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**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity
(including indigeneous, minority and regional language names)**

An enlarged number of official bilingual settlement names
in Austrian Carinthia [Kärnten]

Submitted by Austria**

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Abstract

After reference to the historical background the paper presents the new regulations regarding official bilingual (German-Slovene) naming according to Austrian Federal Law No. 46/2011 in the Austrian federal province of Carinthia [Kärnten].

Federal Law No. 46/2011 and its annexes rule that 164 settlements [Ortschaften] in southern parts of the Austrian federal province of Carinthia must have officially bilingual names. This number is based on a share of 17.5% Slovene-speaking population according to the population census 2001. Minor deviations from this percentage have been accepted, when this was found locally appropriate.

The number of 164 includes all 93 settlements bilingual already before the new law. The 164 settlements are dispersed over four Political Districts [Politische Bezirke], units of deconcentrated state administration at the lower regional level in Austria.

A list of all officially bilingual settlement names structured by Political Districts and communes in alphabetical order supplements the paper.

An enlarged number of official bilingual settlement names in Austrian Carinthia [Kärnten]

1. Historical background

The great migration of Slavs from the Vistula-Dnjepr region in the 6-7th centuries brought a Slavonic population also to the eastern Alps and the Pannonian Basin. They settled in large parts of the Eastern Alps, rather in the valleys (while the former Celtic population had preferred mountain tops and remote places for security reasons).

In the 7th century a Slavonic principality named *Carantania* and centered at Karnburg (Krnki grad) at the Zollfeld (Gosposvetsko polje) was established. It is by Slovenian historiography regarded as the earliest predecessor of Slovenian statehood. Carinthia is by this very reason also the core region of Slovenian identity. Symbols of Carantania (Prince's Stone – where the Duke was installed, Church of Maria Saal) are today part of national Slovenian symbolism.

In the middle of the 8th century Slavonic Carantania had to acknowledge Bavarian/Frankonian domination. At the end of the 8th century it was fully integrated into the Frankonian system: it became a March of the Frankonian Empire, a part of Bavaria. This resulted also in Christianization of the Slavonic population by Salzburg and Aquileia.

Another consequence was Bavarian (German-speaking) colonization promoted by the new landlords and the bishopric Salzburg. The newcomers formed rather the upper strata of the society, while the Slavonic population remained the rural ground layer. Up to the end of the Middle Ages (only in Carinthia, not in other parts of the Eastern Alps) an

ethnically/linguistically mixed situation persisted. Assimilation towards local majorities resulted in an ethnic/linguistic patchwork pattern. This shapes Carinthian culture in many respects up to the present day. This is also true for the namescape, which is a mixture of Slavonic and German names all over the province.

In general, however, linguistic assimilation towards German-speakers, who formed the upper strata of the society, proceeded. Social ascend was only possible by using the German language – very similar to the situation of Slovenes under Venetian rule in what is today Italy, where Venetian, later Italian were the languages of the dominating group.

By the end of the Middle Ages a distinct language boundary within Carinthia had developed very much coinciding with ecclesiastical boundaries between Salzburg and Aquileia. This boundary still exists, but also at the Slovenian side of the boundary the Slovenian population has decreased substantially. According to the 2001 census (by colloquial language, not by ethnicity or mother tongue) 12,554 have declared to speak Slovene, i.e. 4.7% of Carinthia's population.

The strong decline is not only due to social stratification as mentioned before, but also to societal change in general (conversion of rural societies by industrialisation and tertiarisation) and the peripheral situation of the Slovenes in Austria in socio-economic terms.

In addition, political events and directions had their strong impact: the rise of nationalism during the 19th century and national homogenization after World War I almost all over Europe, but also in Austria; the fact that Austria had to cede some parts of Carinthia settled predominantly by Slovenes to the first Yugoslavian state (with the effect that the rest of the area settled by Slovenes was regarded as “ours” and subjected to Germanization); repeated attempt of the Yugoslavian states (after World War I and II) to occupy at least larger parts of Carinthia; the National-Socialist regime between 1938 and 1945.

Efforts to establish and improve minority rights after World War II met already a very small and further declining Slovenian group. As regards minority toponymy, the Austrian State Treaty as of 1955 included in its Article 7 a principal statement, which needed to be specified by additional federal legislation.

After a first unsuccessful attempt in 1972, federal laws passed in 1976 and 1977 ruled that 91 settlements [Ortschaften] in Carinthia had to have officially bilingual names. The threshold relevant for this number was 25% of Slovene-speaking population in communes [Gemeinden] as of 1955 and according to the population census of 1951.

The Austrian Supreme Court passed in 2001 a decision stating that a percentage of 25% was too high and recommended to reduce it to 10% according to an average of results of more recent population censuses. Efforts of all relevant political forces to comply to this decision led to long-lasting negotiations and several unsuccessful attempts to find a solution. In the meantime the number of officially bilingual settlements had just been increased by two from 91 to 93.

In 2011 finally a compromise could be achieved which was accepted by almost all political forces both at the federal and provincial level and legally implemented accordingly. It has good

chances to de-escalate the at times politically delicate situation and to settle it for a foreseeable future.

2. The new regulations regarding official bilingual naming according to Austrian Federal Law No. 46/2011

Federal Law No. 46/2011 and its annexes rule that 164 settlements [Ortschaften] in southern parts of the Austrian federal province of Carinthia must have officially bilingual names. This number is based on a share of 17.5% Slovene-speaking population according to the population census 2001. Minor deviations from this percentage have been accepted, when this was found locally appropriate.

The number of 164 includes all 93 settlements bilingual already before the new law. The 164 settlements are dispersed over four Political Districts [Politische Bezirke], units of deconcentrated state administration at the lower regional level in Austria.

It must be remarked that neither the names of Political Districts, nor of communes (composed of ordinary communes, market communes, municipalities) are officially bilingual.

The following list is structured by Political Districts and communes in alphabetical order. The long name versions of Political Districts and communes are first presented in English and then in German (in rectangular brackets).

3. List of bilingual German-Slovene settlements [Ortschaften] in the federal province of Carinthia according to Law No. 46/2011 (the first name is the German, the second behind the slash the Slovene)

1 Political District Hermagor [Politischer Bezirk Hermagor]

1.1 Municipality Hermagor-Pressegger See [Stadtgemeinde Hermagor-Pressegger See]

Dellach/Dole
Potschach/Potoče

2 Political District Klagenfurt-Land [Politischer Bezirk Klagenfurt-Land]

2.1 Market commune Ebenthal in Kärnten [Marktgemeinde Ebenthal in Kärnten]

Kossiach/Kozje
Kreuth/Rute
Lipizach/Lipica
Radsberg/Radiše
Schwarz/Dvorec
Tutzach/Tuce
Werouzach/Verovce

2.2 Market commune Feistritz im Rosental [Marktgemeinde Feistritz im Rosental]

Hundsdorf/Podsinja vas

St. Johann im Rosental/Šentjanž v Rožu

2.3 Municipality Ferlach [Stadtgemeinde Ferlach]

Bodental/Poden

Loibltal/Brodi

Strugarjach/Strugarje

Tratten/Trata

Waidisch/Bajdiše

Windisch Bleiberg/Slovenji Plajberk

2.4 Commune Köttmannsdorf [Gemeinde Köttmannsdorf]

Neusaß/Vesava

Plöschenberg/Plešivec

2.5 Commune Ludmannsdorf [Gemeinde Ludmannsdorf]

Bach/Potok

Edling/Kajzaze

Fellersdorf/Bilnjovs

Franzendorf/Branča vas

Großkleinberg/Mala Gora

Ludmannsdorf/Bilčovs

Lukowitz/Koviče

Moschenitzen/Moščenica

Muschkau/Muškava

Niederdörfel/Spodnja vesca

Oberdörfel/Zgornja vesca

Pugrad/Podgrad

Rupertiberg/Na Gori

Selkach/Želuče

Strein/Stranje

Wellersdorf/Velinja vas

Zedras/Sodraževa

2.6 Market commune Schiefing [Marktgemeinde Schiefing]

Techelweg/Holbiče

2.7 Commune St. Margareten im Rosental [Gemeinde St. Margareten im Rosental]

Triebblach/Treblje

2.8 Commune Zell [Gemeinde Zell]

Zell-Freibach/Sele-Borovnica

Zell-Homölich/Sele-Homeliše

Zell-Koschuta/Sele-Košuta
Zell-Mitterwinkel/Sele-Srednji Kot
Zell-Oberwinkel/Sele-Zvrhnji Kot
Zell-Pfarre/Sele-Cerkev
Zell-Schaida/Sele-Šajda

3 Political District Villach-Land [Politischer Bezirk Villach-Land]

3.1 Market commune Arnoldstein [Marktgemeinde Arnoldstein]

Hart/Ločilo

3.2 Market commune Finkenstein am Faakersee [Marktgemeinde Finkenstein am Faakersee]

Goritschach/Zagoriče
Oberferlach/Zgornje Borovlje
Petschnitzen/Pečnica
Sigmontitsch/Zmotiče
Susalitsch/Žužalče
Unterferlach/ Spodnje Borovlje
Untergreuth/Spodnje Rute

3.3 Commune Hohenthurn [Gemeinde Hohenthurn]

Achomitz/Zahomec

3.4 Market commune Rosegg [Marktgemeinde Rosegg]

Frög/Breg
Raun/Ravne

3.5 Market commune St. Jakob im Rosental [Marktgemeinde St. Jakob im Rosental]

Frießnitz/Breznica
Greuth/Rute
Kanin/Hodnina
Lessach/Leše
Maria Elend/Podgorje
Mühlbach/Reka
St. Jakob im Rosental/Šentjakob v Rožu
St. Peter/Šentpeter
Srajach/Sreje
Tösching/Tešinja

3.6 Market commune Velden am Wörthersee [Marktgemeinde Velden am Wörthersee]

Pulpitsch/Pulpače
Treffen/Trebinja

4 Political District Völkermarkt [Politischer Bezirk Völkermarkt]

4.1 Municipality Bleiburg [Stadtgemeinde Bleiburg]

Aich/Dob
Bleiburg/Pliberk
Dobrowa/Dobrova
Draurain/Brege
Ebersdorf/Drveša vas
Einersdorf/Nonča vas
Kömmel/Komelj
Kömmelgupf/Komeljski Vrh
Loibach/Libuče
Moos/Blato
Replach/Replje
Rinkenberg/Vogrče
Rinkolach/Rinkole
Ruttach/Rute
St. Georgen/Šentjur
St. Margarethen/Šmarjeta
Schilterndorf/Čirkovče
Wiederndorf/Vidra vas
Woroujach/Borovje

4.2 Market commune Eberndorf [Marktgemeinde Eberndorf]

Buchbrunn/Bukovje
Eberndorf/Dobrla vas
Edling/Kazaze
Gablern/Lovanke
Gösselsdorf/Goselna vas
Hof/Dvor
Mökriach/Mokrije

4.3 Market commune Eisenkappel-Vellach [Marktgemeinde Eisenkappel-Vellach]

Bad Eisenkappel/Železna Kapla
Blasnitzen/Plaznica
Ebriach/Obirsko
Koprein Petzen/Pod Peco
Koprein Sonnseite/Koprivna
Leppen/Lepena
Lobnig/Lobnik
Rechberg/Rebrca
Remschenig/Remšenik
Trögern/Korte
Unterort/Podkraj
Vellach/Bela
Weißenbach/Bela

Zauchen/Suha

4.4 Market commune Feistritz ob Bleiburg [Marktgemeinde Feistritz ob Bleiburg]

Dolintschitschach/Dolinčiče

Feistritz ob Bleiburg/Bistrica pri Pliberku

Gonowetz/Konovece

Hinterlibitsch/Suha

Hof/Dvor

Lettenstätten/Letina

Penk/Ponikva

Pirkdorf/Breška vas

Ruttach-Schmelz/Rute

St. Michael ob Bleiburg/Šmihel pri Pliberku

Tscherberg/Črgoviče

Unterlibitsch/Podlibič

Unterort/Podkraj

Winkel/Kot

4.5 Commune Gallizien [Gemeinde Gallizien]

Drabunaschach/Drabunaže

Enzelsdorf/Encelna vas

Freibach/Borovnica

4.6 Commune Globasnitz [Gemeinde Globasnitz]

Globasnitz/Globasnica

Jaunstein/Podjuna

Kleindorf/Mala vas

Podrain/Podroje

Slovenjach/Slovenje

St. Stefan/Šteben

Traundorf/Strpna vas

Tschepitschach/Čepiče

Unterbergen/Podgora

Wackendorf/Večna vas

4.7 Commune Neuhaus [Gemeinde Neuhaus]

Graditschach/Gradiče

Hart/Breg

Heiligenstadt/Sveto mesto

Kogelnigberg/Kogelska Gora

Oberdorf/Gornja vas

Schwabegg/Žvabek

Unterdorf/Dolnja vas

4.8 Commune St. Kanzian am Klopeiner See [Gemeinde St. Kanzian am Klopeiner See]

Grabelsdorf/Grabalja vas
Horzach I/Horce I
Horzach II/Horce II
Lauchenholz/Gluhi Les
Mökriach/Mokrije
Nageltschach/Nagelče
Obersammelsdorf/Žamanje
St. Primus/Šentprimož
St. Veit im Jauntal/Šentvid v Podjuni
Unternarrach/Spodnje Vinare
Vesielach/Vesele

4.9 Commune Sittersdorf [Gemeinde Sittersdorf]

Goritschach/Goriče
Kleinzapfen/Malčape
Kristendorf/Kršna vas
Müllnern/Mlinče
Obernarrach/Zgornje Vinare
Pogerschitzen/Pogrče
Rückersdorf/Rikarja vas
Sagerberg/Zagorje
Sittersdorf/Žitara vas
Sonnegg/Ženek
Tichoja/Tihoja