

Treatment of Geographical Names in Multilingual Areas

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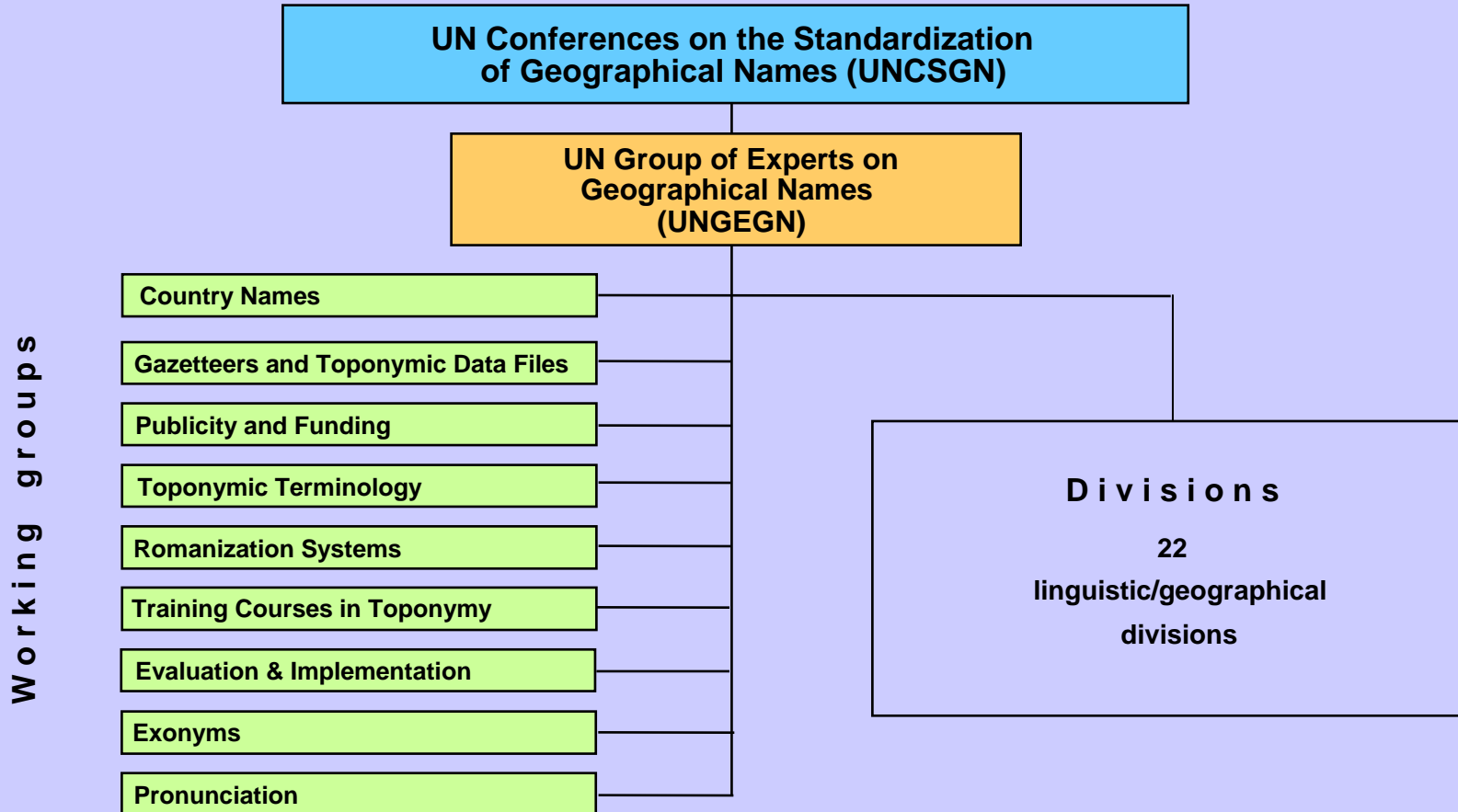
Slovene Governmental Commission
for the Standardization of Geographical Names
University of Primorska
Koper/Capodistria

In many countries of the world, we are faced with **mixed national structure**; it should be carefully studied and elaborated. Geographical names are **very sensitive** issue and must be treated carefully.

Exchange of experiences and cooperation of experts on all levels is of great benefit to all.



UNGEGN: Working Groups and Divisions



BACKGROUND

of the Working Group on Exonyms

The initial proposal for establishment of this UNGEGN Working Group was made in October 2001 in Berchtesgaden and the first meeting was in Berlin, 6. September 2002. This is based on the 4th resolution of the Eight United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in Berlin.

WG is now having 20 members from 15 countries.

Countries in the world are faced with:

- Geographical names within the state borders, most often used in predominant official language,
- Geographical names within the state borders, in one or several other than official predominant national language/s,
- Geographical names of one or many entities, in the border area or language islands within the neighbouring country (outside the mother country),
- "Pure" exonyms, this are usually names of certain language in more distant geographical parts of the earth and
- Foreign, unchanged/original names.

WIENER OSTEUROPA STUDIEN

Peter Jordan, Milan Orožen Adamič,
Paul Woodman (eds.)

Exonyms and the International Standardisation of Geographical Names

Approaches towards the
Resolution of an Apparent
Contradiction

www.lit-verlag.at
2007, 24,90 €

LIT

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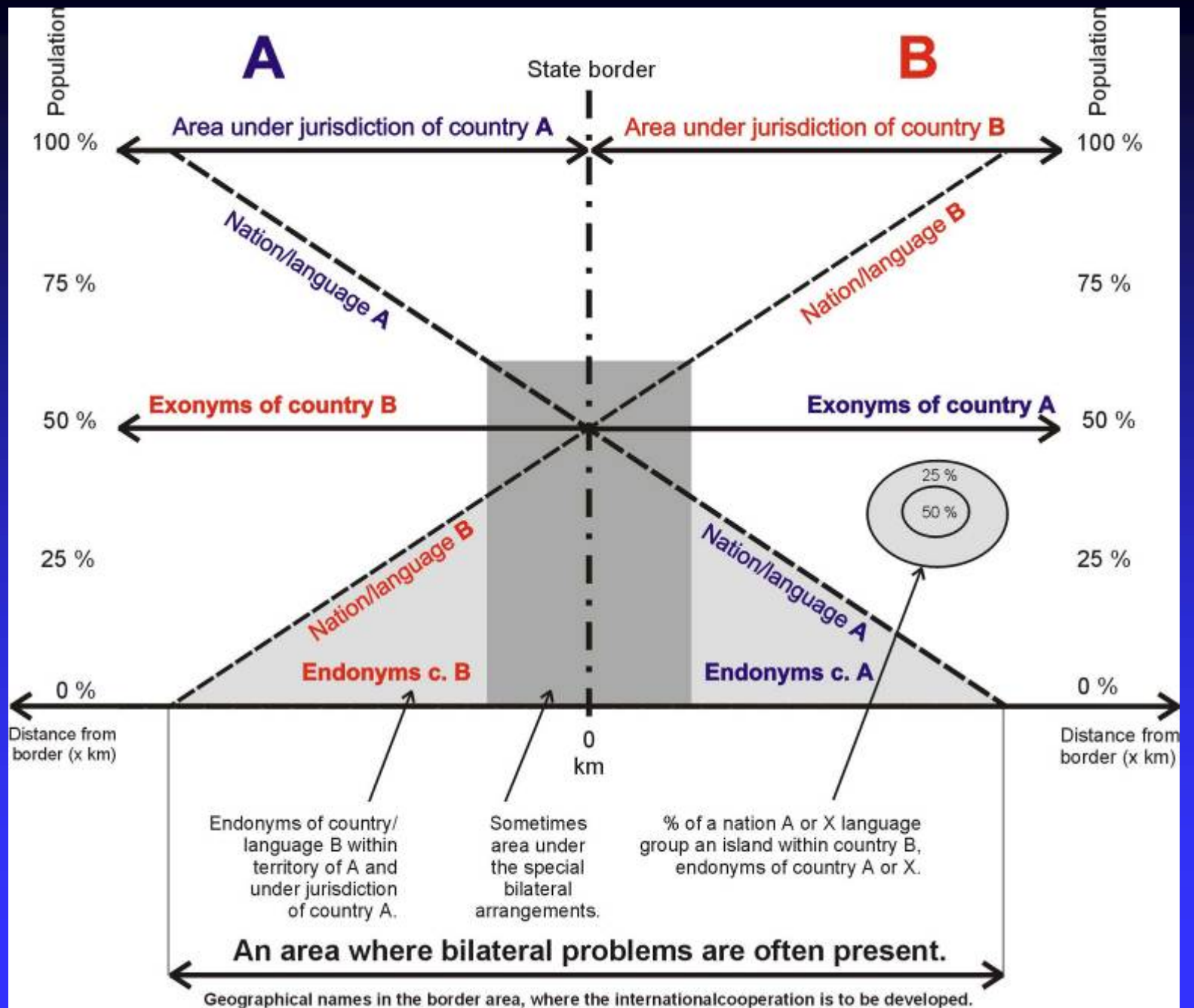
Peter Jordan is atlas editor and cultural and political geographer at the Austrian Institute of East and Southeast European Studies in Vienna (Austria) and teaches at the universities of Vienna, Klagenfurt, Rijeka and Cluj-Napoca. Within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) he co-convenes the Working Group on Exonyms.

Paul Woodman is Secretary of the United Kingdom Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and has been a member of UNGEGN for three decades. He has a particular interest in exonyms and in the political and cultural aspects of toponymy.

This book is a first comprehensive reader on the topic of exonyms. It aims to highlight the exonym question in general from a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective. It examines the benefits of exonyms, the current trends of exonym use, and the standardisation efforts related to exonyms on the national as well as on the international (UN) level. It is supplemented by a bibliography of further important reference works. Most authors are members of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), more specifically of its Working Group on Exonyms.

Glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names, United Nations

Current definition	Suggested definition (25.09.2003 and 28.04.2004)
081 Exonym Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated	Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is 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 located
076 Endonym Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in that area where the feature is situated	Name of a geographical feature in an official or well established language occurring in the area where the feature is located
077 Endonym, Standardized Endonym sanctioned by a names authority	Endonym sanctioned by a names authority

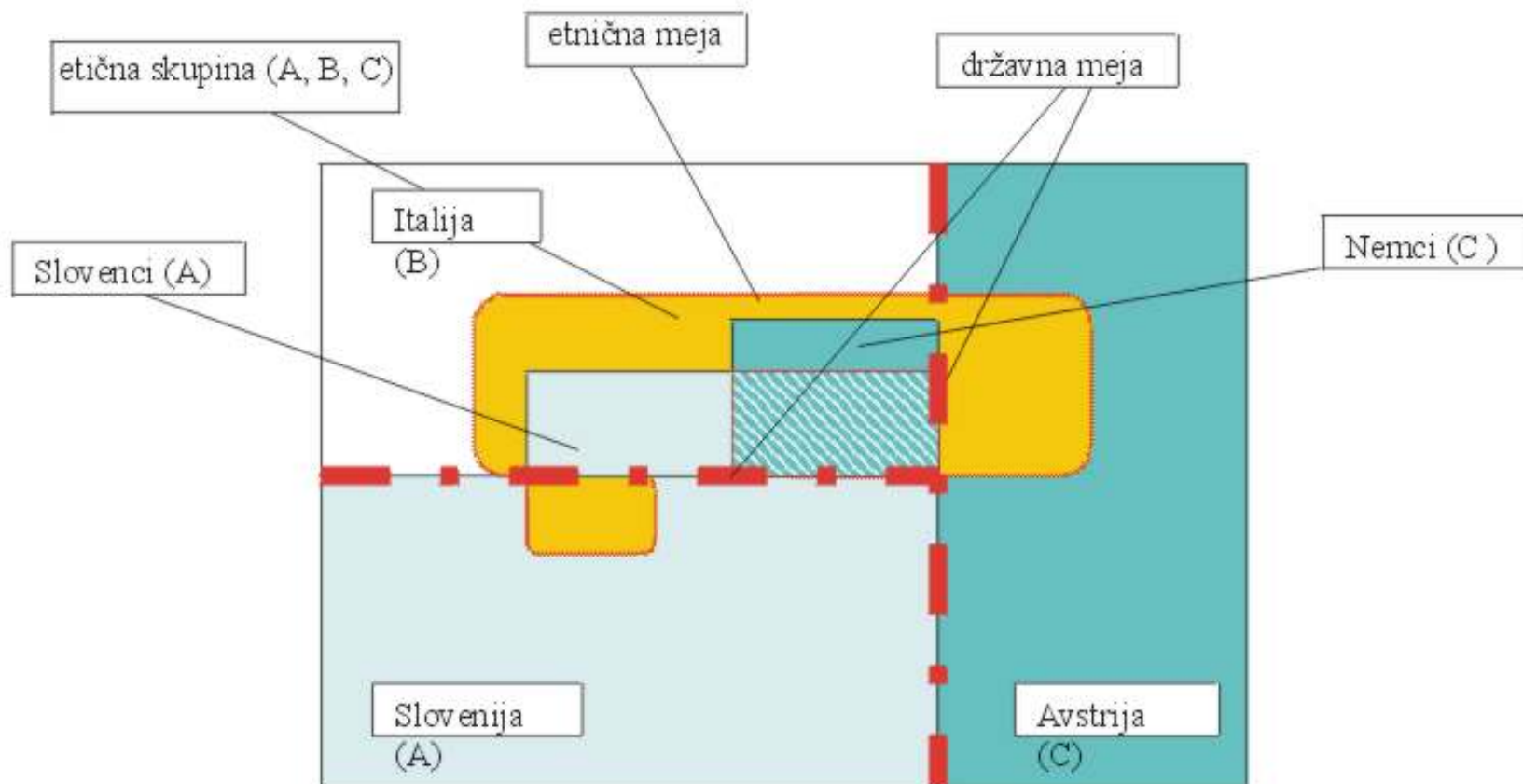


Peč/Forno/Ofen Slovenia/Italy/Austria



Val Canale/Kanaltal/Kanalska dolina

A close look show, that there are in a local community a complex and complicated relations... + FRIULIANS...



Conclusion...

- local political situation and many other facts must be carefully elaborated,
- situation on the ground is constantly changing,
- national name commissions should elaborate and have in mind constant changes,
- decisions/solutions should be based on extensive research work and discussions,
- extensive lists of exonyms should be created and
- classified (into historical exonyms, not recommended exonyms, etc...),
- international cooperation is a must!

However...

Live discussion in WG is present.

Just now Paul Woodman created paper:

**Oceans and seas in the andonym
versus exonym debate**

???

- hvala...
- grazie...
- danke...
- thanks...

<http://www.zrc-sazu.si/moa/>

