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**Report of the activities relating the standardization of geographical
names in the Czech Republic for the period 2008 - 2010**

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National standardization

Since 2008 geographical name authorities in the Czech Republic have continued completing and revising the standardized names gazetteers and databases. There have been no important changes to the organizational structure of national standardization of geographical names and the unified national system of space information within geographical names have not been established yet. It is to be supposed that national GIS unification will be created in the near future in accordance with the INSPIRE and ESDIN rules and resolutions.

In compliance with the state legislature the post and functions of the national geographical names authorities are carried out by ministries and other central offices in question. Several state ministries and other bodies continue working in names standardization:

- The Ministry of Interior supervises the names of settlements i.e. municipalities and parts of them,
- The Ministry of Agriculture determines the main water names,
- The Ministry of Environment standardizes the names of protected landscape areas,
- The Czech Statistical Office carries out names of small settlement units for purpose to the territorial planning and statistics,
- The Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre (COSMC) is responsible for names of cadastral units and non-settlement names that are to be included in the state map series. As the expert body of the COSMC for standardization of those names, the Commission on Geographical Names was established in 1971. It carries out the Geonames database, its administration and update. In 2010 Prof. Šrámek resigned from the chairmanship of the commission because of health problems and Dr. Vladimír Liščák was nominated as his successor.

Toponymic Guidelines

Toponymic Guidelines of the Czech Republic was elaborated by the Commission on Geographical Names of the COSMC in 1997. The 3rd edition of the guidelines is available at the Land Survey Office's website in both PDF and RTF formats on the address:

Terminology in the standardization of geographical names

A working group of the Commission on Geographical Names dealing with the conversion of the UN Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names into Czech continued in the period 2008 – 2010 in its work. At the beginning of 2011 the issue of terms in Czech is nearly completed and the issue of definitions as well. The authors have been unified in their meaning that they could not translate English terms into Czech only but that they also had to clarify differences of Czech and foreign terminology aspects if any were. That is the reason for a long work period. The Czech version of the glossary should already be available on the Internet in this year.

Country Names Gazetteer

In 2009 one interesting gazetteer was published by the COSMC – Names of the States and their territorial parts. It was printed in hard copy only and will be published in an electronic form in 2011. The book consists of the list of names of countries and their territorial parts in Czech and in the official languages in question, accompanied by the codes for their representation and the English and French names which have been taken from ISO 3166-1 and ISO 3166-2, further by the names of capital cities with coordinates and names of islands with the exception of coastal islands. The list of national languages, alphabetical register of short country names in Czech, the overview of literature and the English summary have been included into the issue as well.

Exonyms

At the end 2010 the members of the Commission on Geographical Names finished the text works of the updated version of the gazetteer „List of Czech Exonyms. Standardized Forms and Variants“. At present the map attachments and formal finalization are being issued

and we suppose that the title will be published by COSMC in Autumn 2011. The structure of the book will not be changed, but many changes will occur in individual name records.

International cooperation

Although national standardization bodies in the Czech Republic deal mostly within the Czech toponymy they are in touch with foreign organizations and institutes as well. In 2008 the Land Survey Office in Prague initiated a cooperation with the coordinator of the EuroGeoNames project, which has been administered by EuroGeographics since 2009. In 2010 all names data collected from the territory of the Czech Republic in scale 1:10 000 were transformed into the required data structure that is to be tested now for connecting them to the EGN WFS Central Service located in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It is only one sample of international activities which the Czech bodies take part in nevertheless it is the ones very important for facilitating the international data exchange across Europe.