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Reports of the Divisions

Report of Germany

Report of activities on the standardization of geographical names in  
Germany pursued since the 16th session of UNGEGN in the year 1992

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## Report of Germany

### Report of activities on the standardization of geographical names in Germany pursued since the 16th session of UNGEGN in the year 1992

The Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (StAGN) (Permanent Committee on Geographical Names) is a multilateral organization on the standardization of geographical names for German speaking areas. Experts of Austria, Germany and Switzerland are regular members of StAGN and are meeting twice a year.

During the period under review StAGN hold three sessions under the chairmanship of Dr. K.-A. Seel. In March 1994, Dr. Seel transferred the chairmanship after a three-years period to Dr. J. Sievers, Frankfurt am Main.

In May 1993 members of StAGN (Dr. Jordan (A), Dr. Seel (D), Dr. Sievers (D), Prof. Spiess (CH)) participated in a meeting of DGSD held in Köln, Germany.

Since the publication of the National Report prepared for the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 1992, the following program items have been treated within StAGN.

#### 1. Exonyms

A list of the most common exonyms has been compiled in German. The list contains only such exonyms that are commonly used within the German language area. Exonyms showing only slight modifications as compared to endonymic spelling (e.g. the German exonym "Ardennen" and the French endonym "Ardennes") have not been listed. The list has been treated by E. Spieß, Zürich, with the cooperation of StAGN and will be submitted to the 17th Session of UNGEGN as a Working Paper.

#### 2. List of country names in German language

A list of country names of all countries and of their capitals is being worked on in German language by StAGN and is also continuously updated and published at irregular intervals. The names given in that list are identical with those used by the German Translation Service with the United Nations, and as being issued by the Foreign Offices of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Swiss Confederation.

A Working Paper under the title "List of country names in German language" (prepared by K.-A. Seel) will be tabled for the 17th Session of UNGEGN. To this list has been added the 3rd edition of "Schreibweise der Staatennamen" (Spelling of country names) as an annex.

#### 3. Glossary of toponymic terminology

Under the direction of N. Kadmon, Israel, a "Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology" has been prepared by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology of UNGEGN. It has been submitted to the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and approved by the Conference (Resolution 11).

StAGN plans to publish a German version in order to make this glossary accessible to a broader circle of German users. A first draft of a translation has already been prepared.

#### 4. List of geographical names of the former Soviet Union

Edition and publication of geographical names glossaries relating to the earth and for usage in the German language area are also tasks of StAGN. Up to now gazetteers of the European countries (except the USSR)<sup>1)</sup> and of America<sup>2)</sup> have been published. At present the geographical names of the countries of the former Soviet Union are being worked on. The geographic place names are listed, as a rule, in the official transliteration system (insofar as issued), in original spelling, and as German exonyms or in a transcription system comprehensible to German usage.

Insofar as in non-Russian republics proper national languages (e.g. Ukraine) or systems of lettering (e.g. the Turkic speaking countries) have been or will be introduced, these changes shall be considered in the gazetteer. The geographic names of the Republic of Moldova are no longer published in the transliteration from the cyrillic form, but only in new (Romanian) Roman spelling. The names lists are treated by means of WordPerfect (Version 6.0) and will be also available in digital form.

#### 5. Gazetteer Germany

In 1981 the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany was published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie (IFAG). It had been treated in cooperation with StAGN according to the Recommendations of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and was published in book form and on diskette.

After the German reunification in 1990 the necessity of preparing a "Supplementary Volume East" for the five new Länder (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen) and the eastern part of Berlin arose.

This task was started in 1991 at IFAG and could be finished by the end of 1993. Form and contents of this supplementary volume correspond essentially to the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany, which had been presented as document E/CONF. 74/L 10 to the 4th conference of the United Nations on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in Geneva in 1982. For the "Supplementary Volume East" the coordinates are

1) Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (1966): Wörterbuch geographischer Namen Europa (ohne Sowjetunion), 740 p.; Dudenverlag, Bibliographisches Institut, Mannheim

2) Ständiger Ausschuß für geographische Namen (1990): Wörterbuch geographischer Namen Amerika. Nachrichten aus dem Karten- und Vermessungswesen, Sonderheft, 476 p.; Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main

being transformed from the 1942 Russian system (Krasovskij- Ellipsoid) into the German Gauss-Krüger-System (Bessel-Ellipsoid). The gazetteer will be made available as a digital data set. Beyond that, a limited number of copies will be prepared as computer print-out.

After the completion of this work a "concise gazetteer" will be derived from the overall data stock.

Up to now the Gazetteer Germany has comprised the names contained in the General Topographic Map at 1:500 000 scale. In addition the names of all independent local authority communities are listed. An extension of the stock of names to 1:250 000 scale is in preparation.

## 6. A new map of German landscapes at 1:1 million scale

After the German reunification StAGN adopted as a task preparing an uniform map of landscapes on the millionth scale for the total area of the Federal Republic of Germany.

For this the two maps of landscapes had to be integrated, published for East Germany in 1982<sup>3)</sup> and for West Germany in 1985<sup>4)</sup>.

Harmonization of the map contents and the geometric junction at the former border between the two German states was performed under the scientific direction of H. Liedtke.

A copy of the map printed and published by the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, has been annexed to the paper of H. Liedtke, which had been submitted to the 17th Session of UNGEGN as a Working Paper.

## 7. Toponymic Guidelines Germany

As a result of the German unification the necessity arose to elaborate a second edition of toponymic guidelines which in a preliminary form were submitted to the 6th UN Conference on the Standardization on Geographical Names held in New York in 1992. Special attention was hereby given to minority languages (Danish and Sorbian). A revised and amended second edition is in preparation with particular emphasis on a bilingual version in German and English.

3) "Regionale geographische Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik" (regional geographical names in the German Democratic Republic), approx. scale 1:800 000, Berlin 1982

4) "Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1 000 000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen - (vorläufige Ausgabe)" (Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 000 000 Scale, landscapes - their names and configurations, prelim.edition), Frankfurt am Main 1985

## 8. Toponymic Guidelines for the Antarctic

The Working Group on Geodesy and Geographic Information of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), which is the scientific advisory body of the Antarctic Treaty, has commissioned the German representative of the Working Group to convene a work programme on elaborating recommendations for international toponymic guidelines for the Antarctic. A first draft has been prepared for further discussion in the SCAR Working Group (see also the Working Paper "Report of UNGEGN liaison with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research" prepared by J. Sievers for the 17th Session of UNGEGN).

## 9. Antarctic place-names

The Digital Antarctic Names Data Base of German-language place-names, established at the Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, includes the names of those Antarctic topographical and geographical features which have been first given names in German since 1870. The first edition published as a hard copy in 1988 was followed by three supplements. A second edition<sup>5)</sup> was published in 1993. After its latest update the data base comprises 703 German place-names.

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5) Sievers, J.: Index of German language Antarctic place-names. Nachrichten aus dem Karten- und Vermessungswesen, Sonderheft, 30 p.; Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main