

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Bosnia and Herzegovina

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee



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1. Introduction

a. Purpose

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Bosnia and Herzegovina for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

b. Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence from the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia in March 1992. Even before officially declaring independence, local Croats and Serbs declared their own autonomous governments over vast regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Not long after Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of independence, open warfare broke out between the three main Bosnian ethnic groups: Bosniaks, Serbs, and Croats. By 1993, over 70% of the countryside was controlled by Bosnian Serb forces. In other parts of the country, Croat and Bosniak forces fought for control of territory. In 1995 Bosniak and Croat forces joined together, and, coupled with NATO airstrikes against Serb forces, managed to drive Serb forces from nearly one-third of the land under Bosnian Serb control. Negotiations to end the war culminated with the signing of the Dayton Accords in December 1995. The Dayton Accords established the joint Bosniak-Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska as the two "entities" comprising Bosnia-Herzegovina, overseen by an internationally appointed High Representative with near-absolute power to enforce peace. In 2000, a third first-order administrative division, Brcko District, was created, effectively dividing the Republika Srpska in two.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

The 1992-1995 Bosnian war severely affected the demographics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prior to 2013, the last reliable census was conducted in 1991. That census revealed that no one group formed a majority of the population, but that Bosniaks held a plurality, with 43% of the population, followed by Serbs with 31%, and Croats with 17%. Self-described Yugoslavs formed 6% of the population, with the remainder comprising other ethnicities, none garnering more than

1% of the total population. The total population in 1991 was 4,376,403.¹

The first post-war census of independent Bosnia and Herzegovina was conducted in 2013. The total population fell to 3,791,622, a collapse of 584,781, or 13.4% of the pre-war population. Nearly one-quarter of the fall is attributed to wartime deaths and casualties, with the rest attributed to natural mortality and emigration. The Census revealed that 50.11% of the population were ethnic Bosniaks, 30.78% were ethnic Serbs, 15.43% were ethnic Croats, and others at 2.73% of the population. Remaining census respondents did not declare their ethnicity.

Religion in Bosnia and Herzegovina is generally synonymous with ethnicity. Bosniaks are almost universally Muslim, Serbs are Eastern Orthodox, and Croats are Roman Catholic.

b. Languages

Prior to independence, the unified Serbo-Croatian language was the sole official language within Bosnia and Herzegovina. The collapse of Yugoslavia and the re-emergence of local nationalisms prompted the official dissolution of the Serbo-Croatian language into its local, mutually intelligible, and often indistinguishable, variants. Thus, the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina are the Bosnian language, the Serbian language, and the Croatian language.

For the purposes of geographic names standardization, Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian are grouped (together with Montenegrin) in a catch-all language code (hbs). Where minor dialectical differences exist, those different names will be captured with the 'hbs' language code, and the appropriate dialect code.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

There is no official body tasked with standardizing geographic names in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most authoritative maps are produced at the entity level. Within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mapping is handled by the Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs. In the Republika Srpska, the same function is handled by the Republic Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs.

d. Unique Linguistic Situations

Despite their legal status within Bosnia as separate languages, Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian within Bosnia and Herzegovina are completely mutually intelligible, and, until 1991, were considered slightly differentiated dialects of the same Serbo-Croatian language. These similarities are clearly reflected in geographic names, that is, the official names of all geographic features and places in Bosnia and Herzegovina are spelled identically in all three languages. Furthermore, while Bosnian and Croatian are written only in Roman script, they can be easily transliterated into Serbian Cyrillic. Owing to these similarities, and in an effort to combat cluttering of the Geographic Names Database, the following rules should be followed when collecting geographic

¹ Census of Population, Households, Dwellings and Agricultural Holdings 1991. Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina State Office for Statistics. 1991.

names in Bosnia:

All Latin script names will be coded with the "latn" script code.

All approved names that are identical in any combination of languages will be assigned the 'hbs' language code.

All names will have a Serbian Cyrillic counterpart, which will have a Serbian Cyrillic script code, will link to the approved name, and will be designated as a native script (NS) name.

In instances where the approved names differ (almost always because of differences in generic terms), the 'hbs' language code will be assigned for all names, with a dialect code added to the geographic names that differ. (e.g., Kanton Sarajevo will not have a dialect code since it is identical in Bosnian and Serbian, while Županija Sarajevo will have a Croatian dialect code, since it is unique).

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Script and Orthography

All three of Bosnia and Herzegovina's official languages are written in the Latin script, though Serbian is officially dual-script, Latin and Serbian Cyrillic. Serbian Cyrillic is characterized by a phonemic alphabet comprising 30 individual characters. Alphabetization in the Latin scripts generally follows the same course as English, however, characters with diacritic marks (listed below in section 3c) are considered letters in their own right and, for purposes of (non-English) alphabetization, follow the letter from which they are derived. Thus, "Ćirilovo Brdo" would follow "Čitluk," which would follow "Cer," for example. In addition, the digraphs "Dž," "Lj," and "Nj" are considered single letters in the Latin scripts for the purposes of alphabetization, though within the GNDB the characters are entered separately.

b. Romanization

Serbian Cyrillic script is romanized using the BGN/PCGN Table of Correspondences: Serbian-Cyrillic-Roman (2005).

c. Diacritics

Diacritics are shown in romanized name forms in accordance with the BGN/PCGN Table of Correspondences: Serbian-Cyrillic-Roman (2005). Diacritics are also standard in the Latin script for Bosnian and Croatian.

The following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
Capital C with wedge	Č	010C
Capital C with acute accent	Ć	0106
Capital D with bar	Đ	0110

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
Capital S with wedge	Š	0160
Capital Z with wedge	Ž	017D
Small c with wedge	č	010D
Small c with acute accent	ć	0107
Small d with bar	đ	0111
Small s with wedge	š	0161
Small z with wedge	ž	017E

d. Generic Terms

A generic is a term that describes a feature. Examples include words such as ‘river,’ ‘hill,’ and ‘lake.’ Except in cases in which the generic type does not identify the feature type, generics appearing in standardized name forms should be considered true generics. Otherwise, the term is considered to be a false generic and should not be collected as a generic.

Generic terms in Bosnia and Herzegovina are separated from the specific with a space. In instances where the generic is combined with the specific in one term, no generics are to be captured. Generics are capitalized. Generic terms are captured for all features except populated places (PPL). In accordance with BGN policy, the first letter of any generic term that appears as a separate word is capitalized, even if it occurs in lower case in official sources.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Abbreviations

Bosnian names follow general BGN policy in regard to hyphenation, capitalization, and abbreviation. The initial letter of prepositions in place names is never capitalized, unless the preposition occurs as the first element in a compound place name.

Abbreviated names should be spelled out completely in BGN standard names, and the abbreviated form captured as a variant name and as name on source.

f. Long and Short Forms

Unusually, first-order administrative division names are accorded only long forms in the GNDB for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Second and third-order administrative divisions are accorded long and short forms. Short form names are to be ranked as the primary approved name and the long form as the secondary approved name.

Optional short forms are also provided for the BGN standard names of railroad stations, railroad stops, and populated places that contain prepositions. When supported by evidence from official sources, optional short forms are provided for BGN standard names that contain generic terms, e.g., planina, reka. In such cases the specific name element becomes the short form name.

Short forms are not added to variant names and should be removed when a formerly approved name becomes a variant name.

g. Numbers

Cardinal and ordinal numerals that occur in geographic names should be spelled out completely in BGN standard names.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name and Capital

Country Name

Conventional: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Approved: Bosna i Hercegovina
Cyrillic: Босна и Херцеговина

Capital

Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian Latin: Sarajevo
Serbian Cyrillic: Сарајево

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

Bosnia and Herzegovina is composed of 2 entities and 1 district. For maps of Bosnia and Herzegovina, please see Appendix B.

<u>Name</u>	<u>GEC</u>	<u>GENC</u>	<u>Seat</u>
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of	BK01	BA-BIH	Sarajevo
Republika Srpska	BK02	BA-SRP	Banja Luka
Brcko District	BK03	BA-BRC	Brčko

c. Conventional Names

<u>Name</u>	<u>UFIs</u>	<u>UNI</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Dinaric Alps	-78455	-114898	Mountains (MTS)
Bosnia	-75853	-111087	Region (RGN)

d. Unique Geopolitical Situations

Serbia delimited about half of the boundary with Bosnia and Herzegovina, but sections along the Drina River remain in dispute.

For the latest country-specific boundary dispute information, consult the US Department of State.

5. Source Material

The best authoritative maps and charts were produced by the Yugoslav Military Geographic

Institute (Vojnogeografski Institut). In addition, the Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs and the Republic Authority for Geodetic and Property Affairs maintain web-based geoportals where a thorough variety of geographic information can be obtained. The following is a listing of source material, prioritized according to recommended usage for geographic name selection.

Primary sources:

Topografska Karta, 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:100,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1970's.

Geoportal. <http://www.katastar.ba/geoportal>. Federal Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs.

Geoportal. <http://www.geoportal.rgurs.org/geoportal>. Republic Administration for Geodetic and Property Affairs

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

Generic term	English equivalent (feature designation code)
A	
Ada	island [in a river] (ISL)
Aerodrom	airfield (AIRF)
Akumulaciono Jezero	reservoir (RSV)
Autobuska Stanica	bus station (BLDG)
B	
Banja	sanatorium (SNTR); spa, bath (SPA)
Bara	pool (POOL), swamp (SWMP), marsh (MRSH); abandoned watercourse (STMQ)
Bašta	garden (GDN)
Bezdan	abyss, sinkhole (SINK)
Bilo	crest (RDGE), ridge (RDGE)
Blato	swamp (SWMP), marsh (MRSH)
Bolnica	hospital (HSP)
Brana	dam, barrier (DAM)
Brdo	hill (HLL), hills (HLLS), mountain (MT), peak(PK), ridge(RDGE)
Brijeg	hill (HLL), mountain (MT), ridge (RDGE)
Bulevar	boulevard (ST)
Bunar	well (WLL)
C	
Česma	spring(SPNG), fountain (SPNG)
Crkva	church (CH)
Čuka	peak (PK), mountain (MT), small hill (HLL)
Ćuprija	bridge (BDG)
D	
Do	Intermittent stream (STMI); stream (STM); valley (VAL); pit (DPR), dale (DPR), trough (DPR), (karst) depression (DPR), sinkhole (SINK); karst (KRST)
Dolina	valley (VAL); (karst) depression (DPR)
Dvor	palace (PAL), manor (EST)
Džamija	mosque (MSQE)
F	
Fabrika	factory, plant (MFG)
G	
Glava	hill (HLL), mountain (MT), peak (PK), promontory (PROM)
Gora	mountain (MT), hill (HLL); forest (FRST), wood (FRST)
Gradina	ruins (RUIN)
Greben	ridge (RDGE), cliff (CLF), rock (RK)
Grob	tomb (TMB)
Groblje	graveyard (CMTY)
Grobница	mausoleum (TMB), crypt (TMB), vault (TMB)

Generic term	English equivalent (feature designation code)
H	
Han	inn (HTL)
Hidrocentrala	hydroelectric power station (PSH)
Hidroelektrana	hydroelectric power station (PSH)
Hram	temple (TMPL), church (CH)
Hum	hill (HLL), mountain (MT)
I	
Izvor	spring (SPNG), source of a river (STMH)
J	
Jama	pit (DPR), cave (CAVE), hollow (DPR), hole (SINK), sink hole (SINK), pot hole (SINK)
Jezero	lake (LK), pond (PND)
K	
Kamen	rock (RK), hill (HLL), mountain (MT), peak (PK), ridge (RDGE)
Kanal	canal (CNL), channel (CHN), canalized stream (STMC)
Kapela	chapel (CH)
Kasarna	barracks (BRKS)
Kladenac	well (WLL), spring (s) (SPNG)
Klisura	gorge (GRGE), ravine (RVN); crag (RK), rock (RK), defile (PASS)
Koliba	hut (HUT)
Kotlina	ravine (RVN), valley (VAL)
Krš	karst (KRST); rocks (RKS); cliff(s) (CLF)
Kula	tower (TOWR)
L	
Livada	pasture (GRAZ), meadow (MDW)
Lječilište	sanatorium (SNTR)
Luka	harbor (HBR), bay (BAY)
M	
Manastir	monastery (MSTY)
Mehana	inn (HTL), tavern
Medresa	Muslim secondary school (SCH)
Mlin	mill (ML)
Most	bridge (BDG)
Muzej	museum (MUS)
N	
Nacionalni Park	national park (PRK)
Njiva	field (FLD)
O	
Obala	shore (SHOR), coast (CST); bank (BNK); pier (PIER)
Općina	municipality, community, township, borough (ADM2), (ADM3)
Opština	municipality, community, township, borough (ADM2), (ADM3)
Ostrvo	island (ISL)
Otok	island (ISL)
Otoka	arm of a river (STMX)

Generic term	English equivalent (feature designation code)
P	
Padina	ravine (RVN), valley (VAL); slope (SLP), escarpment (SCRP)
Pečina	cave (CAVE)
Peštar	cave (CAVE)
Planina	mountain (MT), mountains (MTS), mountain range (MTS), ridge (RDGE)
Polje	plain (PLN), field (FLD)
Ponor	sinkhole (SINK), hollow (DPR), chasm (GRGE)
Ponornica	lost river (STMSB)
Potok	stream (STM)
Prijevoj	saddle (SDL)
Prisoje	slope (SLP)
Put	road (RD)
R	
Ribnjak	fish pond (PNDSF)
Rid	spur (SPUR), cliff (CLF), ridge (RDGE)
Rit	spur (SPUR), cliff (CLF), ridge (RDGE)
Rijeka	stream (STM), inlet (INLT)
Rudnik	mine (MN)
Rupa	sinkhole (SINK), depression (DPR), valley (VAL)
S, Š	
Samostan	monastery (MSTY)
Sedlo	saddle (SDL), ridge (RDGE)
Sokak	street (ST)
Spomenik	monument (MNMT)
Stadion	stadium (STDM)
Stanica	station (RSTN)
Stijena	cliffs (CLF), rock (RK), peak (PK), mountain (MT), ridge (RDGE)
Strana	slope (SLP), hillside (SLP), hill (HLL), mountain (MT)
Šuma	forest (FRST), woods (FRST)
T	
Trg	square (SQR); market (MKT), marketplace (MKT)
Turbe	tomb (TMB)
Tvrđava	fortress (FT)
U	
Ulica	street (ST)
Ušće	mouth of a river (STMM)
V	
Vijenac	curved street, mountains (range)
Vinograd	vineyard (VIN)
Vir	whirlpool (WHRL), spring (SPNG), well (WLL), pool (POOL)
Vis	peak (PK); hill (HLL)
Voda	spring (SPNG), stream (STM)
Vrelo	spring (SPNG)
Vrh	hill (HLL), mountain (MT), peak (PK), ridge (RDGE)

Generic term	English equivalent (feature designation code)
Z, Ž	
Železnička/ Željeznička Stanica	railroad station (RSTN)

Appendix B. First-order Administrative Divisions of Bosnia and Herzegovina

