

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Montenegro

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 Montenegro for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in US 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

Montenegro regained its independence in 2006 after spending 88 years as a constituent member of various incarnations of Yugoslavia. By 1991, the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) was no more, and by 1992, only Serbia and Montenegro remained in the union, newly rechristened as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In 2003, the name “Yugoslavia” disappeared and was replaced by a loose confederation known as the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. This union dissolved in 2006 with Montenegro’s successful referendum on independence and a subsequent Serbian vote in which Serbia declared its own independence from the State Union.

Since independence, Montenegro has pursued a pro-Western foreign policy, including membership in NATO and the European Union. Successive Montenegrin governments have proactively addressed minority rights, pre-empting the emergence of ethnic conflicts.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

In 2011, Montenegro conducted its first census since independence. The Census revealed a population of 620,029, of whom, 45% were ethnic Montenegrins. The next largest ethnic groups were Serbs (28.7%), Bosniaks (8.6%), and Albanians (4.9%). Other important minorities include Muslims by nationality, Croats, and Roma.

Montenegro’s demographics have been historically fluid. Prior to 1918 and between the collapse of the SFRY and independence, the majority of Slavic-speakers self-identified as Serbs, while the Yugoslav era saw the emergence of a nascent ethnic-Montenegrin identity, separate from the Serbs. Likewise, prior to Bosnian independence, virtually all Muslim Slavs in Montenegro identified as “Muslims by Nationality,” the term introduced by the Yugoslav government in 1971 for Slavic Muslims across the SFRY.

b. Languages

The Montenegrin Constitution recognizes Montenegrin as the sole language official across the entire territory of the republic. Montenegrin is the local variant of the former Serbo-Croatian language, itself a macro-language with four standardized registers: Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, and Serbian. As in Bosnia, while the government recognizes each of these variants as official languages, they remain indistinguishable from one another among speakers.

Official Montenegrin maps are generally produced in Montenegrin, which, for the purposes of geographic names standardization, is grouped together with Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian in a catch-all language code (hbs). However, when official sources are available, names from official minority languages (e.g., Albanian 'sqi' will also be captured. In all cases, Montenegrin names will have first priority. Where minor dialectical differences exist in areas where the Montenegrin standard coexists with official Bosniak, Croatian, or Serbian standards, those dialectical differences will be captured with the appropriate dialect code.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

There is no official body tasked with standardizing geographic names in Montenegro. The most authoritative source is the Montenegrin Real Estate Administration. .

Geographic features collected from authoritative native Montenegrin maps should be coded with the Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian language code (hbs).

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Script and Orthography

Montenegrin is written in two different standard scripts, Latin and Cyrillic. In Montenegro, both Latin and Cyrillic are official scripts, although Latin script is more often used publicly and in official capacity. The two standard scripts are completely interchangeable. Alphabetization in the Latin script 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

The Cyrillic alphabet is romanized using the table of correspondences found in the BGN/PCGN Table of Correspondences for Serbian Cyrillic. The Romanization agreement is reproduced in Appendix B.

c. Diacritics

Diacritics are shown in romanized name forms in accordance with the BGN/PCGN Table of

Correspondences for Serbian Cyrillic (2005).

The following diacritics are encountered in standardized name forms in Montenegro:

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
Capital C with wedge	Č	010C
Capital C with acute accent	Ć	0106
Capital D with bar	Đ	0110
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 Montenegro 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, as the generic is considered integral to the name of the feature. 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

Montenegrin 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

Administrative division names 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 long form	Montenegro
Conventional short form	Montenegro
Approved long form	Crna Gora
Approved short form	Crna Gora
Cyrillic long form	Црна Гора
Cyrillic short form	Црна Гора

Capital

Approved name	Podgorica
Cyrillic form	Подгорица

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

Montenegro is composed of 23 first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s). One of those ADM1s is stylized “glavni grad” (capital city) and another is stylized “prijestonica” (old royal capital). The rest are municipalities (singular: *opština*, plural: *opštine*). For maps of Montenegro, please see Appendices C and D.

	Name	GEC	GENC	Seat
1	Andrijevica	MJ01	ME-01	Andrijevica
2	Bar	MJ02	ME-02	Bar
3	Berane	MJ03	ME-03	Berane
4	Bijelo Polje	MJ04	ME-04	Bijelo Polje
5	Budva	MJ05	ME-05	Budva
6	Cetinje	MJ06	ME-06	Cetinje
7	Danilovgrad	MJ07	ME-07	Danilovgrad
8	Gusinja	MJ22	ME-22	Gusinja

	Name	GEC	GENC	Seat
9	Herceg Novi	MJ08	ME-08	Herceg Novi
10	Kolašin	MJ09	ME-09	Kolašin
11	Kotor	MJ10	ME-10	Kotor
12	Mojkovac	MJ11	ME-11	Mojkovac
13	Nikšić	MJ12	ME-12	Nikšić
14	Petnjica	MJ23	ME-23	Petnjica
15	Plav	MJ13	ME-13	Plav
16	Pljevlja	MJ14	ME-14	Pljevlja
17	Plužine	MJ15	ME-15	Plužine
18	Podgorica	MJ16	ME-16	Podgorica
19	Rožaje	MJ17	ME-17	Rožaje
20	Šavnik	MJ18	ME-18	Šavnik
21	Tivat	MJ19	ME-19	Tivat
22	Tuzi	MJ-24	ME-24	Tuzi
22	Ulcinj	MJ20	ME-20	Ulcinj
23	Žabljak	MJ21	ME-21	Žabljak

c. Conventional Names

Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
North Albanian Alps	-90164	-131554	MTS
Lake Scutari	-95132	-139002	LK

d. Unique Geopolitical Situations

Note: For the latest country specific boundary dispute information, visit the U.S. Department of State's Boundaries and Sovereignty Encyclopedia, or B.A.S.E., at <http://base.us-state.osis.gov/>.

Dispute over Prevlaka Peninsula. Treat as Croatian.

5. Source Material

The best authoritative maps and charts were produced by the Yugoslav Military Geographic Institute (Vojnogeografski Institut). In addition, the Montenegrin Real Estate Administration maintains a web-based geoportal 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:

1. Fizičko-Geografska Karta, 1:150,000 – 1:600,000, 1997-2000. (in Cyrillic script)
2. Savezna Republika Jugoslavija-Republika Crna Gora, 1:200,000, GEOKARTA, 1995. (in Cyrillic script)
3. Preglednotopografska Karta, 1:300,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1988-1990.

4. Topografska Karta, 1:50,000 (TK50) and 1:100,000 (TK100), Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1980s.
5. Karta, 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:100,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1970s.
6. Karta JNA, 1:25,000 and 1:50,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1960s.

Appendix A. Glossary of Generic Terms

Serbian 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)
Grobnica	mausoleum (TMB), crypt (TMB), vault (TMB)

Serbian 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)
Opština	municipality, community, township, borough (ADM2), (ADM3)
Ostrvo	island (ISL)
Otok	island (ISL)
Otoka	arm of a river (STMX)
P	

Serbian term	English equivalent (feature designation code)
Padina	ravine (RVN), valley (VAL); slope (SLP), escarpment (SCRP)
Pećina	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)

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

Appendix B. Political Map of Montenegro



Appendix C. Montenegrin First-Order Administrative Divisions

