

# 26th meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms

14 May 2024 Czech Academy of Sciences,

15 May 2024 Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre

25 Participants from 14 Countries

12 Paper Presentations:

Bölcskei Andrea Hungarian names of European regions and administrative units

Choo Sungjae Reducing the use of exonyms in Korean.

Crljenko Ivana Ukrainian place names in the Croatian language

Geršič Matjaž Challenges in transliterating European geographical names into Arabic

Jaillard Pierre UNGEGN and exonyms: what have we already done? what remains to be done? ho

Jordan Peter The endonym/exonym divide related to transboundary features

Kubicova Maria Slovak exonyms

Liščák Vláďa Toponymy of Macau (history and today), with field examples

Michalec David About the Czech gazetteer “Jména Evropy (Names of Europe)”

Zagórski Bogusław R. Some modern renderings of toponyms in Mauritania – difficult que

Zych Maciej Streets of Warsaw named after foreign geographical features. An example of the u

# WG on Exonyms

Does not require national accreditation to participate – a meeting of experts

26 meetings since 2002 / 8 books of proceedings

\* Trends of Exonym use      \* Definition of Exonym      \* Criteria for use      \* Categorisation

**Past:** Exonyms seen as remnants of colonialism / Universal “one feature – one name” fantasy

**Recent:** Increased recognition of exonyms as “living and vital parts of languages”

Recognition of geographical names as part of cultural heritage

Respect of Indigenous / Minority names -> one feature – multiple names

\* Exonyms generally indicate a familiarity of the language community to the denominated features rather than an idea of domination on them

\* Exonyms do not cause ambiguities – Within the language community, context is clear

\* Use of Exonyms is to be determined by the “receiver” language community

# Recent Development

**2021 UNGEGN:** paper presentations recognising the value of exonyms

Decision 12:

(c) Decided to conduct further discussions on finding guidelines that reconcile the current resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on exonyms and its acknowledgement of exonyms as part of the cultural heritage;

**2022 Exonyms WG meeting (Ljubljana)** – Agreed on a draft recommendation

**2023 UNGEGN:** Concerns raised on the draft – Ljubljana draft not raised for approval (introduced as an agreement at the WG)

Decision 16:

(b) Decided that there was a need to issue a recommendation, for consideration at the 2025 session of the Group of Experts, that reconciles the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names on exonyms and its acknowledgement of exonyms as part of cultural heritage, and that the Working Group on Exonyms should continue further discussions towards achieving this;

**2024 Exonyms WG meeting (Prague)** – Further discussion towards 2025 UNGEGN New York