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### **Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 31 July – 9 August 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and  
task teams since the Ninth Conference**

### Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Submitted by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division\*\*

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\*\* Prepared by Peter Jordan and Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria); Kathleen Van Doren (Belgium); Bernd Beinstein, and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Chair Dutch- and German-speaking Division (Germany); Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands); Hein Raghoobar (Suriname); Jean-Christophe Guélat and Alfred Gut (Switzerland)

## Summary

As a result of collaboration between experts from Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland and Belgium, this document reports the Dutch- and German-speaking Division's<sup>1</sup> achievements since the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) held in New York in 2007.

In accordance with the procedure in use within the Division, the achievements have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the various UNCSGN.

The main points to note could be summarized as following:

### Publication of geographical names material

Switzerland realized the "Directives relating to capture and spelling of names in land and cadastral surveying in the German-speaking part of Switzerland". StAGN elaborated guidelines for the rendering of place names of destinations outside the German-speaking area on road signposts and submitted them to authorities carrying responsibility in this field in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Austria has updated and published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of their "Toponymic Guidelines" in 2012. Germany published the revised "Toponymic Guidelines" as 5<sup>th</sup> edition in 2010 and the Netherland their 5<sup>th</sup> revised edition in 2011. The "Toponymic Guidelines" of Switzerland are scheduled for 2012. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the "German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology" has been published by StAGN in 2010. The Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) published, amongst others, in 2012 the revised "Recommendations for the rendering of geographical names in Austrian educational media" ("Empfehlungen zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Bildungsmedien").

### Geographical names standardization

In Austria 47 Croatian and 4 Hungarian settlement names as well as 164 Slovene settlement names by a Federal Act in 2011 have been made official together with the German names. In Germany five languages have been officially recognized as minority languages: Danish, Frisian, Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic and Romanes. Only Frisian, Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic are claiming the naming of geographical names in their minority language. In the Netherlands a new chair for the Frisian language was inaugurated in 2011. Suriname lists 1097 geographical names from all ethnic groups.

### Provision and dissemination of geographical names data

In Germany a (Gazetteer-) web service was developed by the "Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)" and the "Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, (StAGN)". With the support of DGSD members, the web (gazetteer) service infrastructure – called EuroGeoNames (EGN) – has been implemented for providing official geographical names data in Europe. Within the EuroGeoNames project, the Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database (EVN-DB) for European geographical names has been developed. DGSD members provided names data for the UNGEGN database.

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<sup>1</sup> DGSD

### Participation at meetings & further activities

Amongst others, joint meetings of linguistic/geographical division and/or Working Groups of UNGEGN and/or members of the EuroGeoNames Project were held in Freising (DE) in 2008, in Bruxelles/Brussel (BE) in 2009, in Tainach (AT) in 2010 and in Zagreb (HR) in 2011.

Representatives from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division took part as lecturers in the UNGEGN toponymy courses held in Nairobi (Kenya) and Timisoara (Romania) in 2009 and Yaoundé (Cameroon) in 2010. The toponymy course for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) web course, accessible at the website of the ICA Commission on Education and Training has been extended.

The activities of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) since the 9<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN held in New York 2007 are indicated below, under the headings of the various resolutions accepted mainly at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN, but also at earlier conferences. In February 2012 Belgium handed over the chairmanship of the DGSD to Germany.

### **Res. I/7 and II/19 Regional meetings**

Meetings of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division were held in:

- Vienna, Austria 20-05-2008
- Nairobi, Kenya 11-05-2009
- Tainach, Austria, 26-04-2010
- Vienna, Austria 03-05-2011

### **Res. V/12: Collection of basic information on the standardization of geographical names**

*Belgium:*

See Res. V/16 and VIII/6

*Germany:*

A (Gazetteer-) web service was developed by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) ("Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy") in co-operation with the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names").

This (Gazetteer-) web service is based on a Web Feature Service (WFS) and thus compliant with the corresponding Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) specification.

In order to fulfil the requirement of an unambiguous data maintenance at the BKG, all geographical names information of several (topographic) vector data products – amongst others, the Digital Landscape Model

1:250 000 / 1:1 000 000 (DLM 250/1000), Administrative Units 1:250 000 (VG250) and Geographical Names 1:250 000 (GN250) – was amalgamated. According to a new data model developed for geographical names information, the respective data were converted to a single database called "*Geographical Names of Germany*" (*GN-DE*). Through unique identifiers the names entries of the GN-DE are linked unambiguously to all data bases and products mentioned above. GN-DE provides that way the unique geographical names source for all BKG products and naturally for the (Gazetteer-) web service. At present the data base contains about 120 000 entries including about 700 names in the minority languages Sorbian and Frisian. The administration and maintenance tasks of the GN-DE are

conducted in Frankfurt am Main, whereas the (Gazetteer-) web service is facilitated through the "National Geodata Centre" at the BKG in Leipzig ([www.geodatenzentrum.de](http://www.geodatenzentrum.de)).

#### *Suriname:*

The toponyms of Suriname and the origin of place names is the result of a complex interplay of historical features, political policy, spatial interaction, spatial design and handling relations of household, business and institutions. The 1097 Geographical Names of places, natural features, constructed features, protected nature reserves, spatial object (monuments and squares), and the land use of the tribal Amerindians and Maroons are a source of historical inspiration. With the exception of the Indigenous (Amerindians) are all other ethnic groups descendants of diaspora of colonization (the white's), slavery from Africa (Maroon Negro'en Towns Negro's), contract labors of Indonesia and India (Hindustan and Javanese) and volunteer immigrants of Jews, Chinese, Lebanese, Guyanese, Haitians and Brazilians.

All ethnic groups identify themselves at local, regional and national level with the geographical names within the Surinamese territory. In addition, international tourists who have a historic bond with Suriname (etc. Holland), strengthened by the geographical names and identify themselves with the cultural heritage of the Surinamese population.

Geographical names are important in the context of how to shape the way we lived, the place we created and how we act at the World around us to interpret and the use of geographical names for better communication between countries, tourism and world cultures.

#### *Switzerland:*

The publication of the "Directives relating to capture and spelling of names in land and cadastral surveying in the German-speaking part of Switzerland" have been realized in 2011 (Directives / Weisungen 2011). For details see:

<http://www.cadastre.ch/internet/cadastre/de/home/topics/geonames/doku.parsys.80842.downloadList.19398.DownloadFile.tmp/weisungengeografischenamende.pdf>

Spring 2013: first publication of the SwissNames3D product planned. SwissNames3D will be the new national geodatabase for names captured by land survey. Part of the new product are names of localities, local names, mountains, regions and other names of topographic objects (streets, buildings, areas, POI's)

### **Res. V-13: Precedence of national official forms of geographical names**

#### *Austria, Germany, Switzerland:*

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) in its function as the co-ordinative authority of national standardization in Austria, Germany and Switzerland has elaborated guidelines for the rendering of place names on road signposts. These guidelines refer especially to names of destinations outside the German-speaking area, where they give precedence to national official forms, as well as to destinations in areas with minority languages, where they recommend the use of all locally official forms. The guidelines have been submitted to authorities carrying responsibility in this field in all three countries.

## **Res. V/15: Establishment of national geographical names authorities**

### *Germany:*

The Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, "Permanent Committee on Geographical Names") is the body responsible for the standardization of geographical names in the German-speaking area. The StAGN is an independent scientific body without sovereign functions to which in particular scientists and experts in practice from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and other German-speaking regions are affiliated. At the 126<sup>th</sup> meeting in Leipzig in autumn 2009, the StAGN celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On this occasion a colloquium about geographical names issues was held.

### *Netherlands:*

In the Netherlands the Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland (Advisory commission on geographical names in the Netherlands) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences is consulted regularly on behalf of new geographical names to be created, because of mergers of municipalities. This advisory commission has built a website in order to better publicize the results of its advisory activities, and produced a brochure that can also be downloaded. See <http://www.plaatsnamenadvies.nl>. In 2011 the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society (KNAG) took over from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences as umbrella organisation for this commission.

The Werkgroep Buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen (Working Group on Foreign Geographical Names) of the Nederlandse Taalunie (Dutch Language Union, a supranational body in charge of language matters for Belgium, the Netherlands and Suriname) is in charge of standardizing Dutch exonyms. It meets regularly in order to deal with new names. The standardized exonyms are available at [http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige\\_namen/](http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/) (in Dutch)

In 2007, the Netwerk Naamkunde (<http://www.naamkunde.net/>) was initiated. This Onomastical Network has a mailing list, shows what kind of onomastical research participants engage in, as well as their yearly results, and has an overview of the workshops held. It is organised from the Meertens Instituut (P.O.Box 94264, 1090 GG Amsterdam) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In 2008 the Network organised a workshop on Onomastics and Geography, in which microtoponymy and the problems of studying toponyms through databases were discussed. Its papers (in Dutch) can be downloaded at [http://www.naamkunde.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=110&Itemid=59#worksho4](http://www.naamkunde.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=110&Itemid=59#worksho4)

In 2011 the Meertens Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences decided, because of retrenchments, to discontinue its involvement in toponymy. Activities might be transferred to the Central Bureau for Genealogy in The Hague.

### *Suriname:*

The establishment of a National Geographical Names Authority Suriname will be the first step towards the national standardization of geographical names of Suriname. The establishment of this Institute will be complied with the UN resolutions I/17 (from 1967) and V/15(1987) and the procedure will be used for the geographical names programme including the correct and consistent way of writing geographical names: spelling, words forms, writing marks and capitalization. Suriname conforms to the UNGEGN resolution IV/15 of 1982, in which the States are called upon to translate their geographic

names in the Romans or Latin alphabet: English, French, German or Polish. All 1097 geographical names of Suriname on the map are listed in the Dutch alphabet: the visual graphic symbols of the Dutch/ Roman. Suriname is classified in the regulations of the UNGEGN in the Dutch and German Speaking Division.

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

#### *Belgium:*

Two reference documents have been published by the "National Geographic Institute of Belgium" (Institut géographique national (IGN) /Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI) / Nationalgeographisches Institut) in 2010.

The administrative map of Belgium at the 1: 300 000 scale, whose last edition went back to 1995, has been entirely revised.

The three Regions (Flemish, Walloon, and Brussels-Capital Regions), the provinces and the communes with linguistic facilities are clearly marked. Apart from the names and the boundaries of the present-day communes, the map face also contains the names of the former municipalities, located by a point. An alphabetic index of the names of the communes mentions for each of them the postal code and the number of the basic map on which they can be found.

Furthermore, maps of the Belgian provinces at the 1: 100 000 scale have been published and collected in a box. This box also contains an index of the place names, classified by their fonts (principal town of a province or of an administrative district, municipality, former municipality, suburb of hamlet). A grid helps locating them.

### **Res. VI/7: Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors**

#### *Austria:*

The Toponymic Guidelines for Austria have been updated and published as their 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### *Germany:*

The *Toponymic Guidelines* for Germany have been comprehensively revised and were published as 5<sup>th</sup> edition in 2010. This new edition is extended by some required amendments regarding to contents as well as to editorial updates. Particularly a chapter has been added dealing with the principles of the approval of geographical names of the Federal Republic of Germany. The edition can be downloaded at: [http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/101125\\_TopR5.pdf](http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/101125_TopR5.pdf)

#### *Netherlands:*

The Toponymic Guidelines for the Netherlands have been revised, thanks to the input of the Fryske Akademy (Academy for the Frisian Language of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences), the Dutch Language Union and the Kadaster (the national mapping organisation). It has been made

available in digital form as 5th edition in 2011. This new edition can be downloaded from the website of the Nederlandse Taalunie ("Dutch Language Union") at [http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige\\_namen/downloads/toponymic\\_guidelines.pdf](http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/downloads/toponymic_guidelines.pdf).

*Switzerland:*

The publication of the Toponymic Guidelines for Switzerland is scheduled for 2012. The document will be available at: <http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch>

### **Res. VI/11: Glossary of Toponymic Terminology**

*Austria, Germany, Switzerland:*

A third edition of the *German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* has been published in 2010. The re-edition which has been prepared by the StAGN follows closely the English original versions, the latest of which (version 5.0) was adopted by the UNGEGN in 2002. This UNGEGN version has 375 entries. In addition, these new terms and modifications of terms have been regarded, which were ratified and approved by the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York in 2007 and published 16 November 2007 as an Addendum to the UNGEGN *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*. The edition can be downloaded at: [http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/100419\\_Glossar\\_3.pdf](http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/100419_Glossar_3.pdf)

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

*Austria:*

By Federal Act 45/2011 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.

### *Germany:*

In Germany five languages have been officially recognized as minority languages: Danish, Frisian, Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic and Romanes (the language of the Sinti and Roma). Three of them are claiming the naming of geographical names in their minority language: Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic.

Since 2008 about 670 Sorbian and 20 Frisian names are presented in the webservice WFS GN-DE of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), in fact, not only as a variant or secondary name but, like the German name, as an equally entitled main entry.

For the first time the 5<sup>th</sup> of the map “Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 million scale, geographical regions – their names and margins” (2008) shows names of geographical regions in Sorbian and Frisian languages in those regions where the minority language is spoken.

German experts presented the paper “Representation and documentation of multilingual geographical names in Germany” at the Symposium GeoNames 2008 entitled “Geographical names as part of the cultural heritage” held in Vienna in May 2008 and reported on the situation of minority languages in Germany.

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines* of Germany contains a list of geographical appellatives, adjectives and other words for cartographic purposes in the languages German, Frisian, Upper Sorbian and English. This list shall be helpful to foreign users to read and evaluate German cartographic publications in which apart from German also Frisian and Upper Sorbian geographical names and generic terms appear. The list shows only frequently occurring appellatives of geographical names.

### *Netherlands:*

A new chair for the Frisian language was inaugurated at the "Amsterdam Municipal University" in February 2011.

### *Suriname:*

Of the 1097 geographical names in Suriname are:

- 38 derived from the Indigenous Amerindians lingual areas.
- 719 derived from Dutch colonizations.
- 115 derived from Maroon (African slave descendants) .
- 4 derived from hindostan dialect.
- 5 derived from Javanese dialect.

## **Res VIII/4: Exonyms**

### *Austria:*

“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.<sup>2</sup> They succeed similar recommendations published in 1994. They contain a general chapter on principles of rendering geographical names, detailed recommendations for the

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

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"<sup>3</sup> 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.

#### *Germany:*

Within the EuroGeoNames project (see Res. VIII/6), the *Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database (EVN-DB)* for European geographical names has been developed. Exonyms and variant names of 23 languages spoken in Europe in 18 countries were integrated in the database. These countries are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands and Turkey. At the moment the database contains 7500 entries. All names are classified according to their status.

#### *Netherlands:*

For the EuroGeoNames project, current exonyms in the Dutch language have been made available.

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

#### *Austria:*

From 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 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 (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".<sup>4</sup>

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

#### *Germany:*

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<sup>3</sup> in the Journal *Österreich in Geschichte und Literatur (mit Geographie)* ["Austria in History and Literature (with Geography)"]

<sup>4</sup> 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

Joint meetings of the EuroGeoNames project and the UNGEGN WG on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers were arranged at the following occasions: (1) at the 9th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 2007; (2) at a workshop of the EGN project held in Freising, Bavaria (near München) in June 2008; (3) at the Closing Workshop of the EGN project held in Bruxelles/Brussel, Belgium in February 2009, (4) at a Workshop of the EGN Community held in Zagreb, Croatia, in February 2011.

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

### *Austria:*

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.

### *Belgium:*

In the middle of 2009, the "National Geographic Institute" (IGN / NGI) has connected itself to EGN and has put the most recent data concerning the names of the administrative units and the inhabited places in Belgium (about 11 000 names) at the disposal of the surfers. Moreover, it gave EuroGeographics the permission to have these data tested by potential users within the European institutions.

These same data have been integrated in the prototype of *Cartesius*<sup>5</sup>, a project of which the aim is to spotlight the Belgian historic cartographic patrimony, where they will be used for location purposes. At the end of 2011, the "National Geographic Institute" put all its toponymical reference data at EGN's disposal.

### *Germany:*

A web (gazetteer) service infrastructure – called *EuroGeoNames (EGN)* – has been implemented for providing official geographical names data in Europe together with European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs) since 2009. The overall management of the EuroGeoNames infrastructure is conducted by EuroGeographics<sup>6</sup> together with the German "Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy" (BKG). The hosting of the central web (gazetteer) service as well as the technical support for European National Mapping Agencies for getting connected to EGN will be taken over by the Finnish Geodetic Institute (FGI) from August 2012. The maintenance of the Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database (EVN-DB) (see Res VIII/4: Exonyms) will be kept by BKG. The German dataset connected to EGN is a single database called "Geographical Names of Germany" (*GN-DE*). The GN-DE dataset is currently used for the geographical names data provision within the "German Spatial Data Infrastructure" (*GDI-DE*) and is therefore also the rationale for the INSPIRE<sup>7</sup> data provision for European purposes. Considering that the data content for GN-DE is based on a map

<sup>5</sup> The *Cartesius* project is a cooperation of the "Royal Library of Belgium", the "National Archive", the "Royal Museum for Central Africa" and the "National Geographic Institute" for bringing historical maps, photographs and other historical material online for the general public and the scientific community, by the creation of a common graphic geoportal.

<sup>6</sup> EuroGeographics is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 2001 as the membership association and representative body of the European national mapping, land registry and cadastral agencies

<sup>7</sup> Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

scale 1: 250 000 only a cooperation of the Federal Government with the German Federal States (Länder) - the latter are responsible for data based on large scales - is envisaged in order to provide a unique source for geographical names data in Germany.

#### *Netherlands:*

Since 2004 Utrecht University and the Topografische Dienst/Kadaster in the Netherlands participated in initiating and conducting the EuroGeoNames project which aims at establishing a Europe-wide virtual geographical names database and service. A report resulting from a workshop organised in Utrecht University to define the User/business requirements of an EGN geographical names service, as well as an information model produced as the basis for further programming, was made available in 2007. Both the Dutch geographical names (names data from the 1: 10 000 core topographic data file have been made available for the EGN service) and the Dutch exonyms are now accessible through this EuroGeonames names service.

For the first time in the Netherlands, place name collection has been mentioned in a law passed in 2007. In the law on creating the Topografisch basisbestand (Basic topographical database of the Netherlands) the collection of geographical names was mentioned as the responsibility of the National Mapping Agency. The new object-oriented version of the Basic topographical database of the Netherlands (TOP10NL) was completed in 2007. One of the object attribute categories is geographical names, so that names are linked in the files to objects as well, instead of to coordinates only. Simultaneously, street addresses (as well as some other names of geographical objects including place names within municipalities) have been registered and standardised by municipalities according to the BAG act (wet Basisregistratie Adressen en Gebouwen, the Act on standardised basic registration of street addresses and buildings), and it is hoped that the spelling of the place names collected and standardised by the topographers from the Cadastre will not be compromised by the street address spelling standardization efforts of these municipalities.

#### *Switzerland:*

In 2011, the connection of national geographical names of Switzerland to EuroGeoNames has been launched. Unfortunately, the connection is not established yet due to technical incompatibility between the web environments of swisstopo and EGN. A new solution has to be developed together with the new EGN technical team at the Finnish Geodetic Institute.

### **Res VIII/7: Toponymic data exchange formats and standards**

#### *Germany:*

EGN is providing a gazetteer service for Europe and its specification will be made compliant with the INSPIRE Implementing Directive (COMMISSION REGULATION - EU - No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services):

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:323:0011:0102:EN:PDF> ).

A Technical Guidance document describes the INSPIRE Data Specifications for the spatial data theme Geographical Names:

([http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data\\_Specifications/INSPIRE\\_DataSpecification\\_GN\\_v3.0.1.pdf](http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/INSPIRE_DataSpecification_GN_v3.0.1.pdf) ). The EGN infrastructure – from the technological point of view – provides a service architecture for a real service needed for Europe within the context of INSPIRE. For this developing process several UNGEGN documents were used as reference material. The Federal Government and the Federal States

will work on the consolidation of existing specifications and will determine common requirements for the geographical names data collection and maintenance in Germany in order to provide a unique source for the national geographical names data as well as for the provision to Europe.

#### *Netherlands*

Changes necessary in order to make the geographical names database of the Netherlands, made available for the EGN names service, compliant to the new INSPIRE regulations, were implemented.

### **Res VIII/11: Pronunciation**

*Austria, Belgium and Germany:*

See IX/6

### **Res VIII/12: Standardization of names of countries**

*Austria, Germany, Switzerland:*

An updated list of country names in German language was published by the StAGN as 12<sup>th</sup> edition as of March 2012. The list, collated by the StAGN, is a synopsis of country names taken from officially issued publications of the Foreign Ministries of the three countries. The StAGN list is commented and with additional information. The new edition can be downloaded at [http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/120403\\_STAATENNAMEN\\_12.pdf](http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/120403_STAATENNAMEN_12.pdf)

*Netherlands:*

The list of country names contained in the EGN exonym service files has been updated.

### **Res VIII/15: Support for training and publications**

*Austria:*

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 65<sup>th</sup> 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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".<sup>8</sup> It contains a.o. an article on Austrian contributions to cartographic theory and methodology including contributions in toponymy (author:

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<sup>8</sup> 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

Jordan) as well as an article on specifics of geographical names and their importance in cartography (author: Stani-Fertl).

*Netherlands, Germany:*

Representatives from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, as well as staff members of the BKG, took part as lecturers in the UNGEGN toponymy courses held in Nairobi (Kenya) and Timisoara (Romania) in 2009 and Yaoundé (Cameroon) in 2010.

Together with the Institute of Cartography of the Eötvös Lorand University in Budapest, Hungary, Representatives of the Dutch- and German-speaking division extended the toponymy course for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) webcourse, accessible at the website of the ICA Commission on Education and Training, chaired by David Fraser (Australia) (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/cet/>). Thanks to support from the UN Statistical Division, Nicoline McCarthy from the Netherlands was able to add modules on Reference Systems, Languages, Writing Systems, Conversion Systems, Names Placement, Legal Status of Names, Editorial Issues for Atlases, Toponymical Planning and Names as Cultural Heritage. Existing modules (Introduction, the Naming Process, Functions of Geographical Names, National Agencies, Field Collection Systems, Office Processing, Multilingual areas, UN Role, Exonyms, Toponymical Guidelines and Toponymical Datafiles) were homogenized with the new chapters, updated and extended. The module on Toponymic datafiles was extended by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu and Bernd Beinstein (BKG).

**Res. IX/4: Geographical names as an intangible cultural heritage**

*Netherlands:*

To highlight the importance of the preservation of geographical names, a special publication was issued by the Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland ("Advisory Commission on Geographical Names in the Netherlands") targeted at all municipalities who under the Municipality Act and Basic Registration Act have now been put in charge of deciding on the spelling of the names of all geographical objects within their territory, and have to provide all addresses within this territory.

**Res. IX/6: Geographical names database of UNGEGN**

*Austria:*

Information on Austrian cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants has been provided.

*Belgium:*

Information on the names of the country, its capital and the kingdom's eight localities with more than 100 000 inhabitants (3 in the Flemish Region, 3 in the Walloon Region and 2 in the Brussels-Capital Region) and their pronunciation has been transmitted for the UNGEGN database

*Germany:*

StAGN provided the UNGEGN database with some 80 audio files of names of cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants.

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

*Austria:*

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.

*Belgium:*

In 2010, an expert team of the Flemish section of the "Royal Commission for Toponymy and Dialectology" has published a dictionary on the origin of the names of the Flemish communes under the title *De Vlaamse gemeentenamen: een verklarend woordenboek*<sup>9</sup> ("The names of the Flemish communes: an explaining dictionary").

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<sup>9</sup> *De Vlaamse gemeentenamen: een verklarend woordenboek* / F. Debrabandere, M. Devos, P. Kempeneers, V. Mennen, H. Ryckeboer, W. Van Osta (...) . – Leuven: Davidsfonds, 2010

