

**Twenty-ninth session  
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

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**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Report of the Divisions**

**Report of the East Central and  
South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)**

Submitted by East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) \*

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## **Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)\***

### *Summary*

The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division was on 26 November 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

All documents and information about the division are published on website:  
<http://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Home.aspx>.

The divisional report contains national reports of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

## **I. Divisional meetings**

Since the 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in New York 2014, the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) had one meeting – the 21<sup>st</sup> divisional Session, which was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 26 November 2015. The Session was attended by 21 participants from 8 ECSEE Division countries (Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine).

During the session were presented all 8 national reports. The highlights of national reports and the discussion were the minority names, dialect forms and naming streets after people associated with totalitarian regimes. The discussion was also about collection and standardization of geographical names.

At the Session were presented also some special presentations:

- Difficult historical problems of transliteration and transcription (by Bogusław Zagórski);
- Does Google serve as a model of using place names? (by Gábor Gersák);
- Mycrotoponyms as important part of Slovenian cultural heritage (by Jožica Škofic);
- The Gazetteer of Slovenian Exonyms (by Drago Kladnik);
- The list of Polish geographical names of the world (by Maciej Zych);
- Toponomastic publications of the Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre of the University of Zadar (by Dunja Brozović-Rončević).

All papers, national reports and special presentations are published on the ECSEED web site.

The Session recognized importance of geographical names and positive achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical names standardization by participating countries. It was concluded that the process of standardization of geographical names must absolutely continue.

The Session concluded that after the next UN Conference on standardization on Geographical Names in 2017, another country will be ECSEE Division chairing country. All representatives of countries were requested to notify their willingness to take on the presidency of ECSEE Division within one month. Until the end of February 2016 no country has given consent to taking over the presidency of the division.

## **II. Divisional homepage**

The East Central and South-East Europe Division has its own web site: <http://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Home.aspx>. There were some updates of the homepage since last report.

## **III. National activities**

Below is brief information about the activities since 2014 in some ECSEED countries: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

Detailed national reports of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine, which were prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> divisional Session, are published on the ECSEED web site.

### Summary

Since the recent UN conference, the Czech Republic has continued both: standardization of names for the territory of the Czech Republic and standardization of names outside this territory. The already standardized names are being updated. The updated list of names of countries is available on the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (Abbr. COSMC) website: <http://www.cuzk.cz> . We maintain standardized names according to the plan, especially names on the territory of the Czech Republic, which are maintained with an array of attributes in the national database of geographical names - Geonames since the year 2007. All terminology data are gradually centralised and converged in one office. Non-standardized names (official, especially names of settlements) are kept in the national database which is in charge of the COSMC.

### Names authorities

In compliance with the Parliamentary delegation, the position and functions of the national geographical names authorities are carried out by ministries and other relevant central offices. Individual authorities are represented in the Commission on Geographical Names.

### Names sources

The COSMC is the publisher of the State Map Series on the territory of the Czech Republic. The State Map Series consist of various maps from the scale 1:1 000 000 to 1:1 000. Maps are printed and regularly renewed in short period of time. All maps and visualized databases are available on the web site <http://www.geoportal.cuzk.cz> .

### Names gazetteers

- Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names (2013) <http://www.cuzk.cz/Zivotni-situace/Poradci-a-poradni-organy/Nazvoslovna-komise-CUZK/Geograficke-nazvoslovne-seznamy.aspx>)
- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names on the Territory of the Czech Republic and outside the Territory of the Czech Republic (2015)
- Concept of Standardization of Geographical Names of the Czech Republic in the Years 2016-2020
- The project Names of the World is available on the website <http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz>

### International cooperation

- 28<sup>th</sup> Session, UNGEGN, New York, 31 April to 2 May 2014
- 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Zagreb, Croatia, 13-17 May 2015
- 21<sup>st</sup> Session UNGEGN – ECSEED, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 26 November 2015

The Commission on Geographical Names regularly meets with neighbouring countries: Slovak Republic and Poland.

### Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2014-2016

The report covers the period between 1 January 2014 and 15 February 2016.

Government Decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm. on the establishment and recording of the official geographical names in Hungary continues to be the legal basis of standardizing geographical names in the country and of the activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names. In this period the government modified the decree two times, in connection with the transformation of the governmental structure, and with the creation of a central registry of addresses, without having effect on the continuity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names. The majority of rulings involved the second modification – Government Decree No. 345/2014. (XII. 23.) Korm. – which has given new indirect definitions to some feature types (community, public grounds), and **determined the linguistic criteria of avoiding misidentification of names of public grounds (streets, squares etc.)**.

The Committee held eight meetings (87–94.) and brought 58 rulings in the period. The Committee in its advice giving function offered an opinion on the names of the newly forming NUTS regions, expressing that the generic term *megye* (county) is part of the official name of the region, when the county name is identical with that of the region. In one case the change of name of a settlement was accepted because of historical and cultural reasons (*Kajászó > Kajászószentpéter*), in another case this was refused on similar grounds (*Harkány > Harkányfürdő*). The majority of rulings involved expert advice giving on proposed names for roads, streets and parts of communities mostly on the basis of motivation, orthography and cultural traditions.

The Committee in its name-giving competency determined the official names of two railway stations (*Csittényhegy* in Balatonakarattya, *Újszolnok* in Szolnok), nine remarkable river, railway and road bridges (*Munkácsy Mihály híd* in Békéscsaba, *Nyári Lőrinc híd*, *Laki Kálmán híd*, *Kaposvári Gyula híd* in Szolnok, *Meszlényi híd* in Hatvan, *Böhm Ferenc híd*, *Dáró híd*, *Dombó Pál híd* in Dombóvár, *Gubányi Károly híd* in Bakonyszentlászló), and the names of numerous objects of nature conservation and water engineering.

Considering the uncertainty in the use of Hungarian names of settlements in neighbouring countries, recommendations for Hungarian equivalents were also given. In the last years this work was completed for Slovakia and Slovenia. One of the main goals was to minimize the difference between local ethnic Hungarian usage and traditional use in Hungary.

Standardizing the geographical names for 1:10 000 scale maps as part of the Gazetteer of Hungary carried out by FÖMI (Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing) included field works and has been completed for 35 communities (approximately 1000 square kilometres) in Heves and Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok counties. The digital conversion of standardizing is in process as well as the maintenance of the medium scale version of the Gazetteer of Hungary, which covers the whole country. One of the most important developments of the Gazetteer is the transcription of the most important names according to the codes of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Some examples are shown below:

Budapest	'budɔpɛʃt
Debrecen	'dɛbrɛtsɛn
Győr	'jɔ:r
Kecskemét	'kɛʃkɛmɛ:t
Miskolc	'miʃkolts
Nyíregyháza	'ni:rɛchɑ:zɔ
Pécs	'pɛ:tʃ
Sopron	'ʃopron
Szeged	'sɛgɛd
Székesfehérvár	'sɛ:kɛʃfɛhɛ:rva:r

## Poland

**National names authorities.** There are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names in Poland: the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, affiliated to the Minister of the Interior and Administration, which establishes names used within Poland's boundaries, and the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, which is responsible for: standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland on UNGEGN forum, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to geographical names.

**National gazetteer.** The new edition of the Polish national gazetteer entitled "List of official names of localities and their parts", which contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, was published in October 2015<sup>1</sup>. The list is arranged in a table with eight columns: the name of locality is indicated in the 1<sup>st</sup> column, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – a type of locality, in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> columns – an administrative unit: commune, county and voivodship, in the 6<sup>th</sup> column – the identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country, in the 7<sup>th</sup> – a genitive ending for names of localities, in the 8<sup>th</sup> column – a adjective (only for names of towns and villages). Changes of the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*, and come into force on January 1. Since 2014 the following changes were made: 18 new names were established; 53 names were changed as well as types of 120 localities and parts of localities were changed, and 101 names were abolished.

<sup>1</sup> The list is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official\\_names.php](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php).

**Multilingual areas.** According to the “Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages” traditional names in a minority language may be used as “additional names”. Altogether 143 new names of localities were established since 2014 – 17 German names in 3 communes, and 126 Kashubian names in 8 communes. Since 2005 minority names were introduced for 1211 localities: 359 German names, 786 Kashubian names, 30 Lithuanian names, 27 Belarusian names, and 9 Lemko names<sup>2</sup>.

**Toponymic data files.** The National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG) is maintained by the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre subordinated to the Surveyor General of Poland. Currently the Register holds approximately 239,600 names of which app. 124,800 are names of localities and its parts, and app. 114,800 are names of physiographical objects (app. 21,200 are names of water objects, app. 34,000 are names of land shaping objects, and app. 59,500 are names of other objects).

**Country names.** The third edition of the “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” was published at the end of 2015<sup>3</sup>. The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Other activities.** The new Polish translation of the UNGEGN “Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names” was published at the end of 2014<sup>4</sup>. This is a new translation of the English version of “Glossary” from 2002 and “Addendum” from 2007.

## Slovakia

- Our activities in the field of standardization of geographical names were concerned at increase and unify of Database of geographical names from the territory of the Slovak Republic with names from cadastral maps and names from forest maps. These three sets of names have been compared and the names have been consolidated into one database. The aim of harmonization is to unify names for every feature, to standardize one name for one feature and to approve these names for national and international use.

- New names have been currently collected, standardized and added into the database on the basis of requirements and information of central and local institutions. Gradually, variant names have been added. The database have been updated continuously.

- In 2015 The Directive for the Standardization of Geographical Names was published. It is a new instruction for standardisation of geographical names in the Slovak Republic and it will be published on our website.

- Selected lists of geographical names were published and updated on our website too..

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<sup>2</sup> Full, consistently updated, list of the additional names in minority languages is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list\\_of\\_minority\\_names.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The list is available on the website: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>.

<sup>4</sup> The publication is available on the website: [http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary\\_of\\_terms\\_PL.pdf](http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/glossary_of_terms_PL.pdf).

### **Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names**

Since 28<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names (hereinafter: CSGN) met on 6 occasions: 1 meeting and 5 corresponding meetings. It has adopted many decisions, mostly on toponyms, especially on the names of streets and settlements.

Information and activities related to the Commission are posted on the website:

[http://www.gu.gov.si/en/delovnapodrocja\\_gu/projekti\\_gu/slovene\\_governmental\\_commission\\_for\\_the\\_standardisation\\_of\\_geographical\\_names/#c17314](http://www.gu.gov.si/en/delovnapodrocja_gu/projekti_gu/slovene_governmental_commission_for_the_standardisation_of_geographical_names/#c17314).

### **Treatment of Names in Multilingual Areas**

At the end of 2014, the Italian and Hungarian National Communities requested to standardize and enter in the Register of Geographical Names (hereinafter: RGN) the Italian or Hungarian geographical names for those objects that are in the RGN actually recorded only in Slovenian language (hydronyms, oronyms, landscape areas).

It was agreed that each national community will prepare a list of geographical names in their own language, first for the scale level 1:25,000. Then, according to available resources, both lists will be checked by the Surveying and Mapping Authority. In the final phase the standardization of geographical names in the languages of both national communities will be done by CSGN.

A list of Italian geographical names on the territory of Slovenia was submitted recently; names are currently under review at the Surveying and Mapping Authority.

The Hungarian National Community has not sent a list yet.

### **Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers**

Register of geographical names (RGN) originally was a stand-alone database and not linked to the topographic database. This will very soon change. Register is in the last phase of data migration into topographic database, which is INSPIRE compliant. The database operates in ArcGIS platform. Geographical names will be linked with the topographic object by identifier. Due to the huge volume of work the integration of geographical names with topographic objects will be performed gradually. The plan is first to link hydrographic topographic objects with associated hydronyms.

### **Exonyms**

Slovenia active participates in the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms and also otherwise is very active in the field of exonyms.

### **Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation**

In December 2014, Slovenian Commission and Surveying and Mapping Authority hosted representatives of the Serbian Geodetic Administration, who arrived in Slovenia in order to be better acquainted with the functioning and tasks of the commission and acquire useful information relating to the Registry of Geographical Names, which was in Serbia at the time, at the stage of establishment.



## Ukraine

Legal basis of regulation of activity connected with naming and renaming of geographical features as well standardization, use, recording, registration and preservation of geographical names are determined by the Law of Ukraine “On geographical Names” adopted in 2005.

In 2015 some amendments were made to the Law “On geographical names”. It is forbidden to name geographical features after names and nicknames of the persons connected with the Communist Party activity, establishment of the Soviet Power in Ukraine, persecution of fighters for the independence of Ukraine in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Localities, territory administrative units and other geographical features which names contain any symbols of communist totalitarian regime have to be renamed.

In 2015 the Law of Ukraine “On voluntary union of adjacent territorial communities” was adopted. The Law regulates relations occurring in the process of voluntary union of adjacent territorial communities of villages, settlements and cities. According to the Law names of communities have to be derived from the names of their capitals respectively village, settlement or city name.

Since 2014 Ministry of Regional Development, Building and Housing of Ukraine and State Service of Ukraine on Issues of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre are the government authorities supervising activities in the sphere of geographical names.

In 2013-2014 “The Rules of spelling of Ukrainian geographical names on maps and in other editions” and nine normative documents concerning the rules of rendering of terms and geographical names outside of Ukraine into Ukrainian were approved.

The works concerning creation of the State Register of Geographical Names are performed according to the “Thesis on the State Register of Geographical Names” approved in 2006. As of the January 1, 2016 the 58. 759 registration-and-accounting forms of names of geographical features of Ukraine basing on topographic map of Ukraine at scale of 1:100 000 have been filled up.