Report, 17th Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, Zagreb, Croatia, 14-16 May 2015

The WG met in the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography [Leksikografski zavod Miroslav Krleža] in Zagreb, Croatia, and was kindly hosted by this Institute including an invited dinner in the first evening. 33 experts from 15 countries attended the meeting (see list of participants attached).

The convenor opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He thanked the hosts and local organizers of this meeting, Ivana CRLJENKO, who had managed the local organization excellently, Mladen KLEMENČIĆ, the competent guide of a city tour at the evening of the second meeting day and an excursion to the Hrvatsko zagorje at the last day, as well as Bruno KRAGIĆ, the director of the Institute. He emphasized the importance of the project of a Croatian list of exonyms conducted at this Institute by Ivana CRLJENKO and extended special thanks to Matjaž GERŠIČ for maintaining the WG website so well. He presented also the proceedings of the last WG Meeting in Hermagor, 5-7 June 2014, which had been edited by Paul WOODMAN and the convenor and had just some days ago been published under the title "Confirmation of the Definitions" as Volume 4 of the toponymic book series "Name & Place".

Director Bruno KRAGIĆ cordially welcomed then all participants on behalf of the Institute. Ivana CRLJENKO provided a survey of the activities regarding exonyms conducted at the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography. They include the Croatian list of exonyms already mentioned as well as a joint Croatian-Slovenian project on exonyms. Mladen KLEMENČIĆ gave a short introduction into history and geography of Zagreb and its hinterland, to which the excursion at the last day of the meeting would lead. Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ from the University of Zadar, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, earlier representing Croatia in UNGEGN, concluded the opening session by presenting a survey of the Croatian namescape.

This opening was followed by a sequence of three sessions with in total 16 papers, 30 minutes presentation time each, including discussion. The structure of these sessions is presented below. The papers will be published as Volume 6 of Name & Place, edited by Paul WOODMAN and Peter JORDAN.

Session 1: Criteria for the use of exonyms – comprehensive approaches (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Austria)

JORDAN, Peter (Austria): Criteria for the use of exonyms – resuming an interrupted discussion

WOODMAN, Paul (United Kingdom): Advice on exonyms and their usage

ZYCH, Maciej (Poland): Criteria for the use of exonyms – the Polish perspective

PÄLL, Peeter (Estonia): Evolution of criteria on the usage of exonyms in Estonian

CHOO, Sungjae; CHI, Sang-Hyun; KIM, Heesu (Republic of Korea): Exonym use in Korean geographical names: Implications for the "criteria"

HEĆIMOVIĆ, Željko; DIVJAK, Dragan (Croatia): Croatian practice and policies of endonym and exonym use considering INSPIRE and NSDI

MIKESY, Gábor; POKOLY, Béla; BÖLCSKEI, Andrea (Hungary): Examples of exonym use in Hungary

Session 2: Exonyms – concept and terminology (Chair: Paul WOODMAN, United Kingdom)

BUŠS, Ojārs (Latvia): Exonymoids and endonymoids?

MÁCHA, Přemysl (Czechia): Exonyms as metaphoric endonyms: World history and geography in local landscapes

BELL, Herman (United Kingdom): The goal of an exonym: Networks of intangible culture

GERŠIČ, Matjaž; KLADNIK, Drago (Slovenia): The Croatian-Slovenian bilateral project on exonyms

Session 3: Specific fields of exonym use (Chair: Maciej ZYCH, Poland)
PAULIG, Helge (Germany): The use of exonyms in German school atlases since 1945
STANI-FERTL, Roman (Austria): Non-official toponyms (exonyms and other name variants) in national names data bases
WATANABE, Kohei (Japan): Scale matters – names of large seas and continents
MAREK, Tomáš (Czechia): Czech names of seas and international territories
CEKULA, Zane (Latvia): The use of exonyms when a geographical feature extends across language boundaries

Before starting the general discussion on criteria for the use of exonyms the convenor addresses briefly three more items:

(1) **Next UNGEGN session:** The next UNGEGN session will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, 25-29 April 2016. The convenor encourages the participants to submit working papers on exonyms. He also hints at intentions expressed in a teleconference recently held between the UNGEGN Bureau and the WG convenors to "empower" the convenors in the conduct of sessions on the activities of their WGs and to open the possibility for a thematic focus defined by the convenor. The thematic focus of the session related to activities of the WG on Exonyms within the next UNGEGN session could be "Criteria for the use of exonyms".

(2) **Next WG meeting:** The convenor informs the meeting of the offer he had received from Tomáš MAREK and his institute, the Czech Land Survey Office, to host the next WG meeting in Prague [Praha], Czechia. This offer is gratefully accepted by all experts present. The question arises, whether it should be held in 2016 or 2017. Since the year 2016 is already "occupied" by the next UNGEGN session in Bangkok, in the framework of which anyway a (short) business meeting of the WG will be organized, it is decided to schedule it for spring 2017.

(3) **Inventory of lists of exonyms:** The existence of an already larger number of lists of widely used exonyms in several countries would be a good reason to establish an inventory of all such lists and gazetteers at the WG website. It could be a valuable source of information for comparative studies on the use of exonyms and beyond. The experts present would agree to this proposal. The convenor would then announce that he would disseminate a template to all WG members and associated experts and ask them to fill in the data of their gazetteer or list according to several characteristics and criteria.

Starting the general discussion lasting two hours and moderated by the convenor, the convenor initially reminds the audience that it is one of the tasks of the WG to develop guidelines for the use of exonyms. Resolution VIII/4 (UN Conference in Berlin, 2002) defined as the WG's major tasks the categorisation of exonym use; the publication of pronunciation guides for endonyms; the formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms. He also hints at efforts already taken in complying to this latter task, i.e. at the WG Meeting in Prague (2003); the 9th Conference in New York (2007), where already a detailed list of criteria was presented and discussed; the WG Meeting in Timişoara (2008), where this list of criteria was again discussed and modified; the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi (2009), where the attempt to propose an essentially reduced version of this list as a model for a UN resolution failed. He mentions also that at the 10th WG Meeting in Tainach 2010 the aim was not a UN resolution anymore, but just a kind of hand-out for people asking for advice and that then the WG's discussion on this topic was interrupted by the seemingly more urgent issue of new definitions of the endonym and the exonym. He also argues that when this discussion on criteria is resumed now, it should be done with the

intentions (1) to produce as the final result a UN resolution and (2) to respect UN resolutions on exonyms already passed. Referring to the latter item further, he notes (with some ironical undertone) that UN resolutions were similar to dogmas of the Roman-Catholic Church insofar as new resolutions/dogmas must not contradict older ones, but can only slightly amend or modify them. All existing UN resolutions on exonyms (6 of them passed between 1972 and 2002), however, demand more or less explicitly their reduction. It had, however, also to be stated that all these resolutions, except the last one passed in Berlin 2002 and establishing the WG, date from a period, when exonyms were banned for political reasons. In the meantime minority names have been acknowledged as legitimate additional endonyms by UNGEGN and UN softening the rigid one name/one feature principle; place names in general, but exonyms explicitly included, have been acknowledged as a valuable part of the cultural heritage. All these developments after the 1980s resulted also in an addition to the definition of the exonym in the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms (version 2007, p. 10) saying that "The United Nations recommends minimizing the use of exonyms in international usage." Since this is not really a necessary addition to the definition, it can be understood as having the intention to stress that the UN's former aim of reducing the use of exonyms in general has been confined to their reduction in international usage. So it was worthwhile to discuss and to find out, in which fields of communication and in which applications the functionality of exonyms was strongest and exonyms were not necessary – of course bearing in mind the still valid mission of the UNGEGN and UN rather to reduce the use of exonyms, or at least to confine their use. In this regard, Alexandros STAVROPOULOS asked the Convenor for a clarification on whether the proposed resolution would also cover cases of international usage of exonyms. The Convenor stated that this would not be the case.

The convenor then proposes to return to the state of discussion reached in Tainach 2010 and to depart from a draft resolution on this topic presented in a common Working Paper of Paul WOODMAN, Phil MATTHEWS and himself submitted to the 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi 2009 (WP 11). He presents it in a version slightly modified by himself as regards the main text and – complying to a request of Alexandros STAVROPOULOS – with a categorization of criteria added that was not part of this WP, but of earlier versions. Both kinds of modifications are marked in Red in the text below.

The Conference,

<u>Recalling</u> the various resolutions with reference to exonyms adopted by the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (II/28, II/29, II/31, II/38, III/18, III/19, IV/20, V/13, VIII/4);
<u>Further recalling</u> the general intention of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to reduce the use of exonyms in international communications;
<u>Recognizing</u> that the customary option for the portrayal of geographical names in international communications will involve use of the standardized endonym;
<u>Acknowledging</u> however that exonyms exist and that an exonym is a function of language;
<u>Further acknowledging</u> that there exist both donor languages (relevant to the endonym of a particular feature) and receiver languages (relevant to the publication or audience for which that feature is to be identified);
<u>Recommends</u> that, where donor and receiver languages differ and the communication does not involve speakers of other languages, an exonym be considered suitable for use in publications as the customary option for the names of features in the following limited circumstances:
- for the names of countries (unless the specific purpose of the publication is to show endonyms)
- for the names of features of shared or divided sovereignty (especially in publications where space is limited)

- for the names of exclusively historical features without any corresponding current endonym;

<u>Further recommends</u> that, if considered useful for communication between speakers of the same language, an exonym may additionally be used in publications for the names of selected features within a single sovereignty (where donor and receiver languages differ), provided that the exonym is deployed in the following manner:

- it should be apolitical, and sensitively chosen
- in running text the corresponding endonym for the feature should be noted at suitable junctures.

In communication between speakers of the same language for features within a single sovereignty an exonym may thus be taken into consideration

Audience-related criteria
- rather in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an unofficial or informal way than in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an official or formal way;

Context-related criteria
- rather in a historical context than in a context referring to the present situation;

Medium-related criteria
- rather with the spoken and written word than with technical and scientific means of communication;
- rather with means of communication used predominantly outside the area of the donor language than with means of communication used predominantly in the area of the donor language;

Feature-related criteria
- rather with names of features currently important or for historical reasons well known to the community of the receiver language than with names of (in history or present) less important features;
- rather with names of features of the nature sphere than with names of features in the cultural sphere;

Language-related criteria
- rather with names in less frequent trade languages with speakers of the receiver language than with names in frequent languages;
- rather with names composed of a specific and a semantically transparent generic term than with names consisting of a single word.

Paul WOODMAN remarks that the additions later inserted by the convenor, demanding that exonym use be confined to communication between speakers of the same language, were too restrictive. Also in communication between speakers of different languages, exonyms can be useful, e.g. when speakers of different languages communicate in a third (trade) language. He also remarks that a resolution might not necessarily be the best way of convincing UNGEGN that exonyms are sometimes appropriate.

Maciej ZYCH expresses his principal objection against any interference into national affairs related to exonyms. Poland, e.g., had already defined its list of exonyms for Polish users. The convenor responds that even if a list of standardized exonyms exists, it is still the question in which fields of communication they should be used. A UN resolution like the one proposed would not mean any interference into national sovereignty as regards the scope of exonyms to be used. It just offers advice when the question arises, in which fields of communication exonyms are functional and thus recommendable.

Maciej ZYCH and Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ question then the validity of several criteria, especially the advice to use exonyms "rather in communicative situations, where the

audience is addressed in an unofficial or informal way than in communicative situations, where the audience is addressed in an official or formal way" and "rather with the spoken and written word than with technical and scientific means of communication". "Why should a Croatian politician not address his electorate by using exonyms?" and "Why should a table included in a text book use the endonym, while in the written text the exonym is used?" Dunja BROZOVIĆ RONČEVIĆ asks. Several other participants bring forward similar objections. They reflect a picture completely different from earlier discussions on this topic up to the WG meeting in Tainach: Exonym use seems now to be well accepted, to be a matter of national sovereignty and corresponding to the aim of preserving a cultural heritage, while international, more specifically UN intervention into this field is regarded as inadequate. The vast majority of participants express explicitly or implicitly opinions disfavouring the definition of guidelines for the use of exonyms leaving Alexandros STAVROPOULOS and the convenor as the only remaining explicit defenders of this idea.

Thus, the convenor finds himself in a role contrary to earlier occasions and reminds the meeting of several items: of the WG's terms of reference committing it to the "formulation of guidelines ensuring a politically sensitive use of exonyms"; of the fact that this meeting of the WG stands in the continuity of WG meetings, which means that earlier considerations referring to this field have to be taken into account; of the fact that the WG is not an independent body, but a subunit of UNGEGN and will have to defend its opinion in this wider community. He also addresses the tactical aspect that a slightly and moderately exonym-friendly resolution will have good chances to be passed by a UN conference and would then help to overcome the former direction of UNGEGN and UN to avoid exonym use completely. It would at least mean a small step forward in the direction represented and expressed by the majority of this meeting. However, the opinion to avoid any resolution or guideline for the use of exonyms remains prevailing. This leads to the conclusion not to discuss the draft resolution further.

Roman STANI-FERTL proposes to depart from a relatively exonym-friendly older resolution, e.g. UN Resolution II/28 recognizing "that certain exonyms (conventional names, traditional names) form living and vital parts of languages" and to connect it with guidelines for the use of exonyms.

Peeter PÄLL then suggests presenting in a next UNGEGN session a working paper just noting the current trends in exonym use and avoiding any normative attitude. This could by those looking for advice be taken as a guideline. It will thus fulfil the same purpose as explicit guidelines for the use of exonyms and comply to the WG's task of formulating guidelines. The audience and the convenor accept this suggestion as a convenient and practicable compromise. The convenor expresses his intention to elaborate such a working paper for the next UNGEGN session in Bangkok on behalf of the WG and to circulate it among all WG members for amendments and modifications before submitting it.

The day after the workshop most participants joined a bus excursion to the Hrvatsko zagorje, the northern hinterland of Zagreb, including visits to the fortified castle of Veliki Tabor, Tito's birthplace and an ethnographical museum in Kumrovec and a Franciscan monastery in Klanjec. Mladen KLEMENČIĆ most competently guided the excursion.

Peter JORDAN, Convenor