

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

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

---

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

Zagreb, Croatia, 9 – 11 February 2011

Item 3, 5, 6, 14 and 20 of the agenda

Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.20/2011/19

**Report on the Activities in the Field of Standardization of Geographical  
Names in the Republic of Croatia in the period from 2008 to 2011**

Submitted by Željko Hećimović\*

---

\* Prepared by Željko Hećimović, Ivan Landek and Zvonko Štefan, State Geodetic Administration, Croatia.

# **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN THE PERIOD FROM 2008 TO 2011**

Item 3 of the agenda

## **1. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES, LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

According to the Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, NN 16/07) Croatian Geodetic Institute (hrv: *Hrvatski geodetski institut*) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the register of geographic names in Croatia. According to the Act on the Amendments to the Law of State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, NN 124/2010) Croatian Geodetic Institute joined to the State Geodetic Administration (hrv: *Državna geodetska uprava*). DGU took over the tasks, employees, equipment, rights and obligations of the Croatian Geodetic Institute. This institutional transition was made smoothly without any disturbances with regard to the responsibilities and activities in connection with the Croatian Chairing ECSEE Division, the work on the standardization of geographical names or other activities related to standardization of geographical names. More than that, there are plans that this activity will be made more intensive.

Item 6 of the agenda

## **2. GAZETTEER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

According to the Law on State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, NN 16/07) and Act on the Amendments to the Law of State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, NN 124/2010), the State Geodetic Administration is responsible for establishing and maintaining the register of geographic names.

The Gazetteer is continuously being updated with new names. At the moment the Gazetteer includes geographical names of Croatian territory that match the scale 1:200 000. The Gazetteer contains names of: counties, cities/municipalities, settlements, cultural heritage of Croatia under UNESCO protection, airports, national parks, nature parks, other protected natural objects (features), new official map sheets names in the scales of 250k, 100k, 50k and 25k, the names used in the EuroRegionalMap, EuroGlobalMap v.3.0, islands, rivers, lakes, mountains, peaks and other dominant geographic objects (features) in accordance with the scale.

Each Gazetteer record contains: a record number of geographical names sorted alphabetically, the names of geographic features, the administrative area of the geographical feature, E East and N North coordinates in the new Croatian projection terrestrial reference system, the classification of features. The group of populated places is the most dominant in the Gazetteer.

The Gazetteer is made public on the Internet address <http://cgnd.cgi.hr:8081> (see Figure 1). The service provides the search for geographical names on the Croatian territory according to the name or part of the name, according to the classification of geographic

objects and spatial search for counties. Name querying is case insensitive (e.g. query for „Knin” or „kNiN” or „knin” are giving the same results). As additional option „identical” or „contain” type of query could be chosen. Identical querying will give results with identical geographical names, and „contain” will give geographical name that contains requested text. Spatial querying according to counties is giving the opportunity to search for names only in selected counties. The visualization of a name could be made by choosing Google Map background (see Figure 2).

In order to locate the name in space easily to each geographical name, an administrative unit is assigned. Administrative unit can be: Republic of Croatia, county or town/municipality. The first two classes are given explicitly (Republic of Croatia and county), and other administrative units are towns/municipalities. The administrative unit of the Republic of Croatia is assigned to dominant national objects lying in two or more counties (for example the river *Sava*, the mountain *Velebit*, etc.), and county is assigned to objects spreading through two or more towns/municipalities. However, if some small object spreads through two or more towns/municipalities (e.g. a small river in the border area of two municipalities) this rule was not applied. In these cases the administrative unit is assigned to the municipality in which a geographical object is more dominant.

The screenshot shows the 'GAZETTEER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA' interface. It includes a navigation menu on the left with options like HOME, ABOUT GAZETTEER, NAME SEARCH, NAME CORRECTION, NEW NAME PROPOSAL, ACRONYMS, LINKS, INSTRUCTIONS, and CONTACT. The main search area has a 'Geographical name' field containing 'Perušić' and a 'Type of query' dropdown set to 'identical'. Below the search bar, there are checkboxes for 'Querying after geographical feature (object):' and 'Spatial querying after counties:'. The 'Spatial querying after counties' section shows a grid of 15 counties, all of which are checked. A 'Deselect all' button is located below the grid. At the bottom, it states 'Number of found names: 2' and displays a table with the following data:

	Name	Administrative unit	Object	E	N	Location
1	Perušić	PERUŠIĆ	Municipality center	411486.140	4946152.670	<a href="#">Map</a>
2	Perušić	LIČKO-SENJSKA ŽUPANIJA	Municipality	403710.520	4954045.720	<a href="#">Map</a>

Figure 1: Croatian Gazetteer Internet interface.

For the queried name the feature classification is given according to the EuroGeoNames system in ten languages: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Hungarian, Slovenian, Slovakian and Czech.

The screenshot displays the 'GAZETTEER OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA' web service. On the left is a navigation menu with links like HOME, ABOUT GAZETTEER, NAME SEARCH, etc. The main area features a satellite map of a village with a red location pin. A callout box over the pin reads: 'Name: Perušić', 'Administrative unit: PERUŠIĆ', and 'Object: Municipality center'. To the right of the map is a table with the following data:

Name data	
Name	Perušić
Administrative unit	PERUŠIĆ
Object	Municipality center
E [m]	411486.140
N [m]	4946152.670
Administrator	Hrvatski geodetski institut
Object classification after EuroGeoNames European infrastructure of geographical names	
Croatian (cro)	Upravna sjedišta
English (eng)	Administrative capitals
German (ger)	Hauptstädte von Verwaltungseinheiten
French (fr)	Chef-lieu de division administrative
Italian (ita)	Sede dell'unità amministrativa
Spanish (spa)	Capitales administrativas
Dutch (dut)	hoofdsteden van administratieve gebieden
Hungarian (hun)	Közigazgatási központok
Slovenian (slv)	Sedeži administrativnih enot
Slovakian (slo)	Hlavné mestá administratívnych jednotiek
Czech (cze)	Sídla administrativních jednotek

Figure 2: Name visualization in the Croatian Gazetteer user Internet service.

Service enables to report on or off-line correction of the name or name attributes. Service is also enabling to make on or off-line proposal of the new geographical name. The gazetteer, database and services are continuously developed.

Item 14 of agenda

### 3. CROATIA AS PART OF EUROGEONAMES SYSTEM

In 2009 Croatia was incorporated in to the EuroGeoNames system of European infrastructure of geographical names. EuroGeoNames web service can be called from website <http://www.eurogeonames.com/refappl>. The Croatian database of geographical names is located in the State Geodetic Administration.

Join meetings of *East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED), Working Group of Toponymic data files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG) of the UNGEGN* and *EuroGeographics-EuroGeoNames workshop (EGN)* will be held from 9th to 11th February 2011 in Zagreb. State Geodetic Administration is institutional organizer of the meetings. More about the joint meetings can be found on official web site of the meetings <http://ungegn.cgi.hr/ungegn20/session20.html>.

Item 6 of agenda

### 4. PRODUCTION OF THE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP IN THE SCALE 1:25 000 (TK25) BETWEEN 1990 AND 2010

At the beginning of the nineties in the last century Croatia became an independent state. That processes caused big differences in the cartography; e.g. map production. In former *Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (SFRY) the production of the topographic map in the scale 1:25 000 (TK25) was only under the responsibility of military authorities; e.g. *Military Institute* (VGI) in Belgrade. In that time *the Republic Geodetic Administration* (RGA) was responsible for geodesy in Croatia. RGA could only ask for limited number of copies necessary for civilian sector.

After Croatia had become an independent country, there were no possibilities to print the existing maps, because the reproductions of originals were in VGI. The State Geodetic Administration initiated the project of making the reproduction originals, using old TK25 maps. Special technique of separating of layers from analog map sheets was used. New content on the external map sheet frame and the correction of toponyms (e.g. old name *Titova Korenica* was replaced with the new official name *Korenica* and other) were done. At the same time SGA started to make studies of further development of topographic mapping in the Republic of Croatia; e.g. producing new topographic maps in the scale 1:25 000. The result was new topographic map in the scale 1:25 000 (TK25) published in 1996. From that time up to 2010 new TK25 sheets were systematically published.

At the end of the 2010 all TK25 map sheets for the territory of the Croatia were published. At the same time, basic topographic database was produced. It is a new base for map production in Croatia.

Item 6 of agenda

## **5. REGISTER OF THE NAMES OF THE NEW MAPS SHEETS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

For new Croatian map grids in the new Croatian projection terrestrial referent system the new nomenclature is assigned to each map sheet. The nomenclature contains the name of the map sheet. To choose the most appropriate name for the map sheet, the selecting possible toponyms have been defined. There have been the toponym and feature elements compared, as: importance of the geographical feature, usage of the similar toponym, number of inhabitants for oikonyms, usage of toponym as the name in old map sheets, etc.

The names are assigned to the new maps sheet in the scales 1:250 000, 1:100 000, 1:50 000, 1:25 000, 1:10 000 and 1:5 000 covering the Croatian territory. The names are not assigned to map sheets of bigger, cadastral scales; e.g. 1:2000, 1:1 000 and 1:500. Names have been independently determined in the scales: 1:250 000, 1:100 000, 1:50 000 and 1:25 000, because the hierarchical structure of nomenclatures map sheets names in the scales 1:10 000 and 1:5 000 have been used from the map sheets in the scales 1:50 000 or 1:25 000 in which the map sheet is a hierarchical layer.

The best-known geographic features are oikonyms (names of settlements) and are therefore commonly used by naming map sheets. However, when there was no inhabited place (oikonym) on the map sheet or other toponyms are dominant on the map sheet (e.g. mareonyms, oronyms, regionyms etc.) this rule was not applied.

Item 20 of agenda

## 6. CROATIAN CHAIRING ECSEE DIVISION

Croatia is a member of the *East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)* of the UNGEGN (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: Member countries of the ECSEED.

Croatia is chairing East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN since the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2007. State Geodetic Administration and Croatian Geodetic Institute are ECSEE Division chairing institutions. After the Law about changes of the Law of State Survey and the Real Property Cadastre (Official Gazette, NN 124/2010) Croatian Geodetic Institute joined to the State Geodetic Administration (hrv: *Državna geodetska uprava*). The process of joining Croatian Geodetic Institute in to the State Geodetic Administration (Official Gazette, NN 124/2010) did not influence ECSEE Division Chairing. This institutional transition was made smoothly without disturbances in responsibilities and activities considering Croatian Chairing ECSEE Division, the work on the standardization of geographical names or other activities related to standardization of geographical names.

More about activities of ECSEE Division could be found on the Division web site <http://ungegn.cgi.hr>.

Item 5 of agenda

## 7. GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

In accordance with the Croatian Constitution (Official Gazette, NN 85/10) the equality of all members of national minorities is guaranteed, as well as the freedom to express their nationality, freedom to use their language, script, and cultural autonomy.

The official use of language and script of national minorities is regulated by the documents: Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, Constitutional Law on National

Minorities Act (Official Gazette, NN 155/02), Use of Language and Script of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, Law on Education in the Language and Script of National Minorities, County Statutes and Statutes of the Towns / Municipalities.

At the level of some cities / municipalities the Czech language and script, the Hungarian language and script, Ruthenian language and script, the Slovak language and script, Serbian language and script, and Italian language and script are used as second official language and script. Along with the Croatian language and script, languages and scripts of national minorities, as second official language and script are obligatory in 11 counties and in 55 cities / municipalities / villages.

At the level of certain cities / municipalities and the Law on Counties, Cities and Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, NN 86/06) in which people belonging to national minorities are legally entitled to the official use of the language and script of their national minorities.

Item 6(f) of the agenda

## **8. THE FIRST NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

The first national scientific symposium on geographic names was organized by the Croatian Geographic Society in Zadar and the Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre at the initiative of Josip Faričić and Vladimir Skračić. It was held at the University of Zadar, in the November of 2009. Thirteen works were presented. They will be printed in *Geographical names - collected works from the first national scientific symposium on geographical names*.