Economic and Social Council

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
New York, 31 July-9 August 2012
Item 11 (e) of the provisional agenda*
**Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data services,
applications and products (for example, gazetteers
and web services)**

Toponymic databases and dictionaries in Estonia

Summary**

The report addresses various recent linguistic digital resources on geographical names in Estonia, which are compiled mainly by the Institute of the Estonian Language and the Institute of Võru. The place names database "KNAB" contains 141,000 records with more than 400,000 names; its main aim is to help to identify and linguistically standardize both Estonian and foreign geographical names. The database is not official but is used extensively by the media. The place names database of Historical Võrumaa (a county in south-eastern Estonia), called "AVKA" contains approximately 24,000 records from the county and indicates names in local usage. In 2011, the 540,000 cards contained in the card index of toponyms in the Institute of the Estonian Language were scanned and posted online; at present, it is possible only to browse the images but textual data is currently being added. The Estonian Place Names Dictionary project started in 2009 and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. It will be a one-volume reference work for the general public and will contain approximately 6,000 articles on populated places, natural features, the etymology of names, pronunciation, use of locative case forms and name variants in historical sources and in other languages. The dictionary is being compiled through an online utility used for compiling dictionaries at the Institute of the Estonian Language. The database "Bibliography on Estonian onomastics" contains 4,400 records.