



**UNGEGN Scientific Symposium and  
Joint Divisions and Working Group Meetings**

*10 - 13 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium*

**Meeting program**

## Introduction and general information

Thank you for joining us in the Joint Divisions and Working Group Meetings of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), in conjunction with a Scientific Symposium on the role and importance of expert knowledge in the standardization of geographical names. We welcome you to Brussels, Belgium, from 10 to 13 October 2018.

In this program you will find the schedule of the meeting and the abstracts of all symposium presentations.

In preparation for the meeting, please take note of the following information.

- Brussels is an officially fully bilingual city. All governments and services, road signs, street and place names and other public information are both in French and Dutch. According to census results, Dutch was still the vast majority language in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, while French became dominant at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has developed to become the vast majority language after WWII. Partly due to Brussels' international role, nowadays a considerable part of the population speaks other languages than French or Dutch. Though not an official language, in recent years English has gained importance as a contact language and is widely spoken. For a good understanding, in this program all locations are indicated with both their Dutch and French names.
- Most locations for this meeting can be found in the city center ('Pentagon'), and are relatively easy to reach by foot when you stay in the city center as well. In case you prefer to use public transport, for each location in the program the nearest public transport stops are indicated. You are advised to plan your trip on the [website of the public transport company of Brussels](#), where you can also find [public transport network maps](#). Please mind that the joint dinner location for Wednesday evening, the Atomium Restaurant, is located far from the city center.
- Each time slot in the schedule is preceded by the name or description, *in italics*, of the room in which the session or activity will take place. Our main venue is the Prins Albert Club. Upon arrival to the venue, you can enter the courtyard from the street by walking through the gate, where you will find the entrance to the main building of the Prins Albert Club on the left and the entrance to the Egmont room on the right.
- You are welcome to join the sessions and activities you like. However, Division meetings are specifically aimed at participants from member countries of the Division concerned. If you are planning to attend the Joint Working Group Meeting on Saturday, please give prior notice to the convenors of these Working Groups. More information on [UNGEGN Divisions and its member countries](#) and on [UNGEGN Working Groups](#) can be found on [the UNGEGN website](#).
- Please mind that there are several parallel sessions or activities provided in the meeting program. These are recognizable in the schedule by the underlined time slots.
- The symposium is divided into thematic sessions. Presenters in the symposium are kindly requested to prepare a presentation for 15 minutes. During the sessions, there will be ample opportunity for questions and discussion.
- Thanks to the many enthusiastic presentation proposals we received, we are able to offer an extra symposium session on Friday morning, 12 October, in addition to the intended symposium day on Thursday, 11 October.

- The meeting of the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage on Friday afternoon has been cancelled and transformed into a symposium session as well, consisting of a key-note presentation and a plenary discussion.

It is an honor and a privilege to announce that Professor Kaisa Rautio Helander at Sámi University of Applied Sciences in Guovdageaidnu (Norway) will give the key-note speech in this Friday afternoon symposium session. In her lecture, Helander will discuss official policy and practice of place naming in indigenous areas using examples from the Sámi region of the Arctic.

Helander is a professor of Sámi onomastics and holds a PhD in Sámi language from the University of Oulu in Finland. Her doctoral thesis is a multidisciplinary study of the history of official place name policy in Norway with regard to indigenous toponymy. Among her current onomastic research interests are theoretical and methodological questions concerning Sámi toponymy, challenges of recognition and restoration of indigenous toponymy in official naming contexts, colonial naming practices, contact-onomastics and linguistic and onomastic landscapes in indigenous areas.

After the lecture, we open up for a broader discussion on the theme “Official policy and legislation on geographical names”, both in multilingual and monolingual contexts. All participants are encouraged to engage actively and share thoughts and experiences related to this matter.

- Regarding expenses, it is good to know that entrance to the meeting is free of charge, while the joint lunches and catering during the meeting are included. During the breaks, catering is provided at the bar in the main building. All other expenses, including joint dinners and excursions, are NOT included and to be arranged for own account. Of course, we would be happy to advise you on accommodation options, if you like.
- On Saturday, a choice from 3 parallel activities can be made. There is a WG meeting and there are 2 excursion options. One will be a guided excursion to the Memorial 1815 Waterloo, including a visit to the museum, the Lion’s Mound and the battlefield of the Battle of Waterloo. Transport from Brussels to the Memorial location will be provided. There is a limited number of places for this excursion. The other excursion will consist of a guided tour in the city of Brussels. Excursion fees will be 65 EUR for the Memorial 1815 Waterloo and 10 EUR for the guided city tour in Brussels. Payment is possible during the meeting.
- Last but not least: please fill in the short meeting enquiry before 22 September, in order to let us know what days you are planning to attend the meetings, if you join us for dinner, if you have any meal preferences, and what choice you would like to make for Saturday, 13 October. This will help us in further planning the meeting. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in Brussels and we are looking forward to your participation and contribution to the meeting. See you soon!

The organizing committee,

Ingvil Nordland, Peder Gammeltoft, Tjeerd Tichelaar, Jean-Yves Pirlot & Jasper Hogerwerf

[Contact us here](#)

# Meeting schedule

## Wednesday, 10 October

### Venue:

Prins Albert Club | Club Prince Albert  
Karmelietenstraat 20 | Rue des Petits Carmes 20  
1000 Brussels

Public transport - nearest stops

METRO: Naamsepoort | Porte de Namur  
TRAM & BUS: Kleine Zavel | Petit Sablon

*Restaurant, main building*

- **12.00 - 13.30** Joint Lunch  
*Albert room, main building*
- **13.30 - 16.30** Meeting French-speaking Division  
*Egmont room*
- **13.30 - 15.00** Joint Meeting Norden & Dutch- and German-speaking Division
  - Introduction by Division chairs
  - Country reports*Bar, main building*
- **15.00 - 15.20** Break  
*Egmont room*
- **15.20 - 16.30** Joint Meeting Norden & Dutch- and German-speaking Division
  - Future cooperation Norden - Dutch- and German-speaking Division
  - Next UNGEGN session 2019
- **16.30 - 16.45** Break
- **16.45 - 17.30** Meeting Norden Division  
*Albert room, main building*
- **16.45 - 17.30** Meeting Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD)

### Restaurant:

[Atomium Restaurant](#)

Atomiumsqaure | Square de l'Atomium  
1020 Brussels  
(Laken | Laeken)

Public transport - nearest stops

METRO, TRAM & BUS: Heizel | Heysel

- **20.00** – Joint Dinner

## Thursday, 11 October

### Venue:

Prins Albert Club | Club Prince Albert  
Karmelietenstraat 20 | Rue des Petits Carmes 20  
1000 Brussels

Public transport - nearest stops

METRO: Naamsepoort | Porte de Namur

TRAM & BUS: Kleine Zavel | Petit Sablon

### *Egmont room*

- **09.30 - 10.40** Symposium session 1: Relevance of standardization

CHAIR: Peder Gammeltoft

- *Introduction*  
Ingvil Nordland
- *Why names are changing!*  
Nico Bakker
- *Commercialization of places and place names: A search for UNGEGN's role*  
Sungjae Choo

*Bar, main building*

- **10.40 - 11.00** Break

*Egmont room*

- **11.00 - 12.30** Symposium session 1: Relevance of standardization (continuation)

CHAIR: Peder Gammeltoft

- *Toponymic expert knowledge and the school atlas*  
Tjeerd Tichelaar
- *Methodology of collecting geographical names in Greenland*  
Lisathe Møller Kruse
- *Problems in the standardization of natural feature names and the utilization of expert knowledge in the production of maps*  
Zane Cekula

*Restaurant, main building*

- **12.30 - 14.00** Joint Lunch

*Egmont room*

- **14.00 - 15.30** Symposium session 2: Experiences in standardization - local vs. national

CHAIR: Peder Gammeltoft

- *Preserving inherited toponyms - conception of the laity vs. the experts*  
Ulla Onkamo & Teemu Leskinen
- *Divergence and Convergence within Standardizing Danish Place-Names*  
Rikke Steenholt Olesen & Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen
- *Standardization of geographical names in the Netherlands*  
Ferjan Ormeling

*Bar, main building*

- **15.30 - 15.50** Break

*Egmont room*

- **15.50 - 17.30** Symposium session 3: Standardization in a multilingual environment  
CHAIR: Leila Mattfolk
  - *The importance of expert knowledge in geographical names for the determination and processing of bilingual place names in Brussels*  
Jeanne Henrion
  - *The role of place names in revitalizing Kven language in Norway*  
Katriina Pedersen
  - *Exonyms and endonyms in historical contact regions - standardization without levelling: The case of Eastern Belgium*  
Leo Wintgens

**Restaurant:**

[Bij den Boer](#)

Baksteenkaai 60 | Quai aux Briques 60  
1000 Brussels

Public transport - nearest stops

METRO: Sint-Katelijne | Sainte-Catherine

TRAM: Vlaamsepoort | Porte de Flandre

BUS: Dansaert

- **20.00** – Joint Dinner

## **Friday, 12 October**

### **Venue:**

Prins Albert Club | Club Prince Albert  
Karmelietenstraat 20 | Rue des Petits Carmes 20  
1000 Brussels

Publictransport - nearest stops

METRO: Naamsepoort | Porte de Namur  
TRAM & BUS: Kleine Zavel | Petit Sablon

### *Egmont room*

- **09.30 - 10.40** Symposium session 4: International standardization  
CHAIR: Tjeerd Tichelaar
  - *Support of geographical names data files and gazetteers to UN-GGIM activities and 2030 Agenda*  
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu & Catherine Cheetham
  - *Developments of GeoLocator and Regional Gazetteer in ELS/OpenELS*  
Saulius Urbanas & Roman Stani-Fertl

*Bar, main building*

- **10.40 - 11.00** Break  
*Egmont room*
- **11.00 - 12.30** Meeting Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers  
CONVENOR: Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu - [contact link](#)  
*Restaurant, main building*
- **12.30 - 14.00** Joint Lunch  
*Egmont room*
- **14.00 - 15.30** Symposium session 5: Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage
  - *Key-note presentation*  
Kaisa Rautio Helander
  - *Official policy and legislation on geographical names - Plenary discussion**Bar, main building*
- **15.30 - 15.50** Break  
*Egmont room*
- **15.50 - 17.45** Joint Meeting Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation & Working Group on Publicity and Funding  
CONVENORS: Sungjae Choo & Peder Gammeltoft - [contact link](#)

### **Restaurant:**

[Chez Léon](#)

Beenhouwersstraat 18 | Rue des Bouchers 18  
1000 Brussels

Publictransport - nearest stops

METRO: De Brouckère  
TRAM: Beurs | Bourse  
BUS: Arenberg

- **20.00** – Joint Dinner

## Saturday, 13 October

### Meeting

**Venue:**

[NH Brussels Bloom](#)

Koningsstraat 250 | Rue Royale 250

1210 Brussels

(Sint-Joost-ten-Node | Saint-Josse-ten-Noode)

Publictransport - nearest stops

METRO, TRAM & BUS: Kruidtuin | Botanique

*Meeting room 5*

- **09.00 - 10.30** Joint Meeting Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation & Working Group on Publicity and Funding  
CONVENORS: Sungjae Choo & Peder Gammeltoft - [contact link](#)
- **10.30 - 11.00** Break
- **11.00 - 12.30** Joint Meeting Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation & Working Group on Publicity and Funding

*Meeting Lounge*

- **12.30 - 14.00** Lunch
- Meeting room 5*
- **14.00 - 15.00** Joint Meeting Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation & Working Group on Publicity and Funding
  - **15.00 - 15.30** Break
  - **15.30 - 17.00** Joint Meeting Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation & Working Group on Publicity and Funding

### Excursions

**Meeting point:**

Koningsplein | Place Royale

Brussels

Publictransport - nearest stops

METRO: Naamsepoort | Porte de Namur

TRAM & BUS: Koning | Royale

- **09.00 - 15.00** Excursion to [Memorial 1815 Waterloo](#)

**OR**

**Meeting point:**

Koninklijke Muntchouwborg (De Munt) | Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie (La Monnaie)

Muntplein | Place de la Monnaie

Brussels

Publictransport - nearest stops

METRO, TRAM & BUS: De Brouckère

- **10.00 - 12.00** Excursion in Brussels: guided city tour

## Abstracts of the symposium presentations

*In order of presentation*

### **Why names are changing!**

Nico Bakker

Former Senior Adviser on Strategy and Policy at Kadaster, Netherlands

*CNN news August 10, 2018*

*Activists are renaming streets in the Netherlands after famous women. Welcome to Beyoncé Blvd.*

There are many reasons why names on maps have to change.

Of course, when new objects are created, like streets, buildings, canals or newly reclaimed land, we need to give them an appropriate name.

But there are also many reasons why existing names could change.

There are political reasons. When famous persons appear to have a dark or questionable history. When famous sea-heroes who won the war for one country, are not loved in other countries. Or when feminists are counting how many streets are named after males and females and realize that more streets have names of male persons.

Internationalization can be a reason for change. Sometimes this is based on commercial or economic grounds. Local airports named after a small village will be renamed to the nearest big city. To attract tourists, various names may change to English versions.

Besides official second languages, also the promotion of local dialects can be a motive to (legally or not) change names of cities and villages.

In this presentation I will give a short overview of reasons to change topographical names.

### **Commercialization of places and place names: A search for UNGEGN's role**

Sungjae Choo

Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

Professor of Geography, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Place names are often adopted as brands of commodities to increase brand awareness and expected quality. In some cases, place names are affected by influential actors of those places with economic motivations and even replaced with new ones. The UNCSGN has noted this trend and adopted a resolution at its tenth Conference discouraging the commercialization of geographical names. In the capitalist economy, however, it is true that considerable efforts have been made to increase the value of places through their names as brands. It is also regarded that the owners of urban facilities have the right to name their properties. Therefore, the problem lies in the question; which feature names should be discouraged to be involved in the commercialization with what standards? This presentation raises some issues to be discussed in the new UNGEGN and begins a search for its possible role.

## **Toponymic expert knowledge and the school atlas**

Tjeerd Tichelaar

Chair of the UNGEGN Dutch- and German-speaking Division

Editor-in-chief, Noordhoff Publishers, Netherlands

Where school atlas use is an essential element of elementary and secondary school education, the atlas producers carry a heavy responsibility. Geography classes guide our youth in establishing their view of the world, in building the mental map they will need to navigate their spatial environment during their walk of life: a mental map that, among all possible interpretations and depictions of geographic reality, works best when it is commonly shared. It is the responsibility of the school atlas cartographer then, to present the world in memorable outlines and in an as neutral way as possible: devoid of debatable interpretation and ideological coloring. What is shown and what is omitted, as well as the way things are shown, should follow controllable and explicable rules.

Geographical names, of which many thousands populate the maps, are among the elements that can be represented in many different ways. Just like all other information displayed in the atlas, the names should reflect current reality – at the time of print – as far as this can be established objectively. Next to the mandatory intention to show reality, it is both for the student and for the atlas maker a plain necessity to show all things in a systematic way. Graphically, the atlas employs general map legends to avoid having to decide for each object individually how to represent it in the map. Likewise, it would be practically impossible to take separate decisions on how to write each of the multitude of geographical names figuring in the maps of the atlas.

Apart from being a trusted teaching aid in geography class, the *Grote Bosatlas* has for long been the reference work par excellence to the people of the Netherlands with regard to the naming of foreign geographical objects and the proper writing of the names. A summary of the geographical names policy of *Grote Bosatlas* shows what kind of decisions need to be taken to establish rules to represent the geographical names in a way to best serve the interests of those the atlas is intended for, and which level of toponymic expertise is required to do this properly. It also demonstrates just how convenient it is to the atlas makers to have access to expertly standardized names, as well as toponymic guidelines and transliteration keys published through UNGEGN. In its turn, a well-established school atlas may serve as an ideal medium to disseminate recommendations issued through UNGEGN regarding the spelling of geographical names worldwide.

## **Methodology of collecting geographical names in Greenland**

Lisathe Møller Kruse

Special Adviser, The Language Secretariat of Greenland

The indigenous inhabitants of Greenland have used the same methods for naming places for thousands of years. Today Greenland has 33.000 registered and authorized geographical names. Greenlanders have remembered over thousands of place names through oral tradition and storytelling. All these geographical names were not written down but preserved and cherished. Most of the geographical names were named by their visual appearances. Some places were named after the usage of the place, and some places were named after incidents at the place.

In this presentation, you can hear about how collection and registration of geographical names in Greenland has developed over the years; from oral tradition to the use of modern technologies. You will also hear how we have collected 7000 hitherto unregistered geographical names within the last five years. The presentation will also outline how we find and select geographical names experts and how geographical names are gathered and facilitated, and how we do quality control both in practice and in legislation.

## **Problems in the standardization of natural feature names and the utilization of expert knowledge in the production of map**

Zane Cekula

Toponymist, Latvian Geospatial Information Agency

Regulations Regarding Geographical Names Information (adopted 10 January 2012) prescribe the procedures for the creation, assigning, approval, accumulation, publication, use, preservation and protection of geographical names.

The basic principles for establishing and using correct geographical names are based on local place name forms. For instance, it is permitted to use the regional language Latgalian in the spelling of Latgalian place names. Consequently some local governments of Latgale have decided to use names in Latgalian, for example street names in the town Kārsava. But the local practice varies and we face a number of problems in the standardization of place names of Latvia. In my presentation I will discuss some of the problems related to the standardization of natural feature names.

The compilers of maps and gazetteers of Latvia have to look for the so-called preferred names for natural feature names. However, it was not always clear which names should be preferred. Therefore, a set of principles has been established for the selection of preferred place names. The preferred name should be:

1. the oldest name of a feature if it is still used by local people;
2. the place name revealing local naming traditions and local dialect;
3. the etymologically most correct place name;
4. the name which is most often used in literature or cartographic sources, if it is not incorrect;
5. a place name adopted by a local government should be preferred for an older name (if there is no special reason to preserve the older name), and the new place name corresponds to generally accepted local names and naming traditions.

The fifth principle is partly contradictory to the first one and should be used only in special cases and as rarely as possible.

Expert knowledge in the production of maps has been used since 1994 when the Laboratory of Toponymy was established under the Department of Cartography. The Place Names Sub-commission of the Latvian Language Experts Board was re-established at the State Language Centre in 2012. From 2014 the State Language Centre has been working on a voluminous list of recommendations and conclusions regarding the official names proposals (for more than 4.000 natural features) submitted by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency.

## **Preserving inherited toponyms – conception of the laity vs. the experts**

Ulla Onkamo

Senior Specialist, Institute for the Languages of Finland

Teemu Leskinen

Senior Expert, National Land Survey of Finland

It is the statutory task of the National Land Survey of Finland (NLS) to maintain the topographic data system and produce national topographic maps. The names of natural features in the NLS Place Name Register are always inherited toponyms, established through use by local residents. The NLS has the toponyms and any changes in them checked by the experts in Finnish and Swedish toponyms at the Institute for the Languages of Finland and an expert in Saami languages at the University of Oulu.

The NLS regularly receives requests to change or remove toponyms or to add new toponyms in maps. These requests are reasoned by the use of toponyms differing from the form used in maps, but also the current toponym being disagreeable or the new toponym having a high market value. Furthermore, requests and demands may also be related to how toponyms in different languages should be presented in bilingual and multilingual areas.

The Finnish legislation does not define any authority to whose jurisdiction the names of natural features and rural villages and neighborhoods belong or what names different authorities should use of these features. Therefore, it is the task of experts in toponyms, in many cases, to defend the preservation of inherited toponyms and the maintenance of their historical and cultural values, as well as to prevent any unconsidered or unfounded changes in toponyms. There is continuing concern that inherited toponyms are replaced by designed and commercial toponyms not rooted to the environment or history.

## **Divergence and Convergence within Standardizing Danish Place-Names**

Rikke Steenholt Olesen

Chair of the Danish Place Name Committee, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Johnny Grandjean Gøgsig Jakobsen

Member of the Danish Place Name Committee, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

In matters of standardization of Danish place-names, non-professional language-users and the Danish Place-Name Committee have different understandings of orthographic correctness. The authority administrates place-names as a part of the official Danish language subject to the orthographic rules defined by the Danish Language Council. In people's minds, place-names can - and in certain cases even should - have official forms that deviate from standard language. Both new innovative name-formations and archaic forms of historical place-names that municipalities apply for reflect this situation of divergence. The highly current case of Kramnitse/Kramnitze serves well as an example of the latter. The generic may place it in a small group of itse-settlement names in the region of Southern Denmark, of which some derives from Wendic (i.e. north-west Slavic) influence in the Middle Ages. Historically, the written records of the Danish itse-names take multiple forms, with an almost equal amount of s- and z-forms. Since the z-form dominates on the first detailed 19th-century maps, a decision by the Danish Place-Name Committee in the early 20th century to standardize them all into s-forms according to standard orthography is now challenged by the local communities, who want to reintroduce the "correct" z-form to acknowledge the true Wendic roots of the names. How can divergence be balanced into convergence?

## **Standardization of geographical names in the Netherlands**

Ferjan Ormeling

Former Vice-Chair of UNGEGN

Emeritus Professor of Cartography, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Between 1800 and 1935 three major spelling reforms were enacted in the Netherlands, and toponyms were supposed to be influenced by them, be it to different degrees. Since 1934 we also had two minor ones, that hardly were noticed by the average citizen, but that changed thousands of place names. From 1800 onwards municipalities were also asked how they wished their names to be spelled, and this clashed with the spelling reforms, an issue we still are being confronted with.

The impact of the various reforms on the official spelling of the toponyms is sketched, and a critical appraisal of the present toponymical situation is discussed.

## **The importance of expert knowledge in geographical names for the determination and processing of bilingual place names in Brussels**

Jeanne Henrion

Geographer, Head of the Toponymy section, National Geographic Institute, Belgium

The Belgian National Geographic Institute (IGN) is a federal government agency whose main task is to collect the topogeographic information including toponymy for the entire Belgian territory. The collection of toponymic information in the Brussels area is an interesting example because of its history and cultural importance, and especially because of the Belgian institutional context. Indeed, the Brussels region is the only bilingual region in Belgium.

In order to make sure geographical names are standardized throughout the Belgian territory, we have adopted a method integrating the collection of information at the local level and the consultation of a scientific body, the Royal Commission of Toponymy and Dialectology. In the near future, we would like to deepen this collection and standardization effort by integrating the pronunciation of certain names of important places.

## **The role of place names in revitalizing Kven language in Norway**

Katriina Pedersen

Adviser, Norwegian Language Council

The Norwegian Place Name Act protects the use and maintenance of Kven, Saami and Norwegian place names as part of the Norwegian cultural heritage. One important area for revitalizing Kven language in Norway has been the protection and promotion of Kven place names.

In the presentation I will shortly talk about how the legislation protects minority place names in Norway and how the legislation is practiced for the Kven names. I will discuss some of the problems that arise when working with a seriously endangered language as the Kven language.

The Place Name Act is considered one of the most important steps of revitalizing Kven language. It gives the Kven place names a strong protection, but how can we promote an active use of names amongst the Kven minority? In the presentation I will also show examples from three different projects that wants to activate the use of Kven place names. Touching into the question of how we can work for a living naming tradition, not only protection of the past.

## **Exonyms and endonyms in historical contact regions - standardization without levelling : the case of Eastern Belgium**

Leo Wintgens

Member of the Royal Commission on Toponymy & Dialectology, delegated by the Government of the German-speaking Community, Belgium

In volume LXXII/2000 of the Bulletin edited by the CRTD/KCTD in Brussels, I dealt alternatively in French and in German with an everyday topic in Belgium: « *Les doublets toponymiques, témoins du passé commun / Toponymische Namenpaare als Zeugen gemeinsamer Geschichte: „Á garder ou à chasser?“* » This text has been completely reproduced in our recent „*Vergleichender Sprachatlas des Karolingisch-Fränkischen*“, II: Sprachgeschichte, Toponymik, Laut- und Formenlehre, HELIOS, Aachen, 2016, p. 78-86.

In this article, I have tried to gather some toponymic material that clearly documents what I have always called the Belgian « *mariage intime* », i.e. the common history of Romanic and Germanic populations meeting intimately in this part of Western Europe.

Whereas some 'pure regionalists' on either side of the so-called « *frontière linguistique* » would, once and for all, prefer to chase all double denominations - even those fixed by the legislator - I have here wanted to utter my conviction, that nobody has the right to adopt a system similar to that described by George Orwell in his perspicacious novel « 1984 » under the subordinating system of NEWSPEAK.

The multilingual denominations *Liège – Luik – Lüttich – Lék* (in *Lëtzebuergesch*) – *Lük, Lök, Lik* (in Carolingian Frankish varieties, and even in Köln) e.g. clearly show the historical impact of this growing city in Western Europe. Why then shorten its importance by levelling it to a place with a seemingly restricted political and cultural radiance ?

It is exactly the same for numerous other Belgian towns as *Antwerpen* or *Veurne, Huy* or *Mons* ... And even more or less frequent microtoponyms have finally a historical right to continue to be known in the frame of their specific area, i.e. among others on the maps of the IGN/NGI dealing with our 3rd Community, the so-called *DG OSTBELGIEN*.

More ample toponymic materials, elaborated according to the method developed by *Godefroid* alias *Gottfried Kurth* (Frassem 1847 - Asse 1916), the famous founder of the 'School of Belgian Historians' (University of Liège) and, at the same time, of Toponymy as a valuable branch of scientific research, can be found in volume II of our recent *Vergleichender Sprachatlas des Karolingisch-Fränkischen*.

At the end of my CRTD article, I concluded on p. 139 (in ATLAS II, p. 86) : « *Il ne suffit pas de faire des doublets un sujet d'études savantes. Il faut également, dans les travaux et publications destinés aux utilisateurs dans notre pays et à l'étranger, veiller à l'application correcte de la volonté fondée du législateur. ... Et la mondialisation, d'autre part, ne peut pas être un prétexte pour 'normaliser', c'est-à-dire schématiser, simplifier à outrance notre patrimoine toponymique reflétant les réalités historiques.* »

## **Support of geographical names data files and gazetteers to UN-GGIM activities and 2030**

### **Agenda**

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu

Convenor of the UNGEGN Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), Germany

Catherine Cheetham

Head of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), United Kingdom

The importance of geospatial data in the overall UN/DESA - ECOSOC work program - 2030 Agenda – leaving no one behind – and particularly for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a known and recognized topic within UN-GGIM. This seems not yet to be the case within the UNGEGN community.

We know that geographical names standardization is a key element of the communication needed to: enable the UN to become the world's most effective voice for international cooperation on behalf of peace, development, migration, refugee resettlement, human rights and the environment. Governments and all sectors of society's operations depend on authoritative naming of locations, for example, regional and local authorities, legal institutions, statistical bureaus, tourism authorities, public works departments, transportation companies – air, land and sea, national security agencies, disaster management authorities, users of the internet, businesses and the public in general.

We know that geographical names form a core/fundamental theme in any geospatial data set. The geographical names theme has a direct relationship with all other data layers (perhaps with the exception of imagery) that constitute fundamental themes. However, its value is often not well recognized, perhaps because the accuracy and validity of geographical names is easily taken for granted, being frequently used in daily conversation when referring to where an event occurred or a destination.

It is therefore desirable that geographical names receive heightened recognition as a common and standardized reference framework essential for all fundamental data theme layers promoted by UN-GGIM, used in the same way throughout the global community and contributing to national development by improving the exchange of information.

According to UN resolution VIII/6 of the 8th UN Conference in 2002 geographical names have to be integrated into national, regional and international spatial data infrastructures, the latter ones constituting a centerpiece for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator framework under the geospatial lens.

The presentation will refer to the latest [UNEGN report 'Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names'](#), submitted to the Eighth Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM on 1-3 August 2018 as well as to the articles on the topic "Geographical names supporting sustainable development" have been published in [UNEGN's Bulletin No 54](#). Views will be expressed on the way forward on building a stronger relationship between UNGEGN and UNGGIM proposing implementable measures in the short and long term.

## **Developments of GeoLocator and Regional Gazetteer in ELS/OpenELS**

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EuroGeographics further develops European Location Services (ELS) and Open European Location Services (Open ELS) comprising contributions from its members, European National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs). GeoLocator is a georeferencing service, which offers multilingual European geographical names data, addresses and administrative units. Users can harvest GeoLocator through the [ELS showcase application](#) or utilize as standalone web-service under the license agreement with EuroGeographics. GeoLocator service provides a functionality for performing geocoding and reverse geocoding. The data content varies from country to country, but targets the most detailed level of details from national data sources (Master scale, up to 1: 1 000) and is operated from the centrally maintained database.

As a subset of GeoLocator's dataset a production of the Open ELS Regional Gazetteer dataset has been initiated in the Open ELS project. The aim of this initiative is to launch the open Regional Gazetteer dataset and web-service (WFS). The Regional Gazetteer data content contains the most important geographical names corresponding to Regional and Global (1:100 000 – 1:1 mln) level of details.

The gazetteer service of ELS /OpenELS is extended with exonyms and variant names. On the basis of toponymic data of the EuroRegionalMap this extension comprises at its first step settlements and populated places.

Examples from practice will show why the linguistic knowledge of (cartographic) editors is not sufficient and toponymic experts are necessary for a responsible exonym management. The report will present a range of problems which arose when populating the database. These problems are mainly caused by two factors:

- the peculiarity of languages involved in this gazetteer and
- the inhomogeneous quality of toponymic data available.