

**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**

Zagreb, Croatia, 9 – 11 February 2011  
Item 6 and f of the agenda

Document Symbol: ECSEED/Session.20/2011/25

**Toponomastic publications of the Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre  
of the University of Zadar (islands: Pašman, Ugljan, Vrgada, Murter)**

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PUBLISHING WORK  
ADRIATIC ONOMASTIC RESEARCH CENTRE

The Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre was founded by a decision of the senate of the University of Zadar on 15 June 2003. A feasibility study for the Centre's work was created by Dr. Vladimir Skračić, Centre Director, Dr. Dunja Brozović Rončević, Assistant Director, and Prof. Slobodan Čače from the University of Zadar's History Department. The basic goal of the Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre was the founding of a scientific research unit within the University of Zadar which would coordinate interdisciplinary study of Adriatic and Croatian onomastics and make use of all of the comparative advantages offered by individual University departments. However, the idea of founding the Centre is much older, and is tied to the first toponymic research of the Zadar archipelago, carried out by Vladimir Skračić. The Directorate of the University of Zadar has given its full support to the founding of the Centre, and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport has approved *Onomastica Adriatica*, a scientific project which employs a number of research assistants and junior researchers.

The first goal of the Centre and project was toponymic research of the Adriatic region. Since the founding of the Centre, islands Pag, Ugljan, Pašman, Vrgada, Murter, Kornati and Čiovo have been researched, while islands Prvić, Zlarin, Kaprije, Žirje and Krapanj in the Šibenik archipelago and Veliki Drvenik and Mali Drvenik in the Trogir archipelago are currently being researched. Preparations for research of Vir and Rivanj are underway. Before the Centre's founding in the 1990's, the outer and middle islands of the Zadar archipelago were processed and presented. All data is collected and presented on both the modern and historical level. The modern level is based on field recordings and the recording of toponymic forms, while the historical level is based upon archival, cadastral, cartographic and historical attestation. Modern toponymic forms follow toponymic corpora, toponymic maps - edited following special principles - and registers, while historical forms follow historical corpora entered into specially constructed charts.

The second goal of the Centre was to publish onomastic monographs and onomastic material, works, textbooks and handbooks. The Centre has, within the framework of the *Onomastica Adriatica* project, begun its own publishing work and founded a library that carries the same name as the project. Four toponymic monographs on the islands of Ugljan, Pašman, Grgada and Murter have been published, and the fifth (on the island of Pag) is currently being edited and will be published in 2011. A toponymic monograph on the Kornati islands is expected to be published by 2012. *Collected works from the first national scientific symposium on geographical names (Zbornik radova s prvog nacionalnog znanstvenog savjetovanja o geografskim imenima*, in cooperation with the *Croatian Geographical Society* in Zadar,

edited by J. Faričić and V. Skračić) has been edited and is currently being published. A handbook with the working title of *Introductory Toponomastics*, for the needs of students of various programs connected to onomastics and especially toponomastics, is also being edited. This handbook should be the first book in a new library whose working name is *Opera onomastica et lexicologica*.

### **Scientific contribution - methodology**

All toponomastic research on the islands to date, except for a part of the research of Skok and Šimunić, have listed toponyms from the coastline. Such an approach is understandable, since it results in the most variegated reports, and it is the most easily carried out in practice. Island interiors, which are technically much more complicated to monitor and systematize, have remained out of the scope of interest. We consider that it is the very relationship between toponyms in island interiors and those on the coast that supply the valuable data groups we seek, and this has proven to be true, especially at the non-Croatian - Croatian relational level. Besides island interiors, we have also included undersea features, which previously went nearly unmentioned in toponomastic lists.

### **Toponomastic corpora**

The Centre's toponomastic corpora are filled with unknown toponymic forms marking small and generally weakly known referents which for the most part have not attracted the interest of toponymists or those who use toponymic services. It is our stance that it is not enough to record only the toponymic forms of important referents and ignore the so-called unimportant ones. Both important and unimportant forms hold the same potential quality of onomastic information — they are incontrovertible identifiers of referents! Besides this, so-called unimportant toponymic forms frequently contain the most fascinating non-linguistic and linguistic information. Where synchronistic lists are concerned, there is no point in analysis where one could separate the necessary from the unnecessary, the linguistically useful from the linguistically useless, since everything is of equal importance.

### **Modern corpora**

The toponomastic corpora we publish are based on data obtained through surveys during field research. Today, nearly every responder in a survey has been in some way contaminated by the standard language, especially through the media. Islands as areas of protected and supposedly "pure" speeches simply no longer exist. And what is "pure" in the spirit of an onomastic definition of a problem? Complaints made by some experts about our attestations are entirely baseless if one begins from the assumption that every linguistic state is good, even the best possible, if it suits the users of the system. This is why we have decided to use modern synchrony. Thus, to avoid errors and arbitrariness in judging data, all

surveys are recorded and the data from these recordings are entered into the corpus as faithfully as possible.

### **Historical corpora**

Besides modern toponymic forms gathered through field work, workers at the Centre also collect and systematise material from historical, archival and cadastral sources. With the exception of historical overviews of situations in a specific area for a certain period we are interested in, the goal is always that this material be systematised according to unitary principles for the sake of clarity and further use, and that, whenever possible, it is compared with modern (field) attestations. All of this historical material is displayed in highly organised and clear tables. This kind of approach enables the comparison of toponymic forms (and referents) at varying levels of analysis, e.g. present : absent, changed : unchanged, at the same location : at a new location, etc.

### **Toponomastic maps and registers**

Toponomastic maps created for the purpose of identifying referents hold a special place in the Centre's methodology. Specifically, we have approached the compilation of our maps starting from the basic onomastic thesis that nothing can be considered a toponym that lacks its own toponymic form (linguistic form) and content (real object). The maps are blank topographical maps on which the same numbers and sectors that track each individual form in the corpus are written. The map numbers and the corpus names also refer to the Toponym Registers, which give access to each toponymic form (in the Corpus) and referent (on the toponomastic map).

### **The structure of toponomastic monographs**

All of the Adriatic Onomastic Research Centre's toponomastic monographs are, in principle, structured in the same manner. The first characteristic of all monographs is that a large number of non-linguist experts from various institutions throughout Croatia collaborate on their construction. Project leadership begins from the stance that toponymy is interdisciplinary by definition, and that its linguistic side is only one of its components, albeit the most important one. For this reason, all monographs are divided into two large wholes. The first contains non-linguistic facts, the onomastic ambient of the island -- thus, everything that is not specifically name related but could have affected the construction of names, such as geographic, cartographic, historical, art-historical, ethnological, economic and many other types of data... The second whole contains all linguistic and historical corpora, toponomastic maps, registers, and a linguistic description of the described material with the characteristics of the local (island) speech.

### **The future of the Centre and its works**

*Onomastica Adriatica* remains the Centre's strategic project. It could likely continue under the same name in some future tender for scientific projects. If the existing model for project registry remains in place, young scientists gathered in and around the Centre will surely embark on a wider program composed of a few projects the scope of which could expand to encompass other kinds of thematic research, including lexicological and historical linguistic research. Within the framework of this project, which will come to an end at the end of 2011, the toponymy of the islands of Pag and Kornat will be elaborated and monographs on them will be prepared. After this, with or without a new project (or program), analysis of the Šibenik and Trogir islands and a synthesis of the material from the entire Zadar-Šibenik archipelago should be completed. This would round out the path towards the toponymy of the Adriatic south. As far as the north is concerned, analysis of some other islands (Rab and Lošinj, according to current thought) could be reasonably planned in the near future. The remainder should be examined when the time comes.

As has already been mentioned, the Centre is preparing another series, the first book of which should be published as early as March of 2011, barring complications. This book will be *Introductory Toponomastics*, written by project leader and director of the Centre, a handbook for students and teachers interested in toponomastics and onomastics in general. The publishing of other titles, which for the moment shall remain unnamed, is also planned. The Centre plans to advance the quality of its monographs by increasing cooperation with other researchers and institutions and by modernising technology used for presentations and shaping toponymic material. Thanks to new technology, this task seems entirely feasible. Another of the Centre's projects is the conservation and, hopefully, presentation of phonetic material collected through toponymic surveys, however the form in which this material will be presented and made available has yet to be decided upon.

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The country with the highest concentration of islands in the Mediterranean does not have a single specialised scientific institution with the specific task of researching this physical and spiritual space. For this reason, the University of Zadar, whose windows look onto more than two-fifths of all Croatia's islands, is especially well equipped to approach this problem and meet these needs. The founding of a "*Nesological Institute*" is urgently needed, whose program would include the multidisciplinary study of the islands; the opening of island research and ethnological points, starting integrative processes between archipelagos, coasts and coastal regions...

The two University works published in 2008 and 2012 show what part of the working program of such an institute could look like - this refers to the monographs on the islands of Ravi, Ist and Škarda.