

*Artur Galkowski*

## ***Objectives, challenges, history and present organization of the Commission of Slavic Onomastics within the International Committee of Slavists***

### **1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

To begin with, it has to be underlined that this article is based on reports of the author prepared in recent years regarding the activity of the Commission of Slavic Onomastics (CSO) within the International Committee of Slavists (ICS), as well as the reports of the previous presidents of this commission, e.g. a paper written by ALEKSANDRA CIEŚLIKOWA (2013).<sup>2</sup> Nota bene, until 2013, that is until the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Slavists in Minsk in Belarus, Stanisław Gajda from the Institute of Polish Studies of the University of Opole in Poland was the coordinator of all commissions accredited at the ICS. Since 2013 Peter Žeňuch from the Department of Slavistics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava has been the new coordinator of the ICS commissions.

### **2. How can the International Committee of Slavists be defined?**

The International Committee of Slavists (Russ. *Международный комитет славистов МКС*) is a scientific union that works for the promotion of Slavic studies by setting a number of professional national sub-committees and international thematic commissions and organising the International Congress of Slavists, attended by researchers in the Slavic languages and literatures, Slavic poetics and stylistics, phonetics and phonology, lexicology and lexicography, dialectology, onomastics, terminology, history, ethnography, folklore of the Slavic peoples, Balto-Slavic relationships and the bibliography of works in linguistics and literary criticism in the Slavic area. The official languages of the Congress are customarily Russian and the language of the country organizing the event; but the papers can be presented in all Slavic languages and in English, German and in French.

The ICS was founded in ex-Yugoslavia in Belgrade in 1955, and its aim has been the renovation of relations and contacts between Slavists as well as the continuation of the tradition of the First International Slavic Congress held in Prague in 1929. The ICS concentrated its work at each subsequent site of its congresses: Moscow (1958), Sofia (1963), Prague (1968), Warsaw (1973)

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<sup>1</sup> I thank Ms. Martyna K. Gibka for the linguistic correction of this article.

<sup>2</sup> Available also at: <http://onomastyka.uni.lodz.pl/mkos-co-mks/organizacja>.



and others every five years. The last one, the 15<sup>th</sup>, as mentioned before, was organized in Minsk in 2013. The next one will take place in Serbia in Belgrade in August 2018.

The ICS is a part of the system of educational and cultural organizations of UNESCO and unites the national committees of Slavists all over the world: from the Eastern and Western Slavic area, the countries of East and West Slavs, and also from other European countries like Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, as well as countries from other continents, e.g. Israel, the USA, Canada, India, Japan etc.

The responsibility of each national committee is to announce a general call for papers, review submissions, select a group of national delegates to the Congress, edit the submitted papers, and publish them in a volume or volumes that appear in time for distribution at the Congress itself.

### 3. Commissions of ICS

The ICS establishes also thematic commissions (focused on different disciplines and fields of Slavic researches). These commissions include specialists from different countries. They are run by the presidents nominated for 5-year terms by the Board of the ICS during the Congress of Slavists. Since 2013 there have been 39 active international commissions within the ICS, among others one can mention: the Commission on Slavic Archeology, the Commission of Balkan Historical and Cultural Studies, the Biblical Commission, the Commission on Linguistic Bibliography, the Commission for Slavic Ethnolinguistics, the Dialectological Commission, the Etymological Commission, the Commission of Phonetics and Phonology, the Commission for Phraseology, the Commission of Grammatical Structure of the Slavonic Languages, the Commission of Religious Language, the Commission for Lexicology and Lexicography, the Commission on Slavic Microlanguages, the Commission on Slavic Linguistic Atlas, the Commission for Translation Studies, the Commission for Slavic Media Linguistics, the Commission on Word-Formation, the Commission for Sociolinguistics, the Commission for Stylistics, the Commission for Terminology, and certainly the Commission of Slavic Onomastics.

The commissions operate on an international level and carry out their activities on the basis of definite rules (*Ramowe zasady działania komisji afiliowanych przy MKS* [The framework of the basic principles of the Commissions affiliated at the ICS]).<sup>3</sup>

One of the more visible and permanent tasks of the commissions directly connected with the ICS Congress is the organization of the so-called Thematic Blocks that constitute special and additional symposia during the Congress. In the course of the block meetings, 5 to 8 papers are presented by their authors and discussed with other participants of the block. Texts of the papers are published before the Congress in journals or in scientific series. For the next Congress of Slavists in Belgrade in 2018<sup>4</sup> the Commission of Slavic Onomastics is preparing one thematic block dedicated to a general subject *Ономастика и современная культура / Onomastics and the Contemporary Culture*. The texts of that block have been already published in *Onomastica LXI* (HLADKÝ 2017, VALENTOVÁ 2017, MEZENKA 2017, SKOWRONEK 2017, GALKOWSKI 2017).

#### 4. The history of the CSO

The Commission of Slavic Onomastics is one of the oldest commissions affiliated to the ICS. It has existed since the beginning of the post-war history of the ICS, i.e. since 1959. Witold Taszycki from Poland became the first president of the Commission and Mieczysław Karaś the secretary; among ordinary members one can find: I. Duridanow, V. Šmilauer, F. Bezlaj, R. Fisher and K. Cilujko.

Three sub-commissions were also formed in that starting period: 1. the sub-commission of the Slavic (top)onomastic atlas (called the SOA dictionary) – Vladimir Šmilauer became its chairman; 2. the sub-commission of the onomastic terminology – with Jan Svoboda as its chairman; 3. the hydronymic sub-commission – with Przemysław Zwoliński as the chairman.

Since then many international onomastic Slavic conferences have been held independently of the Congress of Slavists; they were dedicated mainly to the subject matters of these sub-commissions (e.g. the 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary conference of the CSO in 1961 in Berlin or the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Liblice near Prague in 1966).

The number of members of the Commission was enlarged in 1968 at the Congress of Slavists in Prague; one can mention here names such as: I. Duridanow, V. Šmilauer, J. Svoboda, R. Fisher, E. Schwarz, M. Hraste, M. Pavlović, B. Vidoeski, W. Taszycki, M. Karaś, P. Zwoliński, E. Petrovici, I. Sipos and K. Cilujko. At that time the representatives of Russian and Belarussian onomastics were missing in the Commission.

Under the auspices of the CSO, such international conferences as the Polish Onomastic Conference (*OKO Ogólnopolska Konferencja Onomastyczna* [Polish Onomastic Conference]) and Slovak Onomastic Conference (*SOK*

<sup>4</sup> The programme of the Congress is available at: <http://www.fil.bg.ac.rs/lang/sr/centri-i-instituti/mks/xvi-mks/osnovne-smernice-programa/>.



*Slovenská onomastická konferencia* [Slovak Onomastic Conference]) have been organized. Both conferences take place every two years, always under the auspices of the CSO and national onomastic commissions strictly collaborating with the CSO, in different academic centres in Poland and Slovakia. Both conferences have so far recorded 20 editions and proceedings: the *OKO* (nowadays *MiOKO Międzynarodowa i Ogólnopolska Konferencja Onomastyczna* [International and Polish Onomastic Conference]) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 in Cracow; the 20<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO* was dedicated to the subject: *Onomastics-Neohumanism-Social Sciences*; on the other hand the 20<sup>th</sup> *SOK* was organized in June 2017 in Banská Bystrica in Slovakia; its major subject was *Convergences and divergences in proprial sphere*. Other general subjects discussed during the last editions of *MiOKO* and *SOK* were: e.g. *Proper names in the social context* (the 16<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO*; v. ŁOBODZIŃSKA ed. 2010), *The chrematonymy as a phenomenon of contemporary days* (the 17<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO*; v. BIOLIK–DUMA ed. 2015), *The microtoponymy and the macrotoponymy* (the 18<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO*; v. GAŁKOWSKI–GLIWA ed. 2014, 2015, 2016), *Functions of proper names* (the 19<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO*; SARNOWSKA-GIEFING–BALOWSKI, GRAF ed. 2015); *Proper names in language and society* (the 14<sup>th</sup> *SOK*; KRŠKO ed. 2000), *Proper names in communication* (the 15<sup>th</sup> *SOK*; ŽIGO–MAJTÁN ed. 2003), *Individual and general in onomastics* (the 18<sup>th</sup> *SOK*; OLOŠTIK ed. 2012). The CSO meetings take place during the *MiOKO* and *SOK* conferences, and usually they are linked with the meetings of the Polish and Slovak Onomastic Commissions.

Coming back to the history, the 4<sup>th</sup> assembly of the CSO together with the meetings of three sub-commissions took place in 1969 in Skopje and Ohrid in Macedonia. It was discovered that the most advanced works have been done in the field of the Slavic onomastic terminology. The works on the SOA (Slavic onomastic atlas) were continuing, especially at the Prague center (directed by Vladimír Šmilauer), as well as at the Leipzig centre (Rudolf Fisher with collaborators), and in the Wrocław centre (directed by Stanisław Rospond).

In Leipzig, Ernst Eichler was working on the methodology regarding the SOA. In his paper entitled *Zum Slawischen onomastischen Atlas*, he proposed the elaboration of the local/national SOA Atlases and only later the preparation of the general one for all Slavic world (v. EICHLER 1964, EICHLER–SCHULTHEIS–WALTHER 1967). In 1970 in Wrocław, a special conference dedicated to the SOA was organized. The works on the atlas survey began.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> *SOK*, the information about a publication of the onomastic terminology edited by JAN SVOBODA was given (*Základní soustava a terminologie slovanské onomastiky*, published in *Zpravodaj Místopisné komise ČSAV* 1973, rotaprint).



At the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Slavists in Warsaw in 1973, Mieczysław Karaś became the president of the CSO, taking the place of Witold Taszycki,

who became the honorary president of the Commission. Moreover, Rudolf Šrámek became its vice-president, Alexandra Superanskaya the second vice-president, Vladimir Šmilauer another honorary president and Kazimierz Rymut the secretary. Among ordinary members one can enumerate I. Duridanov, K. Popow and J. Zaimow from Bulgaria; V. Blanár, R. Krajčovič, I. Lutterer, V. Šmilauer and R. Šrámek from Czechoslovakia; F. Bezljaj, V. Mihajlović, M. Pavlović, P. Šimunović, D. Vujčić and B. Vidoeski from Yugoslavia; E. Eichler, G. Schlimpert and T. Witkowski from German Democratic Republic; M. Karaš, S. Rospond, K. Rymut, B. Siciński, W. Taszycki, A. Zaręba and P. Zwoliński from Poland.

Besides those already existing, another sub-commission was created; it was the Anthroponymic sub-commission with Vincent Blanár as its chairman. And the chairmanship of the sub-commission of SOA was given to Rudolf Šrámek. Under the direction of Rudolf Šrámek the survey of name types was elaborated.

Since 1974 the SCO has been involved in the global onomastics researches. Its members admitted that the Commission should be represented on the Congress of ICOS.

Henri Draye promoted the idea of the unification of the Slavic works with other international works at the 12<sup>th</sup> Congress of ICOS in Switzerland (Bern) in 1975. Members of the CSO prepared for this Congress papers entitled: *The methodology of the Slavic onomastics*, *The project of the SOA*, and *The Slavic onomastic terminology*.

The change of the president of the CSO took place after the 8<sup>th</sup> ISC in Zagreb in 1978. Kazimierz Rymut was elected as the new president. At subsequent CSO meetings, voices (e.g. of Ivan Lutterer from Prague) about the need of cooperation of onomastics with other fields of science were heard.

At the assembly in 1980 (Mogilany near Cracow), Henryk Borek presented a toponymic atlas project that would include both word-formation and lexical databases of onymic units.

At the International Onomastic Symposium in Leipzig in 1982, a microtoponymic section headed by Witold Śmiech was created. Significant effects of microtoponymic works can be noted now in many Slavic countries, for instance Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Russia, Belarus and Poland.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Slavists in Kiev in 1983, a print of the *Slavic onomastic terminology* prepared by the CSO terminology sub-commission led by Božidar Vidoeski was presented. It was the famous edition of the *Основен систем и терминологија на словенката ономастика / Osnoven sistem i terminologija na slovenskata onomastika – Основная система и*



*терминология славянской ономастики / Osnovnaja sistema i terminologija slavjanskoj onomastiki – Grundsystem und Terminologie der Slawischen Onomastik*, edited in Skopje in the same year by a Slavic group of experts (BEZLAJ FRANCE et al. 1983); it was a dictionary based on previous Slovak and Czech publications, e.g. by SVOBODA (1973).

The composition of the Commission presented during the ICS Congress in Kiev in 1983 was as follows: Austria: O. Kronsteiner; Bulgaria: I. Duridanov, N. Kovačev, J. Zaimov; Czechoslovakia: V. Blanár, M. Knappová, R. Krajčovič, I. Lutterer, M. Majtán, R. Šrámek (the vice-chairman of the commission); Greece: Ph. Malingoudis; Yugoslavia: F. Bezlaj, D. Čupić, V. Mihajlović, P. Šimunović, D. Vujčić, B. Vidoeski; East Germany: E. Eichler, G. Schlimpert, T. Witkowski; West Germany: J. Udolph; Poland: H. Borek, H. Górniewicz, W. Lubaś, J. Rieger, K. Rymut (President), B. Siciński, W. Śmiech, A. Zaręba; Romania: A. Constantinescu, J. Patruț; Hungary: I. Sipos; Soviet Union: J. Karpenko, W. Lemtjugova, A. Nepokupnyj, N. Podolskaya, A. Superanskaya (vice-President), O. Trubačev.

In 1986, the meeting of the SCO in Mogilany near Cracow in Poland was dedicated to the Slavic hydronymy, and the *Hydronymia Europaea* project was discussed. It is worth noting that by 2005, a total of 20 volumes of *Hydronymia Europaea* (v. SCHMID–RYMUT–UDOLPH 1988) of the Polish area were successfully published. It is now the starting point for the project *Electronic Dictionary of Hydronyms in Poland*.<sup>5</sup>

Under the auspices of the CSO, the International Slavic Onomastics Conference in 1987 in Novi Sad in Serbia focused on three issues: the methodology of comparative onomastic research, the contrasting analysis of certain types of toponymic and anthroponymic nomenclature, and the interpretation of selected singular names on a comparative perspective. The Slavic Toponymic Atlas was invariably intended for teamwork, but also a new project – the Slavic Anthroponymic Dictionary – was started, but has not been realized yet.

At an onomastic session in 1988 in Leipzig, Rudolf Šrámek presented the results of Czech works on mapping of place names in the toponymic atlas taking as an example the Bohemia and Moravia regions.

The International Conference of the CSO in Austria in 1992 was dedicated to the oronymy. Another topic of the conference was the word-formation of toponyms considered through the atlases of different Slavic languages.

At the Congress of Slavists in 1993 in Bratislava, a sample book of the SOA Slavic Onomastic Atlas was reported.



<sup>5</sup> The dictionary and bibliographic references are available at: <http://eshp.ijp.pan.pl/oslowniku/>.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO* in Warsaw, in 1994, the principles of mapping of selected oiconymic structures from the western Slavic area were discussed. It was found that the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of the dictionary related to atlas studies would contain methodological assumptions, lists of formants, bibliography and maps of chosen oiconymic structures.

The Hydronymic Conference in 1994 in Mogilany in Poland was an opportunity to discuss the following issues: 1. the state of work on the *Hydronymia Europaea* series; 2. the draft of the Polish hydronomasticon; 3. the possibility of including hydronyms from other Slavic languages and countries in the project *Hydronymia Europaea*.

In 1998 during the 12<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Slavists in Cracow, Kazimierz Rymut resigned from the chairmanship of the Commission and was replaced by Ewa Rzetelska-Feleszko. Aleksandra Cieślíkowa was elected as the vice-president. Ewa Rzetelska-Feleszko presented an encyclopaedia compiled under her coordination: *Polskie nazwy własne. Encyklopedia* [Polish Proper Names. Encyclopedia] (RZETELSKA-FELESZKO 1998).

In the same period, the works on the international project *Encyclopaedia of Slavic onomastics* started (*Słowiańska onomastyka. Encyklopedia* published later in 2 volumes in 2002 and in 2003, edited by EWA RZETELSKA-FELESZKO–ALEKSANDRA CIEŚLIKOWA–JERZY DUMA).

At the beginning of the new century, according to the idea of developing national atlases, in Leipzig under the direction of ERNST EICHLER (2000-2004), an Atlas of Old Sorbian structures was prepared (*Atlas altsorbischer Ortsnamentypen: Studien zu toponymischen Arealen des altsorbischen Gebietes im westslawischen Sprachraum*).

The method of developing the atlas of word-formation types of Old Sorbian oiconyms refers to the basic assumptions of the SOA in the questionnaire *Slawischer onomastischen Atlas (SOA). Strukturtypen der slawischen Ortsnamen. Strukturní typy slovanské oikonymie* (EICHLER–ŠRÁMEK eds. 1988).

The 13<sup>th</sup> ICS in 2003 in Ljubljana was an opportunity for the next CSO general assembly, at which it was agreed that the additional task of the Commission would be an elaboration of a new onomastic terminology (an *aggiornamento* of the Slavic onomastic terminology), as well as the language policy in the field of proper names in various Slavic countries.

In 2005, a meeting of the members of the CSO was held at the 21<sup>st</sup> ICOS Congress in Pisa and a decision was taken to propose a thematic block for the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of Slavists in Ohrid in 2008 entitled *Globalization as a trend in the development of modern Slavic onymy*.

In 2006 Aleksandra Cieślíkowa became the president of the Commission. She ceded informally the chairmanship of the CSO to Artur Gałkowski in 2010 during the 17<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO* organized in Olsztyn.

In September 2011, a CSO public assembly was held under Artur Gałkowski's direction during the 24<sup>th</sup> ICOS Congress in Barcelona. At the meeting Artur Gałkowski presented the site of the CSO ([www.onomastyka.uni.lodz.pl](http://www.onomastyka.uni.lodz.pl)), at the same time being the website for 18<sup>th</sup> *MiOKO* organized in 2012 in Łódź.

In Barcelona, Milan Harvalík confirmed the leadership of the terminology sub-commission of the CSO. The work of the SOA team was coordinated by Romana Łobodzińska from the University of Wrocław in close cooperation with Rudolf Šrámek (v. JAKUS-BORKOWA–NOWIK 2008).

The participants of the Barcelona CSO assembly acknowledged that the Commission could be a forum for scientific discussions and a representative for broadly understood “interests” of the Slavic onomastics on the international level.

In order to intensify the collecting and exchange of information inside and outside the CSO, a team of correspondents has been approved for individual countries and areas of interests: Liliana Dymitrowa-Todorova (Bulgaria), Grazilde Blažene (Lithuania), Milán Harvalík (Czech Republic), Natalia Vasileva (Russia), Pavol Odaloš (Slovakia), Tamás Farkas (Hungary), Christian Zschieschang (Germany, Lusatia), Irena Kałużyńska (China, Asia), Enzo Caffarelli (Italy).

Since 2011 the Commission has been extended by gaining many new members, including younger colleagues – representatives of onomastic Slavic and non-Slavic centres, among others: P. Odaloš, J. Krško, J. Hladký and I. Valentová from Slovakia; E. Berezovič, I. Kryukova and A. Šapošnikov from Russia; U. Bijak, I. Sarnowska-Giefing, A. Siwiec, K. Skowronek, R. Zarębski from Poland; A. Mezenka and A. Kopač from Belarus; V. Lučik from Ukraine; M. Momirovska from Macedonia; and Ch. Zschieschang from Germany. Today, over 60 members belong to the Commission.

The honorary members of the Commission are: Rudolf Šrámek (Czech Republic) and Karol Zierhoffer (Poland). Many outstanding and meritorious members of the Commission are already gone, among them, three honorary members: Ivan Lutterer (Czech Republic, 1929–2016), Milan Majtán (Slovakia, 1934–2018), Aleksandra Cieślíkowa (Poland, 1936–2018). Thus, their achievements remain in the collective memory and are the source of knowledge and the model of scientific work for the new generations of onomasticians. One has to admit that many of the challenges and tasks of the CSO have already been fulfilled and the present task of the Commission, among others, is to preserve and popularize them.



The activity of the Commission depends on the activity of its members. Naturally, most of the members of the Commission participate not only in conferences and congresses, but are also the authors of numerous onomastics works: volumes and articles. The papers of the CSO members appear in such onomastic Slavic journals as *Onomastica*, *Acta Onomastica*, *Вопросы ономастики/Voprosy onomastiki*, *Onomastica Slavogermanica*, *Onomastica Uralica*, *Folia onomastica Croatica*, but also in extra-Slavic ones, e.g. *Névtani Értésítő*, *Names*, *Onoma*, *Rivista Italiana di Onomastica RION*, *Beiträge zur Namenforschung*, *Zunamen*. Reports on CSO meetings are also published by onomastic journals, among others by *Onomastica*, *Voprosy Onomastiki* and *Rivista Italiana di Onomastica (RION)*.

In 2013 during the 15<sup>th</sup> ICS in Minsk, Artur Gałkowski received an official nomination for the President of the Commission. Joaromír Krško from Slovakia became the Vice-President.

In Minsk, there was also a CSO assembly, during which as usual representatives of several countries presented recent onomastic achievements in their areas and centers. Similar presentations were made at the subsequent meetings of the Commission, as were also in previous years and at various international Slavic onomastic conferences, such as the last *MiOKO* and *SOK* conferences.

## **5. The present activity of the Commission of Slavic Onomastics**

Works on the SOA Slavic Onomastic Atlas are still continuing (in Wrocław and Brno academic centers of onomastic studies, directed by Romana Łobodzińska and Rudolf Šrámek).

There are also postulates, such as the one made by Pavol Odaloš, who suggested the necessity to develop a new Slavic onomastic terminology based on the *Osnoven system...* (BEZLAJ et al. 1983).

Meanwhile, the CSO members are working on onomastic terminology in their respective countries and languages. For example, one should consider the encyclopaedia of Bulgarian onomastic terminology edited by TODOR BALKANSKI and KIRIL TSANKOV (2010) *Енциклопедия на българската ономастика/Entsiklopedija na blgarskata onomastika*.

Moreover, it is worth noticing that a project on Slovak onomastic terminology in electronic form was launched – a project coordinated by the SAV centre in Bratislava. Milan Harvalík from Czech Republic and Artur Gałkowski from Poland also participate in this project. Their contribution consists in assigning Czech and Polish equivalents to the developed terms and translating all descriptive elements of the Czech and Polish lemmas. The project is likely to become even more international, also in a global context, taking into account the



achievements of the Terminological Group of ICOS in the field of contemporary onomastic terminology. The ongoing terminological observations will be discussed during the subsequent *MiOKO* and *SOK* conferences in 2018 and 2019 respectively.<sup>6</sup>

One of the current CSO matters concerns the presence of onomastics in the forthcoming 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Slavists in Belgrade in 2018. As already mentioned, an onomastic block will be organized and it will include the presentation of papers prepared by 8 CSO members (from Poland, Slovakia, Russia, Serbia and Macedonia). However, CSO members are not pleased that the onomastic issues in the main congress program do not have a separate section and are only one of the marginal problems included in a dialectological subsection. An official protest against this was lodged by Artur Gałkowski to the organizers of the Congress in Belgrade through the intervention of Peter Žeňuch, the present coordinator of all ICS commissions. So far there has been no satisfactory answer. Undoubtedly, the Slavic onomastics and the onomastics in general are so important for Slavic studies that they should receive the right place in the Congress framework program as they used to be in many past Congresses of Slavists. Attempts to intervene in this matter will continue to be undertaken. Maybe the ICOS could present the right postulate to the International Congress of Slavists for the solution of this problem. It remains the unofficial suggestion of the author of this work and it can be taken into official consideration.

## 6. Conclusion

To conclude, the CSO is and will remain an organization with a mission to initiate, support and coordinate onomastic research within the Slavic languages and countries as well as the institutionally responsible agency that represents globally the Slavic onomastics and onomasticians from Slavic area.

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<sup>6</sup> The announcement and the news about the organisation of the 21<sup>th</sup> MiOKO are available at: <http://www.umcs.pl/pl/onomastyka.htm>.

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## **Abstract**

The article reports objectives, tasks and challenges concerning the history and the present activity in international context of the Commission of Slavic Onomastics (CSO) within the International Committee of Slavists. The CSO has existed for over 60 years bringing together representatives of onomastic sciences of all Slavic and some non-Slavic countries. The CSO aims to integrate the international onomastic society in the area of Slavic studies. It deals with the issues of proper names of all categories. Three sub-commissions operate within the CSO: the sub-commission of the Slavic onomastic atlas (the SOA dictionary), the sub-commission of the onomastic terminology and the hydronymic sub-commission. The CSO has an active role in the works of the International Committee of Slavists. The Commission coordinates several important pan-Slavic projects, e.g. the *Hydronymia Europaea* and co-organizes and patronizes many onomastic conferences in the Slavic countries.

**Keywords:** onomastics, Commission of Slavic Onomastics, International Committee of Slavists, history, slavists