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**11th United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical
names since the 10th Conference (for distribution only).**

Report of Germany

Submitted by Germany **

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Summary:

Within the German linguistic area the „Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen“ (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) (StAGN) is the competent body responsible for elaborating on recommendations on the standardization of geographical names.

The sixth edition (2016) of the Toponymic Guidelines of the Federal Republic of Germany is presented here at the Eleventh UNCSGN: <http://www.stagn.de/empfehlung-schreibweise-gn>
The languages of four national minorities residing in Germany - the Danes, the Frisians, the Sorbs, and the German Sinti and Roma – are officially recognized as minority languages. Low German has the status of a regional language preserving protection in the sense of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Geographical names in minority languages are in use in Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic.

In 2002 StAGN published the second edition of the list of “Selected German Language Exonyms”. Now StAGN is preparing an updated list of exonyms as an online version, hosted by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG)).

The German dataset provided for the INSPIRE data provision for European purposes is a single database called "Geographical Names of Germany" (*GN-DE*). The GN-DE dataset is currently used for the geographical names data provision within the "German Spatial Data Infrastructure" (*GDI-DE*) and is therefore also the rationale for the INSPIRE compliant provision.

A new Web Map Service (WMS) of the physiogeographic regions (“Landschaften”) of Germany is available since May 2017 and visible in the Geoportal.de.

In cooperation with the German Land Survey Offices of the northern German Federal States revised and updated editions of the four map sheets “Geographical Names in German Coastal Waters” are published as 2nd edition 2017”. Approx. 1500 names which are common in the German coastal waters of the North and Baltic Seas are shown.

An updated list of country names in German language was published by StAGN as 13th edition as of January 2014: <http://www.stagn.de/liste-staatenamen>

National report of Germany for the period 2012 - 2017

The achievements are reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the various UNCSGN.

Res. I/7 and II/19 Regional meetings

The „Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen“ (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) (StAGN) was conducting regular meetings twice a year and held ten meetings since the Tenth UNCSGN. Each meeting was attended by some 25 members and guests.

Representatives of Germany participated in the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 2012 as well as in the 28th UNGEGN Session held in New York in 2014 and in the 29th UNGEGN Session held in Bangkok 2016.

Representatives of Germany attended meetings of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of UNGEGN held in New York 2012 and 2014, Frankfurt am Main in 2015, Bangkok in 2016 and Frankfurt am Main in 2017.

Res. IV/4: Publication of toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Toponymic guidelines of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the former German Democratic Republic were separately presented for the first time at the Ninth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names held in New York in 1981. Following editions were published in 1992, 1998, 2002, and in 2010. The new sixth edition (2016) is presented here at the Eleventh

UNCSGN. Specifically the numerous examples of names spelling as cited in the guidelines, are explicitly referenced to the respective paragraphs of the above mentioned new orthographic regulations. Explanations on the officially recognized national regional and minority languages in Germany are comprehensively revised.

The new edition can be downloaded at <http://www.stagn.de/empfehlung-schreibweise-gn>

Res. V/12: Collection of basic information on the standardization of geographical names

The (Gazetteer-) web service developed in 2007 by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) ("Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy") in co-operation with the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names") has been evolved continuously.

This (Gazetteer-) web service is based on a Web Feature Service (WFS) and thus compliant with the corresponding Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) specification. All geographical names information of several (topographic) vector data products based on scale level 1:200.000 and smaller was amalgamated. Technically the geographical names information is maintained in a single database called "*Geographical Names of Germany*" (*GN-DE*). Through unique identifiers the names entries of the GN-DE are linked unambiguously to all data bases and products provided by BKG. At present the data base contains about 165 000 entries including more than 700 names in the languages of the national minorities of the Sorbs and Frisians. About 27 000 entries of gender of hydrographic features are still contained. The administration and maintenance tasks of the GN-DE are conducted in Frankfurt am Main, whereas the (Gazetteer-) web service is facilitated through the "National Geodata Centre" at the BKG in Leipzig (www.geodatenzentrum.de).

Res. V/15: Establishment of national geographical names authorities

The „Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen“ (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) (StAGN) was established in 1959. StAGN is an independent scientific organization without sovereign functions. Within the German linguistic area it is the competent body responsible for elaborating on recommendations on the standardization of geographical names. To StAGN are affiliated in particular scientists and experts in practice from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and other German-speaking regions. They represent the technical fields of topography, cartography, geography and linguistics coming from institutions and administrations concerned with geographical names.

The secretariat of StAGN is located at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, BKG).

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Res. VI/11: Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

The third edition of the German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology has been published in 2010. The re-edition has been prepared by StAGN and follows closely the English original versions, the latest of which (Version 5.0) was adopted by UNGEGN in 2002. The edition can be downloaded at <http://www.stagn.de/glossar-toponymische-terminologie>

Res. VIII/1: Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names

The languages of four national minorities residing in Germany - the Danes, the Frisians, the Sorbs, and the German Sinti and Roma – are officially recognized as minority languages. Low German has the status of a regional language preserving protection in the sense of the European Charter for Regional

or Minority Languages*). An overview provides a brochure recently published by the German Federal Ministry of Interior*). Geographical names in minority languages are in use in Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic.

Since 2012 about 670 Sorbian and 20 Frisian names are presented in the web service WFS GN-DE of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), in fact, not only as a variant or secondary name but, like the German name, as an equally entitled main entry.

The map “Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 million scale, physiogeographic regions – their names and margins” (new edition 2014) shows names of geographical regions in Sorbian and Frisian languages in those regions where the minority language is spoken.

The new 6th edition of the Toponymic Guidelines of Germany (published 2016) contains a list of geographical appellatives, adjectives and other words for cartographic purposes in the languages German, Frisian, Upper Sorbian and English. This list shall be helpful to foreign users to read and evaluate German cartographic publications in which apart from German also Frisian and Upper Sorbian geographical names and generic terms appear. The list shows only frequently occurring appellatives of geographical names.

*)http://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/2015/Minderheiten_Minderheite nsprachen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

Res VIII/4: Exonyms

In 2002 StAGN published the second edition of the list of “Selected German Language Exonyms”. Now StAGN is preparing an updated list of exonyms as an online version, hosted by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).

Res VIII/5: Joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and working groups of the UNGEGN

Members of StAGN participated in meetings of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms in Hermagor (AT) in 2014 and in Zagreb (HR) in 2015.

At the 135th meeting of StAGN in Görlitz in March 2014, the StAGN organized a meeting and a bilingual symposium on geographical names at the Polish-German border together with the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

In conjunction with the 139th meeting of StAGN in Graz (AT) in March 2016, the AKO organized together with the Styrian Provincial Archive a symposium on “Minority toponyms in Slovenia, adjacent bilingual areas and German-speaking countries”, to which Slovenian experts contributed by presenting papers.

Res VIII/6: Integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

The German dataset provided for the INSPIRE¹ data provision for European purposes is a single database called "Geographical Names of Germany" (*GN-DE*). The GN-DE dataset is currently used for the geographical names data provision within the "German Spatial Data Infrastructure" (*GDI-DE*) and is therefore also the rationale for the INSPIRE compliant provision, which is already available since December 2015 through: <http://www.europeandataportal.eu/>

According the open data initiative of the Federal government in Germany geographical names data from BKG are available free of charge since 2013.

A new Web Map Service (WMS) of the physiogeographic regions of Germany is available since May 2017 and visible in the Geoportal.de. It migrates the print products into the digital world of the internet

¹ Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

and into the spatial data infrastructure. The main additional value of this service is the provision of the physiogeographic regions together with the dictionary of the geographical regions. A description is retrievable for each region with one click into the map.

In 2004 the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) published four map sheets “Geographical Names in German Coastal Waters” on a scale of 1 : 200 000, in cooperation with the German Land Survey Offices of the northern German Federal States. Now, again under the leadership of Dieter Grothenn, a revised and updated edition of all four maps has been published, which is referred to as “2nd edition 2017” and contains approx. 1,500 names.

In 2017 StAGN and the Association for Educational Media in Germany agreed to a better Cooperation regarding the use of geographical names.

Res VIII/7: Toponymic data exchange formats and standards

The German dataset GN-DE has been made compliant in December 2015 with the INSPIRE Implementing Directive (COMMISSION REGULATION - EU - No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:323:0011:0102:EN:PDF>

A Technical Guidance document describes the INSPIRE Data Specifications for the spatial data theme Geographical Names:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/INSPIRE_DataSpecification_GN_v3.0.1.pdf

Res VIII/11: Pronunciation

Most recently a new edition of a pronouncing dictionary was published by the Duden Publishing Company.

Duden: Das Aussprachewörterbuch, Band 6. Dudenverlag Mannheim/Leipzig/Wien/Zürich, 7. Auflage, 2015.

Res VIII/12: Standardization of names of countries

An updated list of country names in German language was published by StAGN as 13th edition as of January 2014. The list, collated by StAGN is a synopsis of country names taken from officially issued publications of the Foreign Ministries of the three countries Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The StAGN list is commented and with additional information. The edition can be downloaded at

<http://www.stagn.de/liste-staatennamen>

Res VIII/15: Support for training and publications

BKG promotes the use of modern databases and GIS technologies for data modelling and capture comprising Open Source Software. These components are very useful as parts of toponymic training courses. Staff members of the BKG contributed to the following training courses as lecturers:

2012 Yogyakarta (ID)

2013 Antananarivo (MR)

2014 Oran (DZ)

2017 Rio de Janeiro (BR)