

Baltic Division of UNGEGN

Structure, operations and works of the Baltic Division

Maciej Zych

Chair of the Baltic Division



Member states of the Baltic Division

1992 – the Baltic Division was created:

- Republic of Estonia
- Republic of Latvia
- Republic of Lithuania
- Russian Federation

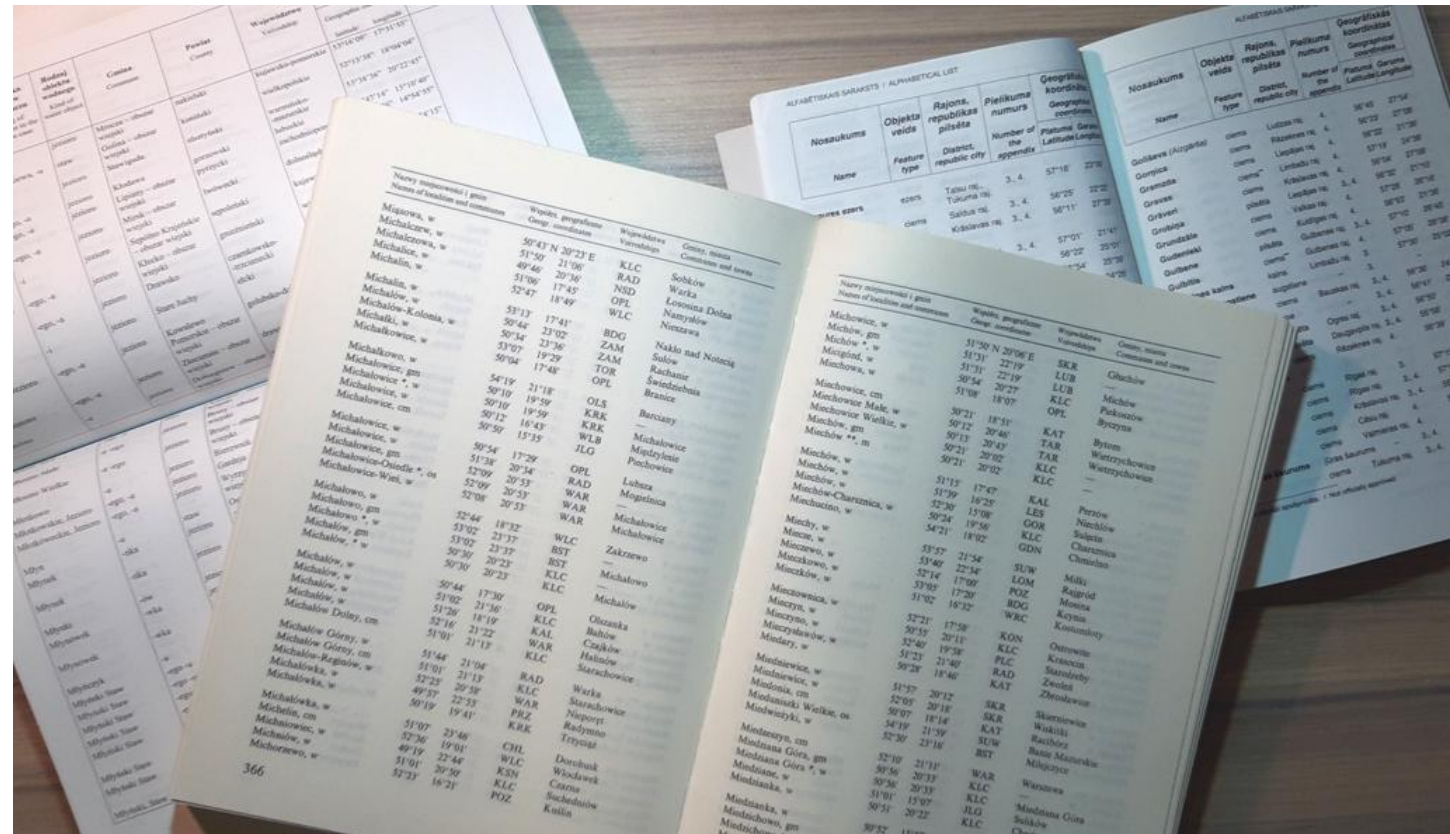
2012 – enlargement of the Baltic Division:

- Republic of Poland



Main objectives of the Baltic Division

- promote national and international standardization of geographical names
- maintain and promote the collaboration, contacts and exchange of experience in national and international standardization of geographical names and to disseminate that experience between the member countries of the Division



Chairing of the Baltic Division

- chair and one vice-chair
- rotational basis scheme
- period of four years (two periods between UNGEGN sessions)
- state vice-chairing in a given term will be chairing in the next term

Period 2021-2025:

- chair Maciej Zych (Poland)
- vice-chair: Rita Viliuvienė (Lithuania)

Meetings of the Baltic Division

- meeting every year or two
- rotation scheme of the host country of the meeting
- additional meetings during UNGEGN sessions
- participation of observers from non-member countries
- working language: English



Success factors for the Baltic Division

- constant exchange of experiences since the establishment of the Baltic Division
- systematic and fairly frequent meetings of the Baltic Division
- standardization of geographical names carried out in all member states
- all member states have authorities responsible for geographical names (separate geographical names authorities or geographical names are under authority of other central bodies)
- all member states have geographical names databases
- in all member states geographical names are also studied in academia

Challenges for the Baltic Division

1. Member countries use languages belonging to 4 different language groups, which use two writing systems:
 - Balto-Finnic languages (Estonian) – Latin script
 - Eastern Baltic languages (Latvian, Lithuanian) – Latin script
 - East Slavic languages (Russian) – Cyrillic script
 - West Slavic languages (Polish) – Latin script
2. Rotation of persons responsible for the standardization of geographical names
3. Political issues

Baltic Division of UNGEGN

Thank you

Maciej Zych

Chair of the Baltic Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

<http://www.eki.ee/knn/ungegn/index.htm>