Federal Agency for
Cartography and Geodesy

EuroGeoNames
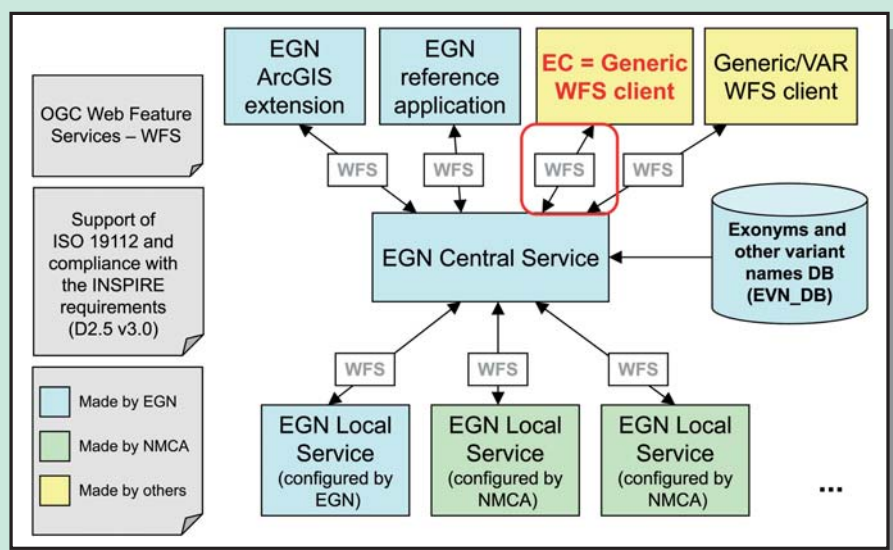## a Geographical Names' infrastructure for Europe

Partners in the EGN Reference Group providing data for EGN

The figure above shows the current status of the EGN infrastructure. Eight countries have already completed their EGN implementation. Eight additional countries have already promised to finish their implementation either until April 2009 or until the end of 2009 at the latest.

Distributed WFS Infrastructure

EGN established a European infrastructure of differently organized geographical names data sources and set up a distributed Web (Gazetteer) Services' architecture compliant to ISO and OGC standards. Access will be provided by Web Feature Service (WFS) interfaces implemented at each data provider. An EGN Central Service will access these distributed EGN Local Services (local WFS) to query the EGN data network and return standardized results (in XML) to the inquirer. Thus, the full responsibility of the data sources remains at the data providers.


Top level overview of the EGN infrastructure

Motivation and objective

Within the eContentplus-funded period (30-months-project, from 2006-2009) the EuroGeoNames project created a European geographical names services' infrastructure to help you find the official spelling of a name, together with its spelling in other languages, its geographical location, its pronunciation ...

• The EGN approach is in line with Resolution VIII / 6 of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Berlin 2002) recommending *"[…] that standardized geographical names data should be considered in the establishment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures and included in their constructions."*

• In the context of the current INSPIRE initiative resulting in a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI), geographical names are considered to be one of the three most important data components (priority reference data).
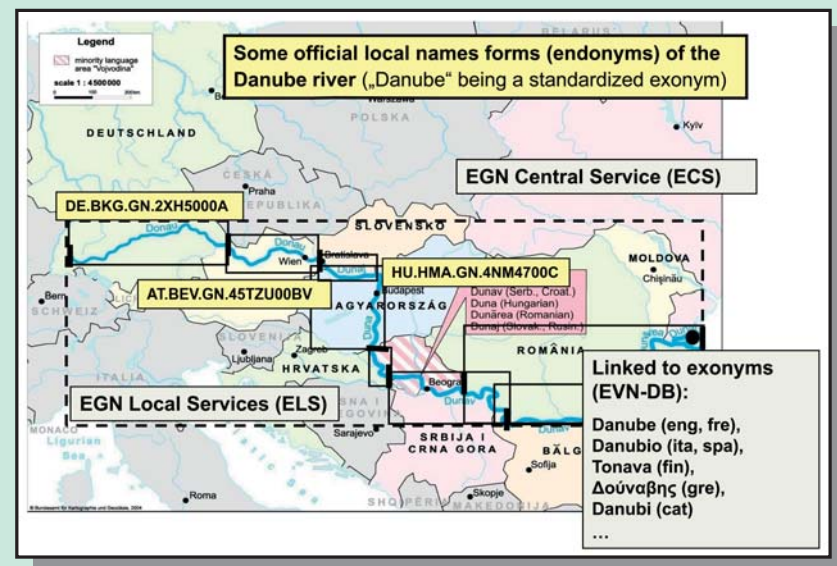
The spatialObject_UIDs will be used by the EGN Central Service e.g. to link pieces of border crossing spatial objects and provide the user with aggregated information. Within EGN this spatialObject_UID will be unique not only within its own gazetteer but also across all the gazetteers and across all INSPIRE-connected countries.

What comes in 2009?

• "Free of charge" responses of the EGN Central Service based on point coordinates and/or bounding boxes from 2009 to 2012
• INSPIRE gazetteer compliance, with EC as main client
• Operational EGN Local Services run by NMCAs
• Extension of EGN to full European coverage, at least EU27 (EU Member States)
• Extension will be based on the EGN Implementation Plan 2009-2012

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