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Proposal of the project on the presentation of the ECSEE Division geographical names

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1. Introduction

Writing systems of the ECSEE Division countries are different from country to country. But, on the maps that cower more countries, visualizations of geographical names is in one writing systems.
Google Earth as visualization tool for geographical names is introduced to the UNGEGN community at the 9th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 2007.

The main goals of the project is to present endonimes in the national scripts, to expose writing differences among countries and to make closer co-operation among Division countries. The focus of the project is not in visualization of detail, local names, but in visualization of geographical names in different national writing systems. The geographical names should be classified according to EuroGeoNames (EGN) project feature classification.
The presentation will be a multilingual, multi-scriptual, geo-referenced in one reference system and classified according to the EuroGeoNames (EGN) feature classification. The visualization should represent the reality of existing geographical names in various national scripts and languages (s. Fig. 1). This kind of visualization is not easily readable because of different scripts.

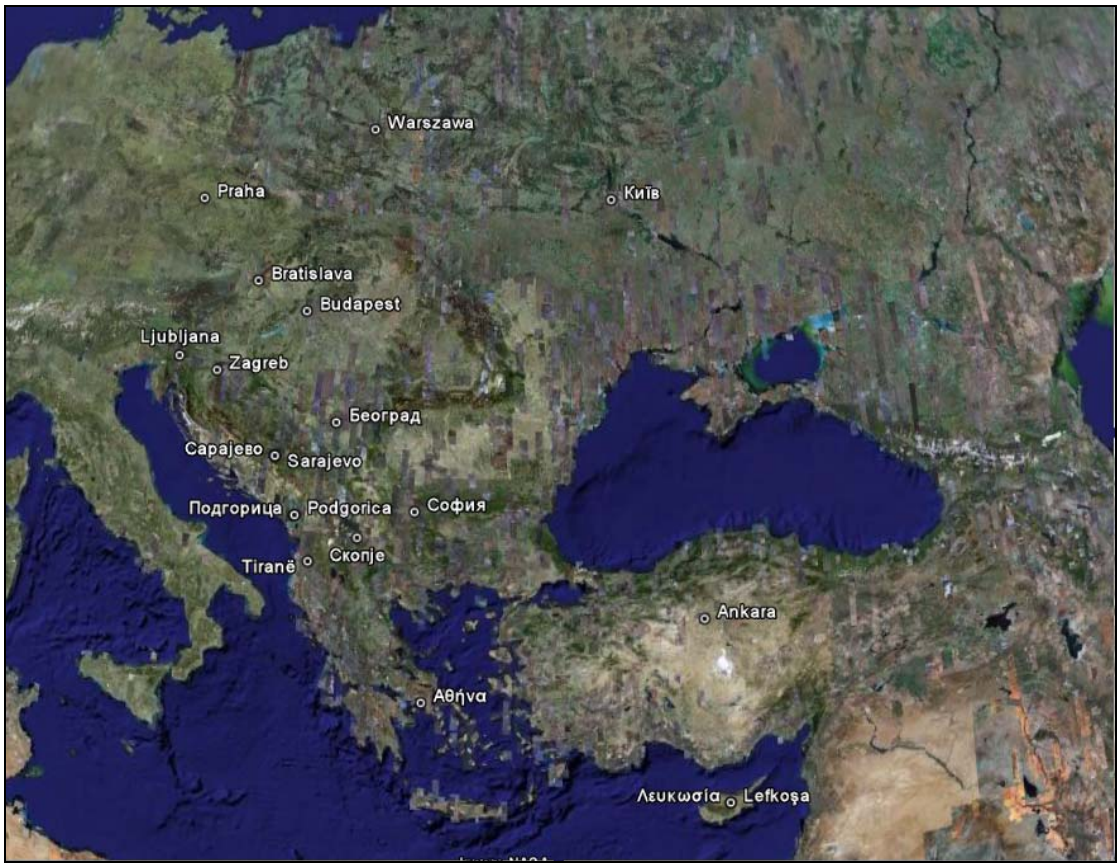

Fig. 1: The ECSEE Division capitals.

2. Data availability

For the purpose of the project geographical names in general, national overview scale, usually from 1:1000000 to 1:250000, are requested. The geographical names in the scales are publically available.
The geographical names should be georeferenced and classified according to EGN feature class classification. For that purposes the geographical names should be prepared before entering in to the realization. For each name the following is needed: coordinates and EGN feature classification as well as the language. In Annex I there is an example given for submitting country geographical names.

3. Coordinate referent system

The Google Earth is using World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84) coordinate reference system for georeferencing the object (names). Since the most of the Division countries are connected with the European geodetic datum the coordinates of the geographical names could be given in the European positioning datum European Terrestrial Reference Frame 1989 (ETRF89). The difference between WGS84 and ETRF89 coordinates reference system are negligible considering positioning accuracy requested by the project.

The most of the geographical names saved in the national gazetteers, registers and data files are georeferenced in the national geodetic datum. To convert them in to the WGS84 system transformations parameters are needed.

4. Feature type catalogue

Classification of the geographical features should be done after the EuroGeoNames (EGN) project feature classification. The available EGN feature catalog *Proposal of feature type catalogue for EuroGeoNames (EGN) project, ver. 3 February 8th of 2008* is given in table 1.

Table 1: Proposal of feature type catalogue for EuroGeoNames (EGN) project, ver. 3 February 8th, 2008.

Code		***Feature Type***	***Short Definition***
1		**COUNTRY, ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AND OTHER AREAS**	Country, territorial units of a country for administrative purposes and other man-made areas
	1.1	**Country**	
	1.2	**Administrative units**	
	1.3	**Other non-administrative units**	
2		**POPULATED PLACES**	Buildings for housing of any category like cities, towns, villages, etc.
	2.1	**Administrative capitals**	
	2.2	**Other populated places**	
	2.3	**Houses**	
3		**NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS**	Any kind of structures and buildings, except populated places, transport, telecommunication and hydrographic features
	3.1	**Economic activity**	
	3.2	**Social facilities, administrative buildings and monuments**	
	3.3	**Other non-residential structures**	
4		**TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATION FEATURES**	Structures related to transports and telecommunications
	4.1	**Features associated with air transport**	

	4.2	**Features associated with maritime and fluvial transport**	
	4.3	**Land transport**	
	4.4	**Telecommunications**	
5		**TERRAIN FEATURES**	Land features of natural environment including vegetation. In general they are natural elements but can be modified by man
	5.1	**Islands**	
	5.2	**Coastal and shore relieves**	
	5.3	**Elevations**	
	5.4	**Natural terrain areas or regions**	
	5.5	**Point terrain features**	
6		**HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES**	Natural or man-made features related to water
	6.1	**Seas and parts of them**	
	6.2	**Standing water**	
	6.3	**Flowing water**	
	6.4	**Hydrographic point features**	
	6.5	**Diverse hydrographic structures**	
	6.6	**Other hydrographic and underwater features**	
7		**CONSERVATION AREAS**	Terrain or hydrographic conservation areas of natural environment and World Heritage Sites
	7.1	**World Heritage Sites**	
	7.2	**Conservation areas of natural environment**	
8		**MISCELLANEOUS**	Other type of features not included in classes 1 to 7
	8.1	**Miscellaneous**	

The project requires the geographical names in general national overview scales are requested. Because of that, it is not expected that all the feature classes from table 1 will contain the data. For example, it is not expected that the feature class: 2.3 Houses is going to have any name because the Project is focused on the smaller scales.

5. Google Earth interface

Google Earth is a tool that gives background information (satellite images, maps...) easily usable for publishing geographical names. It allows UNICODE character encoding, and it allows using different national scripts in the same visualization (s. Fig. 2).

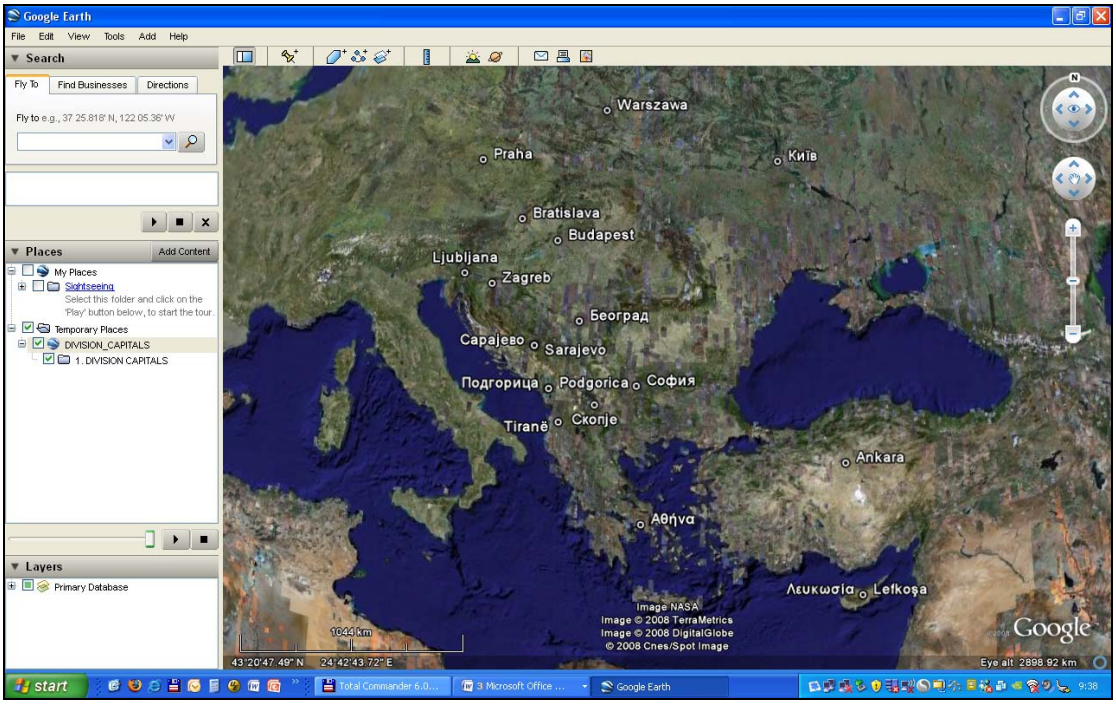

Fig. 2: The Google Earth interface.

6. Presentations of the same geographical names in more scripts

Some of the Division countries are using more than one writing system as official. For example Bosnia and Herzegovina is using bs: Bosnian, hr: Croatian and sr: Serbian languages and different writing system: bs: basic Roman + Bosnian extensions, hr: basic Roman + Croatian extensions and sr: Cyrillic (0400-04FF).
Because of that the same geographical feature should be written in more scripts. For example bs: Sarajevo, hr: Sarajevo and sr: Capajebo (s. Fig. 3).

Fig. 3: Multilscripts visualization.

7. Conclusion

The presentation of the endonimes in the national scripts will expose writing differences among countries. It will represent the reality of Division national scripts and languages.
Because the visualization will be multilingual and multi-scriptual, it will not be easily readable. But, it will have unique value in introducing Division countries national identities considering writing system.

Annex I: Example for submitting country geographical names

Nr.	Geographical name	Coordinate [φ]	Coordinate [λ]	Coordinate reference system WGS84/ ETRF89/ national	EGN feature classification 1st level	EGN feature classification 2nd level	Language	Data source	Comment
1	Zagreb	45.8129330261288	15.9768387117483	WGS84	Populated places	Administrative capitals	Croatian	Croatian Geodetic Institute	
2									
3									

Data will be collected and processed by the ECSEE Division Chairman. After the visualization is done, it will be sent to the institution/expert that distributed data. The data should be sent to the ECSEE Division Chairman:

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