

REPORT MEMORANDUM

Joint Meeting on Geographical Names Prague, 16th –18th May 2007

18th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

1. Opening of the session.

The opening speech was given by Ms Svatava Dokoupilová from the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (COSMC) on behalf of the president of COSMC and Mr. Pavel Boháč from Land Survey Office, the chairman of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). Ms Dokoupilová appointed the importance of international understanding in the area of geographical names. She invited participants to the joint meeting and wished them not only much success in the work, but also nice days in Prague. The next opening speech was given by Ms Helen Kerfoot from Canada, the chairperson of UNGEGN. She commended the organizers for convening a joint meeting for the UN Division and the UN Working Group on Exonyms, providing synergy for discussion of names standardization topics. She provided some background on UNGEGN Divisions and thanked COSMC, and particularly Mr Boháč for making possible this second meeting in Prague.

2. Adoption of agenda and some organizational matters.

Mr Boháč explained that there are two groups of participants here – both the delegates of the member countries of the UN Division, namely from Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Turkey, and the experts of WG on Exonyms of the UNGEGN. Then he suggested joining of items 8 and 9 of the agenda of the session to one. The Croatian in charge asked to add the short report from Croatia. It will be done at every point of the programme separately. Nobody other had any comments or proposals to the agenda. Mr Boháč then introduced Mr Harvalík, the head of the Department of Onomastics of the Institute for the Czech Language of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Vice-president of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, who will chair the meeting.

3. Reporting on the 23rd Meeting of the UNGEGN, Vienna, 28th March to 4th April 2006.

Participants were given brief oral report by the chairperson of the UNGEGN Ms Kerfoot who emphasized the participation of the members of this UN Division in the meeting. 250 experts from 67 countries, 21 Divisions and 10 working groups took part. Ms Kerfoot spoke about broad areas of cooperation between countries, progress in some topics and special presentations arranged. The participants can find further information on the UNGEGN website <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo>. Ms Kerfoot reminded participants of the 9th UN Conference in August 2007.

4. National standardization

Participants were asked to report by alphabetical order. Detailed reports will be given to all participants in an electronic form.

Croatia

Oral report. There is no official committee for standardization in Croatia now. Two years ago works started for the preparation of the geographical names database. Experts of both the Geodetic and Linguistic institutes have to cooperate better in the future. Linguistic and Hydrographical institutes are now partners in the project to cooperate. As to standardization bodies the Croatian Parliament until recently had to approve the changes of the names of settlements. According to the very new legislation, names of settlements as well as street names are approved by local municipalities. Microtoponyms are being collected.

Q:Hausner - recommendation of the Austrian Toponymic Guidelines.

A:They appointed two persons for making of the toponomic guidelines and thanked for the recommendation. There are training courses and workshops for fieldwork; they arranged a similar workshop on Onomastics. Contact person is Ms Brozović.

Q:Jordan - Who is responsible for non-settlement names?

A:Geodetic Institute has been appointed by Parliament for creation of the database of GN so it is responsible for it, too.

Q:Helleland expressed the view that the approval of settlement names by Parliament might be a less fortunate way as there often would be put more weight on political than on scholarly considerations.

A:6,5 thousand of settlement names – all changes cost a lot of money – only few changes (15), mostly omitting of the personal name Tito from the settlement names.

Cyprus

See the report

Q:Guidelines for collecting field names - recommendation for collecting and instructions for surveyors. Contact for Mr Ormeling – Convenor of WG on Training Courses in Toponymy.

Hungary

See the report

Commemorate names - footballer Puskas – Metro station in Budapest should have been named after him, it was refused.

Q:Jordan - Railway stations-double names – municipality and local place name.

A:Only single names according to the committee - without the main city name.

Q:Boháč – What are differences in orthographic rules in landscape protection areas and other features?

A:Pokoly - Generic element – hyphens - all words begin with the upper case, by institution names with the lower case.

Slovakia

See the report

Q:Pokoly - Minority names - Act on minority settlement names in 90's. Does it have any influence in cartography.

A: In large scales – e.g. cadastral maps.

Turkey, Ukraine

See the report

5. Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Cyprus, Slovakia

See the report

Q:Hausner- What changes in new edition?

A:Kováčová - Administrative changes not factual.

Q:Kerfoot - Adding of toponymic Guidelines to the UN web sites - available from Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia; Czech Republic ?

A:Boháč - Available on the UNGEGN website, but necessary to check.

Q:Hausner. Turkey's latest version in 1982 - is a new updated version being prepared? Ukraine: Will there be a version of Toponymic Guidelines prepared for the 9th Conference?

A:Ukraine – The Guidelines was issued in 1998, not available on the web site.

A:Turkey - Second edition has been prepared and presented as Working Paper in the 23rd ENGEEN Session, but is not available on the web sites.

Q:Helleland: As to the accessibility of toponymic guidelines he suggested that the website of the mapping authorities was a good place in addition to the UNGEGN website of course.

A:Ms Kerfoot said that if somebody has the toponymic guidelines on his own website, it is easier to update them and the link can be made from the UNGEGN website.

Q:Necessity of regular updating.

Q:Zych – Polish Toponymic Guidelines was published in 2002 - still the same version of the toponymic guidelines on the website, but every year changes in administrative division of Poland are listed.

Q:Páll - Availability of the Czech Guidelines

A:Boháč - Preparation of a new version for New York - mostly administrative changes.

Q:Kerfoot. Two areas on UNGEGN website:1) Links to national websites with toponymic guidelines; 2) Working papers from UNGEGN and UN Conferences.

Afternoon's Part

President of the ICA Mr Konečný visited the meeting unofficially and opened the afternoon session of the meeting with warm words. He invited all attendants to the Cartographic conference to be held in August in Moscow.

6. Toponymic data files and gazetteers

Croatia

Database is being created. It will be finished by 2010. Gazetteer exists for Croatia and Bosnia together. All changes of names are given in database.

Cyprus

See the report.

Czech Republic

First part of presentation was given by Mr Boháč and Ms Hnízdilová - presentation of the Geonames database and description of the administration and the updating process.

Second part was given by Mr Harvalík - the Dictionary of the Minor-Place Names in Bohemia

Q:Jordan – He asked whether are the names collected according to map scale?

A:Boháč - At present is the database only in one scale - 1:10 000. Future plans - smaller scales - addition of more names to the database. Cadastral map-responsibility is not ours, but the one of the COSMC and cadastral offices. We want to enlarge the database in future.

Q:Hausner - Will the last volume of the Dictionary of the Minor-Place Names in Bohemia be published in 2007? Do you consider the possibility of publishing the dictionary also in an electronic form?

A:Harvalík -The volume that will be published in 2007 will not be the last one. It is estimated that the dictionary will not be finished earlier than in 15-20 years, or even later. The possibility of processing the dictionary in an electronic form is being discussed. The colleagues from the Department of Dialectology of our Institute in Brno are preparing the Dictionary of the Minor Place-Names in Moravia and Silesia; we are in a close contact with them and exchange our experiences.

Q:Kerfoot-The term minor place-names could imply that such names only relate to small geographical features, which sometimes is not the case.

A:Harvalík- It is true. That is why we use the term anoikonyms in Czech instead of microtoponyms. The term minor place-names is not exact in English, it appears in my paper only because English-speaking scholars often use it so that it is widely known.

Hungary, Slovakia

See the report.

Q:Kerfoot – There have been some difficulties in Canada regarding drainage basins names – as they do not necessarily correspond with the names of rivers. They are being created artificially. Have drainage basins official names in Slovakia?

A:Kováčová - They have the Ministry for Environment, which is responsible for these names.

Turkey, Ukraine

See the report

7. Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

No reports

8. Writing systems and

9. Pronunciation.

Croatia

Very strict rules for transformation. Problems with declination and adjectives.

Cyprus, Slovakia, Ukraine

See the report

10. Country names

Croatia

It exists the official list of country names being done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Country names are treated as traditional names – exonyms used in Croatia.

Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine
See the report.

Q:Greece-remark-Framework of UN-Problem with the using the name of Macedonia instead of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A.Harvalik- Does this remark concern particular participants in the session?

A.Greece- It is a general remark.

Q:Kerfoot-It is necessary to be careful in the correct use of endonyms when producing documents for international use.

11. Exonyms

Croatia

Q: Can the term exonym be used if the names are only transformed from one alphabet to another (Cyrillic-Latin)?

A:Jordan-No, it does not constitute an exonym.

A:Harvalik-They are different definitions by different scholars-e.g. the name Moskva in Czech (written in Latin) for Russian Москва (written in Cyrillic) is generally not considered an exonym.

Cyprus, Hungary, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine
See the report

12. Features beyond a single sovereignty

No reports

13. Toponymic websites

Croatia

State Geodetic Administration (DGU) created the website DGU GEOPORTAL that is operational since this year but not yet for public use.

Hungary

Two new websites- see the report

Slovakia

See the report

14. Co-operation with neighbourhood countries and international organizations, toponymic education and practice

Cyprus, Turkey, Ukraine
See the report

Remark: Kerfoot - Invitation for two events –1) 31st International Geographical Congress in Tunisia in August 2008; 2) 23rd International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Toronto, August 2008.

Mr Harvalík as the Vicepresident of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) invited in the name of the present current and former members of the ICOS Board of Directors (Ms Brozović Rončević, Mr Harvalík, Ms Hausner, Mr Helleland, Mr Päll) the participants of the meeting to take part in the congress

15. Implementation of resolution and the aims and function of UNGEGN

Cyprus, Slovakia
See the report

16. Other information

There were no notes to this item.

17. Preparations for representing the Division at the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

Mr. Boháč informed that he was going to prepare the report of the Division for this Conference. He promised to add all necessary materials to the CD-ROM resulting from this joint meeting. He invited all delegations to participation in this Conference being held in August in 2007. He cited one chapter from the statute of UN in connection with the preparation of the election of a new chair of the Division, which has to be done on the Conference.

Remark. Kerfoot - She indicated that not all countries of the Division might be at the Conference, so consideration should be given to how they would vote.

18. Adoption of the Memorandum of the 18th Session of the EAST Central and Southeast Europe Division of UNGEGN.

It will be approved tomorrow.

19. Closing the Session.

Mr Harvalík gave closing speech of the first day of the joint meeting.