



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)**



indigenous websites pronunciation academia
strategicplan toponymist restoration collaboration
division policies placenamesacts training
toponymicguidelines urban ai minority datamanagement
standardization internationalnames principles international
romanization names geoportals legalframeworks multilingual
innovativetools innovation outreach procedures challenges culturalheritage linkeddata
preservation programmeplanning terminology promotion crowd boards language
workinggroups mappingprogrammes collection un-gegn technology
gazetteers geographicalnames exonyms ilm countrynames
maritime goodpractice sourcing cooperation workshops
legislation specialists antarctic meetings
achievements

Day 4

Theme: Cooperation, training and promotion

- a. Input of academia and specialists towards the process of geographical names standardization
- b. Toponymic training offered to geographical names administrative staff
- c. Promotion of geographical names standardization and cooperation/outreach
- d. Support to international programmes / international collaboration
- e. Work against UNGEGN Strategic Plan
- f. University/other research projects
- g. Challenges



4a. Input of academia and specialists towards the process of geographical names standardization

National reports that consider this topic (21):

Austria

Hungary

New Zealand

Brazil

Iceland

Republic of Korea

Cameroon

India

Sweden

Canada

Indonesia

Türkiye

Colombia

Japan

Ukraine

Costa Rica

Kingdom of the

United Kingdom

Cuba

Netherlands

Finland

Latvia



4b. Toponymic training (in-house, national, etc.)
offered to geographical names administrative staff
National reports that consider this topic (20):

Australia

Egypt

Malaysia

Brunei Darussalam

Estonia

New Zealand

Burundi

Finland

Norway

Costa Rica

Hungary

Republic of Korea

Croatia

Indonesia

Saudi Arabia

Cuba

Kingdom of the

Slovakia

Denmark

Netherlands

South Africa



4c. Promotion of geographical names standardization and cooperation/outreach

National reports that consider this topic (32):

<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Kingdom of the</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
<i>Brunei Darussalam</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Cameroon</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>United States of</i>
<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>America</i>
<i>Cuba</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Republic of Korea</i>	
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	



THEME 4c: Promotion of Geographical Names Standardization and Cooperation

NEW ZEALAND

WENDY SHAW

Hēkeretari/Secretary,

Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa New Zealand Geographic Board

1st May 2025



**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**



**Ngā Pou
Taunaha o
Aotearoa**

New Zealand
Geographic Board

100years



**Ngā Pou
Taunaha o
Aotearoa**

New Zealand
Geographic Board

100years
1924-2024

Pre-1894



1908



1924

Honorary
Geographic Board
of New Zealand

1946

**New Zealand Geographic Board
Act 1946**

Public Act 1946 No 3
Date of assent 9 August 1946

2008



**New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o
Aotearoa) Act 2008**
Public Act 2008 No 50
Date of assent 22 May 2008

THEME 4c: Promotion of Geographical Names Standardization and Cooperation

ICELAND

EMILY LETHBRIDGE

Associate Research Professor,

Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies

1st May 2025

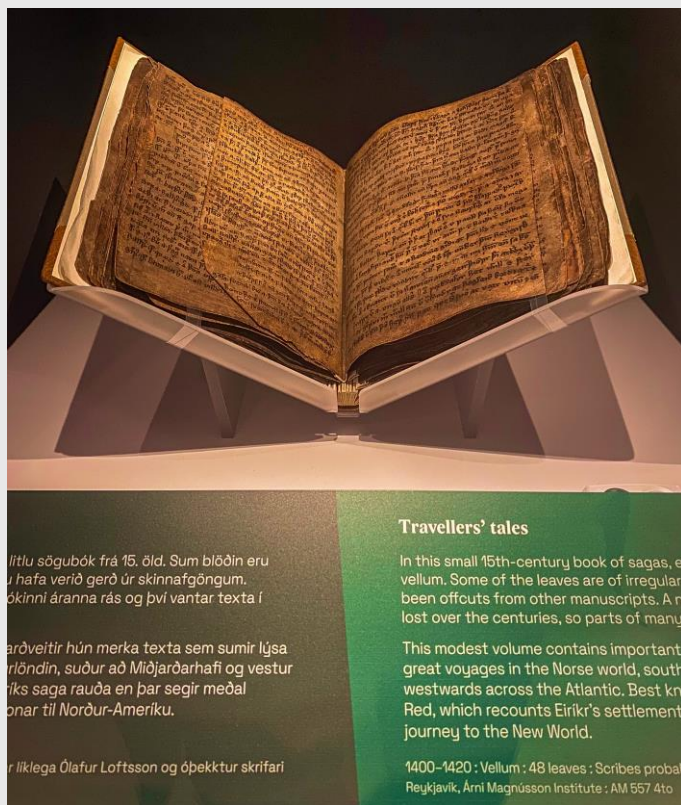


**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

WORLD IN WORDS

Manuscript Exhibition in Edda

A new permanent exhibition in Reykjavík showcasing geographical names as part of Icelandic cultural heritage



The exhibition's aims:

- Optimising accessibility & interaction
- Communicating new information and ideas
- Broadening perspectives

Exhibits include:

- Interactive map (shown above)
- Touchscreen exhibit on new Icelandic geographical names, and
- Touchscreen exhibit on Icelandic geographical names in a global context



<https://heimuriordum.is/>

emily.lethbridge@arnastofnun.is

4d. Support to international programmes / international collaboration

National reports that consider this topic (31):

<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Poland</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Indonesia</i>	<i>Republic of Korea</i>
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>
<i>Brunei Darussalam</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Kingdom of the</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>United States of</i>
<i>Colombia</i>	<i>India</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>America</i>
		<i>Oman</i>	



4e. Work against UNGEGN Strategic Plan

National reports that consider this topic (9):

Argentina

Republic of Korea

Cyprus

Saudi Arabia

Malaysia

Sweden

Mexico

United Kingdom

Peru



4f. University/other research projects

National reports that consider this topic (6):

Cameroon

Republic of Korea

Finland

South Africa

Indonesia

Sweden



THEME 4f: University research projects
Youth Participation in Geographical Names
Policy: A Legislative Breakthrough

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

JANG Young Ki
Deputy Director
National Geographic Information Institute
1st May 2025



**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

1. New Legal Amendment (September 2024)

- Revised the *Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Establishment and Management of Spatial Data*.
- Officially includes youth (ages 19-34) as members of the Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN).
- First youth member appointed in February 2025.

2. Why It Matters

- Promotes intergenerational dialogue and inclusive decision-making.
- Aligns with the UNGEGN Strategic Plan (2021–2029).
 - ✓ Fosters inclusiveness and cultural awareness.
 - ✓ Enhances effective governance and communication.
- Supports UN SDG 16 (*Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*)
 - ✓ Target 16.7: *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.*

3. Key Impacts

- Empowers the next generation of naming professionals.
- Opens pathways for academic and civic engagement in toponymy.
- Sets a precedent for youth-inclusive policy in the region



The Korea Committee on Geographical Names (KCGN)
<https://www.ngii.go.kr/eng/main.do>



4g. Challenges

National reports that consider this topic (22):

Austria

Finland

Norway

Brunei Darussalam

Hungary

Poland

Cameroon

Iceland

South Africa

Canada

India

Spain

Chad

Indonesia

Sweden

Czechia

Japan

United States of America

*Democratic Republic of
the Congo*

Mauritania

New Zealand



THEME 4g: Challenges

CZECHIA

KLÁRA STEINEROVÁ

Geographer

28th April 2025



**United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)**

Working across multiple bodies

An example of naming a pond

Cooperating state bodies

Ministry of Agriculture
Forests of the CR

State Administration of Land
Surveying and Cadastre

Ministry of Regional Development

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Environment

Czech Statistical Office, etc.

Municipality

Návrh na standardizaci geografického názvosloví

Spisová značka: _____

Název se podává:
Názevové komisi Českého úřadu zeměměřičského a katastrálního
Pod sídlištěm 1800/9, 182 11 Praha 8

I. Úvodní část

Navrhujeme zápis: ☒ vzniku ☐ změny

- Název vodní nádrže nyní vedené dle centrální evidence vodních děl I.ČR s.p.: U školky Klášter
- Název vodní nádrže dle GEONAMES (ČUZK): bez názvu
- Návrh na standardizování názvu vodní nádrže: U školky Klášter

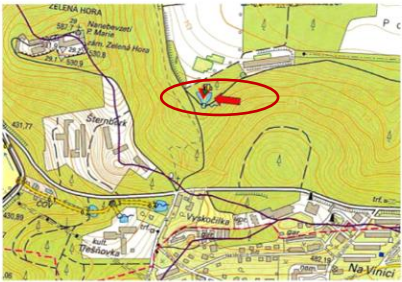
Identifikace vodní nádrže:

- Název vodního toku: ostatní vodní linie
- IDYT vodního toku: 12004092
- Dla. říční kilometr nádrže: 0,912
- Katastrální území: Klášter u Nepomuka, OBP: Nepomuk, Úřad: Plzeňský
- Souřadnice hrázce VN dle ČEVO (UTM): -911808.5 -1099624.5

Vyjádření orgánu státní správy nebo orgánu územní samosprávy, popřípadě instituce územní nebo věcné působnosti náleží vyjádřit se k návrhu jména geografického objektu

Ing. Tomáš Holmeister
vedoucí odboru vodního hospodářství

IV. Mapová vložení příloha



Secretariat of the Czech Commission on Geographical Names

Marie zeměd.

Formulář

Název: G: Vodní plocha blíže neurčená

Popis: Vodní plocha blíže neurčená

Info o prvku: Jezírko Klášter

Popisné atributy Vazby Přílohy Info o prvku Historie

Jméno: Jezírko Klášter

Schváleno: Ano

Nestand. jméno: U školky Klášter

Katastrální území: Klášter u Nepomuka

Obec: Klášter

Mapový list ZM10: 22-13-09

Mapový list ZTM10: 0503-A-23

Lokalizace: Klášter, okr. Plzeň-jih; Plzeňský kraj

Poznámka: jméno od Lesů ČR

Datum standardizace: 14.08.2020

Zkratka:

Velikost písma: 6

Gramatický rod: Nejistítuje se

Gramatické číslo: Nejistítuje se

Zdroj (původ) jména: Standardizace/aktualizace

Počet příloh: 0



United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

Any Questions



Conclusions

National Dialogue

