

23rd Meeting of the Baltic Division of UNGEGN

2-3 October 2024, Vilnius, Lithuania

Maciej Zych

Chair of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

22nd Meeting of the Baltic Division

15th–17th March 2023, Warsaw, Poland

- 24 experts (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland + Czechia, Slovakia)
- 17 reports



22nd Meeting of the Baltic Division

Important decisions:

- support the “Joint statement by UNGEGN experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in response to the aggression against Ukraine”
- cease all official contacts with representatives of Russia and Belarus within the Baltic Division and UNGEGN
- decide that English remains the only working language of the Baltic Division
- cancel all works related to the “Rules of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names”
- confirm the rotation scheme for: electing the chair & the vice-chair, selecting a hosting country of a subsequent meeting

22nd Meeting of the Baltic Division

UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

BALTIC DIVISION

Since 1967 and until 2017 the United Nations have organized every five years conferences on the standardization of geographical names, with the goal of promoting the use of standardized place names in international communication. Items discussed at the conferences include:

- formation of national names authorities,
- distribution of information on geographical names (data bases, gazetteers),
- adoption of single romanization systems for every non-Roman language,
- toponymic training courses and seminars,
- toponymic guidelines,
- list of country names,
- standardization of geographical names in multilingual areas,
- limitations on the use of exonyms,
- toponymic terminology.

Starting 2019 these tasks have been overtaken by the **United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names** (UNGEGN) that holds sessions every two years, the 1st session of the new UNGEGN took place in April-May 2019.

The activities of UNGEGN are based on regional cooperation. In 1992, at the Sixth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names the **Baltic Division** was formed. The Division consists of experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (since 2012) and the Russian Federation. The coordinators and Chairs of the Baltic Division have been the following: 1992–1998 Estonia (Peeter Päll), 1998–2002 Latvia (Jurgis Kavacs, Vita Strautniece), 2002–2007 Lithuania (Danutė Mardosienė), 2007–2012 Estonia (Aule Kikas), 2012–2017 Russian Federation (Marina Morozova), 2018–2021 Latvia (Vita Strautniece). Since 2021 the Division is coordinated by Poland, and the Vice-Chair is named by Lithuania. In addition to linguistic/geographical divisions UNGEGN has formed working groups to deal with specific questions. These working groups are attended by experts from various countries.

During the four-year period from 2021 to 2025 Poland will coordinate the activities of the Division. At the 21st meeting of the Division held in Tallinn/virtually in September 2021 Mr. **Maciej Zych** was elected Chairperson of the Baltic Division. Ms **Rita Viliuvienė** from Lithuania will serve as Vice-Chair.

To give an overview on the activities of the Baltic Division concerning the standardization of geographical names the Place Names Board of Estonia has opened a page that contains documents in English and Russian, presented at earlier international forums on names standardization. In addition to the work in the Baltic Division experts have participated as guests at sessions of the Norden Division and Eastern Europe, North and Central Asia Division of UNGEGN.

More information on the activities of the United Nations in the field of standardization of geographical names you may find at the [UNGEGN website](#).

- **22nd Meeting of the Baltic Division** (Warsaw, 15–17 March 2023)
 - [Agenda](#) (final schedule)
 - [Minutes of the meeting](#)
 - [Published presentations](#)
 - Photos: [participants of the meeting](#); [technical excursion](#)
- [Joint statement by UNGEGN experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in response to the aggression against Ukraine](#) (21 March 2022)
- **21st Meeting of the Baltic Division** (Tallinn/virtual, 23–24 September 2021)
 - [Agenda](#) (final schedule)

<https://arhiiv.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/>

3rd Session of UNGEGN

1-5 May 2023, UNHQ, New York, USA

- 244 participants (54 countries + organizations & institutions)
- 146 reports, papers & others



3rd Session of UNGEGN

Representatives of the Baltic Division



3rd Session of UNGEGN

National Dialogue

- five groups of presentations on five topics



3rd Session of UNGEGN

Special presentations Panel discussions



United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

esri THE SCIENCE OF WHERE™

Addressing Data Challenges: Responding to Emergencies and Disasters

al Resilience through Collaboration and
Innovation

Sohail Elabd, Director
International Strategies
Esri



3rd Session of UNGEGN

3 recommendations & 22 decisions

Officers of UNGEGN 2023-2027

Chair:

Pierre Jaillard (France)

Vice-Chairs:

Susan Birtles (Australia)

Sungjae Choo (Republic of Korea)

Rapporteurs:

Wendy Shaw (New Zealand)

Ana Cristina da Rocha Berenger Resende (Brazil)

3rd Session of UNGEGN

Working Groups:

1. Geographical Names Data Management
2. Toponymic Terminology
3. Romanization Systems
4. Funding and Training Courses in Toponymy
5. Exonyms
6. Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage

Coordinators:

- A. Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity
- B. Country Names
- C. Task Team for Africa
- D. Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use

3rd Session of UNGEGN



UNGEGN

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Meetings > 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

[2023 UNGEGN Session EVALUATION form](#) English

General

Documents

Other Documents

Statements

National Dialogue

Panel Discussion

Presentation materials

Special Presentations

Photos

Webcast recordings

"Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery"

The 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) was convened from 1 to 5 May 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. There were 10 meetings, and each meeting was three hours: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. attended by approximately 219 UNGEGN delegates from 62 Member States, who introduced and discussed 60 technical papers (excluding National and divisional reports).

Objectives

UNGEGN session provided a forum for experts from the interrelated fields of geography, cartography, geospatial information, linguistics and history, from across the world come together to learn and share best practices and norms, new developments in geographical names administration and

UNGEGN

- ▶ Meetings
- ▶ Mandate
- ▶ Resolutions
- ▶ Divisions
- ▶ Working Groups
- ▶ Bureau and Convenors
- ▶ Liaison Officers
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Events
- ▶ Links
- ▶ Contact

[UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029](#)

Access the approved document here

[To receive the UNGEGN bulletin, click to](#)

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/

26th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms

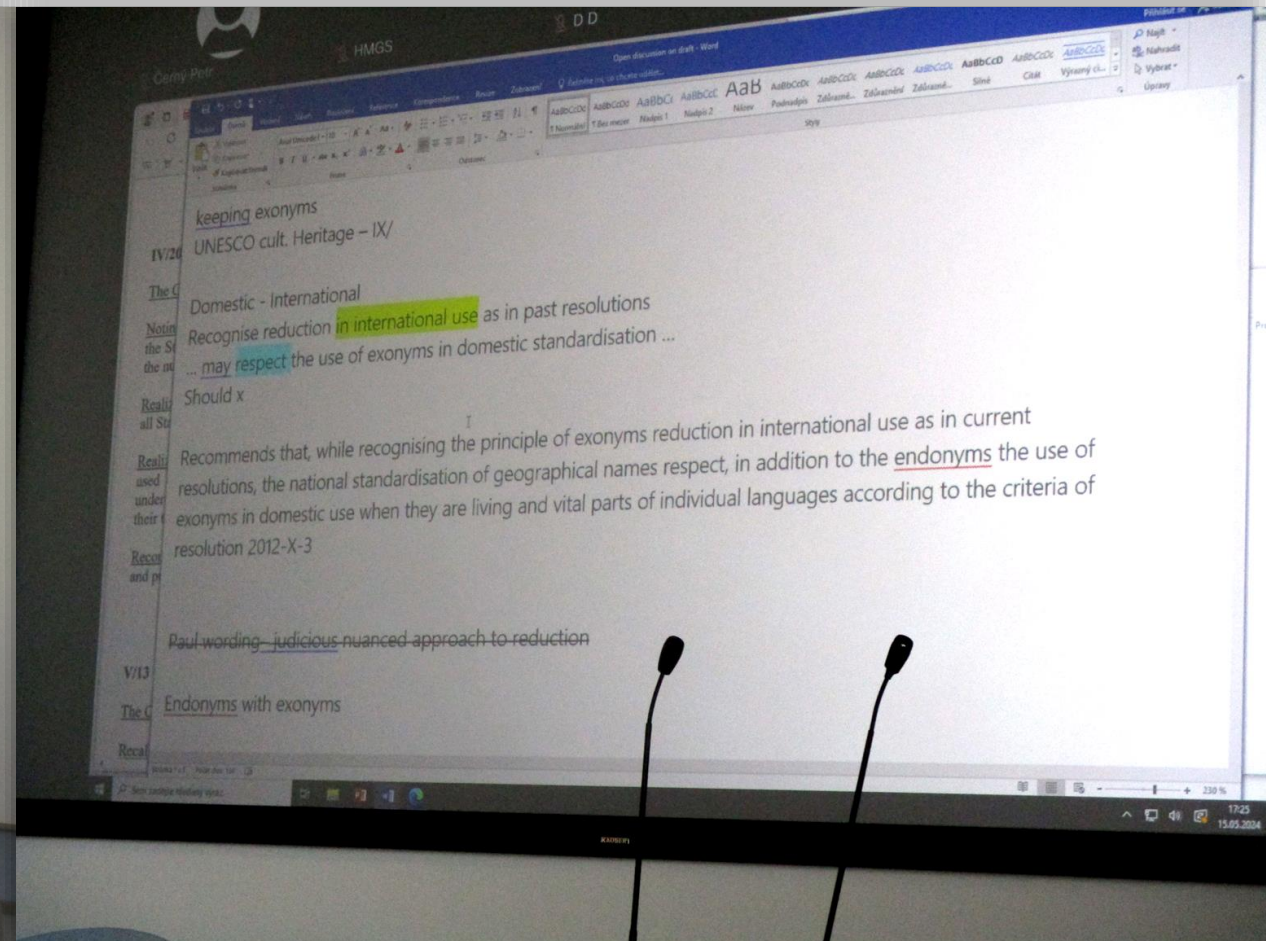
14-15 May 2024, Prague, Czechia

- 25 participants (14 countries)
- 12 presentations



26th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms

Proposal of a decision on the use and safeguarding of exonyms



Meetings of UNGEGN Bureau and Division Chairs

- 3rd: 30 March 2023
- 4th: 14 November 2023
- 5th: 12 April 2024
- 6th (planned):
15 November 2024

Presentations – Roles and activities of Divisions



Baltic division
Maciej Zych, Poland



Latin America Division
Francisco Medina Parra - Mexico



UNGEGN

United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names

UNGEGN Information Bulletin



- No. 65 (August 2023): Strengthening relationships, links and connections in geographical names standardization and for sustainable development and pandemic recovery
- No. 66 (December 2023): Geographical names supporting the international decade of indigenous languages
- No. 67 (June 2024): Good Practices Emerging From Relations Between National Mapping/Geospatial Data Management Agencies And Geographical Names Authorities
- No. 68 (planned): November 2024
 - theme: The role of geographical names in preserving cultural heritage
 - deadline for submission of articles: 18 October 2024

4th Session of UNGEGN

28 April – 2 May 2025, UNHQ, New York, USA

- Note Verbale to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York with official announcement of the 2025/forth session:
appr. October / November 2024
- letter from the director of the United Nations Statistics Division with basic information and deadlines:
appr. October / November 2024
- deadline for submitting summaries of reports:
appr. mid / end of January 2025
- deadline for submitting full reports:
appr. mid of March 2025
- registration by appropriate Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York in the e-deleGATE portal:
appr. start at the end of February 2025

Theme for the 4th Session of UNGEGN

Themes should be consistent with the theme of the 2025 ECOSOC Session:

„Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”

Themes proposed by the Core Bureau of UNGEGN:

- Advancing scientific, technical, social and cultural focus/solutions in geographical names standardization supporting sustainable development
- Advancing geographical names standardization through sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions to support sustainable development

Divisions are asked to indicate their preferred theme.

Divisions also have the opportunity to propose their own theme that will be consistent with the theme of the 2025 ECOSOC Session

Chairing of the Baltic Division

- chair and one vice-chair
- rotational basis scheme
- period of four years (two periods between UNGEGN sessions)
- state vice-chairing in a given term will be chairing in the next term

Period 2021-2025:

- chair Maciej Zych (Poland)
- vice-chair Rita Viliuvienė replaced by Saulius Urbanas (Lithuania)

Period 2025-2029:

- chair Lithuania
- vice-chair Estonia

Meetings of the Baltic Division

- meeting every year or two
- rotation scheme of the host country of the meeting:
 - Lithuania 2018
 - Latvia 2019
 - Estonia 2021
 - Poland 2023
 - Lithuania 2024
- additional meetings during UNGEGN sessions
- participation of observers from non-member countries



Baltic Division of UNGEGN

Thank you

Maciej Zych

Chair of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names