

Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Serbia

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 Serbia 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

Serbia re-emerged as an independent state in 2006 following the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, which replaced the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 2003.

From 1992 until 2003, Serbia was the dominant republic in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, one of the successor states to the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, which collapsed in 1991 following the secession of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia. A UN-backed administration in Kosovo, known as UNMIK (UN Mission in Kosovo), governed the then-Serbian province following the 1998-99 Kosovo War and NATO bombing campaign.

Democratic rule was established in Serbia following the October 2000 revolution that overthrew the regime of Slobodan Milošević. 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 parliamentary vote in which Serbia declared its own independence from the State Union.

In February 2008, after nearly a decade of international rule, Kosovo’s government unilaterally declared independence from Serbia. At the time of writing, the declaration is recognized by 109 UN member states, including the United States, which recognized Kosovo’s independence on 18 February 2008. Serbia’s official response has been to “reaffirm” sovereignty over Kosovo, while simultaneously engaging in a high-level dialogue with Kosovo’s government aiming to normalize relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

In 2011, Serbia conducted its first census since Kosovo’s independence. The Census revealed a population of 7,186,862, of whom 83% were Serbs. The next largest ethnic groups were

Hungarians (3.5%), Roma (2.1%), and Bosniaks (2.0%). Locally significant minorities include Albanians in extreme southern Serbia (Preševo Valley), Bulgarians near the Bulgarian border, and Vlachs and Romanians in the eastern Danubian hills.

An overwhelming majority of Serbian citizens identify with the Serbian Orthodox Church. Other locally important religious denominations include Islam in the Sandžak region and in the Preševo Valley, as well as Roman Catholicism and Evangelical Lutheranism in Vojvodina.

b. Languages

Serbian is the only language that is official nationwide. In Vojvodina, Hungarian (hun), Romanian (rom), Slovak (slk), Rusyn (rue), and Croatian (hrv) are also official languages. Elsewhere, municipalities where single linguistic minority groups comprise more than 15% of the local population, official use of the minority language(s) is compulsory.¹ Names in minority languages will be collected as “Approved” when official sources are available, and in accordance with Serbian law.

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

Geographic name standardization in Serbia is done at the national level. In Serbia, geographic name standardization is handled by the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Official Serbian maps are generally produced in Serbian. However, when official sources are available, names from official minority languages will also be captured. In all cases, Serbian names will have first priority.

Geographic features collected from authoritative native Serbian maps should be coded with the Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian language code (hbs). Minority language names will be coded with the appropriate code for each language. Where minor dialectical differences exist within the ‘hbs’ spectrum, those different names will be captured with the ‘hbs’ language code, and the appropriate dialect code.

¹ EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR REGIONAL OR MINORITY LANGUAGES-APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER IN SERBIA, 2nd monitoring cycle" (PDF). Council of Europe. Retrieved June 25, 2015.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Script and Orthography

Serbian is written in two different standard scripts, Roman and Cyrillic. In Serbia, Cyrillic is legally the official script, although Roman script may be used in an 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 Serbian Cyrillic alphabet is romanized using the table of correspondences found in the BGN/PCGN Table of Correspondences for Serbian Cyrillic.

c. Diacritics

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 Serbia 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 they are 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

Serbian 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 Short Form	Serbia
Conventional Long Form	Republic of Serbia
Approved Short Form	Srbija
Approved Long Form	Republika Srbija
Cyrillic Short Form	Србија
Cyrillic Long Form	Република Србија
Capital	
Conventional Name	Belgrade
Approved Name	Beograd
Cyrillic Form	Београд

b. First-order Administrative Divisions

Serbia is composed of 145 first-order administrative divisions (ADM1). Within Serbia, urban ADM1s are referred to as cities (grad/gradovi), while rural ADM1s are referred to as municipalities (opština/opštine). For maps of Serbia, please see Appendix B.

	NAME	FIPS 10-4	GENC	SEAT
1.	Ada	RI01	RS-30	Ada
2.	Aleksandrovac	RI02	RS-31	Aleksandrovac
3.	Aleksinac	RI03	RS-32	Aleksinac
4.	Alibunar	RI04	RS-33	Alibunar
5.	Apatin	RI05	RS-34	Apatin
6.	Arandjelovac	RI06	RS-35	Arandjelovac
7.	Arilje	RI07	RS-36	Arilje
8.	Babušnica	RI08	RS-37	Babušnica
9.	Bač	RI09	RS-38	Bač
10.	Bačka Palanka	RI10	RS-39	Bačka Palanka
11.	Bačka Topola	RI11	RS-40	Bačka Topola
12.	Bački Petrovac	RI12	RS-41	Bački Petrovac
13.	Bajina Bašta	RI13	RS-42	Bajina Bašta
14.	Batočina	RI14	RS-43	Batočina
15.	Bečej	RI15	RS-44	Bečej
16.	Bela Crkva	RI16	RS-45	Bela Crkva
17.	Bela Palanka	RI17	RS-46	Bela Palanka
18.	Beočin	RI18	RS-47	Beočin
19.	Beograd	RI19	RS-00	Belgrade
20.	Blace	RI20	RS-48	Blace
21.	Bogatić	RI21	RS-49	Bogatić
22.	Bojnik	RI22	RS-50	Bojnik
23.	Boljevac	RI23	RS-51	Boljevac
24.	Bor	RI24	RS-52	Bor
25.	Bosilegrad	RI25	RS-53	Bosilegrad
26.	Brus	RI26	RS-54	Brus
27.	Bujanovac	RI27	RS-55	Bujanovac
28.	Čačak	RI28	RS-56	Čačak
29.	Čajetina	RI29	RS-57	Čajetina
30.	Ćićevac	RI30	RS-58	Ćićevac
31.	Čoka	RI31	RS-59	Čoka
32.	Crna Trava	RI32	RS-60	Crna Trava

	NAME	FIPS 10-4	GENC	SEAT
33.	Ćuprija	RI33	RS-61	Ćuprija
34.	Despotovac	RI34	RS-62	Despotovac
35.	Dimitrovgrad	RI35	RS-63	Dimitrovgrad
36.	Doljevac	RI36	RS-64	Doljevac
37.	Gadžin Han	RI37	RS-65	Gadžin Han
38.	Golubac	RI38	RS-66	Golubac
39.	Gornji Milanovac	RI39	RS-67	Gornji Milanovac
40.	Indija	RI40	RS-68	Indija
41.	Irig	RI41	RS-69	Irig
42.	Ivanjica	RI42	RS-70	Ivanjica
43.	Jagodina	RI43	RS-71	Jagodina
44.	Kanjiža	RI44	RS-72	Kanjiža
45.	Kikinda	RI45	RS-73	Kikinda
46.	Kladovo	RI46	RS-74	Kladovo
47.	Knić	RI47	RS-75	Knić
48.	Knjaževac	RI48	RS-76	Knjaževac
49.	Koceljeva	RI49	RS-77	Koceljeva
50.	Kosjerić	RI50	RS-78	Kosjerić
51.	Kovačica	RI51	RS-79	Kovačica
52.	Kovin	RI52	RS-80	Kovin
53.	Kragujevac	RI53	RS-81	Kragujevac
54.	Kraljevo	RI54	RS-82	Kraljevo
55.	Krupanj	RI55	RS-83	Krupanj
56.	Kruševac	RI56	RS-84	Kruševac
57.	Kučevo	RI57	RS-85	Kučevo
58.	Kula	RI58	RS-86	Kula
59.	Kuršumlija	RI59	RS-87	Kuršumlija
60.	Lajkovac	RI60	RS-88	Lajkovac
61.	Lapovo	RI61	RS-89	Lapovo
62.	Lebane	RI62	RS-90	Lebane
63.	Leskovac	RI63	RS-91	Leskovac
64.	Ljig	RI64	RS-92	Ljig
65.	Ljubovija	RI65	RS-93	Ljubovija
66.	Loznica	RI66	RS-94	Loznica
67.	Lučani	RI67	RS-95	Lučani
68.	Majdanpek	RI68	RS-96	Majdanpek
69.	Mali Idoš	RI69	RS-97	Mali Idoš
70.	Mali Zvornik	RI70	RS-98	Mali Zvornik

	NAME	FIPS 10-4	GENC	SEAT
71.	Malo Crniće	RI71	RS-99	Malo Crniće
72.	Medveđa	RI72	RS-100	Medveđa
73.	Merošina	RI73	RS-101	Merošina
74.	Mionica	RI74	RS-102	Mionica
75.	Negotin	RI75	RS-103	Negotin
76.	Niš	RI76	RS-104	Niš
77.	Nova Crnja	RI77	RS-105	Nova Crnja
78.	Nova Varoš	RI78	RS-106	Nova Varoš
79.	Novi Bečej	RI79	RS-107	Novi Bečej
80.	Novi Kneževac	RI80	RS-108	Novi Kneževac
81.	Novi Pazar	RI81	RS-109	Novi Pazar
82.	Novi Sad	RI82	RS-110	Novi Sad
83.	Odžaci	RI83	RS-111	Odžaci
84.	Opovo	RI84	RS-112	Opovo
85.	Osečina	RI85	RS-113	Osečina
86.	Pančevo	RI86	RS-114	Pančevo
87.	Paraćin	RI87	RS-115	Paraćin
88.	Pećinci	RI88	RS-116	Pećinci
89.	Petrovac na Mlavi	RI89	RS-117	Petrovac na Mlavi
90.	Pirot	RI90	RS-118	Pirot
91.	Plandište	RI91	RS-119	Plandište
92.	Požarevac	RI92	RS-120	Požarevac
93.	Požega	RI93	RS-121	Požega
94.	Preševo	RI94	RS-122	Preševo
95.	Priboj	RI95	RS-123	Priboj
96.	Prijepolje	RI96	RS-124	Prijepolje
97.	Prokuplje	RI97	RS-125	Prokuplje
98.	Rača	RI98	RS-126	Rača
99.	Raška	RI99	RS-127	Raška
100.	Ražanj	RIA1	RS-128	Ražanj
101.	Rekovac	RIA2	RS-129	Rekovac
102.	Ruma	RIA3	RS-130	Ruma
103.	Šabac	RIA4	RS-131	Šabac
104.	Sečanj	RIA5	RS-132	Sečanj
105.	Senta	RIA6	RS-133	Senta
106.	Šid	RIA7	RS-134	Šid
107.	Sjenica	RIA8	RS-135	Sjenica
108.	Smederevo	RIA9	RS-136	Smederevo

	NAME	FIPS 10-4	GENC	SEAT
109.	Smederevska Palanka	RIB1	RS-137	Smederevska Palanka
110.	Sokobanja	RIB2	RS-138	Sokobanja
111.	Sombor	RIB3	RS-139	Sombor
112.	Srbobran	RIB4	RS-140	Srbobran
113.	Sremska Mitrovica	RIB5	RS-141	Sremska Mitrovica
114.	Sremski Karlovci	RIB6	RS-142	Sremski Karlovci
115.	Stara Pazova	RIB7	RS-143	Stara Pazova
116.	Subotica	RIB8	RS-144	Subotica
117.	Surdulica	RIB9	RS-145	Surdulica
118.	Svilajnac	RIC1	RS-146	Svilajnac
119.	Svrljig	RIC2	RS-147	Svrljig
120.	Temerin	RIC3	RS-148	Temerin
121.	Titel	RIC4	RS-149	Titel
122.	Topola	RIC5	RS-150	Topola
123.	Trgovište	RIC6	RS-151	Trgovište
124.	Trstenik	RIC7	RS-152	Trstenik
125.	Tutin	RIC8	RS-153	Tutin
126.	Ub	RIC9	RS-154	Ub
127.	Užice	RID1	RS-155	Užice
128.	Valjevo	RID2	RS-156	Valjevo
129.	Varvarin	RID3	RS-157	Varvarin
130.	Velika Plana	RID4	RS-158	Velika Plana
131.	Veliko Gradište	RID5	RS-159	Veliko Gradište
132.	Vladičin Han	RID6	RS-160	Vladičin Han
133.	Vladimirci	RID7	RS-161	Vladimirci
134.	Vlasotince	RID8	RS-162	Vlasotince
135.	Vranje	RID9	RS-163	Vranje
136.	Vrbas	RIE1	RS-164	Vrbas
137.	Vrnjačka Banja	RIE2	RS-165	Vrnjačka Banja
138.	Vršac	RIE3	RS-166	Vršac
139.	Žabalj	RIE4	RS-167	Žabalj
140.	Žabari	RIE5	RS-168	Žabari
141.	Žagubica	RIE6	RS-169	Žagubica
142.	Zaječar	RIE7	RS-170	Zaječar
143.	Žitište	RIE8	RS-171	Žitište
144.	Žitorađa	RIE9	RS-172	Žitorađa
145.	Zrenjanin	RIF1	RS-173	Zrenjanin

c. Conventional Names

Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Carpathians	-1154783	-1702876	MTS
Danube	-78134	-1267701	STM
Great Alfold	-842100	-1254970	PLN
Iron Gate	-1161978	-1713661	GRGE

d. Unique Geopolitical Situations

Croatia: The United States treats Baranja, Vukovarska Ada and Šarengradska Ada as Croatian.

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 Serbian Republic Geodetic Authority 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 Srbija, 1:600,000, GEOKARTA, 1997. (in Cyrillic script)
3. Savezna Republika Jugoslavija-Republika Srbija, 1:300,000, GEOKARTA, 1993. (in Cyrillic script)
4. Preglednotopografska Karta, 1:300,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1988-1990.
5. Topografska Karta, 1:50,000 (TK50) and 1:100,000 (TK100), Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1980s.
6. Karta, 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:100,000, Vojnogeografski Institut (VGI), 1970s.
7. 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)
Breg	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)
Lečilište	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)
Prevoj	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)
Reka	stream (STM), inlet (INLT)
Rudnik	mine (MN)
Rupa	sinkhole (SINK), depression (DPR), valley (VAL)
S, Š	
Sedlo	saddle (SDL), ridge (RDGE)
Sokak	street (ST)
Spomenik	monument (MNMT)
Stadion	stadium (STDM)
Stanica	station (RSTN)
Stena	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	
Venac	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)
Z, Ž	
Železnička Stanica	railroad station (RSTN)

Appendix B. First-order Administrative Divisions of Serbia

