

Standardization of geographical names in Estonia.

Short summary of activities

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Overview

- Place Names Act
- Place Names Board of Estonia
 - meetings
 - opinions, expertise
 - official restoration of historic village names
 - mergers of municipalities
- Expert works on place names

Place Names Act

- Regulates the official approval and use of geographical names
- First approved in 1996, second version in 2003
- Amendments approved in 2013
 - main changes affected the functioning of Place Names Register
 - included provisions for the regulation on the establishment and use of place names

Place Names Board of Estonia (1)

- Meetings in plenary twice a year
- Since the last Baltic Division meeting:
 - 2013: one full meeting, 3 meetings by correspondence
 - 2014: two full meetings, 6 meetings by correspondence
 - 2015: one full meeting, 1 meeting by correspondence

Place Names Board of Estonia (2)

- Main topics of meetings:
 - approval of names for natural features (lakes, streams)
 - principles of orthography of place names (cadastral units, etc.)
 - opinions on names of merging municipalities, new populated places
 - arbitration in case of name disputes
 - works related to National Place Names Register
 - avoidance of double generics (700,000 addresses affected)

Place Names Board of Estonia (3)

- Names of natural features
 - 10 June 2014: list of names of lakes and islands revised (new names added, existing modified, some deleted)
 - 11 June 2014: 1646 names of streams approved
- Mergers of municipalities
 - 2014 municipalities of Kaarma, Kärla and Lümända (in Saaremaa) – original proposal: municipality of Saaremaa (*Saaremaa vald*), final: Lääne-Saare

Place Names Board of Estonia (4)

- List of populated places
 - 16 names added to the list
 - 1 old name restored (Kanama > Saue)
- Name disputes
 - Side tee / Eeriku tee in Keila municipality
 - Madruse tänav in Tartu
 - Peeter Põllu park vs. Politseiplats in Tartu

Expertise on place names

- Aim: to standardize the names to be included in the Place Names Register
- Previous expertise: lake names, island names, stream names (completed 2013, negotiations with ministries and municipalities ongoing)
- 2014:
 - names of ports (143)
 - names of transport stops (14,073)
 - names of heritage objects (16,226, of these 3520 with actual place names)
- 2015: springs, isolated nature features, bridges