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National standardization: toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

**Toponymic guidelines Federal Republic of Germany
Sixth revised edition**

Submitted by Germany **

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Toponymic Guidelines Federal Republic of Germany

At the Fourth and Fifth United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) held in Geneva in 1982 and in Montréal in 1987, resolutions IV/4 and V/14 were adopted requesting the member states to work out guidelines and recommendations on the spelling of geographical names referring to their respective countries. Such guidelines may enable cartographers of other countries to treat correctly all problems of cartographic toponymy of the countries that produced such guidelines, and which may be of help to all users in interpreting maps. Furthermore, as observed in recent years, such guidelines may also serve as a worthwhile decision guidance for bodies in their own country that are concerned with the approval of new geographical names or changes of them. A framework of that kind thus constitutes one of the most important and effective measures for promoting the urgently needed process of standardizing geographical names on a national and global level.

Toponymic guidelines of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) were separately presented for the first time already at the Ninth Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) held in New York in 1981. In consequence of the German reunification a conjointly elaborated preliminary second edition was submitted to the Sixth UNCSGN held in New York in 1992.

The third edition of the Toponymic Guidelines for Map and Other Editors Federal Republic of Germany was thoroughly checked and presented at the Seventh UNCSGN held in New York in 1998. Explanations were extended on regions where the national minorities of Danes and Sorbs have traditionally been resident in Germany and have preserved their cultural identity for decades. Maps are supplemented of the dispersal areas as well as on German dialects.

The fourth edition, presented to the Eighth UNCSGN in 2002, contained the effects of the revised orthographic regulations on the spelling of official and non-official geographical names. In 1999 these regulations were adopted by those countries in which German has an official status or is recognized as a minority language. On its 106th Meeting held at Wabern (Switzerland) on 17 September 1999, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (StAGN) clearly advocated, by an appropriate published recommendation, to applying the new regulations to the spelling of geographical names. In Germany the regulations came into force in 2006.

The revised fifth edition of the Toponymic Guidelines (published in 2010) was, in particular, amended by a chapter dealing with the principles of the approval of geographical names by the states (Länder) of the Federal Republic of Germany. Furthermore a list was added containing the official terms of administrative units and designations. And, for the first time, a list is presented showing frequently used geographical appellatives, adjectives, and other words for cartographic purposes in German, North Frisian, Upper Sorbian and English.

The sixth edition is presented here at the Eleventh UNCSGN. Specifically the numerous examples of names spelling as cited in the guidelines, are explicitly referenced to the respective paragraphs of the above mentioned new orthographic regulations. Explanations on the officially recognized national regional and minority languages in Germany are comprehensively revised.

A digital version of the sixth edition can be downloaded at:

<http://www.stagn.de/empfehlung-schreibweise-gn>