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**Report on the activities in the field of standardization of geographical names in
the Slovak Republic in the period from the 18th session of the East Central
and South-East Europe Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names, Praha 2007 to 2008**

Submitted by the Slovakia*

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To item 3

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION

Field collection and office treatment of names

After completing the standardization of geographical names in the extent of the Basic map 1:10 000 (ZM 10) of the Slovak Republic in the year 1994, standardization of the names of triangulation points in 1999 and standardization of the names of protected areas in 2003 the Authority of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as „ÚGKK SR“ or „Authority“) continued standardization of the names of hydrological important watercourses, the names of Primary Database for Geographic Information System (ZB GIS) and names of new protected areas.

In 1996 the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic published an internal instruction for geographical names standardization, which was preceded by the internal instruction for geographical names standardization (valid in the years 1985 - 1995) and the Instruction for geographical names edition (valid in the years 1972 - 1984). In the instruction are defined regulative rules and guidelines for editing and writing geographical names and the formal procedures to be observed in submitting to the authority the proposals of new names or changes of geographical names, as well as the factors which should be considered in editing the names. Part of the instructions is procedures in standardizing names from the territory of the Slovak Republic, rules for usage and standardization of names from the territory outside the Slovak Republic, recommendations of geographical names transcriptions from non-Roman type graphics to the Roman type letters, rules for generic names usage, rules used in historical geographical names standardization and also the extent and method of geographical names documentation. Principles of edition and method geographical names writing are defined separately for individual categories of geographical objects. The instruction is available to the public in special map outlets.

Formal procedures used for publishing the Authority's decisions concerning the standardization of names and for securing the use of standardized names on the state maps are stated in the Act of the

National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 215/1995 Corpus iuris on geodesy and cartography and its amendment No 423/2003 Corpus iuris.

Treatment of names in multilingual areas

In the territory of the Slovak Republic the Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish Romany (Gypsy), Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages are used as languages of ethnic minorities. These are of regional character. In cartographic series published in SR the names are given in the Slovak language in a standardized form on principle. In ethnically and linguistically mixed areas the current standardization allows using on the maps of scales larger than 1:10 000 double forms of names in the ethnic minority's language in brackets.

Administrative structure of national names authorities

On the territory of the Slovak Republic there were no changes of competent bodies that provide the standardization of geographical names. At present the following authorities deal with geographical names.

National Council of the Slovak Republic determines the names of higher and lower administrative units (regions and districts) and determines their capitals.

Government of the Slovak Republic determines or changes the names of municipalities by statutory orders. Decision on the municipality's names change can be made only with the consent of the municipality. Prior to the decision-making the proposal is considered by an expert geographical names commission of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, its opinion is one of the bases for the decision.

Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic determines and changes the names of the parts of municipalities. Prior to decision-making the proposal is considered by an expert geographical names commission of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, its opinion is one of the bases for the decision.

Municipalities determine and change the names of streets and other public places after discussion with the inhabitants of a municipality or its part and with the consent of a district office.

Authority of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre of the Slovak Republic determines and changes the names of non-residential geographical objects from the territory of the Slovak Republic in GIS, names of triangulation points, generic forms of the Slovak names of residential and non-residential geographical objects from the territory outside the Slovak Republic and names of extra-

terrestrial objects, as well as the method of transliterating the names of geographical objects from the territory outside the Slovak Republic from the countries that use an alphabet different from the Roman letters alphabet and the system of writing different from the Roman letters system, according to the rules of Slovak orthography with the consent of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

Cadastral centres determine and change the names of non-residential geographical objects from the territory of the Slovak Republic shown on the basic state map series 1: 5 000 and larger.

In accordance with the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 215/1995 Corpus iuris on geodesy and cartography standardized geographic names are obligatory for the map editors, for the use in print and other mass media and in official activities of the state agencies and municipalities.

In accordance with this Act the obligation to use standardized geographical names relates only to the publisher's subjects whose domicile is on the territory of the Slovak Republic. Foreign products not always meet the criteria of national and international standardization of geographical names.

The Authority, being aware of this situation, is preparing within the amendment of the corresponding rule of law the expansion of the binding character of the usage of geographical names (especially exonyms are in question) standardized exclusively by the Authority also to those subjects which distribute foreign titles.

To item 4/

TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

In 1998, on the basis of the recommendations of the resolution No. 7 of the 6th UN Conference on the geographical names standardization, the 3rd revised edition of toponymic guidelines was prepared, which includes both Slovak and English versions. The 3rd edition of the toponymic guideline was published at the end of the year 1999.

To item 5/

TOPONYMIC DATA FILES AND GAZETEERS

Data collection procedures

In the period since the 18th Session updating of the database of geographical names from the Slovak Republic's territory has been continued. The database comprises the file of the names of residential and non-residential geographical objects named in ZB GIS. All names in the database

are standardized by “Authority” or other competent body. Basic information resource for the database was the published lists of standardized names on the 1:10 000 Basic map of the Slovak Republic and 1:50 000 Basic map of the Slovak Republic. The database is being updated continuously. New names are collected, standardized and added into database from maps of large scales or on the basis of requirements and information of central and local institutions. The data on standardized names will be gradually published on the Internet.

Data elements required

To every name the additional information entering the database is supplied. The introductory form of every name contains, besides the standardized form of the name, also its location according to the cadastral district and present administrative division. In addition, the name is located by means of the ZM 10 map sheet and geographic coordinates. Water courses and hills are included in the corresponding drainage basins or orographic units. Another data entering the database is the date of standardization, and also the previous form of the name in the case it exists, with the period of its validity and the object type designation. Information on every name can be supplied with the selected data, which is characteristic for a certain kind of object (e.g. dimension in hills).

Automated data processing systems

Geographical names are stored in digital stand-alone geographical names database. After conversion into the WINDOWS operation system data is processed in program packet ArcGIS. Data from the database can be distributed to those interested by means of printed reports or on CD. Formats in which geographical names are available: MS Excel, ESRI (ArcInfo Coverage, ArcInfo Shape)

National gazetteers and other publications

In the period of 2007 – November 2008 they weren't issued any publications.

In the period since the 19th Session in the year 2008 in the edition UN Geographical Names (Gazetteers) of the Slovak Republic the following publications are being prepared:

Slovak exonyms of seas, buys and underseas features

Rules for use of the names of Slovak geographical objects in the foreign-language texts of publications brought out in the Slovak Republic

To item 7/

WRITING SYSTEMS

Romanization

Since the year 1998 the Authority started to gradually publicize the decisions on the method of the transliteration of geographical objects names from the territory outside the Slovak Republic from the countries that use an alphabet different from the Roman one and the system of writing different from the Roman one, recommended by the UN resolutions. Until present time together with transliteration tables and the specimens of names in Roman letters alphabet there were published decisions on the methods of geographical names transliteration from Russian to Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabets to the Roman letters alphabet.

To item 9/

COUNTRY NAMES

In the year 2000 was published the 2nd edition of the list of the Slovak generic names of countries and dependencies which alike the 1st edition includes, apart from the abbreviated and full forms of the names in an official language (official languages), the kind of establishment, the name of official language in Slovak, the name of the capital and its geographical coordinates.

The list of country names is continuously updated on homepage of ÚGKK SR (<http://www.geodesy.gov.sk/>).

To item 10/

EXONYMS

In the Slovak cartographic production the use of endonyms is preferred on principle. In the maps and atlases intended for national use, from the areas outside the Slovak Republic's territory apart from endonyms also Slovak exonyms are given in brackets, if necessary. On principle the degree of exonym usage in cartographic series depends on a map scale, thematic specialization and a possible user.

The number of exonyms used in cartographic series has been reduced and stabilized. The exonyms which are used rarely have been re-classified into the group of historical exonyms. The situation is

different outside the Authority department, i.e. in the press and mass media, where reduction of exonyms is not advancing so fast.

The Geographical Names Commission of the ÚGKK SR has worked out the list of the Slovak exonyms of geographical features lying out of the territory of the Slovak Republic, whose 2nd edition was published late in 1999. The part thereof is also Slovak names of municipalities in selected European countries, in which the Slovak population lives as an ethnic minority. The list of Slovak exonyms of extraterrestrial objects and apparent patterns in the sky was published in 2005.

To item 13/

TOPONYMIC WEBSITES

In the year 1998 the home page of the ÚGKK SR was established on the Internet. Until now there were published materials concerning the geographical names standardization as follows:

- Decision of the Authority's President on the establishment of the Geographical Names Commission of the ÚGKK SR
- Membership list of the UGKK SR Geographical Names Commission
- Decision of the Authority's President on issuing a specimen statute and specimen standing order of the geographical names board of a district office,
- Instruction for the geographical names standardization,
- Methods of geographical names transliteration from the Russian and Bulgarian Cyrillic alphabets to the Roman letters alphabet,
- Toponymic guideline for map and other editors,
- Slovak exonyms of countries and dependencies,
- List and price list of the publication containing standardized geographical names,
- Decisions of the Authority's President on geographical names standardization
- Work plans and annual reports of the Authority's Geographical Names Commission.

Materials are available at the address: <http://www.geodesy.gov.sk/>

Geographical names from the whole territory of the Slovak republic are available on the Internet page of the Geodetic and Cartographic Institute Bratislava at the address: <http://www.geoportal.sk>.

To item 16/

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF UNGEGN

Recommendations of the UN conferences on the geographical names standardization in the Slovak Republic are fulfilled. Official body for the standardization of the geographical names of non-residential objects, names of the objects outside the Slovak Republic's territory and names of extraterrestrial objects is the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as „ÚGKK SR“ or „Authority“.)

In accordance with the resolution No. 4, part E from the 1st UN Conference on Geographical Names Standardization in Geneva in 1967 ((4E I) and No. 2 from the 3rd UN Conference on Geographical Names Standardization in Athens in 1977 (2 III) systematic geographical names standardization is in progress in the Slovak Republic.

In the ÚGKK SR edition „UN geographical gazetteers of the Slovak Republic“ geographical gazetteers of districts were published, as well as the publications concerning geographical names in general. The standardization is carried out in accordance with the rules of Slovak orthography. Since 1 January 1996 the general obligation to use the geographical names standardized by ÚGKK SR has been legislatively completed.

The work of Commission for Geographical Names by ÚGKK SR and the UN activity in the field of geographical names standardization is promoted by means of the Geographical Names Information periodical, which is published twice a year as a minimum and is distributed free of charge to all those interested in geographical names.