
Exonyms and Principles of Writing Foreign Place Names in Latvia

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Latvian exonyms

- *Somija* (Finland)
 - *Igaunija* (Estonia)
 - *Lielbritānija* (Great Britain)
 - *Krievija* (Russia)
 - *Baltkrievija* (Belarus)
 - *Kauņa* (Kaunas)
 - *Sāmsala* (Saaremaa)
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- *Nujorka* (New York)
 - *Tallina* (Tallinn)
 - *Londona* (London)
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Partly translated exonyms

- Dienvidslāvija ‘south’
- Austrumtimora ‘east’
- Lielbritānija ‘great’
- Jaunzēlande ‘new’
- Taizeme ‘land’

But:

- Nujorka
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- Lithuanian

Naujoji Akmenė 'the new'

- Latvian

Naujoji Akmene (official)

Jaunakmene 'new' (common form)

Morphological exonyms

- *Afganistāna*
 - *Luksemburga*
 - *Lihtenšteina*
 - *Džibutija*
 - *Malāvija*
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- Côte d'Ivoire
 - Ivory Coast

 - *Kotdivuāra*
 - *Ziloņkaula krasts*
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- Lithuanian *Karaliaučiai*
 - German *Königsberg*
 - Russian *Калининград*

 - Latvian *Karaļauči, Karalauči*
Kēnigsberga
Kaļiņingrada
-

- Russian *Kuee* > Latvian *Kijeva*
 - Ukrainian *Kuïe* > Latvian *Kijiva*
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Rules on rendering foreign proper nouns

- Estonian 1960
 - Czech and Slovak 1961
 - German 1960
 - Lithuanian 1961
 - Polish 1961, 1998
 - English 1961, 2006
 - Spanish 1961
 - French 1963
 - Finnish 1963, 2000 (Finnish edition)
 - Russian 1966, 1993
 - Italian 1967
 - Ancient Greek 1974
 - Bulgarian 1978
 - Arabic 1982
 - Hungarian 1998
 - Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish 2003
 - Chinese 2007
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The spelling of place names of neighboring countries
on the maps published by LGIA



Tallina

Tallinn

Igaunija

Eesti

Estonia

Latvija

Latvia

Rīga

Lietuva

Lithuania

Vilņa

Vilnius

Bel.

Baltkrievija (Belarus)

Place name in Belarusian	Place name in Russian	Latvian exonym
Полацк	Полоцк	Polocka
Віцебск	Витебск	Vitebska
voz. Рычы		Riču ezers

Igaunija (Estonia)

Endonym	Latvian exonym
Kilingi-Nõmme	Kilingi-Nemme
Mõisaküla	Meizakila
Mustjõgi	Mustjegi
Põlva	Pelva
Ruhnu, Ruhnu saar	Roņu sala
Sõrve poolsaar	Serves pussala
Võru	Veru

Krievija (Russia)

Endonym	Latvian exonym
Остров	Ostrova
Пещеры	Pečori
Псковское озеро	Pleskavas ezers
Пыталово	Pitalova

Lietuva (Lithuania)

Endonym	Latvian exonym
Drūkšiai, Drūkšių ežeras	Drūkšu ezers
Juodupė	Jodupe
Rokiškis	Roķišķi
Skaistgirys	Skaistgire
Zarasai	Zarasi
Žagarė	Žagare
Žeimelis	Žeimele

The list of country names and dependent territories

- The revised list of country names has been published in official newspaper “Latvijas Vēstnesis” in summer 2006 (information: State Language Center, Rīga, 10 July, 2006; the internet:

<http://www.vgk.lv/getafile.php%3Fid%3D6740+valstu+nosaukumi&hl=lv&ct=clnk&cd=28&gl=lv>).

- The list consists of 196 names of countries and 48 names of territories.
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The list of country names and dependent territories

1	2	3	4	5	6
ISO 3166 Country Code	Short names of Country or territory in English (in accordance with ISO- 3166)	Formal name of Country or territory in Latvian (in accordance with LVS ISO 3166-1:1997)	Short names of Country or territory in Latvian (LVS ISO 3166- 1:1997)	Changed short names of Country or territory in Latvian	Motivation of change
VA	The Holy See (The Vatican City State)	Svētais Krēsls (Vatikāna Pilsētvalsts)	Svētais Krēsls (Vatikāns)	Vatikāns (Svētais Krēsls)	Both short country names can be used

Why the forms of some exonyms have been changed

1	2	3	4	5	6
AX	Åland Islands	Olandes salas	Ālandu salas	Olandes salas [ō..]	in accordance to rules on the spelling of Swedish proper nouns, published in 2003 (R.: "Norden AB")
FO	Færoe Islands	Fēru salas	Farēru (Fēru) salas	Fēru salas	in accordance to rules on the spelling of Danish proper nouns, published in 2003 (R.: "Norden AB")

Why the forms of some exonyms have been changed

1	2	3	4	5	6
FK	Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	Foklenda (Malvinu) salas	Foklenda salas	Foklenda (Malvinu) salas	names of both languages must be used
DO	Dominican Republic	Dominikānas Republika	Dominikānas Republika	Dominikāna	the short form of exonym is used also in the original language
IS	Iceland	Íslandes Republika	Islande	Íslande	Better conforms with the spelling and pronunciation of the name in the original language

The names of new countries and dependent territories

1	2	3	4	5	6
PS	Occupied Palestinian Territory	Okupētā Palestīnas teritorija	--	Palestīna	correct name of dependent territory was not included in the former list
CS	Serbia	Serbijas Republika	--	Serbija	a new country
	Montenegro	Melnkalnes Republika	--	Melnkalne	Better conforms with the spelling and pronunciation of the name in the original language

- Haiti
- Kiribati
- Nauru

- Peru
 - Palau
 - Tokelau
 - Togo
 - Tuvalu
 - Vanuatu
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Thank you for your attention!
