



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

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## Information Bulletin No 52 of the United Nations Group of Experts in Geographical Names

### Making Geographical Names Accessible and Available

Cyprus Permanent Committee  
for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN)

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The Cyprus Permanent Committee for the Standardization of Geographical Names (CPCSGN) was initially created in 1967. It was officially established by the decision of the Council of Ministers no.15.769 of 21.4.1979 and constitutes the only competent National Authority for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Cyprus. According to law N.66(I)/98 and regulations ΚΔΠ 443/2001, the Committee operates under the Minister of Education and Culture. The Minister appoints the members of the Committee every five years.

The Committee has issued various independent publications that help in understanding the issues which relate to geographical names, and contribute to the solution of problems arising. The creation of its website ([www.geonoma.gov.cy](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy)), among other actions, is another step forward in upgrading its services and activities:



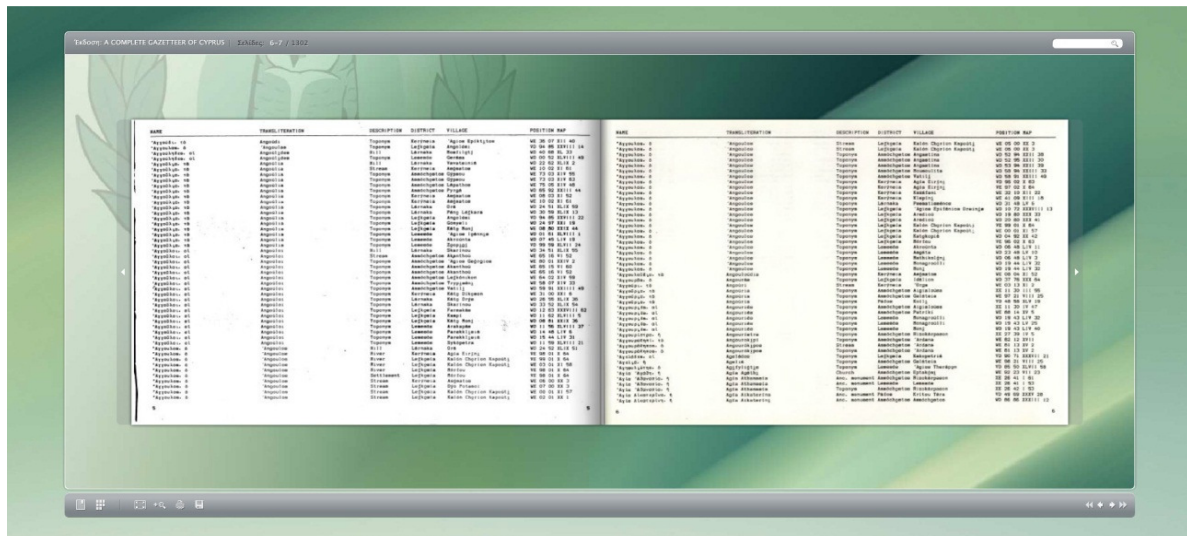
CPCSGN Website – [www.geonoma.gov.cy](http://www.geonoma.gov.cy)

In this website you will find information on the history, the legislation and the Committee's operating regulations, information with respect to its members, communications and activities, texts

from its participation in conferences and events, reports on efforts to tackle illegal alteration of historical names of Cyprus, maps, material for the transliteration of names into the Roman alphabet, etc.

The existing national gazetteers prepared by the CPCSGN in 1982 and 1987 respectively are:

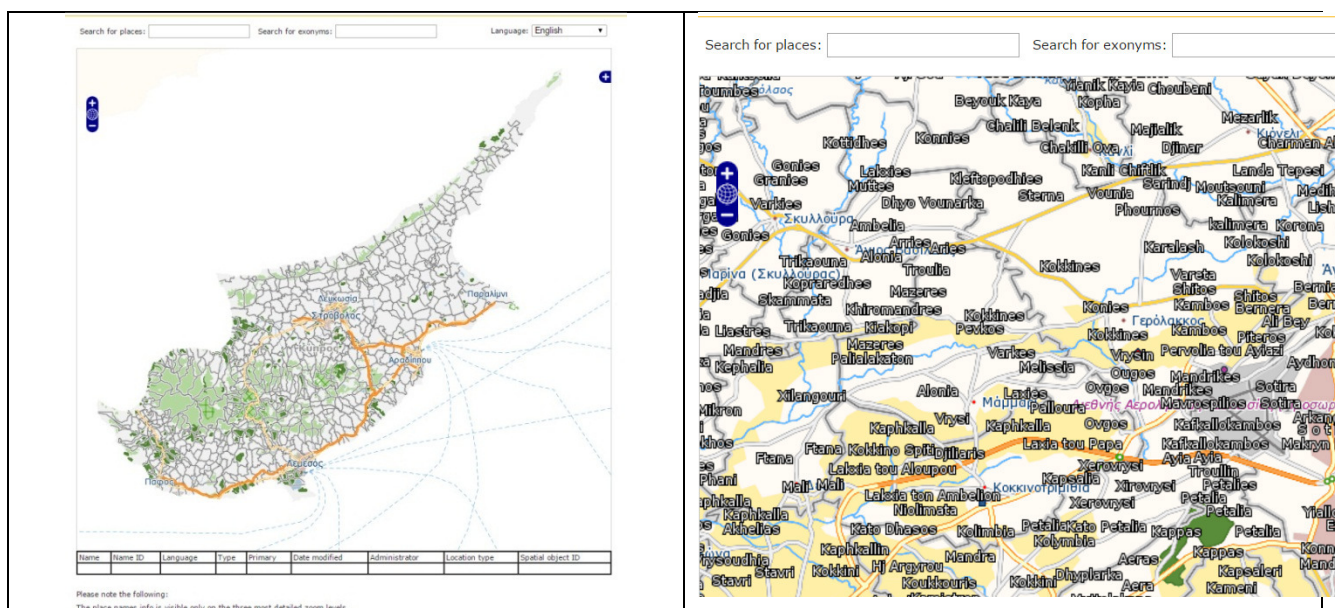
- (i) The “*Concise Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 2000 entries)
- (ii) The “*A Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus*” (about 67000 entries)



Complete on-line Gazetteer of Cyprus  
(<http://www.geonoma.gov.cy/myfiles/ekdoseis/cygazetteer/index.html>)

All geographical names and toponyms included in these gazetteers were derived from the official large scale cadastral map series of the Department of Lands and Surveys. The Complete Gazetteer of Cyprus was digitized, and is currently available on CPCSGN's website in full searchable format.

All geographical names and toponyms are also included in a distributed European database named EuroGeonames, through EuroGeographics, and they are available on line:

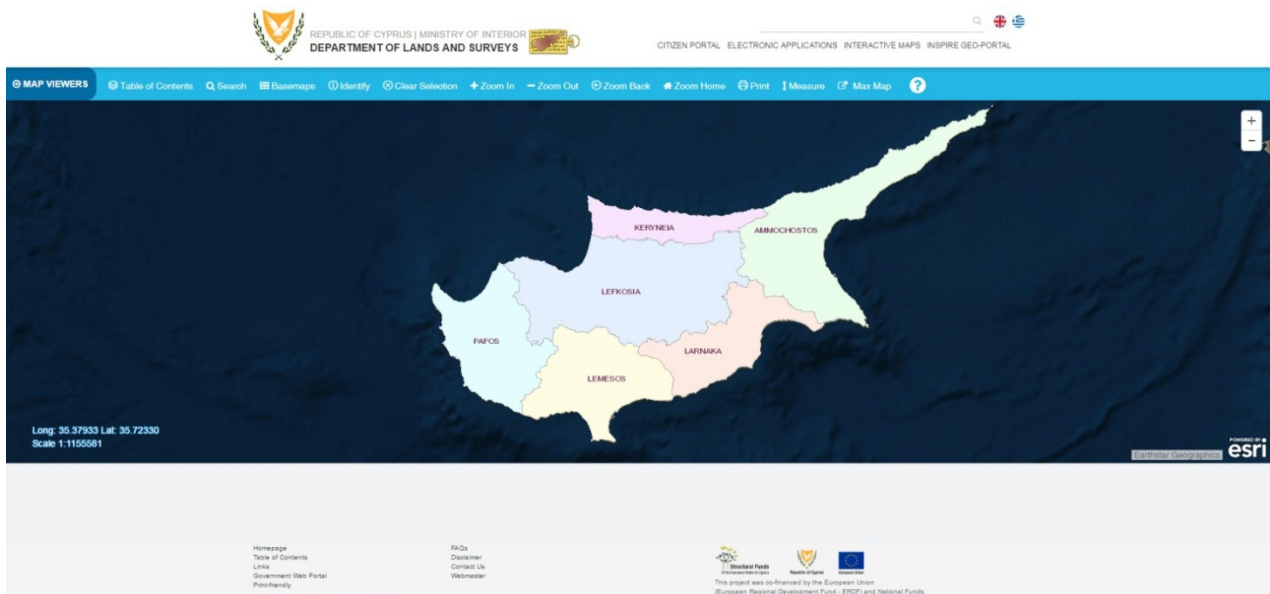


EuroGeonames Database – Geographical Names and Toponyms of Europe including Cyprus  
(<http://ec2-50-19-212-160.compute-1.amazonaws.com/EGNoI/>)



Additionally, all geographical names and toponyms are included in the geoportal of Cyprus at: [www.geoportal.gov.cy](http://www.geoportal.gov.cy). The Geoportal of Cyprus consists of two main parts these being: (a) INSPIRE Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal, and (b) DLS Portal (The portal of the Department of Lands and Surveys).

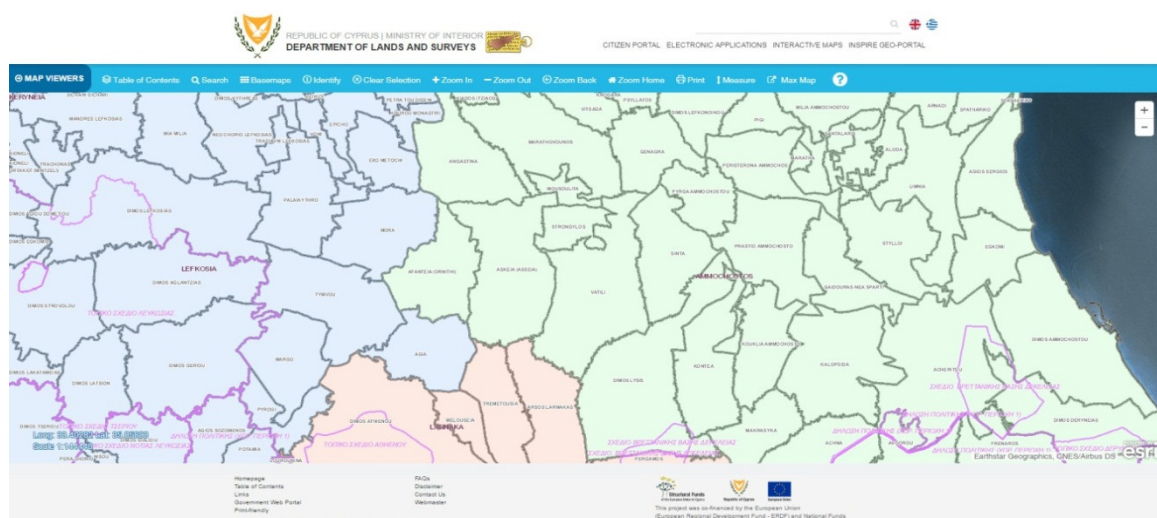
Geographical names and other geo-spatial information are accessible on-line for searching, viewing, transformation, downloading and direct accessing via GIS.



*DLS Portal (<http://portal.dls.moi.gov.cy/en-us/homepage/pages/default.aspx>)*

The New Internet Services platform is a landmark in the modern history of the Republic of Cyprus, as following intensive efforts lasting many years, geo-spatial information was given full access to the outside world, with on-line services via the Internet, through a platform of electronic services. The whole concept is based on a 24-hour available, fast and friendly service.

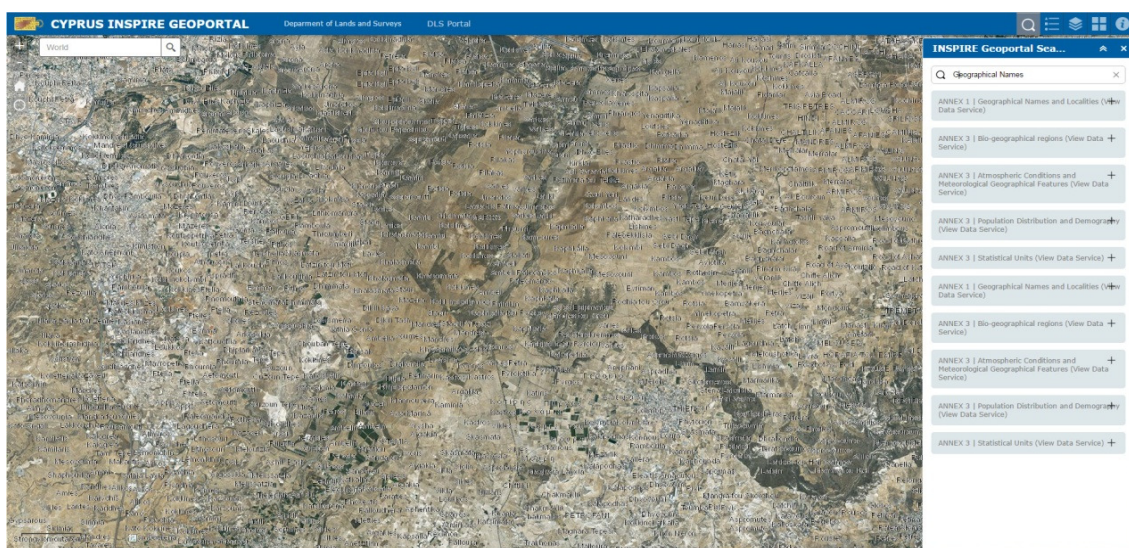
A new IT customer-centric culture is embedded in the platform, focusing on the citizen via the availability of electronic services. The Government's target is the elimination of time-consuming bureaucratic procedures in the acceptance of applications and the ease of access into core data. The whole effort is just the start; the target is to continuously improve currently available services offered, through the gradual inclusion of new applications in the near future.



*DLS Portal – Interactive Maps (<http://eservices.dls.moi.gov.cy/#/national/geoportalmapviewer>)*

The new Internet Services Platform consists of four (4) main pillars:

- **A New and Dynamic Front Page with Static Information and Services.** The new page includes all relevant static information, access to data, free maps and cadastral plans, fees calculating tools, etc.
- **Ability to Navigate to a Property through an On-line Free Web Application.** The applications use modern GIS (Geographical Information Systems) technology, extending them through Web-GIS capabilities. Various layers of information are available, such as: geographical names, administrative boundaries, land parcels, buildings, plan grids, aerial photography, satellite images, planning zones, hydrographic features etc. The ability to identify each property is available with many important parcel characteristics, scanned cadastral plans, the values of the general valuation and many others. Two additional thematic on-line services are also available with very important multi-variable attributes; the topographical and the hydrographical. Search, printing, as well as access via web-services is also offered.
- **Electronic Application Submission.** An "e-Applications Dashboard" is available for every citizen, hosting personal profiling, monitoring of all registered applications and providing the ability to launch and submit an application, purchase static maps, export data and upload data. The selection and provision of GIS data to the citizen is dynamic and specific services are provided to private surveyors and valuers.
- **Adherence and Implementation of the INSPIRE Directive for Cyprus.** The implementation of the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) for the Republic of Cyprus (ref. to Law 43(I)/2010) through a specialized and dedicated INSPIRE GeoPortal platform, integrated inside the DLS PORTAL, is now fully available. The European INSPIRE Directive aims to create a European Union (EU) spatial data infrastructure. This implementation enables the sharing of geo-spatial information (classified into 34 different geospatial themes and several layers/e-services), among public sector organizations, and better facilitates public access to geo-spatial information across Europe. INSPIRE is based on the infrastructures for geo-spatial information that are created by the Member States, that are made compatible with common implementing rules, and are supplemented with measures at Community level. Geographical names are included in all major e-services. Network services, such as the INSPIRE GeoPortal of Cyprus make it possible to discover, transform, view and download spatial data and to invoke spatial data and e-commerce services from various Governmental sources, according to the INSPIRE Directive.



*Cyprus INSPIRE Geoportal – Geographical Names of Cyprus*  
([http://eservices.dls.moi.gov.cy/geoportal\\_inspire/mapviewer/index.html](http://eservices.dls.moi.gov.cy/geoportal_inspire/mapviewer/index.html))