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Exonyms

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DEFINITIONS

Exonym = conventional name = traditional name

Endonym = internal denomination of a geographical feature

Exonym = external denomination of a geographical feature

Endonym = name in the language of the local population

Exonym = name in another language

UNGEGN Glossary

Endonym = Name of a geographical feature in one of the languages occurring in the area where the feature is situated

Exonym = Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated

Proposal UNGEGN WG on Exonyms

Endonym = Name of a geographical feature in an **official** or **well-established language** occurring in that area where the feature is located.

Exonym = Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an **official** or **well-established language** of that area where the geographical feature is located.

EXAMPLES FROM PRACTICE.

S 1a: Geografski atlas Slovenije [Geographical Atlas of Slovenia], Ljubljana 1998

S 1b: National Atlas of Slovenia, Ljubljana 2001

C 1: A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia & of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Zagreb 1993

C 2: Veliki atlas Hrvatske [Large Atlas of Croatia], Zagreb 2002

PL: Atlas Śląska dolnego i opolskiego [Atlas of Lower and Opole Silesia], Wrocław 1997

RO: România. Atlas istorico-geografic [Romania. Historical-geographical Atlas]. București 1996

S 1a

Geographical Atlas of Slovenia

Ljubljana 1998

monolingual Slovene

S 1a



S 1a



S 1a



S 1a



S 1a



S 1b

National Atlas of Slovenia

Ljubljana 2001

monolingual English

S 1b



S 1b

SLOVENE	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	FRANÇAIS	ESPAÑOL
gorica	hill	Hügel	colline	colina
gorice	hills	Hügelland	collines	colinas
gornji	upper	ober, hoch	supérieur	superior
gorovje	mountain range	Gebirge	montagne	montaña
gozd	forest	Wald	forêt	bosque
grad	castle	Burg, Schloss	château	castillo

C 1

A Concise Atlas of the Republic of Croatia
&
of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina

Zagreb 1993

monolingual English

C1



C1



C 2

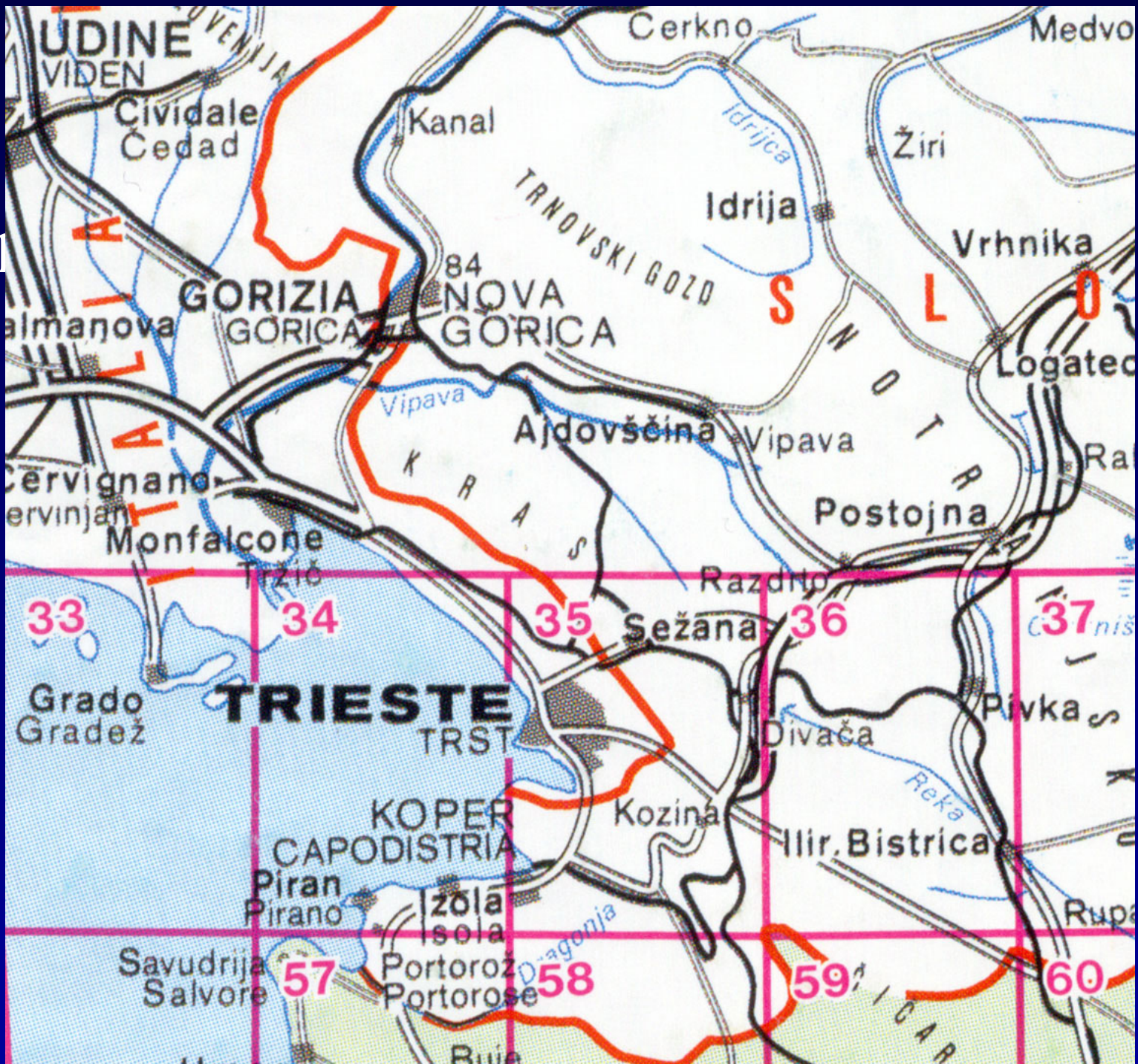
Large Atlas of Croatia

Zagreb 2002

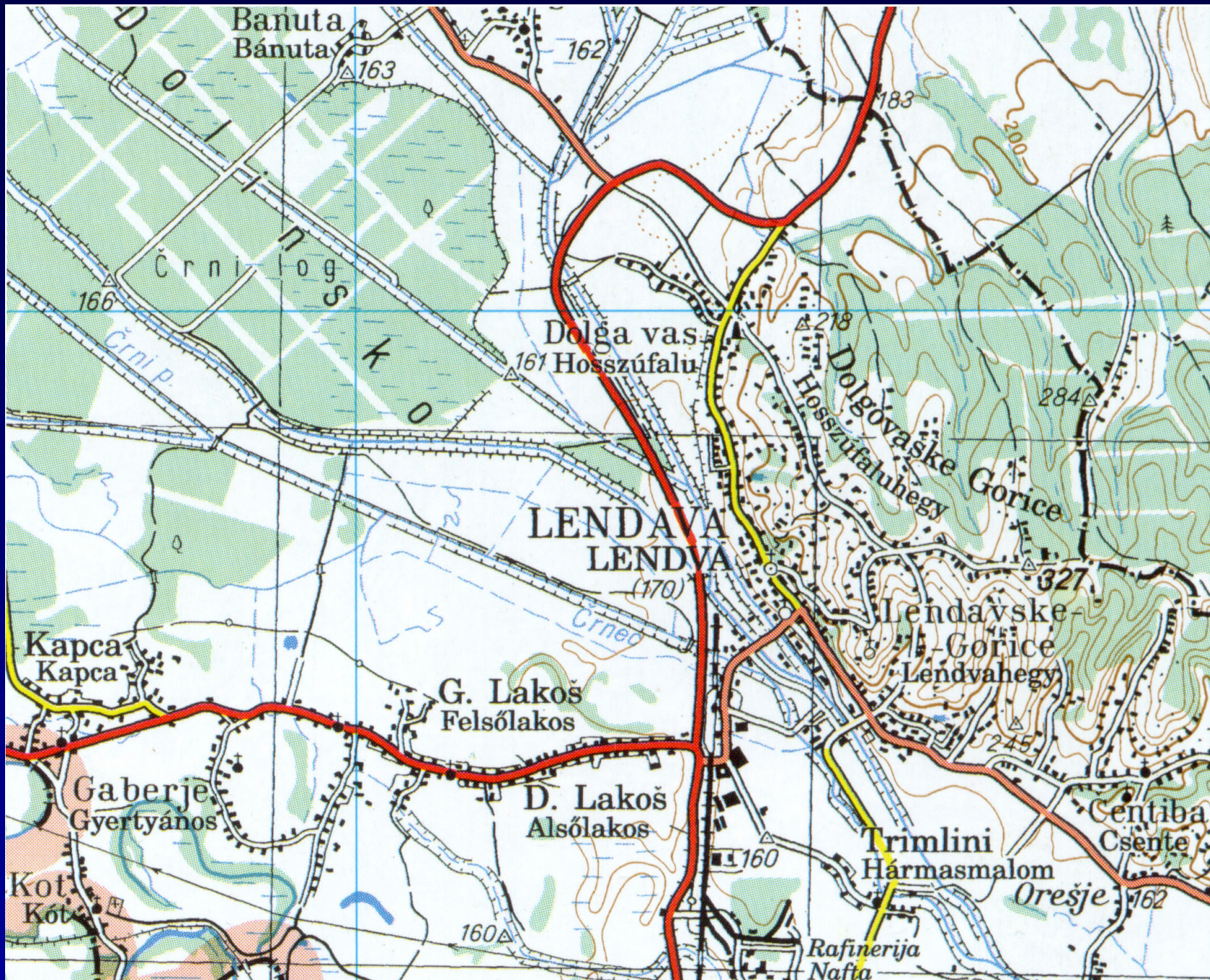
monolingual Croatian

C2

BI



C2



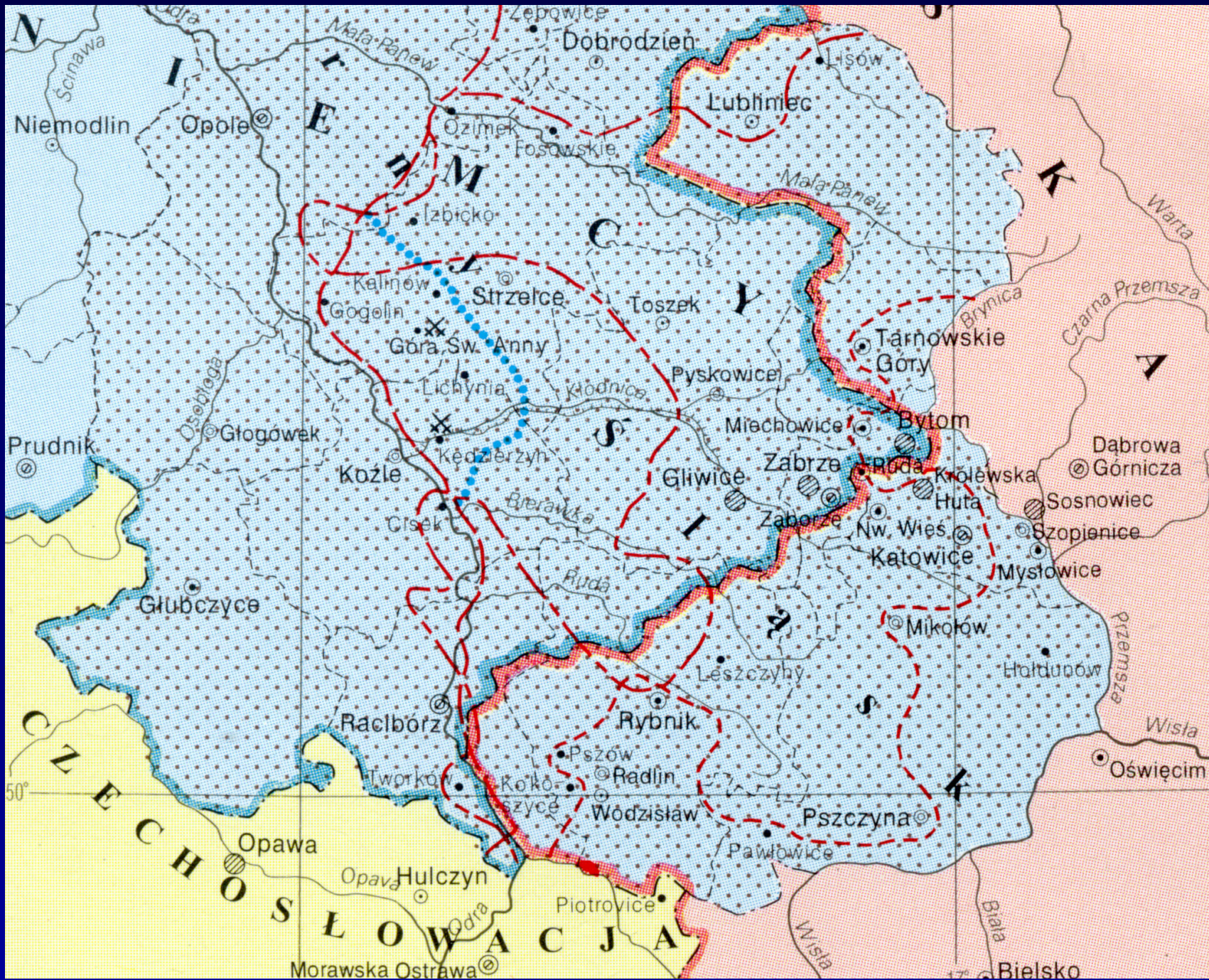
PL

Atlas of Lower and Opole Silesia

Wrocław 1997

trilingual (Polish, English, German)

PL



PL



RO

Historical-geographical atlas of Romania

București 1996

quadrilingual (Romanian, French, English, German)

RO



METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS

Monolingual mapworks are to use

- exonyms corresponding to the editorial language
- exonyms always accompanied by endonyms

Multilingual mapworks are to

- avoid exonyms

or

- use exonyms of all editorial languages simultaneously

SOME
METHODOLOGICAL
CONSIDERATIONS
IN GENERAL

How to decide between endonym/exonym?

Assumption:

A widely used exonym exists

Endonym

(1) Object-related criteria

Exonym

Low

Importance of the object

High

Inside a community

Object extension related to language communities

Across community boundaries

Culture object

Culture-dependency of the object

Nature object

Distant

Spatial distance object-receiver community

Close

Currently existing

Time-layer of the object

Historical

Bold = Exonym use partly imperative

(2) Endonym (word)-related criteria

Endonym

Exonym

Not
including a
generic
term

Composition of the endonym

Including a
generic term

Endonym
in script
of the
receiver
community

Script

Endonym
in another
script

(3) Criteria referring to the relation endonym- receiver community

Endonym		Exonym
Close	Linguistic relation endonym-receiver language	Distant
Low	Difficulty of spelling and pronunciation	High
Distant	Cultural (other than linguistic) relation Endonym-receiver community	Close
High	Prestige, communication value of the endonym language	Low

(4) Medium-related criteria

Endonym

Exonym

Cartographic

Means of communication

Oral

Inside the
endonym
region

Practical use of the medium

Outside the
endonym
region

(5) Criteria related to the level of communication

Endonym		Exonym
Official	Officiality of communication	Inofficial
Asking, polite	Intention, atmosphere of communication	From a position of strength

(6) Audience-related criteria

Endonym

Exonym

Multilingual

Linguistic scope of the audience

Monolingual

Bold = Edonym use imperative

BENEFITS
OF
USING EXONYMS

Exonyms can be pronounced according to the rules of the own language.

From exonyms grammatical derivations according to the own grammar can be formed.

Exonyms are more stable.

Exonyms are anyway needed in historical and ethnographic contexts.

Exonyms indicate the importance of geographical objects and traditional relations in trade, politics and culture.

Exonyms relate geographical objects outside a language community to objects within.

Exonyms frequently replace official names that are in fact rarely used at the spot.

DANGERS
OF
USING EXONYMS

Outlining historical borders or historical ethnic situations

Perpetuating political constructs

Use in a politically and culturally offensive or aggressive way

Re-animation of historical names which are not in current use
with a wider stratum of educated people

RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

or

How to be on the safe side?

Resolution IV/20

The Conference

Noting that, in accordance with resolutions 18 and 19 of the Third United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, further progress has been made in the reduction of the number of exonyms used and a number of States have prepared lists of their own exonyms,

Realizing that the reduction of exonyms used has not been carried out with the same intensity by all States,

Realizing further that the methods and principles aimed at a reduction of the number of exonyms used should constantly be reviewed for expeditious implementation of the resolutions and understanding that not all countries can govern the content of maps and atlases published within their countries,

Recommends that exonyms giving rise to international problems should be used very sparingly and published in parenthesis within the nationally accepted standard name.

Thank you!