Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
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Item 12 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Toponymic data files: national gazetteers

Digital database of geographical names of Germany
(GN 250 and GN 1000)

Submitted by Germany**

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The Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) (formerly: Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, IFAG) had already for several years compiled, updated and distributed, in close cooperation with the Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen (StAGN, permanent committee on geographical names), a database of geographical names of the Federal Republic of Germany. The names shown on the General Map of Germany at 1:500 000 scale formed the stock of this database.

The database has in the meantime been extended by those names contained additionally on the Joint Operation Graphics at 1:250 000 scale (JOG250).

The Digital geographical names database GN 250 is primarily designed to provide the names for the digital compilation of the JOG250. The database contains all the names of towns, communes, parts of towns and communes, hydrographic features, mountains, islands and other geographical features located on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and which are listed in the Gazetteer Federal Republic of Germany as well as shown on the JOG250.

Because some users are only interested in names of cities and communes of Germany a short version called GN 1000 is offered. This version contains about 14 000 entries. The information is the same as in GN 250.

General overview

Application scale: 1 : 250 000 and smaller
Areal coverage: Territory of the Federal Republic of Germany
Coordinate system: Geographic, Gauß-Krüger, UTM32
Reference system: Geographic - WGS84
Gauß-Krüger - Potsdam Datum (Fundamental Point Rauenberg)
UTM32 - Ellipsoid + Datum WGS84

Number of entries: GN 250 GN 1000
- general 46 919 14 222
- cities 2 068 2 068
- communes 11 765 11 765
- parts of cities and communes 29 954 -
- administrative units 369 369
- hydrographic features 1 346 -
- mountains 702 -
- landscapes, islands, mountain ranges 579 -

The databases contain the following information:
- geographical name and synonym (if existing),
- statistical key number,
- coordinates, elevation,
- areal extension,
- number of inhabitants,
- feature codes,
- reference to sheet numbers of official map series.

The statistical key number (8 figures) describes to which Land (federal state, figures 1 and 2), Regierungsbezirk (district, figure 3), Kreis (county, figures 4 and 5), and Gemeinde (commune, figures 6 to 8) a particular location belongs. Parts of towns or communes have attached the statistical key number of that town or commune to which they belong.
The dataset is available on CD-ROM in ArcInfo EXPORT format, ArcInfo GENERATE format and ArcInfo SHAPE format. Test files are downloadable at:

http://www.ifag.de/Kartographie/Produkte/Vektor/f_vek2.htm

click: GN 250 or GN 1000

Further information may be obtained from:

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