

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

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**Item 19 of the Provisional Agenda**

**Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors**

Toponymic Guidelines Federal Republic of Germany  
Fifth revised edition, 2010\*\*

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\*\* Submitted by: Germany  
Prepared by: Jörn Sievers, Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN)

Toponymic guidelines of the Federal Republic of Germany were presented for the first time at the 9th Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) held in New York in 1981. A preliminary second edition was prepared – as a result of the German reunification – within a short time and submitted to the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names held in New York in 1992. The third edition of the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors Federal Republic of Germany was thoroughly checked and presented at the Seventh Conference held in New York in 1998. Explanations on those regions in Germany where there is multilingualism (German - Danish, German - Frisian, German - Upper Sorbian and German - Lower Sorbian, resp.) as well as on German dialects were extended and supplemented by maps of the dispersal areas. The 4th edition contained the effects of the revised orthographic regulation on the spelling of official and non-official geographical names that came into force in Germany in 1999.

The comprehensively revised 5th edition is extended by some required amendments regarding to contents as well as to editorial updates. Particularly a chapter is added dealing with the principles of the approval of geographical names by the states (Länder) of the Federal Republic of Germany. Furthermore a list is added containing the official terms of administrative units and designations.

The official language in all parts of the Federal Republic of Germany is German in its standard form. Regions of Germany where multilingualism is officially recognized (cf. map *Minority language regions in Germany*), are the northern border strip of Schleswig-Holstein to Denmark where also Danish is spoken, districts in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein where Frisian speaking people are living as well as areas of Brandenburg and Saxony near the border with Poland where Lower and Upper Sorbian is spoken apart from German. Additionally, in various parts of Germany Romany is spoken, the language of Sinti and Roma. Geographical names are only recognized in Frisian and Sorbian languages. As a consequence, a list is presented in the fifth edition for the first time, showing frequently used geographical appellatives, adjectives, and other words for cartographic purposes in German, Frisian, Upper Sorbian and English.

Dialects are spoken in nearly every German region (cf. map *German dialects in Germany*). In the standardisation of geographical names the dialect terms of geographical features have been and are being considered in principle, but the tendency towards standard spelling predominates. The dialect spelling of geographical names has only regional effects. The degree of conforming to the standard language differs considerably in the various districts and regions of Germany.

In many cases geographical names are not subject to the official orthographical rules. They rather follow the officially defined spellings or those which have become established usage. Deviations from the general orthographical rules occur above all in spellings as one word or as separate words, with the use of hyphens as well as in the spelling of traditional, regional dialect geographical names. In some cases old types of spelling have been maintained. In most cases, however, the spelling of German geographical names follows the orthographic rules as specified in the Toponymic Guidelines.

The Toponymic Guidelines Germany are downloadable from the StAGN homepage:  
[www.stagn.de](http://www.stagn.de), click: Publikationen/Downloads

# Minderheitensprachgebiete in Deutschland

## Minority language regions in Germany

Deutsch-Dänisches und Deutsch-Friesische Sprachgebiete  
 German-Danish and German-Frisian language regions



- Internationale Staatsgrenze / International boundary
  - Landesgrenze / State boundary
  - Siedlungsgebiet der Sorben (2002)  
Bilingual region for German and Sorbian (2002)
  - Gebiet, in dem heute Deutsch und sorbische Sprachen nebeneinander gesprochen werden  
Region where German and Sorbian languages are at present spoken coexistingly
  - Historische Grenze der friesischen Besiedlung  
Historical boundary of Frisian settlement
  - Festlandfriesisch / Continental Frisian
  - Inselfriesisch / Insular Frisian
  - Saterfriesisch / Sater Frisian
  - Siedlungsgebiet der dänischen Minderheit  
Settlement area of the Danish minority in Germany
- Kartographie / Cartography:  
 Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie,  
 Frankfurt am Main, 2010



Deutsch-sorbische Sprachgebiete  
 German-Sorbian language regions



# Deutsche Mundarten in Deutschland

## German dialects in Germany



NIEDERDEUTSCH  
LOW GERMAN

MITTELDEUTSCH  
MIDDLE GERMAN

HOCHDEUTSCH\*)  
HIGH GERMAN\*)

OBERDEUTSCH  
UPPER GERMAN

\*) Zur Bedeutung von „Hochdeutsch“ siehe Anm. in Kap. 1.2.5  
Regarding the meaning of „High German“ cf. chap. 1.2.5

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- Gebiete deutscher Dialekte / Regions of German dialects
- Übergangsbereiche / Transition areas
- Grenze zw. hoch- und niederdeutschen Dialekten  
Boundary between High and Low German dialects
- Grenze zw. ober- und mitteldeutschen Dialekten  
Boundary between Upper and Middle German dialects

Nach:  
Wiesinger, P. [21] und König, W. [20]  
Kartographie / Cartography:  
Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie,  
Frankfurt am Main, 2010