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English

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

New York, 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 Czechia**

Submitted by Czechia \*\*

### Summary

Czechia has continued to standardize names within and outside its territory. Standardized names, including names of countries, are maintained and made available on the State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadastre website ([www.cuzk.cz](http://www.cuzk.cz)). The names have been updated since 2007 with an array of attributes in the national database of geographical names, which contains about 300,000 entries. All terminological data are gradually being centralized in one office. Non-standardized names (official names, especially those of settlements) are recorded in the national database. Maps and visualizations are available online (see <https://geoportal.cuzk.cz>).

Attention is drawn to the glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names, published in 2019.<sup>1</sup>

A project on names of the world is available online (see <http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz>). The Czech Commission on Geographical Names has issued a new edition of the list of Czech exonyms, historical geographical names and names of States and their territorial parts, which is published as an open application.

In terms of international cooperation, the twenty-second and twenty-third meetings of the East Central and South-East Europe Division have been held in Bratislava and New York, respectively. Other planned events were not held owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

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\* GEGN.2/2021/1

\*\* Prepared by Irena Švehlová, Secretary, Czech Commission on Geographical Names

## Report of Czechia

### Names Authorities

In compliance with the Parliamentary delegation, the position and functions of the national geographical names authorities are carried out by ministries and other relevant central offices. The chapter introduces individual authorities represented by representatives in the Czech Commission on Geographical Names (CCGN).

Relevant laws and other generally binding legal regulations are applied by various activities in the field of standardization of exonyms.

There are several main state bodies responsible for the names standardization: the Ministry of the Interior supervises the names of settlements, i.e. municipalities and their parts; the Ministry of the Regional Development oversees the names of regional entities in relation to tourism; the Ministry of Agriculture cooperates on the water names; the Ministry of the Environment creates the names of protected landscape areas; the Czech Statistical Office standardizes the names of basic settlement units for purpose of the territorial planning, statistics and elections; State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster is responsible for the names of cadastral units and for standardization of other names that are to be included in the database of standardized names (field names, oronyms etc.). Practical and administrative part of the process is carried out by the Secretariat of CCGN, including technical support. We cooperate with companies associating experts such as the Czech Cartographic Society and the Czech Geographical Society and with experts from some universities.

### Names Sources

State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster is the publisher of the State Map Series on the territory of the Czech Republic. The State Map Series consists of large-scale maps, medium-scale basic maps, maps of landscape units, maps of administrative division, sheet lines of the State Map Series, Thematic State Map Series and Cadastral Maps. Maps are published within various scales from 1: 1 000 to 1: 1 mil. in printed or digital forms, which are regularly renewed in a short period of time. *Geographical information systems* administered by the State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster are called ZABAGED (Fundamental Base of Geographical Data of the Czech Republic) and Geonames. All, maps and visualized databases ZABAGED and Geonames, are available at this web site:

<https://ags.cuzk.cz/geoprohlizec/?p=22522#en>.

The expert body of the State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster for names standardization has been since 1971 the CCGN, which has been continuing in the same working structure since 2000. It is responsible for the database of Czech geographical names, whose administration and update is implemented by the Land Survey Office. The database, which is called Geonames, was established in 1996 and names from the whole territory of the Czech Republic occurring on map sheets 1:10 000 were adopted into the database. In 2002, 31 years since its starting, the standardization for this scale was completed and in 2005, all names were saved to Geonames database. At the same time update and renewal were ongoing.

The update of geographical names on cadastral maps in scale of 1: 1000 takes place within the scope of State Administration of Land Surveying and Cadaster and will be finished in 3 years.

The database Geonames will be completed by pronunciation of Czech endonyms according to IPA standard.

We are preparing a concept for the development of standardization of geographical names 2021-2025.

For more information please see UNGEGN Information Bulletin number 51, 52 and 57 at this website: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/pubs/#bulletin>.

### **Names gazetteers and other publications**

- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names on the Territory of the Czech Republic <https://www.cuzk.cz/Predpisy/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/141862622-1.aspx>,
- Language Rules for Standardization of Geographical Names outside the Territory of the Czech Republic [https://www.cuzk.cz/Predpisy/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/160277222\\_Jazykova-pravidla\\_mimo-CR.aspx](https://www.cuzk.cz/Predpisy/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/160277222_Jazykova-pravidla_mimo-CR.aspx),
- Concept of Standardization of Geographical Names of the Czech Republic in the Years 2015-2020,
- Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names, version 1.03
- Translation of the brochure UNGEGN Consistent use of Place Names is accessible on this website:  
[https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEgn/docs/pdf/UNGEgn\\_Broschure\\_cz.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEgn/docs/pdf/UNGEgn_Broschure_cz.pdf),
- Methodological instruction on the adaptation and acceptance of names in the languages of national minorities and selected dialect areas, taking into account the specificities of Těšín Silesia.  
[https://cuzk.cz/Predpisy/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/181306022\\_NK\\_CUZZK\\_Metodicky-pokyn\\_mensiny\\_signed.aspx](https://cuzk.cz/Predpisy/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/Resortni-predpisy-a-opatreni/181306022_NK_CUZZK_Metodicky-pokyn_mensiny_signed.aspx)

The CCGN has put together a database Names of the world (Jména světa) which contains Names of states and their territorial parts and Czech names of seas and international territories including Antarctica. The database includes a list of Czech exonyms and names in a language of a specific country. It is possible to search the names on the Internet on this address: <https://ags.cuzk.cz/jmenasveta> and alternatively <http://jmenasveta.cuzk.cz> (old version).

CCGN issued publications *Historical Geographical Names of the Czech Republic* and the 4<sup>th</sup> expanded and updated edition of the *Index of Czech Exonyms*. Then this Commission prepared a database and web application of Historical Names of Czechia that are linked to current standardized names in Geonames database, experts can edit them and it is possible to view them on selected old base maps in the application <https://ags.cuzk.cz/geoprohlizec/>.

We are preparing an updated and modified terminological list Names of states and their territorial parts, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. The publication will be published in 2021 and at the same time the Names of the World application will be updated and modified.

The Commission celebrated its 50th session since the resumption of new leadership in 2001. During this meeting its current activities were evaluated. More details are at this web site: [https://egako.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/gako\\_2021\\_02.pdf](https://egako.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/gako_2021_02.pdf).

The Inventory of exonym and endonym list is in the attachment.

We promote Czech geographical names, i. e. an article written by Irena Švehlová: Curiosities of geographical names in Czechia was issued in Bulletin UNGEGN 56/2020, p. 15-17.

### **International Cooperation**

CCGN regularly meets with commissions on geographical names from neighbouring countries – Poland and Slovakia. We also cooperate with German Commission StAGN and Austrian Commission AKO.

Standardized names are published in three European projects INSPIRE (INfrastructure for SPatial InfoRmation in Europe), ELF (European Local Framework) and EuroGeoNames, from 2012. Data are available to many users in different projects and through different user interfaces as you may get to know in detail from our contribution to UNGEGN Information Bulletin number 51, 52, 57 and 59.

CCGN regularly participates in meetings of working groups for exonyms (WGE UNGEGN) which were held in Corfu 2013, Hermagor 2014, Zagreb 2015, Bangkok 2016, Prague 2017 and Riga 2018. The 2020 meeting in Ljubljana could not be held for epidemiological reasons.

Chairman of the CCGN dr. Vladimír Liščák and the secretary of CCGN Irena Švehlová took part in the international symposium GeoNames and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the work of the Austrian geographical names commission Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde, Vienna, November 6-8, 2019.

Chairman of the CCGN dr. Liščák participated in the 29th International Cartographic Conference (Tokyo, June 16 - 19, 2019). Basic information about the conference is here: <https://icaci.org/icc2019>.

Due to the covid-19 epidemic, the work of the commission and international cooperation are mostly carried out only by correspondence.