Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Lithuania

United States Board on Geographic Names

Foreign Names Committee

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1. Introduction

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 **Lithuania** 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.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

There are approximately **2,800,738** people living in Lithuania (1 January 2018).[1] The population of the country has been decreasing slightly since 1992[2]. Deaths have exceeded births and emigration has exceeded immigration. Below is a summary of the major ethnic groups:[3]

Ethnicity	Population	% of Population
Lithuanian	2,352,613	84%
Polish	184,848	6.6%
Russian	162,443	5.8%
Belarusian	33,609	1.2%
Ukrainian	14,004	0.5%

b. Languages

Lithuania has one nationwide official language:[4]

Lithuanian   ISO 639-3, code 'lit'

c. Geographic Names Standardization

The **National Land Service – NLS (Nacionalinė Žemės Tarnyba – NŽT)** is the national mapping authority of Lithuania.   It is administrated by the Ministry of Agriculture. The NLS is responsible for entering geographic names on official maps. Standardization of geographical names is the

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[1]Official Statistics Portal of Lithuania: https://osp.stat.gov.lt/pradinis

[2] Ibid

[3] World Population Review*: worldpopulationreview.com*

[4] Constitution of Lithuania, Article 14, 1992

responsibility of the State Committee of the Lithuanian Language of the parliament of Lithuania. Assisting with that responsibility is a subcommittee comprised of linguists, geographers, cartographers, and representatives of several agencies, including the Department of Onomastics of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language.[5]

3. Toponymic Policies

Lithuanian

LIthuanian is the nationwide official language. **Russian** is no longer co-official nationally as it was during the years when Lithuania was a federation of the Soviet Union (1944-1991). The Lithuanian Constitution of 1992 mentions only Lithuanian as the state language. All geographic names on current authoritative sources are Lithuanian.

a. Script and Orthography

Lithuanian

Lithuanian utilizes twenty-three (23) letters of the standard 26-letter Latin alphabet, plus nine (9) special letters. The nine (9) special letters appear in the Lithuanian alphabet in the order shown below. See also section '*C. Diacritics*' for their Unicode values.

Lithuanian

A a	Ą ą	B b	C c	Č č	D d	E e	Ę ę	Ė ė	F f
G g	H h	I i	Į į	Y y	J j	K k	L l	M m	N n
O o	P p	R r	S s	Š š	T t	U u	Ų ų	Ū ū	V v
Z z	Ž ž								

Following standard English lexical practice and BGN precedent, names and terms appearing in lists and tables, henceforward, are listed in English alphabetical order.

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required.

c. Diacritics

Lithuanian. The following diacritics appear in geographic names in Lithuanian (Graphic may appear on next page):

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[5] *Report of Lithuania* presented at the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, Berlin, Germany, 17 June 2002, p. 2-3

Character	Unicode Value	Character	Unicode Value
Ą	*0104*	*ą*	*0105*
Č	*010C*	*č*	*010D*
Ę	*0118*	*ę*	*0119*
Ė	*0116*	*ė*	*0117*
Į	*012E*	*į*	*012F*
Š	*0160*	*š*	*0161*
Ų	*0172*	*ų*	*0173*
Ū	*016A*	*ū*	*016B*
Ž	*017D*	*ž*	*017E*

d. *Generics and Abbreviations*

A **generic** is a term in a geographic name that describes a feature. Generics are used often. Please be aware that a generic found in a name of a populated place, such as *upis* (*stream*) in the populated place name *Gilupis*, is a false generic and must not be identified as a generic. A few common generics are below:

Lithuanian	English
Ežeras	Lake
Kalnas	Hill
Miškas	Forest
Pelkė	Marsh

A glossary of generics in geographic names is in **Appendix A**. **Glossary of Generic Terms**.

Abbreviations shown with geographic names on sources must be written out in the GNDB, according to BGN guidance.

Abbreviated Name	Expanded Name
Dotnuvos *glž. st.*	Dotnuvos *Geležinkelio Stotis*
ež. Rukai	*Ežeras* Rukai

A comprehensive list of generic abbreviations and other terms (modifiers, descriptors, etc.), commonly found on maps and charts, can be found in **Appendix B. List of Abbreviations**.

To comply with BGN spelling rules, separated generics, which are shown on maps written with an initial small letter, are to be written with an initial capital letter:

Generic in Source Name	Generic in BGN Name
ežeras Rukai	*Ežeras* Rukai
Antušvos *miškas*	Antušvos *Miškas*

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

When spelling geographic names, extract names as they are shown on current, authoritative maps.

Some guidelines, particularly applicable to understanding geographic names, include guidance mentioned above and the following:

Capitalization: Names begin with a capital letter.

Names with generics. Proper names will be either separated from a generic or attached. According to BGN policy, the separated generic is to begin with a capital letter, although Lithuanian sources show it to begin with a small letter:

Separated Generic	Attached Generic
Antušvos Miškas	Bitežeris
Kalotės Ežeras	Prūdupis

Adjectives. Two formats are possible. Names consisting of *adjectives* are compounded or separated:

Separated Adjective	Attached Adjective
Naujas Sklypas	*Nauja*laukis
Senas Janavas	*Sena*miestis

A list of adjectives found in geographic names is in Appendix C.

Hyphens. Hyphenated names are few. They are usually shown in the names of features whose name consists of a combination of two proper names:

Hyphenated Names	Designation
Vakarų Landsbergio-Zemkalnio Gatvė	Street (ST)

f. Numbers

Geographic names containing numerals as integral parts, both cardinal and ordinal, should be treated according to the following BGN principles:

- Arabic numerals: Arabic numerals that follow a proper name on sources are written out. Street names are shown on sources in numerical form and placed before the generic for street (*gatvė*). For reference, the unexpanded numerical name should be added to the GNDB as a variant.

Numerical Name on Source	Expanded Numerical Name
Bajorų Sodų *6-oji* gatvė	Bajorų Sodų *Šeštoji* Gatvė

- Roman numerals: Roman numerals in names are a part of the name. For the approved name, write out the number. As with Arabic numerials, enter the numerical name as a separate variant name and reference.

Numerical Name on Source	Expanded Numerical Name	Feature Designation
Akmenė *III*	Akmenė *Trys*	PPLX
Viešvilės *II* Tvenkinys	Viešvilės *Du* Tvenkinys	RSV

Below is a reference for the spelling of cardinal and ordinal numbers. Ordinal numbers decline to the noun they modify. The first of two shown ordinal numbers is undeclined, that is, it stands alone without a noun; the second number is declined, since it modifies the noun that it precedes and is associated with, as in '*Pirmoji Gatvė*' (1st Street). Please keep in mind that the declined adjective's ending can change when it precedes other nouns.

Cardinal Number	Lithuanian	Ordinal Number	Lithuanian
1.	Vienas	1st	Pirmas, pirmoji
2.	Du	2nd	Antras, antroji
3.	Trys	3rd	Trečias, trečioji
4.	Keturi	4th	Ketvirtas, ketvirtoji
5.	Penki	5th	Penktas, penktoji
6.	Šeši	6th	Šeštas, šeštoji
7.	Septyni	7th	Septintas, septintoji
8.	Aštuoni	8th	Aštuntas, aštuntoji
9.	Devyni	9th	Devintas, devintoji
10.	Dešimt	10th	Dešimtas, dešimtoji

g. Long and Short Forms

Long and short forms of geographic names are commonly used with the country name, administrative division names, and railroad station names:

Name	Form	Rank	Designation
Lietuvos Respublika	long form	2	PCLI

Name	Form	Rank	Designation
Lietuva	short form	1	PCLI
Akmenės Rajono Savivaldybė	long form	2	ADM1
Akmenė	short form	1	ADM1
Stotis Slikiai	long form	2	RSTN
Slikiai	short form	1	RSTN

Both long and short forms are approved. In most instances, the short form is cartographically preferred and should, therefore, be ranked as the primary name.

Most other features have one approved geographic name form.

h. Language Codes

The language code used in Lithuania is the following:

Language	Language Code
Lithuanian	*lit*

Approved names will be Lithuanian.

It would be beneficial to apply a language code to any approved name with a true generic. This would enable an analyst and database customer to generate a glossary of Lithuanian generics.

Name	Designation	Language Code
Kalotės *Ežeras*	LK	*lit*
Birštono *Savivaldybė*	ADM1	*lit*

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Name Type	Name
Conventional short form	Lithuania
Conventional long form	Republic of Lithuania
Approved Lithuanian short form	Lietuva
Approved Lithuanian long form	Lietuvos Respublika

b. *Capital Name*

Name Type	Name
Approved Lithuanian form	Vilnius

c. *Administrative Division Structure*

Lithuania has one level of sub-national administration: first-order administrative divisions (ADM1), which are the municipalities, district municipalities, and cities.[6]   Counties (apskritys) are, since 2010, no longer administrative.

A reference graphic is in Appendix D.

ADM1 Generic	Type of Municipality
Savivaldybė	Municipality
Rajono Savivaldybė	District municipality
Miesto Savivaldybė	City municipality

d. *First-Order Administrative Divisions (ADM1s)*

The first-order administrative divisions are the 60 municipalities: 44 district municipalities (rajono savivaldybė), 9 municipalities (savivaldybė), and 7 cities (miesto savivaldybė).   A reference graphic is in Appendix D.

Name	ADM1 Category	GEC (FIPS 10)	GENC (ISO)	Seat (PPLA)
Akmenė	District	LH66	LT-01	Naujoji Akmenė
Alytaus Miestas	City	LH67	LT-02	Alytus
Alytus	District	LH68	LT-03	Alytus
Anykščiai	District	LH69	LT-04	Anykščiai
Birštono	Municipality	LH70	LT-05	Birštonas
Biržai	District	LH71	LT-06	Biržai
Druskininkai	Municipality	LH72	LT-07	Druskininkai
Elektrénai	Municipality	LH73	LT-08	Elektrénai
Ignalina	District	LH74	LT-09	Ignalina
Jonava	District	LH75	LT-10	Jonava

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[6] Constitution of Lithuania, Article 120, 1992

Name	ADM1 Category	GEC (FIPS 10)	GENC (ISO)	Seat (PPLA)
Joniškis	District	LH76	LT-11	Joniškis
Jurbarkas	District	LH77	LT-12	Jurbarkas
Kaišiadorys	District	LH78	LT-13	Kaišiadorys
Kalvarijos	Municipality	LH79	LT-14	Kalvarija
Kauno Miestas	City	LH80	LT-15	Kaunas
Kaunas	District	LH81	LT-16	Kaunas
Kazlų Rūdos	Municipality	LH82	LT-17	Kazlų Rūda
Kėdainiai	District	LH83	LT-18	Kėdainiai
Kelmė	District	LH84	LT-19	Kelmė
Klaipėdos Miestas	City	LH85	LT-20	Klaipėda
Klaipėda	District	LH86	LT-21	Gargždai
Kretinga	District	LH87	LT-22	Kretinga
Kupiškis	District	LH88	LT-23	Kupiškis
Lazdijai	District	LH89	LT-24	Lazdijai
Marijampolė	District	LH90	LT-25	Marijampolė
Mažeikiai	District	LH91	LT-26	Mažeikiai
Molėtai	District	LH92	LT-27	Molėtai
Neringa	Municipality	LH93	LT-28	Nida
Pagégiai	Municipality	LH94	LT-29	Pagégiai
Pakruojis	District	LH95	LT-30	Pakruojis
Palangos Miestas	City	LH96	LT-31	Palanga
Panevėžio Miestas	City	LH97	LT-32	Panevėžys
Panevėžys	District	LH98	LT-33	Panevėžys
Pasvalys	District	LH99	LT-34	Pasvalys
Plungė	District	LHA1	LT-35	Plungė
Prienai	District	LHA2	LT-36	Prienai

Name	ADM1 Category	GEC (FIPS 10)	GENC (ISO)	Seat (PPLA)
Radviliškis	District	LHA3	LT-37	Radviliškis
Raseiniai	District	LHA4	LT-38	Raseiniai
Rietavo	Municipality	LHA5	LT-39	Rietavas
Rokiškis	District	LHA6	LT-40	Rokiškis
Šakiai	District	LHA7	LT-41	Šakiai
Šalčininkai	District	LHA8	LT-42	Šalčininkai
Šiaulių Miestas	City	LHA9	LT-43	Šiauliai
Šiauliai	District	LHB1	LT-44	Šiauliai
Šilalė	District	LHB2	LT-45	Šilalė
Šilutė	District	LHB3	LT-46	Šilutė
Širvintos	District	LHB4	LT-47	Širvintos
Skuodas	District	LHB5	LT-48	Skuodas
Švenčionys	District	LHB6	LT-49	Švenčionys
Tauragė	District	LHB7	LT-50	Tauragė
Telšiai	District	LHB8	LT-51	Telšiai
Trakai	District	LHB9	LT-52	Trakai
Ukmergė	District	LHC1	LT-53	Ukmergė
Utena	District	LHC2	LT-54	Utena
Varėna	District	LHC3	LT-55	Varėna
Vilkaviškis	District	LHC4	LT-56	Vilkaviškis
Vilniaus Miestas	City	LHC5	LT-57	Vilnius*
Vilnius	District	LHC6	LT-58	Vilnius*
Visaginas	Municipality	LHC7	LT-59	Visaginas
Zarasai	District	LHC8	LT-60	Zarasai

*Vilnius is also the capital (PPLC) of Lithuania.

e. Conventional and Anglicized Names

The Lithuania country file in the Geographic Names Database (GNDB) contains conventional names, but no Anglicized variant names. Conventional names are usually preferred over native names for small-scale purposes. Additional conventional names, modified conventional names, and Anglicized variant names require BGN's Foreign Names Committee (FNC) approval.

Conventional Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Lithuania	-2616324	14063837	PCLI
Republic of Lithuania	-2616324	-3599695	PCLI

f. Unique Geopolitical Situations

For the latest information on country-specific boundary disputes, consult the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Geographer and Global Issues. *internationalboundaries@state.gov*

Exclaves

None

Enclaves

None

Disputed Territories and Names

According to the CIA's World Factbook, Latvia has not ratified its 1998 maritime boundary treaty with Lithuania.

5. Source Material

The following sources are recommended. They are available online, as hardcopy maps and charts, and as reference texts:

a. Online

The **National Land Service – NLS (Nacionalinė Žemės Tarnyba – NŽT)**, previously known as the National Service of Geodesy and Cartography, is the national mapping authority of Lithuania. It is maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture. The NLS is responsible for entering geographic names on official maps. The official geographic names are compiled by personnel of the Department of Onomastics of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language.   *Languages: English and Lithuanian*

http://www.nzt.lt/go.php/lit/english

GIS-Centras is the National Center for Remote Sensing and Geoinformatics and the official manager of state information systems. It provides official geographic information data.

GIS-Centras is the maintainer of geoportal.lt, an authoritative website for digital geospatial data: https://www.geoportal.lt/geoportal/ . *Languages: English and Lithuanian*

http://www.gis-centras.lt/en/

Geoportal.lt is the national website for digital geospatial data. It maintains an online map browser in various scales: 3 million – 10,000. The map browser has name-search capability and provides feature coordinates in the Lithuanian datum and WGS84. *Languages: English and Lithuanian*

https://www.geoportal.lt/map/index.jsp?lang=en

Institute of the Lithuanian Language (Lietuvių Kalbos Institutas) is the institute where the Department of Onamastics researches and compiles geographic names. *Languages: English and Lithuanian*

http://old.lki.lt/LKI_EN/

Lithuanian Railways (Lietuvos Geležinkeliai) is the Lithuanian Railroad Service. It includes a graphic that displays the railroad routes and the names of the stations under the tab heading *For passengers*. *Languages: English, Lithuanian, and Russian*

https://www.traukiniobilietas.lt/portal/info/lgmap

b. Hardcopy maps and charts

The **National Land Service – NLS (Nacionalinė Žemės Tarnyba – NŽT)** has produced a nationwide map series TOP50LKS-SR at 1:50,000. The maps are available in digital format from GIS-Centras. The map series was used by the contracting company Geographic Services, Inc. from 2014-2015 to modify the Lithuania country file of USBGN's Geographic Names Database (GNDB) and add additional features. The Lithuania country file in the GNDB is, consequently, current for map information shown on scales 1:50,000 and smaller. *Language: Lithuanian*

Map Scale	Series Name	Production Years
1:50,000	TOP50LKS-SR Topographic Map	2004, 2016

c. Reference texts

Report of Lithuania, submitted at the Eighth Annual United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, 27 August – 5 September 2002. This report summarizes

how geographic names are standardized in Lithuania and where to find them, identifies geographical and digital data, and provides official contact information.

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

Lithuanian

Lithuanian Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
Aerodromas	Airfield	AIRF
Apskritis	First-order administrative division (former)	ADM1
Aukštuma	Hills	HLLS
Banka	Bank	BNK
Dauba	Stream	STM
Draustinis	Park, reserve	PRK, RES
Durpynas	Bog	BOG
Durpynas	Bog, marsh, moor	BOG, MRSH, MOOR
Dvaras	Farm	FRM
Dvaro sodyba	House, manor	HSE
Eglynas	Grove (fir)	OCH
Ežerai, ežeriukai	Lakes, ponds	LKS, PND
Ežeras, ežerėlis, ežeris, ežeriukas	Lake, pond	LK, PND
Gamtinis reservatas	Nature reserve	RESN
Geležinkelio stotis	Railroad station	RSTN
Gervė	Canalized stream, stream	STMC, STM
Giraitė	Grove	OCH
Girė	Grove	OCH
Giria	Forest	FRST
Grabė	Canalized stream, stream	STMC, STM
Griovys	Canalized stream, ditch	STMC, DTCH
Hidroelektrostotis	Hydroelectric power station	PSH
Įlanka	Bay	BAY
Jūros tiltas	Breakwater, jetty	BRKW, JTY
Kalnai, kalnas	Hill	HLL
Kalnelis	Hill	HLL
Kalnis	Hill	HLL
Kanalas	Canal	CNL
Kapinės	Cemetery	CMTY
Karjeras	Lake, pond	LK, PND
Kopa, kopos	Dune	DUNE
Kranta	Coast	CST

Lithuanian Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
Kraštas	Region	RGN
Krūmai	Scrubland	SCRB
Kyšulys	Cape	CAPE
Marios	Lagoon, lake	LGN, LK
Miesto savivaldybė	1st-order administrative division, municipality (city)	ADM1
Miškai, Miškas	Forest	FRST
Miško parkas	Forest park	PRK
Nacionalinis parkas	National park	PRK
Nerija	Spit	SPIT
Oro uostas	Airport	AIRP
Palios	Marsh	MRSH
Parkas	Park	PRK
Pelkė	Bog, marsh, swamp, wetland	BOG, MRSH, SWMP, WTLD
Perkasas	Canal, canalized stream	CNL, STMC
Pieva, pievos	Meadow	MDW
Piliakalnis	Hill, mound	HLL, MND
Pilis	Castle	CSTL
Prūdas	Canalized stream, lake, pond, stream	STMC, LK, PND, STM
Pusiasalis	Peninsula	PEN
Ragas	Cape, point	CAPE, PT
Raistas	Swamp	SWMP
Rajonas	1st-order administrative division (former)	ADM1
Rajono savivaldybė	1st-order administrative division, municipality (district)	ADM1
Ravas, ravis	Canalized stream, stream	STMC, STM
Respublika	Republic	PCLI
Rėva	Bank, shoal	BNK, SHOL
Rezervatas	Nature reserve, reserve	RESN, RES
Šaka	Stream branch	STMB
Sala	Island, peninsula	ISL, PEN
Savivaldybė	1st-order administrative division, municipality	ADM1
Sekluma	Shoal	SHOL
Senvagė	Stream	STM
Slėnis	Saddle	SDL

Lithuanian Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
Sodas	Garden, orchard, park	GDN, OCH, PRK
Sruoja	Canalized stream, stream	STMC, STM
Stotelės	Railroad stop	RSTP
Stotis	Railroad station, station	RSTN
Straumė	Stream	STM
Sustojimo vieta	Railroad stop	RSTP
Tiltas	Bridge	BDG
Tvenkinys	Lake, pond, reservoir	LK, PND, RSV
Tyrelis	Marsh	MRSH
Uostas	Harbor, port, stream	HBR, PRT, STM
Upalis	Canal, canalized stream, stream	CNL, STMC, STM
Upė	Canal, canalized stream, stream	CNL, STMC, STM
Upelė	Canal, canalized stream, stream	CNL, STMC, STM
Upelis	Stream	STM
Upiai	Streams	STM
Upis upys	Canal, canalized stream, stream	CNL, STMC, STM
Verderis	Area, island	AREA, ISL
Žiogis, žiogys	Canal, lake, pond, stream	CNL, LK, PND, STM

Appendix B. List of Abbreviations

The following list of abbreviations is useful for understanding geographic names on Lithuanian maps:

Lithuanian

Lithuanian Abbreviation	Lithuanian Expansion	English Equivalent
ež	Ežeras	Lake
g.	Gatvė	Street
glž. st.	Geležinkelio stotis	Railroad station
HE	Hidroelektrinė	Hydroelectric power station
HES	Hidroelektrostotis	Hydroelectric power station
pr.	Prospektas	Avenue, street
tv.	Tvenkinys	Lake, pond, reservoir

Appendix C. List of Common Adjectival Name Components

The following list of adjectival stems is useful for the understanding of geographic names on Lithuanian maps. In geographic names, the adjectives appear in expanded declension form to show number, gender, and case of the proper name or generic:

Lithuanian

Lithuanian Adjective Stem	English Equivalent
Nauj…	New
Sen…	Old
Maž…	Little
Did…	Big
Aukšt…	Upper
Vakar…	West
Ryt…	East
Šiaur…	North
Piet…	South
Žema…	Lower

Appendix D. First-order Administrative Divisions of Lithuania[7]

The 60 municipalities are the ADM1s. The 10 counties are, since 2010, no longer administrative.