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**The State of National Minority Geographical Names in Hungary**

Submitted by Gábor Mikešy and Martin Išpanović\*

## The State of National Minority Geographical Names in Hungary

Submitted by Gábor Mikesy and Martin Išpanović, Commission on Geographical Names,  
Hungary

The Act on Minorities (Act LXXVII of 1993 on the Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities) recognized 13 national and ethnic minorities as constituent elements of the state of Hungary. Six of them (German, Slovak, Croat, Slovene, Serb, Romanian) have been living for such a long time and in some areas such sizeable population groups that, circumstances became favourable for the emergence and use of geographical names in their own languages. They may therefore be considered as historic minorities in Hungary.

The heritage of minority geographical names is most fully contained in the bulky volumes of toponym collections for linguistic purposes. Minority place names are recorded here in both Hungarian phonetic transcription and in the orthography of the vernacular language (in most cases following the guidance of minority experts. Each village or town is accompanied by a rough sketch-plan for localizing toponyms.

A regulation on cadastre in 1904 ruled that geographical names, if they can be expressed in the state language without changing their meaning, should be displayed on the map in this form. As a result of the regulation a large number of toponyms, originally born and used in a minority language, was changed to Hungarian, and people unfamiliar with onomastics were often able to decide on whether the forms of the two languages were identical in meaning or not. The regulation referred to has no longer been in force for several decades, but more recent regulations does not rule on handling toponyms, as land registration and cadastre have become numeric-based with parcel numbers. Recent cadastral maps have used the earlier maps as the last official sources for names.

Other types of maps have for the most part inherited and carried on the set of toponyms of cadastral maps, even though no similar regulation is known in the history of e.g. large-scale topographic mapping, which may have influenced the language of geographical names. Toponyms of maps for general use have influenced the local communities, resulting in dual name use in many places. Exclusion of place names from legal management of cadastre, coupled with the decades-long practice of classified handling of topographic maps have not necessitated a revision of toponyms. As a result of all these in several localities and areas inhabited by minorities there is a striking linguistic difference between living name use and toponyms on maps.

The programme of geographical name upgrading in scale 1:10.000 in the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI) pays attention on actual name use and records as appropriate, names only in Hungarian, in both languages with alternative use, or only in the minority language.

### Names of the original FNT-II Gazetteer of Mogyorósbánya village (Komárom-Esztergom County)

Gyertyános	Öreg-hegy
Kőszikla	Szarkápuszta
Látó-hegy	Szentkereszt-hegy
Mogyorósbányai-patak	

<b>FNT - Gazetteer of Hungary 1:10000 (upgraded)</b>	
<b>Mogyorósbánya village</b>	
<i>Pres grundski</i>	<i>Kratina</i>
<i>Ábeli-völgy / Aubeli dolina</i>	<i>Koňary dolina</i>
<i>Szőlőcskék / Vinohradky</i>	<i>Kősziklai-szőlők</i>
<i>Újfalusi-tető / Ufaluske vršky</i>	<i>Szikla-tető</i>
<i>Dubník</i>	<i>Kopasz-hegy</i>
<i>Vrška</i>	<i>Alsó-szőlők / Dolné vinohrady</i>
<i>Kopany dolina</i>	<i>Prímás-völgy</i>
<i>Gyertyános / Hrabník</i>	<i>Borjas-hegy</i>
<i>Červenica</i>	<i>Kis-Vrškák</i>
<i>Plešina</i>	<i>Fehér kereszt</i>
<i>Agáčarňa</i>	<i>Bika-rét</i>
<i>Od hajske dolina</i>	<i>Hosszú-tetők / Dlhé vršky</i>
<i>Horné lúky</i>	<i>Kerek-domb</i>
<i>Pre sápsky</i>	<i>Síslacy dolina</i>
<i>Látó-hegy</i>	<i>Tanbánya</i>
<i>Dolné lúky</i>	<i>Felső-Gyílok</i>
<i>Široký</i>	<i>Alsó-Gyílok</i>
<i>Úzky</i>	

The Hungarian Committee on Geographical Names, observing the spirit and intention of the resolutions of the Council of Europe on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) and on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, has accepted the following recommendation on the promotion of cartographic use of minority geographical names:

"The Committee on Geographical Names regards it important that toponyms of maps reflect the use of geographical names rooted in the history and culture of local communities. Therefore it recommends that on areas inhabited by national minorities maps (also) display well-established geographical names used by those communities, provided that recognized sources prove the existence of those names. The recommendation refers to both national base maps and to other commercially sold (tourist, road and other) maps as well. Maps of scales of 1:100.000 and smaller should also display the minority language forms of locality (village and town) names based as source on the latest Gazetteer (of localities) of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Maps of larger scales should display, depending on scale, minority language names of other features, together or without their Hungarian name forms, according to the actual local name use. Their source should be the recorded names in the upgraded Gazetteer-Database of Geographical Names of the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FÖMI), revised by experts of the national boards of the given minorities and approved by the local minority self-governments. "