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Resolutions of United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names – for Latvia

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Plan of the presentation

(the main topics)

- Brief overview of UNCISG resolutions
- Excursion to early impacts of the Resolutions on Latvia
- Initial attempt to evaluate the implementation and relevance of the Resolutions to the geographical names standardization in Latvia



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Resolutions of UNSSGN

RESOLUTIONS OF UNCSGN – RECOMMENDATIONS IN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES STANDARDIZATION

- 211 resolutions are adopted so far.
207 resolutions adopted until the last, 11th UNCSGN are available on the website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN):
https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/RES_UN_E%20updated_1-10%20CONF.pdf
- Implementation of resolutions is analyzed and promoted during UNGEGN sessions and UNCSGNs (UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation)



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The main Subjects of the Resolutions

- UNCSGN
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names - UNGEGN
- International cooperation in the standardization of geographical names
- Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors
- national standardization
- education and training in treatment of geographical names
- terminology
- list of country names
- preparation of gazetteers
- automated data processing/digital data
- exonyms
- romanization
- names of features beyond a single sovereignty
- minority languages



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Early impact of the Resolutions on the geographical names standardization in Latvia

Impact of the 1st UNCISG resolutions (or rather preparations for them) reached Latvia already through the “iron curtain” of Soviet occupation:

- On November 29, 1966, the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union adopted a decree on the naming and renaming of physiogeographical features. It determined that each feature should have a stable, well-defined name.
- On **February 11, 1967, the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR issued a decree no. 73 commissioning the Branch of Geographical Research, State University of Latvia, to prepare a card file of Latvian physiogeographical feature names which would be used as basis for establishing an unified system of physiogeographical object names for the Latvian SSR.** This was the starting point for involving Latvian geographers into toponymic research work and geographical names standardization.



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The next first steps

SHORTLY AFTER REINSTATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF
LATVIA:

- the Baltic Regional (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) Meeting on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held (Tallinn, 1992) stated "*that a separate **Baltic Division should be formed at the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names***" and prepared a draft resolution proposed to the 6th UNCSGN
- By adoption the **resolution VI/1 at the 6th UNCSGN the Baltic Division of UNGEGN was established in 1992** and Latvia become active member of it. Since the 7th UNCSGN, held in 1998, experts from Latvia take part in the UNCSGNs regularly and that way in adoption of the resolutions, too.



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Resolutions of particular relevance for the current geographical names standardization work in Latvia

Nº according with the 11th UNCSGN documentation*	Subjects of resolutions	Number of relevant for Latvia resolutions
4.	Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors;	4
5.	National standardization;	16
6.	education and training in treatment of geographical names;	12
8.	Terminology;	1
9.	List of country names;	3
10.	Preparation of gazetteers;	4
13.	Automated data processing/digital data;	7
14.	Exonyms;	5
15.	Romanization/general	1
18.	Names of features beyond a single sovereignty;	2
23	Minority languages	1

**Resolutions adopted at the ten United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names. Prepared for the United Nations by Natural Resources Canada, 2017, pp.123.*



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Example of reporting on implemenattion of the Resolutions (New Zealand)

FIVE RESOLUTIONS/RECOMENDATIONS	STATUS OF ACTION
<p>5. NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION I/4 (A) NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES I/4 (B) COLLECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES I/4 (C) PRINCIPLES OF OFFICE TREATMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES I/4 (D) MULTILINGUAL AREAS I/4 (E) NATIONAL GAZETTEERS</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II/27 that the authorities and countries that are in a position to do so should give their full support to the establishment of a programme of field collection of names and of office treatment of names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The NZGB does not have a programme of field collection of names, but office treatment of names is covered by the NZGB Act 2008 and the NZGB can regulate its own procedures, practices, policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> III/4 (1) that in geographical names documents information be provided on whether the names concerned have been approved by the national names authority or are in a provisional form. In either event the maximum possible information should be provided as to the source of the names - for example, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Publication in the New Zealand Gazette provides conclusive evidence of an official or proposed geographic name. ✓ Information on collection, source, and special bestowal is included in the proposal documentation, and reports to the NZGB, as well as in the Gazetteer (where available).



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Resolution I/4 – National standardization – case of Latvia

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
<p>RECOMMENDATION A. NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES ... each country should have a national geographical names authority:</p>	
<p>(a) Consisting of a continuing body, or co-ordinated group of bodies, having clearly stated authority and instructions for the standardization of geographical names and the determination of names standardization policy within the country</p> <p>(b)</p>	<p>Group of bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament and Government • State Language Centre • particular ministries • Latvian Geospatial Information Agency • local governments. <p>Co-ordination of them is being carried out by asking opinion of the State Language Centre for each official name proposal (unfortunately it could be not binding for Parliament and Government)</p> <p>.....</p>



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Resolution I/4 – National standardization – case of Latvia

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNCSGN	STATUS OF ACTION
<p>RECOMMENDATION E. NATIONAL GAZETTEERS ...each names authority produce, and continually revise, appropriate gazetteers of all its standardized geographical names.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official names of the address features (including administrative and territorial division units) approved by local governments, Parliament and Government are stored in the National Register of Addresses with free of charge public access https://www.kadastrs.lv (users interface in Latvian and English). All names are geo-referenced.• Official names of the natural features along with unofficial names are stored in the Place Names Database with free of charge public access https://vietvardi.lgia.gov.lv/



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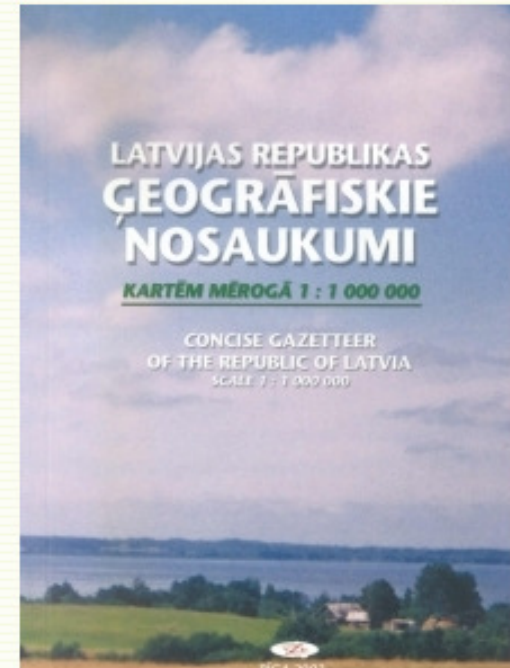
Preparation of gazetteers

Latvijas Republikas ģeogrāfiskie nosaukumi kartēm mērogā 1:1 000 000 / Concise Gazetteer of the Republic of Latvia, scale 1: 1000 0000 - Rīga, VZD, 2004

Divvalodīgs (latviešu-angļu) vietvārdu katalogs ar kartogrāfiskajiem pielikumiem

Veidots saskaņā ar ANO rekomendācijām

Katalogā iekļauti Latvijas nozīmīgāko ģeogrāfisko objektu - visu pilsētu, nozīmīgāko ciemu, galveno Baltijas jūras un tās piekrastes objektu, lielāko ezeru, garāko upju, augstieņu un to augstāko kalnu - nosaukumi, norādītas to ģeogrāfiskās koordinātas, kā arī atrašanās vieta atbilstoši administratīvi teritoriālajam iedalījumam, kāds bija spēkā līdz 2009.g. pašvaldību vēlēšanām. Iedzīvotāju skaits pilsētās



- Preparation of the official geographical names gazetteer of nature feature names, scale 1:250 000 is going in Latvian Geospatial Information Agency




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II/36 Problems of minority languages

Nr. p.k.	Ģeogrāfiskā objekta līdzšinējais nosaukums LĢIA datos	Piešķirtais oficiālais vietvārds/ oficiālais paralēlnosaukums	Izrunas īpatnības	Ieteicamie papildu nosaukumi	Objekta veids	Pilsēta, novads *	Pilsēta, pilsētas daļa, pagasts *	VVC Latviešu valodas ekspertu komisijas Vietvārdu apakškomisijas ieteikums	Pamatojums izmaiņām, papildu informācija	Zinātniskajos avotos fiksētā vietējā forma**	Objekta unikālais identifikators LĢIA datos
21	Bažu purvs	Bažpurs			purvs	Dundagas nov.	Kolkas pag.	Bažpurs	Bažpurs - nosaukuma vietējā forma, tā saglabājama saskaņā ar Vietvārdu informācijas noteikumu 6. punktu		84335
22	Celmupe	Celmupe	[ç]		upe	Dundagas nov.	Kolkas pag.	Celmupe [ç]		Çelmupe E II 162	96933
23	Kolkasrags	Kolkasrags/ Kūolka nanā	[oļ]		zemesrags jūrā	Dundagas nov.	Kolkas pag.	Kolkasrags [oļ] / Kūolka nanā (lībiešu val.)	Kūolka nanā - oficiālais paralēlnosaukums lībiešu valodā, saskaņā ar Vietvārdu informācijas noteikumu 7. un 8. punktu	Koļkasrags [bez gada], Pl I 259	81591

The only one officially recognized
minority language in Latvia is Livonian





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III/17 Names of countries

Country names list in Latvian (1997, with updates made in 2006):

<http://www.vestnesis.lv/?menu=doc&id=140081>

ARHĪVS		LATVIJAS  VĒSTNESIS			
Valsts vai teritorijas kods (pēc ISO-3166)	Valsts vai teritorijas īsais nosaukums angļu valodā (pēc ISO-3166)	Valsts vai teritorijas pilnais nosaukums latviešu valodā	valsts vai teritorijas īsais nosaukums latviešu valodā (pēc standarta LVS ISO 3166-1:1997)	LVEK Vietvārdu apakškomisijā (21.03.2006.) apstiprinātā īsā nosaukuma forma	Piezīmes; pamatojums
1	2	3	4	5	6
AD	Andorra	Andoras Firstiste	Andora		
AE	United Arab Emirates	Apvienotie Arābu Emirāti, AAE	Apvienotie Arābu Emirāti		
AF	Afghanistan	Afganistānas Islāma Valsts	Afganistāna		
AG	Antigua and Barbuda	Antigva un Barbuda	Antigva un Barbuda		

Subject of the resolutions	Number of resolutions on the subject	Evaluation of implementation**
Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors	4	1
National standardization	16	2
Education and training in treatment of geographical names	12	2
Terminology	1	1
List of country names	3	2
Preparation of gazetteers	4	2
Automated data processing/digital data	7	2
Exonyms	5	2
Romanization/general	1	2
Names of features beyond a single sovereignty	2	1
Minority languages	1	2

**3 –fully implemented; 2–partly implemented, implementation is going;
1–some elaboration has done; 0–no elaboration



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Conclusion

1. Resolutions of UNCSGNS as a whole has positive impact on the geographical names standardization work in Latvia
2. 11 subjects (or themes) of resolutions are of particular relevance on Latvia, greatest part of them are partly implemented, implementation is ongoing
3. The weakest points are: toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, Latvian terminology for the geographical names standardization and naming of features beyond a single sovereignty



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Sources

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- Avotiņa Ruta. Divdesmit trīs gadi kopā ar Latvijas vietvārdiem. Fakti un atmiņas par LU nostrādātajiem gadiem. (Manuskripts, ap 1995.g.)
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- Resolutions Adopted at the Ten United Nations Conferences on Standardization of Geographical Names. 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, 2002, 2007, 2012. Prepared for the United Nations by Natural Resources Canada (https://unstats.un.org/UNSD/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/RES_UN_E%20updated_1-10%20CONF.pdf)
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