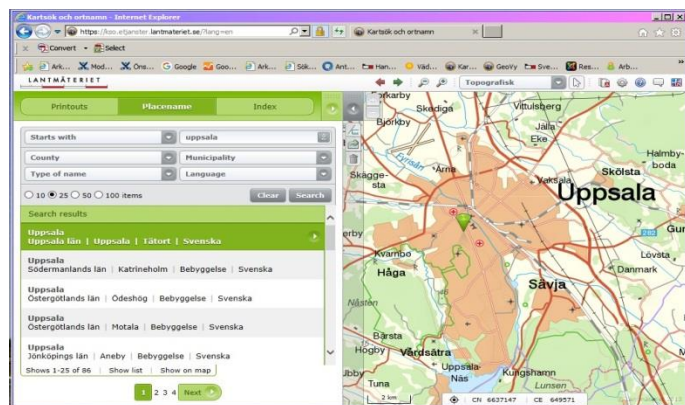
**Justyna Kacprzak**

Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, Poland

Email: [Justyna.Kacprzak@gugik.gov.pl](mailto:Justyna.Kacprzak@gugik.gov.pl)

## The Swedish place-name register

As the national place-name authority of Sweden, Lantmäteriet (The Swedish Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registration Authority) approves and standardize place-names in the property register and for official mapping. Swedish national map series present over 1, 2 million place-names. These names are stored in a database which functions as a national gazetteer of Swedish geographical names. Lantmäteriet is responsible for updating the database and maintaining a web service about Swedish place-names. To provide information and increase awareness of place-names in society, the Place-name section at Lantmäteriet also organizes courses and seminars and participates in national and international cooperation regarding place-name practices.



Place-name section at Lantmäteriet

The internet service “Map search and place-names” is accessible from the homepage ([www.lantmateriet.se](http://www.lantmateriet.se)) and gives authorities, organizations and the general public access to officially approved place-name data.

The web service offers a wide array of search possibilities. You may search for a specific place-name by giving the first or second element in a name or by defining the type of object or its administrative attribute. The search can also be delimited within a specific municipality or county. A map extract on which the position of the place-name is highlighted will be displayed together with the result of the search. The database also contains place-names in the minority languages (Saami, Finnish and Meänkieli) with their officially approved orthography. In an ongoing project to further develop the place-name register, Lantmäteriet intends to link the database to the place-name collections at the Institute for Language and Folklore. In this way, the search-result will not only provide basic geographical data but also historical and linguistic information.

**Ebba Berling Åselius**

Place-name Section

Lantmäteriet, Department for Land and Geographic Information

Email: [ortnamnskontakt@lm.se](mailto:ortnamnskontakt@lm.se)



## 30<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN SESSION AND 11<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE

### *Are you in need of funding for the 11th UNCSGN Conference and the 31st UNGEGN Session?*

In order to determine the need for funding for participation in the upcoming UNCSGN Conference and UNGEGN Session in New York 7-18 August 2017, experts who know they will have difficulty in obtaining funding are asked to inform the Convenor of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, Peder Gammeltoft (email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)), and the UNGEGN Secretariat (email: [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)) about their funding needs.

Please state your name, work address, who has commissioned you as an UNGEGN/UNCSGN expert and how much funding you should need. Also if you hold any positions within the UNGEGN structure, this should also be stated.

It should be stressed that neither the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, nor the UNGEGN can guarantee funding for experts without travel means. This survey is being done in order to obtain a picture of the funding needs so that relevant funding bodies can be approached.

Should funding be found for one or more persons to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN Conference and the 31<sup>st</sup> UNGEGN Session, prioritization will be made at the discretion of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the UNGEGN Secretariat.

**Peder Gammeltoft**

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)

**Email contact:**

UNGEGN Secretariat

Email: [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org)

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### *Orientation Briefing*

**Are you new to UNGEGN?**

**Is this your first time attending the UNGEGN Session and the UNCSGN Conference?**

**Do you find everything daunting and confusing?**

No need to despair, we will help you to understand the conference and session procedures and practices to ensure a productive and rewarding 10 days with the toponymy community.

The UNGEGN Bureau, in cooperation with the UNGEGN Secretariat will be arranging an orientation briefing for all newcomers on **7 August from 9:30 to 10:00 am** in Meeting Room (to be announced) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The briefing will explain UNGEGN procedures and



share general information about the Group of Experts, the UNGEGN Sessions and UNCSGN Conferences.

The Bureau recommends that all newcomers to UNGEGN attend the meeting. If you wish to attend the meeting, please e-mail the UNGEGN Secretariat at [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org), no later than **14 July 2017** indicating your contact details, job title, country and name of organization. This is to allow the Secretariat to have an idea of the expected number of participants and make general arrangements for the briefing.

**NB!!** Experienced experts are asked to forward this information to new experts to UNGEGN as quickly as possible.

**Peder Gammeltoft**

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)





# Showcase your work on the Standardization of Geographical Names at the UNGEGN Exhibition,

31 July – 18 August 2017, at the UN Headquarters in New York

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the UNCSGN Conferences and recognizing the substantial work being done on the standardization of geographical names, the UNGEGN Bureau invites experts, Member States, divisions and working groups to participate in this special anniversary biennial exhibition.

The Exhibition will run for three weeks from 31 July to 18 August 2017, in the neck/passage facing Café Austria, in the first basement of the General Assembly building, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

### Guide to exhibition material

Contributions may be one or a series of posters showcasing the 50th anniversary or general geographical names standardization theme. The UNGEGN Secretariat has kindly offered to print and hang the posters and organize the exhibition. The following guidelines are provided:

- Inform the Secretariat of your intention to participate in the exhibition, the number of posters to be displayed, the focus (50th anniversary or general) and if printing services are needed.
- Maps should have appropriate cartographic elements, (neat line, title etc.)
- The total dimensions should not exceed 0.8m wide x 1.5m high (approximately 30 in. x 60 in.)
- Include on posters, a brief note on its objective/purpose
- Displays should avoid any issue or image that would likely be contentious
- Acceptable file formats are tiff, jpeg, pdf and gif
- All material should be submitted using FTP. Please contact secretariat for ftp details when submission is to be made.

**Please note:** The Secretariat will review the posters to ensure that they conform to United Nations practices. Posters submitted at the UNCSGN Conference and UNGEGN Session cannot be ensured a place in the exhibition.

Posters must therefore be submitted **no later than 3 July 2017**.

Question may be sent to the UNGEGN Secretariat:

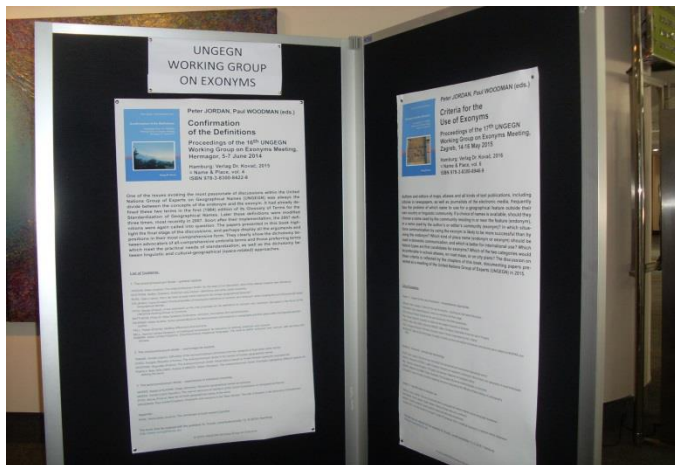
Phone: (1-212) 963-5823

Email: [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org).

### Peder Gammeltoft

Convener, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)





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## *50 Years of UNCSGN - Join us in preparing the Celebrations*

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The forthcoming conference in New York, 8-17 August 2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names. In recognition of this milestone, the UNGEGN Bureau is planning a number of events to celebrate the work and achievements of UNGEGN and UNCSGN.



The works and achievements of the Group of Experts are considerable and very worthy of celebration. We recognize that the group's achievements were made possible through the contribution of many stakeholders, supporters and names enthusiasts. We have therefore all reason to be proud of our work in UNGEGN and UNCSGN, in advancing the standardization of geographical names globally. Your contributions, great and small, have made the work of the Group of Experts successful.

We also recognize that some experts have devoted extraordinarily much of their life and work to UNGEGN and UNCSGN. The UNGEGN Bureau wishes to celebrate our former and current colleagues who have been instrumental in our achievements and helped make UNGEGN what it is today.

In this respect, the Bureau asks all experts for help in celebrating those of our colleagues you feel should be recognized for their significant contributions to UNGEGN and

the UNCSGN Conferences. If you have one or more persons in mind, please email me at [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk) and or the Secretariat at [geoinfo\\_unsd@un.org](mailto:geoinfo_unsd@un.org) with your nomination – **no later than June 8, 2017.**

Your nomination should contain a brief outline of the nominee's contribution and significance to UNGEGN, UNCSGN and the standardization of geographical names at the national, divisional and global levels; alongside the nominee's name, occupation, organization and approximate number of years with the Group of Experts. The outline should not exceed 400 words. If you also have a photo(s) of the nominee, you are very welcome to submit a high resolution electronic copy.

**In addition** – should you have any photos from previous sessions you feel encapsulates the work and atmosphere of UNGEGN, the Bureau is pleased to receive electronic copies through the stated email contact.

***Peder Gammeltoft***

Convenor, Working Group on Publicity and Funding

Email: [gammelt@hum.ku.dk](mailto:gammelt@hum.ku.dk)



## The Seventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 31 July – 4 August 2017

The Seventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held from 31 July - 4 August 2017, back to back with the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGE GN and the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN), 7 and 18 and 8-17 August 2017 respectively, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Preceded by over 30 side events including working group meetings, training sessions and technical forums from 31 July - 1 August 2017, the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM, 2-4 August 2017 is expected to bring together over 250 senior officials and executives from national geospatial information and statistical authorities of Member States, and geospatial experts from international bodies, the private sector and academia to address emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management.

Some substantive issues to be addressed include the transition of the Working Group on Global Geodetic Reference Frame to a Sub-Committee; how geospatial information will support and inform the sustainable development goals; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, geospatial information and services for disasters; legal and policy frameworks; trends in national institutional arrangements and the integration of geospatial and statistical information. Towards strengthening relations between UNGE GN and UN-GGIM, item number 16 – *Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names* has been added to the UN-GGIM agenda. The Chair of UNGE GN or

his representative should present UNGE GN's report under this item.

The bureaus of both UNGE GN and UN-GGIM are scheduled to meet on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to further its discussions on strengthening the coordination of their activities including the planning of a joint side event during the UN-GGIM Fifth High Level Forum in Mexico City, Mexico in November 2017.

The UN-GGIM welcomes the participation of Member States and relevant international organisations to its Seventh Session. It is expected to be rich in content and highly relevant, given the importance of geospatial information to national and global issues.

For other information on the seventh session please visit the UN-GGIM webpage at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The provisional agenda, technical reports and other documents are gradually being posted as they become available.

**Cecile Blake**

UN-GGIM Secretariat  
Email : [blake1@un.org](mailto:blake1@un.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



31 July – 4 August 2017

*Seventh Session of United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)*  
New York, NY

8 August 2017

*Norden Division Meeting*  
New York, NY

9 August 2017

*Working Group on Exonyms*  
New York, NY

*Working Group on Training Courses on Toponymy*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the East and Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology*  
New York, NY

10 August 2017

*Meeting of the Dutch-and German-speaking Division of UNGEEN*  
New York, NY

*Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy*  
New York, NY

*Arab Division Meeting*  
New York, NY

11 August 2017

*Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the Romano-Hellenic Division*  
New York, NY

14 August 2017

*Joint Meeting of the WG on Evaluation and Implementation and the WG on Publicity and Funding*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the French-speaking Division*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage*  
New York, NY

*Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems*  
New York, NY

15 August 2017

*Meeting of the Working Group on Country names*  
New York, NY