

24TH MEETING OF THE BALTIC DIVISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN)

Riga, Latvia, 15–17 April 2026

Kalpaka Boulevard 4 (building of the Institute of the Latvian Language of the University of Latvia), room 215, second floor



The event will be photographed and could be partly filmed

AGENDA

15th April, Wednesday – DAY ONE			
Hybrid meeting			
Time	Activities, presentations	Speaker	Institution
10.00–10.30	Registration / Opportunity to test equipment for online participants Exhibition setup / Coffee		
10.30–11.00	Opening of the Meeting	Mārtiņš Liberts Sanda Rapa Saulius Urbanas (online from Brussels)	Director General of Latvian Geospatial Information Agency Director, Latvian Language Institution, Latvian University Chairperson of the Division, Lithuania
11.00–11.25	Introductions with the delegations Group photo, congratulating Peeter Päll on the occasion of his 65th birthday, technical issues	Delegations Vita Strautniece	Latvian Geospatial Information Agency
	I. National standardization	(Chaired by Latvia)	
11.25–11.55	Report of Poland on the situation in the standardization of	Maciej Zych	Standardization of Geographical Names

	geographical names (for the period since the 23 rd Meeting of the Baltic Division in Vilnius, 2024)		Outside the Republic of Poland
11.55–12.25	Report of Estonia on the activities in the standardization of geographical names 2024–2026	Peeter Päll	Institute of the Estonian Language
12.25–12.55	Report of Latvia on the standardization of geographical names (for the period since the 23 rd Meeting of the Baltic Division in 2024)	Vita Strautniece	Latvian Geospatial Information Agency
12.55–14.45	<i>Lunch break (not organized)</i>		
	II. Minority, indigenous and regional place names	(Chaired by Poland)	
14.45–15.15	Collection and Use of Indigenous Livonian Place Names in Latvia	Valts Ernštreits	University of Latvia, Livonian Institute; Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) UNGEGN Liaison Officer to UNPFII and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL)
15.15–15.45	Place names of Russia’s minorities in Estonian usage	Peeter Päll	Institute of the Estonian Language
15.45–16.00	Brief on International Work Regarding Indigenous Place Names	Valts Ernštreits	University of Latvia, Livonian Institute; Member, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) UNGEGN Liaison Officer to UNPFII and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL)
16.00–16.15	On road signs in Livonian and written Latgalian (Videos)	Vita Strautniece	Latvian Geospatial Information Agency
16.15–16.45	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16.45–17.00	<i>Wrap off of the day one, discussion, organizational matters</i>	Vita Strautniece	Latvian Geospatial Information Agency
17.00	Introduction to the University of Latvia Place Name Card Index	Elīna Skreivere, Elīza Marija Rudzīte	Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia

16th April, Thursday – DAY TWO			
Hybrid meeting			
Time	Activities, presentations	Speaker	Institution
9.30–10.30	Introduction to the Exhibition of geographical names related materials	Delegations	
	III. National standardization, legislation, names authorities	(Chaired by Estonia)	
10.30–11.00	Report of Lithuania on the standardization of geographical names	Saulius Urbanas	Ministry of Environment, Lithuania
11.00–11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.30–12.00	Update on development of national legislation towards geodesy and spatial data	Saulius Urbanas	Ministry of Environment, Lithuania
	IV. Geographical names research, cultural-historical aspects	(Chaired by Poland)	
12.00–12.30	Kaunas Street Names Originating from Personal Names	Ilona Mickienė, Rita Baranauskienė	Vilnius University, Lithuania
12.30–13.00	From Voices to Forms: Collecting, Researching and Systematizing Geographical Names at the Latvian Language Institute	Sanda Rapa, Anta Trumpa	Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia
13.00–13.30	Commemorative place names in Estonia	Tiina Laansalu	Institute of the Estonian Language
13.30–15.00	<i>Announcements, Lunch break (not organized)</i>		
	V. Exonyms, Toponymic guidelines	(Chaired by Estonia)	
15.00–15.30	Two new publications prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: the list of Polish exonyms of buildings and other urban objects and the new edition of the toponymic guidelines	Maciej Zych	Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland
15.30–15.45	<i>Wrap off of the day two, discussion, announcements</i>	Vita Strautniece	
15.45–16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16.15–17.30	Organizational matters of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN: 1. Preparations for the 2027 UNGEGN session (Division report, country reports) 2. On continuation of the boycott of Russia	(Chaired by Chairman of the Baltic Division Saulius Urbanas, with support of Vita Strautniece, Peeter Päll, Maciej Zych and	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ideas for cooperation within the Division and beyond (in Working Groups etc.) 4. Organization of the next meeting 5. Adoption of the Minutes 	all members of Delegations)	
19.00	<i>Meeting Dinner – on invitations (foreign participants, presenters and authors, organizers and supporters) Restaurant “Kaļķu vārti”, Jauniela 20 (Old Riga)</i>		

17th April, Friday – DAY THREE

Visiting National Library of Latvia (Mūkusalas street 3; minivan for 6–7 persons can serve for getting there, if necessary). Meeting point: the Main Entrance

About the Library: <https://lnb.gov.lv/en>

Time	Activity	Speaker	Institution
11.00– 12.00	Overview excursion (guided tour, in English)	guide	National Library of Latvia
12.00– 13.00	Visiting Cartography branch of the Library	Linda Akmentiņa	National Library of Latvia
13.00	Free time in the Library, incl. possibility to visit exhibitions (https://lnb.gov.lv/en/news/izstades/), to walk additionally with audio guide, and/or to take lunch in the Library's café	–	