



COMMISSION ON STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
OUTSIDE THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



# **Report of Poland on the situation in the standardization of geographical names**

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# National names authorities

## Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects (KNMiOF)

- established in 1934
- affiliated to the Minister of the Interior and Administration
- establishes names used within Poland's boundaries

After receiving the opinion of the Commission the Minister publish names' changes in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland.



# National names authorities

## Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland (KSNG)

- established in 1951
- 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
  - ✓ participation in international conferences and meetings devoted to geographical names



# Official names

Names of localities and physiographic objects are standardized by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects and next approved by a regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration published in the *Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland*.

The new edition of the national gazetteer entitled *List of official names of localities and their parts* was published in October 2015 . The list contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, of which: 915 names of towns and cities, 43,068 – villages, 6,710 – parts of towns/cities, 36,263 – parts of villages, 5,132 – settlements, 4,619 – hamlets of villages.



# Official names

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 also result of changes of boundaries of cities and towns).

Since 2016 the following changes were made:

|              | New names | Changed names |           |                   |           | Abolished names |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|
|              |           | Total         | Name only | Name and the type | Type only |                 |
| 2017         | 4         | 87            | 43        | 11                | 33        | 85              |
| 2018         | 19        | 57            | 25        | 7                 | 25        | 93              |
| 2019         | 4         | 20            | 6         | 2                 | 12        | 32              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>164</b>    | <b>74</b> | <b>20</b>         | <b>70</b> | <b>210</b>      |



# Official names

Changes in types of localities are also caused by shifts in the administrative limits of cities and towns regulated by the Council of Ministers. Since 2016 the following such changes were made:

- 2017: 28 localities changed its type – 4 for “town”, and 24 for “part of town”
- 2018: 21 localities changed its type – 7 for “town”, and 14 for “part of town”
- 2019: 53 localities changed its type – 10 for “town”, and 43 for “part of town”



# Official names

Additionally names of some physiographic objects have been changed

Added names:

|              | Reservoir | Hill     | Uroczysko | Oxbow    | Pond     | River    | Ditch    | Swamp    | Canal    | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 2017         | 1         | 1        | 1         |          |          |          |          |          |          | 3         |
| 2018         | 21        |          |           | 4        | 5        | 1        | 1        | 1        |          | 33        |
| 2019         | 2         |          |           | 4        | 2        |          |          |          | 1        | 9         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>8</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>45</b> |

Changed and delated names:

|              | Changed names | Delated names |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2017         | —             | 10            |
| 2018         | 14            | —             |
| 2019         | 6             | —             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>20</b>     | <b>10</b>     |



# Multilingual areas

Consistent with the definitions in the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on regional languages, national minorities, ethnic minorities, as well as a minority using a regional language appear in Poland.

## National minorities:

- Belorussian
- Czech
- Lithuanian
- German
- Armenian
- Russian
- Slovak
- Ukrainian
- Jewish

## Ethnic minorities:

- Karait
- Lemko (Rusyn)
- Roma
- Tartar

## Regional language

- Kashubian



# Multilingual areas

Since 2005 additional names in minority languages were introduced for 1252 localities.

In this number 31 Kashubian names in 4 communes were established since mid-2016.

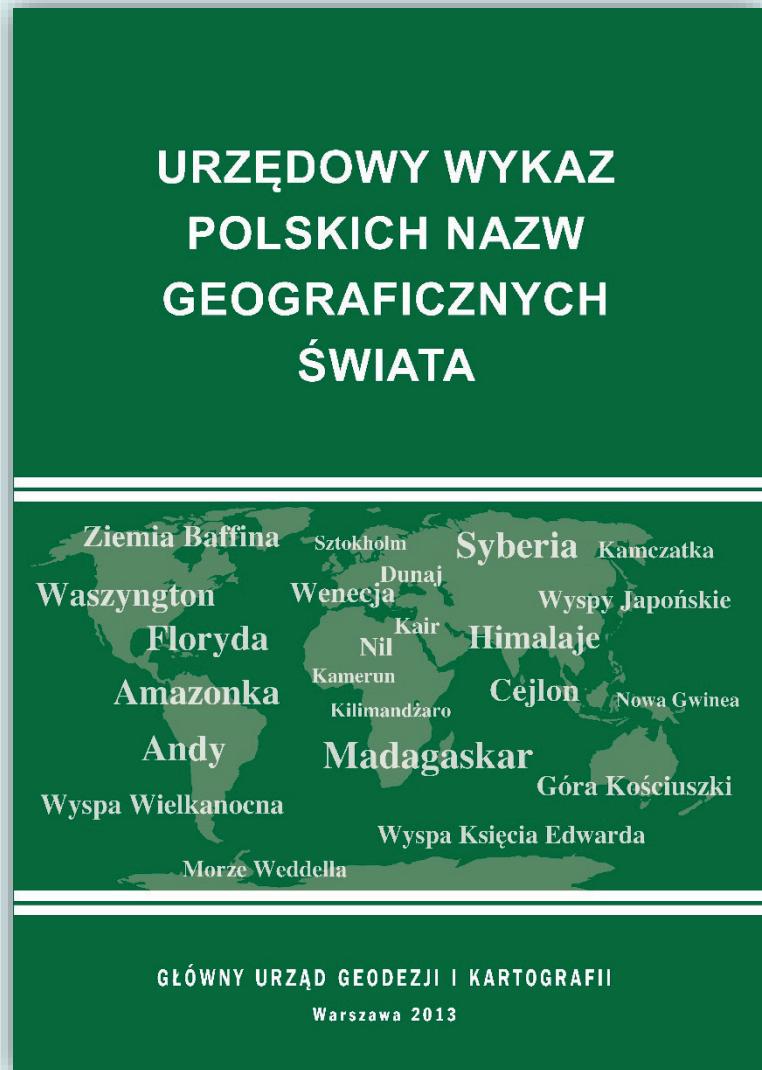
|              | 2006      | 2007      | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       | 2012      | 2013       | 2014       | 2015      | 2016      | 2018     | 2019     | Total       |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| German       | 11        | 15        | 149        | 63         | 48         | 38         | 11        | 7          | 17         | -         | -         | -        | -        | 359         |
| Kashubian    | -         | 76        | 10         | 81         | 88         | 142        | -         | 263        | 84         | 48        | 23        | 6        | 6        | 827         |
| Lithuanian   | -         | -         | 30         | -          | -          | -          | -         | -          | -          | -         | -         | -        | -        | 30          |
| Belarusian   | -         | -         | -          | -          | -          | 27         | -         | -          | -          | -         | -         | -        | -        | 27          |
| Lemko        | -         | -         | 1          | -          | -          | 8          | -         | -          | -          | -         | -         | -        | -        | 9           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>91</b> | <b>190</b> | <b>144</b> | <b>136</b> | <b>215</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>270</b> | <b>101</b> | <b>48</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>1252</b> |



# Exonyms

*Official list of Polish geographical names of the world*

- prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland
- published in the end of 2013
- Included Polish names for 13,359 geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland





# Exonyms

The list is regularly updated.

Since mid-2016 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland:

- standardized 160 Polish exonyms
- changed 130 exonyms
- delisted 31 exonyms.

The most changes are result of the preparation of the second edition of the *Official list of Polish geographical names of the world*. This edition is scheduled to be published in the end of 2019 and includes Polish names for 13,595 geographical objects that lie outside the boundaries of Poland.



# Exonyms

The Commission also works on extension the list.

In 2016-2018 works on collection of the original non-Latin names were realized. To the date names from the following areas were obtained:

- 9 countries that use the Cyrillic alphabet
- 2 countries that use the Greek alphabet
- 31 countries that use the Arabic script (+ Hebrew and Tigrinya names)
- 12 countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia
- Ethiopia



# Exonyms

The Commission has decided to elaborate an addendum to the list containing the Polish names of the most important buildings and other urban objects.

In the period 2016–2019 list of buildings from the following areas were completed:

- Asia
- Africa
- North America
- South America
- Australia and Oceania
- Russia
- Western Europe



# Toponymic data files

The National Register of Geographical Names – PRNG (maintained by the Head Office of Geodesy) holds approximately 252,300 names:

- 124,600 names of localities and its parts
- 127,700 names of physiographical objects:
  - 22,400 names of water objects
  - 35,700 names of land shaping objects
  - 69,600 names of other objects



# Toponymic data files

In the Register the following types of names are collected:

- official names (i.e. names published by a regulation of the Minister, app. 134,800 names)
- standardized names (i.e. names adopted by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographical Objects but not yet published by a regulation of the Minister, app. 15,000 names)
- unstandardized names (i.e. other names listed on topographic maps or other sources, app. 102,500 names)
- minority names (app. 1,250 names)



# Toponymic data files

The screenshot displays a topographic map of Poland with numerous place names labeled. The map covers several voivodships, including Mazowsze, Podlaskie, Lubelskie, Świętokrzyskie, Małopolskie, Śląskie, Wielkopolskie, Łódzkie, Centralny, Pomorskie, Kaszubski, Warmińsko-Mazurski, and Zachodniopomorski. A sidebar on the right provides a detailed view of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie region, specifically focusing on the Gmina Leoncin area. The sidebar includes a map of the region, a search bar, and various administrative and geographical labels such as 'Geoportal krajowy', 'KATASTER', 'Szukaj', 'Zawartość mapy', and 'Geoportal 2 | iMap'.

shapefile (ArcGIS)



# Country names

*Official list of names of countries  
and non-self-governing territories  
(4th edition)*

- prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland
- published in the end of 2017
- contains 195 countries recognized by Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories



GŁÓWNY URZĄD GEODEZJI I KARTOGRAFII  
Warszawa 2017



# Country names





# Country names

The 5th edition of the *Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories* will be published till the end of 2019

- updates and corrections in endonyms
- adoption of new names for Swaziland (Suazi → Eswatini) and FYRO Macedonia (Macedonia → Macedonia Północna)
- new capital city of Burundi (i.e. Gitega) and new name of capital city of Kazakhstan (i.e. Nur-Sultan)
- modification of Romanization systems for two languages: Mongolian and Tigrinia



# Country names

- extension of information provided to entries for countries that use non-roman scripts: for 68 countries and territories names in non-roman scripts are included next to its Romanized forms

Afganistan

Azja

*pol. Afganistan, D. Afganistanu, Mc. Afganistanie; Islamska Republika Afganistanu*

*dari* – افغانستان – *trl.* Afghānestān, *trb.* Afghanestan;

*dari* – جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان – *trl.* Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Afghānestān, *trb.* Džomhuri-je Eslami-je Afghanestan // *paszto* – افغانستان – *trl.* Afghānistān,

*trb.* Afghanistan; د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت – *trl.* Də Afghānistān Islāmī Jumhūriyat, *trb.* Dy Afghanestan Eslami Džumhurijat

*przym.* afgański, afganistański

*obyw.* Afgańczyk, Afganka, Afgańczycy

*stol.* **Kabul**, *D.* Kabulu, *Mc.* Kabulu; کابل – *trl.* Kābol, *trb.* Kabol (*dari*) // کابل – *trl.* Kābul, *trb.* Kabul (*paszto*)



# Romanization

To the date the Commission has adopted romanization rules for 37 languages.

Since 2012 works are carried out to verify the previously adopted romanization rules together with the elaboration of extended romanization tables.

In the period 2016–2018 romanization rules for Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Persian, Mongolian, and Tigrinia has been verified and extended.

In cases of Mongolian and Tigrinia Romanization rules have been changed: for Mongolian from the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2003 to the Mongolian National Center for Standardization and Metrology system of 2012, and for Tigrinia from the BGN/PCGN 1994 system to the BGN/PCGN 2007 system.



# International co-operation

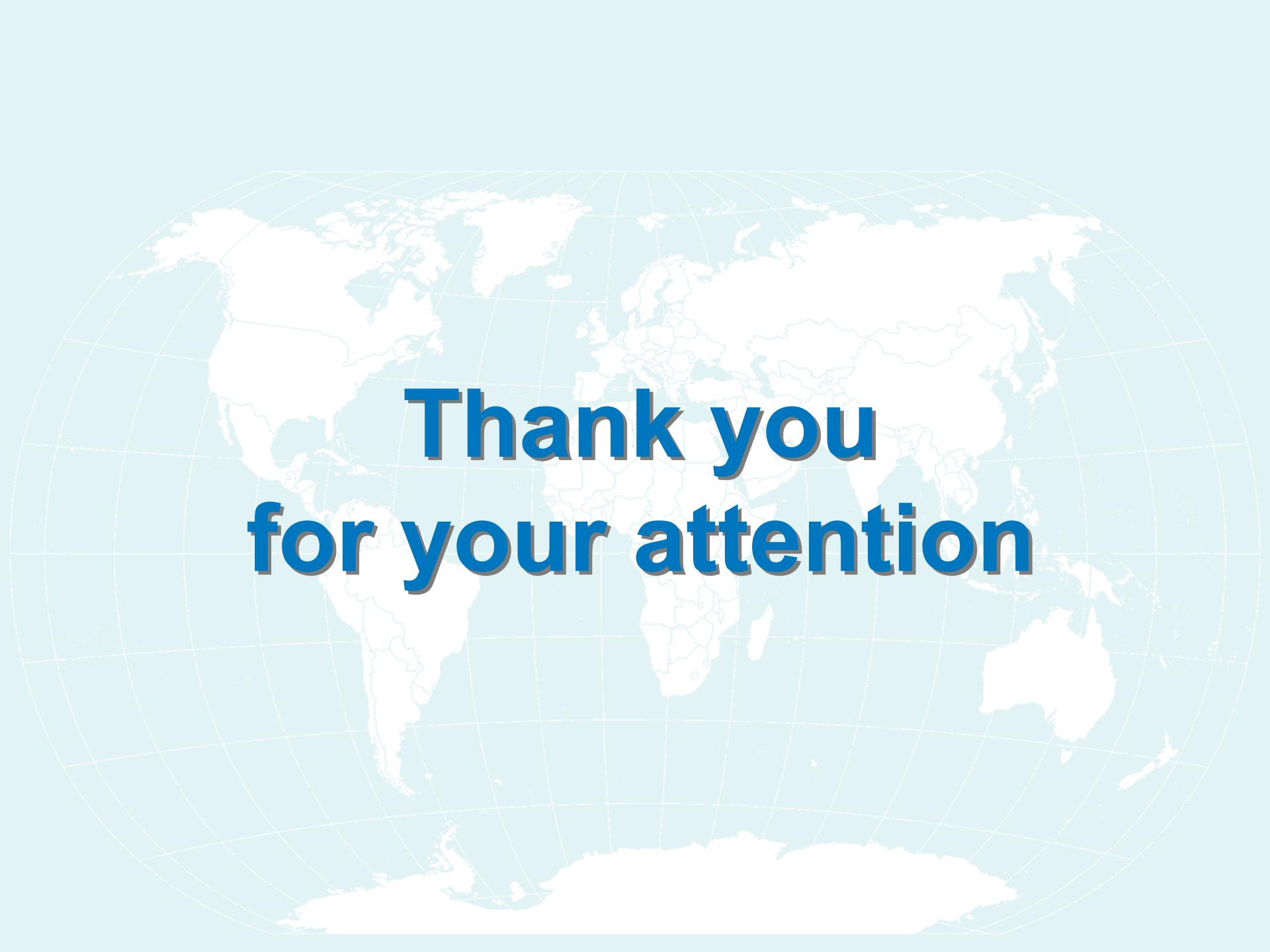
Members of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names participated in:

- Session of the Joint International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission on Toponymy “Place Names as Social Constructs” during the 33rd International Geographical Congress, (21–25 August, 2016, Beijing, China)
- 4th Czech-Polish-Slovak meeting on standardization of geographical names (6 December, 2016, Prague, Czechia)
- 19th meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms and meeting of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (6–8 April, 2017, Prague, Czechia)
- 28th International Cartographic Conference (2–7 July, 2017, Washington, USA), including meetings of the Joint International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission on Toponymy
- 11th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and 30th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (7–18 August, 2017, New York, USA)



# International co-operation

- Joint meeting of the Working Group on Country Names and Working Group on Romanization Systems (19–20 March, 2018, Paris, France)
- 5th Czech-Polish-Slovak meeting on standardization of geographical names (11 April, 2018, Warsaw, Poland)
- 21st meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms (24–26 September, 2018, Riga, Latvia)
- 1st Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (29 April – 3 May 2019, 2019, New York, USA)
- 29th International Cartographic Conference (15–20 July, 2019, Tokyo, Japan), including meetings of the Joint International Geographical Union/International Cartographic Association Commission on Toponymy and pre-conference workshop “Role and Structure of National Names Boards”



**Thank you  
for your attention**