

23 June 2017

Original: English

**11th United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 5 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 10th Conference (for distribution only).**

Report of the Netherlands

Submitted by the Netherlands **

* E/CONF.105/1

** Prepared by Ferjan Ormeling, Amsterdam University and by Jasper Hogerwerf, Kadaster Netherlands

Report of the Netherlands 2012-2017 - Summary

1. In accordance with the procedure in use within the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN, the various relevant actions and achievements have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the consecutive United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN).

Here are a few important trends that are worth highlighting in this summary:

- Dutch experts are still strongly involved in the organization of training courses in toponymy (Yogyakarta 2012, Antananarivo 2013, Oran 2014, Tunis 2015, Rio de Janeiro 2017).
- The toponyms of the Frisian minority group received wider attention in the relevant databases and maps.

Report of the Netherlands 2012-2017

2. In accordance with the procedure in use within the Dutch- and German-speaking Division of UNGEGN, the various relevant actions and achievements in the field of geographical names standardization have been reported under the headings of the relevant resolutions adopted by the consecutive United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSSGN).

Res. I/7 and II/19 Regional meetings

3. Representative(s) of the Netherlands participated in the meetings of the Dutch- and German-Speaking Division held in:

- New York, UN Headquarter 06-08-2012
- New York, UN Headquarter 29-04-2014
- Frankfurt am Main, BKG 06-03-2015
- Bangkok, UN Conference Centre 25-04-2016
- Frankfurt am Main, BKG 07-03-2017

A representative of the Netherlands participated in the joint meeting of the Working Groups on Publicity and Funding and on Evaluation and Implementation held in Seoul July 2-7, 2013, in Copenhagen September 10-12, 2015 and in Innsbruck April 19-22, 2017.

Res. V-15 Organization of geographical names standardization

4. In the Netherlands the *Adviescommissie aardrijkskundige namen in Nederland* (Advisory commission on geographical names in the Netherlands) of the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society (KNAG) continued to advise on new municipality names whenever municipality mergers occurred.

The *Werkgroep Buitenlandse aardrijkskundige namen* (Working Group on Foreign Geographical Names) of the *Nederlandse Taalunie* (Dutch Language Union, a supranational body in charge of language matters for Belgium, the Netherlands, Suriname and the Caribbean islands that form part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) is in charge of standardizing Dutch exonyms. It meets twice yearly in order to deal with new developments; new names are dealt with by its core group through e-mail. The standardized exonyms are available at <http://namen.taalunie.org> (in Dutch). May 9, 2017 a renewed website was launched, with sound recordings of the Dutch exonyms added. To the website of the Dutch Language Union (<http://taalunie.org>), designations of the inhabitants of countries and of country capitals have been added, as were ISO country codes. The renewed website is presented in a separate working paper for this 11th conference.

Suriname became a regular standing member of the Dutch Language Union in 2004 and as such now accepts the list of exonyms produced and regularly updated by the Dutch Language Union.

5. The *Netwerk Naamkunde* (Onomastical Network, to be found at <http://www.naamkunde.net/>), first initiated in 2007, was started up again at a meeting in June 2017, and it was arranged there to have an e-journal in the field of onomastics, after the demise of the former printed Dutch-language onomastics journal *Naamkunde*. This onomastical network has a mailing list, shows what kind of onomastical research participants engage in, as well as their yearly results, and has an overview of the workshops held. The network used to be organised from the Meertens Instituut of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, but this institution stopped to support onomastics.

Res. V-16 Publication of geographical names in their national official form

6. No updated version of the national gazetteer for civil purposes exists at the moment; the newest version is the *Top25namen*, produced in 2013 on the basis of the names included in the datafiles for the map series 1:25 000. An updated gazetteer version based on the M733 and M1501 map series was produced in 2016 especially for the Ministry of Defence, and it is expected that the new civil gazetteer, to be made available later this year, will look similar (see figure 1).

Dijkgatsweide
(*Natuurreservaat*)

Field	Value
OBJECTID	9
geometrie	Polygon
AnnotationClassID	Natuurreservaat
SymbolID	93
Status	Placed
TextString	Dijkgatsweide (Natuurreservaat)
FontName	Univers Com 55
FontSize	5
Bold	No
Italic	Yes
Underline	No
VerticalAlignment	Baseline
HorizontalAlignment	Center
XOffset	0
YOffset	0
Angle	0.157517
FontLeading	0
WordSpacing	100
CharacterWidth	100
CharacterSpacing	0
FlipAngle	90
Override	4
BLADNAAM	140
KAARTNAAM	MEDEMBLIK
SCHAAL	50000
PROVINCIE	Noord-Holland
X	132893.3
Y	546104.5
LAT	52.9016
LONG	5.058664
MGRS	31UFU3846463309
GEOMETRIE_Length	0.017085
GEOMETRIE_Area	0.000013

Figure 1 – Attribute data for an entry in the concept version of the Top10 Namen gazetteer

Res. VI/7: Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors

7. The *Toponymic Guidelines* for the Netherlands can be downloaded from the website of the *Nederlandse Taalunie* at <http://namen.taalunie.org/toponymische-richtlijnen>. A new updated version of these guidelines has been produced for the 11th conference, and will be presented in a separate paper for this conference. The main difference would be an extensive section on pronunciation.

Res. VIII-1 Promotion of minority group and indigenous geographical names

8. To the website of the Dutch Language Union to be found at <http://namen.taalunie.org> a list of the Frisian versions of place names in bilingual Dutch-Frisian province of Frisia/Fryslân has been added, with the information which of the versions is considered the official one presently.

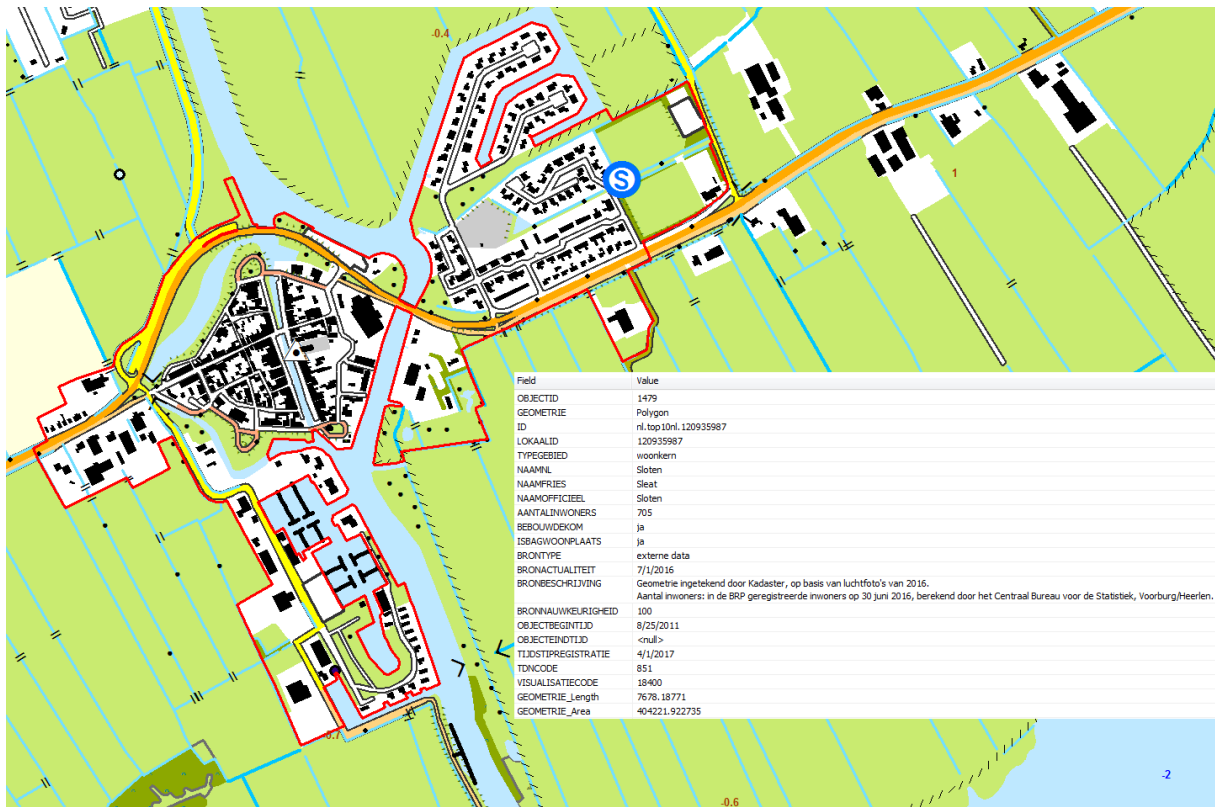


Figure 2 – The inset shows the attribute information on the town of Sloten (in Frisian: Sleat), of which the built-up area is demarcated in red in the Top10NL digital terrain model.

In the maps of the Key Register for Topography (*Basisregistratie Topografie*, BRT), the visualization of names for populated places in the bilingual province of Frisia/Fryslân has been adjusted to give map users more information on the language situation. While in the Netherlands only one populated place name can be official, it is up to the municipality to decide whether the Dutch or the Frisian name is official. For the purpose of the BRT, the Frisian language area has been demarcated and in consultation with the Fryske Akademy (the scientific institution in charge of the Frisian language) for all places within this area both the Frisian and the Dutch names have been registered in the database (see figure 2). On the maps, the official name is shown first with the other name below. To make clear which name is Dutch and which name is Frisian, all Frisian names are shown in italics (see figure 3). Where there is no official name, the Frisian name is given first.

For water courses and most lakes, only the official names - almost exclusively Frisian or local dialect names - are visualized on the maps.



Figure 3 - Detail from the 1:25 000 map series of the Netherlands, with a part of Frisia, showing Frisian names of populated places in italics; the first name in a name pair would be the official name. When there is no official name, as is the case for Kommisjepôle – Commissiepolle, priority has been given to the Frisian name.

Res VIII/4: Exonyms

9. To the website of the Dutch Language Union to be found at <http://namen.taalunie.org>. Designations of the inhabitants of countries and of country capitals have been added (for instance Paris: Parijzenaar (male, single), Parisienne (female, single)). Dutch versions of historical names (such as Roman Empire, Babylon, Oxus) have been added to this website as well. As the website has been renewed, it will be presented in a separate paper for this 11th conference.

Res. VIII-6 Integration of national names into national and regional spatial data infrastructures

10. In the past decade, a system of key registers has been put in place in the Netherlands, which contain all essential data for governmental and other public service tasks, such as the registration of persons, companies, buildings, vehicles, cadastral parcels and incomes. The registration of geographical names is divided over two key registers: the Key Register for Addresses and Buildings (*Basisregistratie Adressen en Gebouwen*, BAG), maintained by the municipalities, and the Key Register for Topography (*Basisregistratie Topografie*, BRT), maintained by Kadaster, the national mapping and cadastral agency (NMCA) of the Netherlands.

Names of streets and populated places that are used in addresses, are registered in the BAG. Other key registers, such as the BRT, re-use these names in their registrations. However, no standardization rules have been set up and applied for the names in the BAG, which has resulted in a wide variety of spellings, use of punctuation and additions. In order, not to compromise the map image and past geographical names standardization too much, some of these varieties have been left out of the BRT, such as additional provincial or municipal name abbreviations in names of populated places.

11. For the names of other topographical elements, the BRT is the main source of information. After the removal of costly and time-consuming field work activities from the production process, external data sources have been used to maintain and greatly enhance the completeness of several object types, resulting in an increase of names in the topographical database. For some object types and names, such as field names and names of private buildings, no external data sources are available. In a pilot project, the collection and maintenance of geographical names in cooperation with municipalities turned out to

be unsuccessful, mainly due to a lack of interest and knowledge from the municipal side. A second pilot project, aimed at the cooperation with local historical societies, resulted in great enthusiasm from these organizations and the collection of a large number of new names and name changes. This second pilot project will be presented in a separate paper to this 11th conference.

With the introduction of a one-year update cycle for all topography in the BRT, automated generalization of the cartography on small-scale maps, and automated change detection for the manual update of texts on small-scale maps, the geographical names and other objects in all BRT products – from the 1: 10,000 database to the 1: 1,000,000 map – now always have the same temporal accuracy.

Res. VIII-15 Support for training and publications

12. In the 2012-2017 timespan, lecturers from the Netherlands participated in toponymy training courses organised in Yogyakarta (Indonesia 2012), Antananarivo (Madagascar 2013), Oran (Algeria 2014), Tunis (Tunisia 2015) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil 2017) (for the latter see the separate report for this 11th conference). A full report of these courses can be found in a separate paper presented to the 30th UNGEGN session.

Two representatives from the Netherlands participated as lecturers in the 4th international UNGEGN toponymy course held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, September 17-21, 2012, locally organised by the National Geospatial Information Agency Badan Informasi Geospasial. As the collection of geographical names had been reorganised on a regional basis, the 75 participants, 9 of which from foreign represented 33 Indonesian provinces and a number of local government areas. Much attention was paid, especially during the fieldwork, to stressing the role of geographical names standardization as a means of preserving the cultural heritage.

One lecturer from the Netherlands participated in the international course locally organised by Foiben-Taosarintanin' i Madagasikara (FTM) held June 17-21, 2013, in Antananarivo. The theme of this new kind of UNGEGN training course was "Training the trainers", as it was this time targeted at those who could be required to provide training in toponymy, either in-house at mapping organizations or at higher education teaching facilities. So, the emphasis had changed from passing on information about toponymy to providing awareness of the ways of passing along the information and skills and teaching the subject with the best training practices.

A representative from the Netherlands took part as lecturer in the training course for trainers in toponymy, held September 15-17, 2014 in Oran, Algeria, at the Centre National de Recherche en Anthropologie Sociale et Culturelle (CRASC Oran), organized locally by Brahim Atoui.

A representative from the Netherlands took part as lecturer in the workshop on geographical names co-organised and sponsored by the Centre National de la Cartographie et de la Télédétection (CNCT) in Tunisia, held January 12-16 in Tunis. It was targeted at members of national names commissions and had a double agenda: the toponymic training of the newly appointed members of the National Committee of Toponymy of Tunisia (CNTT) and the elaboration of a road map for African national names bureaux. Captain Naima Friha was in charge of the local organization.

13. Work on the advanced toponymy manual continued so that it could be delivered to the 11th UNCSGN in New York in August 2017 (for the latter see the separate report for this 11th conference).

Res. IX/4: Geographical names as an intangible cultural heritage

14. Several servers have been developed in the Netherlands in the past 5 years that provide access to and link historical map files and data bases. HISGIS (<http://hisgis.nl>), developed by the Frisian Academy (Fryske Akademy) for Frisia, but now gradually being extended over the whole country, for instance links the 1832 cadastral map and ledgers for the country with other maps containing place names and field names.

Another server of historical maps, linked by and to current topographical maps is the *Tijdreis over 200 jaar topografie* (<http://topotijdreis.nl>), produced by Kadaster, the national mapping and cadastral agency. Functioning as a ‘journey through time’ it integrates all the official topographical map series of the country so that one may zoom in to a specific named feature on the map and click to see how it changes on consecutive map editions.

Both sites greatly support the study of place name changes over time (changes in spelling, location of the named object, object category, etc.)

Res. X 11.: Web-course in toponymy

15. Slight modifications were made to the ICA/UNGEGN Web course in toponymy at the behest of Iran and Japan.

Res. XI-n Cooperation with UN-GGIM

16. As the cooperation between UN-GGIM and UNGEGN will probably be expressed in one of the resolutions that will be accepted by the 11th conference, it is here the place to mention that on May 22, national UNGEGN and UN-GGIM delegates from the Netherlands met each other, and exchanged information on each other’s areas of work and possible joint issues. An UNGEGN delegate from the Netherlands on June 7, 2017 was enabled to address UN-GGIM Europe at its Brussels conference on the Role of UNGEGN.