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English

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

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Item 4 (b) 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**

Submitted by Slovenia

Summary **

After the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of Slovenia continued its work on the standardization of geographical names within and outside Slovenia. The Commission held 20 meetings: 3 hybrid meetings and 17 correspondence meetings. Information and activities relating to the Commission are posted on the website.¹

The regular task of the Commission is to issue opinions on the correctness and suitability of new names for streets and settlements. That responsibility is defined in the Act Regulating the Determination of Territories and the Naming and Marking of Settlements, Streets and Buildings.² Approval by the Commission is obligatory before municipalities can officially announce new or changed names. From 2023 to the present, the Commission has reviewed some 45 street names and one settlement name.

Recent major projects on which the Commission has been working include the standardization of hydronyms in Slovenia from the Register of Geographical Names for a 1:25,000 scale map, the collection of microtoponyms in the Rába Valley (Porabje) and the standardization of names for public passenger transport stops.

Since the autumn of 2024, the Commission has also been involved in a working group focused on the standardization of Slovenian place names in Italy. The Slovenian community in Italy aims to standardize Slovenian place names in all officially bilingual settlements in Italy.

The Commission is also contributing to the preparation of a terminological dictionary of geoinformatics, which is being developed at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering of the University of Ljubljana.

There is ongoing cooperation with translators, lecturers, journalists and public services regarding the correct use and spelling of geographical names, in particular exonyms.

The Commission regularly updates the list of country names and dependent territories in Slovenian. The most recent update was made in December 2024.

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.

* GEGN.2/2025/1.

** The full report was prepared by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names of the Republic of Slovenia.

¹ See <https://www.gov.si/en/registries/working-bodies/commission-for-the-standardization-of-geographical-names/>.

² See <https://pisrs.si/aktualno/zakonodaja-v-anglescini>.

National report		
B	<p>Member state report on the situation in their country</p> <p><i>The progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the last UNGEGN session (news in the field of geonames in the country, progress of ongoing projects, finished projects, issues and use cases for inspiration for other countries, changes in database of geonames).</i></p>	<p>The permanent task of the CSGN is to decide on the names (new or changed) of streets and settlements. The CSGN has prepared detailed guidelines aimed at improving the practise of naming streets and settlements. Recently, progress has been made regarding naming proposals. However, relatively often, we receive proposals to name several short streets (sometimes even longer) with the same name. The CSGN rejects these proposals and suggests designating and naming each street separately.</p> <p>The Commission regularly cooperates with translators, proofreaders, journalists and various public and governmental services on the correct use and spelling of geographical names, especially exonyms. Slovenian translators at the Council of Europe always consult the CSGN in case of ambiguity regarding the correct spelling of foreign names, which is good practise for the proper use of geographical names.</p> <p>Since the last UNGEGN Session, several projects related to the standardization of geographical names have been initiated or are still ongoing in Slovenia. These include the standardization of hydronyms from the Register of Geographical Names, the standardization of names of public passenger transport stops, a research project on Slovenian micro-toponyms in Rába Valley (Porabje) in Hungary, and the standardization of Slovenian place names in Italy. More information on each project is provided later in the report.</p> <p>The digitalization process of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names has been completed. A forum for discussions among the Commission's members on individual (re)naming issues is now in use. The online platform can be accessed at: https://nodebb03.abak.si.</p>
C	<p>National and international meetings, conferences, symposiums, publicity and publications</p> <p>- date of the meeting - name of the meeting - place of the meeting - main theme - useful information from the meeting - in case of publications, guidelines: how often are they issued, what is the content of these publications - publicity: articles in international professional magazines, publication of own professional magazines.</p>	<p>International meetings – participation of the CSGN members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 – 7 September 2023, EUGEO Congress, Barcelona, Spain. • 26 – 29 September 2023, Symposium on Place Names, Bloemfontein, South Africa. • 18 – 19 October 2023, Conference Dani geografskih imena 2023 (Geographical names days), Novigrad, Croatia. • 14 – 15 May 2024, 26th meeting UNGEGN WG on Exonyms, Prague, Czechia. • 16 May 2024, Prague, Czechia, 28th meeting of the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division. • 9. -11. 9. 2024, EuroCarto 2024 (ICA Regional Cartographic Conference). Vienna, Austria. • 11 – 13 September 2024, Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples' cultures (International scientific symposium), Rome, Italy. • 10 – 12 November 2024, 10th Arab Forum on Geographical Names, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
D	Measures taken and proposed to implement	United Nations resolutions are implemented in the process of geographical name standardization. In Slovenia, all proposals for

	United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, including the economic and social benefits <i>Information, recommendations, guidelines in legislative, control management.</i>	new names or name changes must be included in the standardization process.
E	National standardization	
Ea	Field collection of names	Field collection of names is carried out only when office-based procedures are insufficient. There has been no such case since May 2023.
Eb	Office treatment of names	<p>The Commission is responsible for making decisions on all proposals for street and settlement names, as well on other names submitted by various users.</p> <p>Recently, the Commission has focused on three specific tasks in more detail: the renaming of one peak and one mountain pass, and the standardization of the names of public passenger transport stops.</p> <p>The Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names, at the initiative of the Alpine Association of Slovenia, discussed the renaming of one peak (Stegovnik) and one saddle (Knipsovo sedlo) in the Karavanke mountain range. After a thorough review of all available material, including linguistic analysis and statements obtained from locals, the Commission decided that Štegovnik (Stegovnik ⇒ Štegovnik) and Knepsovo sedlo (Knipsovo sedlo ⇒ Knepsovo sedlo) are more appropriate forms of the names. Both names have been standardized.</p> <p>Standardization of public passenger transport stops names. The names of public passenger transport stops in Slovenia have never been regulated according to uniform principles. In addition, they fall under the jurisdiction of various national and local institutions, leading to a lack of standardization. In 2022, the Anton Melik Geographic Institute undertook the task of determining the appropriate (re)naming of public transport stops for the entire country. This task included intercity bus stops, railway stations and city stops. In preparing the list of names, the principle followed was that the name of the station should be identical to the settlement in which the station is located or to which it functionally belongs. Exceptions are stations with a purely touristic purpose, which are located outside the urban parts of settlements. If there are several stations within the settlement, an additional name is assigned. The additional name may be a standardized abbreviation or another proper or common name.</p> <p>Standardization of hydronyms from the Register of Geographical Names. A three-year project for the standardization of hydronyms from the Register of Geographical Names at a scale 1:25,000 was completed in Autumn 2024. The following tasks were carried out as a part of the project: reviewing the linguistic and geographical correctness of hydronyms, conducting a review with a quarter of Slovenian municipalities (the others did not respond), and resolving individual problematic names. The aim of the project was to prepare a list of</p>

		hydronyms for subsequent standardization by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names.
Ec	<i>Treatment of names in multilingual areas</i>	<p>The Republic of Slovenia has two official national minorities: the Italian and the Hungarian.</p> <p>The preparation of a list of Italian geographical names at a scale level 1:5,000 and the subsequent standardization are still in progress. The list is being prepared by the Italian national community, which is reviewing and supplementing it with missing Italian names. However, they face significant challenges when reviewing names, particularly with identifying smaller landscape areas and house names. As a result, the review process is progressing slowly.</p> <p>Activities related to the preparation of the list and the standardization of Hungarian geographical names at the 1:25,000 scale have been inactive since January 2017. The initiative to complete the list lies with the national community.</p>
Ed	<i>Administrative structure of national names authorities, legislation, policies and procedures</i>	Since we only had a legal basis for the renaming and naming of streets and settlements, we have also developed rules for other types of names. These regulations are called Decree on the Naming of Geographical Phenomena in the Republic of Slovenia.
Ee	<i>Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors</i>	Without changes.
F.	<i>Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity</i> <i>Including indigenous, minority and regional language names.</i>	<p>In December 2023, a two-year research project on Slovenian micro-toponyms in Rába Valley (Porabje) in Hungary was completed. Available archival sources containing such names in the Rába Valley were reviewed and working material for field studies were prepared. In cooperation with locals who still speak the Slovenian dialect, the collected names were checked and transcribed into the dialect form.</p> <p>As a result of the project, a book and a map with collected micro-toponyms were published.</p> <p>Since 2024, the Commission has also been involved in the standardization of Slovenian place names in all official bilingual settlements in Italy. The initiative for standardization was taken by the Slovenian national community in Italy. In addition to the national community and the Commission, the Central Office for the Slovenian Language, which operates in Italy, and the Fran Ramovš Institute of the Slovenian Language of the ZRC SAZU from Slovenia are also participating in the standardization project. The standardization has not yet begun, but all necessary input materials and data are already being collected.</p>
G.	<i>Exonyms</i> <i>New exonyms, extinct exonyms, projects regarding exonyms.</i>	As part of a call for proposals by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, we submitted a joint project proposal with Croatia entitled "Geographical Names on the Battlefield: Victims or Weapons? A Critical Epistemological Analysis of Exonyms".
H.	Geographical names data management	
Ha	<i>Content requirements and standards</i>	Without changes.
Hb	<i>Data management and interoperability</i>	In the terms of interoperability, the linking of hydrographic data from the Slovenian Water Agency and hydronyms of the Register of Geographical Names is currently in progress. Geographical names from the Register of Geographical Names have already been attributed to the hydrographic objects managed by Slovenian Water

		<p>Agency. Coordination of data (topography and geographical names) between the Surveying and Mapping Authority and the Water Agency is ongoing. It is necessary to define and identify individual water bodies and their names, which can be quite challenging in the case of linear objects. For example, the upstream branches of the watercourse might all be named the same as the main watercourse, or only one of them can be named, etc.</p> <p>Starting in 2024, street names from the Register of Spatial Units (official record of streets) will be incorporated into the Register of Geographical Names, along with the establishment of a relational connection to the layer of roads and traffic areas in the National Topographic Model. A review of street line objects across all databases has already been carried out, along with additional capture and reconciliation of differences. In the next phase, the names of all streets in the county will be added to the Register of Geographical Names. At the same time, street names will be assigned to the corresponding roads in the topographic database. The possibility of the automated information exchange between all three databases is also being explored.</p>
Hc	<p>Data services, applications and products Including gazetteers and web services.</p>	<p>Without changes.</p> <p>Geographical names (along with all code lists and attribute's descriptions) from the official Register of Geographical Names are available free of charge and can be easily accessed via Surveying and Mapping Authority's website: https://www.e-prostor.gov.si.</p>
I	<p>Terminology in the standardization of geographical names New or changed definitions and terms.</p>	<p>The Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names is a partner in the preparation of a terminological dictionary of geoinformatics, which has been under development at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy at the University of Ljubljana since 2024. The Commission has provided input on terms related to geographical names.</p>
J	Writing systems and pronunciation	
Ja	Romanization	
Jb	Conversion into non-Roman writing systems	Without changes.
Jc	Writing of names in unwritten languages	Unsolved.
Jd	Pronunciation	Without changes.
K	<p>Country names New or changed country names from the UNGEGN List of Country Names that were imported to the list of geonames in this country (in language of this country).</p>	<p>In 2023, the list of Slovenian country names (according to ISO 3166) was updated: Iceland and Nepal discontinued their official full names and Moldova changed its official language from Moldavian to Romanian.</p> <p>In 2024, the Slovenian names of ten dependent territories included in the international ISO 3166 standard were added. The rules applicable to Slovenian names of countries were taken into account.</p>
L	<p>Toponymic education Toponymical courses, works in organisation, issues and solution of problems.</p>	<p>The Commission regularly cooperates with translators, lecturers, journalists, and various public services on the correct use and spelling of geographical names, especially exonyms.</p> <p>The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, in collaboration with the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names, has prepared guidelines on language use and geographical names. These guidelines cover the use and spelling of country names, exonyms, Slovenian geographical names in neighboring countries, and geographical names in international documents. Concrete examples are also provided.</p>

M	Features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation	
Ma	<i>Features common to two or more nations</i>	Geographical names in official multilingual in Slovenia – task Ec.
Mb	<i>Bilateral and multilateral agreements</i>	Unsolved.
Mc	<i>Coastal seas</i>	Without changes.
Md	<i>Geonames of international waters and marine features in international waters</i>	Without changes.
Me	<i>Geonames in Antarctica</i>	Unsolved.
Mf	<i>International cooperation</i> <i>Cooperation with institutions, countries – specific project.</i>	<p>Cross-border data harmonization between Slovenia and Austria – without changes. The Slovenian Commission has standardized the Slovenian names of official border crossings. Since November 2020, the Austrian Commission has also begun working on standardizing German names.</p> <p>Harmonization of all geographical names along the Slovenia-Austria state border was also planned, but the task has been on hold for some time.</p>
N.	Arrangements for the UNGEGN <i>Creating national and other reports, creating articles for Bulletin, communication, cooperation and fulfilment of tasks from the UNGEGN.</i>	National reports for the ECSEED meetings.
O	Supporting sustainable development <i>Activities related to geonames that support sustainable development.</i>	Unsolved.
P	Other <i>If the country has worked on something special, that is not mentioned in this model.</i>	<p>Activities on the project “What's Your House Called? Nomen vulgare”, which aims to collect and preserve traditional house names as part of the intangible cultural heritage, continue.</p> <p>So far, 25 municipalities (460 settlements) have participated in the project, during which over 15,300 house names have been collected. The strong interest from municipalities demonstrates that traditional house names are an important part of rural heritage. Given the modern way of life, these names are at risk of being forgotten. Projects like this play a crucial role in preserving the intangible cultural heritage of Slovenia.</p>