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Catalan names: from prohibited to modern

Meeting of Authorities on Toponymy
from around the world



-keno
-cino
-cinona
-celona

Recent history

Before the return of democracy in 1978, the use of Catalan forms of names for people and places was forbidden.

Before 1978

Francisco (SP)

Lérida (SP)

Now

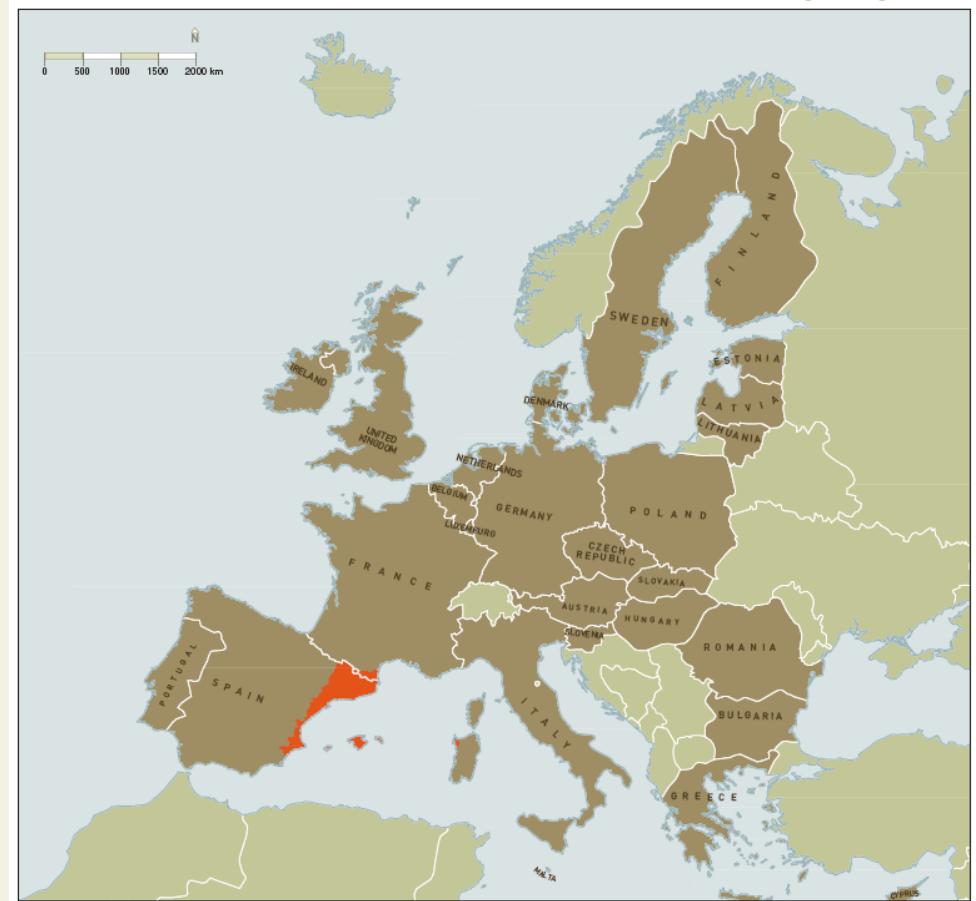
Francesc (CAT)

Lleida (CAT)

The case of the Catalan language: unique in Europe

- Now it has an official legal status.
- It is the ninth most widely spoken language in the EU.
- It is used dynamically.

Europe and the Catalan-speaking regions



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**What type of
geographical name
authority does your
country have?**

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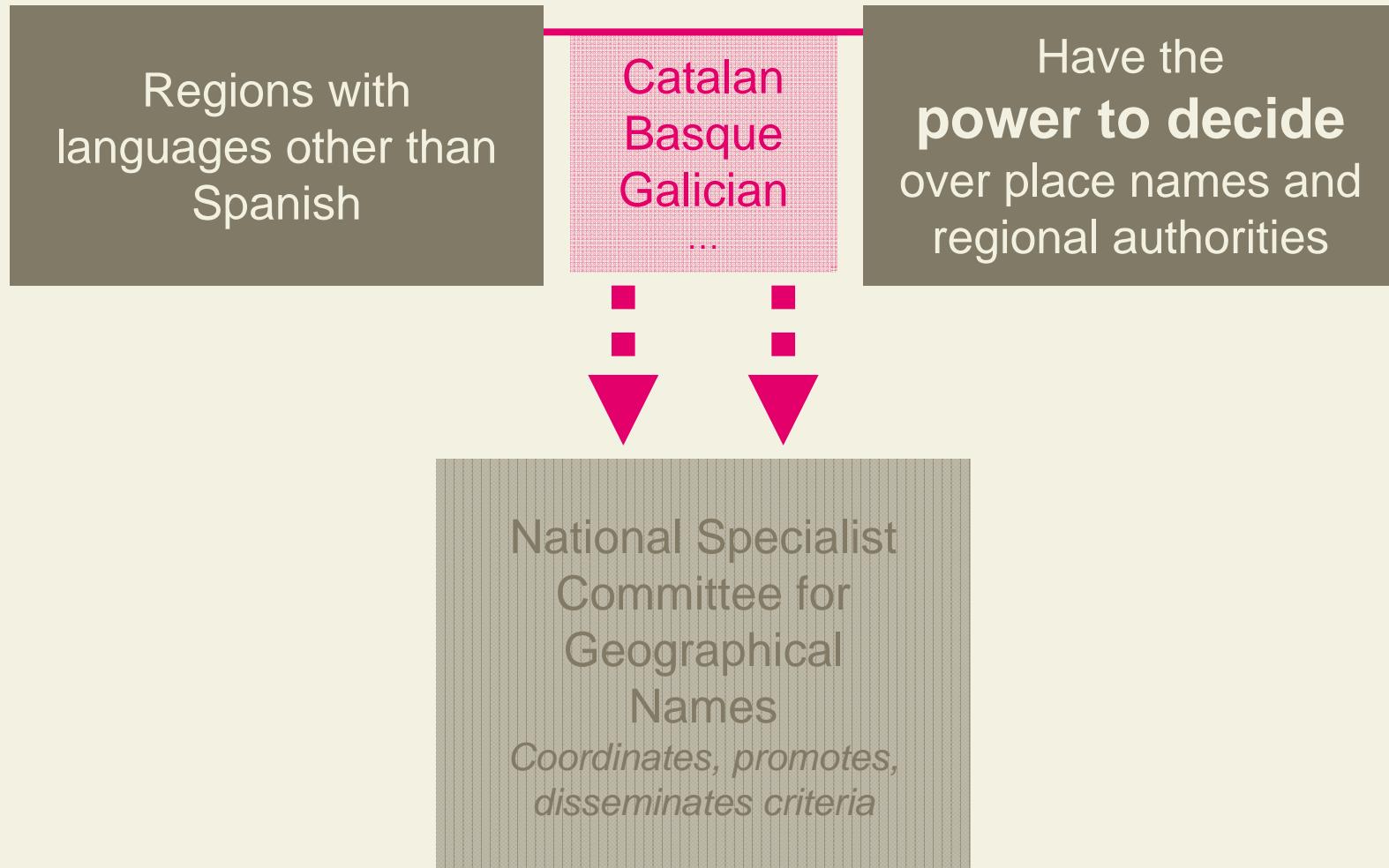
Why?

Spain: a decentralized country

Autonomous Communities and languages



A bottom-up organization



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**What is the source
of legality that
enables the authority
to standardize
geographical names?**

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Sources of legality

1. The **Spanish Constitution** establishes a decentralized state.
2. The **Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia** establishes that powers regarding toponymy belong to the autonomous regional government.
3. The **act on language policy** establishes that the only official place name forms are the Catalan and the Aranese forms.
4. The **decree on the use of toponymy** creates the Toponymy Committee.

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**Does the authority
have the power to
standardize every
kind of geographical
name?**

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Duties of the Toponymy Committee

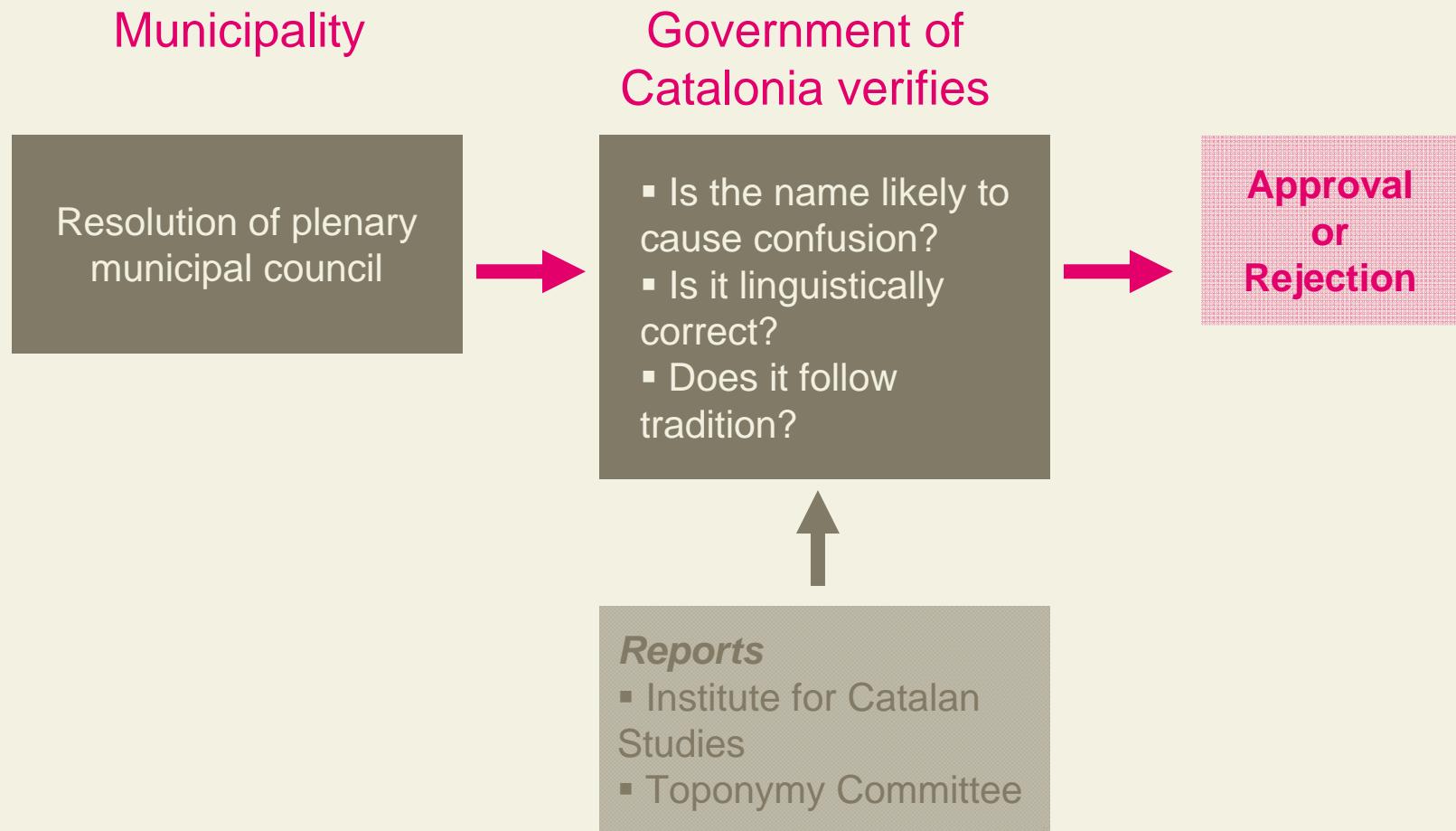
- Government consulting.
- Coordinating the different agents.
- Disseminating and applying criteria.
- And making proposals to be approved by:
 - Municipalities: town and street names
 - Regional Government: all other toponyms

Criteria for Municipal
Toponymy



Contains the procedures for establishing and creating names of municipalities, neighbourhoods, streets, public services.

How to change a town's name



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What are the institutions that constitute the geographical name authority?

What is the work cycle? How often does the authority hold meetings? How is the work distributed?

In general, are the decisions taken by the authority respected and applied?

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Toponymy Committee

The **Toponymy Committee** is made up of the following bodies:



Generalitat de Catalunya

The ministries and departments of the Catalan Government with relevant powers:
Territory,
Cartography,
Culture, Language,
Statistics, Local Administration, etc.



INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS CATALANS

Language authority:
Institute for Catalan Studies



FEDERACIÓ DE MUNICIPIS DE CATALUNYA



ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA DE MUNICIPIS I COMARQUES



CONSORCI PER A LA NORMALITZACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA

Local consortium for Catalan language and associations of municipalities



ConSELL GENERAU D'ARAN

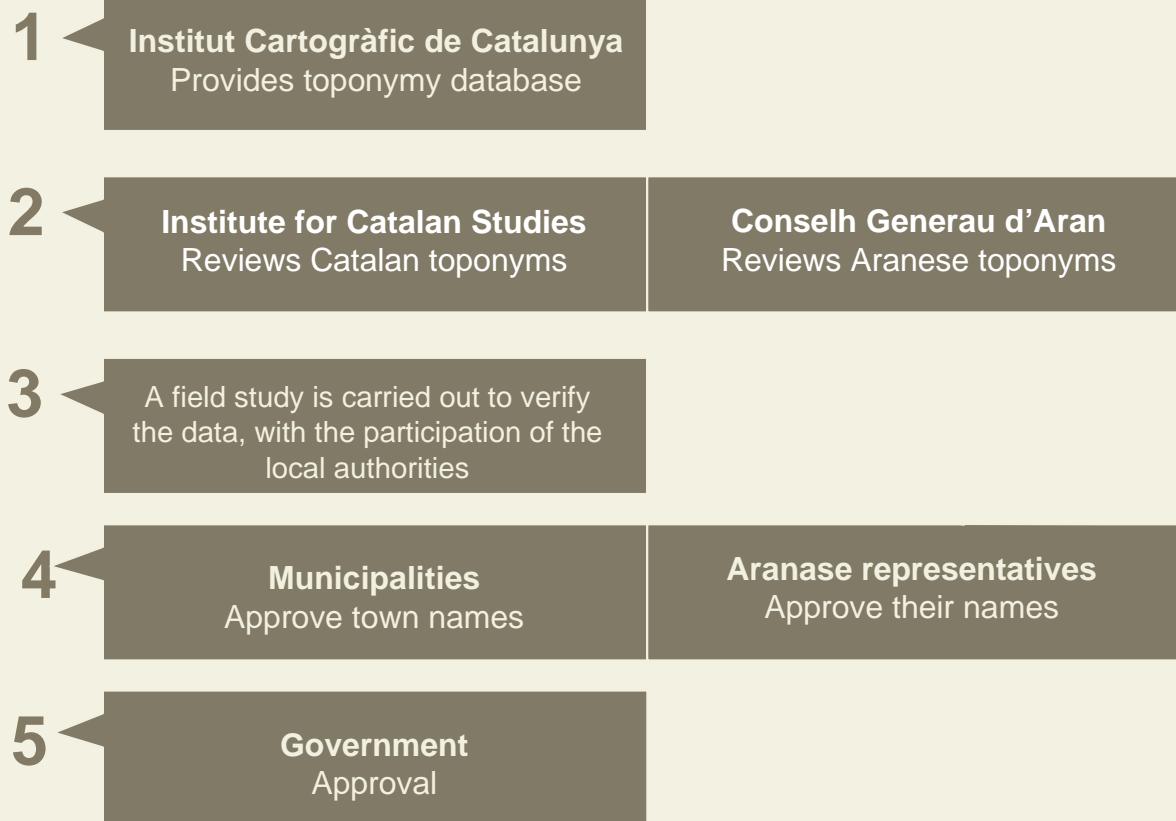
Representatives of the Aranese language



ICOS International Congress of Onomastic Sciences

Catalan names: from prohibited to modern

Official Toponymy Nomenclator of Catalonia | Work cycle



Official Toponymy Nomenclator of Catalonia | Data

- 1137 pages of 1:50,000 maps.
- 52,688 officially recognized and georeferenced **toponyms**.
- Approved by the government on 24 March 2009.
- 4400 phonetic transcription of population centres, pronounced in the local accent of each, as per U.N. recommendations.
- Hundreds of people who volunteered their time and hard work.
- 7.7 kg in weight.



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What are the most common problems the authority has encountered regarding the work cycle?

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Listening to people

- The authority must have the following characteristics:
 - Real power
 - Prestige and social recognition
 - A high technical level

But above all, it must be able to listen

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Thank you very much
for listening to us

-keno
-cino
-cinona
-celona