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**21<sup>st</sup> Session of the East, Central and South-East Europe Division  
of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

Ljubljana, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Report by Government on the situation and on the progress made in the standardization of  
geographical names since 2014**

**Report of the Czech Republic**

**Submitted by Czech Republic\***

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## Summary

Since the recent UN conference, the Czech Republic has continued both the standardization of the names for the territory of the Czech Republic and the standardization of the names outside this territory. The already standardized names are updated and we maintain the updated list of names of countries on the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre website. 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 Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre. The interconnection of these systems together with other systems that register geographical names, such as cadastral map, will be ready during next 5 years.

## 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. The chapter introduces individual authorities represented by representatives in the Commission on Geographical Names.

Relevant laws and other generally binding legal regulations are applied by various activities in the field of standardization of geographical names.

There are several main state bodies responsible for the names standardization:

- The Ministry of the Interior supervises the names of settlements, i.e. municipalities and their part,
- The Ministry of the Regional Development oversees the names of regional entities in relation to tourism,
- The Ministry of Agriculture cooperates on the water names,
- The Ministry of the Environment creates the names of protected landscape areas,
- The Czech Statistical Office standardizes the names of basic settlement units for purpose of the territorial planning, statistics and elections,
- The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre is responsible for the names of cadastral units and for the standardization of other names that are to be included in the state map series (field names, oronyms etc.)

## **Names Sources**

The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (Abbr. COSMC, web site: <http://www.cuzk.cz>) is the publisher of the State Map Series on the territory of the Czech Republic. The State Map Series consist of Large-Scale Maps, Medium-Scale Basic Maps, Maps of Landscape Units, Maps of Administrative Division, Sheet Lines of the State Map Series and Thematic State Map Series. Maps are published within various scales from 1: 5 000 to 1: 1 mil. in printed or digital forms, which are regularly renewed in the short period of time. Geographic information systems administered by the COSMC are called ZABAGED and Geonames. All, maps and visualized databases ZABAGED and Geonames, are available at the web site of the business module and map services of the COSMC <http://www.geoportal.cuzk.cz>.

The expert body of the COSMC for names standardization has been since 1971 the Commission on Geographical Names, which has been continuing in the same working structure since 2000. It is responsible for the database of Czech geographical names, whose administration and update is realized by the Land Survey Office. The database, which is called Geonames, was established in 1997 and names from the whole territory of the Czech Republic occurring on map sheets 1:10 000 were adopted into the database before 2014.

The update of geographical names on cadastral maps in scale of 1:2880 and 1: 1000 takes place within the scope of COSMC.

### **Names gazetteers and other publications**

- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names on the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Territory of the Czech Republic,
- Concept of Standardization of Geographical Names of the Czech Republic in the Years 2015-2020.

The application Names of the World is a result of the Project for searching standardized Czech geographical names „UN Gazetteer” on the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre website. On the website you can find these themes: Oceans, Seas, Their Bodies, Submarine Object, Ocean Currents and Names in Antarctica and Arctic and Names of the states and their territorial Parts.

### **International cooperation**

The Czech Republic is an active member of various international projects, i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Zagreb, Croatia, 13-17 May 2015.

The Commission on Geographical Names also cooperates with neighbouring countries, i.e. regular meetings of three adjoining countries: Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Republic of Poland. Topics discussed at the meetings were as follows: cross-border cooperation, information about activities in the field of standardization of geographical names and terminological problems especially Glossary of Term for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Members of the Commission on Geographic Names attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Czech-Slovak cartographic conference in Lednice with the paper Publication of Geographical Terminological Lists of the UN-CR.

\_December, 2015