



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Ref.: E.T. 4/98, E.T. 5/97
email: ahadjiraftis@dls.moi.gov.cy



April 28, 2014

**Subject: Brief report of activities of the Cyprus Permanent Committee
for the Standardization of Geographical Names**

The United Nations, with the decision of the Economic and Social Council in April 1961, undertook international efforts for implementing the standardization of geographical names. The Republic of Cyprus, complying to these efforts and also to the related UN resolutions, participates actively to all Conferences, Sessions and Divisions' meetings, trying always to fulfill its obligations on these matters.

The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names. According to the law N.66(I)/98 and the regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee acts under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years.

The CPCSGN continues the tasks for the collection, the standardization and the Romanization of the Greek alphabet, according to ELOT 743, of the geographical names of the Republic of Cyprus. Almost all toponyms were gathered by appropriate and authorized bodies during the mapping of Cyprus in 1878 and later periods. The methodology and the procedure of collecting and recording the toponyms and microtoponyms of Cyprus, and their further processing, were described in detail and distributed to all the participants during the 8th Regional Meeting of the Asia South-West Division of UNGEGN in 2008.

The CPCSGN has recently completed the design and the implementation of a new website. The address of this website is: <http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/>

The website includes information regarding the historic background of CPCSGN, legislation and regulations regarding its operation, the organizational structure, announcements, activities, documents from our participation in conferences and other events, documents regarding the transliteration of geographical names in roman alphabet, several editions, maps, etc. The website also includes a complete and fully searchable national gazetteer.

A Booklet/Guide for the Standardization of Names was compiled and published in December 2007. This Guide is in the Greek language and includes a large number of items to cover all the sectors involved with geographical names and is suitable especially for local use and needs. The Committee continues to distribute this booklet to academic institutions, schools, government and semi-government departments, cultural centers, and individuals interested in the topic.

The UNGEGN Promotional Brochure, was translated into the Greek language, and it was published as 2nd Edition in 2009. This Brochure was distributed also to all of the above sectors, and continues to be distributed when needed.

The Toponymic guidelines presented in draft form during the 22nd UNGEGN Session have already been revised and amended accordingly. It is anticipated to be published soon.

A list of names of countries and capitals was submitted during the 10th UN Conference and the 27th Session of UNGEGN and was also distributed to many government departments, ministries, academic institutions, schools. It is also available on CPCSGN's website.

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

- (i) The "*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*" (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The "*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*" (about 67000 entries)

All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was recently digitized, and it will be soon available on CPCSGN's website.

All cadastral maps of Cyprus have already been digitized and their information was categorized and stored in digital relational databases and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Based on these databases, it is possible today to produce a new, more precise gazetteer.

All geographical names and toponyms were included in a distributed European database named EuroGeonames through EuroGeographics, and they are available on line at: <http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNoI/>

During the last three years more than 2000 toponyms have been examined and processed, offering services to government, and local government authorities for the standardization and transcription from the Greek Alphabet to the Roman script according to ELOT 743.

The CPCSGN strongly supports the efforts undertaken by the U.N. for the standardization of geographical names and aims to comply and implement the U.N. and UNGEGN Conferences resolutions for the standardization of geographical names.

Cyprus gives a great importance on the implementation of the U.N. Conference resolutions on the standardization of geographical names, as a part of its duties for safeguarding the cultural heritage.

I will be glad to provide further details if needed.



Andreas Hadjiraftis
President of CPCSGN