

**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)  
East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)**

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**Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the  
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the  
work of its nineteenth session**

**Zagreb, 19 – 21 November 2008**

Submitted by ECSEE Division Chairman\*

*Summary*

The nineteenth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, convened by the East Central and South-East Europe Division Chairman, was held from 19 to 21 November 2008 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The present report describes activities carried out at the Session. Positive achievements in the work of geographical names standardization by participating countries can be recognized. Montenegro activated in the ECSEE Division as new Division member country. The Session expressed special interests on the items geographical names as cultural heritages, geographical names databases and usage of information communication technologies in geographical names standardization.

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\* Prepared by ECSEE Division Chairman, and approved by the Session during the Nineteenth ECSEED Session.

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## **I. Terms of reference**

1. The nineteenth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names convened by the ECSEED Chairman was held in Zagreb, from 19 to 21 November 2008.

## **II. Attendance**

2. The Session was attended by 37 participants from 10 ECSEE Division countries including 4 representatives from the Montenegro that is activating in ECSEED and 1 guest from Austria (Dutch- and German-speaking Division).

3. Excused: Pavel Boháč (Czech Republic), Milan Harvalik (Czech Republic) and Mária Kováčová (Slovakia).

4. The complete list of the participant in the Session was given in Annex I of this document, and issued in a separate document, available on the ECSEED website <http://ungegn.cgi.hr>.

## **III. Officers of the Session**

5. The officers for the Session were as follows:

*Chairperson:*

Dunja Brozović-Rončević (Croatia)

*Vice-Chairpersons:*

Jadranka Buljat (Croatia)

Zvonko Štefan (Croatia)

*Reporter:*

Biserka Fučkan-Držić (Croatia)

## **IV. Opening of the Session**

6. The ECSEE Division Chairman opened the Session and welcomed the experts. He then introduced prof. dr. sc. Željko Bačić, Director of the State Geodetic Administration, who welcomed delegates and underlined importance of standardization of geographical names for Croatian system of spatial infrastructure and encouraged UNGEGN work.

7. The Chairman than welcomed The Session in the name of Croatian Geodetic Institute (CGI). He exposed efforts CGI is doing in establishment of Croatian Geographical Names Database, and in making the consortium of the institutions and experts in the field of the standardization of the geographical names in Croatia as part of the national infrastructure.

8. The Chairman then introduced Ms. Marina Rožić, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration who welcomed delegates and exposed importance of the standardization of the geographical names.

## **V. Adoption of agenda**

9. The Agenda was adapted as present:

1. Opening of the Session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. National standardization:
  - 3a. Field collection and office treatment of names;
  - 3b. Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
  - 3c. Administrative structure of national names authorities.
4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.
5. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:
  - 5a. Data collection procedures;
  - 5b. Data elements required;
  - 5c. Toponymic data transfer standards and formats;
  - 5d. Automated data processing systems;
  - 5e. National gazetteers;
  - 5f. Other publications.
6. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.
7. Writing systems.
8. Pronunciation of names.
9. Country names.
10. Exonyms.
11. Preparations for the representation of the Division at the 25th Session of the UNGEGN (May, 2009).
12. Features beyond a single sovereignty.
13. Toponymic websites.
14. Co-operation with neighborhood countries and international organizations.
15. Toponymic education.
16. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN.
17. Other information.

18. Adoption of the Report of the 19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN.

19. Closing the Session.

## **VI. The Session reporting and documents**

10. To the Session is submitted 24 documents and this Session report is made. List of documents is given in Annex II of this document.

11. The documents of the Nineteenth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN will be published in digital form (CD-ROM).

12. Reporting of the work of the Nineteenth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

### **1. Opening of the Session**

The opening speech was given by the Chairman of the Division, Dr. Sc. Željko Hećimović from the Croatian Geodetic Institute who welcomed the delegates, as well as the guests of the Session, Mrs. Marina Rožić from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Prof. Dr. Sc. Željko Bačić, the director of the State Geodetic Administration of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Milan Orožen-Adamič, Convenor of Working group on Exonym and the delegates from Montenegro, a new member of ECSEE Division. The Chairman informed the delegates that there are 37 participants from 10 countries of the Division present at this Session. He wished the participants a successful work in the session, but also a pleasant stay in Zagreb.

The Chairman asked Prof. Dr. Sc. Željko Bačić to address the delegates. He welcomed the participants in the name of the State Geodetic Administration giving a short presentation of its activity in Croatia and emphasizing the problem of geographical names being in focus in the recent years. He also said he was happy that Croatia was entrusted to run the Division in the next 4 years. He wished the participants of the Session successful work and hoped for some other opportunity to meet again.

The Chairman welcomed the participants in the name of the director of the Croatian Geodetic Institute, Prof. Dr. Sc. Tomislav Bačić who was unfortunately prevented from coming to the Session and wished the participants success in their work at the Session.

He then asked Mrs. Marina Rožić, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration to address the delegates. She pointed out that the issues of geographical names are very important today. The work of UNGEGN is important in political disputes concerning geographical names as well. Croatian Government welcomes the efforts invested in the standardization of geographical names. She wished at the end of her address a successful work to the delegates and a pleasant stay in Zagreb.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda of the session has been adopted unanimously, without any objections. After the agenda of the session has been adopted unanimously, without any objection the Chairman proposed members of the Session officers. The Session accepted proposed Session officers.

### **Report of the ECSEE Division Chairman**

The Chairman of the Division, Dr. Sc. Željko Hećimović from Croatia submitted a Report of ECSEE Division 2007 - 2008. After mentioning the basic data about the establishment of ECSEED of the United Nations Experts on Geographical Names he pointed out that Division countries belong to three different UN geographical regions and different linguistic backgrounds, as well as different historical cultural development. Overview document has been prepared to make the Division more homogeneous containing the main ECSEE Division data. The chairman proposed that the Division document should be regularly updated in the future and expects the comments from the participants about this issue. Regarding UNGEGN Information Bulletin, containing contributions and reports from the experts of the Group, its Divisions and its Working Groups, the Chairman asked the participants to send the significant contributions to be printed in the Bulletin. The Division has got new web site since September 2008 hosted by Slovenian colleagues with most important data about the Division. There are some uncertainties about what to publish on web site, which needs to be discussed, and the Chairman expects suggestions from the participants on this matter.

The Chairman introduced Montenegro as a new ECSEED Division country member. It is activating as new Division country. Montenegro is member of UN since 2006. The accreditation of the Montenegro representatives is made through Montenegro's Embassy in Zagreb. The Chairman explained that there is no any UNGEGN Statute problem that Montenegro cannot be accepted as new Division country.

UNGEgn World Geonames Database contains the data from 46 countries (11 ECSEED countries). The Chairman invited the participants to send the data for the Database, since not all countries have done so. The Division documents need unified identification at the Division level, as well as at the level of UN conferences. The Chairman thanked former chairman of the Division – Mr. Pavel Boháč from the Czech Republic for his help and support.

### **3. National standardization**

#### *AUSTRIA*

*H. Bergmann: The Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO) as the Austrian model of a national names board*

Austria is not a part of the Division, but it is very interested in its work, because they share common border with the Division countries. There is no central institution for the standardization of geonames. Standardized names of inhabited places used to be published by the Federal Office Statistics until a few years ago and for more recent years they can be found in the main database Geonam of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying. These two official agencies are assisted in their work by boards on geographical names. Working Committee on Cartographic Toponomastics (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde – AKO) is a board for Austria as a whole. Its main duty is to fulfill the coordinative function between several institutions and bodies concerned with geonames and serves as a contact point for problems regarding geographical names. The delegate listed the most important of the publications promoted by the Committee. At the very moment a working group within AkO is elaborating guidelines for the use of geonames in Austrian educational media. It is active on transnational and international level, especially regarding the coordination in this activity with other German speaking countries.

The chairman invites the participants to ask question.

Q: (*Croatia*) – How are the names of inhabited places changed?

A: Standardized names are the names of inhabited places. The municipality can change the name itself, but it should be done in cooperation with the provincial names board. Changes happen, and many of them are motivated by tourism. Klagenfurt – its name changed into Klagenfurt am Woertersee.

#### *SLOVENIA*

*M. Brnot : Standardisation of Geographical Names in Slovenia.*

The presenter gave a short overview of the history of the Commission for the Standardisation of Geographical Names, its members, its residence, its financing by the budget of the Republic of Slovenia. It operates in accordance with the recommendations of UNGEGN. The main topic of its activity in the last two years was the new law about names and definitions of settlements, streets and buildings. The presenter described the process of renaming the settlements and streets and the role of the Commission in this process. New National general map at the scale 1:250 000 was published and the names were standardized by the Commission. A Gazetteer was made for this map.

New translations of the standards SIST ISO 3166-1 and SIST ISO 3166-2 are being prepared by the Commission. The Commission tries to unify the names of countries according to the standards and spelling of Slovenian language. There are two databases of geographical names. Both Registers are linked, but the Register of Spatial Units is official administrative register for the issues of spatial division. Future plans refer to finishing the law of geographical names, preparing a new gazetteer for the map 1:25 000.

Q: (*Croatia*) When will the gazetteer be finished?

A: Not before Nairobi session.

#### *UKRAINE*

*N. Syvak, N. Pinchuk, N. Kizilova: Standardisation of geographical names in Ukraine*

The delegate began her report with administrative structure and the activity of the authority responsible for standardization of geographical names – State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre. The presenter described the legislative, normative and methodological basis in the sphere of geographical names in Ukraine. She reported about field collection and office treatment of geographical names. Toponymic guidelines for maps and other editors are prepared to be published in 2008. The delegate gave the information about the Gazetteer of the World in Ukrainian and the National Atlas of Ukraine. When speaking about writing system the draft resolution was mentioned referring to the rules of rendering of Ukrainian proper names by means of letters of Latin alphabet. Unfortunately it was turned down.

Reference book Names of Countries and Territories of the World is being prepared for re-edition in 2008 according to the Document of Group of Experts on geographical names of UN. There is a large co-operation with neighboring countries and international organizations. Ukraine is a member of two Divisions of Experts on Geographical Names of UN.

Q: (*Croatia*) Which second division is Ukraine the member of?

A: Ukraine is the member of two divisions. Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia and East Central and South East Europe.

#### *HUNGARY*

*Bela Pokoly: National standardization of geographical names*

The delegate started his report with the information about the Government Decree that entered into force at the beginning of this year and refers to the standardization and recording of geographical names in Hungary. All geographical names – administrative town and village names, country names are now considered as geographical names, According to the Government Decree, the Committee makes decisions of the names of water bodies, settlements, streets, transport, protected areas, minority names, names of features not regulated as yet, e.g. planetary and astronomical features. The treatment of names in multilingual areas and minority names were also pointed out in the report. Recent field collection was focused on microtoponymes with regard to geographical names. For the past 20 years new field collection has been going on in Hungary. Orthophotos are also used for the office treatment of names. The problem with the orthography minority names was discussed as well. The presenter has illustrated this problem and the activities done on the example shown on slides.

Q: *Croatia* – The Croatian geographical names collection was conducted from Croatian linguistic institutions. The data should be linked with Hungarian data. The Croatian standard language is used in school system in Hungary and therefore Croatian orthography should not be a problem. It can be modified by dialectal forms present in different parts in Hungary. It should be no problem how to write Croatian names on maps.

A: The difference is based on the dialect and on the orthography that should actually be in standard form. So, if there will be any problem, it will surely be solved.

### **Round presentations/reports/discussion from each of the participating countries**

#### *CROATIA*

*Dunja Brozović-Rončević: Report on the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Croatia in the period from 2007 – 2008*

The Report emphasized that so far there has been no national body for the standardization of geographical names established in Croatia. The Croatian Parliament is competent for the naming and specification of territories of the counties and municipalities. The municipality committees are responsible for naming and making decisions on territories of settlements. The changes of names of towns and municipalities are published in Narodne novine, the national gazette of the Republic of Croatia, and the changes of settlement names in official papers of particular municipality. The names are kept in the Register of Spatial Units in the State Geodetic Administration (SGA). The report illustrates the status of minority languages defined by European Charter on Ethnic Regional and Minority Languages. According to Croatian Constitution the official language and script being Croatian and Latin. In the communities where certain minority constitutes more than one third of the population, minority language or other scripts may be introduced into official use under the conditions specified by law. The Report also brings the lists of gazetteers in Croatia. Special emphasis is given to the databases containing usually more information than gazetteers, with the Croatian Geographic Names Database being the part of the national spatial infrastructure. The process of checking the geographical names and attributes is in the progress in Croatia.

#### *CYPRUS*

*Report of Cyprus*

The presentation started with a small overview of activities connected with the geographical names since 1950. The representative of Cyprus gave a chronology of activities connected with the field collection and office treatment of names, then he described in short the

administrative structure of the Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names that prepared national gazetteers. There was a Booklet/Guide for the Standardization of Names published in 2007 including a large number of items, as well as the table of all the names of towns and villages of Cyprus as they have been used and approved for hundreds of years by both Greek and Turkish communities and standardized by the Committee. UNGEGN Promotional Brochure will be published as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by the end of 2008. The issue of the transliteration of the Greek alphabet into the Roman writing system was also addressed in the report. The list of country names and capitals presented during the UN 8<sup>th</sup> Conference in Berlin has been updated and revised and should be published by the beginning of the next year. It was suggested in the report that the changing of geographical names should be discouraged because it could lead to the loss of cultural and historical heritage. The works in progress are also listed in the report. The delegate thanked to the hosting country and its institutions for the highly qualified work done for this meeting.

Q: (*Turkey*) Has Cyprus got any help from Turkey when working on the standardization of geographical names, because there are many Turkish names?

A: Many micro toponymes were gathered and were not changed since 1974 before the Turkish invasion. No Turkish names were changed, although many Turkish names were changed and sent to UN, but UN rejected such changes, because the Turkish invading activities were condemned by UN and did not accept the changes.

Q: (*Turkey*) Are there any Turkish representatives in the Committee. Turkey recognizes two states in Cyprus and is trying to solve the problem

A: The representatives do not participate even though they have been asked to. This is a political issue, we came here to discuss the problems on the standardization of geographical names. He apologizes to the participants for the digression.

Chairman: The Statute points out that we have no rights to discuss sovereign rights of any country. All documents issued here have no political significance.

#### *SLOVAKIA*

Since the representative of Slovakia, Mrs. Maria Kovačova could not participate the Chairman announced the topic of the report on the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in the Slovak Republic in the period from 18<sup>th</sup> session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, 2007 to 2008.

#### *POLAND*

The report of Poland 2007 – 2008 gave an overview of how geographical names are established in Poland depending on the type of objects described. There are two organization in Poland dealing with standardizing of geographical names: Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Object and the Commission of Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland. The report described the legislation concerning geographical names and referred to multilingual areas. The work on elaborating a State Register of Geographical Names is presently under way. The report gave information about the web sites where toponymic data can presently be found pointing out that they are regularly updated.

The Chairman suggests to the representative of Poland, since she mentioned of a lot of institutions and bodies responsible for the activities connected with the standardization of geographical names, to make a selection of bodies that the ECSEE Division web site could be linked to.

#### **4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

*H. Bergmann – Austria : Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors*

The report brings a short history of the development of toponymic guidelines giving information about the guidance of the project and illustrates the structure of toponymic guidelines by presenting the actual Austrian guidelines. He apologized for some font problems with it, but they will be removed till the Nairobi session. One of the main items are languages, alphabet, spelling rules, pronunciation of German geographical names, remarks on linguistic substrata recognizable in German place names, dialects, minority languages for cartographic relevance (in Austria only 3 languages are relevant – Slovenian, Croatian, Hungarian). The second main chapter of the guidelines are the names authorities and names standardization. The third chapter refers to source material, where one can get standardized names. Another important points is glossary of words frequently occurring in geographical names (German, Slovenian, Croatian, Hungarian). Abbreviations used in the official map of Austria 1:50 000 were also emphasized as an important issue. The delegate encouraged the representative of those countries who have not yet published their Guidelines to feel free and contact the coordinator for toponymic guidelines, Mrs Isolde Hausner.

(*Croatia*): UniCode should be used to overcome some problems connected with font. Then, there will be no more problems to have the Guidelines in Internet as well.

#### *CROATIA*

*Ž. Hećimović: East Central and south-East Europe Division Overview*

It was pointed out in the Report that the UNGEGN documents and data used in the report come from the member countries, and the Chairman is not allowed to change the data. There are some objections coming with respect to the information in the documents issued by individual countries. Closer cooperation is needed, and the delegates are invited to check the data in the document on the national basis and send the corrections to the Chairman. The Document is supposed to represent the Division.

Every country can belong to more than one Division, and such information can be found in the Document. It is very important to keep the information updated. It refers to all information sections and they have to be refreshed on the regular basis. The Chairman appealed to the delegates to offer their cooperation. In this way there would be less misunderstanding, and we will have an overview of the situation in the Division.

Q: (*Greece*) – “On General Agenda item 4 and in relation to document ECSEED/Session, 19/2008/1, I would like to make a remark to be reflected on the record regarding the use of the term “Macedonian” to identify the language spoken in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Greece does not recognize the adjective “Macedonian” to denote the official language used in this country, as well as the specific country and language codes “MK” and “MKD”. In this respect we would like to point out that this issue is closely related to the difference over the name issue between the two countries which is presently being negotiated between them under the auspices of the UN with the aim to finding a mutually acceptable solution.”

A. The information has been taken from the Conference in 2007 – the information is official. The Chairman refers only to the official data and cannot change such information. The issue

has been discussed in New York and the official recognized name of the language is used in the documents.

### **Round of presentations/reports/discussions from each of the participating countries**

#### *TURKEY*

##### *National Report of Turkey (2002-2008)*

The report emphasized the role of the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey that is responsible for standardization of geographic names. It coordinates and accelerates the efforts invested in the standardization and it will carry out its tasks in parallel with UNGEGN. The report also brought a historical background of the attempts to standardize geographical names in Turkey. It explained the legal status of the Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey and illustrated its activities including its participation at several Division meetings.

Q: (*Austria*). New Turkish Guidelines – will they be ready by the session in Nairobi?

A: It is probably going to be finished for Nairobi, but no promises should be made, there is no certain date, the work is in process.

Chairman: The Guidelines can be presented at the level of Division, or at the level of Working Group, but then it has to be specified.

*Turkey*: The delegate points out that they are curious about other national experiences, about solving the problem of deadlines. That's why they cannot make any promises.

### **Discussion**

*Turkey*: Austrian example very practical, it could be very helpful to hear more about the Austrian experience.

*Austria*: In 1977 – Mr. Breu initiated the model. At the present moment the Austrian guidelines are being updated. No costs, because it is on Internet. The new edition is being prepared. The authors are members of National Names Board.

*Turkey*: It is not always easy to find people to do the work. They think about recruiting people. Everyone has got other responsibilities and no time to participate in some extra work.

*Austria*: The authors of the last version of the guidelines were linguists, specific geographical information was obtained from the Austrian National Boards.

*Croatia*: The group consisting of CGI, CHI, Language and Linguistic Institute work together with geodetic experts, geographers and linguists. The situation is complicated regarding the stratification of languages. Everything has to be done at the level of cooperation of geodetic, geographic and linguistic experts.

*Turkey*: How long does it take to finish the job?

*Croatia*: We work on the basis of the Austrian model. It only has to be done according to the UNGEGN recommendations, because the work has already been done previously, now it only needs to be compiled and updated all the time. Estonian and Swedish models are very good, published as booklets, not only on Internet.

Chairman: There is a link on our web site.

## **5. Toponymic data files and gazetteers**

### *POLAND*

*M. Zych : National Gazetteer of Poland "Geographical Names of Poland" Vol. 1 Hydronyms*  
The report informed the participants of the Session that the full national gazetteer has not yet appeared in Poland. Geographical names of Poland, vol. 1 Hydronyms has got a total of 15,857 names. The list is given in two languages, Polish and English. The text is only in Polish in the separate columns. The delegate described in his presentation the structure of the gazetteer emphasizing the columns for each name in which the information is given. Volume 1. Geographical names of Poland is accessible in PDF format on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographic names. The presentation gave a history of publishing of standardized geographical names in Poland. The Polish State Register of Geographical Names corresponding to the names detail accuracy more or less of 1:10 000 maps has been elaborated for several years. The list of hydronyms appeared in 2006 as the first volume.

Q (*Croatia*): Did you cooperate with linguists in your projects?

A: Only official forms were included into the Register, no dialects.

Q (*Croatia*): How did you make this feature classification?

A: Act on Names of Geographical Objects – it was the reference. The classification was made on the geographical basis.

Q (*Croatia*): Is there a law about defining the features?

A: There is a law in Poland.

Q (*Croatia*): How long did you work on it?

A: 4 years

Q(*Croatia*): How many people?

A: About 30 – 40 people worked.

Q (*Ukraine*): Did you have any coordinates for e.g. river, is there any document about it.

A: Everything was checked on topographic maps.

Q (*Turkey*): How did you collect data?

A: The names are collected from topographic maps.

Q (*Turkey*): Were there any field observations? Did you use remote sensing.

A: After the World War II there were standardized names. The experts checked in other publications if there were any changes.

Q (*Turkey*): What scales of topographic maps did you use.

A: 1:10000, 1:25000

*Croatia*: There are some coordinates about how long a river needs to be to be named a river. Such coordinates should be established on the European level.

## CROATIA

### *Ž. Hećimović: Croatian Geographical Names Database*

Dr. Hećimović stated that the program to establish the national spatial data infrastructure was launched by the State Geodetic Administration of the Republic of Croatia. The Norwegian Government supported the development of the Croatian Geographical Names Database. It should encompass all Croatian geographical names in official use, but also the names that are not necessarily UML model taken from Norwegian colleagues, but it was extended. It is going to be used for INSPIRE PROGRAM running on European level.

Q (*Turkey*): What is the legal status? Can you get the data from any other database in the country?

A: CGI is responsible for the Register of Geographical Names. There are more registers in Croatia. There are a lot of registers within the Government, on private level, water authorities, traffic authorities. We try to collect information from all these institutions. There is no standardization body, but we have cooperation with the State Geodetic Administration, Hydrographic Institute.

*Croatia*: Institute of Linguistics has got a lot of information collected in the field. The Norwegian model has been adopted, and the Database will have a lot of other information, e.g. etymology, history of some items, special status of minority names. It will be indicated in the Database. There are many collections of names made by other institutions like universities, institutes.

*Austria*. A lot of information collected by a number of linguistic scientific institutions. A meeting in Vienna, where the Swedish institution presented their database. They made a link between their institution and the Institute of Cultural Heritage. Principally, it is possible to make such links, very good prospective for the future.

*Croatia*: All databases must be put in some kind of logical context to be part of national infrastructure. Links can be made with other databases, but also as a part of national infrastructure.

## **6. Exonyms**

### *SLOVENIA*

*M. Orožen-Adamič: Exonyms*

The presenter emphasized the problem of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, belonging to issue “number one” in UN discussion among other issues. UNGEGN strategy is to help the countries to standardize geographical names. The presenter illustrated the Working Group on Exonyms in more details emphasizing the difference between exonyms and endonyms. The publication “Wiener Osteuropa Studien” was presented along with the information about its authors. The intention of the Working Group is to find proper solutions with regard to exonyms, which requires exact definition of what can be regarded as an exonym. The emphasis was given to the situation where there are two or three languages used in certain area and to the problem how to present it on the map. Local political situation is very important and must be carefully elaborated. The situation on the ground is constantly changing and there is no final solution. It is important to have active national commission. He pointed out the importance of experience exchange between different countries.

*(Hungary)*: Mr. Pokoly referred to the recent debate on maritime names. New definitions for exonym and endonym have been accepted and included in the Glossary of Terminology. He referred to two papers dealing with the problem of maritime names (by P. Woodman, and N. Kadmon). The problem of a new term for high sea areas was mentioned, but it is the topic of debates and discussions by experts that has not yet been finished. Mr. Pokoly suggested that it shouldn't be rushed into solutions.

*(Croatia)*: It was in New York discussion on endonyms and exonyms. The new terminology will not be published as a book, but will be updated regularly.

Q *(Croatia)*: What is your opinion of the classification of exonyms?

A: The definitions were made to help the countries. The new exonyms are not encouraged, because it makes confusion on maps. The practice in different countries is not standardized. UNGEGN is trying to standardize as much as possible, and encourages countries to apply the same practice.

*(Hungary)*: The new definitions are on the web sites of UNGEGN as an Annex to the Glossary. Very careful approach is needed for the use of exonyms. The priority should be given to endonym form especially in the international context. The international standardization should be formed on the basis of national standardization.

*(Croatia)*: The use of exonyms should be avoided in international cartography.

## POLAND

*M. Zych: Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants*

The report gave a brief illustration of the chronology of publishing the list of Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants. He pointed out the decision about the official names in Poland defining that the Polish names of the countries, territories and their capitals mentioned in the list are the only form recommended for use in Polish. The report referred to the manner the changes had been introduced referring to exonyms. The report listed the information contained in the list and attached to the name of countries. The names of the countries contain also the information about their capitals and inhabitants.

Q(*Croatia*): Which nomenclature of regions are you using?

A: They are administrative regions, and no European nomenclature is used.

Q(*Cyprus*): The area of northern Cyprus is an integral part of the Republic of Cyprus so they do not accept it to be mentioned separately.

A: The List of countries is official. The annex is not official. Some disputed parts are listed. There is the remark in the list that the Northern part of Cyprus is an integral part of Cyprus. The information was received from the Ministry of Foreign of Affairs.

(*Cyprus*): He asks the item Northern Cyprus to be deleted in the next edition.

(*Turkey*): Northern Cyprus is de facto a country.

(Chairman): According to the Statute of UNGEGN the questions of sovereignty will not be discussed by the participants of the Working Group.

## 7. Writing systems

### CROATIA

*Ž. Hećimović: Presentation of Geographical Names Using Google Earth*

The report gave a short information about the Google Earth being presented as a commercial tool for 3D presentation of the Earth surface and space. Google Earth users all around the world have opportunity of presenting geographical names. The basic principles of its application in presenting geographical names were described in short. Google Earth as applied for presenting geographical names was presented visually. It allows the classification of feature classes. The ability to visualize national characters due to Unicode Transformation Format was pointed out as especially important.

## 8. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN

### TURKEY

*M. OZTURK: Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN*

The presenter thanked for the organization of the Session. He started with the illustration of what Turkey has done in terms of the objectives of UNGEGN. The participants received a brief background information on UNGEGN regarding organizational structure. Standing committee of Board of Experts for Geographical Names of Turkey was founded in 2004. The Board and its activities were described in the report in terms of its organization and management. There are altogether nine working groups as integral part of the Board. The presenter summarized the progress achieved so far and described then each of the progress items in more details. The presenter emphasized the problems the Board is facing at the moment (consistency in terms of representatives, lack of financial resources and time for working groups).

Q (*Croatia*): Is the Board responsible for the terms as in Austria?

A: The Ministry of Interior is responsible.

## **9. Toponymic web site**

*Ž. Hećimović – ECSEE Division website*

The presenter started with showing the new Division web site, being official web site entered in the registry of UNGEGN. There are no instruction about the organization of the web site. Actual contents should be decided by the members of the Division, who use the site and should participate in its creation. The presenter as a chairman of the Division needs the input from the members of the Division to make the site useful for them and to contain accurate information. The web site, as it is, was presented to the participants. The presenter reminded the participant that he had already received remarks from the members of the Division, and he would make the changes accordingly.

Q (Chairman): Is it all right to put the data about the authorities onto the website, as well as the names of the experts active in the authorities for the standardization of geographical names?

(Hungary): The idea of the Division regarding the website considered very good and the delegate congratulated the Chairman on what has been done. He reminded the participants that toponymic guidelines can be reached via links. We can try to insert a history of previous events on the web site, as well. The idea should be supported by all means.

(Chairman) After repeating the question whether any members should have objections to what has been proposed with regard to publishing the authorities and names of experts on website, there were no objections given.

## **10. Pronunciation**

*HUNGARY*

Report on pronunciation of names

In Hungary IPA transliteration has been introduced for the majority of names in the database.

## **11. Features beyond a single sovereignty**

*CROATIA*

*Dunja Brozović Rončević: Place names as intangible cultural heritage*

The participants were informed about the definition of the intangible cultural heritage and the criteria for such definition. Languages were also put to the list as intangible heritage, because they are today at risk of disappearing. The participants were acquainted with the part of the Resolution of UNGEGN referring to geographical names as cultural heritage. It was pointed out that the local version of geographical names should be collected and recognized as cultural heritage. The presenter focused on the steps to be taken with regard to the intangible cultural heritage with special emphasis on geographical names. The example of Croatia was presented to the delegates explaining the situation starting with the legislative framework, through the data collected in the field and preserved in various institutions in Croatia to dialectal versions of geographical names.

Q: (Austria) New and interesting phenomena that some names have been recognized as cultural heritage. Is this work financed and is it just the work on paper?

A: There are specific funds, because that is the responsibility of the Institute of Croatian language. The city is obliged to provide infrastructure according to the Decrees passed by the Ministry of Culture. At the end digital recordings are made, the basic vocabulary and place names, and other names are collected.

Q(Austria): Is there any competition between the members of certain dialectal groups?

A: The selection has been made according to the criteria of specific characteristics of certain dialect or area. There are many more villages with the speeches that could be chosen. Elaborations of the reasons why certain villages have been chosen can be made, and then special commission decides about accepting or not accepting the elaboration.

(Croatia): The participants were invited to report on the experience in their countries.

(Slovenia) : Such activities have not been yet initiated.

(Austria): Was this work done together with the UNESCO Committee?

A (Croatia): We submit the proposals to the National UNESCO Committee which makes final decision

Q (Hungary): In Hungary there is no initiative in this field. Are there other elements within this field which could be included into the set of cultural heritage, e.g. some words, or other things that could qualify as intangible heritage.

A (Croatia): Some communities tried to protect some words. But it would mean going into to many details. The intention was to protect prototypes, which means the whole speeches, and not individual words.

(Hungary): Are there other issues that could be proclaimed as cultural heritage.

A: (Croatia): Everything that has been written down needs no protection. It already belongs to cultural heritage. But oral tradition needs to be recorded and recognized as intangible cultural heritage.

#### CROATIA

*Ž. Hećimović: United Nations International Year of Languages and the Baška slab*

The presenter started with the information about the year 2008 being proclaimed the international year of languages. The participants were acquainted with the situation with regard to languages in the world today. It was pointed out that about 50% of spoken languages may disappear within a few generations. The presenter described Baška slab and its origins, and pointed out that it in some way it symbolizes the Croatian language.

*Explanation given by Mrs. Dunja Brozović (Croatia):* Glagolitic script is Slavic script. Mrs. Brozović Rončević gave brief explanation of the historical development of Glagolitic script.

### **11. Preparations for the representation of the Division at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGEGN (May, 2009)**

#### CROATIA

*Ž. Hećimović: Presentation of the ECSEE Division at the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEGN*

The delegates have been informed about the manner of preparing the divisional reports for the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEGN. They were given systematic overview of the contents of the ECSEE Division Report, but only as a proposal, and then invited to help in creating this report together with the Chairman. There were also technical instructions given for the report and the deadline for sending the reports mentioned. The Chairman proposed the topic “Geographical Names as Part of the Cultural Heritage is suggested to promoted for the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN session. The Chairman informed the delegates that it will be possible to have Division meetings during the 25<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session.

*Croatia:* The initiative to promote the suggested topic was welcomed. It would be good if our Division would promote the topic of Place Names as Cultural Heritage, and in this way the initiative given by Cyprus would be joined.

Chairman: Material from all countries should gathered with respect to intangible cultural heritage. So far Croatia is the first in doing something. Cyprus delegation is proposed to join in raising the initiative in this direction.

Chairman: All Division countries should send material to the Croatian delegate (Mrs. Dunja Brozović Rončević). The participants are asked to say if they agree with this suggestion.

Mrs. Dunja Brozović Rončević invited the delegates to contact her if they should need any help and advice in dealing with certain problems.

*Turkey*: Could you tell us more about the book on Cultural Heritage?

A: You can send brief information about what has been done in your country, and then it will be included in our Division Report.

*Cyprus*: Voting is not usual practice at Division sessions. But the delegates can decide differently.

*Croatia*: Can we conclude that Mr. Hećimović will be presenting our Division in Nairobi and if there will be voting, Mr. Hećimović will have the support of our Division?

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

#### **14. Co-operation with neighborhood countries and international organizations**

##### *SLOVENIA*

*M. Bront* : *EuroGeoNames Project*

The presenter made the delegates familiar with the EuroGeoNames project. The final result of this project will be two applications – end user interface and commercial use. All national data will be kept in the central service with the data provided by all national mapping and cadastral agencies. In the conclusion the presenter emphasized the benefits of the EuroGeoNames.

Q (*Croatia*): Features – there are more features on the national level. How are they provided?

A: Every country puts their data into feature classification.

Q: (*Turkey*): Is the list of categories available online?

A: The presenter can send it to the delegates if they are interested.

Q: (*Turkey*): Is the presentation going to be distributed among delegates in some form?

A: (Chairman): On CD

##### *CROATIA*

*Ž. Hećimović*: *Proposal of the project on the presentation of the ECSEE Division geographical names*

The presenter described the project emphasizing the goals of the project which refers to the possibility of presenting endonimes in the national scripts, to expose writing differences among countries and to make closer co-operation among Division countries. The focus of the project is not in visualization of details, local names, but in the visualization of geographical names in different national writing systems. The presentation of the endonimes in the national scripts will expose writing differences among countries and represent the reality of Division national scripts and languages.

Q (*Turkey*): Are some other features going to be included, or only place names?

A: Are data are considered, but it can be only settlements.

*Turkey*: It would then be too much work.

#### **15. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names**

Dunja Brozović Rončević gave short explanation about the initiative that the list of names and definitions that go with certain terms should be the same in terminology lists.

*Q (Hungary):* Is the term “horonym” included into the glossary?

*A:* Going into detailed terminology makes everything more complicated, and only the specialists know exact terminology. The problem is left for the scientist to go deeper into. Terminology should be harmonized.

*Greece:* The delegate gave his opinion on some terms that are disputable.

*Croatia:* Mrs. Brozović explained the difference between antroponymy and antroponomastics, as it was standardized long time ago.

## **15. Toponymic education**

*Croatia*

*D. Brozović-Rončević: Toponymic Education*

The participants were given a short overview of UNGEGN training courses on toponymy and onomastic courses given at universities illustrated by the example of Croatia.

In the discussion the delegates gave a few information about the situation in their countries expressing mostly the fact that the courses are of sporadical nature.

*Cyprus*

*P. Vasileiou: Standardization of geographical names as part of the intangible cultural heritage*

The delegate emphasized the importance of geographical names, because they are a part of cultural heritage of all countries and must be protected as such.

*(Croatia):* The data from the report should be included into the report that is going to be prepared for the meeting in Nairobi.

*Chairman:* No resolution can be passed at the level Division, only recommendation.

*Cyprus:* The Session has to make the recommendation about the promotion of the topic.

## **Adoption of the Report of the 19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN**

Greece - Correction on page 10

*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Code MKD – is the official code for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This Working Group has to stick to what we are here for, that is, to geographical names.*

*Chairman-* The Session uses only the official names as given and accepted UN.

*Turkey* – page 9 - Correction of the question – Has Cyprus got any help from the Turkey side In Cyprus when working on the standardization of geographical names, because there are many Turkish names?

*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* – The code MK and MKD have been registered with the ISO 3166 the International Standard for Country Code which has been recognized as the European norm IN 3166. This is closed issue and cannot be the subject of this discussion at this conference. The observation raised regarding the Macedonian language are not grounded having in mind the fact that the nation of the Macedonian Cyrillic alphabet in the former state of Yugoslavia have been dealt with in the Resolution of UNGEGN adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> UN conference on the standardization of geographical names.

*Greece* – The intervention of the distinguished delegate of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is related to the substantial discussions of our meeting under Agenda Item 4 and as it is pronounced during the discussion of Agenda Item 18 named Adoption of the Report of the Session, cannot, to our view, be taken into account.

### **Closing the Session**

The Division Chairman closed the Session.

## **VII. Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the ECSEED of the UNGEGN**

13. The ECSEED Chairman introduced Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the ECSEED of the UNGEGN. The Provisional agenda is given in Annex III.

## **VIII. Conclusions and recommendations**

14. The Nineteenth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN held from 19 to 21 November 2008 in Zagreb made the following recognitions, conclusions and recommendations:

(a) The Session recognized positive achievements and the progress made in the work of geographical names standardization by participating countries.

(b) The submitted national reports and documents contain much information of the various items of the agenda, and the Session recognized the importance of the submitted documents in making evaluation of the progress made by participating countries.

(c) The Session recognized importance of geographical names in national and regional spatial infrastructures, and the necessity of continuing the important work on standardization of geographical names.

(d) The Session recognized activation of Montenegro in the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN as a new Division country.

(e) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends the usage of the system of unique identification of the ECSEED documents; "Document Symbol" that contains the ECSEED acronym, session identification, year and the number of the submitted document during the year (example: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/3 - the 3rd ECSEE Division document in the year 2008, submitted to the 19th ECSEED Session).

(f) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends the usage of the unified first page on the ECSEED documents.

(g) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends the usage of the ECSEE Division list of documents.

(h) The Session recognized new Division Internet site <http://ungegn.cgi.hr> as central Division information point.

(i) The Session concluded that the ECSEED Chairman will represent ECSEED at the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi 2009.

(j) The Session concluded to prepare thematic material on topic geographical names as cultural heritage for the 25th UNGEGN Session that will be implemented in the ECSEED report, and Division countries are going to send contributions to dr. sc. D. Brozović-Rončević that will prepare contribution for Divisional report.

(k) The ECSEE Division Chairman recommends continuous changing and updating of the ECSEED countries data in East Central and South-East Europe Division overview document.

(l) The Session concluded to publish addresses of the national authorities and experts for the standardization of geographical names on the ECSEE Division web sites.

(m) The Session expresses thanks to the Croatian State Geodetic Administration and Croatian Geodetic Institute for the arrangement and services provided for the Nineteenth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN.

## Annex I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

19<sup>th</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN

Zagreb, Croatia

19 - 21 November 2008.

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## Annex II

### List of documents

#### East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Nr.	UNGEGN Division Session Nr.	Date MM/YYYY	Document Symbol	Title	Country / Organization	UNGEGN Division	Prepared by
<b>19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN, Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008</b>							
1	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/1	East Central and South-East Europe Division overview	ECSEED	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman and edited by ECSEED experts
2	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/2	Report of ECSEE Division chairman	Croatia	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman
3	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/3	Standardization of Geographical names in Republic of Bulgaria	Bulgaria	ECSEED	M.Chaleva V.Fakalieva
4	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/4	Report on the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in the Republic of Croatia in the period from 2007 to 2008	Croatia	ECSEED	Ž. Hećimović Z. Štefan I. Landek D. Brozović- Rončević J.Buljat

5	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/5	Croatian Geographical Names Database	Croatia	ECSEED	Ž. Hećimović S. Lemajić
6	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/6	Presentation of geographical names using Google Earth	Croatia	ECSEED	Ž. Jakir Ž. Hećimović
7	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/7	United Nations International Year of Languages and the Baška Slab	Croatia	ECSEED	Ž. Hećimović Z. Štefan I. Posavec
8	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/8	Proposal of the project on the presentation of the ECSEE Division geographical names	Croatia	ECSEED	Ž. Hećimović Ž. Jakir
9	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/9	Report on the Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2007-2008	Hungary	ECSEED	A. Dutkó B. Pokoly G. Mikešy M. Išpanović
10	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/10	Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants	Poland	ECSEED	M. Zych
11	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/11	National gazetteer of Poland: "Geographical names of Poland" Vol.1 "Hydronyms"	Poland	ECSEED	M. Zych
12	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/12	Report of Poland 2007-2008	Poland	ECSEED	M. Zych K. Przyszevska

13	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/13	Report on the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in the Slovak Republic in the period from the 18th session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Praha 2007 to 2008	Slovakia	ECSEED	M. Kováčová
14	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/14	Report of Slovenia	Slovenia	ECSEED	M.Brnot D.Kladnik
15	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/15	National Report of Turkey	Turkey	ECSEED	M. Ozturk
16	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/16	Report of Ukraine on standardization of geographical names in Ukraine in the period of 2007-2008	Ukraine	ECSEED	N. Pinchuk N. Kizilova N. Syvak
17	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/17	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors as promoted by the UNGEGN	Austria	ECSEED	H. Bergmann
18	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/18	The <i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO)</i> as the Austrian model of a national names board	Austria	ECSEED	H. Bergmann
19	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/19	Websites of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	Croatia	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman
20	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/20	Presentation of the ECSEE Division at the 25th Session of UNGEGN	Croatia	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman

21	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/21	Report of Cyprus	Cyprus	ECSEED	P. Vasileiou
22	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/22	Procedure of collecting and recording the toponyms and the area names of Kypros (Cyprus)	Cyprus	ECSEED	P. Vasileiou
23	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/23	Treatment of Geographical Names in Multilingual Areas	Slovenia	ECSEED	M. Orožen-Adamič
24	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/24	EuroGeoNames	Slovenia	ECSEED	M.Brnot
25	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/25	Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its nineteenth session	ECSEED	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman

## **Annex III**

### **Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

1. Opening of the Session.
2. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (b) Election of officers;
  - (c) Organization of work.
3. National standardization:
  - (a) Field collection of names;
  - (b) Office treatment of names;
  - (c) Treatment of names in multilingual areas;
  - (d) Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures.
4. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors.
5. Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity (including indigenous, minority and regional language names).
6. Toponymic data files and gazetteers:
  - (a) Data collection procedures;
  - (b) Data elements required;
  - (c) Toponymic data transfer standards and formats;
  - (d) Automated data processing systems;
  - (e) National gazetteers;
  - (f) Other publications.
7. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names.
8. Writing systems:
  - (a) Romanization;
  - (b) Conversion into non-Roman writing systems;
  - (c) Writing of names in unwritten languages.
9. Pronunciation.
10. Country names.
11. Exonyms.
12. Features beyond a single sovereignty.
  - (a) Features common to two or more nations;
  - (b) Bilateral/multilateral agreements.
13. Toponymic websites.
14. Co-operation with neighborhood countries and international organizations.
15. Toponymic education.
16. Geographical names databases.
  - (a) Data models and classifications;

- (b) Data maintenance;
  - (c) Data standards and interoperability;
  - (d) Data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services).
17. Promotion of indigenous and minority group names.
  18. The Geographical Names as Part of the Cultural Heritage.
  19. Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of UNGEGN.
  20. Other information.
  21. Adoption of the Report of the Twentieth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN.
  22. Closing the Session.