

**Twenty-eight session
28 April – 2 May 2014**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

Reports of the divisions

Report of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division *

* Prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria); Bernd Beinstein and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Chair DGSD (Germany); Ferjan Ormeling and Tjeerd Tichelaar (Netherlands); Jean-Christophe Guélat and Alfred Gut (Switzerland)

Summary

The Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN consists of experts from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Suriname and Switzerland.

This document reports the achievements of the DGSD since 2012. The achievements have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the various UNCSGN. The full text of the paper is being issued in English only.

The following summary provides selected highlights only:

Provision and dissemination of geographical names data

In Germany the (gazetteer) web service has been evolved continuously. In Switzerland the first publication of *swissNAMES^{3D}* is planned as the new national geodatabase for names.

In the Netherlands a pronunciation module, which had been made part of the website before but was withdrawn for improvement, was added again in 2014 to the website, allowing users to find out the pronunciation of the Dutch exonyms listed.

An updated list of country names in German language was published by the Permanent Committee on Geographical names (StAGN) as 13th edition as of January 2014. The list is a synopsis of country names officially issued by the Foreign Ministries of the three countries, supplemented with comments made by StAGN.

Participation at meetings & further activities

Representatives of Austria and the Netherlands participated in the joint meeting of the WG on Publicity and Funding and Evaluation and Implementation held in Seoul in June 2013.

The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) organized a meeting and a bilingual symposium on geographical names at the Polish-German border together with the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland in Görlitz in March 2014.

DGSD representatives took part as lecturers in several UNGEGN toponymy courses. The web toponymy course for the International Cartographic Association (ICA) has been extended.

As a pre-conference event of the 26th International Cartographic Conference in Dresden, three ICA commissions/working groups (on Atlases, on the History of Cartography, on Toponymy) have organized a seminar on historical maps, atlases and toponymy at the Leibniz Institute of Regional Geography [Leibniz Institut für Länderkunde]. The seminar saw 40 registered participants from 18 countries and 17 paper presentations.

Introduction

As a result of collaboration between experts from Austria, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland, this document reports the Dutch- and German-speaking Division's¹ achievements since the last United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) held in New York in 2012.

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 UNCSGN.

Res. I/7 and II/19 Regional meetings

Meetings of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division were held in:

- New York, UN Headquarter 06-08-2012

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

Germany:

The (Gazetteer-) web service developed in 2007 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") has been evolved continuously.

This (Gazetteer-) web service is based on a Web Feature Service (WFS) and thus compliant with the corresponding Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) specification. All geographical names information of several (topographic) vector data products based on scale level 1:200.000 and smaller was amalgamated. Technically the geographical names information is maintained in 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 provided by BKG. At present the data base contains about 120 000 entries including more than 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).

Currently a project is aiming at strengthening the collaboration with the Federal States in Germany ("Länder") and increase the content of the national web service and integrate names data from large scales (1:25.000 – 1:10.000).

¹ DGSD

Switzerland:

Autumn 2014: first publication of the *swissNAMES^{3D}* product planned. *swissNAMES^{3D}* will be the new national geodatabase for names captured by land survey. Part of the new product are names of localities (geometry polygon), local names (polygon), mountains (point), regions (polygon) and other names of topographic objects (streets, buildings, areas, POI's).

swissNAMES^{3D} covers the whole area of Switzerland. The multilingualism will be supported. In 2013 the first collection of Landscape names of Switzerland has been published. The Landscape names will also be part of the new product *swissNAMES^{3D}*. The geographical denominations and the correspondent validity polygons are an important base for maps and geodata at small scale.

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

Austria, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland:

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.

Netherlands:

The Commission on geographical names in the Netherlands (Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland) that used to be part of the Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences was institutionally relocated and is now part of the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society (Postbus 805, 3500 AV, Utrecht).

The Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie) is an international body in charge of the Dutch language, of which Belgium, the Netherlands and Suriname are members. It has a working group for the standardization of Dutch exonyms (Werkgroep Buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen)

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

Austria

In the course of a comprehensive administrative reform in the Austrian federal province Styria [Steiermark] 8 districts [Politische Bezirke] were merged into 4 and 542 communes [Gemeinden] are by the end of 2014 to be merged into 288. In the cases of district mergers two of the four new districts assumed new names, two preserved the names of the former

districts by name combinations. Naming of the newly merged communes meets partly major problems, because it seems to be difficult for the old communes to abandon their names completely. Since Austrian communes are legally entitled to determine their names independently, guidelines elaborated by the Provincial Board on Geographical Names in accordance with the Austrian are not binding and always respected.

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

Germany:

In Germany five languages have been officially recognized as minority languages: Danish, Frisian, Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic and Romanes (the language of the Sinti and Roma). Three of them are claiming the naming of geographical names in their minority language: Frisian and Upper and Lower Sorbian/Sorabic.

Since 2011 about 670 Sorbian and 20 Frisian names are presented in the webservice WFS GN-DE of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), in fact, not only as a variant or secondary name but, like the German name, as an equally entitled main entry.

The map “Federal Republic of Germany at 1:1 million scale, geographical regions – their names and margins” (since 2008) shows names of geographical regions in Sorbian and Frisian languages in those regions where the minority language is spoken.

The 5th edition of the *Toponymic Guidelines* of Germany 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.

The Nordfriisk Instituut in Bredstedt/Bräist, the central scientific institution in North Frisia for the preservation and promotion of and research on the Frisian language, culture and history, published in 2011 a new map of North Frisia which shows in the index more than 400 Frisian names and also about 200 Danish names.

Netherlands:

To the website of the Dutch Language Union (called Taalunieversum, and to be found at http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/) a list of the Frisian versions of place names in bilingual Dutch-Frisian province of Fryslân will be added, with the information which of the versions is considered the official one presently.

Res VIII/4: Exonyms

Austria:

An electronic version of the „Recommendations for the rendering of geographical names in Austrian educational media“, published as a printed book in 2012 by the Austrian Board on Geographical Names, is going to be elaborated. It exists already as a draft version, which has still to be refined and completed functionally and as regards contents by members of the Austrian Board and a group of teachers, before it goes public. The Austrian Board will then dispose over a permanent standardization project that is continuously updated through controlled input from Board members as well as external visitors.

Netherlands:

To the website of the Dutch Language Union (called Taalunieversum, and to be found at http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/ in the course of 2013 designations of the inhabitants of country capitals will be added (for instance Paris: Parijzenaar (male, single), Parisienne (female, single). Dutch versions of historical names (such as Roman Empire, Babylon, Oxus) will be added to this website as well in 2014.

Switzerland:

The Federal Office of Topography swisstopo is frequently answering demands about the handling of exonyms in the national geodata products. An interpellation in the federal parliament contested the definition of exonyms of swisstopo for political reason. The scientific and non-political practice of swisstopo has been then confirmed by the Swiss Federal Council.

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

Austria, Netherlands:

Representatives of Austria and the Netherlands participated in the joint meeting of the WG on Publicity and Funding and Evaluation and Implementation held in Seoul in June 2013.

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

At the 135th meeting of the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN) ("Permanent Committee on Geographical Names") in Görlitz in March 2014, the StAGN organized a meeting and a bilingual symposium on geographical names at the Polish-German border together with the Commission on Standardization of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland.

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

Austria:

Geographical names of smaller populated places like hamlets and individual farmsteads, which had earlier been documented by the Austrian Gazetteer, published by Statistics Austria, are now incorporated into the geographical names data base of the Austrian Federal Agency of Metrology and Surveying in addition to place names represented on the series of official Austrian topographical maps.

Germany:

The German dataset provided for the INSPIRE² data provision for European purposes 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. Considering that the data content for GN-DE is based on a map scale 1: 200 000 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.

According to the open data initiative of the Federal government in Germany geographical names data from BKG are available now free of charge.

Switzerland:

In 2013, a first export of the national geographical names of Switzerland has been delivered to the technical team of EuroGeoNames EGN at the Finnish Geodetic Institute and integrated in the EGN geodatabase.

Res VIII/7: Toponymic data exchange formats and standards

Germany:

The German dataset GN-DE 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>

² Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

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 Federal Government and the Federal States is working 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

Netherlands:

In 2014 a pronunciation module, which had been made part of the website before but was withdrawn for improvement, was added again to the website, allowing users to find out the pronunciation of the Dutch exonyms listed.

Res VIII/12: Standardization of names of countries

Netherlands:

Country names have been standardised and are continually updated and can be found on the website of the Dutch Language Union (“Taalunieversum”, to be found at http://taaladvies.net/taal/aardrijkskundige_namen/

Austria, Germany, Switzerland:

An updated list of country names in German language was published by StAGN as 13th edition as of January 2014. The list is a synopsis of country names officially issued by the Foreign Ministries of the three countries, supplemented with comments made by StAGN.

Res VIII/15: Support for training and publications

Austria:

The Austrian Board of Geographical Names supported by co-editing, layout and covering the expenses the publication of two volumes of the toponymic book series Name & Place:

Peter JORDAN, Ferjan ORMELING (eds.) (2013), Toponyms in Cartography. Proceedings of the Toponymic Sessions at the 25th International Cartographic Conference, Paris, 3-8 July 2011 (= Name & Place, 2). Hamburg, Dr. Kovač.

Peter JORDAN, Paul WOODMAN (eds.) (2014), *The Quest for Definitions*. Proceedings of the 14th UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms Meeting, Corfu, 23-25 May 2013 (= Name & Place, 3). Hamburg, Dr. Kovač.

Netherlands, Germany:

Representatives from the Dutch- and German-speaking division co-organised and took part as lecturers in a toponymy course locally organised by BIG, the Indonesian National Coordinating Authority for Surveying and Mapping, 17-21 September 2012.

Representatives from the Dutch- and German-speaking Division, as well as staff members of the BKG, took part as lecturers in the UNGEGN-co-organised and sponsored International training course for trainers in toponymy, June 17-21, 2013 in Antananarive, Madagascar, locally organised by the national surveying and hydrographic organisation FTM.

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

Austria:

The linguist Heinz-Dieter Pohl has in 2013 published a book on place names in Carinthia (Heinz-Dieter Pohl: *Kleines Kärntner Namenbuch*. Klagenfurt a.W., Heyn) explaining the etymology and linguistic origin of about 600 names of populated places, landscapes and natural features. It shows the intensive mix of Slavonic and German elements in Carinthia's namescape.

The Viennese historian Peter Autengruber has published an article in the main Austrian geographical journal (*Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Geographischen Gesellschaft*, 155/2013, pp. 263-290) on street names in Vienna highlighting naming motives, historical development and current structure of the namescape as well as waves of place-names changes in the aftermath of political changes.

Austria, Germany, South Africa

As a pre-conference event of the 26th International Cartographic Conference in Dresden, three ICA commissions/working groups (on Atlases, on the History of Cartography, on Toponymy) have organized a seminar on historical maps, atlases and toponymy at the Leibniz Institute of Regional Geography [Leibniz Institut für Länderkunde]. The seminar saw 40 registered participants from 18 countries and 17 paper presentations. The host institute mainly represented by its director Sebastian Lentz, Jana Moser, Christian Hahnwinkel and Heinz-Peter Brogiato, head of the library, provided the participants with a most convenient and

hospitable environment. The meeting was also characterized by intensive and fruitful discussions between the three subdisciplines of cartography.

After opening speeches of the three WG/commission chairs Elri Liebenberg (Commission on the History of Cartography), Paulo de Menezes (Working Group on Toponymy) and Peter Jordan (Commission on Atlases) as well as of Sebastian Lentz, the scientific program started with the following structure:

Session 1: Place names and atlases (Chair: Peter Jordan, Austria)

Jordan, Peter (Austria): Principles of place names rendering in the various kinds of atlases
Spiess, Ernst (Switzerland): Toponymy in school atlases in a multilingual environment – its evolution in the Swiss school atlases during more than 100 years
Sieber, René (Switzerland): How to deal with historical maps in an interactive atlas – Experiences from the Atlas of Switzerland
Wolodtschenko, Alexander (Germany): Towards a cartosemiotic research of names in diverse atlases
Marek, Tomáš (Czechia): Place names on 3rd Military Mapping of Těšín Silesia
Losang, Eric (Germany): nationalatlas.nationalatlas.de – An interactive database on national atlases

Session 2: Cartographic place-names research (Chair: Paulo de Menezes, Brazil)

Ferland, Yaïves (Canada): The electoral toponymic drifts: Mapping the evolution of political constituency names and limits in Québec
Fuchs, Stephan (Germany): Place names as ethnocultural indicators – The example of German toponyms on maps of the American Midwest
Jeney, János (Hungary/Germany): Relation of toponymy and minorities living in the Vojvodina Region in the beginning of the 20th century
Losang, Eric (Germany): Geoimaginaries – A virtual research environment for the humanities

Session 3: Place names on old maps (Chair: Elri Liebenberg, South Africa)

Ormeling, Ferjan (Netherlands): Names on old maps
Board, Christopher (United Kingdom): Reflections on the links between toponymy and lettering on Jeppe's and other maps of the Transvaal between 1877 and 1907
Palagiano, Cosimo (Italy): The shape of Italy on ancient maps
Slukan Altić, Mirela (Croatia): The German contribution to the 19th century cartography of European Turkey with special regard to Heinrich Kiepert
Geršič, Matjaž; Kladnik, Drago (Slovenia): Cigale's World Atlas and its impact on Slovenian exonyms

Menezes, Paulo de (Brazil): Linking Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil, through historical cartography and toponymy

Qi, Qingwen et al. (China): Ancient maps and mapping technologies in Ming, Qing Dynasty and Mingguo Period

Braun, Lindsay Frederick (USA): Colonial conquest and toponym shifts in the Kei Valley, South Africa, 1850-1900

The proceedings will be published open access by the host institute and as a volume of its book series “forum IfL”.

Switzerland:

The register of the geographical names of the canton Schwyz has been published in 2012. One issue of the register is a scientific complete edition in six volumes and the second issue is a shortened popular edition in one volume. 1. Viktor Weibel: Schwyzer Namenbuch. Die Orts- und Flurnamen des Kantons Schwyz. 6 Bände. Schwyz 2012 (Verlag Triner). 2. Viktor Weibel: Vom Dräckloch i Himel. Namenbuch des Kantons Schwyz with USB-Stick. Schwyz 2012 (Verlag Triner). It is quite remarkable that the popular edition was published together with a USB-Stick. The USB-Stick contains a link to the federal geodata infrastructure and makes possible the placement of the names of the register in a digital map. The popular edition is a big success and a good promotion of local names in Switzerland.

The register of the geographical names of the canton Appenzell has been published in 2013 in an issue with 3 volumes. Stefan Sonderegger: Appenzeller Namenbuch. Die Orts- und Flurnamen des Landes Appenzell (3 Bände, insgesamt 2244 Seiten) Frauenfeld 2013 (Verlag Huber).

Res. X /4: Discouraging the commercialization of geographical names

Austria:

When in 2007 the council of a commune in the Austrian federal province Tyrol [Tirol] had decided to accept the offer of a sausage producing enterprise (Wiesbauer) to support the development of tourism infrastructure in exchange for the renaming of a prominent mountain peak from its traditional name Mullwitzkogel into Wiesbauerspitzze, the Austrian Board on Geographical Names in accordance with the Tyrolean Provincial Board disseminated a statement to this commune, to other relevant official institutions as well as to the media hinting a.o. at the value of traditional names as part of the cultural heritage. In this statement it was mentioned that traditional place names were indicators of settlement and cultural history and – like popular architecture or forms of traditional land use – part of the familiar environment of the local population and thus anchors of space-related personal and group identity. It would from the cultural point of view also be detrimental to destroy a complex and

interconnected local namespace. This statement had so far not the effect of hindering the authorities of this commune to further propagate this commercial name (on signposts, in tourism folders etc.). But this new name has up to the present day neither been represented on Austrian official topographical maps, nor on maps of the Alpine Club. (It would, however, be represented, if it had gained ground among the local population.) The statement and its echo in the media may also have contributed to discourage a second attempt of this kind.

Res. X 11.: Web-course in toponymy

Netherlands:

Slight modifications were made to the Web course in toponymy at the behest of Iran and Japan.