

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Working Paper No.E/ 69
Original: ENGLISH

TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

New York, 17-28 January 2000

Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND THE AIMS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

*IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORTHOGRAPHIC REFORM IN AUSTRIAN
CARTHOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS AND GAZETTEERS**

*Submitted by: Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde (AKO)
Prepared by: I. Hausner, Chair AKO (Austria)

At the 7th United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names 1998 the group of experts on geographical names was informed about the consequences of the orthographic reform on the spelling of geographical names in Austria, and I refer for the linguistic details to working paper No.E/Conf. L. 62, 1998.

The present situation is that all authorities in Austria were informed to start with the implementation of the new orthography in the year 1999 and to bring it to an end not later than 2005. With respect to geographical names the following federal offices are concerned: the Austrian Central Statistical Office (since January, 1st 2000: Statistik Österreich) with its „Place-name Gazetteer“, the Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying with its official maps of Austria and the Central Hydrographic Office with the List of catchment areas of Austria; furthermore the private cartographic publisher „Verlag Hölzl“ with the publication of junior and senior class school atlases.

The Austrian Central Statistical Office officially started the implementation of the new orthography with January, 1st 2000. Up to now there is agreement upon the spelling of

Schloss (new) instead of *Schloß* (old)

in all place-names where this word is attached to a proper name. This word is to be regarded as appellative noun and not as part of a proper noun and therefore it will be adapted to the new orthography.

Further consultations concerning mainly the spellings of non settlement names as part of a settlement name (e.g. *Wald am Schoberpass*) with the provincial toponymic committees as well as with the AKO as coordinating board and the adjustment with the map sheets of the Austrian Map 1:50 000 are going on.

The Federal Office for Metrology and Surveying starts the implementation of new orthography with the fieldwork 2000, that is to say the first map sheets adjusted to the new orthography will be published in 2001, together with the first map sheets in the UTM format. Test runs in 1999 proved that about 6 to 7 names per map sheet 1:50 000 are concerned, that means that on the whole about 1 000 names of the Austrian Map 1:50 000 are to be adjusted.

Settlement names are written in correspondence with the Place-name gazetteer, other than inhabited places will be adapted to the new orthography in publications from 2001 on. New discrepancies in the spelling of settlement names and non settlement names as I realized in the above mentioned working paper (chapter 2.3) will be accepted.

The Central Hydrographic Office implemented the new orthography with October, 1st 1999, that is to say in its official correspondence and in its hydrological management system HYDAMS (an internet version is in progress). Further concerned is the publication of the „List of the catchment area of the river Danube in Austria“, which will be edited this year. The office cooperates with the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying and with the AKO.

The private cartographic publisher, Verlag Hölzl, elaborates the junior and senior class school atlases and implemented the new orthography in all its products with the year 2000.