

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES STANDARDIZATION IN LATVIA

Activities since the 10th
Meeting of the Baltic
Division of UNGEGN

1

Geographical Names Authorities

Decision Makers

Parliament
and
Government

Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency
(LGIA)

Local
Governments

2

Geographical Names Authorities

Advisory and Scientific Bodies

State Language
Centre
Geographical Names
Sub-commission

Latvian University
• Institute of Latvian
Language
• Department of Baltic
Languages

3

Problems

- There is no centralized geographical names authority in Latvia, coordination between existing authorities is insufficient
- Geographical names experts' advice and control is not stated as obligatory
- Gap in legislation concerning the names on road signs
- Number of inexactly spelled or even wrong forms of names, included in officially approved lists and other authoritative sources
- Standardization of dialectal names

4

State Mapping Projects

Topographic Map

scale 1:50 000

131 sheet

1-st edition 1998 - 2007

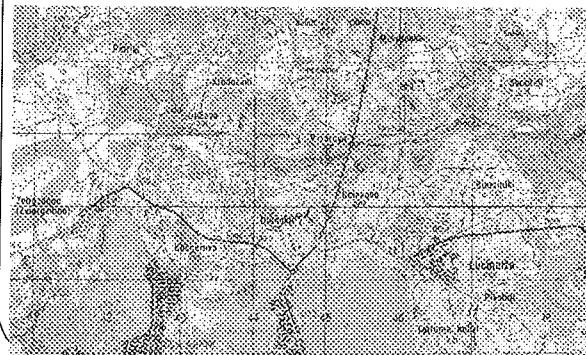
2-nd edition 2007 - 2010

(29 sheets already published)

toponymy is being
compiled by
Laboratory of
Toponymy

5

Topographic Map, scale 1:50 000



6

State Mapping Projects

Topographic Map

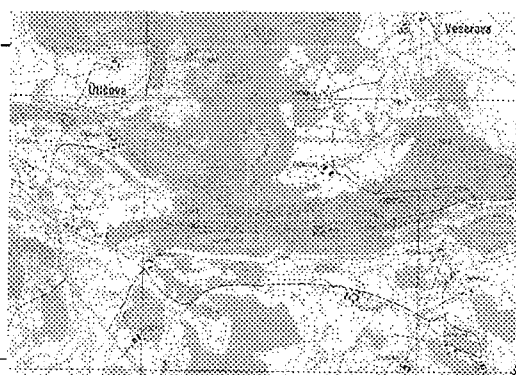
scale 1:10 000

180 sheets of 2557 are
published

toponymy is being
checked by
Laboratory of
Toponymy

7

Topographic Map, scale 1:10 000



State Mapping Projects

Overview map
scale 1:250 000

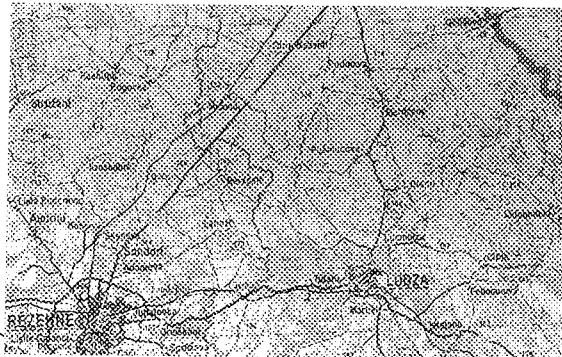
3 sheets

is going to be
published in 2008

toponymy is being
compiled from
sources of
Laboratory of
Toponymy

9

Overview map, scale 1:250 000



10

Private Mapping COVERS THE TERRITORY OF LATVIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

SIA "Karšu
izdevniecība
Jāņa sēta"

(Map Publishing
Company "Jāņa
Sēta")

- School maps and atlases
- Road maps
- Regional and tourist maps (Latvia, Lithuania, etc.)
- the "Great Atlas of the World" in Latvian (> 100 000 geographical names)
- new version of the CD-ROM "JS Baltija", containing all the latest maps of the Baltic states

11

Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia - contents

GNDB of Latvia 01.09.2008.

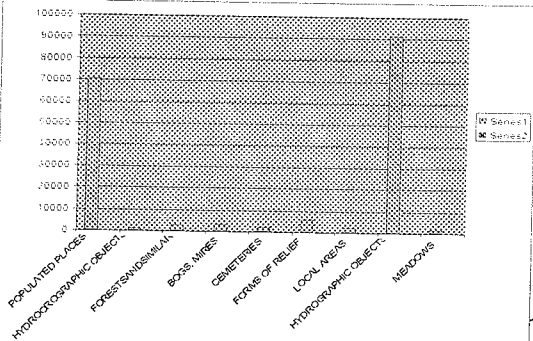
121 000 names
100 000 features

MS SQL Server+ MS Access →
ORACLE+ MS Access

LGIA, Department of Cartography

12

Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia - contents



Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia

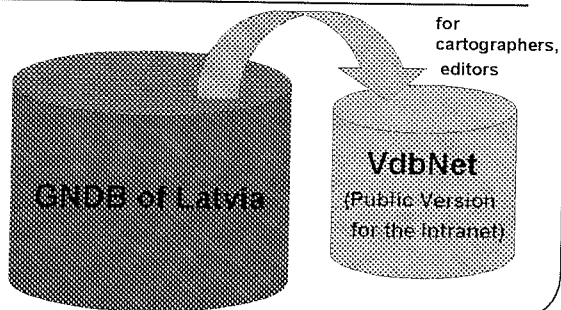
- Updating and revision of the information**

Main source – data from the Topographic Map M1:50 000
- Expanding the information**

Main sources – data from fieldwork and excerpted from literature

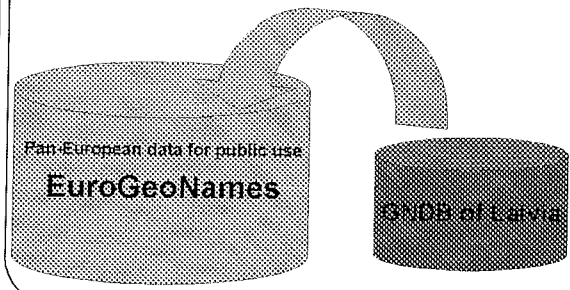
14

Geographical Names Data Bases



15

Geographical Names Data Bases - international collaboration



16

Significant toponymic data repositories besides the GNDB

- **Card Index of Place Names at the Institute of Latvian Language** (not computerized, more than 1 million entries)
- **State Register of Addresses** (officially approved identifiers for use in adressation)
public access: http://aris.vzd.gov.lv/aris_ts/ak/
(Latvian only, English version is under construction)

17

State Register of Addresses

- Contents, 01.09.2008.
 - 26 administrative districts
 - 77 cities, towns
 - 37 counties
 - 502 civil parishes
 - 7671 villages
 - 15 928 streets
 - 446 459 buildings and houses

18

Other significant toponymic data repositories

- Latvian and foreign geographical names data base of Map Publishing Company "Jāņa Sēta"
- **State Real Estate Register** (names of real estates)
- **Other state classifiers** (classifiers for water management etc.)

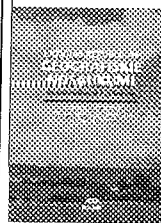
19

Concise Gazetteer of the Republic of Latvia, scale 1:1 000 000 (2003)

(Latvian and English)

Full updated version (01.09.2006.) – on the LGIA website:

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/geogr_nos_miljonai.pdf



the cartographic supplements:

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/rajoni_2-pielikums.pdf;

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/lv_fizgeo_pielik3.pdf;

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/lv_admin_pielik4.pdf.

20

Dictionaries of Geographical Names

“Latvijas ciemi. Nosaukumi, ģeogrāfiskais izvietojums”, (Villages of Latvia)

LGIA, 2007, 647p.

14 012 names of 8879 villages

on the basis of the Satellite Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000

Includes:

- recommendations for naming;
- toponymic synonyms, comments, elements of pronunciation;
- names in Livonian and Latgalian written languages

21

Dictionaries of Geographical Names

Local dictionaries

(1:25 000 to 1:10 000)

- Cover particular administrative or territorial unit
- Rich in information concerning the names and named features; as well as geography, history and culture of the territory.
- Cartographic supplements

22

Local Dictionaries of Geographical Names



Ruta Avotiņa “Staburaga pagasts”

- in collaboration of LGIA with the local government, 2007,
- 214 pages, cartographic supplement M 1:25 000
- Approx. 600 toponyms (names of 180 natural and cultural objects and 300 existing and former populated places)

23

Local Dictionaries of Geographical Names

“Liepas pagasts. Vietas un vārdi”

- in collaboration of LGIA with the local government, 2008, approx. 300 pages

24

Linguistic Dictionaries of Geographical Names

Latvijas vietvārdu vārdnīca, P (Pilaci – Pracapole), Rīga, 2006: Latviešu valodas institūts (Institute of Latvian Language)

Continuation of the:

Jānis Endzelīns *Latvijas PSR vietvārdi*, 2 parts

(A – O), 1959, 1961.

Whole dictionary would comprise 8-10 volumes

25

Country names, exonyms

The List of Country Names in Latvian updated in 2007 by the Sub-commission of Geographical Names of Latvian Language Commission, State Language centre, (not yet published)

Rules for rendering the proper names from the Chinese and Armenian are worked out by Latvian linguists

26

Exonyms

By the SIA "Apgāds "Jāņa sēta" :

- the database containing Latvian forms of more than 100 000 geographical names is created for the "Great Atlas of World";
- rules for rendering the geographical names of the World using IPA alphabet to create Latvian forms are being worked out for this project in collaboration with linguists

27

Normative Documents

Draft of the Place Names Law is prepared by the Sub-commission of Geographical Names of Latvian Language Commission, State Language centre

The Law will regulate

- the establishing and use of official geographical names
- maintenance of geographical names information,
- preservation of place names heritage (including valuable exonyms)

28

Normative Documents

Corrections of geographical names in Annexes to the Civil Law are prepared by the Sub-commission of Geographical Names, State Language Centre and LGIA in 2007-2008

Names in Classifier of Water bodies and Classifier of Water Management Units are checked and corrected by LGIA in collaboration with the Sub-commission of Geographical Names in 2007-2008

29

Normative Documents

- Maintenance of Geographical Names Database by the LGIA is officially stated by the Government
- Items concerning geographical names standardization are elaborated in strategic planning documentation of LGIA
- Chapter regarding geographical names standardization is elaborated in Concept of Development of Cartography of Latvia

30