

**Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:
Reports of the divisions**

**Report of the Norden Division (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)
(with Appendices from Iceland and Norway)**

Prepared by Norden Division, Finland.

I Norden Division meetings 2004 – 2005

Division Meeting in New York, UN headquarters, 26 April 2004

Representatives:

Mr. Jensen, John	Denmark	Mr. Nilsson, Leif	Sweden
Mr. Leskinen, Teemu	Finland	Mr. Nyström, Staffan	Sweden
Ms. Paikkala, Sirkka (Chair)	Finland	Ms. Torensjö, Annette	Sweden
Mr. Helleland, Botolv	Norway		

Sirkka Paikkala thanked the members of the division for comprehensive and numerous technical papers as well as active participation in discussions in the present UNGEGN meeting.

The hoped-for participation of Greenland and the Faroe Islands in the activities of UNGEGN and the Norden Division was discussed. *John Jensen* reported that Denmark has not yet had personal contacts with them in this matter. The meeting agreed that it is important to promote their participation and decided that before the next division meeting these contacts are made, in order to hopefully meet representatives of Greenland and the Faroes in the meeting. Denmark would be responsible for this, and *Botolv Helleland* volunteered to co-operate in formulating the initiative letters.

Botolv brought up his idea of a joint file of Saami place names of Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish mapping authorities. Some technical aspects and alternatives were discussed. In order to proceed, Botolv volunteered to do some survey on the need, demand and support for this kind of project. Afterwards the division members representing the three mapping authorities would continue discussions on more technical basis. Eventually this work might arrive at Norden Division's initiative to the mapping authorities.

The meeting discussed the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking division's initiative for a multi-lingual geographic names data network for Europe (EuroGeoNames). In order to make a survey/inventory the project organisation will disseminate a questionnaire to the mapping authorities and geographical names authorities in all European countries by the beginning of 2005. Division members saw that it could be useful to change thoughts within the division on this project later on.

As in the previous division meeting in Helsinki 2003 *Sirkka* brought into discussion her observation that the present Statute of the UNGEGN does not clearly point out the cultural heritage and identity aspects concerning geographical names and their standardisation. She reintroduced a sketch for some additions to the statute in order to emphasise these aspects. It was decided that this initiative would be taken up for further focus before and in the next division meeting.

The next Norden Division meeting was discussed. October 2005 was agreed as the most suitable point of time and Norway volunteered to find out whether this meeting could be held in Norway.

Division meeting in Hønefoss and Oslo, Norway, 20 and 22 October 2005

Representatives:

Ms. Holmberg, Bente	Denmark	Ms. Svanevik, Anne	Norway
Mr. Jensen, John	Denmark	Mr. Wangensteen, Boye	Norway
Mr. Olsen, Carl Chr.	Denmark/Greenland	Mr. Nilsson, Leif	Sweden
Ms. Tobiassen, Johanne B.	Denmark/Greenland	Mr. Nyström, Staffan	Sweden
Mr. Leskinen, Teemu	Finland	Ms. Torensjö, Annette	Sweden
Ms. Mattfolk, Leila	Finland		
Ms. Paikkala, Sirkka (Chair)	Finland		
Mr. Andersen, Johnny	Norway		
Mr. Gaasvik, Nils Jørgen	Norway		
Mr. Helleland, Botolv	Norway		
Ms. Henriksen, Marit Breie	Norway		
Mr. Larsen, Terje	Norway		
Mr. Lien, Karsten	Norway		

Guests:

Ms. Cekula, Zane	Latvia
Observer, representing the UNGEGN Baltic Division	
Ms. Kerfoot, Helen	Canada
Chairperson of UNGEGN	
Mr. Ringstam, Hans	Sweden
Former Chairman of the UNGEGN Norden Division	

Thursday 20 October 2005, Statens kartverk, Hønefoss

Karsten Lien welcomed the participants to Statens kartverk, the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority (NMCA), followed by *Tore Svensen* who informed about the history, organisational position and structure, duties, current activities and focus points related to geographic information in both national and international level of NMCA (for more information see <http://www.statkart.no>).

Sirkka Paikkala, the Chair of the Division, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, especially the representatives of Greenland who participated for the first time, and the guests, *Helen Kerfoot*, *Zane Cekula* and *Hans Ringstam*. *Anfinnur Johansen*, the Faroe Islands, and *Svavar Sigmundsson*, Iceland had, expressed their apologies for not being able to participate. In her greeting words *Helen Kerfoot*, the Chair of UNGEGN, put the Norden Division meeting in a wider perspective by telling about the aims and work of UNGEGN as a part of the UN organisation. She also expected that Internet would become more and more important in the future for sharing information on the standardisation of geographical names and standardised names. She mentioned the planned UNGEGN Geographical Names Database and the EuroGeoNames project as examples of this. She also saw good possibilities for successful co-operation between the Nordic countries in, for example, the field of Saami names.

Anne Svanevik gave a talk on the changes in the Norwegian Place-Names Act, which will be put into force 1 August 2006. The presentation discussed the reasons for, and principles of the amendments – one of them being simplification – and picked up and clarified the most important changes in the law. One of the principles of the law is that while different organisations choose names for their purposes it is up to the NMCA to decide on the spelling of the names. *Nils Jørgen Gaasvik*'s presentation dealt with place names on maps and in registers in Norway. On official maps, ranging from 1:5000 to 1:2 million in scale, an estimate of total one million different place names was given. The Place-Names Act gives rules, among other things, for the use of place names in official maps in multilingual areas as well as the national place names register.

Johnny Andersen gave a presentation on the Central Place-Names Register of Norway (SSR), its legislation basis, history and renovations since early 1990's, its main principles and technical solutions, data model of the register and the structure of the place names data service environment, based of web-technology. *Karsten Lien* listed examples of, and introduced on-line some of them, different web-services in Norway (by the NMCA and others) that have a possibility to make searches using place names. One of these services is Norgesglasset by Statens kartverk (<http://ngis2.statkart.no/norgesglasset/default.html>).

John Naustdal discussed the project "Norway Digital", Norwegian Government's initiative to build a national geographical infrastructure. This is an outstanding national joint-effort to create a new structure for co-operation and GI data exchange in Norway, based on a White paper given in 2003.

All the Norwegian presentations are situated on the address: <http://www.statkart.no/IPS/?module=Articles;action=Article.publicShow;ID=5036>.

Botolv Helleland introduced the updated version of the Toponymic Guidelines for Cartography – Norway, based on UN recommendations, to be presented at the 23rd Session of UNGEGN in Vienna March-April 2006. In the meantime the existing guidelines are still available both at UNGEGN web sites (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/guidelineslink.htm>) and Statens kartverk web sites

(<http://www.statkart.no/IPS/?module=Articles;action=ArticleFolder.publicOpenFolder;ID=2011>).

Annette Torenshö announced that Sweden would publish the Toponymic Guidelines of Sweden in the periodical *Ortnamn och namnvård* in a near future, both in English and Swedish. The last item of the agenda was a visit at the Mapping and Surveying Museum located in the Statens kartverk building, guided by *Bjørn Geirr Harsson*.

Saturday 22 October 2005, the University of Oslo

Carl Christian Olsen, the director of Greenland Language Secretariat and the chairman of Nunat Aqqinik Aalajangiisartut / Greenlandic Place Names Authority, the Authoritative Committee of Greenland Home Rule Government on Geographical Names, thanked Norden Division for inviting

Greenlandic authorities to work within the UNGEGN and the division. In his presentation he told about Greenland, its history, population, languages and their statuses, administration and research activities with regard to place names. He introduced the rules and principles for standardisation of Greenlandic geographical names, some of them adopted from Denmark and adjusted to Greenlandic working environment.

Johnny Andersen summarized his presentation on the EuroGeoNames project (EGN) at the conference the day before and picked up some topics and illustrations from a draft Final Report of the Survey/inventory on the state of art of European geographical names data sources and assessment of a future European geographical names data infrastructure (SI-EGN). *Jörn Sievers*, Germany, the project co-ordinator of the EGN project, had asked Norden Division for support for the project. It was a pleasure for everybody to authorise *Sirkka*, on behalf of Norden Division, to sign a Letter of Support for the European Commission.

In her presentation *Annette Torensjö* reported that the Swedish National Land Survey has started a work with placing the civil parish names on the national maps. This means that the parish names as well as their boundaries will still continue to live irrespective of whether the civil parish exists or not. *Leif Nilsson*'s presentation dealt with addresses, place names and legislation in Sweden. A proposal for a Dwelling Register is made and the law should come into force in the beginning of 2006. A precondition for the register is to establish location addresses in required amount.

Staffan Nyström was interested in the situation in the Nordic countries concerning the Unesco convention on immaterial cultural heritage. In Sweden the Ministry on Education, Research and Culture has established a working group to discuss the convention and its possible effects. In Denmark there is a National Commission of Unesco to handle the convention and Denmark follows the discussions but no decisions have been made yet. In Norway the situation is similar to the one in Denmark. Finland is not immediately going to ratify the convention, but follows the discussion and experiences. *Nyström* continued with topic commemorative naming practices in Sweden and other countries, referring to his talk at the conference the day before. *Sirkka Paikkala* introduced the rules by the Place Names Committee of the City of Helsinki on commemorating individuals, companies, and communities in the planning of new place names in Helsinki and announced that there will be a working paper on this also at GEGN 23 under agenda item 19.

Sirkka Paikkala introduced a proposal for a working paper for the next UNGEGN meeting to promote the appreciation of the cultural heritage and identity aspects associated with geographical names. The draft working paper also suggested a few additions to the Statute of the UNGEGN. During the discussion, e.g., it was seen that the promotion of cultural aspects could also support other, more traditional UNGEGN aspects, like economical and communicational benefits, and, for example, motivate nations to collect geographical names. On the other hand, e.g., it was seen that UNGEGN, as a part of ECOSOC organisation (cf. Unesco), might not be the best channel for this kind of underlining. After the discussion Norden Division left it up to *Sirkka*, as well as other initiatives, whether and how this matter should or could be brought up later, for example in a more general document for discussion under UNGEGN agenda item 18.

Helen Kerfoot introduced plans for the UNGEGN Geographical Names Database to be set up by UN Statistics Division to store, at first stage, names of countries and cities (population > 100.000 and capitals) for public access to standardised names. *Teemu Leskinen* brought up his concern about the rendering of Finland's place names in global map servers. Some services seem to include names that not even a native Finn would recognise. *Helen Kerfoot* told about the activities of the new (since 2004) UNGEGN Working Group on Indigenous and Minority Group Names, based on UN resolution VIII/1 (Berlin 2002). The resolution recommends that names authorities be invited to present a summary of activities on minority group and indigenous geographical names for inclusion in a general report for the ninth UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in 2007.

The Norden Division will prepare a division report and separate working papers by individual experts to other agenda issues for the next UNGEGN session in Vienna 28 March – 4 April 2006. *Helen Kerfoot* introduced some new principles for division reports. This present division meeting should be reported, as well as all activity between countries concerning Saami names (a joint data file/database/website of Saami place names could be appropriate if the NMCA's of Finland, Norway and Sweden would provide the names data for Saami people to build such a service by themselves).

Zane Cekula expressed her gratitude of being able to participate in the Norden Division meeting as an observer. This would benefit the work of the whole Baltic Division. Zane reported that the Baltic Division held a meeting in 11-13 October 2005 in Jurmala, Latvia, where some similar issues were discussed. She warmly welcomed possible observers from Norden Division to their future meetings. She also introduced and handed out to everybody the Concise Gazetteer of the Republic of Latvia (scale 1:1 million), which is compiled using the Place Names Database of Latvia, the Laboratory of Toponymy, Board of Cartography, State Land Service, as well as maps compiled by the Board of Cartography.

II Conference: Place-names in Nordic and International Perspective

In connection with the meeting of the Norden Division in Norway 20 and 22 October 2005 a conference entitled Place-names in Nordic and International Perspective was held on 21 October at the University of Oslo. This venue was also a part of the celebration of the centennial of the solution of the union between Sweden and Norway. Nine papers on different aspects of the conference theme were read. From the point of view of UNGEGN the contributions of *Hans Ringstam* (Sweden) and *Vigleik Leira* (Norway) were of special interest, the first one presenting an information booklet in Swedish on UN's work on geographical names, and the latter discussing problems and principles relating to the edition of a comprehensive list of names in different languages, taking Norwegian as a starting point. *Johnny Andersen's* (Norway) talk on EuroGeoNames as well as *Staffan Nyström's* (Sweden) on commemorative naming practices should also be mentioned here.

III Inquiry concerning commemorative naming

Last year one of the experts from the Norden Division conducted a simple inquiry concerning commemorative naming in general and the UN Resolution VIII/2 'Commemorative naming practises for geographical features' (Berlin 2002) in particular. A questionnaire with seven questions was constructed and distributed to the UNGEGN experts. The inquiry and its results were presented and discussed when the Norden Division met in Oslo in October 2005 and also at the XXII International Congress of Onomastic Sciences in Pisa, Italy, in August–September 2005. The report is also submitted as a working paper here at GEGN 23 under agenda item 19.

IV Publication concerning UN work on geographical names

In the Swedish National Land Survey's series on geographical names and the preservation of names (Sw. Ortnamn och namnvård) a new issue, No. 7, was published in 2005. It deals with the UNGEGN work on geographical names in general and from a perspective of Sweden and Norden Division in particular. It is written by *Hans Ringstam* and the title is Standardization of geographical names. On the UN work on place-names (Sw. Standardisering av geografiska namn. Om FN:s ortnamnsarbete). The report is written in Swedish, but each of the eight chapters has a summary in English. A Swedish version of the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names is included. A working paper presenting the book will be submitted by Sweden here at GEGN 23 under agenda item 12.

V Nordic co-operation on Saami names

The Norwegian Saami Parliament had asked the National Land Survey of Finland for a data file of Saami place names and their Finnish parallels included in the NLS Geographic Names Register. About 4,600 North Saami, 3,800 Inari Saami and 150 Skolt Saami names and their existing Finnish parallels were transferred free of charge. The aim of the Saami Parliament is to develop a corpus for word processing proofreading and syllabication purposes. The corpus is intended for users in all Nordic countries with a Saami population, and the project is strictly public, with no private interests.

Appendix 1: Iceland

As the Icelandic representative at UNGEGN 23, I wish to express my gratitude to the chair and staff of UNGEGN and to our Nordic colleagues for their good will and kind assistance in preparing our participation at the current event.

Since Iceland was not able to attend the Norden Division meeting in 2005, we present the following report on names activities in Iceland as a separate addendum to the ND Report to the UNGEGN meeting.

The current **Place Name Institute of Iceland**, www.ornefni.is, was established in 1998. Its Director is Mr. Svavar Sigmundsson. It has a staff of three people. The main role of the institution is to collect Icelandic place names from all times, catalog them and preserve in an accessible way and by admitted theoretical demands of each time. Place-names have been collected in Iceland since the early 20th century, in the beginning by The Archaeological Society (later the National Museum) and volunteers, not least from local youth societies. The Place Name Institute at the National Museum (1969-1998), the predecessor of the current Place Name Institute of Iceland, also collected place names. Furthermore, place-names are recorded to a certain extent in connection with the regular fieldwork for mapping purposes. – The Place Name Institute of Iceland will most probably be united with four other Icelandic institutes that deal with language and cultural heritage, from September 1, 2006, under a different name.

Mr. Svavar Sigmundsson, Director of the Place Name Institute of Iceland, is the president of NORNA, the Nordic co-operative committee for onomastic research, which was established in 1971 as an association of Nordic scholars specialising in name research, including place-name standardization. NORNA has its seat now in Garðabær, Iceland.

The Icelandic **Place Name Committee**, www.ismal.hi.is/ornefnanefnd.html, appointed by the Minister of Culture, is the national place-name authority. The committee was established in 1935, and its duties were revised in 1953 in the Act of Names of Settlements. The Act was revised in 1998, giving the Place Name Committee somewhat broader field of duties than earlier. The Place Name Committee has supervisory duties when it comes to deciding on names for new settlements and the way in which they are written. The committee allowed 26 new names of settlements in 2005. The Place Name Committee stresses the importance of preserving place-names as part of the nation's cultural heritage. Place-names shall be written in accordance with adopted linguistic rules. Established names are not to be changed without strong grounds. In 2005, the committee allowed two such changes. The Place Name Committee shall also decide the written forms of the names which appear on the maps of the national mapping authority, Landmælingar Íslands, if there is disagreement about this which has been sent to the Committee for decision. Six such cases have been dealt with since 1998, concerning names of mountains and valleys. Furthermore, in 2005 the committee published its decision in a dispute between an owner of a farm and the municipal where the farm is located; the farmer had complained that the municipal had used a name identical to the name of the farm, on a new street in a small village nearby. The Committee shall also evaluate the validity of suggestions for new municipal names. Two such reports were written in 2005. Almost without exception, only those municipal names are chosen for use which the Committee has recommended.

The web pages of the **Icelandic Language Institute**, <http://www.ismal.hi.is/landahei.html>, contain an updated publication of country names, capitals, citizenships and adjectives, in Icelandic. These are laid down in cooperation with the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and are recommended and approved by the Icelandic Language Council.

Publications in Iceland in 2005:

Atli Týr Ægisson. 2005. Íslensk fyrirtækjanöfn. Mímir. Blað félags stúdenta í íslenskum fræðum 50:132-137.

Guðrún Kvaran. 2005. Lög um mannanöfn og áhrif þeirra á nafnaforðann. www.Nefnir.is.

Haukur Jóhannesson. 2005. Til varnar örnefninu Sælusker. Strandapósturinn 37:135-138.

Hjörleifur Guttormsson. 2005. Eftirþankar um örnefni. Austfirðir frá Reyðarfirði til Seyðisfjarðar.

- Árbók Ferðafélags Íslands, bls. 250-251.
- Jónína Hafsteinsdóttir. 2005. Tölur í örnefnum. www.Nefnir.is.
- Marteinn H. Sigurðsson. 2005. Papar og þrjóst. Papaörnefni í nýju ljósi. Lesbók Morgunblaðsins 22. janúar, bls. 6-7.
- Sigurjón Páll Ísaksson. 2005. Kækjuskörð. Múlaping 32:20-33.
- Svavar Sigmundsson. 2005. Namn på nya gårdar och kommuner på Island. Namnens dynamik. Utvecklingstendenser och drivkrafter inom nordiskt namnskick. Handlingar från den trettonde nordiska namnforskarkongressen i Tällberg 15-18 augusti 2003. Red. av Staffan Nyström. NORNA-rapporter 80. NORNA-förlaget. Uppsala, bls. 269-278.
- Svavar Sigmundsson. 2005. Icelandic place-names in North Atlantic light. Viking and Norse in the North Atlantic. Select Papers from the Proceedings of the Fourteenth Viking Congress, Tórshavn, 19-30 July 2001. Edited by Andras Mortensen and Símun V. Arge. Tórshavn 2005, bls. 229-233. Annales Societatis Scientiarum Færoensis. Supplementum XLIV.
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- Tryggvi Gíslason. 2005. Hálogaland - "land norðurljósanna". Á sprekamó. Afmælisrit tileinkað Helga Hallgrímssyni náttúrufræðingi sjötugum, 11. júní 2005. Ritstjóri Sigurður Ægisson. Bókaútgáfan Hólar, bls. 372-377.

Ari Páll Kristinsson
Chairman of the Icelandic Place Name Committee

Appendix 2: Report of Norway to the Twenty-third Session of UNGEGN

1. Measures taken and proposed to implement United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names

A list of foreign geographical names, Geografilista [List of Foreign Geographical Names], published 1991 by Språkrådet [The Language Council of Norway] has been updated and is accessible on the Internet: <http://www.sprakrad.no/templates/Page.aspx?id=349>

The list contains about xxx geographical names from all the world (except Norway) and renders the official spelling as established in Norway. Information on a list entitled *Geographical names in various languages* is given in a separate working paper.

2. Field collection of names

Field collection of microtoponyms is continuing in a number of municipalities. Field collection of Saami toponymy is limited because of lack of resources. Some local organizations and private persons help with the collection in connection with small projects. If possible such material should be digitalized, most often by means of Access or Excel software. As part of test project the names of a local community in Southern Norway (Vennesla) have been computerized by means of the SOSI standard and registered into the Central Place Name Register (SSR) coded as "suggestions" since the spelling has not been authorized. Still many names around the country remain unregistered because of limited resources. Most of the University place-names collections have now been scanned and will be made accessible digitally. However, the situation for place-names in minority languages is less favourable in this respect.

3. Official treatment of names

The Norwegian Place Name Act relating to the standardization of geographical names, which has been in force since 1991, has been revised and adopted by the National Assembly (Stortinget) in 2005, and it will be put into effect on the 1st of August 2006. New regulations to the act are under preparation in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The revision of the act involves among other things an easier handling of

the law as well as a greater focus on the cultural heritage aspect. More information on this law is given in a separate working paper.

4. Treatment of names in multilingual areas

According to the Norwegian Place Name Act names used by the linguistic minorities (Kvenish/Finnish and Saami) are to be used in official contexts such as on maps and road signs, and then in the approved spelling of those languages. If a minority name is the only one of a feature in question it is to be used alone. If a feature has a name in more than one language both names or all names are to be used. However, this principle has not so far been carried out properly. The Norwegian toponymy established during the Norwegianizing period (especially 1870–1945) has still better protection by law than the minority toponymy which often is used just in the oral tradition.

Name consultants of Norwegian, Kvenish and Saami place-names give advice on the correct spelling of the place-names in the languages concerned.

5. Administrative structure of national names authorities

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority (Norwegian: Statens kartverk/ SK) has the role as the major national geographical names authority. This authority has the power to standardize and authorize names of natural features as well as of settlement names. According to the revised Place Name Act the Norwegian Mapping Authority will be responsible for the standardization of most of the place-names in governmental use whereas the municipalities still will continue to decide upon names relating to municipal entities.

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority is organised in the main office in Hønefoss, the hydrographical office in Stavanger, and 12 regional offices, each one having the responsibility of authorizing place-names in the region in question. The Language Council (Norwegian: Språkrådet) administers the place-names consultants, with exception of the consultants of Saami place-names, who are administered by the Saamediggi Council. These make out eight for Norwegian place-names (with regional responsibility), three for Saami place-names (North, South and Lule Saami), and one for Kvenish (Finnish) place-names. Their tasks are to give advice on the correct spelling of place-names in official use, and to give general advice on the usage of place-names. The greater part of the work of the consultants is carried out by six full or half time employed assistants who are seated at the four main universities, at Saami allaskuvla and at Finnmark University College.

6. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

An updated version of the Toponymic guidelines of Norway has been edited and will be presented in a separate working paper at the 23rd Session of UNGEGN. It will also soon be available on the Internet site of the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority, <http://www.statkart.no/IPS/filestore/ToponymGuidelNorw33.pdf>.

7. Toponymic data files

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority has continued the building up of a Central Place-Name Register (SSR/ Sentralt stedsnavnregister), which is a comprehensible register of all names on different official map series and charts, now containing nearly 800.000 accepted names. However, the main purpose of this register is to comprise names which have been decided upon according to the Place Name Act. So far about 92 500 names decisions have been entered into the register. Names from official maps in different scales are constantly being registered in the SSR. During 2003–2005 the Complaint Committee of place-names has decided upon 176 names.

All details of each place-name are officially available, but on the Internet address <http://ngis2.statkart.no/norgesglasset/default.html> only the main information of each name is shown.

Over the last couple of years more than half a million place-names on card files and 4000 source maps have been scanned and digitalized at the universities of Oslo and Bergen as a part of a comprehensible project called “The Establishment of digital national database for place-names”, supported by the Norwegian Research Council. A special data base format and graphical user interface have been developed with the intention to give easy access both for researchers and the public. The scanning is also a means of safeguarding the name collections.

8. Toponymic web sites

Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority (NMA) has developed a web service that enables search for officially accepted place-names. The web service is based upon the standard components of web services, SOAP, WSDL and UDDI. In addition to direct query and retrieval of place-names, it is intended for use as a mechanism to implement a place-name index for geo-enabled portals. In this capacity, it is now used in the national portal and several municipal portals.

The Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority (Statens kartverk), <http://ngis2.statkart.no/norgesglasset/default.html>, also in English and Saami.

The Place-Name Consultants (Statens namnekonseptar), <http://www.stadnamn.org> or <http://www.stedsnavn.org>

The Language Council (Språkrådet), <http://www.sprakrad.no>

Documentation project (Dokumentasjonsprosjektet), <http://www.dokpro.uio.no>

9. Existing education and practice

At the University of Oslo, an academic course on the standardization and the use of geographical names and personal names is offered every spring semester. In more general terms onomastics are taught at all of the four Norwegian universities, and also at some colleges. Besides, several training courses on toponymy and collection of microtoponyms are held annually in cooperation with local municipalities and organizations.

10. Exchange of advice and information

The place-name consultants in cooperation with the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority have organised several local meetings with personal representing the municipalities, road divisions etc. to meet the requirements of the Place Name Act. Besides, the Place-name Consultancies give direct advice relating to naming and spelling of place-names in local municipalities and at all other administrative levels.

11. Co-operation with national organisations

The annual joint meeting of the Place-name Consultancies and the Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority was held in the fall of 2004 as well as in 2005, dealing with common problems such as the coordination of decisions and building up a comprehensive database of place-names. The 11th National Conference on Name Research will be held 10 November 2006 at the University of Oslo. The topic of the conference is “The future of name research and name archives”.

12. Co-operation with international organizations

In connection with the meeting of the Norden Division in Oslo 20–22 October 2005 a conference entitled *Place-names in Nordic and International Perspective* was held at the University of Oslo. This venue was also a part of the celebration of the centennial of the solution of the union between Sweden and Norway. Nine papers on different aspects of the conference theme were read. Of special interest were the presentation of an information booklet in Swedish on UN's work on geographical names, a discussion on problems and principles relating to the edition of a comprehensive list of names in different languages, a talk on EuroGeoNames, and a paper on commemorative naming practices.

An international cross-disciplinary symposium entitled “Place names and identities in multicultural contexts” will be held 17 – 20 August 2006, in Kárášjohka, Northern Norway.

13. UNGEGN-meetings

In connection with the above mentioned Nordic conference Norway hosted the Norden Division Meeting 20 and 22 October 2006 (see special working paper from the Chair of the Norden Division).

14. Bibliography (relevant to names standardization and minority languages)

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Ellingsve, Eli J. Svalbards navnehistorie [The place-name history of Svalbard]. *Motskrift* 2/2004, s. 11–17.

Fykse, Åmund. 2005. Namnetypar og etterledd på konvekse formasjonar i terrenget. Systematisering og vurdering av slike stadnamn i Luster kommune på grunnlag av innhaldet i Sentralt stadnamnregister [Name types and generics relating to convex natural formations. Systematization and evaluation of such place-names in the municipality of Luster in comparison with the Central Place-name Register]. *Nordica Bergensia* 30 (200). Pp. 111–128

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