

12 March 2021

Original: English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2021 session**

New York, 3 – 7 May 2021

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in
the standardization of geographical names**

Report of Ukraine

Submitted by Ukraine**

Summary :

Under the law on geographical names and implementing regulations, the State service for geodesy, cartography and cadastre of Ukraine coordinates activities related to the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names in Ukraine (see <http://land.gov.ua>).

The service has created the State register of geographical names as an electronic database of standardized geographical names and is responsible for maintaining it. The database contains information about the naming and renaming of geographical objects and changes related to their status and type, and is constantly updated.

The database contains more than 100,000 geographical names (names of settlements and administrative and territorial units, and physical, geographical and socioeconomic objects). It is constantly maintained to ensure its relevance. Under the resolution on the establishment and abolishment of districts adopted by the *Verkhovna Rada* of Ukraine on 17 July 2020, the service updates the information in the State register of geographical names. To date, 70 per cent of geographical name changes have been included.

The data concerning geographical objects in the register include the registration number, the standardized name in the Ukrainian and Latin alphabets, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (in the case of settlements) and the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude).

The data are published on the service's website

* GEGN.2/2021/1

**Prepared by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre

National bodies on standardization of geographical names

State administration in the sphere related to geographical names is carried out by:

central executive body which ensures the formation of state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine (<http://me.gov.ua>);

central executive body which implements the state policy in the sphere of topographic, geodetic and cartographic activities – the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (<http://land.gov.ua>).

The Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine:

defines the state policy on naming geographical objects as well as on standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

develops and approves normative-legal and normative-technical regulations on the establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre as a specially authorized executive body on geographical names:

carries out coordination of activities related to establishment, standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names;

arranges the conduction of appropriate expertise of geographical names;

ensures the creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

controls the use and preservation of geographical names;

carries out an international cooperation on the matter of establishment, standardization, preservation, recording, registration of geographical names.

Status of legal and regulatory base in the sphere of geographical names

The Law of Ukraine "On Geographical Names" (2005) indicates legal background for regulation of relations and activities related to naming of the geographical objects as well as standardization, recording, registration, use and preservation of geographical names.

The Law of Ukraine "On National Spatial Data Infrastructure" (2020) defines the legal and organizational framework for the creation, operation and development of national spatial data infrastructure, aimed at ensuring effective decision-making process by public authorities and local governments, meeting the needs of society in all forms of geographical information, integration into the Global and European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Provision on the State Register of Geographical Names approved by the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (Government) in 2006, defines the order of creation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names, conduction of works on establishment, standardization, recording, registration and use of geographical names.

The Order for conducting the examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects issues that was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in 2009, establishes the procedure for carrying out an appropriate

examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on the naming and renaming of geographical objects of Ukraine, continental shelf, exclusive (marine) economic zone, geographic objects of Earth discovered by Ukrainian researchers and scientists.

There are established regulations for the transliteration of geographical names and terms of foreign countries to the Ukrainian language, which also include lists of major geographical terms and exonyms.

Main activities in the sphere of geographical names standardization in the inter-sessional period

The State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre provided such activities in the sphere of standardization of geographical names in the inter-sessional period:

improvement of the legislative and regulatory framework for activities related to geographical names;

coordination of activities related to the provision of state and local government bodies, institutions, organizations and citizens with standardized geographical names;

conducting examination of proposals and decisions of state authorities on naming and renaming of geographical objects issues;

implementation and maintenance of the State Register of Geographical Names;

use and preservation of geographic names;

realization of international cooperation in the field geographical names.

The monitoring and actualization of information about renaming of settlements and administrative and territorial units in Ukraine took place in accordance with the law of Ukraine "On Voluntary Amalgamation of Territorial Communities" and "On the condemnation of communist and national-socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes in Ukraine and the prohibition of the promotion of their symbols", adopted in 2015.

The Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of July 17, 2020 "On the formation and liquidation of districts" established 136 new districts and liquidated 490 old districts.

The information on these changes was constantly submitted to the State Register of Geographical Names, displayed on the official websites of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (<http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/NEWSAIT/ADM/zmist.html>) and on the Geoportal of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (<https://nsdi.land.gov.ua/>). Information about official changes in the administrative and territorial structure because of the creation of new amalgamated territorial communities and the renaming of settlements and administrative and territorial units is constantly published on the geoportal "Administrative and Territorial Structure of Ukraine" (<https://atu.gki.com.ua/>).

Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors

The "Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors for International Use: Ukraine" was adopted on the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names (2012) (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/UNGEGN_RCC/UNGEGN/docs/Toponymic_guidelines_PDF/Ukraine/Verstka.pdf).

"Regulations on writing Ukrainian geographical names within maps and other publications" (2014) that determines the basic principles and rules for standardization and writing Ukrainian geographical names in official documents, mass media, cartographic, reference,

encyclopedic, educational and other publications and their transliteration to the Latin alphabet (<http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0957-14>) were adopted by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.

Status of activities on the implementation of the State Register of Geographical Names

The State Register of Geographical Names is implemented and maintained by the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre in the form of an electronic database of standardized geographical names with the use of an automated data retrieval system, that provides permanent information updating about naming and renaming of geographical objects, physical-geographical, socioeconomic objects, changing their status, type etc.

The State Register of Geographical Names consists of two parts:

information about the names of geographical objects located on the territory of Ukraine;

information about the names of geographical objects located in other countries and used in Ukraine.

In 2019 - 2021 the process of updating / filling of the electronic database of the State Register of Geographical Names continues and now it contains over 100 000 geographical names of Ukraine, including:

48102 - names of settlements and objects of administrative and territorial structure;

46 149 - names of physical-geographical objects;

5 359 - names of socio-economic objects;

5,776 - names of objects of the nature reserve fund.

The filling of the Ukraine geographical objects names electronic database of the State Register of Geographical Names was carried out according to administrative and territorial units (the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, regions, districts, cities, settlement and village councils) on the basis of the topographic map with the scale 1: 100 000.

Information about geographical names was submitted electronically to the registration forms of the State Register of Geographical Names, approved by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, according to 46 indicators.

The data of the State Register of Geographical Names includes the registration number, the standardized name of the geographical object in Ukrainian and Latin, the type of geographical object, the administrative status (for settlements), the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) and is made public on the official site of the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre with the link <http://land.gov.ua/info/informatsiia-pro-derzhavnyi-reiestr-heohrafichnykh-nazv/>.

The database of the State Register of Geographical Names of Ukraine allows users to search and receive such information about geographical names by request:

standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine by administrative units;

standardized names of geographical objects by types of geographical objects within Ukraine;

standardized names of geographical objects of Ukraine for nomenclature sheets of topographic map with the scale 1: 100 000;

standardized names of geographical objects of a certain type, located within a specific administrative unit of Ukraine;

standardized geographical names that have been renamed, on the territory of Ukraine or on the separate administrative units (regions, districts);

options names of geographical objects;

historical names of geographical objects and names in the languages of national minorities (if available).

In 2021, it is planned to begin activities on creation an electronic database of geographical names of foreign countries, which are used in Ukraine (80,000 geographical names).

Administrative and territorial reform in Ukraine

Administrative and territorial reform in Ukraine aimed to provide wider authorities to local governments (decentralization) and change the administrative and territorial division. The reform has been held in Ukraine since 2015.

On 5th of February, 2015, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine “On Voluntary Amalgamation of Territorial Communities”. According to this law, neighboring city, settlement, village councils can unite into one community, which will have one joint local government.

On 12th of June, 2020, the Government approved the administrative centers and territories of 1,470 communities.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the formation and liquidation of districts" State Scientific and Production Enterprise "Kartographia" (hereinafter – SSPE "Kartographia"), which is under the responsibility of the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre, issued maps with a new administrative and territorial division as follows:

Ukraine. Political and administrative map with the scale 1: 1 million (2021);

Kyiv region. Political and administrative map with the scale 1: 200,000 (2021);

Dnipropetrovsk region. Political and administrative map with the scale 1: 320,000 (2021).

Appropriate changes are made to the State Register of Geographical Names and the "Toponymic Guide for Cartographic Editors and Other Editors for International Use".

The names of the countries

The dictionary of geographical names "Countries and Territories of the World" (SSPE "Kartographia") was published in 2017 and contains information about official names of states, dependent territories, capitals of states and centers of possessions in Ukrainian and in national writing, and also adjectives of toponymic origin, the names of inhabitants, formed from the names of countries and capitals.

The materials and recommendations of the UN Expert Group on Geographical Names were used for preparation of the dictionary.

National system of Romanization of geographical names

For the transliteration of Ukrainian proper names (surnames, names and geographical names) in letters of the Latin alphabet in official documents, during the issuance of cartographic works, on the plates and road signs, as well as in other areas, the officially established by the Government in 2010 "The Table of Transliteration of the Ukrainian Alphabet in Latin is used", which is recommended by resolution of the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names X/9 "Romanization of Ukrainian Geographical Names".

According to the Ukrainian system of romanization, the geographical names on the maps with romanized names were published by State Scientific Production Enterprise "Kartographia" in the inter-sessional period:

"Europe. Postal codes" ("Europe. Postal codes" in Latin), 1:4 000 000, 2018;

"Ukraine. Political map" ("Ukraine. Political-administrative map" in Latin),
1: 1 500 000 (2019).

"Ukraine. Road map" ("Ukraine. Road map " in Latin), 1: 1 million, (2020).

"Kyiv" City Plan (City plan) in Latin, 1: 35,000 (2020).

administrative maps in various scales were produced for the OSCE on regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson, Vinnytsia and Chernivtsi.

Road maps of various scales, prepared for the OSCE to use on territory of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

International cooperation in the field of geographical names

Ukraine has a membership and participates in two Divisions of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

East Central and South-East Europe Division;

Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division;

Ukraine participates in the meetings of the Baltic Division of the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names.