Ninth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names
New York, 21 - 30 August 2007
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Reports by divisions of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical
Names on the situation in their divisions and on the progress made in the
standardization of geographical names since the Eighth Conference**

Report of the Dutch and German Speaking Division (DGSD)

Submitted by DGSD**

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Report of the Dutch and German Speaking Division (DGSD)

DGSD: Division report

The activities of the Dutch and German speaking Division of UNGEGN since the 8th UNCSGN are indicated below, under the headings of the various resolutions accepted at the 8th UNCSGN.

Res. VIII-1: Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names
Austria: The "Gazetteer of Austria" following the census 2001 is published in 9 volumes, a CD-ROM is enclosed in each volume. In this gazetteer the official Slovene minority place names in Carinthia and the Croat and Hungarian place names in Burgenland are contained (according to Art. 7 of the State Treaty [Staatsvertrag] 1955, the Decree of the Federal Government from May 31st, 1977, by which the Slovene topographical inscriptions for populated places are prescribed and which singles out 91 bilingual place names within the bilingual region of Carinthia, and the "Federal Statute on the Legal Status of National Minority Groups" in June 2000 for the Croat and the Hungarian place names in Burgenland).

Germany: In November 2004 the Frisian Law (Friesengesetz) passed the parliament of the German Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein. Communes are now authorized to add on road signs the Frisian place name to the German one.
In Germany four languages have been officially recognized as minority languages: Danish, Frisian, Romanes (the language of the Sinti and Roma) and Sorabian. Information from Germany for the first report of the UNGEGN Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names has been sent to the convenor of that working group in March 2007.

Netherlands: All 1000 hydronyms in the Frisian language area in the Netherlands have been collected and edited and standardized in their Frisian version and published in map-form (Fryske Wetternammen, published by Fryslân Province, Leeuwarden/Ljouwert 2003) on behalf of the Frisian provincial government. These minority names have now been accepted as the official version by the provincial administration in 2005. They have been sent to the Topografische Dienst Kadaster, for incorporation in the topographical databases and maps and in the forthcoming new gazetteers.
A side effect of this standardisation project is that some hydronyms in the non-Frisian-speaking areas in the province have been standardised in the local Dutch dialect form. The Topographic Survey of the Netherlands, to whom - in absentia of an official names bureau in the Netherlands - the burden of establishing and maintaining standardised name forms has fallen, is now confronted with municipalities that want to change names from official Dutch into dialect forms, thus threatening the consensus on their spelling.

Res. VIII-4: Exonyms
Austria: A working group for writing geographical names in Austrian school atlases (revision of the edition 1994: Vorschläge zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Schulatlanten) was set up in 2004 and is still at work.

Netherlands: The *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union) has incorporated on its website a list of the officially recognized Dutch exonyms, which are available under http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen

Germany: Within the EuroGeoNames Project a variant names database for European geographical names is under construction. For the present only variant names (incl. exonyms) are considered in the languages of countries being Reference Group members to the project. The Reference Group countries are: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands and Turkey. In addition also variant names in English shall be integrated.

Res. VIII-5: Joint meetings of divisions and working groups
Germany: On the occasion of the 23rd UNGEGN Session in Vienna 2006 a joint meeting of parties involved in the EuroGeoNames project and members of the UNGEGN WG on Toponymic data files and gazetteers was held.
Another joint meeting of EGN members and members of the UNGEGN WG on Toponymic data files and gazetteers took place in Madrid in March 2007.
In May 2007 a joint meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, the UNGEGN East, Central and Southeast-East Europe Division and members of the EuroGeoNames Project was held in Prague.

Netherlands: A joint meeting of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division of UNGEGN and the DGSD Symposium series, Geonames 2005, was held in April 2005 in Leeuwarden, the capital of the Frisian minority language area in the Netherlands, with the theme "Toponyms in multilingual areas". The lectures are published in the "Proceedings of the International Conference on Minority Names / Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas": GeoNames 2005. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden 2005.
In 2005 the chairmanship of the Dutch- and German-speaking division of UNGEGN was transferred from the Netherlands to Austria. During the period 2000-2005 DGSD meetings under Netherlands chairmanship were held in Berlin, The Hague, New York and Leeuwarden.

Res. VIII-6: Integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures
Germany: A project for setting up a Europe-wide geographical names data infrastructure and associated services (EuroGeoNames) was started in September 2006. The services will link and provide access to the official multilingual geographical names data held at the national level. The project consortium brings together partners from the public, academic and private sectors embracing the full 'value chain' from data providers, technology partners and value added service applications.
The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) dealt with a map project on the geographical names connected with the German coastal area shown on four map sheets at the scale of 1 : 200 000. Currently the about 1400 geographical names data are being implemented in the Digital Landscape Model at 1.250,000 scale of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG). To integrate the names data into the North- and Baltic Sea Coastal Information System (Nokis) a co-operation agreement between BKG and the Federal Warerways Engineering and Research Institute has been signed in 2005. Nokis will contribute relevant names with geometries from the coast.

Netherlands: In the Kadasterwet, accepted by Parliament on March5, 2007, the *Topografisch basisbestand* (basic topographical database of the Netherlands) of the Netherlands was regulated (for more information see under item 4, Reports by Governments).

Res. VIII-8: Assistance to UNGIWIG
Germany: Digital data of the second administrative level of Germany was provided to the SALB project.

Res. VIII-9: Geographical Names as cultural heritage
Austria: The *Provincial Dialect Institute of Burgenland* organized a symposium on *"Place-names, hydronyms and field-names in the Pannonian border area"*, 2 April 2005. The lectures in this symposium aimed at the promotion of the collection of all field-names of Burgenland, an ambitious project of the province. A second symposium was dedicated to *"Place-names, hydronyms and mountain names in the Pannonian border area"*.
The Austrian Academy of Sciences hosts the project ALPKULTUR – Cultural-historical documentation of toponyms in the Alpine region: *The names of Alpine pastures and mountains in East Tyrol*, in which the historical records of the mountains and Alpine pastures of East Tyrol together with a cultural-historical interpretation are analysed and digitized. The results will be presented as web-GIS publication with manifold searches.
A series of lectures under the main theme *"Onomastics in European context"* was held at the *Centre for Linguistics and Audio-visual documentation* (Institute for the Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names, Austrian Academy of Sciences) in the years 2005 and 2006.

Germany: A fourth edition of the map "Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 million scale, geographical regions – their names and margins" was published by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) in April 2007.

Netherlands: A workshop on the collection of field names was held at the Meertens Institute of the Netherlands Academy of Sciences on April 25, 2003 (more information see under agenda item 4, reports by governments).
A project for a digital spatio-temporal geographical names database for all versions of Fryslân toponyms has been started by the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy of Sciences).

Res. VIII-11: Pronunciation
Germany: In 2003 a MoU was signed between the Dept of Language Information Administration of the Ministry of Education of the P.R. of China and StAGN on toponymic cooperation, especially in the field of pronunciation. A list of some 100 major important geographical names of the P.R. of China was compiled by StAGN and sent to the China Institute of Toponymy who provided StAGN with an audio-file rendering the names in Mandarin pronunciation. The audio-file will be used to improve a pronunciation database maintained at the German Broadcasting station in Frankfurt am Main for assisting TV and radio newscasters.

Netherlands: The website of the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union, an umbrella organisation in charge of the Dutch language in Belgium, Suriname and the Netherlands) contains an updated list of officially accepted Dutch exonyms with their standardized spelling and their pronunciation: http://taalunieversum.org/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/

Res. VIII-12: Standardization of names of countries
Germany: An updated list of country names was published by StAGN as 9th edition as of July 2006.

Res. VIII-15: Support for training and publications
Germany: The exhibition on geographical names produced for the 8th UNCSGN has been mounted again at the 22nd International Congress of Onomastic Sciences held in Pisa, Italy, 28 August - 03 September, 2005. The material was also used in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 toponymy courses held in Bathurst (Australia), Maputo (Mozambique), Malang (Indonesia) and Vienna (Austria). At these courses also the 2002 Enschede/Frankfurt/Berlin toponymy course lectures, published as nr 28 of the Publication series of the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG), 2004, were used as course teaching material. Staff members of BKG contributed to the courses held in Maputo, Malang and Vienna as lecturers.
Netherlands: In 2002 a toponymy training course was organized in Enschede, Frankfurt and Berlin. Lecturers from the Netherlands were Niko Bakker, Ferjan Ormeling and Tjeerd Tichelaar. In cooperation with Germany a toponymy course manual *"Training course on Toponymy"* was published (Mitteilungen des Bundesamtes für Kartographie und Geodäsie, Nr 28, Frankfurt am Main 2003).
UN Training courses were supported with teaching staff in Sudan, Mozambique, Australia, Indonesia and Vienna, totalling 2 person-months.

Together with the *Institute of Cartography* of the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest a toponymy module for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) was produced: http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet

Other activities:

Gazetteers:
Austria: The "Gazetteer of Austria" following the census 2001 has been published in 9 volumes, a CD-ROM is enclosed in each volume.

Netherlands: A gazetteer based on the 1:100,000 topographic map was produced in 2005. New provincial topographical atlases 1:25,000 were published in 2004, and contain place name indexes.

Switzerland: A number of Gazetteers for municipalities and cantons have been elaborated, more are beeing worked upon. A project of the national research council will establish a database with all these gazetteers.

Toponymic data files:
Austria: The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Department Water Balance (Hydrographical Central Office) has started the development of a database on hydronyms, where relevant data from several provincial institutions are synchronized.

Germany: Since autumn 2006 the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) is providing a standardized webservice for geographical names of Germany (GN-DE). At the moment about 84,000 names are available.

Toponymic guidelines:
Austria: see item 9 (e).

Summary

The activities of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN since the 8th UNCSGN are reported under the headings of the various resolutions accepted at the 8th UNCSGN.

The paper describes the progress made since 2002 in Germany, the Netherlands and Austria, dealing with minority names and activities to promote names as cultural heritage. An international symposium was held at Leeuwarden / Netherlands, organized by the Frisian Academy of Sciences. Furthermore it is reported that the Kadasterwet, a law on the creation and maintenance of the Cadastre, was accepted by Parliament of the Netherlands on March 5, 2007. By this law the official responsibility for the collection of geographical names of the Netherlands lies in the National Mapping Agency.

The challenging project of creating a Europe-wide geographical names data infrastructure and associated services (EuroGeoNames) was started in September 2006 by Germany. The services will link and provide access to the official multilingual geographical names data held at the national level. The project was initiated by Germany and is carried out by Germany and its partners.