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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
2019 session

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Slovenia****Summary****

Since the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names has continued its work on the standardization of geographical names within and outside the territory of Slovenia.

The Commission met on 22 occasions: 5 meetings and 17 corresponding meetings were held. Information and activities relating to the Commission are posted on its web page.¹

The main task of the Commission was to prepare decisions on the correctness and suitability of new and changed names of streets and settlements, in accordance with the law designating areas and naming and marking settlements, streets and buildings. The accepted opinion of the Commission must be followed by municipalities, which are tasked with officially announcing new or changed names. Decisions were made by the Commission for 20 street names in 2017, 13 street names in 2018 and 2 street names, to date, in 2019.

Slovenia has two national minorities, Hungarian and Italian. According to the Constitution of Slovenia, Hungarian and Italian are recognized as official languages in ethnically mixed territories. Within Slovenia, the standardization of Hungarian and Italian names applies only to settlements. Other, non-standardized names result in

* GEGN.2/2019/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Slovenia. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/50/CRP.50.

¹ http://www.gu.gov.si/en/delovnapodrocja_gu/projekti_gu/slovene_governmental_commission_for_the_standardisation_of_geographical_names/#c17314.



significant errors on maps and in databases. Since 2014, efforts have been under way to standardize all Hungarian and Italian geographical names at the scale of 1:25,000. Lists of Hungarian and Italian names were prepared by the respective national communities, with the participation of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of Slovenia and the Slovenian Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names. The list of Italian names is almost finished; only a few names remain incomplete. However, much work is needed to complete the Hungarian list, since there are uncertainties about more than half of the names on the list. The initiative to complete both lists lies with the national communities.

Geographical names (standardized and non-standardized) are kept in the register of geographical names, which is maintained by the Surveying and Mapping Authority. The Authority participates actively in the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Slovenia participates actively in the Working Group on Exonyms of the Group of Experts and is very active in the field of exonyms, especially at the Anton Melik Geographical Institute. Researchers at the Institute regularly publish articles on exonyms in domestic and foreign publications.

Country names are among the few foreign geographical names that are standardized in Slovenian (198 independent States and 51 non-self-governing territories). Standardization will continue in February 2019 with the inclusion of new country names, such as Eswatini.
