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Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda

Issues of toponymic standardization

Place-names and the standard for location addresses in Sweden*

Submitted by Sweden

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Place-names and the standard for location addresses in Sweden

Due to the Swedish Apartments Register Act (2006) the responsibility to establish location addresses has to a great extent been regulated by law, stating that for every entrance in residential buildings the municipality shall establish a location address. Before that there was an agreement between Sweden Post and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities (from 1994) implying that the municipalities are responsible for the address assigning.

In the Swedish Apartments Register Ordinance, it is regulated how, within each location address, unique designations for dwelling units shall be composed. To help the local officials responsible, the Swedish Standards Institute has produced a national standard for location addresses.

The location addresses always contain place-names. It is with the help from place-names that a location address becomes unique and unambiguous. In order to use a place-name in an address it must be known in a larger circle of place-name users. The place-names are at the same time an important carrier of a country's cultural heritage.

When establishing the names in location addresses, one shall observe "good practice for place-names" in accordance with section 1 § 4 in the Swedish Heritage Conservation Act. This means that place-names shall be written in compliance with established rules for linguistic correctness and that established place-names may not be changed without compelling reasons. This is supported by the standard. The standard is supplemented by a recently published handbook which in an informative manner describes and exemplifies how the standard may be used in practice.