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Activities Relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

List of official names of localities in Poland (2015 edition)

Submitted by Poland*

* Prepared by Maciej Zych (Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland).

List of official names of localities in Poland (2015 edition)

Summary

In October 2015 the second edition of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” was published in Poland. The previous edition of the “List...” was published in 2012.

The list was published on the basis of the “Act on official names of localities and physiographic objects”, which entered into force in 2003. This act regulates, among others, rules and procedures for establishing, changing and abolishing official names of localities and their parts, as well as the manner of establishing and publishing lists of official names of localities and their parts.

The “List of official names of localities and their parts” contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts, including: 915 names of towns and cities, 43,068 names of villages, 6,710 names of parts of towns and cities, 36,263 names of parts of villages, 5,132 names of hamlets, and 4,619 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 column – officially established type of locality; in the third, fourth and fifth columns – affiliation to an 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 column – 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 annually, and they come into force always on 1st January – these changes are effect of changes in the names, as well as changes in type of name (changes of type can also result from changes of boundaries of cities and towns).

The geographical coordinates of the localities are not taken into consideration in the “List of official names of localities and their parts”. However, coordinates had been obtained by the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography, and they have been entered into database of the National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG).

The “List of official names of localities and their parts” is available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php.

List of official names of localities in Poland (2015 edition)

At the beginning of 2013, the “Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 13 December 2012 on the list of official names of localities and their parts” [“Rozporządzenie Ministra Administracji i Cyfryzacji z dnia 13 grudnia 2012 r. w sprawie wykazu urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części”] was published in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland. In October 2015 the updated edition of this list was published as the “Announcement of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 4 August 2015 on the list of official names of localities and their parts” [“Obwieszczenie Ministra Administracji i Cyfryzacji z dnia 4 sierpnia 2015 r. w sprawie wykazu urzędowych nazw miejscowości i ich części”]¹. Both lists contain more than 103,000 official names of localities and their parts from the entire territory of Poland.

1. History of the standardization of names of localities in Poland

Collection and standardization of geographical names have a long tradition in Poland. The process was initiated on a larger scale in the 18th century together with the development of maps and gazetteers covering the entire or nearly the entire Polish territory. “Geographical dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic countries” [“Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich”] is of great importance for this process. This monumental work consisting of 15 volumes, published in 1880-1902, contained names of localities, rivers, mountains, lakes, and other geographic features.

When Poland regained independence in 1918, it became necessary to standardize the geographical names of areas that throughout over a hundred years had been partitioned by Prussia, Austria-Hungary and Russia. At first, no official body responsible for geographical name standardization existed, but names were established for the purposes of publication of topographic maps and national censuses. The first topographic maps started to be issued in 1919 by the Geographic-Military Institute (known as the Military Institute of Geography since 1921). At the beginning, they copied maps of the partitioning countries where they introduced Polish place names.

Works on standardization considerably gained pace in 1921, as the first national census was conducted. As part of the census, also information on names of localities was collected, which resulted in the publication of the “Index of the localities of the Republic of Poland prepared based on the results of the First National Census of 30 September 1921 and other official sources” [“Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej opracowany na podstawie wyników pierwszego powszechnego spisu ludności z dn. 30 września 1921 r. i innych źródeł urzędowych”] by the Central Statistical Office in the years 1923 to 1926 in 14 volumes (initially, 16 volumes were planned, however, those concerning Vilnius area and Śląskie Voivodship [Silesia] ultimately remained unpublished). The names included in this publication may be considered standardized, but not official (officially adopted as a result of an established procedure).

¹ Both editions of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” are available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/official_names.php (in .pdf and .xlsx formats).

Bodies officially responsible for approving names of localities were not created in Poland until 1934. Autonomous Śląskie Voivodship was the exception, as the local authorities were in charge of establishing the administrative division and geographical names. As early as in 1922, in this voivodship 700 official names of cities, towns, villages and manor areas – all independent localities within the voivodship – were established (“List of counties, their urban and rural communes, manor areas and cities not belonging to counties [“Spis powiatów, należących do nich gmin miejskich i wiejskich, obszarów dworskich oraz miast wyjętych z powiatów”], Journal of Silesian Laws of 1922 no. 13, item 43).

The “Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland of 24 October 1934 on establishing the names of localities and real estate numbering” [“Rozporządzenie Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej z dnia 24 października 1934 r. o ustaleniu nazw miejscowości i o numeracji nieruchomości”] ultimately regulated the issues of establishing official names of localities. Pursuant to its provisions, the Commission on Establishing Names of Localities was created at the Minister of the Interior. The Commission was active until 1939, and during this period established the official names of: cities and towns of Poland (the list published in 1937 as the “Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior of 28 February 1937 on establishing official names of cities and towns” [“Zarządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych z dnia 28 lutego 1937 r. o ustaleniu urzędowych nazw miast”], Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland of 1937 no. 69, item 104), localities of Wileńskie [Vilnius] Voivodship (“List of localities of the Republic of Poland. Volume I. Wileńskie Voivodship” [“Wykaz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Tom I. Województwo wileńskie”], published in 1938 as the “Ordinance of the Minister of the Interior of 28 April 1938 on establishing official names of inhabited localities on the area of Wileńskie Voivodship” [“Zarządzenie Ministra Spraw Wewnętrznych z dnia 28 kwietnia 1938 r. o ustaleniu urzędowych nazw miejscowości zamieszkałych na obszarze województwa wileńskiego”]), the localities of Kieleckie Voivodship (the list remained unpublished and was lost during World War II).

The period after World War II brought a necessity of further works on standardization of names, and on vast areas of the so-called Recovered Territories (i.e. territories transferred to Poland under the decision of the Potsdam Conference, 1945) Polish geographical names had to be created and established. These works were undertaken by the Commission on Establishing Names of Localities, reactivated in 1945. In 1948, the scope of establishing official names was extended to include also names of uninhabited localities and names of physiographic objects, and the Commission changed its name to the Commission on Establishing the Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects (known as the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects since 2003). At first, all the works were focused on establishing the names in the areas newly incorporated into Poland, and those established were published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland as regulations (orders in the early period) of the Minister of Public Administration or both the Minister of Public Administration and the Minister of Recovered Territories. As a result, nearly 32,000 names of localities were established. In the subsequent years, names from the remaining parts of the country were standardized – by 1974, 197 volumes of “Official names of localities and physiographic objects” [“Urzędowe nazwy miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych”] were published, providing names from the areas of particular counties (i.e. second order administrative units) for about the half territory of Poland (in 1975, after administrative reform and abolition of counties, standardizing works were abandoned).

In 1980-82, the “List of official names of localities in Poland” [“Wykaz urzędowych nazw miejscowości w Polsce”] was published pursuant to the “Order no. 15 of the Minister of

Administration, Land Management and Environment of 10 July 1980 on establishing the list of localities within the People's Republic of Poland" ["Zarządzenie Nr 15 Ministra Administracji, Gospodarki Terenowej i Ochrony Środowiska z dnia 10 lipca 1980 roku w sprawie ustalenia wykazu miejscowości w Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej"] (Official Journal of the Minister of Administration, Land Management and Environment no. 4, item 9). This 3-volume gazetteer includes approximately 111,000 names of localities and their parts. It remained the one and only official list of localities covering the area of the entire country until 2013. Apart from the name of a locality, it also provided: the ending of its genitive singular, its administrative affiliation (commune, voivodship), postal affiliation and the nearest rail station or rail stop.

Thirty years later next list with official names of localities and their parts from the entire territory of Poland was published.

2. Legal basis for establishing names of localities in Poland

Official names of localities, as well as those of physiographic objects, are established based on the "Act of 19 August 2003 on official names of localities and physiographic objects" ["Ustawa z dnia 29 sierpnia 2003 r. o urzędowych nazwach miejscowości i obiektów fizjograficznych"], effective as of 7 October 2003 (Journal of Laws of 2003, No. 166, item 1612)². The act sets out, among others, the rules and procedure of establishing, changing and abolishing official names of localities and their parts. It also specifies the types of localities, and the procedure for publishing lists of official names of localities and their parts.

Polish official names of localities and their parts may be established, changed or abolished upon request of:

1. a commune council,
2. the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects,
3. the minister competent for public administration (currently the Minister of the Interior and Administration; till 2015 – the Minister of Administration and Digitization).

Practically, names are established upon request of commune councils only. Any establishing, abolishing or changing of a name of locality comes into effect as of 1st January, pursuant to a regulation of the Minister published in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland.

Where the names of localities or their parts are established, abolished or changed³ upon request of commune (city) councils, the legislation procedure is the following:

- a commune council adopts a resolution on establishing, changing or abolishing an official name;
- a commune council announces and conducts consultations with inhabitants of the locality (or its part) concerned;
- a commune council prepares a motion regarding a name, including information on consultations with inhabitants, an opinion of a county head (starosta), a topographic map with

² The English language version of the *Act of 19 August 2003 on official names of localities and physiographic objects* is available on the website of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names: http://ksng.gugik.gov.pl/english/files/act_on_official_names_of_localities_and_physiographic_objects.pdf.

³ Pursuant to the Act, a change of the mere type of locality, for example from "hamlet" to "village", is also understood as a change of the name.

the locality (or its part) limits concerned, information about financial costs of the proposed change (e.g. costs of document or signboard replacement etc.). A motion is subsequently passed to a voivode for review, who passes it to the Minister by 31 March of the year before the changes are planned to come into effect;

- the Minister consults their advisory body, the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects. The Commission examines the completeness and correctness of a motion from the linguistic, historical and administrative points of view, and then issues an opinion through a resolution;

- the Minister decides whether to accept or reject the motion, which may also be returned for supplementation;

- a change is published in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland.

If a changing, abolishing or establishing of a name is requested by the Minister, then the Minister shall apply to concerned commune council, a county starosta, a voivode and the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects for their opinions to this respect, a commune council being obliged to conduct consultations with the inhabitants prior to issuing an opinion. All these opinions are of a consultative nature, while the ultimate decision is made by the Minister. If a change of a name is requested by the Commission on Names of Localities and Physiographic Objects, then the Commission shall communicate a motion to the Minister, who subsequently requests concerned commune council, a county starosta and a voivode their opinions to this respect, a commune council being obliged to conduct consultations with the inhabitants prior to issuing an opinion. Once these opinions are obtained, the Minister makes a decision as regards the Commission's motion.

3. Preparative works on the list of official names of localities and their parts

The preparative works on the first edition of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” were based on the “List of official names of localities in Poland” published in 1980-82, along with all its amendments introduced after its publication via regulations (orders) of the minister competent for public administration announced in the Journals of Laws of the Republic of Poland or Official Gazettes of Poland.

Amendments to the “List of official names of localities and their parts” are introduced in pursuance of regulations of the Minister on establishing, changing and abolishing of official names of localities announced in the Journals of Laws of the Republic of Poland. These changes are effect of changes in the names, as well as changes in type of name. Moreover, regulations of the Council of Ministers on boundaries change might bring changes of a type of locality (in the case of changes of boundaries of cities and towns). All amendments come into force on January 1.

The following regulations have been announced since publication the first edition of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” of 2012:

- “Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 20 December 2012 on establishing, changing and abolishing official names of certain localities and establishing names of certain physiographic objects” (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 1515), pursuant to which 14 new locality names have been established, 68 names have been changed (including 33 changes of the name, 6 changes of the name and type of locality, and 29 changes of the type of locality only), and 67 names have been abolished;

- “Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 30 July 2013 on establishing the boundaries of certain communes and towns, grant the status of town for certain localities, and change the seat of the commune authority” (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 869), pursuant to which, as a result of granting localities the status of town and enlargement of boundaries of towns, 11 localities changed its type (5 for “town”, and 6 for “part of town”);
- “Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 13 December 2013 on establishing, changing and abolishing official names of certain localities and establishing the name of a physiographic object” (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 1629), pursuant to which 13 new locality names have been established, 57 names have been changed (including 26 changes of the name, 7 changes of the name and type of locality, and 24 changes of the type of locality only), and 44 names have been abolished;
- “Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 29 July 2014 on the merger of communes, establishing the boundaries of certain communes and towns, grant the status of town for certain localities, and change the seat of the commune authority” (Journal of Laws of 2014, item 1023), pursuant to which, as a result of granting localities the status of town and enlargement of boundaries of towns, 26 localities changed its type (2 for “town”, and 24 for “part of town”);
- “Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 4 December 2014 on establishing, changing and abolishing official names of certain localities and establishing names of a physiographic objects” (Journal of Laws of 2014, item 1832), pursuant to which 5 new locality names have been established, 39 names have been changed (including 14 changes of the name, 4 changes of the name and type of locality, and 21 changes of the type of locality only), and 59 names have been abolished.

Altogether, after the publication of the first edition of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” of 2012, 32 new locality names have been established, 201 names have been changed (including 73 changes of the name, 17 changes of the name and type of locality, and 111 changes of the type of locality only), and 170 names have been abolished.

All these changes have been incorporated into the new edition of the “List of official names of localities and their parts”, published in October 2015 in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland as the “Announcement of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 4 August 2015 on the list of official names of localities and their parts”. The list contains 103,086 official names of localities and their parts.

4. Contents of the list of official names of localities and their parts

The “List of official names of localities and their parts” of 2015 has been arranged as a table with eight columns (fig.1). The first one provides the official name of a locality or a part thereof. All names in the list have been put in alphabetical order. In the case of homonym names, priority was established pursuant to the alphabetical order of the voivodships they belong to (or, if this resulted inconclusive, the alphabetical order of the respective counties and communes). Where identical names of localities occurred within a single commune, they were arranged according to the alphabetical order of the locality type. Where identical names of parts of villages occurred within a single commune, they were put in the alphabetical order of the names of localities they form part of. The same principles applied to colonies and hamlets.

In the second column, the official type of the locality is provided. 23 types of localities (6 of them are independent localities) are distinguished in the list:

- **city/town [miasto]**,
- part of a city/town [część miasta],
- **village [wieś]**,
- part of a village [część wsi],
- **housing estate [osiedle]**,
- housing estate of a village [osiedle wsi],
- **colony [kolonia]**,
- part of a colony [część kolonii],
- colony of a village [kolonia wsi],
- colony of a colony [kolonia kolonii],
- colony of a settlement [kolonia osady],
- **settlement [osada]**,
- part of a settlement [część osady],
- settlement of a village [osada wsi],
- settlement of a colony [osada kolonii],
- settlement of a settlement [osada osady],
- **hamlet [przysiółek]**,
- hamlet of a village [przysiółek wsi],
- hamlet of a colony [przysiółek kolonii],
- hamlet of a settlement [przysiółek osady],
- forest settlement [osada leśna],
- forest settlement of a village [osada leśna wsi],
- tourist refuge [schronisko turystyczne].

Nazwa miejscowości	Rodzaj	Gmina	Powiat (miasto na prawach powiatu)	Województwo	Identyfikator miejscowości z krajowego rejestru urzędowego podziału terytorialnego kraju TERYT	Dopelniacz	Przymiotnik
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Abisynia	część wsi Turzyn	Kcynia	nakielski	kujawsko-pomorskie	1029454	-ni	
Abisynia	kolonia wsi Droblin	Leśna Podlaska	białski	lubelskie	0014580	-ni	
Abisynia	część kolonii Dąbrowa	Hrubieszów	hrubieszowski	lubelskie	0889166	-ni	
Abisynia	część wsi Wiele	Karsin	kościerski	pomorskie	0162790	-ni	
Abisynia	osada	Karsin	kościerski	pomorskie	0162398	-ni	
Abisynia	część wsi Tymawa	Gniew	tzewski	pomorskie	1037608	-ni	
Abisynia	część miasta Starachowice	Starachowice	starachowicki	świętokrzyskie	0947946	-ni	
Abisynia	część wsi Drawsko	Drawsko	czarnkowsko-trzcianiecki	wielkopolskie	1005962	-ni	
Abisynia Górka	część wsi Górki	Karsin	kościerski	pomorskie	0162518	-ni -kiej	
Abram	część wsi Tychów	Czarnocin	piotrkowski	łódzkie	0537214	-ma	
Abramiki	część wsi Bujnowo	Wyszki	bielski	podlaskie	0043802	-ków	
Abramowice	część miasta Lublin	Lublin	Lublin	lubelskie	0954716	-wic	
Abramowice	przysiółek wsi Szczyrzyc	Jodłownik	limanowski	małopolskie	0430700	-wic	
Abramowice Kościelne	wieś	Głusk	lubelski	lubelskie	0954722	-wic -nych	abramowicki
Abramowice Prywatne	wieś	Głusk	lubelski	lubelskie	0380988	-wic -nych	abramowicki
Abramów	wieś	Goraj	biłgorajski	lubelskie	0887629	-mowa	abramowski
Abramów	wieś	Abramów	lubartowski	lubelskie	0378052	-mowa	abramowski
Abramów	część wsi Bychawka Druga-Kolonia	Bychawa	lubelski	lubelskie	1020890	-mowa	
Abramówka	część wsi Wólka Cycowska	Cyców	łęczyński	lubelskie	0102255	-ki	
Abramówka	część wsi Ciszycza Górna	Tarłów	opatowski	świętokrzyskie	0808110	-ki	
Abramów-Kolonia	część wsi Abramów	Goraj	biłgorajski	lubelskie	0887635	-mowa-Kolonii	
Abramy	wieś	Kaluszyn	miński	mazowieckie	0673733	-mów	abramski
Achrymowce	wieś	Kuźnica	sokólski	podlaskie	0033092	-wice	achrymowiecki
Adama	część wsi Boczkowice	Książ Wielki	miechowski	małopolskie	0246340	-my	
Adamcowa	część wsi Skomielna Biała	Lubień	myslenicki	małopolskie	0441773	-wej	

Fig. 1. The arrangement of the “List of official names of localities and their parts”.

The third, fourth and fifth columns provide the administrative affiliation of the locality to a commune (the third level administrative unit), county (the second level administrative unit), and voivodship (the first level administrative unit). A seven-digit identifier of locality from the National Official Register of the Territorial Division of the Country (TERYT) is provided in the sixth column.

The seventh column provides the genitive ending for names of all localities, while the last column features a derived adjective, however, only for cities, towns and villages.

The rules for determining genitive case endings, adjectives and any other notes regarding the names included in the list have been set out in the explanatory memorandum to the regulation prepared by the Ministry of Administration and Digitization and elaborated by expert linguists.

For genitive forms of one-word names, if the full name is composed of two or more syllables in its genitive form, the inflectional ending is preceded by the preceding consonant or group of consonants and by a hyphen (with no space), for example *Biała – Białej* (the word stem is *biał-*, and the ending is *-ej*), so the genitive form is provided in the list in the following way: *-lej*, *Wólka – Wólki: -ki*, *Spaliska – Spalisk: -lisk*. Where alternations (quantitative or qualitative) affecting the word stem appear, such an alternation has been clearly marked, for example: *Ujków – Ujkowa: -kowa*, *Ostrów – Ostrowa: -rowa*. Where the genitive form is monosyllabic, the full name form is provided, for example *Słoje – Słoi: Słoi*, and if a double consonant appears in the genitive form, it is also marked, for example *Kamienna – Kamiennej: -nnej*.

For genitives of composed names with no hyphen, the rules are similar to the ones for simple names, and the following pattern applies: -ending of the first component (space) -ending of the second component, for example *Sojczyń Borowy: -na -wego*, *Sorocza Nózka: -czej -ki*. For composed names spelt with a hyphen, the following pattern applies: -ending of the first component according to general rules (with no space) + - (hyphen) + full genitive form of the second component, for example *Stawiereje-Michałowięta: -rej-Michałowięta*, *Stokowo-Bućki: -wa-Bućków*.

Type of locality	Number
city/town [miasto]	915
part of a city/town [część miasta]	6,710
village [wieś]	43,068
part of a village [część wsi]	36,263
housing estate [osiedle]	5
housing estate of a village [osiedle wsi]	5
colony [kolonia]	2,203
part of a colony [część kolonii]	199
colony of a village [kolonia wsi]	974
colony of a colony [kolonia kolonii]	11
colony of a settlement [kolonia osady]	6
settlement [osada]	5,132
part of a settlement [część osady]	10
settlement of a village [osada wsi]	520
settlement of a colony [osada kolonii]	1
settlement of a settlement [osada osady]	3

hamlet [przysiółek]	133
hamlet of a village [przysiółek wsi]	4,619
hamlet of a colony [przysiółek kolonii]	41
hamlet of a settlement [przysiółek osady]	56
forest settlement [osada leśna]	1,966
forest settlement of a village [osada leśna wsi]	224
tourist refuge [schronisko turystyczne]	22
TOTAL	103,086

Table 1. Number of named localities according to their particular types

The list includes 103,086 names, those of villages and parts of villages being the most numerous (see table 1). The number of independent localities (i.e. cities and towns, villages, colonies, hamlets, housing estates and settlements) amounts to 51,456, which corresponds to a half of the total number of names (49.9%).

The highest number of named localities has been observed in Małopolskie Voivodship (14,967), 86.7% of which are names of parts of localities. The smallest number of localities has been recorded in Lubuskie Voivodship (1,668) where 76.4% of all names are names of independent localities (see table 2). The highest number of names of independent localities has been recorded in Mazowieckie Voivodship (8,278), which corresponds to 63.2% of all names, and the highest proportion of independent localities has been recorded in Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship – 81.1%. The lowest number of names of independent localities has been recorded in Opolskie Voivodship (1,180), which corresponds to 60.0% of all names, and the lowest proportion of independent localities has been recorded in Małopolskie Voivodship – 13.3%.

Voivodship	Number of named localities		
	total	of which independent localities	% of independent localities
Dolnośląskie	3,569	2,591	72.6
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	5,766	3,441	59.7
Lubelskie	7,950	3,993	50.2
Lubuskie	1,668	1,275	76.4
Łódzkie	8,349	4,966	59.5
Małopolskie	14,967	1,985	13.3
Mazowieckie	13,092	8,278	63.2
Opolskie	1,966	1,180	60.0
Podkarpackie	7,767	1,694	21.8
Podlaskie	5,144	3,658	71.1
Pomorskie	4,203	2,768	65.9
Śląskie	5,112	1,252	24.5
Świętokrzyskie	7,266	2,454	33.8
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	4,709	3,742	79.5
Wielkopolskie	7,889	5,202	65.9
Zachodniopomorskie	3,669	2,977	81.1

Table 2. Number of named localities by voivodships

The average number of residents in one named locality in Poland is 373 (748 if only independent localities are taken into account). On average, localities from Śląskie Voivodship are most populous with an average number of 897 inhabitants, while the ones from Świętokrzyskie Voivodship are the least populous ones with an average number of 174 inhabitants (fig. 2). If only independent localities are taken into account, the ones from Śląskie Voivodship are most populous with an average number of 3,663 inhabitants, while the ones from Podlaskie Voivodship are the least populous ones with an average number of 326 inhabitants.

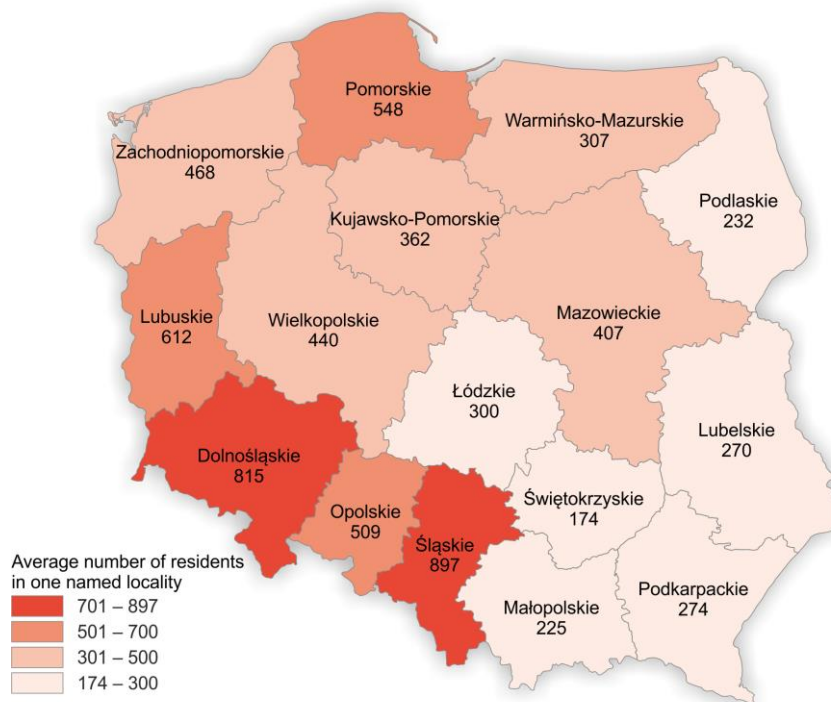


Fig. 2. The average number of residents in one named locality in voivodships of Poland.

5. Further works

Geographical names form a living part of the language, thus despite the publication of official lists, they constantly evolve, for example due to certain hamlets being abandoned by their residents, creation of new parts of localities etc. Furthermore, the type of a locality may change as a result of amendments to the administrative division introduced through a regulation of the Council of Ministers. Such changes usually are a consequence of extension of city/town limits when rural localities (villages, parts of villages, settlements etc.) become part of cities/towns. Amendments to the list of official names of localities and their parts are introduced in pursuance of regulations of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on establishing, changing and abolishing of official names of localities announced in the Journals of Laws of the Republic of Poland. Moreover, regulations of the Council of Ministers on boundaries change might bring changes of a type of locality.

The following regulations have been announced since the publication of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” of 2015:

– “Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 28 July 2015 on establishing the boundaries of certain towns, grant the status of town for certain localities, and establishing the boundaries as well as change names and seats of authorities of certain communes” (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 1083), pursuant to which, as a result of granting localities the status of

town and enlargement of boundaries of towns, 23 localities changed its type (4 for “town”, and 19 for “part of town”);

– “Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration of 17 December 2015 on establishing, changing and abolishing official names of certain localities and establishing the name of a physiographic object” (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 2277), pursuant to which 13 new locality names have been established, 85 names have been changed (including 30 changes of the name, 5 changes of the name and type of locality, and 50 changes of the type of locality only), and 42 names have been abolished.

Altogether, after the publication of the “List of official names of localities and their parts” of 2015, 13 new locality names have been established, 108 names have been changed (including 30 changes of the name, 5 changes of the name and type of locality, and 73 changes of the type of locality only), and 42 names have been abolished.

Pursuant to the Act, the “List of official names of localities and their parts” provides the situation of localities within the administrative division only (commune, county, and voivodship). Furthermore, pursuant to the “Regulation of the Minister of Administration and Digitization of 14 February 2012 on the National Register of Geographical Names” [“Rozporządzenie Ministra Administracji i Cyfryzacji z dnia 14 lutego 2012 r. w sprawie państwowego rejestru nazw geograficznych”] (Journal of Laws of 2012, item 309), the Surveyor General of Poland shall maintain the database of the National Register of Geographical Names (PRNG). The PRNG database gathers the official names introduced pursuant to the applicable legal acts on establishing, changing or abolishing of the official names of localities and physiographic objects. Each name in the register must be accompanied by the geographical coordinates of a given feature. Therefore, the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography has been independently obtaining the coordinates for localities and their parts whose names are included in the register. Hence, geographical coordinates can be found in the PRNG register for all localities mentioned in the “List of official names of localities and their parts” (fig. 3).

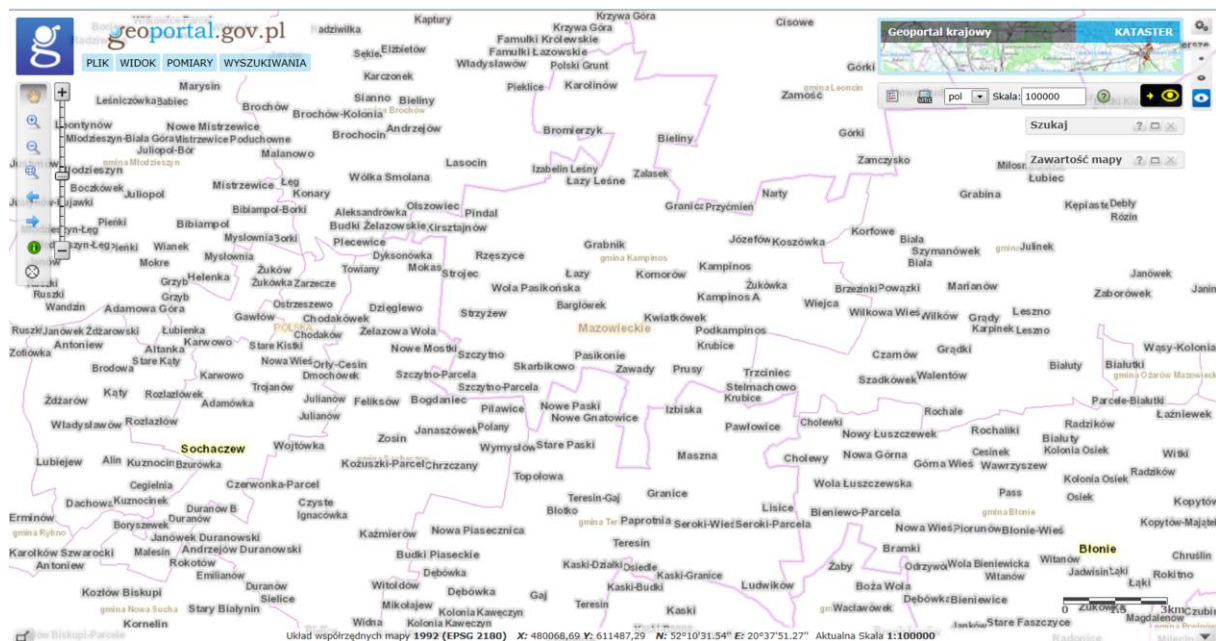


Fig. 3. Official names of localities from the National Register of Geographical Names as seen on the Polish national geoportal (geoportal.gov.pl).