

## Byelorussian

### 1.

#### Current status

No romanization systems for Byelorussian (Belarusian) have been put forward at the United Nations conferences on the standardization of geographical names or at sessions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names. In Belarus there have been several projects of romanization, the most notable until recently being a scheme of 1992-1993, based on GOST 1983 (for Russian) and used by the national cartographic authority on maps of Belarus.

A new national system of romanization for Byelorussian was approved by the State Committee on Land Resources, Geodesy and Cartography, Republic of Belarus, on 20 March, 1998<sup>41</sup>. This scheme was also supported by the Y. Kolas Institute of Linguistics and the Republic Committee on Toponymy at the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. While the system is still based on GOST 1983, it takes more precisely into account the peculiarities of the Byelorussian orthography. The system is reversible though there may exist some ambiguous consonant combinations.

### 5.

#### Other systems of romanization

The **national system of romanization (1998)** is as follows.

А а	а	І і	і	С с	с	'	(omitted)
Б б	б	Ў ў	ў	Т т	т	Ы ы	у
В в	в	К к	к	У у	у	Ь ь	'
Г г	г	Л л	л	Ў ў	ў	Э э	е
Д д	д	М м	м	Ф ф	ф	Ю ю	ju, 'u <sup>1</sup>
Е е	je, 'e <sup>1</sup>	Н н	н	Х х	ch	Я я	ja, 'a <sup>1</sup>
Ё ё	jo, 'o <sup>1</sup>	О о	о	Ц ц	с		
Ж ж	ž	П п	p	Ч ч	č		
З з	z	Р р	r	Ш ш	š		

<sup>1</sup> the second variant is used after consonant letters

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<sup>41</sup> The romanization table and notes on its application with the copy of the official act were distributed at the 3rd Session of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of UNGEGN in June 1999 (Moscow).

The **BGN/PCGN 1979 System** gives, as a single block, different Roman equivalents to the following Byelorussian letters (the national equivalents are in brackets):

e (je/'e) ye	й (j) y	ц (c) ts	'	”
ë (jo/'o) yo	ў (ú) w	ч (č) ch	ю (ju/'u) yu	
ж (ž) zh	х (ch) kh	ш (š) sh	я (ja/'a) ya	