

Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (WG TDFG) of UNGEGN

Meeting in Brussels, BE 12 October 2018

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Convenor Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)



Time	Item#	Item	Speaker
11:00 – 11:05 5'	1	 Opening Decisions of the 11th UNCSGN and 30th UNGEGN relating to the Working Group 	Pier-Giorgio
11:05 – 11:15 5'	2	 Liaison with international standardization bodies (ISO, OGC, Unicode) General information 2017 ISO/CD 19112:2017(E) - Spatial referencing by geographic identifiers UNICODE 	Pier-Giorgio
5'			Catherine/Allison
11:15 – 11:35 20'	3	Liaison UNGEGN with UN-GGIM	Pier-Giorgio, Catherine
11:35 – 11:50 5' 5' 5'	4	Activities of the WG Support of Training Courses in Toponymy Support of UNECA's Geonym application Other?	Pier-Giorgio Pier-Giorgio All



Item 1: Opening

Decisions by 11th UNCSGN /30th UNGEGN in NY 2017

Task	Report	Responsibility	Status
3. In working paper No. 1, the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers reported on its activities for 2016 and 2017. [] General progress against the work plan and future activities of the Working Group were noted.	30th UNGEGN	general	No action needed
32. Special note was made of the world geographical names database of the Group of Experts and experts were encouraged to contribute to the collection of information for the database.	30th UNGEGN	general	Continuous contributions by the Member States



Item 1: Opening

Decisions by the WG at the meeting in NY 2017

Task	Responsibility	Date (final)	Status
Get in touch with national representatives in ISO, OGC to make aware of GN issues and be informed about drafts	All members	ongoing	Feedback?
Approach UNECA (through chair?) regarding Gazetteer application	Convenor	30.08.2017	done
Involve WG in global and regional assessments (UN-GGIM WG FDT)	Convenor	ongoing	done
Updates its work plan and actions 2017 – 2019 with regard to the discussions about the relationship with UN-GGIM and SDGs	All members	30.10.2017	done
Integrate the two panel discussion contents into the online discussion forum	Convenor	30.08.2017	done
Write an article in the UNGEGN Bulletin about the geospatial dimension in the SDGs	Convenor	30.12.2017	done



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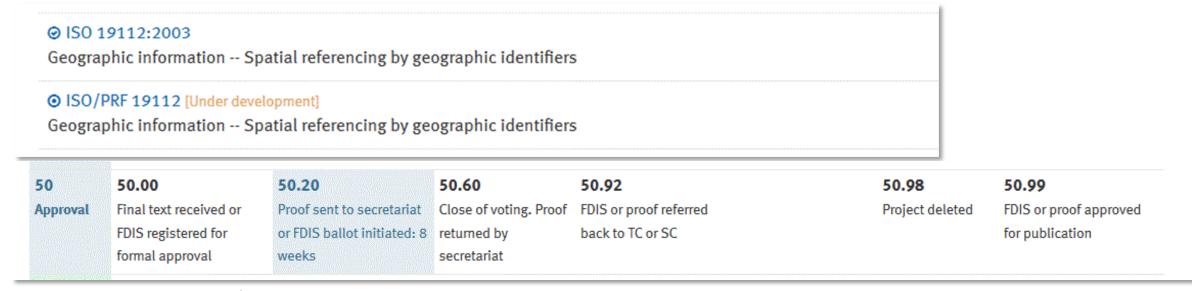
Item 2: (1) ISO TC 211

- Ballot event notifications of the International Organization for Standardization's Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211)
- Most documents were addressed to general geographic information issues.
- In March 2017 ISO/CD 19112:2017(E) Geographic information Spatial referencing by geographic identifiers has been updated.
 - This document defines the conceptual schema for spatial references based on geographic identifiers.
 - The new content on the gazetteer structure has been put together by the geospatial community supporting general use cases.
 - Although it is assumed that the updated ISO/CD 19112:2017(E) won't have a huge impact on the geographical names data provision reflecting the complexity of the named place concept it will be assessed by the Working Group.



Item 2: (1) ISO TC 211

Status:



Any activities in the countries?



Item 2: (2) Unicode Consortium

- → Liaison officer Catherine Cheetham / Allison Dollimore
- The Working Group reviews character encodings required for geographical names and informs about gaps in the Unicode standard.
- The latest version 11.0.0 was published on **5 June 2018**. This version supersedes all previous versions of the Unicode Standard.
 - Unicode 11.0 adds 684 characters, for a total of 137,374 characters. These additions include 7 new scripts, for a total of 146 scripts, as well as 66 new emoji characters.
 - The new scripts and characters in Version 11.0 add support for lesser-used languages and unique written requirements worldwide. Funds from the Adopt-a-Character program provided support for some of these additions.

https://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode11.0.0/UnicodeStandard-11.0.pdf



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UN-GGIM / UN-GGIM: Europe – Highlights 2017-2018

- Rationale was presented within the Symposium
 Session 4: International standardization -- Presentation "Support of geographical names data files and gazetteers to UN-GGIM activities and 2030 Agenda"
 - 2nd Report of UNGEGN to the 8th Session of the Committee of Experts on GGIM
 - Collaborative activities
 - Other UNGEGN areas of work
 - The way forward Future opportunities

http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/E-C20-2018-17-Add_1Strengthening-Collaboration-UNGEGN-27July2018.pdf



UN-GGIM / UN-GGIM: Europe – Highlights 2017-2018 Working Group on Fundamental Data Themes

How did the Working Group on Fundamental Data Themes do against the ToRs?

- 1. Produce a recommendation for a minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
- 2. Each data theme should be supported by a description and guidelines.
- Take account of existing activity being undertaken by UN-GGIM regional committees, ensuring that where possible existing resources are used.
- 4. Consider the prioritisation of the data themes and how they link to other data needs with in the UN-GGIM programme of work.
- 5. Consider the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States.
- 6. Ensure that the data themes should be technical in nature as not to raise political concerns.

And

7. Suggestions from the Committee of Experts at GGIM7

















ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION UNITED NATIONS E/C.20/2018/7/Add.1 **Economic and Social Council** 13 July 2018 Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Eighth session New York, 1-3 August 2018 Item 6 of the provisional agenda Determination of global fundamental geospatial data theme-Determination of global fundamental geospatial data Note by the Secretariat United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on behalf of its working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Manage At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the amittee of Experts adopted decision 7/104, in which it adopted the proposed minium list of global fundamental geospatial data themes and expressed support for the offer of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geosmatia Information Management for Europe to continue to develop more details for each theme and to draw up plans for promoting the proposed minimum list and making it etter known, accepted and applied within the wider community, including the noncommunity. In this present report, the Regional Committee for Europe utlines its action to advance the work on the determination of the fundament reconstial data themes at the global level. It also describes its engagement with the other regional committees and their relevant working groups, its engagement with other working groups of the Committee of Experts, the methodology used and the review process that it has undertaken to produce high-level descriptions for each of the themes. The report includes summaries of activities undertaken by the working group to promote the themes within the geospatial and non-geospatial communitie including workshops in Africa and promotional activities at other events. The report also includes recommendations for next steps the Committee of Experts may wish *E/C.20/2018/1

http://ggim.un.org/meeting s/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/documents/E-C20-2018-7-Add_1-Globalfundamental-geospatialdata-themes.pdf



UN-GGIM / UN-GGIM: Europe – Highlights 2017-2018
Working Group on Fundamental Data Themes

Theme: Geographical Names:

Contributions by UNGEGN Bureau and Convenors

Theme title:

Geographical Names

Description

Geographical names provide orientation and identity to places. They are location identifiers for cultural and physical features of the real world, such as regions, settlements, or any feature of public or historical interest. They are often used as a proxy for other data themes such as Settlements.

Why is this theme fundamental?

Geographical names are used throughout the world as a geographic identification system and thus have potential to inter-relate and cross-reference disparate data sources, both spatial and non-spatial. Standardised geographical names are essential for effective communication between citizens, governments of all levels, decision-makers, and policy-makers.

Geographical names are often used for geocoding and mapping. The geocoding use case consists of transforming an indirect location identifier (here a geographical name) into a direct location identifier defined by a set of coordinates. Geographical names are the most common, understandable, and widely used entry-point for broader searches for geospatial data and information and are therefore, necessary as search criteria in gazetteers, geoportals, spatial data catalogues etc. Geographical names are also required for a wide range of topographical and thematic map output at any scale. They are necessary for a consistent communication and visualisation of any SDG related issue or action.

Which sustainable development goals (SDGs) will it help to meet?

The wide use of geographical names makes them relevant for all SDGs.

Geospatial data features in more detail

The Geographical Names theme may comprise attributes of feature types that are already in another fundamental geospatial data theme, such as Transport Networks or Water, and/or as feature types that are not yet in another theme. A named place (e.g. settlement, mountain, bay) may have several names in different languages.

Many named features have indeterminate boundaries but, where feasible, their delineation should be included.

Possible sources of geospatial data

National geographical names datasets are usually maintained by public authorities for features on land, coastal or marine areas. Additionally, many datasets are published by (semi-official) bodies with a particular goal (e.g. for certain region, languages, topics...).

Existing geospatial data standards

Note: This is indicative. Other lists of standards exist and UN-GGIM will seek to work with thematic experts to develop a list of relevant data standards.

- Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names, (UNGEGN), 2007, ISBN: 92-1-161500-5;
- INSPIRE Data Specification on Geographical Names Technical Guidelines 3.1;
- . ISO 639 Language Code List for the language of origin of geographical names; and
- . UTF-8 character set (UNICODE) for the exchange of syllabics, diacritics and other special characters



UN-GGIM / UN-GGIM: Europe – Highlights 2017-2018 Working Group on Fundamental Data Themes

The Committee of Experts is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the report and express its views on the valuable progress of the Working Group, including the **provision of theme descriptions** for the 14 global fundamental geospatial data themes; and
- (b) Provide guidance on steps to promote, communicate and raise awareness of the 14 global fundamental geospatial data themes widely across the global geospatial information community, UN-GGIM Regional Committees, wider UN System, and within the broader global geospatial ecosystem.

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

UNITED NATION

E/C.20/2018/7/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

13 July 2018

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management Eighth session New York. 1-3 August 2018 Item 6 of the provisional agenda' Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

Note by the Secretariat

ummary

The present paper contains the report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on behalf of its working group on global fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Excerts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

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* E/C.20/2018/1

M-committee/8th-Session/documents/E-C20-2018-

7-Add_1-Global-fundamental-geospatial-data-themes.pdf

http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGI



UN-GGIM / UN-GGIM: Europe – Highlights 2017-2018

- The European UNGEGN experts provided expertise for commenting and discussing a draft recommendation for content of the theme 'Geographical Names' provided by UN-GGIM: Europe Work Group on Core Data.
 - UNGEGN experts referred to two main use cases:
 - 1. search criteria in geoportals, which require completeness,
 - 2. mapping, for which population and true
 - Geometry (providing feature size) is useful selection criterion
 - UNGEGN's input largely focused on
 - conveying the importance of geographical names as an indication of cultural heritage and history, and also
 - Demonstrating geographical names' uniqueness, which does not appear in imagery, however they are of vital importance in crisis situations



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Item 4: Activities of the WG

- Support of Training Courses in Toponymy
 - → last one in Manila, Philippines March 2018... next one?











Item 4: Activities of the WG

- Support of UNECA's Geonym application
 - → letter to UNECA was sent in January 2018 and a response received in February 2018

Importance of continued cooperation stressed by UNECA...



SECRETARIAT OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP
OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
DEPARTMENT OF THE DOMINIA AND SECRETARIS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLANTA DICTIONAL APPARES
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLANTA, DICTIONAL AND SECRETARIS
TELEPHONE NO. 1 (817) 567-4190; FAX NO. 1 (213) 863-8831
TELEPHONE NO. 1 (817) 567-4190; FAX NO. 1 (213) 863-8831

31 January 2018

Dear Mr. Chinganya,

Reactivation of the Africa Gazetteer Database Project

Reference is made to the meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI), from 9-10 November 2017, in Stockholm, Sweden, attended by Mr. Andre Nonguerma. Chief. GisS, UNECA, and Mr. Pier-Giorgio Zacchedda, Convenor. Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers of the United Nations Group of Experts on Georganizal Names (UNGEGN). Both discussed the importance of standardized geographical names in Africa and the need to reactivate the Africa Gazetteer database, "Geo/Dyms" project.

Further to the discussions in Sweden, we the undersigned are pleased to introduce UNGEGN, to acknowledge UNECA for the creation of the GeoNyms database software and the preparation of the Gaborone Action Plan on Geographical Names Activities in Africa, and to ask that both initiatives be reactivated to support the work of National Names and/or Mapping Authorities in Africa and thereby the sustainable development of the continent.

As you may be aware, since 1967, the United Nations Statistics Division has been convening quinquennial United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN). Through its specialist, 11 Working Groups and Tack Teams, and 24 Divisions, UNGEGN facilitates the development and dissemination of principles, policies and procedures suitable for resolving the problems of consistency in the authorization and use of geographical names. Additional information on UNGEGN is available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/

GeoNyms, first called AfricanGaz is an open-source database application created by UNECA to be used by National Names and/or Mapping Authorities for the collection. validation, storage and dissemination of geographical names data. It was envisaged that GeoNyms would motivate African countries to revitalize their geographical names authorities, or establish them where none existing.

Mr. Oliver Chinganya Director African Centre for Statistics Economic Commission for Africa Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





Time	ltem#	ltem	Speaker
11:50 – 12:10 10' 10'	5	 Support of national and regional activities Toponym gazetteer system of our country's new address system of the Republic of Korea Merging standardized and non-standardized gazetteers – A case study for transboundary named entity recognition (NER) 	Young-Hoon (John) Kim Gerhard Rampl
12:10 – 12:20 10'	6	Discussion forum within the WG website / Online discussion forum Discussion & Input & remarks for the discussion forum	Annette, Teemu, Catherine, Pier-Giorgio
12:20 – 12:25 5'	7	Next meeting of WG TDFG • 1st UNGEGN, 29 April – 3 May 2019, New York	All
12:25 – 12:30 5'	8	AOB & Closing Any issues, concerns, suggestions,	All



Item 5: Support of national and regional activities

EuroGeographics & Joint Research Center (JRC) "survey on pan-European gazetteer services"

- Request in March 2017 for a "gazetteer service for Europe", providing authoritative names data exists!
- What is the envisaged concept and architecture?

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Fi	elds marked with * are mandatory.
l	
In	troduction
ii	ey 'high value' datasets such as geographical names and addresses have many uses both nside and outside the public sector. They form the backbone of European location services, which may include 'gazetteer' services, linking place names and addresses to point and
	rea locations. These datasets are often used in conjunction with other 'high value' data nemes, such as land parcels, hydrography and transport networks.
Т	This survey aims to understand the extent to which access to pan-European complete, open
	and free location datasets and services, like these, will create new opportunities for data
	sers and application developers beyond those already available nationally. It also aims to inderstand the situations where 'official' data is needed, where 'community-sourced' data
n	nay be applicable, and where such data may be sourced.



Item 5: Support of national and regional activities

EuroGeographics & Joint Research Center (JRC)

"survey on pan-European gazetteer services"

Results in September 2017

https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/actions/elise_en





Item 5: Support of national and regional activities

Presentation within the Symposium
 Session 4: International standardization -- Developments of GeoLocator and Regional Gazetteer in ELS/OpenELS, Saulius Urbanas & Roman
 Stani-Fertl

Two more presentations in 20'...

- Toponym gazetteer system of our country's new address system of the Republic of Korea, Young-Hoon (John) Kim
- Merging standardized and non-standardized gazetteers A case study for transboundary named entity recognition (NER), Gerhard Rampl



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Item 6: Discussion forum within the WG website

 Discussion forum within the WG website / Online discussion forum



https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum



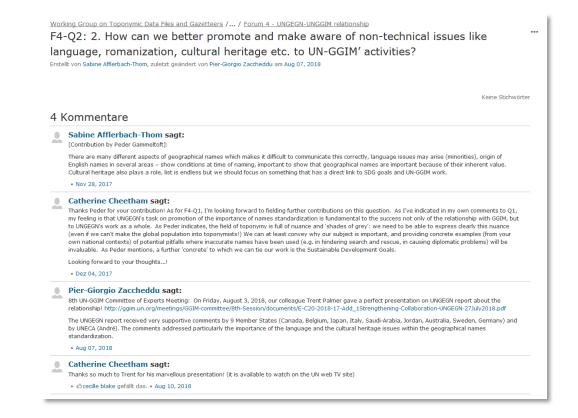
Item 6: Discussion forum within the WG website

- Discussion forum within the WG website / Online discussion forum
- → Few input to the linkage

 UNGEGN and UN-GGIM –

 Relationship document
- → No input & remarks to the **old topics** in the discussion forum!

https://wiki.gdi-de.org/display/wgtdfg/Discussion+forum



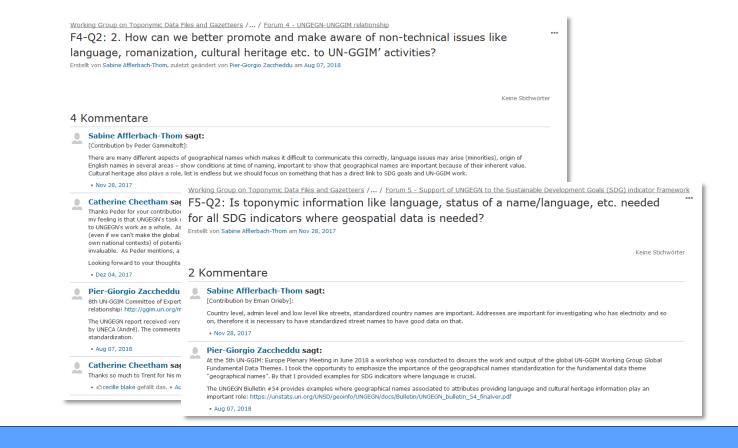


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- → Few input to new discussion items on **SDGs**





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tem 7 and 8: Next meeting & AOB & Closing

- 1st UNGEGN, 29 April 3 May 2019, New York
 - Working Paper?
 - please send any ideas and plans to draft a Working Paper to the Convenor
 - What else can we do?
 - Workshop ideas... proposals?
 - LinkedData applications in the Member States?
 - Toponymic Data Files re-engineering due to SDG requirements?
 - What can we do for UN-GGIM 2019? (besides the report)
 - More/other contributions to the Agenda 2030 / UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)?
 - Input to the "UNGEGN-UN-GGIM Liaison group"?
 - •

tem 7 and 8: Next meeting & AOB & Closing

Input to the UN World Geospatial Information Congress, 19-21 Nov' 2018, Deqing,
 China...? http://www.unwgic2018.org/welcome.html



tem 7 and 8: Next meeting & AOB & Closing

• Decisions by the WG at the meeting in Brussels 2018

Task	Responsibility	Date (final)



AOB & Closing

Closing...



... Thank you!

See you somewhere...at the latest in New York in 2019!