

**Twenty-ninth session  
Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 April 2016**

---

**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda**

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

**Provision of an INSPIRE-conform web service for  
Geographical Names in Germany**

Submitted by Germany\*

---

\* Prepared by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany), Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD).

## **Provision of an INSPIRE<sup>1</sup>-conform web service for Geographical Names in Germany**

### **Summary**

BKG has been providing geographical names via a web feature service (WFS) since 2006. In the last few months the geographical name data and the Implementing Rule for 'Interoperability of Spatial Data Sets and Services' (this is, data specification of geographical names, Annex I) of the European geospatial data infrastructure (keyword: INSPIRE) have been brought into conformity. BKG is one of the first institutions in Europe which provides an INSPIRE-compliant national geographical names data service. According to the INSPIRE schedule the obligation is necessary in the year 2017.

The INSPIRE-conform geographical names dataset of BKG is already available via the European data portal (<http://www.europeandataportal.eu/de/>). The European data portal collects metadata from information of the public sector which are available in European countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe, <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

## **Provision of an INSPIRE<sup>2</sup>-conform web service for Geographical Names in Germany**

Geographical names play an important role for analyzing digital data. For example the users of geoportals and Location Based Services very often use names of settlements or administrative areas as a search term.

BKG has been providing geographical names via a web feature service (WFS) since 2006. This online service includes all relevant feature types from the digital landscape model scale 1:250.000 (DLM250), which have one or more geographical names (among others in the case of multilingualism).

The name data base of BKG contains approx. 136.000 entries. It contains names of the object themes ‚settlement‘, ‚transportation‘, ‚vegetation‘, ‚hydrography‘, ‚relief‘, areas and regions‘ with attributes regarding administrative hierarchy (administrative code), river system (hydrographical key number in accordance with LAWA), number of inhabitants, size (area, length), position (geometry data from DLM250 as well as additional attributive geographical coordinates), postcodes, status or language of the geographical name and height (height in meters).

In the last few months the geographical name data and the Implementing Rule for ‚Interoperability of Spatial Data Sets and Services‘ (this is, data specification of geographical names, Annex I) of the European geospatial data infrastructure (keyword: INSPIRE) have been brought into conformity. Thus, BKG is one of the first institutions in Europe which provides an INSPIRE-compliant national geographical names data service. According to the INSPIRE schedule the obligation is only necessary in the year 2017.

The surveying and cadastral administration of the Länder, the statistical offices and the Federal Statistical Office, private and academic institutions for language and culture etc. are potentially data-holding authorities for INSPIRE (in accordance with the German law “Geodatenzugangsgesetz – GeoZG”) for geographical names data, though so far with highly different density and diversity.

Considering multilingualism and the cultural heritage in Europe, people often use different spellings and languages when talking about one and the same place. Even within a country more than one (official) spelling is used. These INSPIRE-supported principals also underline the United Nations resolutions on the standardization of geographical names which are reflected in Germany in the work of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN).

---

<sup>2</sup> INSPIRE – Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe, <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

## INSPIRE GN data schema:

	GN data of BKG
<b>mandatory</b>	- name(s) (different spellings)
	- geometry
	- unique object identifier
<b>'voidable'</b>	- feature type (feature type classification)
	- language {3-letter code ISO 639-3 or -5}
	- nameStatus {official, standardised, historical, other}
	- link to,relatedSpatialObject'
	- script {4-letter code ISO 15924}
	- ,nativeness' {endonym, exonym}
	- transliterationScheme
	-grammatical gender {masc., fem., neuter, common}
	- grammatical number {singular, plural, dual}
	- pronunciation {IPA, audio files}
	- sourceOfName
- typeLocal	
- lifeCycleInfo {start/end of the feature/object in the original DB}	
- ...	

### *1 - INSPIRE Data schema fulfilled by BKG*

The geographical names database of BKG can be accessed via the web service „WFS-GN-DE“ at the geodata service center ([www.geodatenzentrum.de](http://www.geodatenzentrum.de)).

The INSPIRE-conform geographical names dataset of BKG is already available via the European data portal (<http://www.europeandataportal.eu/de/>). The European data portal collects metadata from information of the public sector which are available in European countries.

This also includes information regarding the provision of data and the advantages of their further use.