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Activities Relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

NORMALIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN SPAIN GAZETTEERS

Submitted By Spain*

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INTRODUCTION

Since the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization in New York in 2014, Spain informs of the progress in:

1. Normalization of geographical names and gazetteers.
2. Publication and diffusion of toponymic databases.

1. NORMALIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND GAZETTEERS

Abbreviations

IGN: Instituto Geográfico Nacional de España (National Geographic Institute of Spain).

CSG: Consejo Superior Geográfico (High Geographical Council).

CNIG: Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica (National Geographic Information Centre).

INSPIRE: Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community.

NGBE: Nomenclátor Geográfico Básico de España (Basic Geographic Gazetteer of Spain)

CENG: Comisión Especializada de Nombres Geográficos (Specialized Committee for Geographic Names).

IDEE: Infraestructura de datos espaciales de España (Spatial Data Infrastructure of Spain).

OGC: Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

1.1. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC GAZETTEER (NGN)

The Law 7/1986 for Cartography Regulation establishes that the Central Register of Cartography (IGN. Public Works Ministry) is competent in producing and conserving the National Geographic Gazetteer.

Royal Decree 1545/2007, which regulates the National Cartographic System, enlarges and develops matters related to gazetteers. It defines the National Geographic Gazetteer as a dynamic register of geo referenced names that must be used in the official cartography, and establishes that it must be registered in the Central Register of Cartography. It will be formed by harmonization of the Basic Gazetteer of Spain (NGBE) and the gazetteers of the Autonomous Communities. Selection and treatment of the names included in the National Geographic Gazetteer will comply with place names criteria approved by the Permanent Committee of the National Geographic High Council, once proposed by the Specialist Committee on Geographical Names. The NGBE will be a part of the National Reference Geographic Equipment, which means it has to be accessible, available and free.

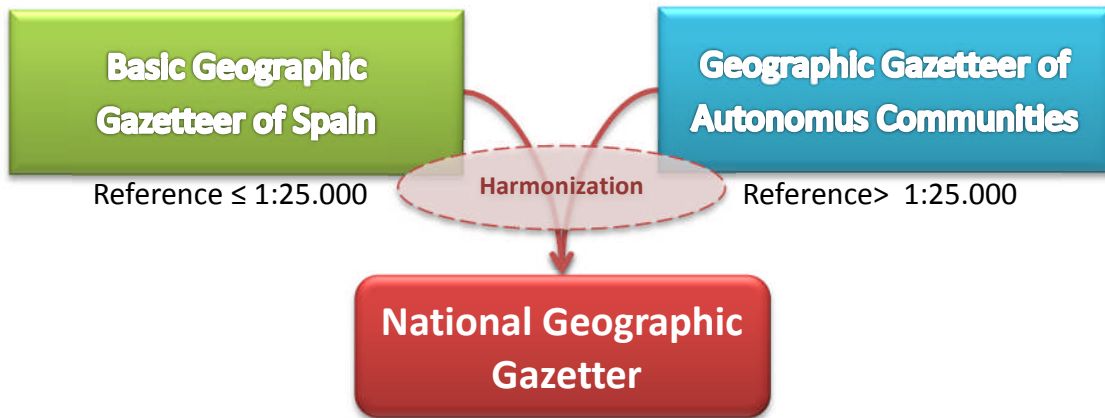


Fig 1. The National Geographic Gazetteer will be formed by harmonization of the Basic Geographic Gazetteer of Spain (NGBE) and the Geographic Gazetteer of the Autonomous Communities

1.2. BASIC GEOGRAPHIC GAZETTEER OF SPAIN (NGBE)

In 2013, the IGN released the first version of the Basic Gazetteer of Spain, which has been recently updated. The original data were the place names extracted from 1:25.000 maps of the IGN (National Topographic Digital Base – National Topographic Map).

Future versions, now being finished, will result of the comparison between NGBE and place names, normalized or official, from the Autonomous Communities.

In this second stage, mechanisms of communication with the Autonomous Communities have been established. They have permitted to obtain place names information as well as to define the following steps in the project.

Following versions of the NGBE will be the result of the agreement between the IGN and the organizations responsible in place names in the Autonomous Communities and in the National Government. Information from the Autonomous Communities is hoped to be received throughout 2016.

The NGBE is an ambitious project, involving organizations responsible of place names at different administration levels, with the objective of creating a national core (?) of place names, normalized and/or official, harmonized to the maximum level.

1.3. GEOGRAPHIC GAZETTEER OF AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

RD 1545/2007 establishes that Autonomous Communities gazetteers will include the official place names at 1:25.000 scale maps for every Autonomous Community.

This is the list of Geographic Gazetteer of Autonomous Communities publishes according to INSPIRE:

- Nomenclátor Geográfico de Andalucía (NGA) (<http://www.ideandalucia.es/wfs-nga/services?>)

- Nomenclàtor de toponimia major i menor de la Comunitat Valenciana (<http://nomenclator.cma.gva.es/deegree-wfs/services>)
- Nomenclàtor Geogràfic de Euskadi (NGEus) (http://www.geo.euskadi.net/WMS_CARTOGRAFIA)
- Base de datos de Toponimia Oficial de Navarra (<http://idena.navarra.es/ogc/wfs>).
- Toponimia de Aragón (<http://sitar.aragon.es/AragonWMS>).

2. PUBLICATION AND DIFFUSION OF TOPONYMIC DATABASES

Public Administrations must publish their gazetteers and web services according to the interoperability rules for spatial data, and publish their information as web services such as catalogue services, map services, download services, etc. The main regulations are:

- a) Law 14/2010, 5th of July, on the infrastructures and the services of geographical information in Spain (LISIGE) to incorporate to the Spanish juridical system the recommendations 2007/2/CE of the European Parliament and of the Advice (INSPIRE).
- b) European Regulation (UE) N^o 1089/2010, 23 November, which applies the EU Directive of the European Parliament and the Council in interoperability of spatial datasets and services.
- c) D2.8.1.3 INSPIRE Data Specification on Geographical Names – Guidelines. Regulation (UE) N^o 976/2009, 19 October, which applies EU Directive 2007/2/CE of the European Parliament and the Council about web services.

The High Geographic Council, as the National Cartography Authority is responsible for applying European regulations in Spain. Technical Groups of Work, one of them being the Technical Group of Work of Geographical Names, offer help and technical support to organizations responsible for implementing those EU regulations and INSPIRE Directive.

The Basic Geographic Gazetteer of Spain (NGBE) and some other gazetteers of the Autonomous Communities are published through WFS services according to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 of 19 October 2009 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Network Services, Technical Guidance for the implementation of INSPIRE Download Services and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) 2.0 version, following the data model described in D2.8.1.3 INSPIRE Data Specification on Geographical Names – Guidelines.

This data specification describes a basic model, including compulsory fields for geographical names, taking into account multilingualism (http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/documents/Data_Specifications/INSPIRE_DataSpecification_GN_v3.1.pdf).

The NGBE is also downloadable at National Geographic Information Centre (CNIG), as a part of the National Reference Geographic Equipment.

Information about datasets created according to INSPIRE are submitted to the EU. The report for implementation of INSPIRE in Spain in 2015 is available at <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/es/eu/inspire/monitoring/envvvtibg/>.

There is a place names browser in the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Spain web portal (<http://www.idee.es/IDEE-Gazetteer/Gazetteer.html?locale=es>), which allows to search geographic features (river, mountain, city, etc.) by their names selecting several criteria. It also allows to consult attributes of the name and to locate it onto a map. You can also search in other Autonomous Communities gazetteers belonging to the Spatial Data Infrastructure of Spain (<http://www.idee.es/es/web/guest/nombres-geograficos>).

3. CONCLUSIONS.

Since X Conference, Spain has been having initiatives and taking measures to encourage interoperability, harmonization and normalizations of place names, following UN recommendations and UE regulations.

The National Geographic High Council, as the National Cartography Authority is responsible for applying European regulations in Spain.

All these efforts have materialized in national and regional gazetteers according to INSPIRE, which allows data interoperability between different authorities in place names, through interoperable web services with a common model.

Spain will continue working in encouraging the creation and publication of normalized and interoperable gazetteers inside our country, and will produce the National Geographic Gazetteer (NGN), formed by harmonization of the Basic Gazetteer of Spain (NGBE) and the gazetteers of the Autonomous Communities.