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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (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\*\***

After the first session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in 2019, the commission for the standardization of geographical names of Slovenia has continued to standardize the geographical names within and outside the country. The commission held 26 meetings: 2 in-person meetings, 2 virtual meetings and 22 meetings conducted by email. Information on the commission and its activities are posted on the government website.<sup>1</sup>

The normal task of the commission is to issue opinions on whether new names of streets and settlements are correct and suitable. Its role is set out in the law on defining territories and naming settlements, streets and buildings. Opinions adopted by the commission are binding for municipalities when adopting new names or changing existing ones. During the period covered by the report, the commission decided about 32 street names and one settlement name.

Slovenia has two ethnic minorities, Hungarian and Italian. Under the Constitution, in ethnically mixed areas, Italian and Hungarian enjoy equal status with Slovenian. In July 2020, a multi-year project was completed to standardize Italian names for maps at the scale level 1:25,000. The Italian national community, the surveying and mapping authority and the commission participated in the project. The commission ultimately standardized more than 300 Italian and Slovenian geographical names in the ethnically mixed area. The project continues with the

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\* GEGN.2/2021/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by the commission for the standardization of geographical names of Slovenia. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/22/CRP.22, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).

<sup>1</sup> See [www.gov.si/en/registries/working-bodies/commission-for-the-standardization-of-geographical-names/](http://www.gov.si/en/registries/working-bodies/commission-for-the-standardization-of-geographical-names/).



preparation of a list and the subsequent standardization of Italian geographical names for scale level 1:5,000. Activities related to the preparation of the list and the standardization of Hungarian geographical names for the 1:25,000 scale level have stalled. The initiative to complete the list belongs to the Hungarian community.

Another very important project we are working on is the cross-border harmonization of data on geographical names along the national border with Austria. In that task, Slovenian institutions are cooperating with the Austrian commission for the standardization of geographical names and with the Urban Jarnik ethnographic institute in Klagenfurt, Austria. A list of official border crossings and all geographical names has been made and further harmonization is under way. In the final phase, a unified list will be prepared and the names will be standardized by both state commissions.

The list of country names has been updated. The commission has standardized the new Slovenian names of countries and non-self-governing territories whose original names have changed. At the end of 2020, the subcommittee on country names was established to review the entire list of International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard ISO 3166:2020 (Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions) and prepare new proposals for Slovenian names.

Within the Group of Experts, Slovenia actively participates in the East Central and South-East Europe Division, the Working Group on Exonyms and the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management.

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