

25th UNGEGN

EuroGeoNames (EGN) – Partners & lessons learned

Nairobi, Kenya

5 to 12 May 2009

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu
EuroGeoNames Project Coordinator
Frankfurt am Main

Content

- Partners
- Lessons learned in terms of
 - Management and partnership aspects
 - User related aspects
 - Technical aspects

Partners – EGN Consortium

- BKG, Frankfurt am Main (Co-ordinator)
- Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen, Wien
- Surveying and Mapping Authority of Slovenia
- EuroGeographics Head Office, Paris
- Universiteit Utrecht, Geographic Department
- EDINA National Data Centre, Edinburgh
- Geodan Holding, Amsterdam
- ProDV AG, Dortmund
- ESRI Geoinformatik GmbH, Kranzberg

**Public
sector**

**Academic
sector**

**Private
sector**

Partners – EGN Group of Interest

26 organizations: Standardization bodies, private GI companies, cartographic publishing houses, GI interest groups, etc.:

OGC Europe, **UNGEEN** (United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names) and several divisions, **ICA**, **Eurogi**, **DDGI** (German umbrella organization for GI), **GDI-DE** (Secretariat of the German spatial data infrastructure), **Imagi** (Interministerial Committee for GI of the German Federation), **AGISEE** (Association for GI in South-East-Europe), **National Geographic Germany**, **ICOS** (International Commission of Onomastics Sciences), **Westermann** (German publishing house for school atlases), **Ed. Hölzel** (Austrian publishing house for school atlases), **CartoTravel** (German publishing house of GI products), **EEA** (European Environment Agency), **PCGN** (UK Permanent Committee on Geographical Names), **StAGN** (PCGN of German-speaking countries/regions), **Greenland Language Secretariat** (Oqaasileriffik), **Bookings** (Hotel reservation service, Amsterdam), **AdV** (Association of German survey administrations), **Deutsche Nationalbibliothek** (German National Library), **Intergraph** (Germany), **Freitag & Berndt** (Austrian publishing house), **Institut für Kartographie** (TU DD), **JRC** Language Technology Group, **BDVI** Association of German Surveyors, **Eurostat** (Luxembourg), **lat/ion GmbH** (Germany)

Lessons learned

Management and partnership aspects (1/2)

- **strong consortium** with different views (public, academic and private institutions), which worked very effectively together.
- **high esteem with many European NMCAs** has been very important and a prerequisite for setting up the infrastructure on a voluntary basis!
- **implementation plan for 2009 – 2012** has been already prepared. Its adoption by EuroGeographics is needed for sustainability!

Lessons learned

Management and partnership aspects (2/2)

- guarantee sustainability may become an issue for customers without **technical and organizational agreements** with the NMCAs (distribution agreements?, service level objectives?, etc.).
- **GI community and geographical names experts got closer together** and learned from each other.

Lessons learned

User related aspects (1/2)

- **good approach of further GI stakeholders' involvement** within the *EGN Group of Interest* (e.g. private companies, UNGEGN, WG TDFG, INSPIRE, ...).
- business and pricing model proposed by EGN was based on a **too optimistic cost/benefit analysis**. It has to be amended according to user/business requirements provided by the pilot customers.
- provision of **official endonyms linked to standardized exonyms are needed** and requested mainly by public institutions (e.g. European Statistical Office – Eurostat).

Lessons learned

User related aspects (2/2)

- existing **competition with free-of-charge initiatives / services** (geonames.org, google, etc.). Most end-users seem not to need standardized exonyms and official endonyms or aren't even aware of the fact that they can be provided in a standardized/official form!

⇒ UNGEGN and EuroGeographics have to stronger promote the necessity of disseminating authoritative/standardized names data!

Lessons learned

Technical aspects (1/2)

- **harmonization of official data and channeling of this information** within a distributed approach has been demonstrated to be possible.
- **harmonized feature classification was intensively discussed** and finally a general one – satisfactorily for the purpose of query filtering – could be agreed with the NMCAs.
- **different understanding** on how a “**gazetteer profile**” should look like (ISO 19112 does not facilitate multi-names and multilingualism → INSPIRE profile, OGC Gazetteer profile).

Lessons learned

Technical aspects (2/2)

- issues related to modeling **language** were discussed controversially. ISO does not yet provide one consistent list for indicating *individual languages* and *language groups* (language codes of ISO 639-2, 639-3?, 639-5?).

Thank you very much for your attention!

... Questions ?

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

EuroGeoNames Project Coordinator

Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG)

Richard-Strauß-Allee 11

D-60598 Frankfurt am Main

pier.zaccheddu@bkg.bund.de