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TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION  
EXISTING EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Toponymic education and practice in Sweden

Paper submitted by Sweden

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## TOPONYMIC EDUCATION AND PRACTICE IN SWEDEN.

Paper presented by Sweden.

### 1. Introduction.

There are no courses in toponomy either at the technical colleges or universities at which survey engineers and professional surveyors receive their formal training in Sweden. In the literature and compendia there are short sections dealing with the choice and placement of geographic names, but these subjects are rarely included in the course plans. A course in traditional cartography will be started this autumn at the university in Gävle-Sandviken. The National Land Survey (NLS) is involved. The course will include a number of lectures on toponomy.

### 2. In-house activities.

There is a built-up need for training; and since 1983 the NLS has run in-house training programmes, covering both theoretical and practical toponomy, to try to meet its own needs for trained staff. The participants are mainly cartographic field staff and those involved in editing the text on the national map series. Both of these groups have normally had long practical experience. Middle management staff has also, to a limited extent, participated in the courses. Currently there is a two day course designed mainly for the production of the Land Use map.

The course syllabus includes:

A presentation of the NLS's role as a place names authority: its powers and responsibilities. International activities.

A presentation of place name authorities with whom the NLS cooperates in Sweden: the institutes of place

names research and the central Office of National Antiquities.

A review of the first editions of the Land Use and Topographic Map series.

Field work.

Orthography.

Orthography in minority language areas.

Selection and editing procedures.

Placement procedures.

The course leaders and the teachers are normally NLS staff, but both the institutes of place name research and the Central Office of National Antiquities are invited to provide teachers.

At the NLS there are manuals for both the Land Use and Topographic Map series which serve as guides. They contain sections dealing with the handling of geographical names.

3. Nordic symposia on the planning and care of place names.

In 1977, NORNA, the Nordic Cooperation Committee for Name Studies arranged a symposium on planning and the care of place names in Helsinki, Finland. In the Nordic countries there are many questions of common interest such as the roles of the State and the communes in the allocation of place name; orthographic norms for geographical names; gazetteers; and the cultural and social significance of place names in a changing society. At this first symposium, fifteen papers were presented. The papers and the discussions have been published.

In 1982 a second, national symposium, with the same theme, was held in Gävle. The symposium was arranged by the NLS. There were two main themes: aspects of good place name care (language, cultural and official activities) and the role of the communes in place name activities. International aspects of place name care were also discussed. The papers and discussions were published as a report.

In 1988 a third symposium will be held in Gothenburg with the theme, Place name care: the current situation. There are plans to also discuss pronunciation of place names and the production of a handbook of place names in the communes. The Board of Dialects, Place Names, Folksong and Folkmusic Institutes will be responsible for the symposium together with the University of Gothenburg.