

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

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

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

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**East Central and South-East Europe Division Chairman  
Report from 2008 to 2011**

Submitted by ECSEE Division Chairman\*

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# East Central and South-East Europe Division Chairman Report from 2008 to 2011

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This is the report of the Chairman of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) from 2008 to 2011. The report provides the overview of the activities between 19th ECSEED Session (2008, Zagreb) and 20th ECSEED Session (2011, Zagreb).

## 2. ECSEE DIVISION

With Montenegro joining ECSEE Division at the 19th ECSEED Session, ECSEE Division has reached the number of 16 member countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine (see Fig. 1).



Figure 1. ECSEED countries.

UNGEGN has got 23 Division and ECSEED is highly positioned considering the number of the countries (see Table 1).

Table 1. UNGEGN Divisions and its member countries

Nr.	UNGEEN Divisions	Number of Division countries
1	Latin America Division	22
2	Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division	18
3	French-speaking Division	17
4	Africa East Division	16
5	Africa West Division	16
6	East Central and South-East Europe Division	16
7	Arabic Division	15
8	Romano-Hellenic Division	15
9	Africa Central Division	12
10	Africa South Division	10
11	Portuguese-speaking Division	9
12	Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division	9
13	Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)	7
14	Dutch- and German-speaking Division	7
15	India Division	6
16	Norden Division	5
17	United Kingdom Division	5
18	Asia East Division (other than China)	3
19	Baltic Division	3
20	Celtic Division	2
21	East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)	2
22	United States of America-Canada Division	2
23	China Division	1

### **3. EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE DIVISION OVERVIEW DOCUMENT**

ECSEED overview document is giving the main information about Division and its member countries. It is introducing ECSEE Division and division member countries. The Document contains the information about establishing ECSEE Division, overview about ECSEE Division member countries, countries membership in more UNGEGN Divisions, the main ECSEE Division countries data like country name in formal and short form in national and English language, languages and writing systems, Romanization system, data about national authorities and other.

It has been prepared by Division experts. The first edition of the ECSEED overview document was introduced at the 19th ECSEED Session in 2008 (ECSEED/Session.19/2008/1, [http://ungegn.cgi.hr/ECSEEDdoc/ECSEE\\_Division\\_overview.pdf](http://ungegn.cgi.hr/ECSEEDdoc/ECSEE_Division_overview.pdf)).

The Division overview document should be updated and corrected continuously after every change of the data referring to Division member countries. The ECSEE Division Chairman asks the experts to send changes of the national data continuously, as they happen.

#### 4. REPORT ABOUT 19<sup>th</sup> ECSEED SESSION IN THE UNGEGN INFORMATION BULLETIN

In the UNGEGN Information Bulletin Nr. 39, March 2009 a short report about the 19<sup>th</sup> ECSEE Division Session, 19-21 November 2008, Zagreb (see Fig. 2) was published.

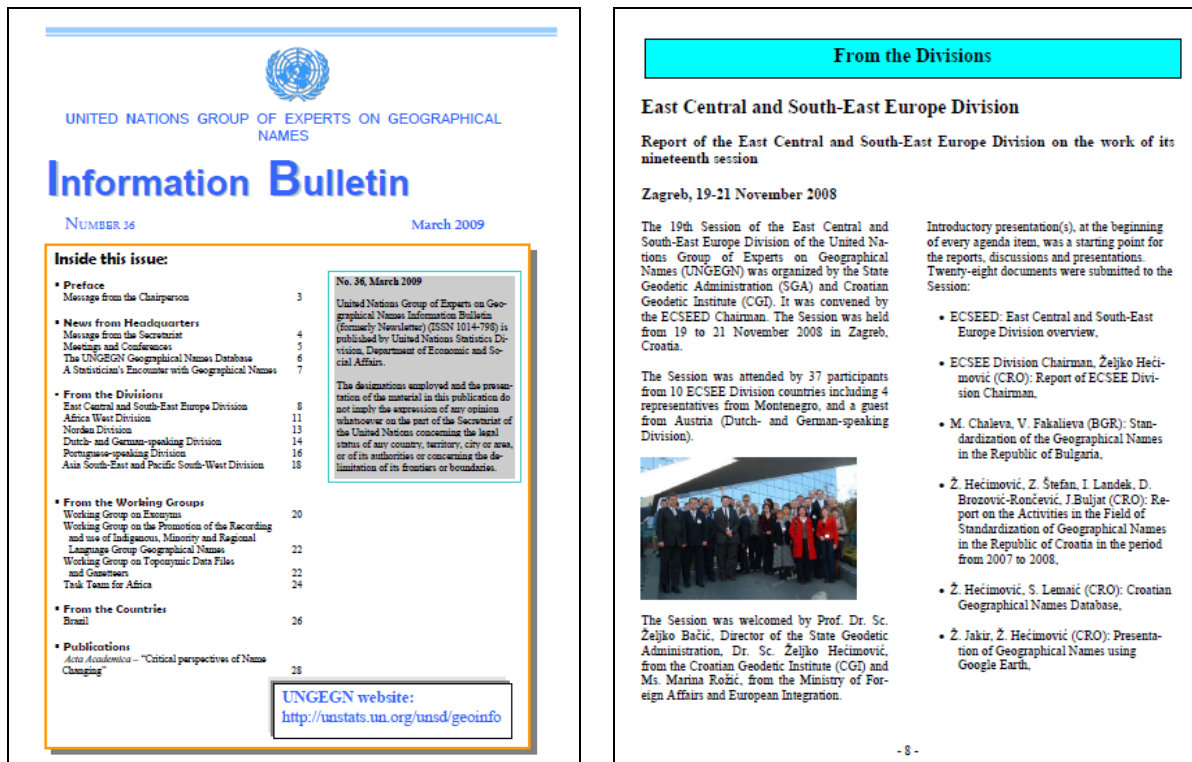


Figure 2. UNGEGN Information Bulletin.

The division experts are encouraged to submit material for publishing in the UNGEGN Bulletin.

#### 5. ECSEE DIVISION AT THE 25<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNGEGN

The 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGEGN was held from 5 to 12 May 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. There were 138 participants from 53 countries.

The Report of the East Central and South-East Europe Division was presented at the Session. It is Session Working Paper 16. The main topics of the Report were: 19th ECSEE Division meeting 2008 in Zagreb, Montenegro as new ECSEE Division member, establishment of new website, Division overview document and systematization of documentation of the Division.

As it is usually done, during the 25th UNGEGN Session ECSEED Division had a meeting. There were 12 participants from ECSEED countries: Czech Republic (1), Croatia (1), Cyprus (2), Greece (3), Slovenia (1), Turkey (3) and Ukraine (1). At the ECSEED Meeting chairman reported on updating Division website and documents,

preparations of the joint Division meeting in February 2011 in Zagreb and other matters. It was discussed about the development of standardization of geographical names on national level, how to stimulate passive countries to be more active and other topics.

The countries directly submit documents to UNGEGN Sessions and UN Conferences on standardization of geographical names, and they are not part of Division documents evidence. Because of that, it was suggested to make link on the ECSEED website to UNGEGN Sessions and Conferences documents websites.

## **6. MEETING OF THE ECSEED IN TAINACH (AUSTRIA)**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (Tainach, Austria, 28-30 April 2010) the meetings of the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) and Meeting of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) were organized. The ECSEED Division meeting was the opportunity for Division experts/delegates presenting at this meeting to exchange opinions and experiences.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms the experts from 24 countries (19 European countries and 5 from outside of the European region: Argentina, Canada, Egypt, New Zealand and South Korea) were present. The ECSEED meeting was attended by the 18 participants: UNGEGN Chair Helen Kerfoot, 13 from ECSEED countries (Croatia (1), Czech Republic (1), Greece (1), Hungary (3), Poland (3), Slovakia (1), Slovenia (1), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1) and Ukraine (1)) and 4 guests (Estonia (1), Finland (1), Romania (1) and New Zealand (1))(see Fig. 3).



Figure 3. Participants of the ECSEED Meeting in Tainach.

The main meeting discussion topics were: ECSEED chairman reported on activities, updating Division website, preparations of the joint Division meeting in February 2011 in Zagreb, UNGEGN World geographical names database, development of standardization of geographical names on national level, Division chairing mandate, how to stimulate passive countries to be more active and other topics

UNGEEN Chair Helen Kerfoot informed the members of the Meeting about 26<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Vienna or Geneva. The Session will be shorter than

previous UNGEGN Sessions. The problem of presenting the Session documents was discussed. It is of special interest for the Division how division and national reports are going to be treated.

The Division Chairman has the mandate between two UN Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names. The 20<sup>th</sup> ECSEED Session in February 2011 in Zagreb is the last Division Session before the next UN Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2012, and the Division chairing problem should be discussed. It was concluded at the meeting that the countries are going to think about chairing of the Division in the future, and present their proposals at the 20<sup>th</sup> ECSEED Session.

There are indications that some Division passive countries are going to be more active in the future. It was discussed how to stimulate passive ECSEED countries to be more active.

UNGEGN Chair Helen Kerfoot informed about a new UN Statistical Division (UNSD) body. It is the United Nations Committee on Global Geographic Information Management. UNSD in collaboration with the UN Cartographic Section is organizing the Second Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee on Global Geographic Information Management. Thanks to Mr. Peter Jordan, Co-convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, the organization of the ECSEE Division meeting was excellent. It was held from 8 P.M. to about 9:30 P.M. in working atmosphere.

## **7. ECSEED WEBSITES**

ECSEE Division websites <http://ungegn.cgi.hr/> (see Fig. 4) were continuously updated and changed. The link to UNGEGN World geographical names database was added. Links to UNGEGN Sessions documents website were made. The changes were made after the ECSEED meetings at 25th UNGEGN Session in Nairobi and Meeting in Tainach. The changes of Division expert's data were also permanently changed as Chairman received suggestion from delegates/expert. The page "Experts/Delegates" has been changed mostly, and it is the most accurate ECSEED Experts/Delegates list.

The Division website is the main point of information about the joint meetings: 20th Session of the East Central and South - East Europe Division (ECSEED), Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG) and EuroGeoGraphics - EuroGeoNames workshop (EGN), 9 – 11 February 2011, Zagreb, Croatia.

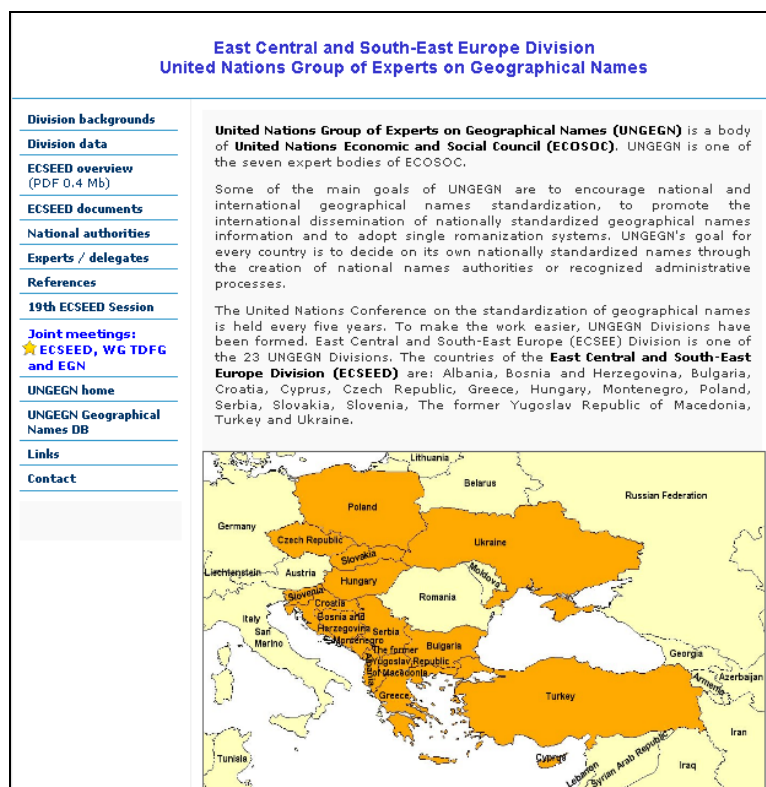


Figure 4. ECSEED Website.

The Chairman is stimulating the Division members to publish materials or links to national websites on the Division website.

## 8. ECSEED DIVISION DOCUMENTATION

To find documents/reports/contributions submitted to previous ECSEED Division Sessions is not an easy task. In order to systematize ECSEED Division documentation at the 19th ECSEED meeting (2008, Zagreb) the unified identification of the ECSEED Division documents, the unified Division list of documents and the unified first page of the ECSEED Division documents were introduced. The documents of the 20th ECSEED Session were prepared using these administrative tools.

## 9. ECSEED JOINT MEETINGS

ECSEED was hosting more joint meetings. In the Table 2 there is an overview of the ECSEED joint meetings presented.

More ECSEED countries are also members of EuroGeoNames (EGN) system of European geographical names infrastructure (see Fig. 5), and there is a tradition of joint activities between ECSEED and EGN.

Table 2. Overview of the ECSEED joint meetings

Nr.	Joint meeting	Location	Year	Date
1	ECSEED and Soviet Union Division Session	Budapest	1975	13-16 January
2	16th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers	Ljubljana	2001	18-20 April
3	18th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Exonyms and the EuroGeoNames Project	Prague	2007	16-18 May
4	20th ECSEED Session and Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and EuroGeoNames workshop	Zagreb	2011	9 – 11 February



Figure 5. ECSEE Division member countries and EuroGeoNames countries.

## 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF UNGEGN

### 10.1 UNGEGN World Geographic Names Database

Multilingual, multiscriptural dataset of names of countries, capitals and major cities, the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/>) was made public.

The Data have been sent from 11 ECSEED member countries. If voice files are available, they should be included into the database. If it has not been already done, the experts/delegates are reminded to send the national data (names of towns with more than 100000 inhabitants and sound files). All the details about sending the data could be found on the UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database website or in the UNGEGN Information Bulletin Nr. 35, August 2008.

### 10.2 UNGEGN new Website

At the Internet address <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/default.html> the new UNGEGN Websites were published. UNGEGN Websites are redesigned and still filed with documents.