UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Advancing geographical names standardization through inclusive, culturally-informed and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development

2025 Session | 28 April – 2 May 2025 | @UNSD_GEGN, #2025UNGEGN

National Dialogue

Agenda item 4b

Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in standardization of geographical names

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Day 1
Theme: National names standardization

a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

b. Policies, principles & procedures

c. Programme planning; administrative structures

d. New boards, or those in process of development

e. National approaches to romanization

f. Writing systems and pronunciation

g. Terminology

h. Antarctic and SCAR

i. Maritime names

1a. Legal frameworks, laws involved, Place Names Acts

National reports that consider this topic (45):

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Chad
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
Denmark
Egypt
Estonia
Finland
Greenland (Denmark)
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Latvia
Malaysia
Mauritania
Kingdom of the Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Peru
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Türkiye
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America

THEME 1a: Gender equality in names, sustainable cities and communities

ITALY

GIANLUCA CASAGRANDE

Italian Geographical Society and *Università Europea di Roma*

28th April 2025

Two strategic lines for fostering the achievement of two crucial SDG goals through placename studies and possible actions

1) Promote GENDER EQUALITY: "bring **excellence** into open light, and **make** sure **it shine**s, *from now on*".

a) Since legislation restricts major ex-post changes in toponymy and odonymy, increase cultural actions to foster equality in future assignments.

b) Consider possible major re-assignments of placenames, for better gender equality balance, starting in contexts where such actions would cause no administratives, economic or social inconveniences.

2) Encourage the development of SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: "carefully **learn from** the **past** so as **to inspire** the **future**"

a) Historic placenames in century-long inhabited regions may often hint to traditional human-environment interactions, from old times in which sustainability was the only strategy to ensure survival of cities and communities.

b) Careful and detailed study, identification and mapping of such placenames may help understand the deep nature of sustainable interactions. This type of knowledge may serve the purposes of education and might also assist in the cultural recovery of good practices, towards a more sustainable use of spaces and resources.

1b. Policies, principles & procedures

National reports that consider this topic (38):

Argentina
Australia
Brunei Darussalam
Burundi
Canada
Chad
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Japan
Malaysia
Mauritania
Mexico
New Zealand
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States of America

THEME: 1b
Policies, principles & procedures)

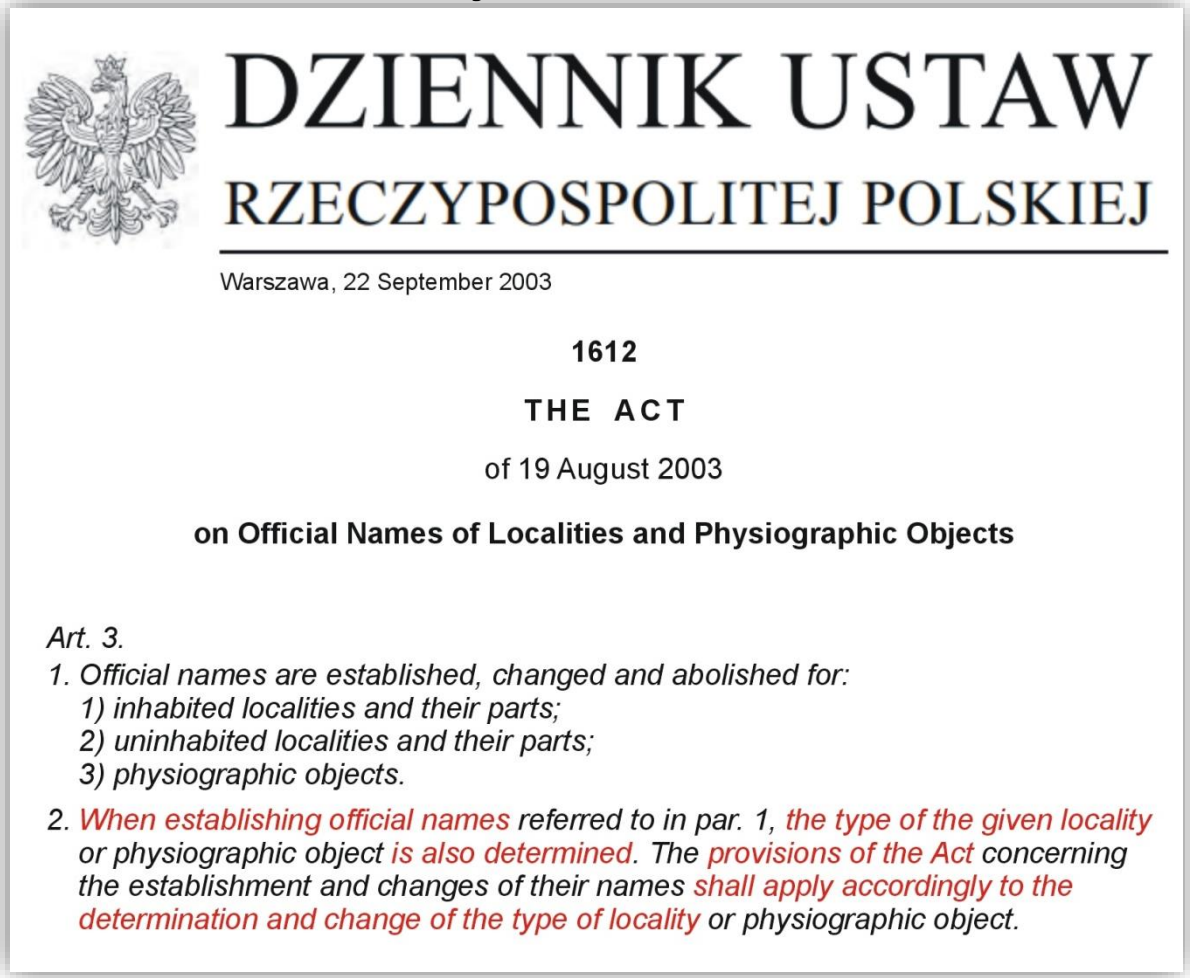
POLAND

MACIEJ ZYCH

Chair, Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland

28th April 2025

Types of Localities in the Standardization of Locality Names in Poland



DZIENNIK USTAW

RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

Warszawa, 22 September 2003

1612

THE ACT

of 19 August 2003

on Official Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects

Art. 3.

1. Official names are established, changed and abolished for:
1) inhabited localities and their parts;
2) uninhabited localities and their parts;
3) physiographic objects.

2. When establishing official names referred to in par. 1, the type of the given locality or physiographic object is also determined. The provisions of the Act concerning the establishment and changes of their names shall apply accordingly to the determination and change of the type of locality or physiographic object.

Types of localities in Poland (22):

- urban areas:
  - town [no distinction in Polish between ‘city’ and ‘town’]
  - part of a town
- rural areas (independent localities):
  - village
  - housing estate
  - colony
  - settlement
  - hamlet
  - forest settlement
- rural areas (non-independent localities)
  - part of a village
  - housing estate of a village
  - part of a colony
  - colony of a village
  - colony of a colony
  - colony of a settlement
  - part of a settlement
  - settlement of a village
  - settlement of a colony
  - settlement of a settlement
  - hamlet of a village
  - hamlet of a colony
  - hamlet of a settlement
  - forest settlement of a village

1c. Programme planning (e.g. national/board strategic plans) and administrative structures

National reports that consider this topic (19):

Brunei Darussalam
Burundi
Canada
Cuba
Denmark
Estonia
Hungary
Iceland
India
Japan
Malaysia
Mauritania
New Zealand
Peru
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

THEME 1c:
Programme planning and administrative structures

ESTONIA

PEETER PÄLL

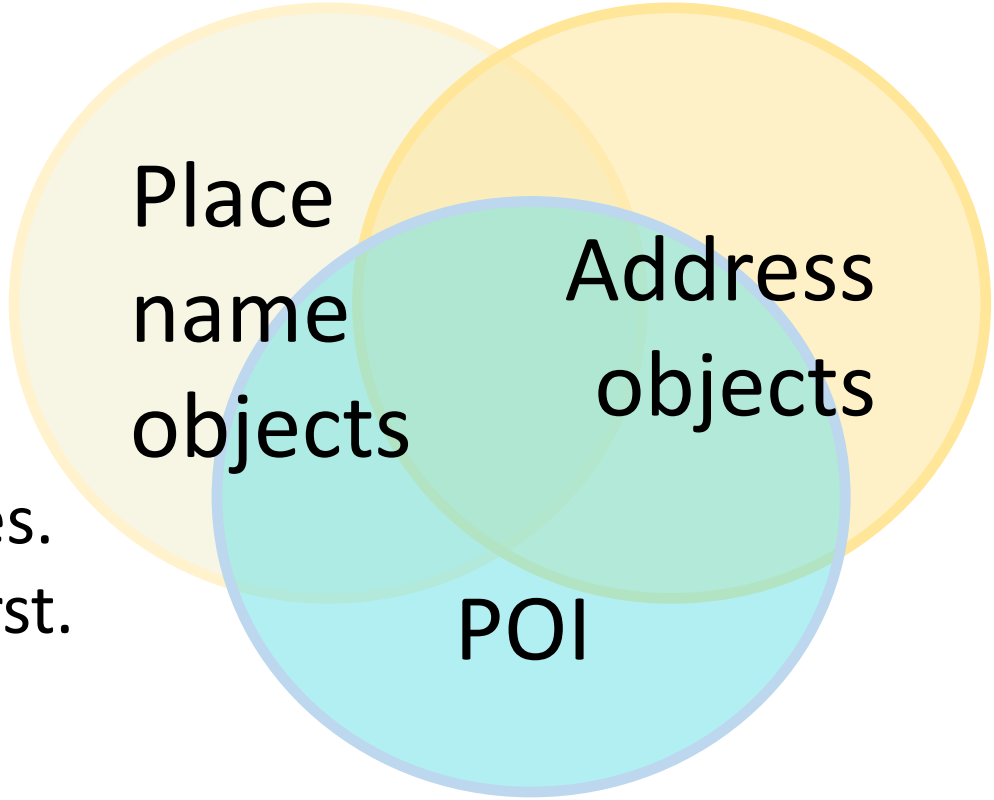
Chief language planning expert, Institute of the Estonian Language

28TH April 2025

Estonian Address Data and Place Names System (AKS)

Combines 3 existing registers:

1. Address Data System (ADS)
2. Place Names Register (KNR)
3. Points of Interest System (POI)



Objects in 3 sets share many similar features.
The place names module was completed first.

https://aks.maaruum.ee/aks
The service is offered by the Land and Spatial Development Board.

1d. New boards, or those in process of development

National reports that consider this topic (5):

Costa Rica

Egypt

Latvia

Mauritania

Republic of Korea

1e. National approaches to romanization

National reports that consider this topic (16):

Austria

Cyprus

Egypt

Estonia

India

Japan

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Malaysia

Mauritania

Oman

Poland

Republic of Korea

Russian Federation

Saudi Arabia

Ukraine

United States of America

1f. Writing systems and Pronunciation

National reports that consider this topic (7):

Iceland

Japan

Malaysia

New Zealand

Norway

Saudi Arabia

United Kingdom

THEME 1f: Introduction to Standardization of Kanji in relation to the Notation of Geographical Names

JAPAN

Akira Sasagawa

Director of Geographic Information Analysis Research Division,

Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

28th April 2025

Introduction to Standardization of Kanji in relation to the Notation of Geographical Names

【Background information】

Japanese writing uses three types of characters, hiragana, katakana and kanji.

phonetic characters: hiragana, katakana; ideogram: kanji

Example 1.：私は今ニューヨークで国際会議に出席しています。

私 = I, 今 = now, ニューヨーク = New York, 国際会議 = international conference, 出席 = attend

I'm attending an international conference in New York now.

【Issue】

Many of geographical names in Japan are written in kanji. However, certain kanji characters have variants, so that the same geographical name may be written in slightly different kanji.

Example 2.： 葛飾 / 葛飾 } Katsushika

【Action】

The Japanese government has been working to standardize kanji characters for information used by administrative agencies. (Details will be presented under Agenda 5b)

THEME 1f: Writing Systems, Pronunciation, and the Naming of Undersea Features

MALAYSIA

Sr Saiful Wazlan

Director of Survey Coordinating and Mapping Policy Division, Department of Survey and Mapping

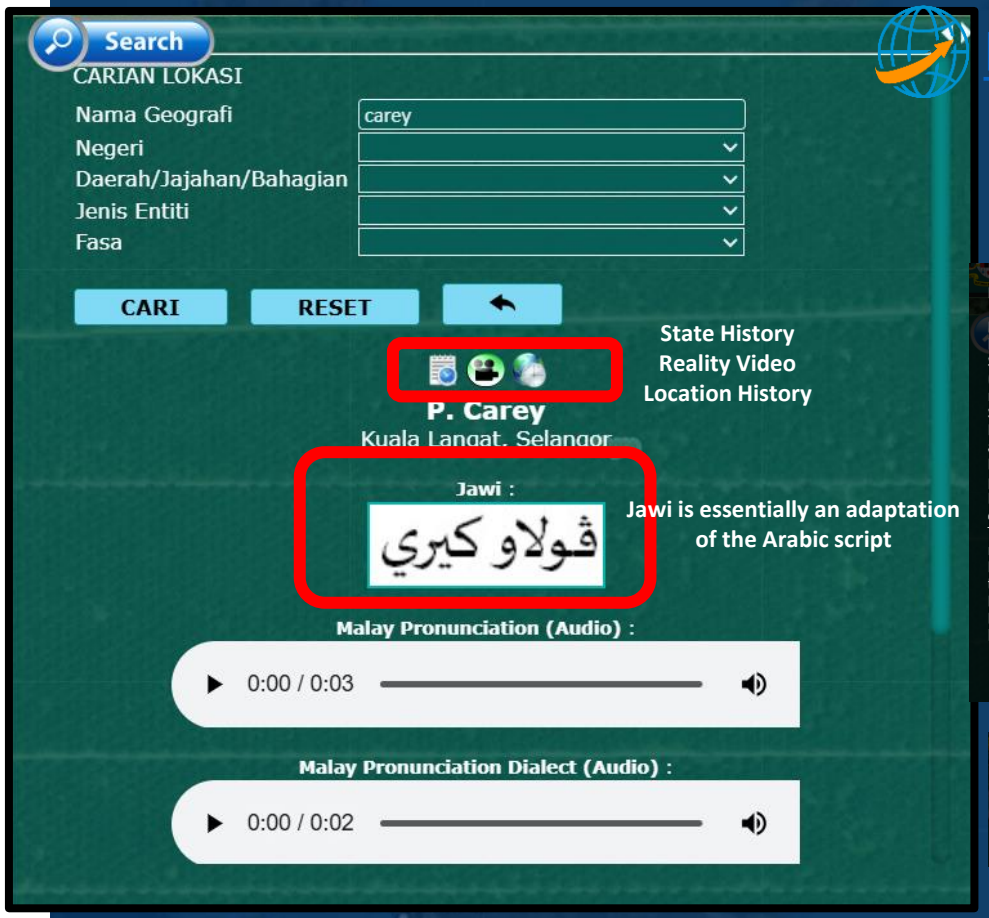
28th April 2025

UNGEGN | United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

NATIONAL DIALOGUE
MALAYSIA -WRITING SYSTEM AND PRONOUNCIATION

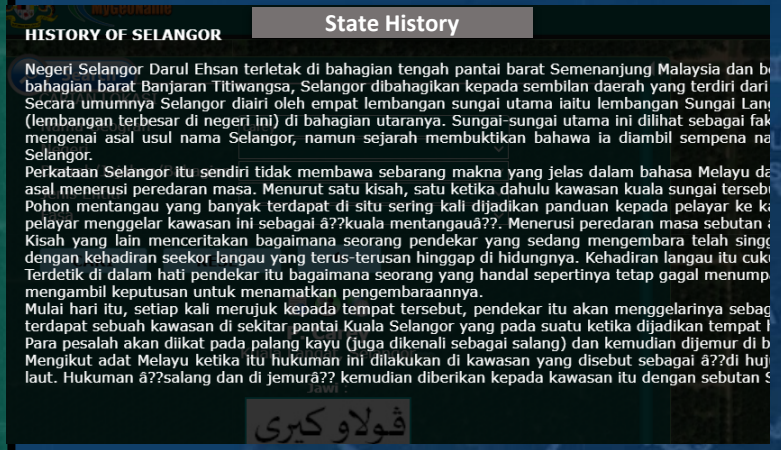
Writing Systems, Pronunciation, and the Naming of Undersea Features: Ensuring Accuracy and Integrity

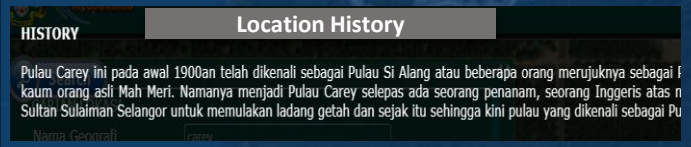
https://mygeoname.mygeoportal.gov.my/index.jsp



State History
Reality Video
Location History

Jawi is essentially an adaptation of the Arabic script





Geographical naming through active role in the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)

LSr Saiful Wazlan Bin Wahab
Director of Survey
Coordinating andMapping Policy Division
Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia

1g. Terminology

National reports that consider this topic (19):

Brazil

Colombia

Croatia

Cuba

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Indonesia

Japan

Malaysia

Norway

Poland

Republic of Korea

Saudi Arabia

Slovakia

Slovenia

Sweden

Türkiye

United States of America

THEME 1g: Terminology

DENMARK

RIKKE STEENHOLT OLESEN

Associate Professor (Name Research Archive, University of Copenhagen),

Chair of the Danish Place Name Committee

28th April 2025

Danish place names included in the Danish spelling dictionary (per 2024)

Stevns Klint inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014

Møns Klint

Vadehavet
Southern part of The North Sea. Danish part inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014

(Aggersborg), **Fyrkat**, **Nonnebakken**, **Trelleborg, Borgring**
Names of Viking ring fortresses reflecting Harald Bluetooth's ambitions to unify the Danish realm between AD 970 and 980. Inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2023

1h. Antarctic naming and SCAR

National reports that consider this topic (7):

Argentina

Australia

Japan

Malaysia

New Zealand

Republic of Korea

United States of America

1i. Maritime names

National reports that consider this topic (14):

Argentina

Australia

Costa Rica

Cyprus

Iceland

Indonesia

Japan

Malaysia

Poland

Republic of Korea

Russian Federation

Spain

Türkiye

United States of America

THEME 1i:
Maritime names

CYPRUS

ANDREAS HADJIRAFTIS

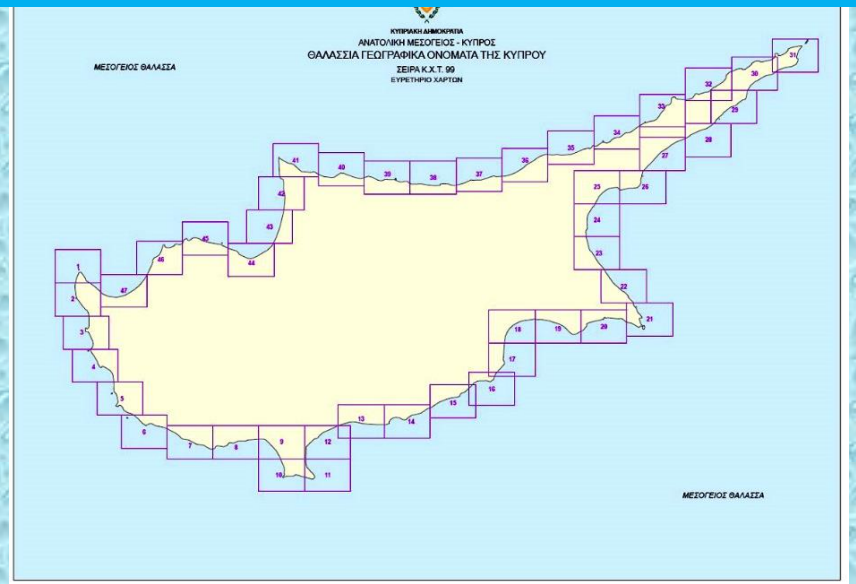
President of Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus

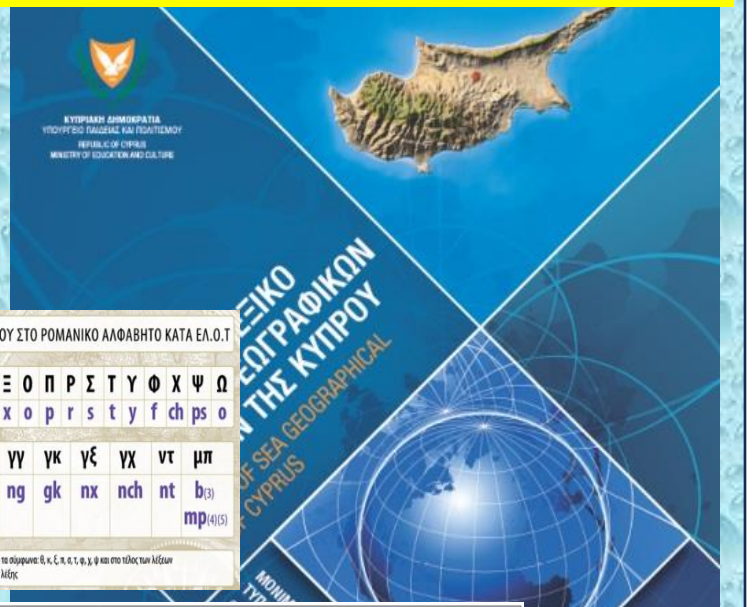
28th April 2025

Gazetteer of Sea Geographical Names of Cyprus

https://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/xartes_category/thalassia-geografika-onomata-tis-kyprou-seira-k-ch-t-99/

https://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/thalassia-toponymia/index.html



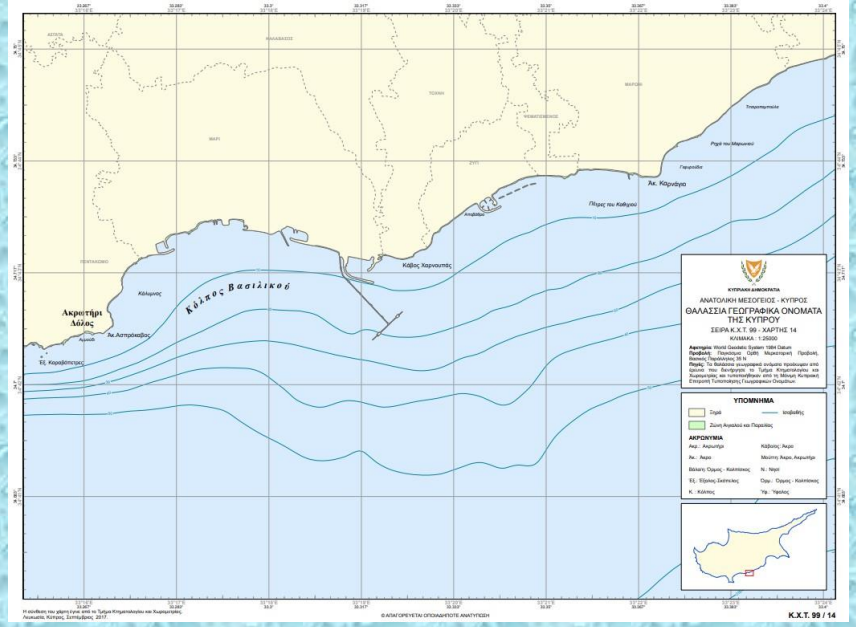


ΠΙΝΑΚΑΣ ΜΕΤΑΓΡΑΦΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΑΛΦΑΒΗΤΟΥ ΣΤΟ ΡΟΜΑΝΙΚΟ ΑΛΦΑΒΗΤΟ ΚΑΤΑ ΕΛ.Ο.Τ

Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ	Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω
a	v	g	d	e	z	i	th	i	k	l	m	n	x	o	p	r	s	t	y	f	ch	ps	o

αι	ει	οι	ου	ευ	αυ	ηυ	γγ	γκ	γξ	γχ	ντ	μπ
ai	ei	oi	ou	ev(1) ef(2)	av(1) af(2)	iv(1) if(2)	ng	gk	nx	nch	nt	b(3) mp(4)(5)

(1) Μπροστά από το σύμφωνα: β, γ, δ, ζ, λ, μ, ν, ρ και όλα τα φωνήεντα (2) Μπροστά από το σύμφωνα: θ, κ, ξ, π, σ, τ, φ, χ, ψ και στο τέλος των λέξεων
(3) Στην αρχή της λέξης (4) Στο μέσο της λέξης (5) Στο τέλος της λέξης



Name	Article	Transliteration	Description	Community	District	Longitude	Latitude	Map
Ρτικό της Καμήλας	το	Richo tis Kamilas	Shoal	Timi	Pafos	32,475	34,685	K.X.T.99-06
Ρτικό του Φαναριού	το	Richo tou Fanariou	Toponym	Pervolia Larnakas	Larnaka	33,607	34,808	K.X.T.99-16
Ριζερά	τα	Rizera	Toponym	Pomos	Pafos	32,568	35,173	K.X.T.99-46
Ρόνας •	ο	Ronas	Bay	Rizokarpaso	Ammochostos	34,338	35,613	K.X.T.99-32
Ροτσιά του Αη Πείρακτάρη	τα	Rotsia tou Ai Pairaktari	Rock	Pomos	Pafos	32,537	35,155	K.X.T.99-46
Ρότσος των Σκαφών	ο	Rotsos ton Skafon	Rock	Kokkina	Lefkosia	32,607	35,181	K.X.T.99-46
Ρουκάνια •	τα	Roukania	Cove	Kalograia	Keryneia	33,646	35,361	K.X.T.99-36
Ρούφακας	ο	Roufakas	Point	Keryneia	Keryneia	33,313	35,342	K.X.T.99-39
Σ								
Σειρακαγιάδες	οι	Seirakagiades	Toponym	Keryneia	Keryneia	33,322	35,343	K.X.T.99-39
Σέκκα	τα	Sekka	Rock	Larnaka	Larnaka	33,641	34,895	K.X.T.99-17
Σερένη •	η	Sereni	Toponym	Pafos	Pafos	32,389	34,765	K.X.T.99-05
Σέρνος	ο	Sernos	Rock	Eptakomi	Ammochostos	34,046	35,476	K.X.T.99-34
Σιταρόσπηλιος	ο	Sitarospilios	Toponym	Gastria	Ammochostos	33,984	35,323	K.X.T.99-25
Σκάλες	οι	Skales	Toponym	Eptakomi	Ammochostos	34,033	35,471	K.X.T.99-34
Σκαλί	το	Skali	Rock	Pafos	Pafos	32,397	34,773	K.X.T.99-05
Σκαλί •	το	Skali	Cove	Davlos	Ammochostos	33,887	35,425	K.X.T.99-35
Σκαλούδια	τα	Skaloudia	Rock	Aigialousa	Ammochostos	34,180	35,564	K.X.T.99-33
Σκαμνί	το	Skamni	Rock	Aigialousa	Ammochostos	34,153	35,538	K.X.T.99-33
Σκλοινικάρια •	τα	Skloinikaria	Toponym	Pegeia	Pafos	32,340	34,864	K.X.T.99-04
Σκλοινικιά	η	Skloinikia	Rock	Drouseia	Pafos	32,280	35,028	K.X.T.99-02
Σκλοινικούδι	το	Skloinikoudi	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,032	35,044	K.X.T.99-22
Σκουλιέρα	η	Skouliera	Toponym	Pervolia Larnakas	Larnaka	33,575	34,819	K.X.T.99-16
Σκούταρης	ο	Skoutaris	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,016	35,056	K.X.T.99-22
Σκουταρόσπηλιοι •	οι	Skoutarospilioi	Cove	Paralimni	Ammochostos	34,016	35,056	K.X.T.99-22
Σπηλάδια	τα	Spiladia	Toponym	Agia Napa	Ammochostos	34,075	34,964	K.X.T.99-21
Σπηλιά της Εγγλέζας	η	Spilia tis Englezas	Toponym	Xylofagou	Larnaka	33,862	34,943	K.X.T.99-19
Σπηλιά της Φώκιας	η	Spilia tis Fokias	Toponym	Akrotiri	Lemesos	33,023	34,563	K.X.T.99-11
Σπηλιά του Δράκου	η	Spilia tou Drakou	Toponym	Pomos	Pafos	32,563	35,170	K.X.T.99-46
Σπήλιος της Φύκαινας	ο	Spilios tis Fokainas	Toponym	Neo Chorio Pafou	Pafos	32,375	35,044	K.X.T.99-47
Σπήλιος της Φύκας	ο	Spilios tis Fokas	Toponym	Ammadies	Lefkosia	32,705	35,184	K.X.T.99-45
Σπήλιος του Ισμαήλ	ο	Spilios tou Ismail	Toponym	Davlos	Ammochostos	33,927	35,435	K.X.T.99-34
Σπήλιοι •	οι	Spilioi	Cove	Agia Napa	Ammochostos	34,015	34,982	K.X.T.99-20
Σπίθα	η	Spitha	Toponym	Neo Chorio Pafou	Pafos	32,281	35,161	K.X.T.99-01
Σπίτι του Αγγλοδασκάλου	το	Spiti tou Anglodaskalou	Toponym	Akanthou	Ammochostos	33,655	35,363	K.X.T.99-36
Στάζουσα	η	Stazousa	Point	Agios Amvrosios	Keryneia	33,608	35,360	K.X.T.99-37
Σταλός	ο	Stalos	Toponym	Xylofagou	Larnaka	33,880	34,947	K.X.T.99-19

Presented by: Andreas Hadjiraftis
President of Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Cyprus

Any Questions