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Other toponymic issues

Updates to the Polish “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”

Submitted by Poland**

Summary:

In 2011, the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography of Poland issued a new publication containing a list of country names. The publication, entitled “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”, was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland. This first edition was presented during the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York from 31 July to 9 August 2012 (see [E/CONF.101/46](#)).

Since the publication of the first edition, three updated editions have been published: the second in 2013, the third in 2015, and, most recently, the fourth in December 2017.

The fourth edition of the list contains 195 countries recognized by Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. Attached to the register is a list of nine territories with undetermined or disputed international status.

The names of the countries and territories and their capitals included in the list were approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland. The footnotes containing an explanation of the status of countries and territories were provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Adjectives derived from the names of countries and territories and the names of citizens and inhabitants were provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Unit of the Council for the Polish Language.

Each entry includes the short name of the country/territory (nominative, genitive, locative) in Polish; the official full name of the country/territory in Polish; the name of the official language (or languages) in Polish; the short name of the country/territory in its official

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language (or languages); the official full name of the country/territory in its official language (or languages); the adjectival form of the country/territory name in Polish (masculine nominative singular); the name of the inhabitants of the country/territory in Polish (masculine and feminine singular and masculine plural); the name of the capital of the country/territory in the Polish language; and the name of the capital of the country/territory in its official language (or languages).

Publication of the fifth edition of the list is scheduled for the second half of 2019. As with previous editions, it will include updates but will also be expanded to include names in non-roman scripts next to their romanized forms.

Updates to the Polish “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”

In 2011 the Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography issued the new publication that contained country names. The publication was prepared by the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland, and entitled “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories”. This first edition was presented during the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (31 July - 9 August 2012, New York) – see the document E/CONF.101/46.

The first Polish list of country names, entitled “Geographical names of important political and administrative entities of the World” was published in 1952. 187 Polish names of countries and dependent territories, as well as 263 names of administrative units were listed in this publication. The second list was published as the order of the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology in 1975 (part 1 – Europe) and 1977 (part 2 – the rest of the World). The third list of country names was published in 1986 – it also was the order of the minister. In 1997 the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names published the bilingual list entitled “Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants”, comprising both names of independent countries as well as names of 105 non-self-governing and autonomous territories. The second edition of this publication appeared in 2003. 192 independent countries were listed in this publication. Two supplements were added to the list. The first contained 64 territories (non-self-governing territories and territories of undefined or controversial status), the second supplement mentioned 64 autonomous territories being parts of 16 countries. In 2006 the publication entitled “Country names” was issued. This small booklet mentioned only names of independent states. In the next year (2007), the third edition of “Names of countries, their capitals and inhabitants” was prepared and published.

In accordance with the “Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland” of 2009, the competencies of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland comprise preparation of official lists of Polish names of countries and non-self-governing territories. The first edition of the new “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” was prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was published in 2011. It constituted an implementation of the content of the regulation mentioned above. In accordance with § 3 item 3 of this regulation, the official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories is published for use by entities responsible for executing public tasks in the territory of the Republic of Poland. This edition contained 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories. A list of ten territories with undetermined or disputed international status was attached to this publication.

Since this first edition three updated editions were published: 2nd in 2013, 3rd in 2015, and the most recent 4th edition in December of 2017.

The fourth edition contained, as all former editions, 195 countries recognized by the Republic of Poland and 69 non-self-governing territories, while the number of territories with undetermined or disputed international status, listed in the attachment to the publication, decreased from ten in the third edition to nine in the fourth edition due to omission of the Spratly Islands. Moreover, in the fourth edition some footnotes explaining names or status of capital cities were added, some adjectives and names of citizens were supplemented, and some updates and corrections in endonyms were introduced. The list of non-self-government territories was expanded with information on the form of dependence of a given territory (e.g. overseas territory, unincorporated territory).

The names of countries have been put in alphabetical order. All the entries have been prepared according to a single pattern, which was introduced in the first edition of the “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” and was in use till the fourth edition.

According to this pattern the short country name in Polish is used as an entry name. Next the location of the respective country (part of the world) is given. The entry contained five items:

- 1) The short name of the country in Polish (in nominative, genitive, and locative cases) and the official or full name (in the nominative case, and also in the genitive and locative cases where the declension of a name may cause problems). Where only the short name is given, this means that it is also the official name. For some countries, common Polish abbreviations have been provided.
- 2) The short name of the country and its full official name in the official language (or languages).
- 3) An adjective derived from the name of the country in Polish (in its nominative singular masculine form).
- 4) A name of the citizens of the country in Polish in its nominative singular masculine and feminine form, as well as the plural masculine form.
- 5) A name of the capital of the country used in Polish (in nominative, genitive and locative cases). If its spelling is Polonized, it is followed by the name in the official language (or languages).

For countries and capitals whose names are originally written in a non-Roman script, either traditional Polonized names are used or ones in their Polish transcription. In both cases, the original name in its romanized form has also been provided. If no adjective or name of the citizen exists, the respective item has been omitted in the list. This means that descriptive forms are recommended, such as “government of the Solomon Islands” or “citizen of the Marshall Islands”.

The list of names of non-self-governing territories was arranged in a similar way to the list of country names, with the entry name followed by information on the territory location (part of the world or, in exceptional cases, ocean). The territory’s political affiliation (form of the dependence and name of the country) was given next – this information came from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In many cases, no adjectives or names of inhabitants are derived from the territory name, and some non-self-governing territories have no capital. In such cases, the respective entries have been shortened by omitting the blank items. The alphabetical list of non-self-governing territories was supplemented by the list of these territories arranged according to the countries they are dependent on. The appendix with nine territories with a special international status had a similar entry arrangement to the one dedicated to a non-self-governing territory.

The names of countries, territories, and their capitals included in the list had obtained approval of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The footnotes explaining the status of countries and territories have been provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The adjectives derived from names of countries and territories, as well as names of citizens and inhabitants have been provided in line with the opinion provided by the Orthography and Onomastics Unit of the Council for the Polish Language.

Fig. 1. Example of entry arrangement in the fourth edition.

Andora [Andorra]	Europa [Europe]
<i>pol.</i> [Polish] Andora , <i>D.</i> [genitive] Andory, <i>Mc.</i> [locative] Andorze;	
Księstwo Andory [Principality of Andorra]	
<i>kataloński</i> [Catalan] Andorra; Principat d’Andorra	
<i>przym.</i> [adjective] andorski	
<i>obyw.</i> [name of the citizen] Andorczyk, Andorka, Andorczycy [Andorran]	
<i>stol.</i> [capital] Andora , <i>D.</i> [genitive] Andory, <i>Mc.</i> [locative] Andorze – Andorra la Vella	

According to the “Regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the manner and scope of activity of the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the

Republic of Poland”, the “Official list of names of countries and non-self-governing territories” shall be published at least every two years. Since the fourth edition was published in 2017, the fifth edition of the list is scheduled to be published in the second half of 2019.

As in the previous editions updates and corrections in endonyms will be introduced in this fifth edition of the list. However, the main changes would concern on the adoption of new names for Swaziland and Macedonia (FYRO). The first was replaced by Eswatini, while the following by the name of North Macedonia (Macedonia Północna in Polish). Changes in country names have brought changes in adjectives from these country names and names of citizens used in Polish.

Other changes will include an adding the name of new capital city of Burundi (i.e. Gitega) and a modification of Romanization systems for two languages: 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.

Finally, the main change in the fifth edition will concern the extension of information provided to entries for countries that use non-roman scripts. In the case of such 68 countries and territories names in non-roman scripts will be included next to its Romanized forms. It means names in 40 languages and 20 writing systems (namely: Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Cyrillic, Devanagari, Ge'ez, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Khmer, Korean, Lao, Sinhala, Tamil, Thaana, Thai, Tibetan, Tifinagh) will be added to the list.

Fig. 2. Example of entry arrangement in the fifth edition.

Algeria [Algeria]	Afryka [Africa]
<i>pol.</i> [Polish] Algeria [Algeria], <i>D.</i> [genitive] Algierii, <i>Mc.</i> [locative] Algierii; Algierska Republika Ludowo-Demokratyczna [People's Democratic Republic of Algeria]	
<i>arab.</i> [Arabic] الْجَزَائِر [non-Roman form] – <i>trl.</i> [transliteration] Al-Jazā'ir, <i>trb.</i> [transcription] Al-Dżaza'ir; الْجُمْهُورِيَّةُ الْجَزَائِرِيَّةُ الدِّيمُقْرَاطِيَّةُ الشَّعْبِيَّة [non-Roman form] – <i>trl.</i> Al-Jumhūriyyah al-Jazā'iriyyah ad-Dīmuqrāṭiyyah ash-Sha'biyyah, <i>trb.</i> Al-Dżumhurijja al-Dżaza'irijja ad-Dimukratijja asz-Szabijja	
<i>stol.</i> [capital] Algier [Alger], <i>D.</i> [genitive] Algieru, <i>Mc.</i> [locative] Algierze, الْجَزَائِر [non-Roman form] – <i>trl.</i> [transliteration] Al-Jazā'ir, <i>trb.</i> [transcription] Al-Dżaza'ir	