



Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Report of Latvia on the Standardization of Geographical Names

(for the period since the 23rd Meeting of the Baltic Division in 2024)

The 24th Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN
Riga 15-16 April 2026

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Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Geographical Names Authorities

Controlling and advisory

State Language Centre:

Latvian Language Experts Board

- *Place Names Sub-commission*
- *Latgalian Written Language Sub-commission*

Livonian Language Experts Board

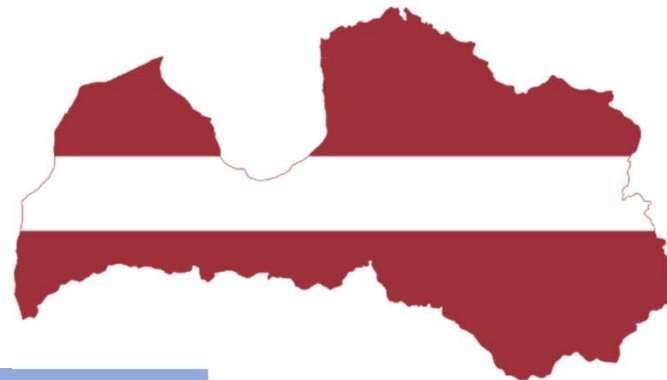
Decision making

Parliament and Government

Relevant ministries

All municipalities

Latvian Geospatial Information Agency



Consulting and scientific

Latvian Language Institute of
the University of Latvia

Livonian Institute of
the University of Latvia

Latvian Language Agency



Legislation Basis – no changes

- Official Language Law
- Geospatial Information Law
- Regulations Regarding Geographical Names Information (Regulations on Toponymic Information)

- Law on Latvian Historical Lands
- Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas
- Regulations on Addressing



Approval of Official Names

A conclusion of the State Language Centre is required for the approval of official names for all kinds of geographical features - since March 2018

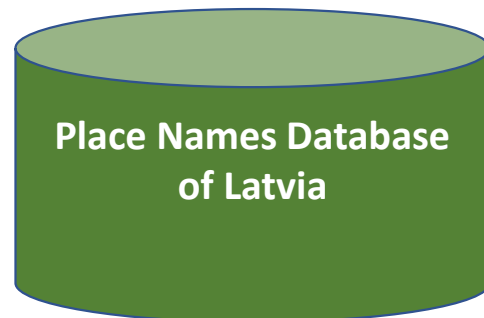
The State Language Centre continues working on conclusions regarding the official name proposals for natural features submitted by the Latvian Geospatial Agency: 9 conclusions covering 572 names of natural features were issued in the period October 2024 – March 2026

Large number of opinions (more than 1-2 thousands per year) are issued on other official names proposals, e.g. names for real estates, land properties, addressing features etc.) submitted by responsible place name authorities (mainly by municipalities)



Names in State Cartography

Sources of names for maps, used by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency:



The richest in geographical names is the **Topographic Map of Latvia (scale 1:10,000)** (2792 sheets) - all kinds of place names except names of orographic features (since orography is prepared as a separate data layer)

It contains a total of **216,306 place-name labels (average: 77.5 name labels per sheet)**

The 4th edition is completed in October 2025. Digital version only. Available in the Map Browser of the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency since the end of March 2026

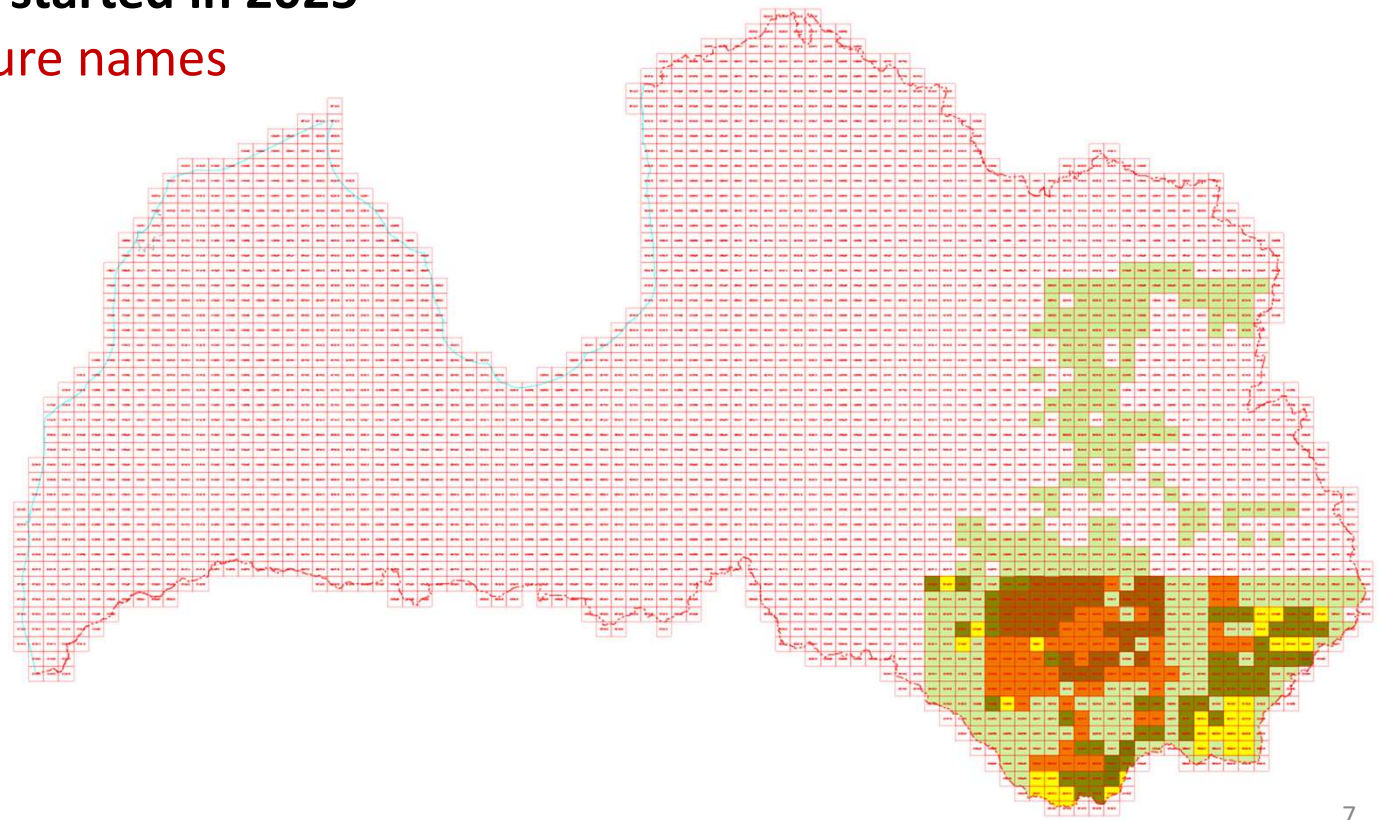


Names in State Cartography

The 5th edition of the **Topographic Map of Latvia (scale 1:10,000)**
started in 2025

Includes orographic feature names

A cartographic scheme shows the production progress of the TOPO10 5th edition up to 31 March 2026





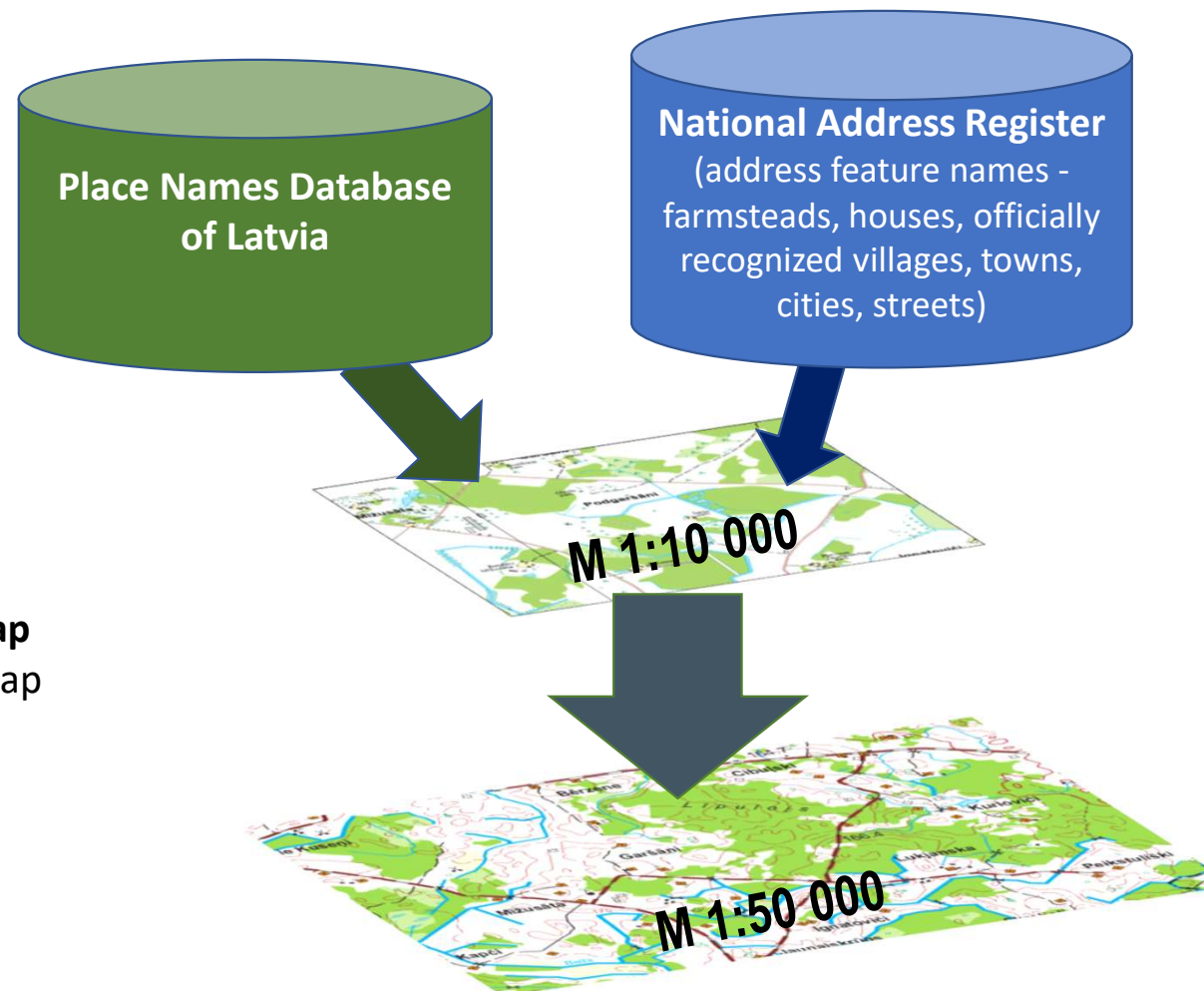
Latvijas Ģeotelpiskās
informācijas aģentūra

Names in State Cartography

From 2026:

On the Topographic map (scale 1:50,000) place names are used in accordance with the 4th edition of the Topographic map (scale 1:10,000)

On the basis of the **Topographic Map (scale 1:10,000)** the Topographic Map (scale 1:50,000) is being prepared



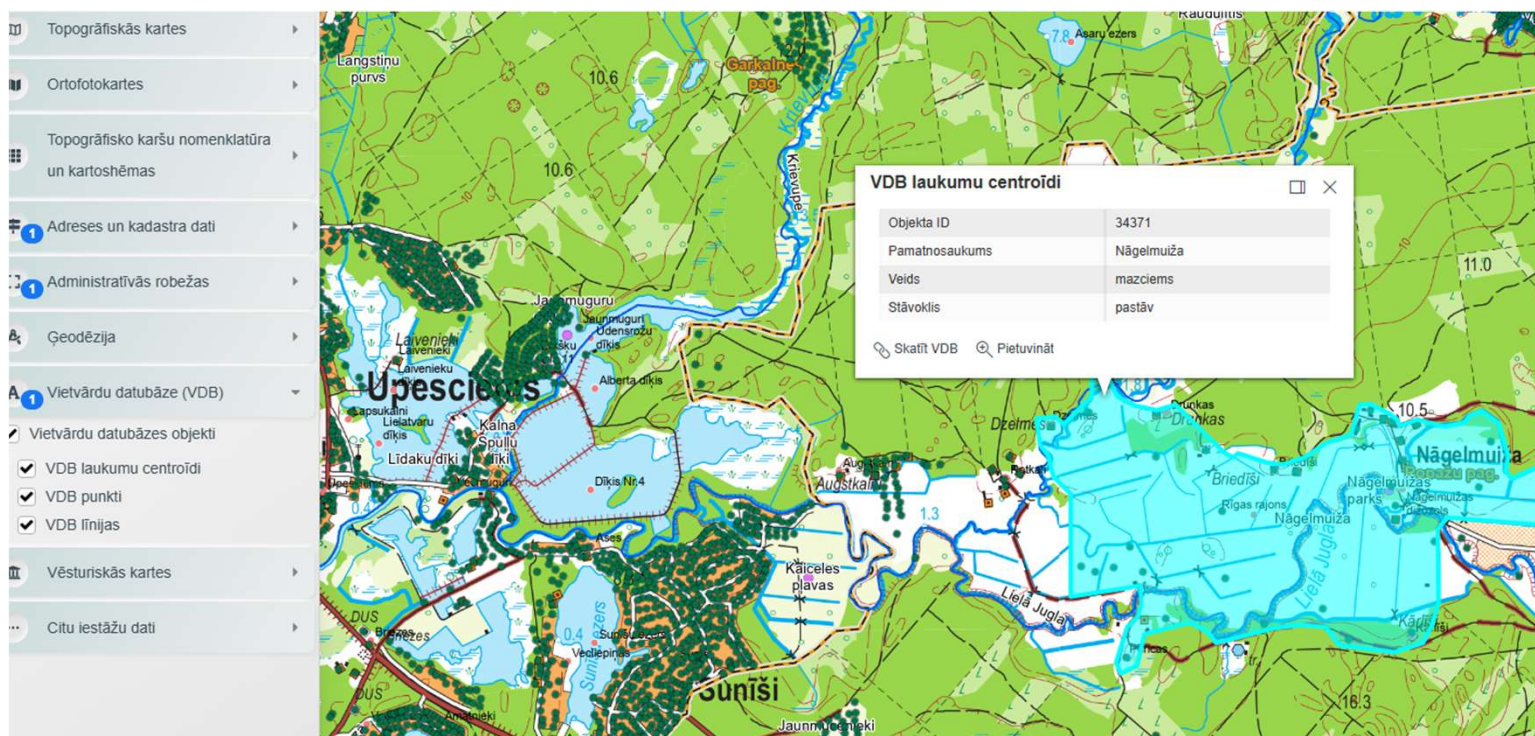


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Names in State Cartography - Map Browser “LĢIA Karšu Pārlūks”

Map Browser “LĢIA Karšu Pārlūks” (<https://kartes.lgia.gov.lv>) – search and viewing geographical names on maps of Latvia, prepared by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency scales 1: 1,000,000 - 1:10,000, the central part of Riga 1: 2,000

- names and approximate geometries from the **Place Names database**
- address feature names, administrative and territorial unit names and borders - from the **National Address Register**



More about the Browser: <https://www.lgia.gov.lv/en/map-browser>



Latvian Geospatial
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Names in Private Cartography

The private cartography and geospatial intelligence solutions company **SIA “Jāņa sēta”** (Jāņa sēta Ltd) is **the only enterprise in Latvia preparing world and national atlases and cartographic editions for schools** (editions for different age groups in Latvian and Estonian)

The **map viewer “BalticMaps”** (<http://www.balticmaps.eu>), maintained by the company, offers geographical names search on maps prepared by “Jāņa sēta Ltd” and other sources

Geographical names are presented in the original languages (in the original script if Latin, or romanized), in atlases on school maps names are rendered into Latvian

The map portal **“BalticMaps”** provides geographical names also in the Livonian language along with the user interface in Livonian





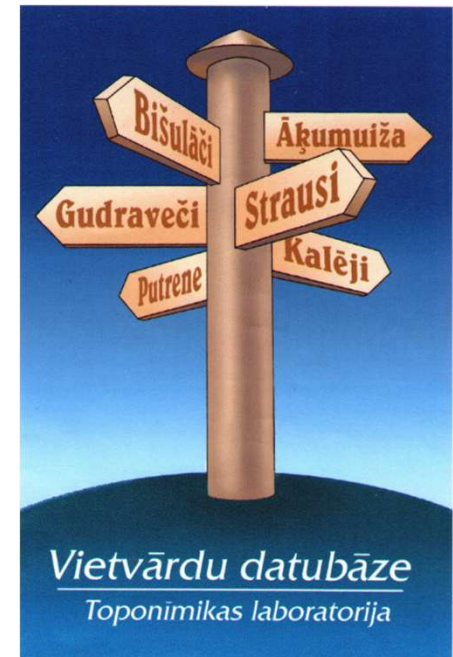
Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Development of Geographical Names Databases, Registers

The public version of the Place Names Database of Latvia (maintained by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency) :

- covers only the territory of Latvia
- contains **132 000 place names linked to 114 600 geographical features**
- has an English interface

*External database data have been supplemented with two attributes required by the INSPIRE data specification for geographical names: **grammatical gender and number** (for preferred and official names)*





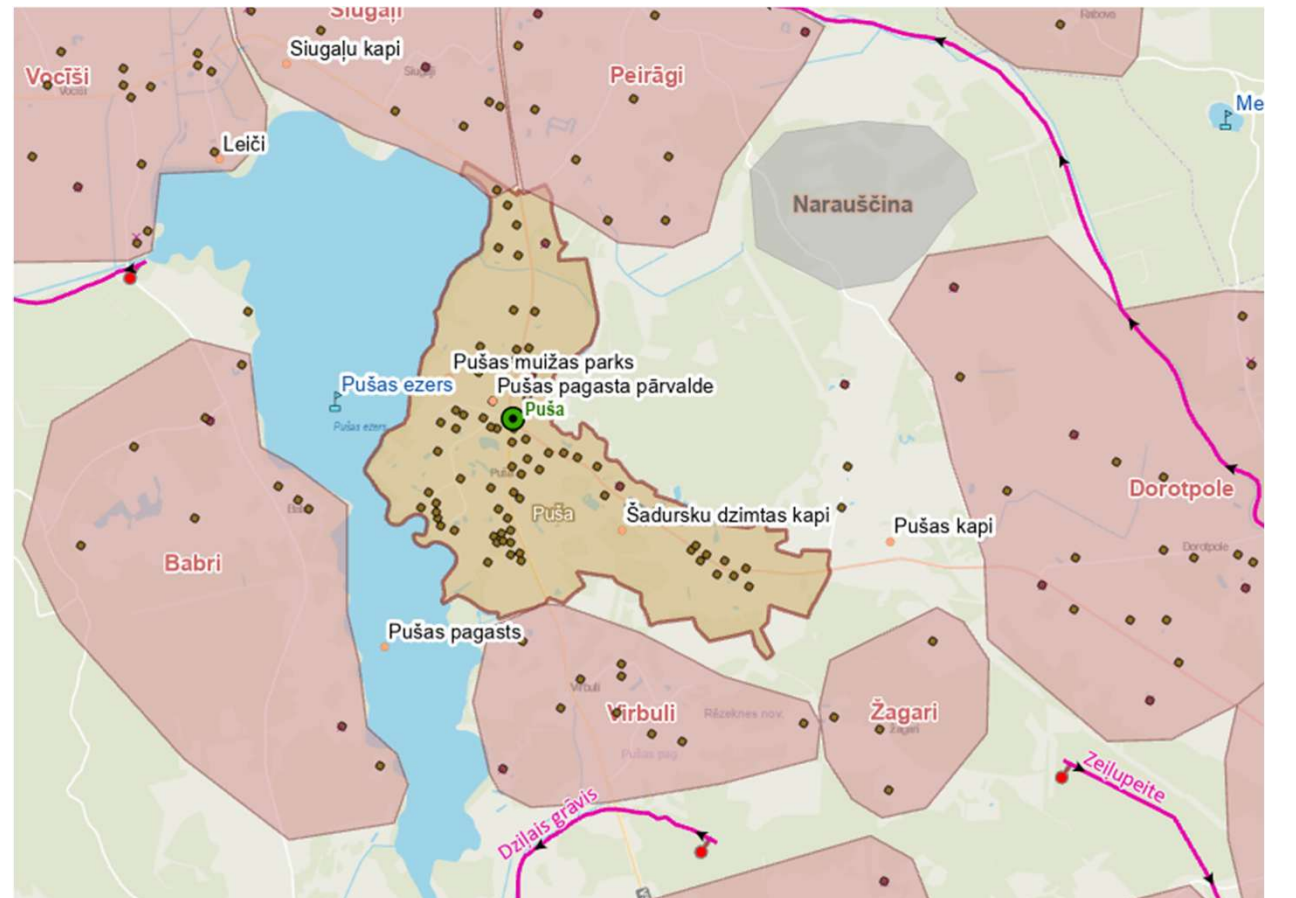
Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Development of Geographical Names Databases, Registers

Place Names Database of Latvia – textual and graphic information on geographical names

Graphic data:

- points
- lines (approximate, manually drawn)
- areas (approximate, manually drawn)
- geometries replicated from the Address Register (address points, city and official village boundaries)





Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Development of Geographical Names Databases, Registers

The **National Address Register**, maintained by the State Land Service for 25 years, includes:

- names of all administrative territories and territorial units of Latvia (35 counties, 511 civil parishes, 81 cities and towns)
- 6,263 officially recognized villages (including 1,352 villages and 4,911 small villages)
- 19,119 streets
- 221,210 houses, as well as other buildings and land units intended for construction (data as of January 1, 2026)

A name search on the State Land Service data distribution portal is available at: <https://www.kadastrs.lv/> (interface in Latvian and English).

The portal also provides search for real estate names.

The textual and spatial data cover the entire territory of Latvia.

The Address Register data is the most widely used dataset on the Latvian Open Data Portal





Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Development of Geographical Names Databases, Registers

The Latvian Place Names Card Index at
Latvian Language Institute, University of
Latvia - both in paper and electronic
(scanned) versions - serves for scientific
research and place names standardization

It remains the most important source for
compiling the multi-volume **linguistic
Latvian Place Names Dictionary**

Crowdsourcing tool for collaborative
collecting Latvian place names
(<https://vietvardi.lu.lv>) is also maintained by
the Latvian Language Institute





Latvian Geospatial
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Toponymic Gazetteers and Dictionaries

Geographical place names **dictionary "Lakes of Latvia. Līvāni and Preiļi counties"** comprising names of lakes and reservoirs published by LGIA on 2023 as a .pdf file is being elaborated now

Free download of the initial version at:

https://www.lgia.gov.lv/sites/lgia/files/document/VARDNICA_Preili-Livani%20-%20gatavs_0.pdf

Part of printed edition of the previous dictionary - **Lakes of Krāslava county** was donated to the municipality in 2026 - for use in parish administrations, libraries, and tourism centers

Stūponu ezers [uo], *Stuponu ezers* [uo], *Stupānu ezers*, *Stuponka* [o], latg. *Stūpuonu azars* – Rušonas pag., 4,5 km Z no Kastīres, pie Stūponiem. Pl. 31,1 ha. 1 sala.
VVC ieteikums 2023 Stūponu ezers [uo], vietējā forma Stūpuonu azars; ŪTK 2023 Stūponu ezers; LŪ V 35 Stupānu, Stupāna, Stupankas, Stupanku, Kavčara, Kavčaru ez.; Inv. 1784 Ступаны на бер. оз. Ступана; Karte 1785 озе: Ступанъ; Karte 1866 оз. Луддо; Karte 1915 оз. Худдо; Spis. 1906 Ступаны при оз. Кавчаре; LT75 Kaučaru ez.; LME I 554 Stupānu ez.; T25 оз. Каучер; T10 оз. Кавчар (Ступану); Pag.k. 1990 Stupānu ez.; Ld V 165 Stupānu ezers; S50 Stūponu ezers; Lpag II 295 Stūponu ezers; Sar. 2009 Stūponu ezers; Eksped. 1996 Stūponu ezers [uo], Stuponka [o], latg. Stūpuonu azars.





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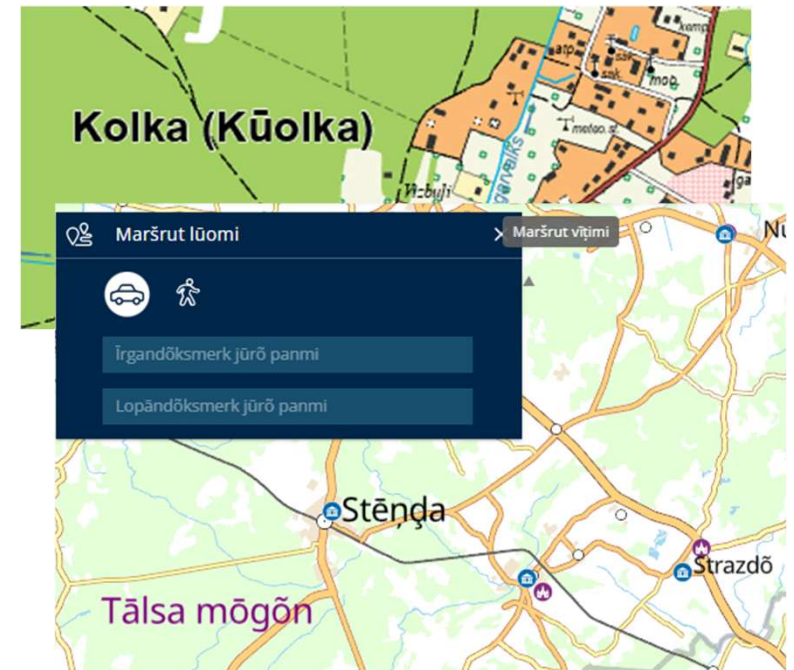
Promotion of Minority Group and Indigenous Geographical Names

The road signs featuring place names in Livonian and Latgalian Written Language – (started in Livonian Coast and Latgale in 2023) continued in 2024, 2025, 2026

The first road sign outside the Livonian Coast was installed in Sigulda municipality, marking the Aģe (Livonian: Aģjoug) river and bringing Livonian road signs also to other historical areas of Livonian

Livonian Institute has created and maintains a **database of Livonian place names** with 1,566 Livonian place names and a Livonian place names map. Public version of the database and the map both are accessible at: <https://livonian.tech/en/> (map – also on *balticmaps.eu* Livonian place name layer)

Livonian Institute is active in international collaboration: UNGEGN Focus Group on Indigenous Geographical Names, liaison for relations of UNGEGN, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Global Task Force for making the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (UN)





Latvian Geospatial
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Place Names Days

Regional Place Names Days organized by the Latvian Language Institute of the University of Latvia in collaboration with Latvian Geospatial Information Agency, local governments etc. continued in 2025 with a Language Day 2023 in Kurzeme, Nīca parish (south-west of Latvia)

Local youth and seniors participated actively in collection of place names and dialectal words.



Photo from: <https://vidusskola.nica.lv/lv/aktualitates/valodas-diena-nica/>



Photo from:
<https://www.facebook.com/Nicasvidusskola/posts/pfbid01EKLTJsFAjfNyHtgH9PzjSAr6eCGYcuQ4ei8wTvbkeEe5LZ4DtkZkAozjTcLXAcxI>



Exonyms

1. Consultations on the spelling of foreign geographical names are provided by the Language Development Department of the Latvian Language Agency. The public webpage <https://www.personvarduatveide.lv/>, also maintained by the Latvian Language Agency, offers rendered foreign personal and geographical names
2. The Latvian Language Agency has issued **guidelines on rendering Albanian and Romanian proper nouns in Latvian**. Both contain recommendations on the rendering of geographical names as well:
 - Dimiņš, Dens. Ieteikumi albāņu īpašvārdu atveidei latviešu valodā. *Valodas prakse: vērojumi un ieteikumi*. Populārzinātnisku rakstu krājums. Nr. 20. Atb. red. V. Šaudiņa. Rīga: Latviešu valodas aģentūra, 2025, 159.–187. lpp.
 - Dimiņš, Dens. Ieteikumi rumāņu īpašvārdu atveidei latviešu valodā. *Valodas prakse: vērojumi un ieteikumi*. Populārzinātnisku rakstu krājums. Nr. 20. Atb. red. V. Šaudiņa. Rīga: Latviešu valodas aģentūra, 2025, 188.–226. lpp.





Latvian Geographical Names data dissemination

Useful links: Geographical names and maps of Latvia

- 1) Place Names Database of Latvia (new public version): <https://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv/>
- 2) Database and Map of Livonian Place Names: <https://livonian.tech/en/> Standardized Names of Countries and Territories in Latvian (including capital cities): <https://www.vvc.gov.lv/lv/media/152/download?attachment>
- 3) Data distribution portal of State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia (National Real Estate Cadastre information system and State (National) Address Register): <https://www.kadastrs.lv/>
- 4) Latvian Geospatial Information Agency Map Browser (LĢIA Karšu Pārlūks) <https://kartes.lgia.gov.lv/> and services: <https://www.lgia.gov.lv/en/services>
- 5) Crowdsourcing platform of Institute of Latvian Language: <https://vietvardi.lu.lv>
- 6) Cadastre of Amelioration: <https://melioracija.lv/> (with search for watercourse names from Place Names Database of Latvia)
- 7) Digital map collection of the Latvian National Library with Georeferenced map viewer (maps from 17th century to contemporary): <https://kartes.lndb.lv/>
- 8) Dodies.lv historical map portal: <https://vesture.dodies.lv/> (with search for place names from Place Names Database of Latvia)
- 9) “Jāņa Sēta, Ltd” Map Browser Balticmaps: <https://balticmaps.eu/> (the Livonian place names layer is added)
- 10) Tool for place names rendering "Burtnieks« by “Jāņa Sēta, Ltd” <https://burtnieks.kartes.lv/>
- 11) JSC Latvia’s State Forests (LVM) Map Browser: <https://www.lvmgeo.lv/en/maps>



Latvian Geospatial Information Agency



follow

<https://www.lgia.gov.lv/en>



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