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

Jeanne Henrion
Overview

- Introduction: The Belgian institutional and linguistic context
- Contribution of the National Geographical Institute to the standardization of Geographical names
- The Belgian toponymical database and its update
- The special case of updating the toponyms of the Brussels-Capital Region
- Conclusion
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Introduction: The Belgian institutional and linguistic context

The federal State of Belgium is divided into

- 3 Communities:
  - The French Community (« Communauté française »)
  - The Flemish Community (« Vlaamse Gemeenschap »)
  - The German-speaking Community (« Deutsch-sprachige Gemeinschaft »)

- 3 Regions:
  - The Flemish Region (« Vlaams Gewest »)
  - The Brussels Region (in French « Région bruxelloise », in Dutch (« Brussels Gewest »)
  - The Walloon Region (« Région wallonne »)
Introduction: The Belgian institutional and linguistic context

Official languages and linguistic regions:

- 3 officials languages: Dutch, French and German
- 4 language areas

- Dutch language area (Nederlands taalgebied)
- The French language area (région de langue française)
- The German language area (deutsches sprachgebiet)
- The bilingual area of the Brussels-Capital Region (Région bilingue de Bruxelles capitale / tweetalig gebied Brussel-Hoofstad)
Introduction: The Belgian institutional and linguistic context

589 municipalities
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Contribution of the National Geographical Institute to the standardization of Geographical names

How does NGI promote the standardization of geographical names?

- Methodology applied for gathering and treating data
- Use of the official spelling or the spelling recommended by the Royal Commission for Toponymy and Dialectology (RCTD)
- The provision of toponymical data through WMTS/WMS service, visualization and geolocalization tools

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The Belgian toponymical database and its update

Cartographic writings

Surveys

Groupings → Verification → Enrichment

DB Toponymy
The Belgian toponymical database and its update

- Unique identifier
- Classification/typology (inhabited or not inhabited locality, wood, church, castle, etc.)
- 1 to 3 possible names
  - Language (Dutch, French, German)
  - Name Status (Administrative, Used in the field, Administrative and used in the field, Other)
  - Spelling Status (Official, Approved, Rejected, Other (recommended by the service))
  - Interest ( Mentioned in a tourist document, Mentioned in a street name, ...)
  - Notoriousness (Well Known, Known, not very well-known, ...)
  - Name Source (Municipality, the Official Journal of the Belgian State, ...)
  - Different dates (creation date, revision date, end date)
  - Minimum and maximum scale of representation

- Information to link toponyms to objects of other NGI Databases
The Belgian toponymical database and its update

- Geographical extent (polygon, line or point)
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The special case of updating the toponyms of the Brussels-Capital Region

Bilingual region: 2 names, one in Dutch and one in French

Official names of administrative entities (municipalities)

Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert

Jette

Woluwe-Saint-Lambert
SINT-LAMBRECHTS-WOLUWE
The special case of updating the toponyms of the Brussels-Capital Region

- Non official toponyms: 2 names, one in Dutch and one in French
The special case of updating the toponyms of the Brussels-Capital Region

- Non official toponyms: only one name known, in Dutch or in French
The special case of updating the toponyms of the Brussels-Capital Region

A difficult task!
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Cultural Heritage

Collected
Preserved
Disseminated

Valued
Pronunciation