

STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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The activity in the field of standardization of geographical names started in the Slovak Republic in 1970 when the Committee on Neogeographical Names by the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic was established. Committee has during its thirty years activity realised standardization of geographical names in the extent of the Basic Map of the Slovak Republic in the scale of 1:50 000 and 1:10 000 and Slovak exonyms from foreign territories. In cartographic works published in the Slovak Republic geographical names are basically given in official Slovak language in standardized form. Standardization from the Slovak territory was completed in 1994. National names authority has published standardized names in 68 gazettes including lists of exonyms. Standardized geographical names are according to the Act No. 215/1995 of National Council of the Slovak Republic on geodesy and cartography obligatory for the publishers of cartographic works, for the use in the press and other mass media and official activities of state agencies and municipalities. National names authority Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of the Slovak Republic has adopted and published the principles and practices applied in standardization of geographical names in Instruction for standardization of geographical names. According to recommendations of UN the Slovak Republic has published Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, which may enable cartographers of other countries to treat correctly all problems of cartographic toponymy of the Slovak territory. In 1995 the creation of computer-aided database of geographical names from the territory of the Slovak Republic started in the extent of Basic Map of the Slovak Republic 1:10 000. As basic source of information serve published catalogues of standardized names. Input form of every name contains apart from its standardized name form also its location according to the cadastral area and current administrative division. Further the name is located by means of the map sheet of basic map and geographical coordinates. Water courses and hills are classified into respective catchment basins or orographic units. Another data entering the database is the date of standardization or previous form of the name, if any, along with its duration of validity and generic specification of an object. Software makes possible both the output of all files of names with all items entering the database and variable outputs according to single items or optional combination of loaded items. It is intended gradually public all standardized names on web sites. At present the database of names is not linked to the digital basic map of scale 1:10 000, which so far is just being created too. In the near future the linkage of the database of names to this map, using common software, is planned. The work of the Committee on Geographical Names of geographical names standardization is promoted by the periodical *Názvoslovné informácie* (Information on Geographical Names).