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Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data standards and interoperability

Method for interoperability of place names within the national spatial data infrastructure

Submitted by Finland**

Summary***

The National Land Survey of Finland maintains the Geographic Names Register, which is the primary national repository of standardized place names. There are also several other organizations that maintain names as attributes of spatial objects stored in their databases.

One of the objectives of the national spatial data infrastructure in Finland is to avoid duplicated collection, maintenance and updating of spatial information. For this reason, the National Land Survey has proposed a method for interoperability of place names within the Finnish spatial data infrastructure. The method is based on existing interoperability components, including persistent unique identifiers of objects occurring in the Geographic Names Register and in the Web Feature Service interface of the National Land Survey.

According to the proposed method, an external organization initially stores, when applicable, place identifications as attributes of its respective spatial objects. The organization may then search for place identifications through the National Land Survey Web Feature Service and may accordingly incorporate updates or include the changes featured in the National Land Survey or the Geographic Names Register, as needed. The organization therefore does not need to undertake any maintenance or updating on its own of the names attributed to its spatial objects.

* E/CONF.101/1.

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*** The full report is available in the language of submission only from <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf10.html>.

