

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES STANDARDIZATION IN LATVIA

Activities since the 10th
Meeting of the Baltic
Division of UNGEGN

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Geographical Names Authorities

Decision Makers

Parliament
and
Government

Latvian Geospatial
Information Agency
(LGIA)

Local
Governments

2

Geographical Names Authorities

Advisory and Scientific Bodies

State Language
Centre
Geographical Names
Sub-commission

Latvian University
• Institute of Latvian
Language
• Department of Baltic
Languages

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Problems

- There is no centralized geographical names authority in Latvia, coordination between existing authorities is insufficient
- Geographical names experts' advice and control is not stated as obligatory
- Gap in legislation concerning the names on road signs
- Number of inexactly spelled or even wrong forms of names, included in officially approved lists and other authoritative sources
- Standardization of dialectal names

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State Mapping Projects

Overview map
scale 1:250 000

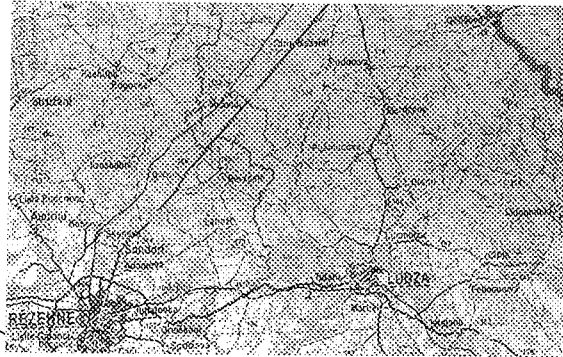
3 sheets

is going to be
published in 2008

toponymy is being
compiled from
sources of
Laboratory of
Toponymy

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Overview map, scale 1:250 000



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Private Mapping COVERS THE TERRITORY OF LATVIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

SIA "Karšu
izdevniecība
Jāņa sēta"

(Map Publishing
Company "Jāņa
Sēta")

- School maps and atlases
- Road maps
- Regional and tourist maps (Latvia, Lithuania, etc.)
- the "Great Atlas of the World" in Latvian (> 100 000 geographical names)
- new version of the CD-ROM "JS Baltija", containing all the latest maps of the Baltic states

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Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia - contents

GNDB of Latvia 01.09.2008.

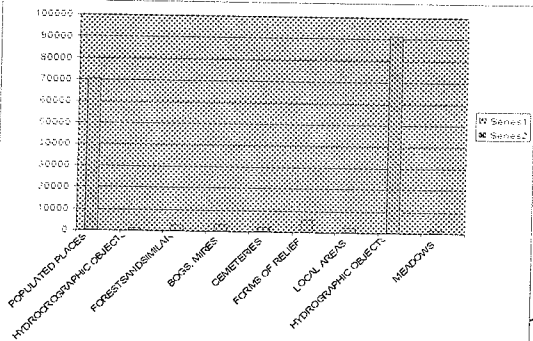
121 000 names
100 000 features

MS SQL Server+ MS Access →
ORACLE+ MS Access

LGIA, Department of Cartography

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Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia - contents



Geographical Names Data Base of Latvia

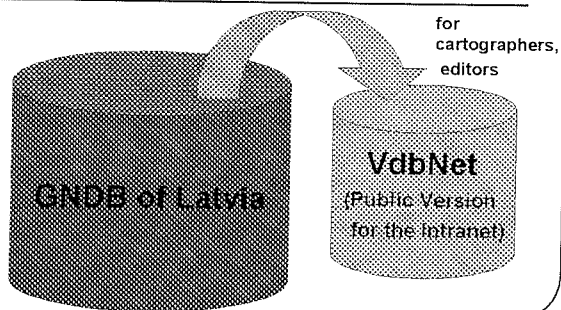
- Updating and revision of the information**

Main source – data from the Topographic Map M1:50 000
- Expanding the information**

Main sources – data from fieldwork and excerpted from literature

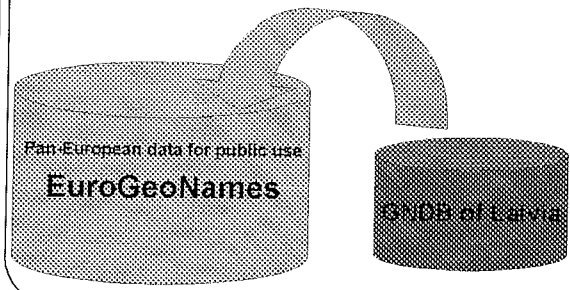
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Geographical Names Data Bases



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Geographical Names Data Bases - international collaboration



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Significant toponymic data repositories besides the GNDB

- **Card Index of Place Names at the Institute of Latvian Language** (not computerized, more than 1 million entries)
- **State Register of Addresses** (officially approved identifiers for use in adressation)
public access: http://aris.vzd.gov.lv/aris_ts/ak/
(Latvian only, English version is under construction)

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State Register of Addresses

- Contents, 01.09.2008.
 - 26 administrative districts
 - 77 cities, towns
 - 37 counties
 - 502 civil parishes
 - 7671 villages
 - 15 928 streets
 - 446 459 buildings and houses

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Other significant toponymic data repositories

- Latvian and foreign geographical names data base of Map Publishing Company "Jāņa Sēta"
- **State Real Estate Register** (names of real estates)
- **Other state classifiers** (classifiers for water management etc.)

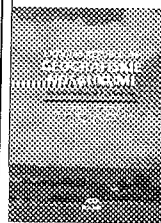
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Concise Gazetteer of the Republic of Latvia, scale 1:1 000 000 (2003)

(Latvian and English)

Full updated version (01.09.2006.) – on the LGIA website:

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/geogr_nos_miljonai.pdf



the cartographic supplements:

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/rajoni_2-pielikums.pdf;

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/lv_fizgeo_pielik3.pdf;

http://www.lgia.gov.lv/upload/lv_admin_pielik4.pdf.

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Dictionaries of Geographical Names

“Latvijas ciemi. Nosaukumi, ģeogrāfiskais izvietojums”, (Villages of Latvia)

LGIA, 2007, 647p.

14 012 names of 8879 villages

on the basis of the Satellite Map of Latvia, scale 1:50 000

Includes:

- recommendations for naming;
- toponymic synonyms, comments, elements of pronunciation;
- names in Livonian and Latgalian written languages

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Dictionaries of Geographical Names

Local dictionaries

(1:25 000 to 1:10 000)

- Cover particular administrative or territorial unit
- Rich in information concerning the names and named features; as well as geography, history and culture of the territory.
- Cartographic supplements

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Local Dictionaries of Geographical Names



Ruta Avotiņa “Staburaga pagasts”

- in collaboration of LGIA with the local government, 2007,
- 214 pages, cartographic supplement M 1:25 000
- Approx. 600 toponyms (names of 180 natural and cultural objects and 300 existing and former populated places)

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Local Dictionaries of Geographical Names

“Liepas pagasts. Vietas un vārdi”

- in collaboration of LGIA with the local government, 2008, approx. 300 pages

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Linguistic Dictionaries of Geographical Names

Latvijas vietvārdu vārdnīca, P (Pilaci – Pracapole), Rīga, 2006: Latviešu valodas institūts (Institute of Latvian Language)

Continuation of the:

Jānis Endzelīns *Latvijas PSR vietvārdi*, 2 parts

(A – O), 1959, 1961.

Whole dictionary would comprise 8-10 volumes

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Country names, exonyms

The List of Country Names in Latvian updated in 2007 by the Sub-commission of Geographical Names of Latvian Language Commission, State Language centre, (not yet published)

Rules for rendering the proper names from the Chinese and Armenian are worked out by Latvian linguists

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Exonyms

By the SIA "Apgāds "Jāņa sēta" :

- the database containing Latvian forms of more than 100 000 geographical names is created for the "Great Atlas of World";
- rules for rendering the geographical names of the World using IPA alphabet to create Latvian forms are being worked out for this project in collaboration with linguists

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Normative Documents

Draft of the Place Names Law is prepared by the Sub-commission of Geographical Names of Latvian Language Commission, State Language centre

The Law will regulate

- the establishing and use of official geographical names
- maintenance of geographical names information,
- preservation of place names heritage (including valuable exonyms)

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