

**Twenty-sixth session  
Vienna, 2-6 May 2011**

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**Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Report of the divisions**

**Report of the Norden Division (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)\***

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## **I. Norden Division meetings 2009-2010**

Two Norden Division Meetings have been held since the last Report of the Norden Division in 2009.

The first meeting was held on 8 May 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, which was attended by 8 members of the Norden Division. A number of topics were discussed, particularly the newly established Norden Division homepage and a joint Nordic minority place-name application/database. More information about the 2009 Norden Division Meeting can be found at: <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/about/programme/nairobi090508/>.

The second meeting was held in Uppsala, Sweden, 29 October 2010 at Institutet för språk och folkminnen (The Institute for Language and Folklore) as part of a joint arrangement between the Norden Division and the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology 27.-29. October 2010. The Norden Division meeting was attended by 10 participants from the Norden Division area, as well as our Latvian colleague Zane Cekula from the Baltic Division. The meeting covered a number of division-related subjects, such as: The 26<sup>th</sup> UNGEGN Session in Vienna 2011; Implementation of the *EuroGeoNames* and *INSPIRE*-services by National Mapping Agencies in the Norden Division area; The Norden Division project idea of a minority geographical names application; The Norden Division homepage. Additionally, Working Group news and new Expert Group on Global Geospatial Information Management were also presented at the meeting, as were the news of the establishment of the Faroese Place-Name Commission (Staðarnavnanevnið): <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/about/programme/upsala101029/>.

## **II. Norden Division homepage**

The Norden Division has had its own homepage since 2008, namely: <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/>. There has been no major revision of the homepage since last report, although a few textual updates and additions of information have been supplied in 2010/2011. It is the distinct impression that the homepage fulfils its aim to present concise information about UNGEGN and the Norden Division.

## **III. Joint Norden Division project**

Having realized that the geographical names used by linguistic minorities are standardized at a national level even though the linguistic minorities as entities are trans-national, there is a possibility that this may result in mismatching standardizations of minority geographical names. To remedy this, the Norden Division is looking into the possibility of producing an online web-service based resource for Minority geographical names within the Norden Division area.

At present, studies of the compatibility of geographical names data from the National Mapping Agencies are being undertaken. There is, however, general agreement that the decision on whether to undertake this project, or not, should not be made earlier than 2012-13, when the web services on which to base the resource have been completed by the mapping agencies.

## **IV. Geographical name laws and geographical name usage**

Within the Norden Division area, only Greenland and Norway have specific laws on geographical names. Elsewhere in the Norden Division countries, regulations are either embedded in other, non-name-specific, laws (Iceland, Sweden) or exist in the form of departmental orders or regulations (Denmark, Finland, Faroe Islands). Thus, the rights, principles and rules for standardization of geographical names vary considerably from country to country in the Norden Division area (see also: <http://nordendivision.nfi.ku.dk/legislation/>). Nonetheless, standardization practices of geographical names are relatively similar within the Norden Division area.

A new commission for geographical names, the Faroese Staðarnavnanevnið, was established in July 2010 and consists of five members from the University of the Faroe Islands, the Faroese Language Board as well as the Environment Agency. The Realm of Denmark thus has three geographical names commissions, one covering the Danish language area, and one each for the regional language areas of Greenland and Faroe Islands. The Danish Norden Division representatives have requested that the addresses of the geographical name commissions of Faroe Islands and Greenland be listed alongside the address of the Danish Place-Name Commission on the UNGEGN-list of geographical names authorities.

## **V. Cooperation with other Divisions and Working Groups**

The Norden Division cooperates with other UNGEGN Divisions and Working Groups. At the latest Norden Division meeting, we were joined by a member of the Baltic Division, likewise did several Norden Division members partake in the latest meeting in the *Working Group on Toponymic Terminology* in Uppsala, 27. October 2010.

Additionally, Botolv Helleland, Norway, has reported from recent meetings in the *Working Group of Implementation and Evaluation/Publication and Funding*, and Staffan Nyström has reported from the ongoing work in the *Working Group on Toponymic Terminology*. Of importance is the contact of this Working Group to the 'Terminology Group' of ICOS (The International Council of Onomastic Sciences) and the revision of *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*.

## **VI. Status for Toponymic Guidelines**

Revised versions of Toponymic Guidelines were submitted at the UNGEGN-Session in Nairobi, Kenya, 2009 by Finland and Denmark. A small revision of the Danish Toponymic Guidelines is needed, as the second paragraph under item 3.2. Gazetteers needs to be changed to:

An interactive Web Map Service which enables searches for geographical names authorized by the Danish Place-Names Commission is available at: <http://www.stednavne.info>.

Additionally, a PDF-file of all authorized place-names is available at:

[http://www.stednavneudvalget.ku.dk/autoriserede\\_stednavne/AUTORISEREDE\\_STEDNAVNE\\_v.2010-12-10.pdf/](http://www.stednavneudvalget.ku.dk/autoriserede_stednavne/AUTORISEREDE_STEDNAVNE_v.2010-12-10.pdf/).

This minor revision will be incorporated in the revised Danish Toponymic Guidelines, which is planned for presentation at the 10. UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in 2012.

Sweden has published its Toponymic Guidelines for cartography on the internet:

[http://www.lantmateriet.se/upload/filer/kartor/om\\_kartor/Toponymic\\_Guidelines\\_2007\\_6.pdf](http://www.lantmateriet.se/upload/filer/kartor/om_kartor/Toponymic_Guidelines_2007_6.pdf).

## **VII. Improved online geographical names facilities**

An update of the Swedish geographical names homepage KartSök och Ortnamn (MapSearch and Place-Names) by the national Swedish Mapping Authority, Lantmäteriet, is being prepared for launch in 2011. The new edition will, among other things, feature a purpose-made keyboard for Saami characters, as well as a language code for every geographical name. The homepage also makes use of a new seamless map, the Topographic web map.