

**United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

**East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)**

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

Zagreb, Croatia, 19 – 21 November 2008

Item 3 and 14 of the agenda

Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.19/2008/16

**Report of Ukraine on standardization of geographical names in Ukraine in  
the period of 2007-2008**

Submitted by Ukraine\*

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## **National bodies of geographical names standardization**

In Ukraine the State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre is engaged in carrying out and coordination of the activities concerning geographical names. The State Service of Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (*Ukrgeodezkartographia*) functions as a part of the Ministry of the Environment of Ukraine.

*Ukrgeodezkartographia* works out and approves within the terms of its reference the normative and technical papers concerning the determination, normalization, account, registering, use and preservation of geographical names, provides for the formation and management of the State Register of Geographical names and also performs state control over the use and preservation of geographical names.

The Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names has works as a deliberative body in the sphere of standardization of geographical names. It is supervised by the Head of *Ukrgeodezkartographia*. This state body is entrusted with the organizational and technical provision of the Council's activity.

The main tasks of the Council are:

- to work out and define the main principles of determination and normalization of geographical names;
- to work out suggestions concerning the state policy in regard to standardization of geographical names;
- to consider suggestions concerning naming and renaming of geographical objects.

The solutions adopted by the Council within the terms of its reference are mandatory submitted for consideration to the executive power bodies in charge of naming and renaming of geographical objects.

The representatives of the Ministry Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Academy of Sciences, and other establishments and organizations are members of the Council.

The organizational and technical provision of the Council's activity is carried out by *Ukrgeodezkartographia*.

## **The State of Legislative, Normative and Methodological Basis in the Sphere of Geographical Names**

The Law of Ukraine on Geographical Names determines the legal foundations regulating the activity with respect to naming and renaming of geographical objects, and also normalization, use, registration and preservation of geographical names.

The Statute of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 19.04.2006 No 543, regulates the interdepartmental coordination in the sphere of geographical names.

The Thesis on the State Register of Geographical Names, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 11.05.2006 defines the order of formation and management of the State Register of Geographical Names and provides for the determination, accounting and registration of the names of geographical objects.

The Law of Ukraine on Topographic, Geodetic and Cartographic Activity (1998) regulates the normative provision for the establishment, collection and preservation of geographical names while conducting topographic, geodetic and cartographic works.

The procedure of collection, confirmation and processing of geographical names while conducting survey work and updating of topographic maps and plans is defined by "Provisional rules of collection and establishment of geographical names on topographic maps and plans" (1998).

The 22 approved Instructions on rendering of foreign geographical names and terms into Ukrainian and the World Gazetteer in Ukrainian are used to provide for the unified rendering of the foreign geographical names into Ukrainian:

Reference book names of Countries and Territories of the World was prepared for the re-edition in 2008. It contains data on the official names of the countries, dependent territories and the territories with a special status, the capitals of states, and the capitals of the dependencies in Ukrainian, as well as adjectives derived from the country names, nouns derived from the country and capital city names meaning the citizens of countries and cities, the Documents issued by the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names had been used in the process of the reference book's revision.

## **The Guidelines of Activity in the Sphere of Geographical Names Standardization in 2007-2008**

During the period of report the activity in the sphere of geographical names standardization in Ukraine was carried out along the following guidelines:

- improvement of the normative methodological database with the aim of regulation of the activity in the sphere of geographical names standardization;
- management of the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names;
- adjustment of the issue of the Ukrainian Romanization system use;
- coordination of activities aimed at the provision of cartographic editions with standardized geographical names ;
- management of preparatory works on State Register of geographical Names
- international cooperation in the sphere of geographical names.

In order to provide for the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names continuous activity changes were made to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of April 19, 2006 No 543 "On the Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names Creation" concerning the simplification of the Council's Head appointment procedure.

The coordination of activity aimed at the State Register of Geographical Names creation and management had been carried out. In 2007 scientific research aimed at the formulation of the main principles of the State Register of Geographical Names creation and management, its structure and contents, had been carried out.

Upon inquiries of organizations, establishments and enterprises the information in regard to the use and written form of the names of certain geographical subjects located in Ukraine and worldwide was given. In particular, the State Committee of Standards was given recommendations as to the rendering into Ukrainian of foreign geographical names in the national Standard SSTU ISO 3166-2000 "Codes of the Country Names"; State Committee of Statistics was supplied with the information on the normalized Ukrainian localities' names, changes in localities categories and status for the National Classifier DC 014-97 "Classifier of the Objects of Administrative and Territorial Division of Ukraine".

In 2007-2008 measures aimed at the regulation of the rendering of proper and geographical names by means Latin script had been carried out.

A draft Resolution *On the approval of the Rules of Rendering of Ukrainian Proper Names by Means of Letters of Latin Alphabet*, based on the revised *Normative Table of Rendering of Ukrainian Proper Names by Means of Letters of Latin Alphabet*, which was approved by the Ukrainian Commission on Legislative Terminology in 1996, was put forward for discussion in the Cabinet of Ministers. Unfortunately, the draft Resolution was turned down.

In spite of that, the SSPE *Kartographia* published a general geographic map and a political-administrative map of Ukraine at the scale of 1:1 500 000, a road map of Ukraine at the scale of 1:1 000 000, a tourist map of Ukraine at the scale of 1:1 250 000, tourist maps of the Crimea and of the Carpathians at the scale of 1:300 000, city plans of Kyiv, Yalta, Sevastopol', L'viv and Odesa in Latin script in 2007.

The National Atlas of Ukraine was published in 2008. Its maps represent standardized Ukrainian names; the names of the adjacent territories are given in accordance to the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names recommendations and the approved Instructions on rendering of foreign geographical names and terms into Ukrainian.

In pursuance of the provisions of the Law of Ukraine On Geographical Names research works are being carried out in 2008 in regard to the procedure of proposals examination concerning naming and renaming of Ukraine's geographical objects.

Instructions on rendering of the geographical names and terms of Belgium, the Netherlands and Estonia into Ukrainian are being worked out in 2008.

In pursuance of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names recommendations the working out of Toponymic Guidelines is being carried out in 2008.

The Interdepartmental Scientific and Methodological Council in the Issues of Geographical Names, within the terms of its reference, was supplying its recommendations concerning the proposals of renaming of localities, the normalization of the name of the land geographical object on the territory of Ukraine, in Kerchens'ka protoka (the Kerch Strait) (Island Kosa Tuzla), reviewed the drafts of the normative methodological and normative technical documents concerning geographical Names, and also the Draft Rules of Transliteration of the Ukrainian Proper Names by means of Latin Script.

## **Participation in International Events in the Sphere of Geographical Names**

International cooperation in the field of standardization of geographical names is being carried out along two main guidelines: the participation in events, which are held within the framework of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names activity, and the exchange of information on changes of geographical names with cartographic and geodetic services of countries-CIS members.

Ukraine is a member of two departments of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names: the Eastern Europe, North and Middle Asia Department, and the Eastern Part of Central Europe and South-East Europe Department. Ukraine also takes part in the meetings of the Baltic Department as an observer.

During the period of report the representatives of the cartographic and geodetic service took part in such events:

- the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association and the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Cartographic Conference in Moscow in 2007;
- the Ninth UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names and the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in New York in 2007.
- the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Part of Central Europe and South-East Europe Division and the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names of the ICGCC&RSE CIS member countries in Sofia in May 2008.
- Symposium Geonamrs08 Geographical names as part of cultural heritage in Vienna in May 2008.
- the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Baltic Division of the UNGEGN in Kaliningrad in September 2008.