

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)

**The Nineteenth Session of the
East Central and South-East Europe Division
of the UNGEGN**

Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008
Item 3, 4, 5, 13, 14 and 16 of the agenda

Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/2

Report of East Central and South-East Europe Division Chairman

Submitted by ECSEE Division Chairman*

* Prepared by ECSEE Division Chairman Željko Hećimović, Croatian Geodetic Institute, Croatia.

Report of East Central and South-East Europe Division Chairman

1. Introduction

East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was established at the First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Geneva 1967 together with other 14 Divisions. The East Central and South-East Europe Division is one of the altogether 23 divisions that guide the work of UNGEGN.

Fifteen countries are active in the East Central and South-East Europe Division: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine (s. Fig. 1). Montenegro was activated in ECSEED at this session as a new Division country.



Fig. 1: East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN.

Each ECSEED Division country has unique development in the field of the standardization of geographical names. They belong to three different UN geographical regions (Southern Europe, Eastern Europe and Western Asia). They have different linguistic backgrounds. The differences are also in historical and cultural development.

In order to make Division more homogeneous, ECSEED Division overview document has been prepared. It contains the main ECSEED Division data, and is making Division easily recognizable. The short Division overview article was published in the UNGEGN Information Bulletin. Also, the new ECSEED Division website site is making Division publically known.

At the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York 21-30 August 2007 dr. sc. Željko Hećimović (Croatia) was elected as East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) Chairman and dr. sc. Dunja Brozović-Rončević (Croatia) as alternative representative.

2. East Central and South-East Europe Division overview document

To find actual data about ECSEE Division and Division countries many documents should be checked. The documents are submitted to the ECSEE Division Sessions, UNGEGN Sessions and United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It is sometimes very difficult to find proper information about Division and Division countries.

To collect the main information about ECSEE Division, the *East Central and South-East Europe Division overview* document was prepared by the ECSEED Chairman and edited by Division members. Unfortunately, not all the countries responded. The document gives the main information about ECSEED. The sources of information were UNGEGN publications and documents. They are listed as references.

The Division overview document should be updated and corrected continuously after every change of Division countries data. The ECSEE Division Chairman asks the experts to send changes of the national data continuously, as they happen.

3. UNGEGN Information Bulletin

The Information Bulletin of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (ISSN 1014-798) is published by the United Nations Statistical Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (s. Fig. 1). There are the contributions and reports from the Experts of the Group, its Divisions and its Working Groups published. It is issued approximately twice a year. Digital, PDF version is available on the UNGEGN website.

In the UNGEGN Information Bulletin Nr. 34 was published a part of the East Central and South-East Europe Division overview document, and Division shortly introduced.

In the last Information Bulletin (Nr. 36, August 2008) the announcement was published for the Nineteenth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN, Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008.

The Division Chairman appeals to the experts to send the material of significance for publishing.

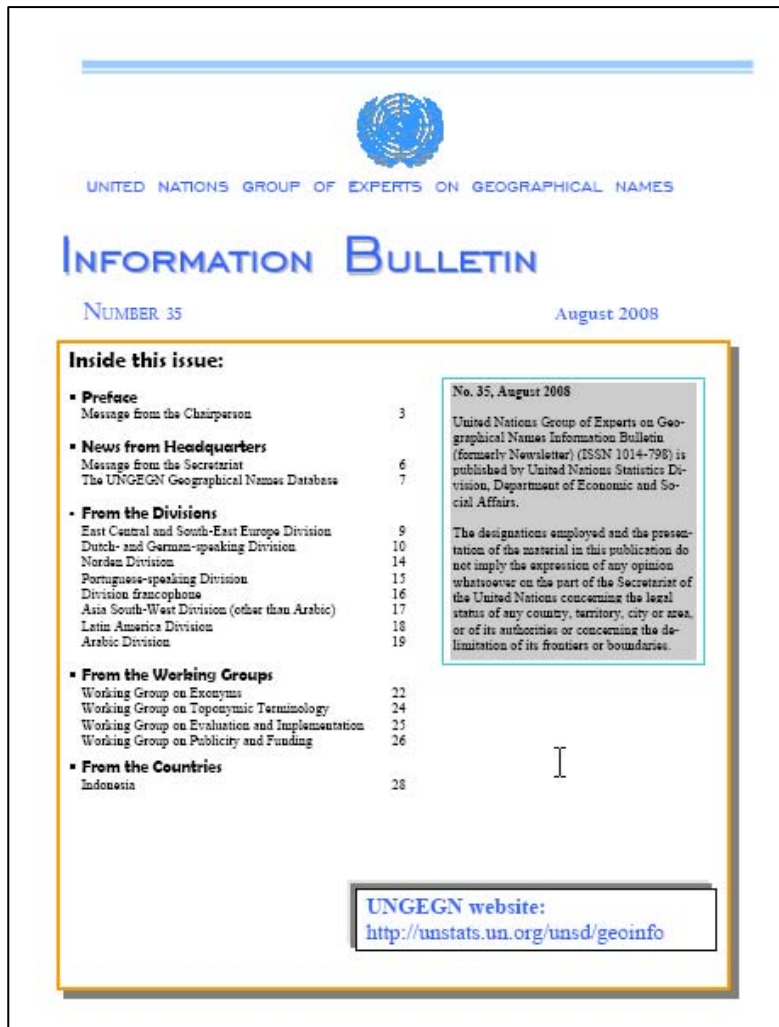


Fig. 2: UNGEGN Information Bulletin.

4. Division website

ECSEE Division website was hosted by Slovenian colleges. In cooperation with Slovenian colleges new Division website was introduced to UNGEGN Bureau. New website was active since September 2008. It was published by the ECSEE Division Chairman. The Internet address of the ECSEED website is <http://ungegn.cgi.hr> (s. Fig. 3). There is a link to old Division website.

The website introduces ECSEE Division. There are the main ECSEE Division countries data, the main languages data, short Division geographic and historical background, references as sources of information, links to national geographical names websites, links to the main UNGEGN sites and other Division data are published. The 19th ECSEE Division session materials are also published on the ECSEE Division website.

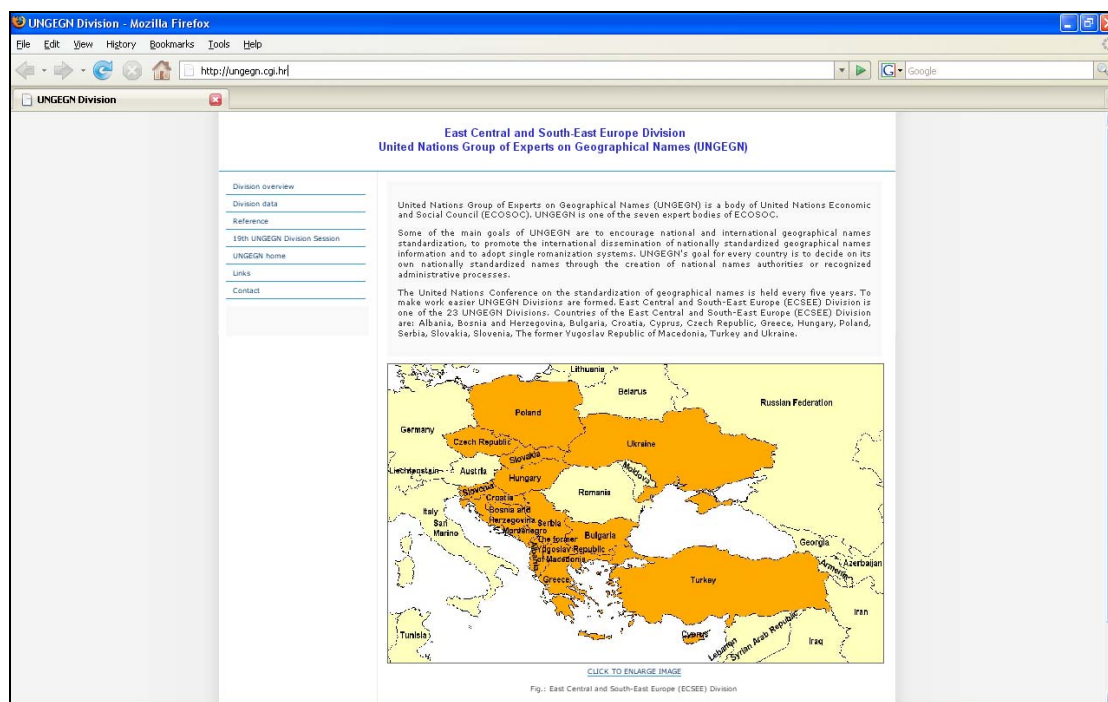


Fig. 3: ECSEE Division website.

Division website should serve as the central ECSEE Division information point with the main Division data and events.

The management of the Division site should be discussed during the 19th ECSEE Division Session (contents of the site, selection of data, checking and changing of the data...).

5. Montenegro as new ECSEE Division country

Montenegro is a member of the United Nations since 28 June 2006. The first contact to activate Montenegro in the ECSEED started during the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York 21-30 August 2007 in correspondence with Montenegro's UN Mission representatives.

Montenegro is activated in the ECSEE Division at the Nineteenth Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN, Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008.

Hereby the ECSEE Division Chairman would like to appeal to all Division members to support integration of Montenegro in ECSEE Division and UNGEGN.

6. Implementation of the aims and functions of UNGEGN

There are some UNGEGN projects requesting the data.

UNGEGN World Geonames Database requests the endonyms of cities/towns having over 100,000 inhabitants for each country of the world.

The Data have been sent from 46 countries (11 ECSEED countries): Australia, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan,

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

The data have not been sent from 4 ECSEED countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Serbia.

If a voice file (.wav file) is available they would like to include it into the database.

All the details about sending the data could be found in the last UNGEGN Information Bulletin Nr. 35, August 2008.

Working Group on the Promotion of Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names requests the data for countries involved in the projects relating to the recording and use of indigenous, minority or regional language place names. Working group (WG) prepared a systematic reporting procedure to allow countries to contribute information on their indigenous and minority group name programs.

WG Convenor, Bill Watt (Australia) would also appreciate if any country was willing to provide a short description of the basis for this work, including: any legislative authority, methods used and public reaction. This will be used to build up a range of models that other countries could adopt if such work is proposed.

From ECSEE Division only Slovenia and Ukraine submitted the data to WG Convenor.

7. ECSEE Division documentation

To find documents/reports/contributions submitted to previous ECSEE Division Sessions is not an easy task. Division Documents are not uniquely identified, and there is no list of them. To systematize ECSEE Division documentation, the Division Chairman asks ECSEE Division to support:

- Unified identification of the ECSEE Division documents (*Document Symbol*),
- Unified ECSEE Division list of documents,
- Unified first page of the ECSEE Division documents.

Unified identification of the ECSEE Division documents (*Document Symbol*) should contain ECSEED acronym, session identification, year and the number of the document during the year (example: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/3 - the 3rd ECSEE Division document in the year 2008).

Unified ECSEE Division list of documents should contain list of all the Division documents. The starting point is 19th ECSEE Division Session. All new ECSEED documents should be added in to the *ECSEE Division list of documents*.

If there should be interest shown, the older documents could also be added in the List. In the Annex I the example of *ECSEE Division list of documents* is given (only the first 3 records).

Unified first page of the ECSEE Division documents should contain the full name of UNGEGN and ECSEED, full name of ECSEED session with place and date, the document agenda item, document symbol, title of the document, who has submitted it. The person preparing it, institutions and country are given in the footer. The example is given in Annex II.

Annex I: ECSEE Division list of documents

List of documents

East Central and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Nr.	UNGEGN Division Session Nr.	Date MM/YYYY	Document Symbol	Title	Country / Organization	UNGEGN Division	Prepared by
19th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN, Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008							
1	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/1	East Central and South-East Europe Division overview	ECSEED	ECSEED	ECSEED Chairman and edited by ECSEED experts
2	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/2	Report of ECSEE Division chairman	Croatia	ECSEED	ECSEE Division Chairman
3	19	11/2008	ECSEED/Session.19/2008/3	Standardization of Geographical names in Republic of Bulgaria	Bulgaria	ECSEED	M.Chaleva V.Fakalieva

Annex II: Template for the ECSEED document

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**The Nineteenth Session of the
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Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008

Item 3b, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 15 of the general agenda

Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/1

**East Central and South-East Europe Division overview
(Last update: 21 November 2008)**

Submitted by Division Chairman*

* Prepared by ECSEED Chairman Željko Hećimović, and edited by ECSEED experts.