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English

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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names****2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 7 (d) of the provisional agenda\*

**Effective work programmes: Toponymic guidelines for international use  
by map and other editors****Toponymic guidelines – Estonia (5th edition, 2025)**

## Summary \*\*

Toponymic Guidelines for Estonia present information on Estonian, the official language of Estonia, its alphabet, and main spelling rules for geographical names, as well as on pronunciation. Linguistic strata recognizable in Estonian place names include names of German, Swedish, Russian, and Latvian origin. Estonian has two main dialect groups: Northern and Southern; the differences are in grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary. Minority names in Estonia include Swedish and Russian names.

Since 1996, Estonia has had a Place Names Act, this Act was revised in 2003. The Act contains main requirements for geographical names and determines the competence of various bodies in establishing place names. The Place Names Board of Estonia is the main national names authority.

Briefly characterized are maps and gazetteers available about Estonia. The document also contains a glossary of appellatives and other words used in maps, a list of abbreviations, and data on the administrative division of Estonia.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by the Place Names Board of Estonia, Estonia. The report will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/110/CRP.110, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/)