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English only

**Eighth United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

Berlin, 27 August-5 September 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical
names since the Seventh Conference**

Report of Austria

Submitted by Austria**

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The AKO held 9 meetings (meeting No 59 to No 67 = two per annum) since the 7th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. During this period the following toponomastical activities were set:

1. Organizational activities

1.1 The AKO in its 67th meeting on April, 11th 2002 held elections of the chairperson and the deputy chair for the next period of five years. By secret ballot I. HAUSNER was elected as chairperson and P. JORDAN as deputy chairman.

1.2 On April, 26th 1998 Prof. Dr. Josef Breu has died. He was the founder of the “Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kartographische Ortsnamenkunde” (AKO, Working Group for Cartographic Toponymy) in 1969 and herewith the initiator of institutionalized names standardization in Austria. On the international level he moulded through several decades the work of UNGEGN and in some topics pointed the way to the future of names standardization. The AKO in its 60th session paid tribute to his merits with obituaries from experts of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, from the Austrian Geographical Society, from the Statistik Austria and from his personal friend Prof. Back, who accompanied his scientific work through many years.

2. Technical activities

2.1 Report of the official authorities

2.1.1 The Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen (BEV, Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, www.bev.gv.at) reported on its publication of the new map series of Austria 1:50 000, 1:25 000 V, 1:200 000, 1: 500 000.

I refer to the detailed information paper under topic 9 (b).

The two CD-Roms “Austrian Map” (West and East) contain the information from the database GEONAM for the scales 1:50 000, 1: 200 000 and 1: 500 000. It offers manifold functions such as overlay, research and zoom functions. More product information see under www.austrianmap.at/Amap_CD/produkt.htm. It is available for the price of € 89. A short version is available online under the account: www.austrianmap.at. This cost free service contains all names of the long version and has some special functions (e.g. e-mail box for route planning) but lacks the whole functionality of the long version.

2.1.2 The former Hydrographisches Zentralbüro (HZB, Hydrographical Central Bureau) reported on its new organizational structure: it is now a department of the Bundesamt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, Abteilung IV/A3 (Federal Ministry of agriculture, forestry, environment and water management), www.lebensministerium.gv.at/home

The actual activities concentrate on the revision of the list of catchment areas of the river Danube in Austria between Passau and Bratislava (“Flächenverzeichnis Donaugebiet”). The publication of the first volume comprising the section from the catchment of the river Inn to the river Enns is awaited for autumn 2002.

- 2.1.3 The Statistik Austria (the former Österreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt) www.oestat.gv.at, reported on its new status: it is now an institution of public law instead of its former status as subordinate department of the Federal Chancellery.

The most important tasks to be reported here were the preparation of the census 2001. As far as the minorities are concerned the results will be made public in autumn 2002 (the minority figures for Carinthia have been published in April this year). The publication of the new gazetteer of place-names will follow in an adequate interval and in a new simplified shape: it will contain the place names selected according to inhabited places (Ortschaften), the subordinate places will not more be assigned to the relevant inhabited place.

- 2.1.4 The Burgenländische Nomenklaturkommission (Toponymic Committee of Burgenland) reported on the new regulations concerning the Croat and Hungarian minorities. The „Topographieverordnung Burgenland“ („170. Verordnung der Bundesregierung über die Bestimmung von Gebietsteilen, in denen topographische Bezeichnungen und Aufschriften nicht nur in deutscher sondern auch in kroatischer oder ungarischer Sprache anzubringen“) was published on June, 21st 2002. In this document a list of 47 place names is attached for which bilingual signs in German and Croat language and 4 place names for which bilingual signs in German and Hungarian language must be provided.
See also a detailed paper under item 9 (c).

- 2.1.5 The Magistrat der Stadt Wien, MA 41 (Municipal Authority of Vienna) reported on the finalization of the multipurpose city map of Vienna in digital form and at large scale www.magwien.gv.at:80/ma41/mzk_m1.htm

It was elaborated on the basis of aerial photographs and will be revised in three years intervals. The data can also be bought.

www.magwien.gv.at:80/ma41/mzk_m1.htm

The town council of Vienna decided in its session from December 12th, 1999 to use the new orthography in street names in the maps as well as on the street signs.

- 2.1.6 The “Österreichischer Alpenverein” (Austrian Alpine Club) www.oeav.at reported on the publication of its new map: Venedigergruppe (scale 1:25 000), with a complete revision of the geographical names by a linguist. The recent edition contains about 3 000 names while the former edition had 1 000 names. Further names are annexed in a folder.

2.1.7 The “Steirische Nomenklaturkommission” (Toponymic Committee of Styria) www.stmk.gv.at/verwaltung/stla/fachinst/StONK/StONK.htm reported on the digitalization of the “Josefinische Landesaufnahme Innerösterreichs, Land Steiermark” (land survey of Styria under the reign of emperor Josef II, 1785). The place names lists together with descriptions are in preparation and shall be published as CD-Rom.

2.2 Institutions of science and research

2.2.1 Institut für Österreichische Dialekt- und Namenlexika (Institute for the Lexicography of Austrian Dialects and Names), www.oeaw.ac.at/dinamlex, of the Austrian Academy of Sciences reported on the publication of 4 instalments of the “Altdeutsches Namenbuch” (ANB, Old German Place-name book) from 1998 to 2002. It comprises now the place names up to the letter W- and will be finished (together with linguistic registers) in three years. Together with this project a names database with the same contents is under construction.

The institute together with the German Department of the University of Vienna organized a symposium “Ortsnamen und Siedlungsgeschichte” (28th to 30th September 2000). The papers are published under the same title: Ortsnamen und Siedlungsgeschichte, ed. by Peter ERNST, Isolde HAUSNER, Elisabeth SCHUSTER, Peter WIESINGER. Universitätsverlag C.Winter, Heidelberg 2002.

2.2.2 The Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung der Universität Wien, www.univie.ac.at/geographie reported on its newest publication: Roman Stani-Fertl, Exonyme und Kartographie. Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie, Band 14. Wien 2001. See also a detailed description under item 10.

2.3 Reports on projects initiated by the AKO itself

2.3.1 The Working Group “Toponymic Datafiles” together with representatives from the “Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz” (The Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning) elaborated the Recommendation No 46 (published in 1998): “ÖROK-Empfehlung zur Standardisierung geographischer Namen”, which lists up the manifold competencies for the naming of geographical objects in Austria, www.oerok.gv.at.

2.3.2 The Working Group “Landschaftsnamen” (members: R. Stani-Fertl, H.-D. Pohl) reported the completion of its work. The names were collected on the basis of the map 1:500 000. The main entries are defined as geographical objects as to kind of feature, geographical longitude and latitude, situation. The result is published in the

scientific periodical “Österreichische Namenforschung”, vol. 27 (1999), No 1-2, p. 197-234.

- 2.3.3 The Working Group “Geographische Namendatenbank Österreich” (Geographical names database of Austria) was installed in 1998 to elaborate a revised edition of the “Geographisches Namenbuch Österreich”, ed. by Josef Breu in 1975. The new CD-Rom publication was presented to the public in March 2001. In December 2001 the Working Group convened again with the goal to work out a 2nd edition of the CD-Rom with an audio-element and with a map component.

2.4 International co-operations and connections

- 2.4.1 The AKO continues its co-operation with the StAGN and with the other German speaking countries.
Members of the AKO contributed to the StAGN recommendation: die Anwendung der Neuregelung der deutschen Rechtschreibung auf geographische Namen (The use of the new orthography of the German language for geographical names).
- 2.4.2 The General Assembly of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) in Santiago de Compostela elected I. Hausner as president for the period 1999 to 2002. Vol. 35 of the ICOS journal ONOMA was dedicated to the topic “Names Standardisation” guest editor: I. Hausner). For a detailed information see the paper under item 17 (g).
- 2.4.3 I. Hausner took part as observer in the session of the East, Central and South-East Europe division of UNGEGN in Ljubljana (19th to 21st April 1999) and in the Joint international meeting on geographical names, Ljubljana, 18th to 24th April 2002.
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