



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Standardization of Geographical Names in Latvia, 2015-2016

Vita Strautniece

Head of the Laboratory of Toponymy

(The information from other institutions, submitted by **Sanda Rapa**,
Jānis Karro, **Agris Timuška**, **Jānis Turlajs**, is included)

The 18th Meeting of the Baltic Division of the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)
Saint Petersburg, August 23 – 25, 2016





Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

The Main Topics

- 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**



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Legal Basis

(the main legislative acts)

LAWS

- The State Language Law
- The Geospatial Information Law
- Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas

REGULATIONS OF THE CABINET OF MINISTERS

- Regulations on Toponymic Information
- Regulations on Addressing (on December 2015 succeeded the previous – *Regulations on the System of Addressing*)



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Informative report on geographical names information

In 2015/2016 the situation on the field of geographical names information was analyzed by involved ministries and other institutions in order to compile an **informative report including proposals for elaboration of relevant legislative acts.**

The draft Report is under consideration now.



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

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)

**all local (or self-)
governments**



names of villages, homesteads, farms, factories, cemeteries, parks, ponds, reservoirs and other man-made features

**Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency**



names of natural features, excluding those important for maritime navigation



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Names Authority - supervisor of the geographical names standardization

**State Language
Centre**



gives conclusions binding for authorities approving official names; the Geographical Names Sub-commission (linguists, geographers, cartographers) evaluates official names proposals and complaints, drafts conclusions etc.)

The work on a huge conclusion regarding the official names proposals submitted by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency continues since 2014



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Names Authorities – advisors, consultants, reserchers

**Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency
(LGIA)**



advisory and scientific body in some particular directions of geographical names standardization

**Latvian University
(Institute of Latvian
Language)**



advisory, scientific and consulting body

**State Language
Agency**



consulting body



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Geographical Names Collection and Maintenance

Names collection



excerption from literature, maps,
unpublished materials etc.

decisions of names authorities

field work (very limited amount)

Data maintenance



electronic systems

one significant card file



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Geographical Names Data Repositories

Latvian Geographical Names Database

National Address Register

Latvian Place Name Card Index (or Card File)

Other initiatives collecting geonames or operating with a significant amount of them – Register of Cadastre, Latvian and foreign geographical names database of «Jāņa sēta Map Publishers»(no public access), upes.lv, ezeri.lv, melioracija.lv, historia.lv, Zudusī Latvija (zudusilatvija.lv) etc.



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Geographical Names Database

maintained by Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

154 000 names for **118 000** features

serves needs of cartography, natural feature names
standardization and research work in applied toponymy

Location of names related features is characterized by
coordinates of the point and areal objects centres, and
mouths of flowing water features.

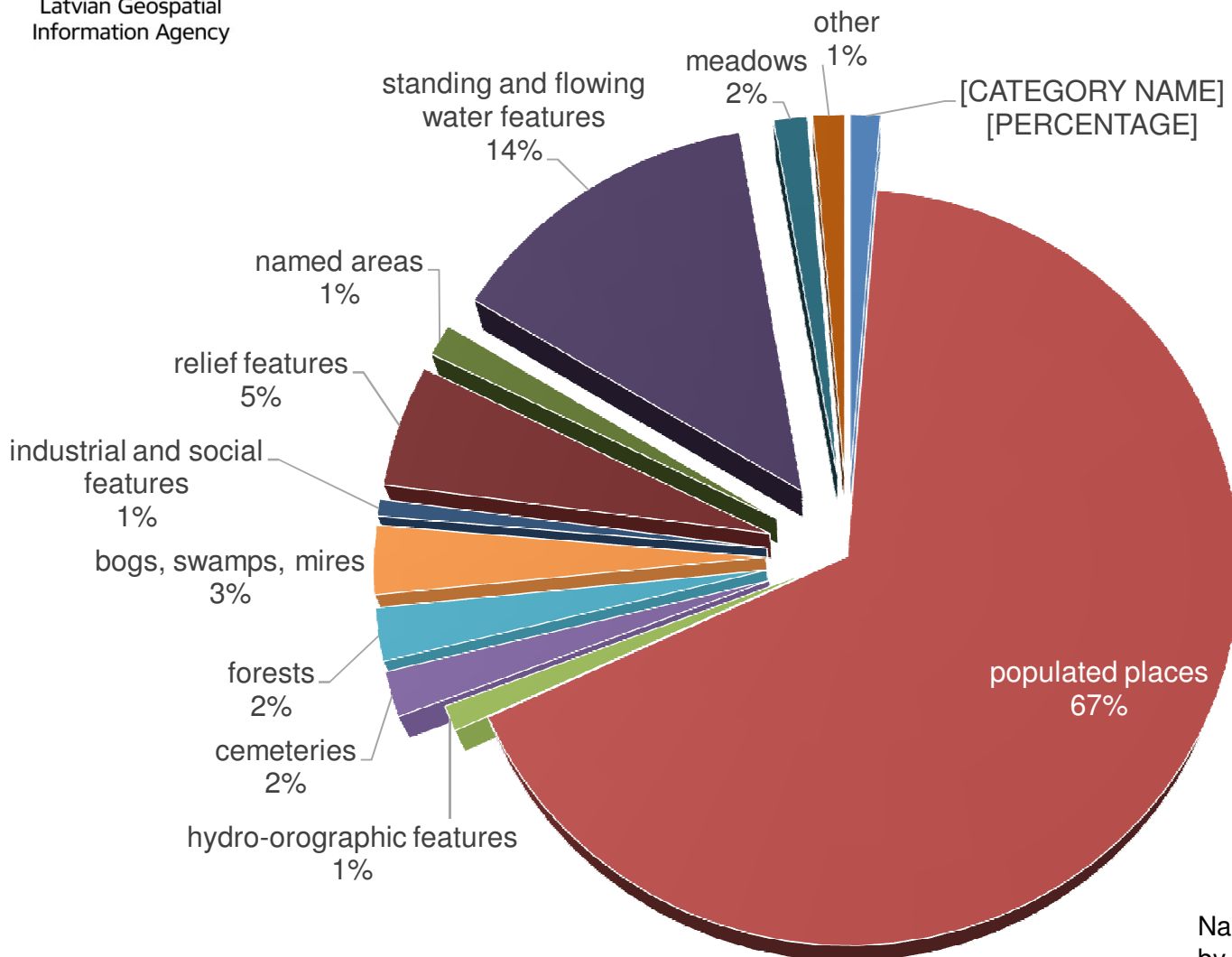
Besides that:

- named flowing water features are characterized by rough geometries (lines)
- drawing of named areal feature geometries (villages, forests, bogs) was launched in 2013-2014



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Geographical Names Database - Contents



Names percentage
by feature type, data
on August 15, 2016



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Geographical Names Database – public version

short public version on the Web (Edition 7)
<http://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv/>

offers access to 127 000 names of 99 000 features located in territory of Latvia and conspective related information
(user interface in Latvian only)

Informācija par objektu

Pamatnosaukums: Sidrabe/Mazplatone
Nosaukums Adrešu klasifikatorā: Sidrabe
Nosaukumi: Mazplatone
Ietilpst (ietek) objektā:

Objekta veids: vidējciems
Obj. stāvoklis: pastāv

Sastādīšanas datums: 04.11.1998
Pēd. izmaiņu datums: 04.09.2014
Kartes lapas nosaukums: ELEJA (ID=32)

Administratīvā vai teritoriālā piederība:
Lielplatones pagasts, Jelgavas novads, agrāk Jelgavas rajons

Skaitliskais raksturojums
Vērtība: ~ 150,0 ledz.
Avots: Pagasta padome (Pag. pad.)
Apraksts: 22.08.2006.

Atrašanās vieta kartē
Platums: 56.4366(56° 26' 12")
Garums: 23.6385(23° 38' 19")
Avots: Topo1 50mīl

Parādīt visus slāņus

Nosaukumi (2)

Nosaukums	Nosaukums oficiāls [avots]	Nosaukums ievadīts (datums)	Nosaukuma forma	Fonētiskā rakstība
Sidrabe	Jā [AR]	18.12.2008		
Mazplatone	Nē			Mazplatuone

Avoti (5)

Avota veids	Avota saīsinājums	Avota pilns nosaukums	Sējums, lappus
Oficiāls avots	AR	Valsts Adrešu reģistrs	
Oficiāls avots	Pag. pad. lēm.	Pagasta padomes lēmums	Nr.13., 23.10.0
Oficiāls avots	Pag. pad. lēm.	Pagasta padomes lēmums	Nr.13., 23.10.0
Oficiāls avots	Pag. pad. lēm.	Pagasta padomes lēmums	Nr.2., 20.04.99
Publicēta literatūra	LCiemi 2007	Latvijas ciemi. Nosaukumi, ģeogrāfiskais izvietojums. – R., LĢIA, 2007.	142

Ojekta atrašanās vieta - Google Chrome
vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv/vv/mv_lgiamap5?p_x=477712&p_y=254737&p_k



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

National Address Register

maintained by the State Land Service,
includes:

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

6.397 officially recognized villages (number of official
villages is decreasing),

17.283 streets

513.561 houses and other buildings

(data on July 1, 2016)

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

Data harmonization with other registers – Land Registry,
Population Register, Register of Enterprises etc. has been
continued



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Place Name Card Index

The Latvian Place Names Card index (or card file)

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

Digitizing of the basic part of the Card Index - 842 000 geographical names - is completed. The work is continuing on digitizing duplicates, additional card indexes (few thousand units) and expedition notebooks with place name data. The tools for displaying linguistic data have been elaborated

The crowd-sourcing tool for collecting place names is being elaborated, too. The open-access of it is scheduled on October 2016



Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Latvian Place Name Card Index – card examples

dūbīs' cēls' V 23
dobais cēls'
 ziemas cēls' emuī -
 paurim' m' p'arvīnū
 5 km no cūmā -
 EP 1474 E van

Kūlniēki I, mē. Nogale (Rojas. op)
 II 2 N 2 J

atrodas netālu no
 pas. uz D.

EŪ - 118.
 PĻ - 212.

braņdavas, +2 Bēnē
024
 (neapņems neateceras, ka mājas būtu
 sauktas citādi)
 braņdavas (senā: eves māiā 'B)

vānda
žlābji 2 gārsenē II 51
 (žlābji PL 289)

Lasas
 p'ialis ob
 pū tag.
 pag. 40
 + s. vānda
 un taga
 = un
 31. 1958. (verte!) PL II 383 vānda un

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

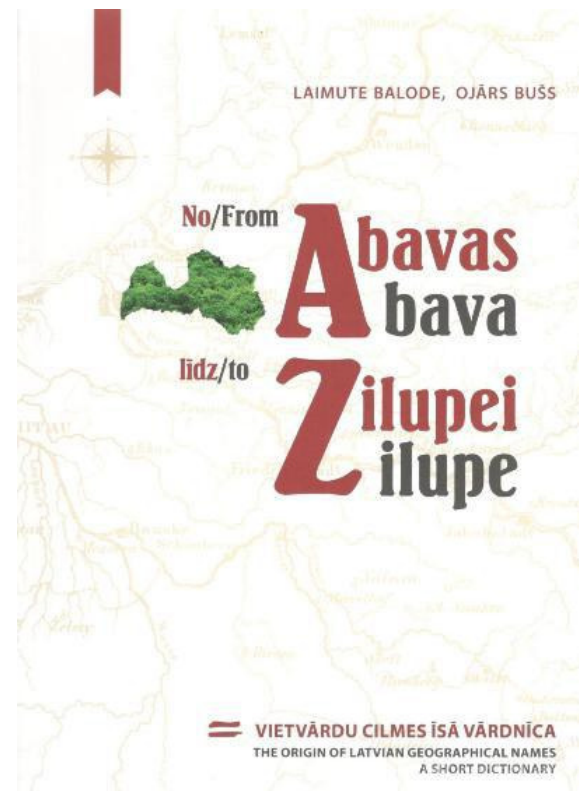


Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Etymological Toponymic Dictionary

A popular etymological dictionary «From Abava to Zilupe. The Origin of Latvian Geographical Names. A Short Dictionary» comprising names of the ~100 most significant settlements, natural features, etc. was compiled by Ojārs Bušs and Laimute Balode, researchers of the Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia

The dictionary is a bilingual (Latvian/English) book. It **was published by the Latvian Language Agency in 2015**





Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Latvian Place Names Dictionary volume «S»

The next volume of the linguistic dictionary «Latvijas vietvārdu vārdnīca» (Latvian Place Names Dictionary, in Latvian) comprising place names with the initial letter S, is being edited and supplemented by new place name data (including data of Geographical Names Database of Latvia maintained by Latvian Geospatial Information Agency). The former version of this volume (from 1990s) has been increased almost threefold.



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

The Joint Fieldwork



Photo I. Vitola, 2016

At joint summer field work of Latvian Academy of Culture, Latvian Language Institute and Latvian Geospatial Information Agency in the Middle Latvia (around Sāviena Lake) was carried out in June 2016. Dozens of place names have been collected, corrected and supplemented by historical and cultural data



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Names in Cartography – Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

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

The most actual cartographic projects:

Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000 – the 3rd cycle since 2012

Simplified Topographic Map of Latvia, scale 1:10 000 – the 3rd cycle since 2009 (more than $\frac{3}{4}$ is complete)



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

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 streams from the Geographical Names Database also are available there

The public version of the Map Browser:

<http://kartes.lgia.gov.lv>

(user interface in Latvian and English)



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

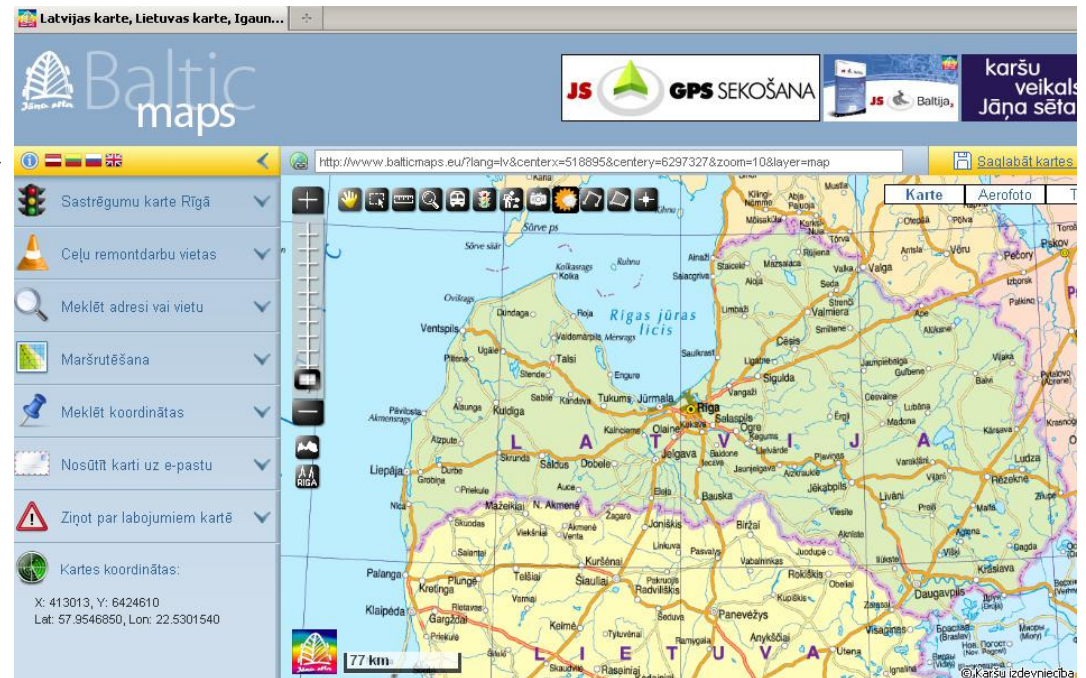
Map Browsers Offering Names Search

Jāņa Sēta public Map Browser **Balticmaps**, covering Latvia and European countries (geographical names are presented only in original languages - in original script (if Latin) or transliterated (if Cyrillic))

Available at:

<http://balticmaps.eu>

(user interface in Latvian, Russian and English)





Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Endonyms and Exonyms

On maps prepared by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency, foreign names only in original languages - in original script (if Latin) or transliterated (if Cyrillic) - are used

On school maps and cartographic products created only for domestic use, traditional exonyms are used, if existing. All other foreign geographical names are rendered into Latvian. Renderings keep (as far as it is possible), the sounding of the original name:

Великие Луки → Veļikije Luki

Санкт-Петербург → Sanktpēterburga

Кронштадт → Kronštate



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

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:

Москва → Maskava

Псков → Pleskava

Чудское озеро → Peirusa ezers

Финский залив → Somu jūras līcis



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

Database of Exonyms and Renderings

The largest in Latvia database of exonyms and renderings - **Latvian and foreign geographical names database** is maintained by private cartographic enterprise «**Jāņa sēta 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**

Geographical names data of Ukraine and Latvian renderings of Portuguese speaking countries have been updated during the reporting period



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

SOME USEFUL LINKS

1. Official Language Law ([unofficial translation](#)), actual version in [Latvian](#)
2. Geospatial Information Law ([unofficial translation](#)), actual version in [Latvian](#)
3. Regulations Regarding Geographical Names Information ([unofficial translation](#)), actual version in [Latvian](#)
4. Regulations of the Addressing („Adresācijas noteikumi”, actual version, in [Latvian](#) only):
5. Data on administrative and territorial division of Latvia: Law on Administrative Territories and Populated Areas, actual version in [Latvian](#) with Annex 1 (list of cities). Annex 2 (list of municipalities and the territorial divisional units thereof), Annex 3 (schematic map of cities and municipalities 2010 - 2011) and [unofficial translation](#) of the previous version of the Law)



Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency

SOME USEFUL LINKS

6. Geographical Names Database of Latvia, [public version \(in Latvian only\)](#), description in [English](#)
7. [Country Names List in Latvian](#) (2006)
8. LGIA Map Browser (in [English](#)), description in [English](#)
9. GISNET Map Browser - [Soviet topographic maps of Latvia and a national map \(scale 1:75 000, compiled in 1930-s\)](#)
10. Jāņa Sēta Map Browser [Balticmaps](#) (in Latvian, English and Russian)
11. Database of translated legislative acts - [search for unofficial English translations](#)



Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

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

Vita Strautniece - Head of the Laboratory of Toponymy, [Latvian Geospatial Information Agency](#), (e-mail: vita.strautniece@lgia.gov.lv)

Sanda Rapa - Deputy Director of the [Institute of Latvian Language](#), University of Latvia, (e-mail: sanda.rapa@inbox.lv)

Jānis Karro - Head of the Address Register Division, [State Land Service](#) (e-mail: Janis.Karro@vzd.gov.lv)

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

Jānis Turlajs - *Jāņa sēta Map Publishers* (e-mail: kartes@kartes.lv)

