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**Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data services, applications and products (for example, gazetteers and web services)**

### National register of geographical names

#### Submitted by Poland\*\*

#### Summary\*\*\*

Since 1994, the Surveyor General of Poland has maintained the national register of geographical names acting through the Main Geodetic and Cartographic Documentation Centre. Currently, the register contains approximately 198,356 objects with attributes. Before the implementation of the European Union INSPIRE directive, geographical names gathered in the register were available to those interested in the subject but there was no official obligation to use them.

The need for implementation of the INSPIRE directive in Polish law resulted in a number of projects of a legislative and technical kind over the development of a register, which would function as the main, full, credible and current reference database of geographical names that are recommended for official use. The register is also the base database for other geographical information systems that contain geographical names.

In 2009, a new system was implemented for the register. It allows the data to be collected, updated and shared. The functionality of the system led to the launch of data searching and browsing services via the GEO Portal website.

The main purpose of the system is to function as a compulsory and widely available official register of geographical names and to provide information about the location of the geographical objects with their names and relevant attributes.

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\*\*\* The full report is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.



Until the end of 2013 the database will consist of two main sets of objects:

- The set of names of geographical objects located in Poland (available now)
- The set of Polish names of geographical objects located outside Poland (in preparation).

In order to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data, the names are collected, verified and replenished continuously. These processes are carried out on the basis of official registers of names for geographical objects, acts of law, registers kept by the local authorities, lists of names established by the naming commissions, lists of names published by public institutions and topographic maps, etc.

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