

Report of Poland 2012-2014

1. National standardization

In Poland there are two commissions engaged in the standardization of geographical names: Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects, affiliated to the Minister of Administration and Digitization, establishes names used within Poland's boundaries. After receiving the opinion of the Commission the Minister publishes names' changes in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*.

Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, affiliated at the Surveyor General of Poland, responsible for: standardizing Polish geographical names of the world, establishing the principles of romanization from languages which use non-Roman writing systems, representing Poland on UNGEGN forum, and participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to standardization of geographical names

2. National gazetteer: "List of official names of localities and their parts"

The national gazetteer entitled "List of official names of localities and their parts" ("Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części") was published at the end of 2012¹. The list contains **103,225** official names of localities and their parts, of which: 908 names of towns and cities, 43,051 names of villages, 6,708 names of parts of towns and cities, 36,349 names of parts of villages, 5,136 names of hamlets, 4,641 names of hamlets of villages. The list is arranged in a table with eight columns: the name of locality is indicated in the first column, in the second – officially established type of locality, in the third, fourth and fifth columns – administrative unit: commune, county and voivodship, in the sixth column – the identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT), in the seventh – genitive ending for names of localities, in the eighth column – adjective (only for names of towns and villages).

Changes of the names given in the list are published each year in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*, and come into force on January 1 – these changes are effect of changes in the names, as well as changes in type of name (changes of type can be result of changes of boundaries of cities and towns). In the past two years the following changes were made: 27 new names of localities or its parts were established; 66 names of localities or its parts were changed as well as types of 59 localities or parts of localities were changed, and 111 names of localities or its parts were abolished.

3. Multilingual areas

According to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages traditional names in a minority language may be used as "additional names". 285 new names of localities were established in the years 2012-2014 – 18 German, and 267 Kashubian.

Since 2005 additional names in minority languages were introduced for 1072 localities. This number consists of 342 German names in 29 communes, 664 Kashubian names in 18 communes, 30 Lithuanian names in one commune, 27 Belarusian names in one commune and 9 Lemko names in 2 communes².

¹ The list is available on website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php.

² Full, consistently updated, list of the additional names in minority languages is available on the website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/list_of_minority_names.pdf.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	total
Belarusian	–	–	–	–	–	27	–	–	–	27
German	11	15	149	63	48	38	11	7	–	342
Kaszubian	–	76	10	81	88	142	–	263	4	664
Lemko	–	–	1	–	–	8	–	–	–	9
Lithuanian	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	30
total	11	91	190	144	136	215	11	270	4	1072

Table 1. Number of additional names in minority languages, as adopted in given years.

4. Exonyms

The new list of Polish exonyms, entitled “Official list of Polish geographical names of the world” (“Urzędowy wykaz polskich nazw geograficznych świata”), was published in the end of 2013³. It lists Polish names for **13,359** geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland. For each object, there are given: the Polish name, and the original name (endonym). For names in languages that are written in non-Roman scripts, Romanized forms are given in accordance with the principles adopted by the Commission for use in Poland for geographical names in a given language. Following these names, the objects’ coordinates have been posted. If necessary, the additional information and observations are provided, such as information about localization of the transboundary object in other countries, additional characteristics of the object or its localization, information about the location of part of locality in the boundaries of independent locality, and selected historical names of the object.

The list has been divided into eight parts (chapters): seven of them correspond to the traditionally determined parts of the world (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Oceania, Antarctica), the eighth one is devoted to undersea objects. Next, the names are posted according to alphabetically arranged countries and non-self-government territories. Names of geographical features from the areas of individual countries or territories are arranged by categories.

6. Romanization systems

One of the scopes of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland refers to establishment of romanization rules governing names of geographical objects originally expressed by means of non-Roman writing systems⁴. Since 2012 the following rules were adopted: Bulgarian (revised rules), Ukrainian (revised rules), Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Sinhalese, Maldivian, Urdu, Arabic, Tamil, Amharic, Hebrew, and Lemko.

7. Country names

In consultation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Council for the Polish Language the second edition of the “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” was published in the end of 2013⁵. The list contains 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status and others. The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list have obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The footnotes explaining the status of countries and territories have been provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adjectives derived from names of countries and territories, as well as names of citizens and inhabitants have been provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Unit of the Council for the Polish Language.

³ The list is available on website: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/pliki/wykaz_polskich_nazw_geograficznych.pdf.

⁴ Rules of romanization, adopted by the Commission, available on Commission’s web site: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/latynizacja.php>.

⁵ The list is available on Commission’s website: <http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/wykaz.php>.

8. Co-operation with neighborhood countries and international organizations

Members of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland participated actively in:

- 16–18 May, 2012 (Gdańsk): 12th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (hosted by the Polish Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography)
- 31 July – 9 August, 2012 (New York): 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
- 1 August, 2012 (New York): Meeting of the East Central and South-East Europe Division
- 3 August, 2012 (New York): Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems
- 6 August, 2012 (New York): 13th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms
- 8 August, 2012 (New York): Meeting of the Baltic Division
- 23–25 May, 2013 (Corfu): 14th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology
- 18–20 September, 2013 (Tallinn): 16th meeting of the Baltic Division
- 8 November, 2013 (Prague): Czech-Polish meeting on terminology used in the standardization of geographical names
- 3–4 March, 2014 (Görlitz): German-Polish meeting on geographical names (jointly organized by Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) and Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland)