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**Report on the Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2007-2008**

Submitted by Hungary\*

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# Report on the Activity of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names 2007-2008

(András Dutkó, Béla Pokoly, Gábor Mikešy, Martin Išpanović)

Prepared for the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of UNGEGN  
Zagreb, 19-21 November, 2008

## *Ad Agenda Item 3. National Standardization*

### *1. Office treatment of names*

The Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names acts under *Gov. Decree No. 303/2007.(XI. 14.) Korm. (on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary)* as an interministerial decision-making and advisory board operating in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. See later: administrative structure of national names authorities

The Committee has met 6 times since the 18th divisional meeting (Prague, 16-18 May, 2007). It has dealt with the following types of names in this short period:

#### Names of settlements

##### a) separation, amalgamation

It is legally possible, when certain criteria are met, to establish new settlements (with the separation of former unifications, with the amalgamation of smaller parts into a new unit, or with the combination of the two, with secession of a parts of a larger unit).

Initiatives of this type in the period:

- The settlement of *Mecsekszabolcs*, united with the city of Pécs in 1947, now tries to be independent again on this name. The Committee has found no problem with the name.
- Part of the town of Mosonmagyaróvár, called Újudvar, attempts separation. As there is another village in Hungary with that name (in County Zala), and no homonym may legally be established among Hungarian placenames, the name *Mosonudvar* was suggested locally. The expert advice of the Committee found this name acceptable. (Without the advice of the Committee, the process of establishing the settlement may not continue.)
- Part of the town of Csongrád, called *Bokros*, attempts separation. United with Csongrád in 1977, it wishes to regain its former status. The Committee found no problem with the former name.
- Part of the city of Miskolc tries again to secede under the name *Tapolcafürdő*. The name was already approved by the Committee but the administrative procedure of separation was not successful 3 years ago.

##### b) Orthography

A recent question involved the name of a village, *Csabacsüd*, and particularly whether the last vowel should be written with double acute accent, or with diaeresis (*Csabacsüid*). Historical records have consequently quoted the village with double acute, so the Committee advised to continue using this form.

#### Names of parts of settlements

The local governments (towns, villages) are authorized by law (on local government) to name these features. In doubt they may ask for expert advice from our committee. 11 decisions were taken; in most cases the suggested names were acceptable. Some criteria at this type: the generic element is not part of the name, the specific name can not carry the name of a living person (except for family farms /Hungarian “tanya”).

#### Street names

They may also be named by the local governments. Still there are a few requests at each meeting to give expert opinion for such types. Some important criteria here: no company or other commercial name can be applied here, persons of historical controversy should be avoided (e.g. Miklós Horthy or János Kádár).

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## Names of transport

Cases involve mostly railway stops, stations and bridges. Tradition, local connections, orthography are all important criteria here. Disputes often stem from situations where a railway stop/station is situated in the territory of a different village/town from that implied by the name. A change can only be approved if the two settlements agree, and cover all costs of changing the name (name plates, timetables, security system etc.)

## **2. Treatment of names in multilingual areas**

As was already given (in Paper No E/CONF.98/88 Add. 1. of the 9th Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, August 2007) the following 13 groups qualify as autochthonous national or ethnic groups of Hungary: Bulgarian, Gypsy, Greek, Croatian, Polish, German, Armenian, Romanian, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian.

According to the Census of 2001

- 15 620 persons claimed to have Croatian identity,
- 19 715 persons reported attachment to Croatian cultural values and traditions,
- 14 345 persons declared to have Croatian as mother tongue,
- 14 788 persons claimed to use the Croatian language in the family or/and among friends

The government decree 303/2007 allows for the establishment of geographical names in the minority language. Art. 2. par. (4): “*Official geographical name in a minority language*: a historically evolved geographical name of localities and surface features used by the local minority population (e.g. Lórév = Ловра, Szentpéterfa = Petrovo Selo, Óbánya = Altglashütte).

On maps they are usually given however in Hungarian orthography. On topographical maps and the original Gazetteer of 1978-81 you may find the name form *Vricsa* for the village of Narda (County Vas).

However, the new act already says (Art. 5., Par. 4) “An official geographical name in a minority language using the Latin alphabet must be written in the orthography of the given language.” The new revised Gazetteer already contains such names for Narda as *Nutarnja dužina*, *Vanja dužina*.

A special problem emerges from the fact that minorities often don't use literary language. Therefore graphic reconstruction is often based on phonetic recording: Ger. *Greuzen*, *Ohm*, *Oldi Moas*; Cro. *Mikohej* (from Hung. *Mikó-hely*, i.e. Mikó's place). Earlier sources used such German names as *Sucvold* or *Sidenvold* instead of *Schutzwald* or *Schiedenwald* (FNT-II Gazetteer of Hungary).

## **Workshop on minority geographical names**

A workshop was organized on the use of minority geographical names by the Department of National and Ethnic Minorities of the Office of the Prime Minister on 30 November. Invited were the presidents and experts of the national minority self-governments, and that of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Martin Išpanović, government advisor, Office of the Prime Minister, and member of HCGN.

Department Director Erika Németh stressed the importance of minority language geographical names in public life and in administration. As these names are part of the historical and linguistic heritage of the local communities, care and preservation of this linguistic asset is a task of both the minorities and government bodies. Further on information was given to representatives of the minority self-governments on the new government decree on official geographical names.

Presentations afterwards can be summarized as follows:

Mr. Ervin Földi, former president of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names outlined the historical antecedents and the long work of the Committee on minority geographical names, stressing the need for further legal improvement in precisely handling minority names.

Ms. Zsuzsanna Józsa informed on the place name Gazetteer of the Central Statistical Office, while Mr. Gábor Mikesy, adviser of the Institute of Geodesy, cartography and Remote Sensing, gave a presentation on the collection, processing and cartographic application of minority toponyms.

Mr. Lastić Pero, former president of the Serb national minority self-government in Hungary evaluated recent legal developments and called for further progress from the aspect of the national minorities.

In his subsequent remarks Mr. Ernő Barics, expert of the Croatian National Minority Self-Government supported Mr. Lastić's views and called for further improvements in the minority act, with emphasis on minority geographical name use.

### Two former decisions of the Committee concerning features along the Croatian border:

In 1996 it supported the minority name *Kerestur* for the village of Murakeresztúr. (Dec. No. 24/292. of 1996). There was a local initiative to replace the former minority name Murski Krstur of this Hungarian settlement with a well-established Croatian minority. This opinion was based on the local use of Croatian minority population as well as on expert advice of Croatian minority language.

In 2006, following consultations with Hungarian and Croatian government organs, the interested municipality (of Letenye) and project implementation bodies it decided to name the bridge over the River Mura on the Croatian-Hungarian border between Letenye (Hungary) and Goričan as *Zrínyi híd* (Dec. No. 58/558. of 2006). The Croatian name of the bridge is understood to be *Zrinski most*. As the family Zrínyi/Zrinski had an outstanding and positive role in the history of both nations, the name is thought to be a good example of toponymic cooperation.

### 3. Field collection of names

The programme of updating the Gazetteer-database kept at the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI) has been going on for the past twenty years. This incremental work is performed by the Institute's GIS Development Unit expert Mr Gábor Mikešy.

Two types of illustration of the magnitude of the work:

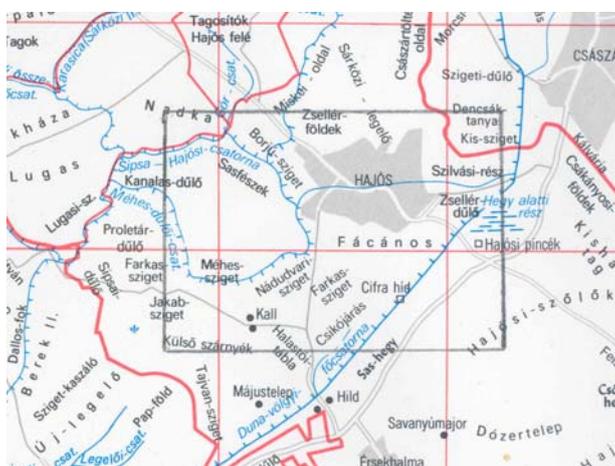
I. the village Bogyoszló (Győr-Moson-Sopron County) – in tabular form:

Bogyoszló – old name set (FNT II)	type	Bogyoszló – new name collection cont'd	
Erdészlak	building(s)	Halom-szer	area
Farkas-árok	canal	Alsó-Csáforköz	area
Felső-gyep	area	Felső-Csáforköz	area
Jobaházi-csatorna	3	Levente-rét	area
Jobaházi-csatorna	3	Felső-Kövecses	area
Kisfalud--Babót--Bogyoszlói-csatorna	3	Alsó-Kövecses	area
Külső-tag	area	Tilos	area
Meggyes	area	Vashíd	transport
Morgó	area	Szingapúr-sziget	point of int
Nádas-szeri-dűlő	area	Pap-tag	area
Orbán-szeri-dűlő	area	Répa-szer	area
Petlend	area	Kétérköz	area
Petlendi-erdő	forest	Alájáró	area
Petlendi-földek	area	Hosszú-Morgó	area
Vár-föld	area	Rövid-Morgó	area
		Szarka Pál-kút	area
<b>Bogyoszló – new name collection</b>		Pap-tagj-árok	canal
Tamási-föld	area	Alsó-Gyeprejáró	area
Luka-tag	area	Felső-Gyeprejáró	area
Csonka-tag	area	Külső-füzes	area
Bükk-hegy	area	Kenderáztató	area
Meggyes	area	Felső-gyep	area
Bükkhegyi-kút	area	Vízer-tag	area
Füzes-szer	area	Kanáris-dűlő	area
Linkó-szer	area	Mihályi híd	transport
Nádas-szer	area	Csúcs-parlag	area
Orbán-szer	area	Parlag	area

Felső-Sárkányi-rétek	area	Nagy-Hidász	area
Alsó-Sárkányi-rétek	area	Babóti-földek	area
Tölös	area	Petleni-erdő	area
Cankó	area	Petlenek	area
Kereszt-tag	area	Fahídi-Petlen	area
Ribizlis	area	Petlenpuszta	area
Jegyző-tag	area	Petlenmajor	area
Mester-tag	area	Vitéz-Petlen	area
Rövid-tölösök	area	Rokkant-Petlen	area
Halomszeri kereszt	point of int	Kanáris	water course
Major	building(s)	Babóti híd	transport
Öreg-tag	area	Határ-árok	canal
		Kutak	water course

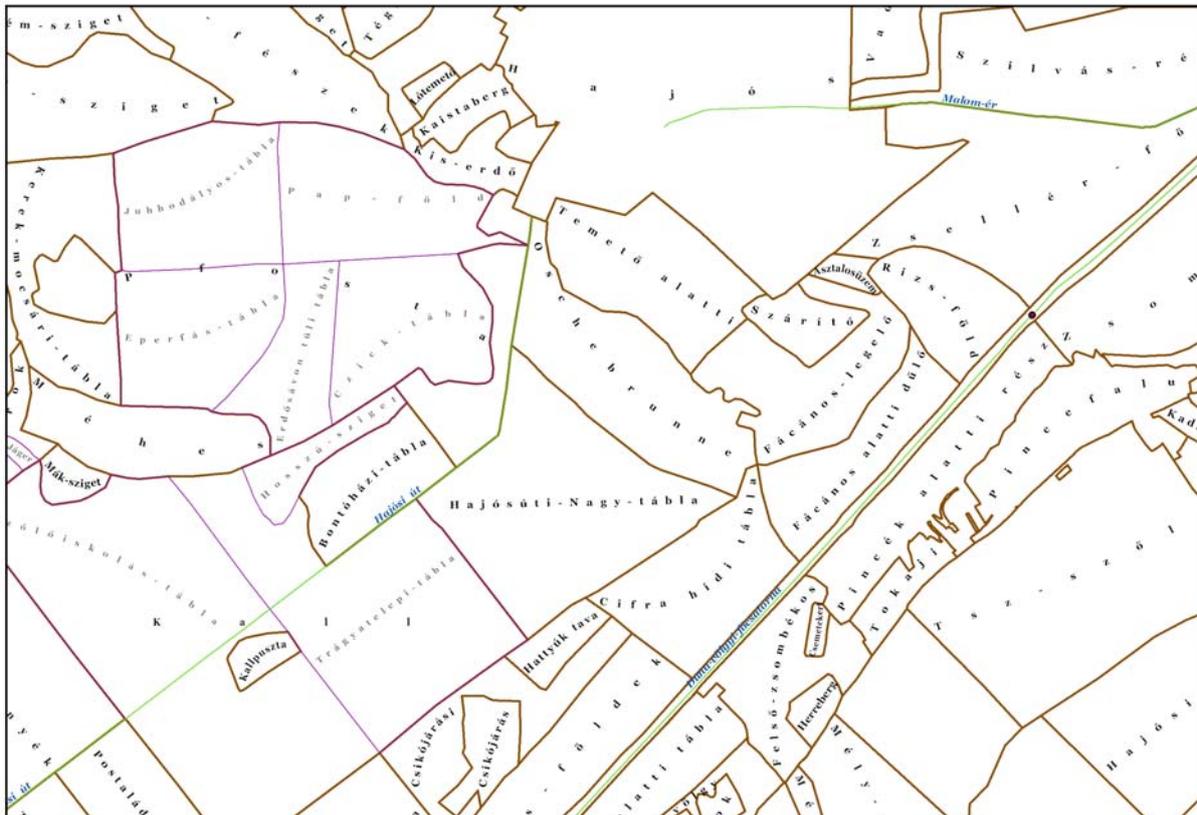
II. the village of Hajós (Bács-Kiskun County) – in map form:

### Hajós – old name set (FNT II):



### Hajós – new name collection

Revised names will be available in raster format on a series of 1:10 000 maps using ArcGIS software



Hajós földrajzi nevei (részlet) 1:24000

A programme on cartographic localization of features has also started. When completed, possibly in a few weeks, it will help the user, on the internet, to identify spatially on the 1:100 000 topographic map the feature sought.

### Cartographic localization of features

## Földrajzinév-tár

### Keresés

Fejér megye

Etyek

Minden

Kőkaloda-dűlő	<a href="#">terület</a>
Köves-hegy	<a href="#">domb</a>
Kút-völgy	<a href="#">völgy</a>
Legelő-hegy	<a href="#">domb</a>
Nádas-tó	<a href="#">tó, természetes állóvíz</a>
Nagypusztai-földek	<a href="#">terület</a>
Nazarénus-hegy	<a href="#">domb</a>
Ödönmajor	<a href="#">küterületi településrész</a>
Öreg-hegy	<a href="#">domb</a>
Pap-rét	<a href="#">terület</a>
Paszkalinmajor	<a href="#">küterületi településrész</a>
Pince-dűlő	<a href="#">terület</a>

Írjon ide egy földrajzi nevet és megkapja mely településeken található meg.

#### **4. Administrative structure of national names authorities**

The new legal basis of national names standardization in general and of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names in particular is government decree No. 303/2007. (XI. 14.) Korm. which entered into force on 1 January.

The new legal measure considers all geographical names as part of a single system, regardless to the fact that the Committee has a (decision-making, advisory) role for the given type of name or not. Country names, administrative, town and village names are now considered as geographical names, something logically regarded so well before this decree, but without a legal confirmation.

HCGN acts under *Gov. Decree No. 303/2007 (on the establishment and recording of official geographical names in Hungary)* as an interministerial decision-making and advisory board operating in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. See later: administrative structure of national names authorities  
According to the decree it

- brings decision on names of physical features (relief, water, landscape, area), nature protection and transport,
- gives advice on names of settlements (towns, villages), parts of settlements and streets,
- takes its position on minority names, on the use of Hungarian equivalents of foreign geographical names, and on names of features not regulated as yet (e.g. Hungarian names of planetary, astronomical features).

#### **Ad Agenda Item 4. Toponymic Guidelines**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines* was prepared by Ervin Földi, Chairman, Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names, for the delegates of the 8. Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Berlin.

#### **Ad Agenda Item 5. Toponymic data files and gazetteers**

The gazetteer-database under the responsibility of FÖMI Institute contains 41 types of geographical names including the names of settlements, parts of settlements, landscapes, large units of the land, woods, nature conservation areas, relief and hydrography, names of conspicuous points (ruin, lookout tower etc.) as well as the names of the most important objects of traffic. It is a Database of Geographical Names (FNT – Földrajzinév-tár).

The database has two versions. The first one (FNT1) corresponds in quantity of names approximately to a topographic map in scale 1:50 000. This database was produced by using of 300 sources (maps, geographical literature, economical, statistical sources), and each municipality had the chance to complete or modify the database reflecting the local use of name. FNT1 covers the whole territory of Hungary, contains 78 500 geographical names, and changes are continuously updated.

The second version (FNT2) corresponds in quantity and in the types of names used roughly to the topographic map scale 1:10 000, with a readiness of 50%. It covers the names of the database FNT1 with additional names collected directly on the spot, taken from large-scale topographic maps, cadastral maps, and other sources. The two parts of the database comprise about 200 000 records.

#### **Ad Agenda Item 8. Pronunciation of names**

##### **1. IPA transliteration**

UN Conferences and Expert Group sessions have also considered this subject important. E.g. Resolution No. III/7 recommended "that the Group of Experts consider the nature and design of research and experimentation that may help to establish the range of pronunciation."

Although not expressly recommended, but we have started in Hungary to introduce in the database the IPA transliteration of names. The majority of the names of FNT1 are already furnished with the transliteration (exception: names with numerals, names with characters not included in Hungarian, like letter ä)

Examples:

Alföld	'ɔlføld
Alpokalja	'ɔlpokɔj:ɔ
Bakony	'bɔkɔɲ
Bakonyalja	'bɔkɔɲɔj:ɔ
Baranyai-dombság	'bɔɔɔɲɔi 'dompʃa:g
Belső-Somogy	'bɛlʃø:ʃomɔɲ
Borsodi-Mezőség	'borʃodi 'mɛzø:ʃe:g
Börzsöny	'bøɔzøɲ
Duna--Ipoly Nemzeti Park	'dunɔ 'ipɔj 'nɛmzɛti 'pɔrk
Budai-hegység	'budɔiɦɛɕʃe:g
Bükk	'byk:
Bükkalja	'byk:ɔj:ɔ
Bükk-fennsík	'bykʃɛɲʃi:k
Bükki Nemzeti Park	'byk:i 'nɛmzɛti 'pɔrk
Csanak	'tʃɔɔk
Csepeli-síkság	'tʃɛɛli 'ʃi:kʃa:g
Csepel-sziget	'tʃɛɛlsiget
Cserhát	'tʃɛɦa:t
Cserhátalja	'tʃɛɦa:tɔj:ɔ
Dráva-mellék	'dra:vɔmɛl:e:k

**2. For towns and major physical features in Hungary wav sound files are also attached in the database.**

### ***Ad Agenda Item 9. Country Names***

The Committee on Geographical Names regularly updates its list of country names, the main sources being the relevant official UN documents. In cases of doubt the practice of other countries (especially European ones) are reviewed. At one of its meetings in 2007, it decided to use the form “*Koszoovó*” for the then autonomous province of Kosovo.

### ***Ad Agenda Item 10. Exonyms***

Both the previous decree (71/1989. (VII.4.) MT) and the new one dealt and deals with the role of the Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names (HCGN) on decisions of using Hungarian equivalents of foreign geographical names in Hungary. Considering the new definitions<sup>1</sup>, the expression “Hungarian equivalents of foreign geographical names” covers both exonyms (examples: *Bécs*/Wien, *Aranyszarv*/Haliç, *Pó-síkság*/Pianura Padana) and minority endonyms (e.g.: *Szabadka*/Subotica, *Erdély*/Transilvania, *Csallóköz*/Žitný ostrov, *Szentlászló*/Laslovo).

There is a difference in the two decrees in the scope of using these names in Hungary.

<sup>1</sup> **exonym**: name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is widely spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well established language of the area where the geographical feature is situated.

**endonym**: name of a geographical feature in an official or well established language occurring in that area where the feature is situated. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/unegnwggroups.htm#ToponymicTerminology>

While the former decree (71/1989. (VII.4.) MT) only allowed decisions of HCGN for cartographic use in Hungary, the new legal measure does not limit the use to maps. This means, that the position of HCGN on the Hungarian equivalent of a foreign geographical name will have a certain legal character.

In fact when the Committee decided on the use of such names in the past two decades its standpoint was reflected in the use of these geographical names in the press, and other fields as well (government, tourism etc.).

For example the country names suggested by the Committee are used in the media and education.

The opinion of the Committee on the Hungarian minority place names published in the official gazettes of Romania (2001) and Yugoslavia (Voivodina, 2003) has also been formulated and sent to the representatives of the corresponding minority institutions.

Decisions on the Hungarian names of some populated places in neighbouring countries have been initiated by the Hungarian railway company to display the name in brackets in the index of its timetable, besides the local official form, as guidance to Hungarian users.

On a recent meeting of the Committee it was decided, that a list of Hungarian geographical names within Slovakia would be prepared for one of its next meetings. As recent developments inform on a suggested legal ban of Hungarian geographical names of minority areas in Slovak education materials, it may serve as evidence of use of such names in the Hungarian language, and would be a piece of reference for including such names, besides the official Slovak names, in local textbooks.

(Abridged from a presentation for the meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on exonyms (9-13 September 2008, Timișoara, Romania)

On the Timișoara meeting HCGN President András Dutkó presented a list of exonyms extensively used in Hungarian cartographic and other publications.

### ***Ad Agenda Item 13. Toponymic websites***

The Gazetteer-database of Hungary (FNT) has a limited access on the website [www.fomi.hu](http://www.fomi.hu) Access path: (change to English when clicked on the British flag), choose the option „Products”, then „FNT” from among the upper menu points, when you can find the link for search in the Gazetteer if you know the name of the feature, the type (in Hungarian), and the county the feature is in. You may then learn the town/village the feature is in. According to the present regulations data distributed from FNT are charged for. In the present search possibility all names can be accessed, but can only be identified if both the feature type (in Hungarian) and the county name where the feature is situated are known.

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office has completed processing the census data of the year 2001. Its gazetteer of placenames can be found and accessed at the website: [www.ksh.hu](http://www.ksh.hu) (English version as well when clicked on the Union Jack), then choose the button „Gazetteer”.

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