

**MINUTES of the 24th Meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
Riga (Latvia), 15-16 April, 2026**

1. The 24th Meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was organized by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency in collaboration with the Institute of the Latvian Language of the Latvian University and the National Library of Latvia, on 15-16 April, 2026.
2. Experts from four member states of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN took part in the meeting: Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Latvia. The representatives from the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre and EPC Orion kindly joined the meeting as observers by invitation. The hybrid meeting was attended by 49 participants (including 34 in person).
3. The participants of the meeting exchanged information and experience on the status of work on national standardization of geographical names, carried out in their countries including an overview of legislative and organizational frameworks; the status of updates of national geographical names (endonyms, exonyms); use of geographical names, national registries and Information systems, crowdsourcing of geographical names, names collection and investigation; promotion of names in minority languages and regional variety of official language, commemorative naming etc. The preparations for the forthcoming 2027 Session of UNGEGN was discussed, too.
4. 12 presentations were demonstrated and discussed. 2 videos on road signs in Livonian language and Latgalian written language (the regional variety of Latvian) were demonstrated.
5. The next 25th meeting of the Baltic Division will be organized in autumn of 2027 or in spring of 2028 in Estonia.
6. Participants decided to publish presentations and other documents of the 24th meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN on the website <http://eki.ee/knn/ungegn>. For the next meeting possibilities on using the UN-GEEN website to be explored.
7. Representatives of the participating countries expressed a desire for further communication, joint initiatives, exchange experience and to share best practice on UNGEGN and geographical names related matters. Closer collaboration with other UNGEGN Divisions like Norden, and WGs will be explored.
8. Representative of the participating countries maintain the joint statement by UNGEGN experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in response to the aggression against Ukraine, adopted on 21st March 2022 (see at: https://arhiiv.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/joint_statement_on_ukraine_2022_03.pdf). Since the circumstances are not changed and the brutal war of Russia against Ukraine is ongoing, participants agreed to continue the boycott of Russian Federation in the work of the Baltic division. Participants of the Meeting express their wholehearted support and solidarity with all Ukrainians and hope that peace will return to their homeland.
9. Representative of the participating countries maintain the joint statement by UNGEGN experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in response to the aggression against Ukraine, adopted on 21st March 2022. Since the circumstances are not changed and the brutal war of Russia against Ukraine is ongoing, participants agreed to continue the boycott of Russian Federation in the work of the Baltic division. Participants of the Meeting express their wholehearted support and solidarity with all Ukrainians and hope that peace will return to their homeland.
10. Representatives of the participating countries expressed a gratitude to the organizers of the 24th meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN – the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency, the Institute of the Latvian Language of the Latvian University and the National Library of Latvia.

Saulius Urbanas, Chairperson of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN

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