Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Standardization of Geographical Names in Latvia, 2018-2019

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(The information from other institutions, submitted by Sanda Rapa, Nat lija Avoti a, Agris Timuška, I nita V tola, is included)

The Main Topics

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

1. Legislation and names authorities

2. Geographical names collection, maintenance and data distribution → data bases, registers and other repositories, dictionaries

3. Geographical names in cartography

4. Exonyms and renderings

5. Links

Legal Basis
(the main legislative acts)

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LAWS
- The State Language Law (language of geographical names in Latvia)
- The Geospatial Information Law (geographical names in cartography and geospatial data, geographical names database)
- Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas (procedures of naming AT units and populated places)

Amendments to this law is being discussed by Parliament now. The main goal of them – expanding the criteria for recognizing official villages **to fit also small settlements with disperse built-up areas, not having specific urban elements. This allows to keep more than 4000 disperse populated places registered in the National Address Register**

Legal Basis
(the main legislative acts)

REGULATIONS OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

- Regulations on Toponymic Information - «summary» of geographical names standardization principles and procedures for Latvia (in force from 04.02.2012, amended in 2013 and 2018)
- Regulations on Addressing - specifies principles and procedures for naming of address features (in force from 11.12.2015, (Regulations on System of Addressation 2009-2015)

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Names Authorities – decision makers (no changes since 2013)

Parliament, Government → names of cities and upper level administrative units

ministries and state institutions → names of the features they are responsible for (e.g. Ministry of Transportation is responsible for roads and road names)

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency → names of natural features, excluding those important for maritime navigation

all local (or self-) governments → names of villages, homesteads, farms, factories, cemeteries, parks, ponds, reservoirs and other man-made features

Supervision of the geographical names standardization

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State Language Centre ➡ gives conclusions binding for authorities approving official names, the Geographical Names Sub-commision (linguists, geographers and cartographer) evaluates official name proposals and complaints, drafts conclusions etc.)

In 2019:
1) Continuoous work upon conclusion for Latvian Geospatial Information Agency regarding the **official names proposals for ~300 nature features;**

2) **204 conclusions** are prepared and submitted to local governments regarding the official names proposals: 1 village name, **11 street names, 3 park names,290 real estate names, 22 adress feature names** **(only ~25% of local governments have sent at least 1 request for conclusions in 2018-2019)**

Names Authorities – advisors, consultants, reserchers

Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency
(LGIA)

→ some particular directions of geographical names standardization (e.g conclusions on geospatial identity of place name)

Latvian Language
institute, University
of Latvia

→ research on linguistic aspects of geographical names (semantic, ethymology, spelling…), toponymic education

State Language
Agency

→ consulting and educational body

Public webpage of State Language Agency
https://www.valodaskonsultacijas.lv/ since 2018 provides answers on different questions on spelling and pronunciation in Latvian, including **spelling and pronunciation of geographical names**

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Geographical Names Collection

Names
collection ➡

- excerption from literature, maps, unpublished materials etc.
- decisions of names authorities
- field work (very limited amount, occasionally)
- new approach:

crowd sourcing (electronic Tautas vietv rdu datub ze, Latvian Language Institute, Latvian University, since 2017 https://vietvardi.lv/talka/, more than 5000 names already collected)

Data
maintenance ➡ electronic systems (registers, databases, only one significant card file)

The main Latvian Geographical Names Data Repositories

Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Place Names Database – at Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Latvian Place Name Card Index (or Card File) – at Latvian Language institute, University of Latvia

National Address Register – at State Land Service

Other initiatives maintaining specific data but containing a significant amount of geographical names – Register of Cadastre, Latvian and foreign geographical names database of «J   a s ta Map Publishers» (no public access), upes.lv, ezeri.lv, melioracija.lv, historia.lv, Zudus Latvija (zudusilatvija.lv) etc.

Latvian Geograpical Names Database

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

maintained by Latvian Geospatial Information Agency:

**171 000 names for 127 000 features (on September 2019)
serves needs of cartography, natural feature names standardization, research
work in applied toponymy, geograpphical names data dissemination**

Location of names related features is characterized by coordinates of the point and areal
objects centres, and mouths of flowing water features.
Besides that:
- named flowing water features are characterized by rough geometries (lines)
- drawing of named areal feature geometries (willages, forests, bogs) launched in 2013,
  continues

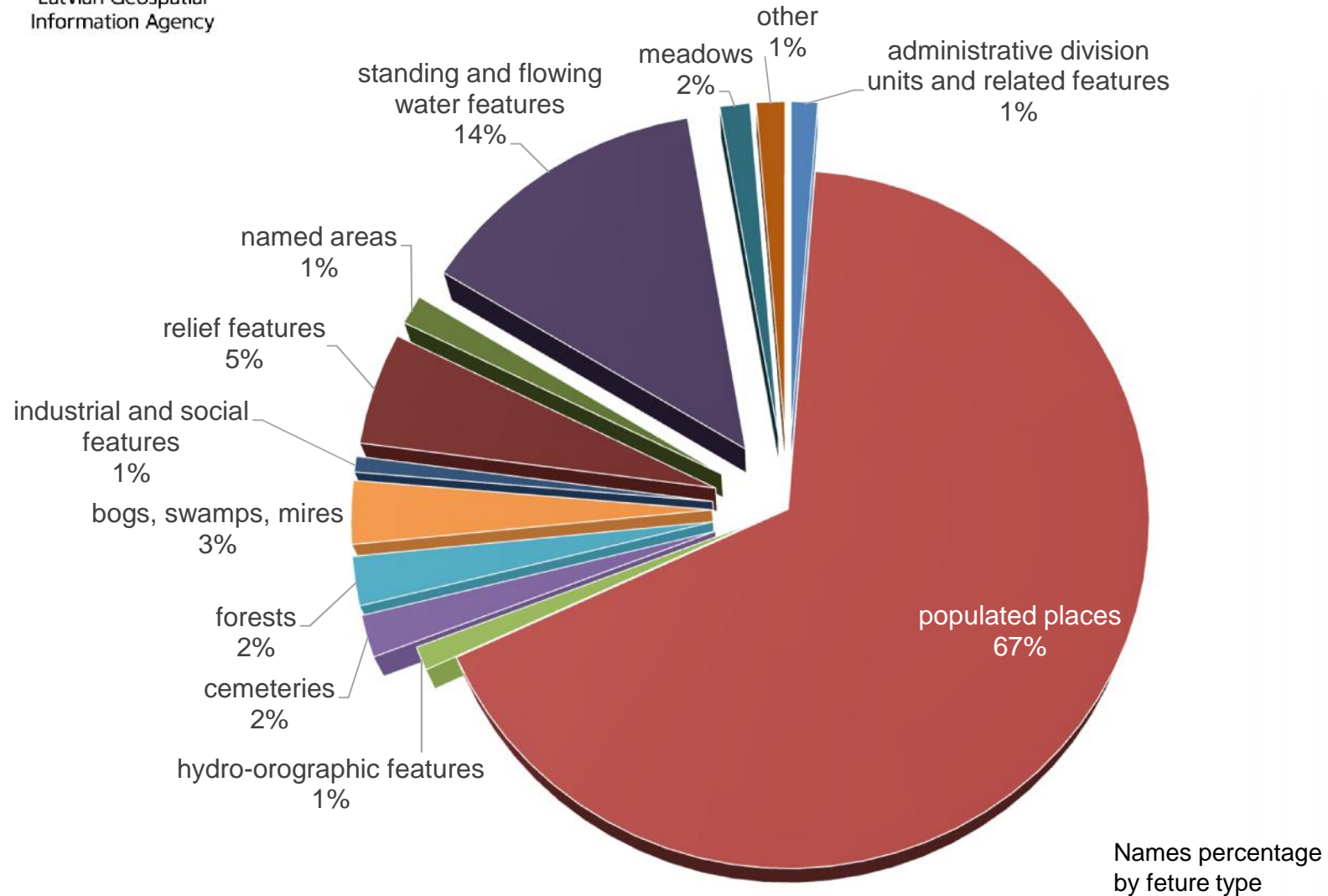**Short public version on the Web (Edition 8)**
https://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv
olffers access to **< 135 000 names of <101 000 features** located in
territory of Latvia, conspective related information
(user interface in Latvian only)

Latvian Geograpical Names Database - Contents

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- other 1%
- meadows 2%
- administrative division units and related features 1%
- standing and flowing water features 14%
- named areas 1%
- relief features 5%
- industrial and social features 1%
- bogs, swamps, mires 3%
- forests 2%
- cemeteries 2%
- hydro-orographic features 1%
- populated places 67%

Names percentage by feture type

National Adress Register

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maintained by the State Land Service,
Includes official names of:

all administrative and territorial units -110 counties,
497 civil parishes, 76 cities and towns;

6.312 villages (number of officially recognized
villages is decreasing);

17.837 streets;

223.431 houses, other buildings and land units
intended for buildings (data on September 10, 2019)

Search is available on the Data Distribution Portal of the
State Land Service of Latvia: https://www.kadastrs.lv

(in Latvian and English)
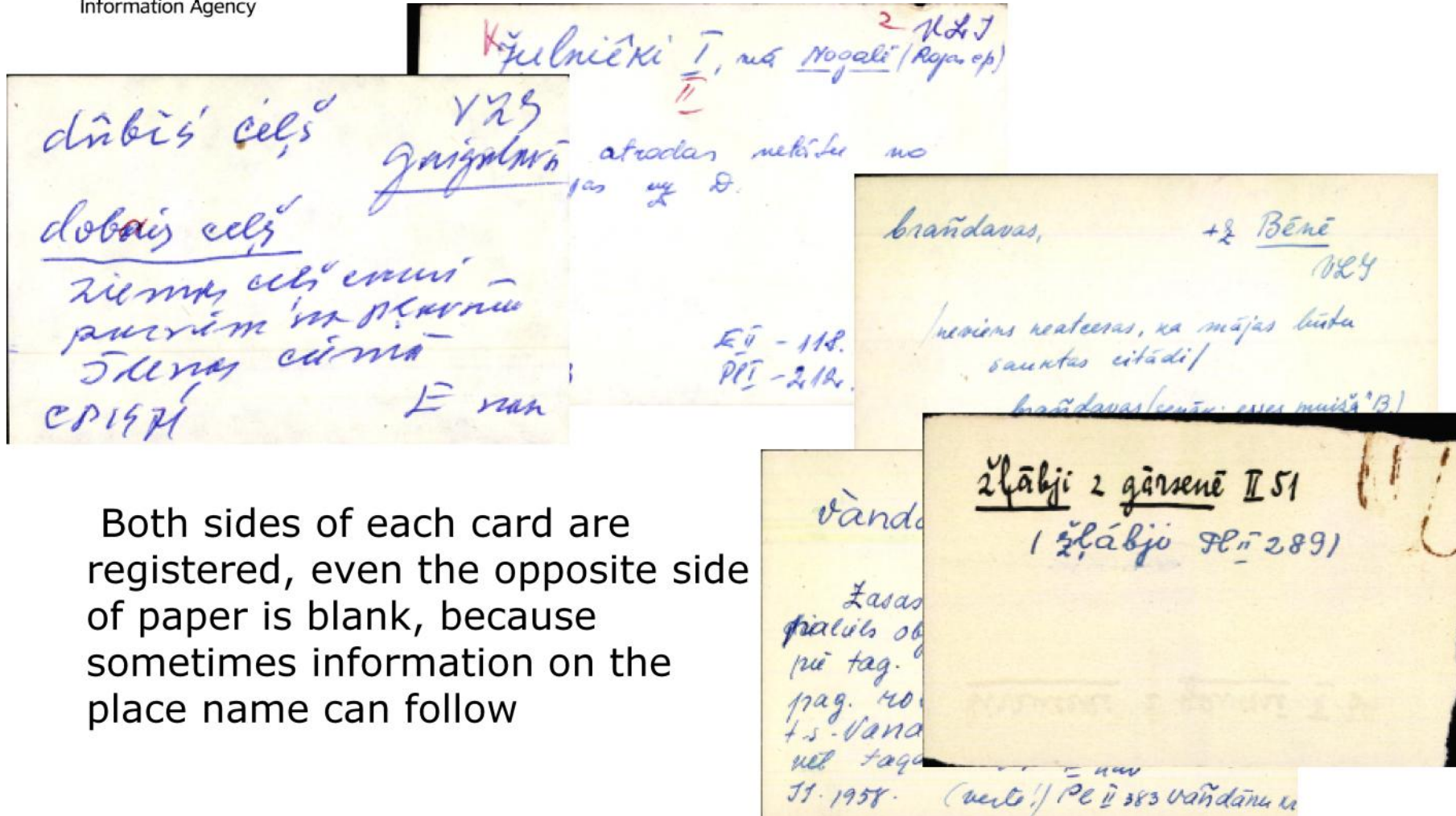
Latvian Place Name Card Index (or card file)

(approximately 1 000 000 domestic geographical name, collected since the very beginning of 19th century,) is maintained by Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia (no public access)

Digitized basic part of the Card Index - 842 000 scanned place names cards - is available now for scientific research and place names standardization purposes now - by the request

Latvian Place Name Card Index – card examples

Both sides of each card are registered, even the opposite side of paper is blank, because sometimes information on the place name can follow

Latvian Place Names Dictionary – new volumes on « S»

The manuscript of new volume of the linguistic dictionary « Latvijas vietv rdu v rdn ca» (Latvian Place Names Dictionary, in Latvian) comprising toponyms "Sgajevski-Slazduv ris", is going to be completed by the Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia

15,000 place names of the Latvian Place Names Card index are compiled and processed, supplementing from other sources is continuing

The Electronic Historical Latvian Dictionary, containing place names

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

http://www.korpuss.lv/senie/

maintained by University of Latvia

(http://www.tezaurs.lv/lvvv), based on the "Corpus of Early Written Latvian Texts" is open to public since 2017. More than 480 historical proper names from historical sources are already included in the dictionary, the excerption of proper names is continuing.

 Search querry for <u>place names </u>is nloc. 'nomen loci'

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Eeducational events - popularization of toponymy and geographical names standardization

- **Place Names Day – yearly since 2016**

- **Place Names Lesson in National Library 2019**

- **Place Names Evening 2019, in framework of Language Evenings, organized by Latvian Language Agency**

Names in Cartography – Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Names from the Geographical Names Database (official and unofficial) and from the National Register of Addresses (official names) are used

Main cartographic projects:

Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000 – the 3rd cycle (since 2012) is going to be completed in 2020

Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:10 000 – the 4th cycle (since 2017) is going now, 43 % of sheets are completed.

 Accordingly with the Regulations of Toponymic Information and relevant UNSSGN resolution on standardization of place names what they are in local use, a lot of toponyms in adapted local and dialectal forms are usedon maps

Map Browsers Offering Names Search

Map Browser of the Latvian Geospatial information Agency offers geographical names search on latest maps of Latvia prepared by the Agency (in various scales -

1: 1 000 000 - 1:10 000).

The Geographical Names Database data, Address Register data and toponymic layer from the Topographic Map, scale 1:10 000, can be used for the search

Rough linear geometries of water streems from the Geographical Names Database also are available there

Map Browsers Offering Names Search

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

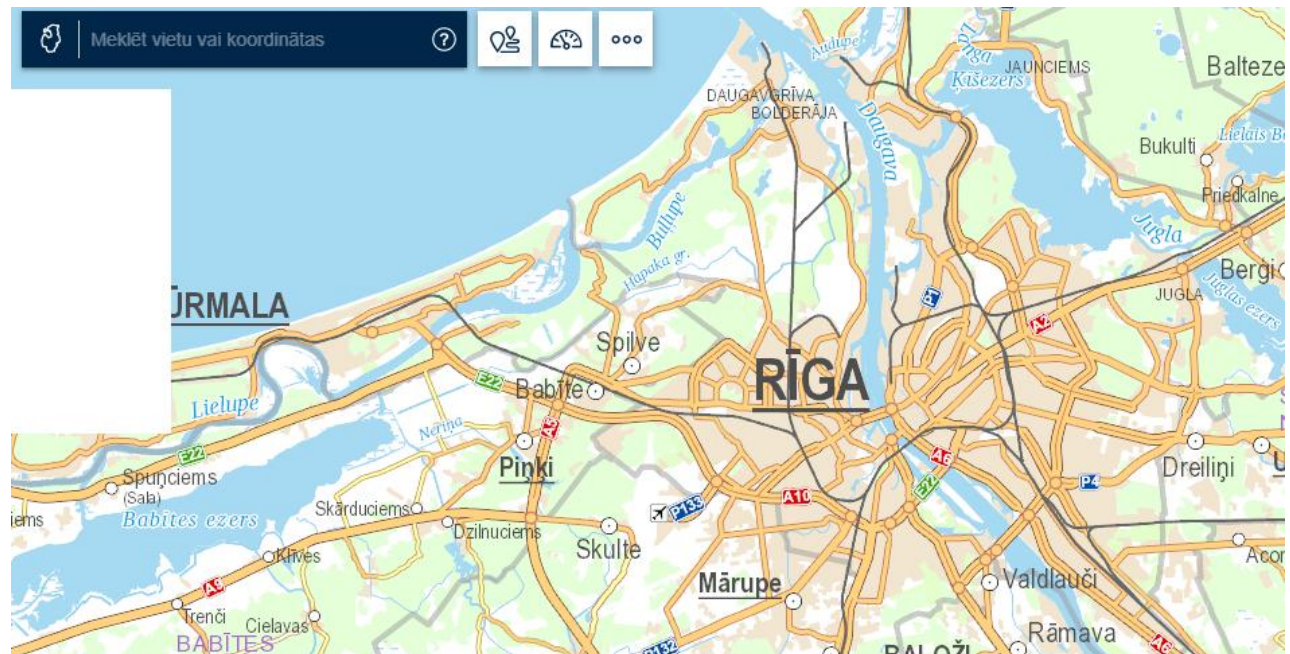Map Browser of the Latvian Geospatial information Agency
- the public version: https://kartes.lgia.gov.lv/karte/

Map Browsers Offering Names Search

J   a S ta Map Browser Balticmaps, covering Latvia and European countries (geographical names are presented only in original languages - in original script (if Latin) or translitered (if Cyrillic)

Available at: http://balticmaps.eu

Exonyms and renderings

Exonyms and Latvian renderings are vitally necessary for communication in Latvian by reason the Latvian is a flexive language. Besides that exonyms are a part of our cultural history.

Examples of traditional exonyms:

Mõisaküla   Meizakila

Peipsi järv   Peipusa ezers

Naujoji Akmen   Jaunakmene

Klykoli tvenkinys   Vadakstes denskr tuve

Peipusa ezers

Somu j ras I cis

Database of Exonyms and Renderings

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The largest in Latvia database of exonyms and renderings - Latvian and foreign geographical names database is maintained by private cartographic enterprise «J   a s ta Map Publishers» (not available for public)

It contains 218 000 geographical names in their original languages with exonyms and renderings: 91 000 - into Latvian, 34 000 – into Estonian, 14 000 into Lithuanian, 10 000 into Russian

USEFUL LINKS

Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

1. Official Language Law (Valsts valodas likums
2. 2. Geospatial Information Law (eotelpisk s inform cijas likums)
3. Regulations Regarding Geographical Names Information (Vietv rdu inform cijas noteikumi)
4. Regulations of the Addressing (Adres cijas noteikumi)
5. <u>Data on administrative and territorial division of Latvia</u> - Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas (Administrat vo teritoriju un apdz voto vietu likums) with Annexes: 1 (list of cities), 2 (list of municipalities and the territorial divisional units thereof), 3 (schematic map of cities and municipalities 2010 - 2011)

All these legislative acts are accessible at: https://likumi.lv/

SOME USEFUL LINKS

6. Geographical Names Database of Latvia (Latvijas vietv rdu datub ze), public version, in Latvian only, accessible at: https://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv/

7. Country Names in Latvian, accessible at: https://www.101languages.net/latvian/country-names-latvian/

8. LGIA Map Browser (LGIA Karšu p rl ks), in Latvian only: https://kartes.lgia.gov.lv/karte/

10. J a S ta Map Browser Balticmaps (in Latvian, English and Russian): https://www.balticmaps.eu/

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Further and/or more detailed information could be obtained from:

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Agris Timuška - Deputy Director of the State Language Centre (e-mail: info@vvc.gov.lv)

J nis Turlajs - J a s ta Map Publishers (e-mail: kartes@kartes.lv)

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