

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)

The Twenty-eight Meeting of the

East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN

Prague, 16 May 2024

Report of Slovenia

Summary

After the 3rd session of UNGEGN the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CSGN) has continued with standardization of the geographical names within and outside the territory of Slovenia. The CSGN met on 13 occasions: 2 hybrid meeting and 11 correspondence meetings. Information and activities related to the Commission are posted on the website: <https://www.gov.si/en/registries/working-bodies/commission-for-the-standardization-of-geographical-names/>.

The regular task of the commission is to issue opinions on correctness and suitability of new names of streets and settlements. This engagement is provided by the law of defining territories and naming of settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of CSGN is obligatory for municipalities that finally officially announce new or changed names. In the period the Commission was deciding about 35 street names and 1 settlement name.

Major projects that the Commission has been working on recently are standardization of hydronyms in the Republic of Slovenia from the Register of Geographical Names for a scale 1: 25,000, micro toponyms in Rába Valley (Porabje) and standardization of the names of public passenger transport stops.

There is regular cooperation with translators, lecturers, journalists and various public services about the correct use and spelling of geographical names, especially exonyms.

Slovenia actively participates in the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division, Working Group on Exonyms and Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management.

National report

<p>B</p>	<p>Member state report on the situation in their country <i>The progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the last UNGEGN session (news in the field of geonames in the country, progress of ongoing projects, finished projects, issues and use cases for inspiration for other countries, changes in database of geonames).</i></p>	<p>The CSGN permanent task is deciding about names (new or rename) of streets and settlements. The CSGN prepared detailed directions with purpose to improve the practise of naming streets and settlements. There has recently been made a progress on naming proposals. However, relatively often we get proposals for naming several short streets (sometimes even longer) with only one name. The CSGN rejects these proposals and propose designating and naming of several streets.</p> <p>The Commission regularly cooperate with translators, proofreaders, journalists and various public and governmental services about the correct use and spelling of geographical names, especially exonyms. Slovenian translators at the Council of Europe always consult the CSGN in case of ambiguity regarding the correct spelling of foreign names, which is good practise for the proper use of geographical names.</p> <p>With the aim of later standardization, the review of the Italian geographical names in ethnically mixed area for a scale 1: 5,000 continues.</p> <p>In September 2021, a three-year project for the standardization of hydronyms from the Register of Geographical Names for a scale 1: 25,000, was started. After the first reviewing of the linguistic and geographical correctness of hydronyms, in the spring 2023 hydronyms were send for review to all Slovenian municipalities. About a quarter of the municipalities sent the results of the review. Currently a more detailed review of linguistic and geographical correctness is done and solving individual problematic names. The aim of the project is to prepare a list of hydronyms for the subsequent standardization at the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names.</p> <p>The process of the digitalization of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names is completed. Forum for discussions of Commission's members on individual (re)naming issues is in use. The online platform is accessed at: https://nodebb03.abak.si .</p>
<p>C</p>	<p>National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications <i>- date of the meeting - name of the meeting - place of the meeting - main theme - useful information from the meeting - in case of publications, guidelines: how often are they issued, what is the content of these publications</i></p>	<p>International meetings – participation of the CSGN members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 5 May 2023, 3rd session of UNGEGN, New York, USA. • 5 – 7 September 2023, EUGEO Congress, Barcelona, Spain. • 26 – 29 September 2023, Symposium on Place Names, Bloemfontein, South Africa. • 18 – 19 October 2023, Conference Dani geografskih imena 2023 (Geographical names days), Novigrad, Croatia. <p>Publication of an article in an international professional magazine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization of geographical names on land and sea in Slovenia (Drago Perko, Matjaž Geršič, Matija Zorn). In: O'Reilly, Gerry (ed.) Geography, naming and identities: critical perspectives in a globalizing and standardizing world, Springer Nature, 2023.

	<i>- publicity: articles in international professional magazines, publication of own professional magazines.</i>	
D	Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits <i>Information, recommendations, guidelines in legislative, control management.</i>	The United Nations resolutions are implemented in the process of geographical names standardization. In Slovenia all proposals for new names or renames must be included in the standardization process.
E	National standardization	
<i>Ea</i>	<i>Field collection of names</i>	Field collection of names is carried out exceptionally when office treatment is not sufficient. There has been no such case since May 2023.
<i>Eb</i>	<i>Office treatment of names</i>	<p>Decision making of all proposals for street and settlement names, and all other names for which different users contact the Commission.</p> <p>The Commission recently dealt with three specific tasks in more detail – the renaming of one peak and one mountain pass and the standardization of the names of public passenger transport stops.</p> <p>The Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names, on the initiative of the Alpine Association of Slovenia, discussed the renaming of one peak (Stegovnik) and one saddle (Knipsovo sedlo) in mountain range Karavanke. The Commission, after a thorough review of all available material, which also included linguistic analysis and statements obtained from locals, decided that Štegovnik (Stegovnik -> Štegovnik) and Knepsovo sedlo (Knipsovo sedlo -> Knepsovo sedlo) are more appropriate forms of names. Both names have been standardized.</p> <p>Standardization of the names of public passenger transport stops. The names of public passenger transport stops in Slovenia have never been regulated according to uniform principles. In addition, they are under the jurisdiction of various national and local institutions and are therefore not unified. Thus, in 2022, the Anton Melik Geographic Institute began the task of determining the appropriate (re)naming of public transport stops for the entire country. In the task the intercity bus stops, railway stops and city stops were discussed. In preparing the list of names the principle was followed that the name of the station is identical with the settlement in which the station is located or to which it functionally belongs. Exceptions are stations with a purely touristic purpose, which are located outside the urban parts of settlements. If there are several stations in a settlement, they are given an additional name. The additional name can be a standardized abbreviation or another proper or common name.</p>

<i>Ec</i>	<i>Treatment of names in multilingual areas</i>	<p>The Republic of Slovenia has two official national minorities - the Italian and Hungarian.</p> <p>The preparation of a list of Italian geographical names for a scale level 1:5,000 and the subsequent standardization is still in progress. The list is preparing by the Italian national community. They are reviewing and supplementing the list with missing Italian names. However, when reviewing names, they have a lot of problems with knowing individual names (especially smaller landscape areas, house names). Therefore, the review is very slow.</p> <p>Activities related to the preparation of the list and the standardization of Hungarian geographical names for the level of 1:25,000 scale has been inactive since January 2017. The initiative to complete the list is on the side of the national community.</p>
<i>Ed</i>	<i>Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures</i>	<p>Without changes.</p> <p>As we only had a legal basis for the renaming and naming of streets and settlements, we have also drawn up rules for other names. The regulations are called Decree on the Naming of Geographical Phenomena in the Republic of Slovenia.</p>
<i>Ee</i>	<i>Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors</i>	Without changes.
F.	Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity <i>Including indigenous, minority and regional language names.</i>	In December 2023, a two-year research project about Slovenian micro toponyms in Rába Valley (Porabje) in Hungary was finished. Available archival sources containing such names in the Rába Valley were reviewed and working material for field studies was prepared. In cooperation with locals that still speak the dialect, the collected names were checked and transcribed into the dialect form. At a result of the project, a book and a map with collected micro toponyms were published.
G.	Exonyms <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i>	<p>Active participation in the Working Group on Exonyms.</p> <p>As part of a call for proposals by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, we submitted a joint project proposal with Croatia entitled "Geographical Names on the Battlefield: Victims or Weapons? A Critical Epistemological Analysis of Exonyms".</p>
H.	Geographical names data management	
<i>Ha</i>	<i>Content requirements and standards</i>	<p>Without changes.</p> <p>In addition to national specificities, the Register of Geographical Names is compliant with the INSPIRE directive.</p> <p>In the Register the UTF-8 (Unicode Standard for variable-width character encoding) is used.</p> <p>Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia is actively involved in the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management of the UNGEGN and in the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM).</p>
<i>Hb</i>	<i>Data management and interoperability</i>	In the terms of interoperability, link of hydrographic data of the Slovenian Water Agency and hydronyms of the Register of geographical names is in progress. Geographical names from the Register of Geographical Names have already been attributed to the hydrographic objects managed by Slovenian Water Agency.

		<p>Coordination of data (topography and geographical names) between the data of Surveying and Mapping Authority and the Water Agency is being carried out. It is necessary to define and identify individual water bodies and their names, which can be quite challenging in the case of linear objects – the upstream branches of the watercourse can all be named the same as the main watercourse, or only one of them can be etc.</p> <p>The Surveying and Mapping Authority continues with the corrections of errors in Register of Geographical Names, which are the result of the initially cartographically oriented database, and the resulting mismatch of geographical names between different scales.</p>
Hc	<p>Data services, applications and products Including gazetteers and web services.</p>	<p>Without changes.</p> <p>Geographical names (with all code lists and attribute's descriptions) of the official Register of Geographical Names are free of charge and easy-accessible via Surveying and Mapping Authority's website: https://www.e-prostor.gov.si .</p> <p>The Register's geographical names are also included in many web services of both Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and other state bodies.</p>
I	<p>Terminology in the standardization of geographical names New or changed definitions and terms.</p>	Without changes.
J	Writing systems and pronunciation	
Ja	Romanization	
Jb	Conversion into non-Roman writing systems	Without changes.
Jc	Writing of names in unwritten languages	Unsolved.
Jd	Pronunciation	Without changes.
K	<p>Country names New or changed country names from the UNGEGN List of Country Names that were imported to the list of geonames in this country (in language of this country).</p>	In 2023, the list of Slovenian country names (according to ISO 3166) was updated – Iceland and Nepal discontinued their official full name and Moldova changed official language from Moldavian to Romanian.
L	<p>Toponymic education Toponymical courses, works in organisation, issues and solution of problems.</p>	<p>Regular cooperation with translators, lecturers, journalists and various public services about the correct use and spelling of geographical names, especially exonyms.</p> <p>The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, together with the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names, prepared guidelines in the field of language use and geographical names. Guidelines were prepared for the use and writing of country names, exonyms, Slovenian geographical names in neighboring countries and geographical names in international documents. Concrete examples are also described.</p>

M	Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	
Ma	<i>Features common to two or more nations</i>	Geographical names in official multilingual in Slovenia – task Ec.
Mb	<i>Bilateral and multilateral agreements</i>	Unsolved.
Mc	<i>Coastal seas</i>	Without changes.
Md	<i>Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters</i>	Without changes.
Me	<i>Geonames in Antarctica</i>	Unsolved.
Mf	<i>International cooperation Cooperation with institutions, countries – specific project.</i>	<p>Slovenia is actively involved in several international projects (cartographic, geographic and linguistic) and cooperation about geographical names.</p> <p>Cross-border data harmonization between Slovenia and Austria – without changes. Slovenian names of official border crossings were standardized by the Slovenian Commission. From November 2020, the Austrian Commission is on the move to standardize German names as well.</p> <p>Harmonization of all geographical names on Slovenia – Austria state border was also planned, but the task has been on hold for some time.</p>
N.	Arrangements for the UNGEGN <i>Creating national and other reports, creating articles for Bulletin, communication, cooperation and fulfilment of tasks from the UNGEGN.</i>	<p>Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, actively participates in the task <i>Monitor the availability of free and easy-accessible authorized digital geographical names data</i> (action 1-iii-8 of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029). Due to considerable unresponsiveness of many countries, the task has stalled somewhat in the last months.</p>
O	Supporting sustainable development <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i>	Unsolved.
P	Other <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i>	<p>Activities on the project “What's your house called? Nomen vulgare”, whose main purpose is to collect and preserve traditional house names that are part of the intangible cultural heritage, continues.</p> <p>In the project are so far involved 24 municipalities (more than 450 settlements) in which area were collected more than 14.000 house names. Great interest in the municipalities for this project shows that the old house names are an important part of the rural area, which is due to the modern way of life doomed to oblivion, such projects could take care of the preservation of important intangible cultural heritage of Slovenian territory.</p>