Economic and Social Council

**Tenth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**
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Item 11 (e) of the provisional agenda*
**Toponymic data files and gazetteers: data services,
applications and products (for example, gazetteers
and web services)**

Report on the status of the EuroGeoNames project: implementing a sustainable European gazetteer service

Submitted by Germany**

Summary*

The EuroGeoNames project, funded by the eContentplus programme of the European Commission, started on 1 September 2006, and the funded period lasted until 28 February 2009, with a project budget of 1.8 million euros. During the funded period, a European geographical names infrastructure was established by connecting existing national official data sources of the participating national mapping and cadastral agencies. In this way, the geographical names data are updated in a consistent way and maintained at the source level by the responsible organizations.

Recognized as a very successful project by the European Commission and the project partners, EuroGeoNames now provides excellent opportunities for EuroGeographics and its members, the European association of national mapping and cadastral agencies, to meet future requirements (e.g., INSPIRE) in their role as reference information providers for national and European spatial data infrastructures.

Since 2009, the overall management of the EuroGeoNames infrastructure has been conducted by EuroGeographics, together with the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany.

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Implementation continues in 2012 as EuroGeoNames moves closer to its aim to achieve coverage in at least the 27 countries of the European Union as a part of an initiative to make EuroGeoNames self-sustaining.

A new architecture and management approach for EuroGeoNames was explored partly within the European Spatial Data Infrastructure with a Best Practice Network in collaboration with a EuroGeoNames coordination committee. In this project, best practice is sought for reaching INSPIRE compliance and creating harmonized pan-European location data and services. As geographic names was one of the five themes delivered by the Network in 2011, there were a number of insights and improvements that are now included in the implementation of EuroGeoNames.

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