

**Twenty-second Session
New York, 20-29 April 2004**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Dutch and German-Speaking Division 2002-2004

DIVISON REPORT DGSD-2002-2004

The activities of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division of UNGEGN since the 8th UN Conference on the standardization of geographical names are indicated below, under the headings of the various resolutions accepted at the 8th UNCSGN

1. Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names

Austria: Roma has been allowed as a minority language

Germany: : In 1992 the Member States of the Council of Europe have agreed on a European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. In Germany the Charter is effective since 1 January 1999. A paper on the situation of minority and regional languages will be submitted to the 22nd UNGEGN Session.

Netherlands: All hydronyms in the Frisian minority language area Fryslân have been established in their Frisian version, for acceptance as the only official version.

4. Exonyms

Austria: A new edition of the Proposals for writing geographical names in school atlases (Vorschläge zur Schreibweise geographischer namen in Schulatlantent) has been published in 2004

Germany: In 1991 the Permanent Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the States of Germany passed a resolution on the use of geographical names in educational material. StAGN and the Working Group on School Cartography (Arbeitskreis Schulkartographie) of the German Society for Cartography (DGfK) are discussing a revision of the rules for the use of exonyms in schools aiming at a better agreement with respective Recommendations of the UNCSGN.

Netherlands: The Nederlandse Taalunie Dutch (language union between the Netherlands, Surinam and Flanders) has incorporated on its website a list of all officially recognised Dutch exonyms in their standardised spelling.

5. Joint meetings of divisions and working groups

Netherlands: A joint meeting of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division and Geonames 3, the DGSD symposium series, is envisaged for September 2005 with the theme Toponyms in multilingual areas.

6. Integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

Germany: Names of settlements, administrative units and hydrographic features are already part of the German spatial data infrastructure. The integration of regional names is in progress. A project for setting up a Europe-wide geographical names GIS network is studied.

8. Assistance to UNGIWG

Germany: Digital data of the second administrative level of Germany was provided.

9. Geographical Names as cultural heritage

Austria: -in Bozen, South Tyrol, Italy, a symposium with the theme *Geographical Names, collection, analysis and preservation*, had been organised by the South-Tyrolean provincial archives December 12-13, 2003. This was held to precede the survey of the local microtoponymy

Netherlands: -a workshop on the collection of field names was held at the Meertens Institute (Research and documentation Institute for Dutch language and culture) of the Netherlands Academy of Sciences April 25, 2003. This was organised for launching a new field names survey project in the Netherlands. A project for a digital spatio-temporal geographical names database for the Frisian language minority area Frisia has been started up by the Fryske Akademy (Frisian Academy of Sciences).

11 Pronunciation

Germany: A MoU has been signed between the Dept of Language Information Administration of the Ministry of Education of the P.R. of China and StAGN on toponymic cooperation, especially in the field of pronunciation

Netherlands: To the website with exonyms referred to under 4) Exonyms, a pronunciation module has been added.

12. Standardization of names of countries

Germany: An updated list of country names will be published in 2004.

15. Support for training and publications

Germany: The exhibition produced for the 8th UNCSGN has been mounted again at the 21st International Cartographical Conference in Durban, South Africa, August 10-16, 2003, and will also be used in the 2004 toponymy courses. The 2002 Enschede/Frankfurt/Berlin toponymy course lectures have been edited and published as nr 28 of the Publication series of the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, 2004, for use in future courses..

Netherlands: A Toponymy training course module has been produced by Hungarian cartographers (Antal Guszlev and Laszlo Zentai) for the ICA web course in cartography and will be made available on the ICA Commission on Education and Training website.