Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Reports of the divisions

Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division*

*Prepared by Peter Jordan and Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria); Bernd Beinstein, Jörn Sievers
and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany); Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands); Trueman Khubheka
(South Africa); Alfred Gut (Switzerland); Kathleen Van Doren (Belgium), Chair Dutch- and
German-speaking Division.

Abstract

As a result of collaboration between experts from Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland and Belgium, this document reports the Dutch- and German-speaking Division's[1] achievements since the last UNGEGN meeting held in Nairobi in May 2009.
In accordance with the procedure in use within the Division, the achievements have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the various United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Here are a few important trends that are worth highlighting in this overview:

- *EuroGeoNames (EGN)*, a web (gazetteer) service implemented for providing official geographical names data in Europe together with European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies, remains an essential part of the Division's activities:
    - In 2011, databases from all European Member States of the DGSD will be connected;
    - Within EGN, the *Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database (EVN-DB)* for European geographical names has been developed and currently includes the exonyms and variant names of 23 European languages of 18 countries (7000 entries).
- DGSD experts are still deeply involved in the organization of training courses in toponymy (Kenia, 2009; Cameroon, 2010; Indonesia, 2010).
- The languages of minority groups receive wider attention (Austria, Germany, Netherlands).
- The recommendation to limit the number of meetings has been followed. Joint meetings have been held in:
    - Tainach (Austria, 26-30 April 2010): StAGN[2], UNGEGN DGSD and ECSEED[3], UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (Co-convenor: P. Jordan, Austria);
    - Cape Town (South Africa, 23-25 November 2010): Session on the Standardization of Geographical Names organized[4] under *Map Africa 2010*;
    - Zagreb (Croatia, 9-11 February 2011): UNGEGN ECSEED, UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetters (Convenor: P.-G. Zaccheddu, Germany), Workshop of the EGN Community.

---

[1] DGSD
[2] Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names")
[3] East Central and South-East Europe Division
[4] by the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC)

The activities of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) since the 25th UNGEGN session (Nairobi, 5-12 May 2009) are indicated below, under the headings of the various resolutions accepted mainly at the 8th and 9th UNCSGN, but also at earlier conferences.

Res. I/8: Treatment of features names beyond a single sovereignty

South Africa:
As per UNGEGN resolution I/8, the naming of cross-border features requires that countries responsible for those features should agree on their naming. This poses a challenge if one of the countries affected does not have a name authority. This has been the situation with naming of cross-border features affecting South Africa and other African countries.

Res. V/12: Collection of basic information on the standardization of geographical names

Belgium:
See Res. V/16 and VIII/6

Germany:
A (Gazetteer-) web service was developed by the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) ("Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy") in co-operation with the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names").
This (Gazetteer-) web service is based on a Web Feature Service (WFS) and thus compliant with the corresponding Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) specification.
In order to fulfil the requirement of an unambiguous data maintenance at the BKG, all geographical names information of several (topographic) vector data products – amongst others, the Digital Landscape Model 1:250 000 / 1:1 000 000 (DLM 250/1000), Administrative Units 1:250 000 (VG250) and Geographical Names 1:250 000 (GN250) – was amalgamated. According to a new data model developed for geographical names information, the respective data were converted to a single database called "Geographical Names of Germany" *(GN-DE)*. Through unique identifiers the names entries of the GN-DE are linked unambiguously to all data bases and products mentioned above. GN-DE provides that way the unique geographical names source for all BKG products and naturally for the (Gazetteer-) web service. At present the data base contains about 120 000 entries including about 700 names in the minority languages Sorbian and Frisian. The administration and maintenance tasks of the GN-DE are conducted in Frankfurt am Main, whereas the (Gazetteer-) web service is facilitated through the "National Geodata Centre" at the BKG in Leipzig (www.geodatenzentrum.de).

Netherlands:
See Res. VIII/6

Switzerland:
Informal consultations about "Directives relating to capture and spelling of names in land and cadastral surveying in the German-speaking part of Switzerland" have been launched and will end in March 2011 (*Directives / Weisungen 2011*)
New "Suggestions on spelling of names of communes and localities" as well as "Directives for spelling of train stations and bus stops" were published in 2010.
March 3, 2011: first publication of the *SwissNames3D* product. SwissNames3D is the new national geodatabase for names captured by land survey. The names from the Swiss Cadastral Survey ("Cadastral Surveying") will be permanently integrated into SwissNames3D

Res. V/15: Establishment of national geographical names authorities

Germany:
The Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names") is the body responsible for the standardization of geographical names in the German-speaking area. The StAGN is an independent scientific body without sovereign functions to which in particular scientists and experts in practice from Austria, Germany, Switzerland and other German-speaking regions are affiliated. At the 126th meeting in Leipzig in autumn 2009, the StAGN celebrated its 50th anniversary. On this occasion a colloquium about geographical names issues was held.

Netherlands:
The "Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences Advisory Commission on Geographical Names in the Netherlands" was discontinued in 2010 because of government retrenchments. Hopefully this commission will be continued in 2011 under the aegis of the "Royal Netherlands Geographical Society".

Res. V/16: Publication of geographical names in their national official form

Belgium:
Two reference documents have been published by the "National Geographic Institute of Belgium" (Institut géographique national (IGN) /Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI) / Nationalgeographisches Institut) in 2010. The administrative map of Belgium at the 1: 300 000 scale, whose last edition went back to 1995, has been entirely revised.
The three Regions (Flemish, Walloon, and Brussels-Capital Regions), the provinces and the communes with linguistic facilities are clearly marked. Apart from the names and the boundaries of the present-day communes, the map face also contains the names of the former municipalities, located by a point. An alphabetic index of the names of the communes mentions for each of them the postal code and the number of the basic map on which they can be found.
Furthermore, maps of the Belgian provinces at the 1: 100 000 scale have been published and collected in a box. This box also contains an index of the place names, classified by their fonts (principal town of a province or of an administrative district, municipality, former municipality, suburb of hamlet). A grid helps locating them.

Res. VI/7: Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

Germany:
The *Toponymic Guidelines* for Germany have been comprehensively revised and were published as 5th edition in 2010. This new edition is extended by some required amendments regarding to contents as well as to editorial updates. Particularly a chapter has been added dealing with the principles of the approval of geographical names of the Federal Republic of Germany. The new edition can be downloaded at:
http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/101125_TopR5.pdf

Netherlands:
The *Toponymic Guidelines* for the Netherlands have been revised and will be made available in digital form as 5th edition in 2011. The new edition can be downloaded from the website of the Nederlandse Taalunie ("Dutch Language Union"), the official institution in charge of the Dutch language in which the Netherlands, Belgium and Suriname participate.

Switzerland:
The *Toponymic Guidelines* for Switzerland are drawn up and currently in consultations held by the cantons. The publication is scheduled for 2011. The document is available at: *http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch*

Res. VI/11: Glossary of Toponymic Terminology

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:
A third edition of the *German Glossary of Toponymic Terminology* has been published in 2010. The re-edition which has been prepared by the StAGN follows closely the English original versions, the latest of which (version 5.0) was adopted by the UNGEGN in 2002. This version has 375 entries.
In addition, these new terms and modifications of terms have been regarded, which were ratified and approved by the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names in New York in 2007 and published 16 November 2007 as an Addendum to the UNGEGN *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*. The new edition can be downloaded at:
http://141.74.33.52/stagn/Portals/0/100419_Glossar_3.pdf

Res. VIII/1: Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names

Austria:
The Slovene names of fields and farmsteads in the Austrian federal province of Carinthia, partly settled by a Slovenian minority, have been made part of the "Austrian UNESCO List of the Immaterial Cultural Heritage" by the Austrian UNESCO Commission. This act of acknowledgement was based on a map elaborated by Vinko Wieser and has been promoted by the initiative of local citizens.
The linguist Heinz-Dieter Pohl has published a second revised and amended edition of his book *Unsere slowenischen Ortsnamen / Naša slovenska krajevna imena* ("Our Slovene Place Names"), an annotated bilingual register of names of populated places, mountains and water bodies in Carinthia, but also with reference to Slavonic place names in other parts of Austria. The book was presented in Tainach, 26 April 2010, at the occasion of a meeting of the StAGN.

Germany:
In Germany four languages have been officially recognized as minority languages: Danish, Frisian, Sorbian/Sorabic and Romanes (the language of the Sinti and Roma). Two of them are claiming the naming of geographical names in their minority language: Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic.
The new 5th edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines* of Germany (see also contribution to Res. VI/7) contains a list of geographical appellatives, adjectives and other words for cartographic purposes in the languages German, Frisian, Upper Sorbian and English. This list shall be helpful to foreign users to read and evaluate German cartographic publications in which apart from German also Frisian and Upper Sorbian geographical names and generic terms appear. The list shows only frequently occurring appellatives of geographical names.

Netherlands:
A new chair for the Frisian language was inaugurated at the "Amsterdam Municipal University" in February 2011.

Res VIII/4: Exonyms

Austria:

A working group of the AKO, the "Austrian Board on Geographical Names", has revised the *Vorschläge zur Schreibung geographischer Namen in österreichischen Schulatlanten* ("Proposals for the Rendering of Geographical Names in Austrian School Atlases") published in 1994 and will soon publish a new version.
The first issue of these proposals has almost completely been implemented in Austrian school atlases and it can be expected that also the revised version will have a similar effect.
The focus of these proposals or guidelines is on the selection of exonyms suited for the use in school atlases and other educational media.
The Working Group "Cartographic Names Research", conducted by Roman Stani-Fertl, has published an article on the topic "Toponyms on history maps"[5] highlighting the principle that on thematic maps showing historical situations, the name forms to be applied are the ones which are the most usual in the publication language for the historical period in question.

Germany:

Within the EuroGeoNames project (see Res. VIII/6), the *Exonyms and Other Variant Names Database (EVN-DB)* for European geographical names has been developed. Exonyms and variant names of 23 European languages of 18 countries were integrated in the database. These countries are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands and Turkey. At the moment the database contains 7000 entries. All names are classified according to their status. The database is currently expanded.

Netherlands:

For the EuroGeoNames project, current exonyms in the Dutch language have been made available.

Res VIII/5: Joint meetings of the linguistic/geographical divisions and working groups of the UNGEGN

Austria:

From 26th to 30th April 2010 in Tainach (Austria, Carinthia), a joint meeting of the StAGN, the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms (WGE), the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD), and the UNGEGN East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) with in total 58 participants from all continents took place.
An excursion titled *Bilingual Carinthia* offered a.o. visits to a bilingual kindergarten and school.
The WGE meeting was devoted to *Trends in exonym use*. The proceedings will be published by May 2011 and be available at the 26th UNGEGN Session in Vienna.
The DGSD meeting was the occasion to hand the chair of the Division from Austria to Belgium following the Division's rotation principle.

Germany:

A joint meeting of the EuroGeoNames project and the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic data files and gazetteers was arranged at the 20th Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the UNGEGN held in Zagreb, Croatia, in February 2011.

---

[5] in the Journal *Österreich in Geschichte und Literatur (mit Geographie)* ["Austria in History and Literature (with Geography")]

South Africa:
Map Africa 2010 was scheduled from November 23 to 25 2010 at Cape Town International Convention Centre (Cape Town, South Africa). The theme of the Conference was *Geospatial Readiness for Building Africa* which was aimed at highlighting the significant role of geospatial technologies in the areas which are considered as the building blocks of a nation, like infrastructure and utilities, cadastral mapping, land information management system (LIS), land policies, mining and exploration, emergency management, etc.
As a part of the technical agenda of the Conference, the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC), Department of Arts and Culture, South Africa, organized a session on the Standardization of Geographical Names. The session was well attended by most African countries who committed themselves to revive UNGEGN activities within their respective regions.

Res VIII/6: Integration of geographical names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

Co-funded by the eContentplus programme of the European Union, a web (gazetteer) service infrastructure – called *EuroGeoNames (EGN)* – has been implemented for providing official geographical names data in Europe together with European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs) since 2009. The overall management of the EuroGeoNames infrastructure is conducted by EuroGeographics[6] together with the German "Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy" (BKG).

Belgium:
In the middle of 2009, the "National Geographic Institute" (IGN / NGI) has connected itself to EGN and has put the most recent data concerning the names of the administrative units and the inhabited places in Belgium (about 11 000 names) at the disposal of the surfers. Moreover, it gave EuroGeographics the permission to have these data tested by potential users within the European institutions.
These same data have been integrated in the prototype of *Cartesius* [7], a project of which the aim is to spotlight the Belgian historic cartographic patrimony, where they will be used for location purposes.

Germany:
 The German dataset connected to EGN is a single database called "Geographical Names of Germany" *(GN-DE)*. The GN-DE dataset is currently used for the geographical names data provision within the "German Spatial Data Infrastructure" (*GDI-DE*) and is therefore also the rationale for the INSPIRE[8] data provision for European purposes. Considering that the data content for GN-DE is based on a map scale 1: 250 000 only a cooperation of the Federal Government with the German Federal States (Länder) - the latter are responsible for data based on large scales - is envisaged in order to provide a unique source for geographical names data in Germany.

Netherlands:
Names data from the 1: 10 000 core topographic data file have been made available for the EGN service.

Switzerland:
In 2011, *SwissNames*, the new national geodatabase for names will be linked to EGN.

---

[6] EuroGeographics is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 2001 as the membership association and representative body of the European national mapping, land registry and cadastral agencies
[7] The Cartesius project is a cooperation of the "Royal Library of Belgium", the "National Archive", the "Royal Museum for Central Africa" and the "National Geographic Institute" for bringing historical maps, photographs and other historical material online for the general public and the scientific community, by the creation of a common graphic geoportal.
[8] Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

Res VIII/7: Toponymic data exchange formats and standards

Germany:

EGN is providing a gazetteer service for Europe and its specification will be made compliant with the INSPIRE Implementing Directive (COMMISSION REGULATION - EU - No 1089/2010 of 23 November 2010 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services):
http://eur- lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:323:0011:0102:EN:PDF).
A Technical Guidance document describes the INSPIRE Data Specifications for the spatial data theme Geographical Names:
(http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/INSPIRE_DataSpecification_GN_v3.0.1.pdf).
The EGN infrastructure – from the technological point of view – provides a service architecture for a real service needed for Europe within the context of INSPIRE. For this developing process several UNGEGN documents were used as reference material. The Federal Government and the Federal States will work on the consolidation of existing specifications and will determine common requirements for the geographical names data collection and maintenance in Germany in order to provide a unique source for the national geographical names data as well as for the provision to Europe.

Res VIII/11: Pronunciation

Belgium:
See IX/6

Res VIII/12: Standardization of names of countries

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:
An updated list of country names in German language was published by the StAGN as 11th edition as of December 2010. The list, collated by the StAGN, is a synopsis of country names taken from officially issued publications of the Foreign Ministries of the three countries. The StAGN list is commented and with additional information.

Netherlands:
The list of country names contained in the EGN exonym service files has been updated.

Res VIII/15: Support for training and publications

Austria:
The proceedings of a symposium held on 10 and 11 March 2009 - at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the "Austrian Board on Geographical Names" (AKO), and of place-name research at the "Institute for Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names" of the "Austrian Academy of Sciences" as well as in celebration of the 65th birthday of Isolde Hausner – have been published under the title *Geographische Namen – Viefalt und Norm* ("Geographical Names – Variety and Norm") as Addendum 6 of the book series *Österreichische Namenforschung* ("Austrian Names Research").
They reflect history, tasks and perspectives of the AKO (author: Jordan), compare national standardization efforts in various countries (Kerfoot, Ormeling, Nyström, Päll), contain contributions to Austrian and Central European names research (Wiesinger, Šrámek, Eichler, Plangg, Anreiter) and highlight Isolde Hausner and her works (Bergmann, Pohl).

Germany, Netherlands:
Representatives from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, as well as staff members of the BKG, took part as lecturers in the UNGEGN toponymy courses held in Nairobi (Kenia) in 2009 and Yaoundé (Cameroon) in 2010.
Professor Ormeling also gave presentations on toponymy at Bakosurtanal, the "Coordinating Mapping Agency", in Indonesia in 2010.

Res. IX/4: Geographical names as an intangible cultural heritage

Netherlands:
To highlight the importance of the preservation of geographical names, a special publication[9] was issued by the Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland ("Advisory Commission on Geographical Names in the Netherlands") targeted at all municipalities who under the Municipality Act and Basic Registration Act have now been put in charge of deciding on the spelling of the names of all geographical objects within their territory, and have to provide all addresses within this territory.

Res. IX/6: Geographical names database of UNGEGN

Belgium:
Information on the names of the country, its capital and the kingdom's eight localities with more than 100 000 inhabitants (3 in the Flemish Region, 3 in the Walloon Region and 2 in the Brussels-Capital Region) and their pronunciation has been transmitted for the UNGEGN database

Res. IX/7: Dissemination of information concerning the origin and meaning of geographical names

Austria:
In the framework of the "German Geographical Congress 2009" in Vienna, the biannual main event of geographers for German-speaking countries, a thematic session on "Place names as mediators of space-related identity" was arranged.
Papers in this session chaired by H. Paulig and P. Jordan were presented by Y. Kathrein on place names at a historical mining site (by the example of Tyrol), H. Paulig and S. Handrick on the importance of place names for the identity of small linguistic groups (by the example of the Sorbs in Lusatia), H.-D. Pohl on place names in a high mountain valley (by the example of Kals) and by P. Jordan on exonyms as an expression of cultural networks.
The series of annual symposia on names research in Kals (Austria, East Tyrol) organised by H.-D. Pohl has by the most recent symposium from 10 to 12 June 2010 reached the round number of 25.

Belgium:
In 2010, an expert team of the Flemish section of the "Royal Commission for Toponymy and Dialectology" has published a dictionary on the origin of the names of the Flemish communes under the title *De Vlaamse gemeentenamen: een verklarend woordenboek*[10] ("The names of the Flemish communes: an explaining dictionary").

---

[9] *Ardrijkskundige namen, een gemeentezaak*
[10] *De Vlaamse gemeentenamen: een verklarend woordenboek* / F. Debrabandere, M. Devos, P. Kempeneers, V. Mennen, H. Ryckeboer, W. Van Osta (...) . – Leuven: Davidsfonds, 2010