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National standardization: office treatment of names

Addresses and place names in Sweden

Submitted by Sweden**

Summary***

Today's most important place-name project in Sweden entails the reorganization of the address system in rural areas, a major task for the 290 municipalities. A large part of this process involves substituting the old letter-box addresses with addresses based on settlement names or road names. This will make it easier for rescue services, taxis and others to find dwellings quickly. This is also a positive way to promote the use of place names, considering the great importance and impact of postal addresses. On the other hand, the size and significance of the address project now under way is considerable, and it includes a large number of names that have never been checked before with regard to their linguistic correctness. The timetable for the reform is fairly tight, and the lack of sufficient resources within local authorities is a problem. The present working paper offers an account of the ongoing work and comments on the problems related to current Swedish place-name legislation, which includes a code of "good place-name practice" and a law on a dwellings register.

* E/CONF.98/1.

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*** The full text of the paper is being issued in English only as document E/CONF.98/55/Add.1.

