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English

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

2025 session

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

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 Italy**

Submitted by Italy

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Summary

Since the 3rd Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, Italy has carried out the following activities:

- a. Implementation of the new Italian National Toponymic Database (INTDB 1.0);
- b. Achievement of the first Italian National Odonymic Database (ANNCSU);
- c. Organization of four national and international meetings;
- d. Creation of a new research groups on toponymy within the Italian Association of Geographers;
- e. Dissemination actions on the importance of geographical names;
- f. Planning of activities for the next two years.

a. Implementation of the new Italian National Toponymic Database (INTDB 1.0)

Italy started the creation of its new Italian National Toponymic Database (INTDB 1.0). After the first project launched in 2017, the Italian Geographic Military Institute, as the National Geospatial Agency, has brought together in a single database all the toponymic data available in its repository, and in those of the Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, paying attention to the standards indicated by INSPIRE, to the type of license that characterizes the use of these data, to their free transferability and interoperability. A dynamic revision process is expected in the near future with the cooperation of local and territorial authorities. To date, INTDB 1.0 is already freely downloadable from the IGMI website.

b. Achievement of the first Italian National Odonymic Database (ANNCSU)

Italy also started the creation of its first Italian National Odonymic Database that contains the national digital register of street numbers and street names (ANNCSU) thanks to the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the Revenue Agency with the contribution of the National Association of Italian Municipalities within a permanent technical working group. ANNCSU contains for each Italian municipality the list of traffic zones and the respective street numbers, as well as the relative coordinates, if provided by the municipality that owns the data. The next necessary step will be to verify and improve the quality of the data, promote the georeferencing of street numbers through regulatory proposals, ensure the constant updating of the Archive to avoid its obsolescence and, above all, facilitate the effective and easy use of the ANNCSU data by the Municipalities and other national databases of interest, such as the National Register of Resident Population (ANPR).

c. Organization of four national and international meetings

23-24 November 2023 - “Literary, polar and extraterrestrial place names”, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Roma [Rome]. Proceedings will be published in 2026 by Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

11-13 September 2024 - “Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples’ cultures”, UNGEGN-RHD in close cooperation with the Italian Geographic Military Institute (IGMI) and the Italian Geographical Society, Roma [Rome]. Proceedings will be published in 2025 by IGMI.

10-11 December 2024 - Italian Centre for Historical-Geographic Studies and University of Salerno (Italy), “Place Names, Perceptions and Territorial Portraits. Critical Lessons, Methods and new Perspectives between Research and Didactics”, Salerno (Italy).

Proceedings will be published in 2026 by Italian Centre for Historical-Geographic Studies.

20 March 2025 - “Place names, maps of peace”, Study seminar organized by the Association of Italian Geographers at University of Parma, Department of Humanities, Social Sciences and Cultural Enterprises.

d. Creation of new research groups on Toponymy

Based on the UN recommendation on the toponymy of minority languages, the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region has created a working group with the aim of defining the rules for the inclusion of the toponymy of local historical linguistic minorities (Friulian, German and Slovenian languages) within the official toponymy.

Furthermore, the Association of Italian Geographers, which is the body that brings together all Italian academic geographers, has created a new research group within itself on “Critical Toponymy, Naming Policies and Spatialization of Memory”. The working group plans to organize an international conference on “Inclusive Toponymy” in the near future in collaboration with the AGEI Groups “Gender and Geography” and “Decolonial Geographies”.

e. Dissemination actions on the importance of geographical names

A series of lectures and conferences focused on the following items: quality education against return illiteracy (importance of the geographical names etymology for understand the history of places, language and culture), gender equality (poor diffusion of toponyms dedicated to women), sustainable cities and communities (importance of historical toponyms as evidence of the balance of the relationship between men and nature), businesses (importance of toponyms as brands for the promotion of typical products of a specific place), infrastructure and land use and respect for biodiversity (toponymy as a memory of agricultural and pastoral practices, social relations and civic uses in place before the industrial revolution), justice and strong institutions (importance of adopting new shared and inclusive toponyms and toponyms).

f. Planning of activities for the next two years

For the next two-year period, the Italian main actions in the field of toponymic standardisation will be aimed to:

- Enrich and refine the New Italian Toponymic Database and the first Italian National Odonymic Database;
- Publish the conference proceedings on:
 - “Toponyms as a means of expressing identification, location, possession, belonging, division, and respect for peoples’ cultures”;
 - “Literary, polar and extraterrestrial place names”;
 - “Place Names, Perceptions and Territorial Portraits. Critical Lessons, Methods and new Perspectives between Research and Didactics”;
- Organise an international conference on “Toponyms of the historical Italian linguistic minorities”;
- Contribute to the ongoing publication of a book on the state of the art in Europe on minority place-name standardization;
- Arrange the 5th International Scientific Symposium of UNGEGN-RHD in close cooperation of the Italian Geographic Military Institute and the Italian Geographical Society.