

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

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**Report on the activities in the field of standardization of
geographical names in the Slovak Republic**

Submitted by Slovakia*

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National standardization

Field collection

In approaching the standardization of geographical names, Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as „ÚGKK SR“ or „Authority“) takes into account that the name is an unambiguous identifier of the relevant geographic feature, that geographical names are part of our cultural heritage, that they are part of cartography, trade, telecommunications, statistics, searching for information about a particular geographic feature in the internet services, visualization of geographic information on the maps and on the screens, as well as in spatial data processing and that its use on an international scale is of equal importance.

The Authority continues with standardization of geographical names in collaboration with the district office cadastral departments.

At the present time the Authority is concerned with increasing 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. After the fusion we found out that there were some differences between names for single geographical features. Some features have more than one name. 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.

Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures. (Without changes)

On the territory of the Slovak Republic the authorities for geographical names are as follows: The National Council of the Slovak Republic, the Government of the Slovak Republic, The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and The Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic. Competence of the authorities for geographical names is implied in the Acts of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

Office treatment of names

In order to provide a specialized function of standardization, in 1970 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names of the Authority (hereinafter referred to as “Commission”) was established as an advisory board of the Authority for geographical name standardization. Working bodies of the Commission are as follows:

1. section dealing with the standardization of geographic names from the territory of Slovak Republic,
2. section dealing with the standardization of geographic names from the territory outside Slovak Republic.

The standardization of geographical names was provided by the Authority also by law; the Authority also published a technical regulation on the criteria of classification, method, rules and procedure of geographical names standardization and standardized geographic names publications.

Toponymic data files and gazetteers

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.

Automated data processing systems

Database of geographical names from the territory of the Slovak Republic was incorporated to ZB GIS in 2013. Data from the database can be distributed as MS Excel, Geodatabase or Shape formats.

Publications

In 2015 a new instruction for standardisation of geographical names in the Slovak Republic was published:

The Directive for the Standardization of Geographical Names. It will be published on the internet too. Selected lists of geographical names were published on the website <http://www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/>.

Country names (ongoing activity)

The list of country names has been continuously updated on the homepage of ÚGKK SR <http://www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/>.

Toponymic websites

Information concerning geographical names as well as selected sets of standardized names have been continuously published and updated on the home page of the Authority at the address <http://www.skgeodesy.sk/sk/ugkk/geodezia-kartografia/standardizacia-geografickeho-nazvoslovia/>.

Until now besides common materials concerning the geographical names standardization lists of standardized names there were published as follows:

Names of mountains, valleys, passes and saddles,

Names of cadastral areas,

Names of protected areas,

Slovak exonyms of geographical features lying out of the territory of the Slovak Republic,

Country names.

Names of waters – waterfalls, reservoirs, ponds, springs, tarns, canals, lakes and other features.

Data services, applications and products

Geographical names from the whole territory of the Slovak Republic are available on the internet page of the Geodetic and Cartographic Institute Bratislava at the address:

<http://www.geoportal.sk> through web services by means of the WMS, WFS together with the ZB GIS data.

Implementation of resolutions and the aims and functions of **UNGEGN** (ongoing activity)

The Authority provided information for the general public about international activities and international collaboration in the field of geographical names standardization via the periodical *Názvoslovné informácie* (Geographical Names Information), which is published twice a year. In the publications were published also informative technical papers, results of the UN conference proceedings, results of linguistic/geographical regional groups, findings of the Division of UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names, decisions on geographical names standardization and gazetteers, as well as the changes of standardized names.