



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 May 2012
Original: English

Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 4 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 Ninth Conference
(for distribution only).**

Report of Austria

Submitted by Austria**

* E/CONF.101/1.

** Prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Chair, Austrian Board on Geographical Names

Summary

The report highlights major activities of Austria since the Ninth Conference such as the updating of the Toponymic Guidelines for Austria and their publication as a 7th edition; the promotion of minority group names especially of the Slovene minority in Carinthia by a new law on place names (as of 2011), the incorporation of Slovene field names into the "Austrian UNESCO List of the Immaterial Cultural Heritage", the publication of bilingual (Slovene-German) tourist maps of several Carinthian communes and the publication of a second revised and amended edition of an annotated bilingual register of Carinthian names by the linguist Heinz-Dieter Pohl; the publication of "Recommendations for the rendering of geographical names in Austrian educational media" in 2012 by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO); the organization of a joint meeting of the StAGN, the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division and the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division in 2010 in Tainach (Carinthia); the integration of all kinds of settlement names into the Digital Landscape Model (DLM) – Range Names, maintained by the Federal Agency for Surveying and Mapping, after the shutting down of the Austrian Gazetteer, up to 2001 published by Statistics Austria; as well as the publication of a book on place-names research in Austria at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) and of place-names research at the Institute for Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Report of Austria

The activities of Austria since the Ninth Conference are indicated below, under the headings of the various resolutions accepted mainly at the 8th and 9th UNCSGN, but also at earlier conferences.

Res. V/16: Publication of geographical names in their national official form

The Toponymic Guidelines for Austria have been updated and published as their 7th edition in 2012. This new edition contains updates like hints on the new place-names act ruling for Carinthia that 164 names of settlements are officially bilingual (German-Slovene), changes in the sector of official topographic cartography (new map series 1:250,000, map series 1:50,000-UTM jointly edited by the Federal Agency of Sureying and Mapping and the Military Geographic Agency) or the shutting down of the Austrian Gazetteer by Statistics Austria.

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

By Federal Act 46/2011 47 Croatian and 4 Hungarian settlement names in the Austrian federal province Burgenland as well as 164 Slovene settlement names in the Austrian federal province Carinthia have been made official together with the German names of these settlements. This means a significant increase in Carinthia, where so far just 93 settlement names had been bilingually official. The criterion for official bilinguality is roughly a percentage of at least 17.5% speakers of the minority language.

The Slovene names of fields and farmsteads in the Austrian federal province of Carinthia, partly settled by a Slovenian minority, have been made part of the "Austrian UNESCO List of the Immaterial

Cultural Heritage" by the Austrian UNESCO Commission. This act of acknowledgement was based on a map elaborated by Vinko Wieser and has been promoted by the initiative of local citizens.

Due to the initiative of the Slovenian Ethnographic Institute Urban Jarnik in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee and other Slovenian institutions, bilingual (Slovene-German) tourist maps of several Carinthian communes have been published. Slovene names on these maps are partly rendered in their standard-Slovene version, partly in their local dialect version. The rendering of geographical names has been consulted with the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO), the Austrian Federal Agency for Surveying and Mapping, the Austrian Alpine Club, but also with the Slovenian Board on Geographical Names.

The linguist Heinz-Dieter Pohl has published a second revised and amended edition of his book *Unsere slowenischen Ortsnamen / Naša slovenska krajevna imena* ("Our Slovene Place Names"), an annotated bilingual register of names of populated places, mountains and water bodies in Carinthia, but also with reference to Slavonic place names in other parts of Austria. The book was presented in Tainach, 26 April 2010, at the occasion of a meeting of the StAGN.

Res VIII/4: Exonyms

“Recommendations for the rendering of geographical names in Austrian educational media” (“Empfehlungen zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Bildungsmedien”) have in 2012 been edited by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) and published by Austrian Academy of Sciences Press.¹ They succeed similar recommendations published in 1994. They contain a general chapter on principles of rendering geographical names, detailed recommendations for the Romanization of non-Roman scripts and in their main part lists of German exonyms for geographical features of all categories and all countries of the world accompanied by information on official languages and other regulations concerning place names country by country. The German exonyms mentioned and recommended for use in Austrian educational media are selected according to a mixture of feature-related, language-related and user-related criteria. Special emphasis is laid on highlighting by German exonyms Austria’s specific network of cultural, economic and political relations. The “Recommendations” address not only editors of school atlases and school text books, but of educational media in general as well as press and electronic media. An electronic version is in elaboration. It will be updated periodically.

The Working Group "Cartographic Names Research", conducted by Roman Stani-Fertl, has published an article on the topic "Toponyms on history maps"² highlighting the principle that on thematic maps showing historical situations, the name forms to be applied are the ones which are the most usual in the publication language for the historical period in question.

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

From 26th to 30th April 2010 in Tainach (Austria, Carinthia), a joint meeting of the StAGN, the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (WGE), the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division

¹ Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO) (ed.), *Empfehlungen zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Bildungsmedien*. Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 125 p. ISBN 978-3-7001-7199-7.

² in the Journal *Österreich in Geschichte und Literatur (mit Geographie)* ["Austria in History and Literature (with Geography)"]

(DGSD), and the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) with in total 58 participants from all continents took place.

An excursion titled *Bilingual Carinthia* offered a.o. visits to a bilingual kindergarten and school. The WGE meeting was devoted to *Trends in exonym use*. The proceedings have been published in 2011 as Volume 1 of the new book series "Name & Place".³

The DGSD meeting was the occasion to hand the chair of the Division from Austria to Belgium following the Division's rotation principle.

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

After the shutting down of the Austrian Gazetteer, up to 2001 published by Statistics Austria, the Digital Landscape Model (DLM) – Range Names, maintained by the Federal Agency for Surveying and Mapping, will be the only complete register of Austrian settlement names. It contained so far only place names shown by the official Austrian topographical maps. But it will in the future also document names of very small settlements, hamlets, isolated buildings and farmsteads, which could so far only be found in the Austrian Gazetteer.

Res VIII/15: Support for training and publications

The proceedings of a symposium held on 10 and 11 March 2009 - at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the "Austrian Board on Geographical Names" (AKO), and of place-name research at the "Institute for Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names" of the "Austrian Academy of Sciences" as well as in celebration of the 65th birthday of Isolde Hausner – have been published under the title *Geographische Namen – Vielfalt und Norm* ("Geographical Names – Variety and Norm") as Addendum 6 of the book series *Österreichische Namenforschung* ("Austrian Names Research"). They reflect history, tasks and perspectives of the AKO (author: Jordan), compare national standardization efforts in various countries (Kerfoot, Ormeling, Nyström, Päll), contain contributions to Austrian and Central European names research (Wiesinger, Šrámek, Eichler, Plangg, Anreiter) and highlight Isolde Hausner and her works (Bergmann, Pohl).

At the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the Austrian Cartographic Commission (Österreichische Kartographische Kommission, ÖKK), in organizational terms the mother institution of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO), published a commemorative issue as Volume 20 of the book series "Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie".⁴ It contains a.o. an article on Austrian contributions to cartographic theory and methodology including contributions in toponymy (author: Jordan) as well as an article on specifics of geographical names and their importance in cartography (author: Stani-Fertl).

Res. IX/7: Dissemination of information concerning the origin and meaning of geographical names

³ Jordan P., Bergmann H., Burgess C., Cheetham C. (eds.), *Trends in Exonym Use. Proceedings of the 10th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting*, Tainach, 28-30 April 2012. Hamburg, Kovač, 328 p., ISBN 978-3-8300-5656-0

⁴ Kainz W., Kriz K., Riedl A. (eds.), *50 Jahre Österreichische Kartographische Kommission. Jubiläumsband zum Festsymposium*, 10.-11. November 2011 (= *Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie*, 20). Wien, Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung der Universität Wien, Kartographie und Geoinformation, 280 p. ISBN 978-3-900830-77-9

In the framework of the "German Geographical Congress 2009" in Vienna, the biannual main event of geographers for German-speaking countries, a thematic session on "Place names as mediators of space-related identity" was arranged.

Papers in this session chaired by H. Paulig and P. Jordan were presented by Y. Kathrein on place names at a historical mining site (by the example of Tyrol), H. Paulig and S. Handrick on the importance of place names for the identity of small linguistic groups (by the example of the Sorbs in Lusatia), H.-D. Pohl on place names in a high mountain valley (by the example of Kals) and by P. Jordan on exonyms as an expression of cultural networks.

The series of annual symposia on names research in Kals (Austria, East Tyrol) organised by H.-D. Pohl has by the most recent symposium in June 2012 reached the number of 27.