

# UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

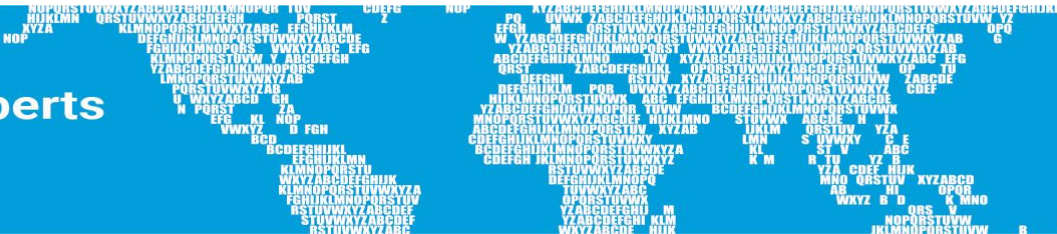
## FOURTH MEETING of UNGEEN Bureau and Division Chairs

Tuesday 14 November 2023  
at 7:00 am Eastern/NYC



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# WELCOME UNGEGN Divisions – Introductions

|                                     |   |                          |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Africa Central X                    | Baltic X                                    | India                    |
| Africa East                         | Celtic                                      | Latin America X          |
| Africa South X                      | China                                       | Norden (sent apologies)  |
| Africa West                         | Dutch- and German-speaking X                | Pacific South-West X     |
| Arabic                              | East Central and South-East Europe X        | Portuguese-speaking X    |
| Asia East (other than China) X      | Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia X | Romano-Hellenic X        |
| Asia South-East                     | East Mediterranean (other than Arabic)      | United Kingdom X         |
| Asia South-West (other than Arabic) | French-speaking X                           | United States / Canada X |

14 Divisions (58%) were represented at the meeting



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# Draft Agenda

| Item  | Speaker                               |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and opening remarks  | Pierre Jaillard<br>Stefan Schweinfest |
| 2. The UNGEGN 2023 session evaluation survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="359 544 1498 658">i. Encouraging Member States representatives to complete the survey</li> </ul>                       | Cecille Blake                         |
| 3. Presentation – World Geographical Names Database   | Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu                |
| 4. Presentations – Roles and activities of Divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="359 808 774 858">i. Baltic division</li> <li data-bbox="346 879 945 929">ii. Latin America Division</li> </ul> | Maciej Zych<br>Francisco Medina Parra |
| 5. General discussion on Divisional issues and needs  | Pierre Jaillard                       |
| 6. Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="359 1079 1386 1129">i. Dates for 2024 Bureau/Divisions meetings</li> </ul>  |                                       |
| 7. Closing remarks and adjournment  |                                       |



## 2. The UNGEGN 2023 session evaluation survey



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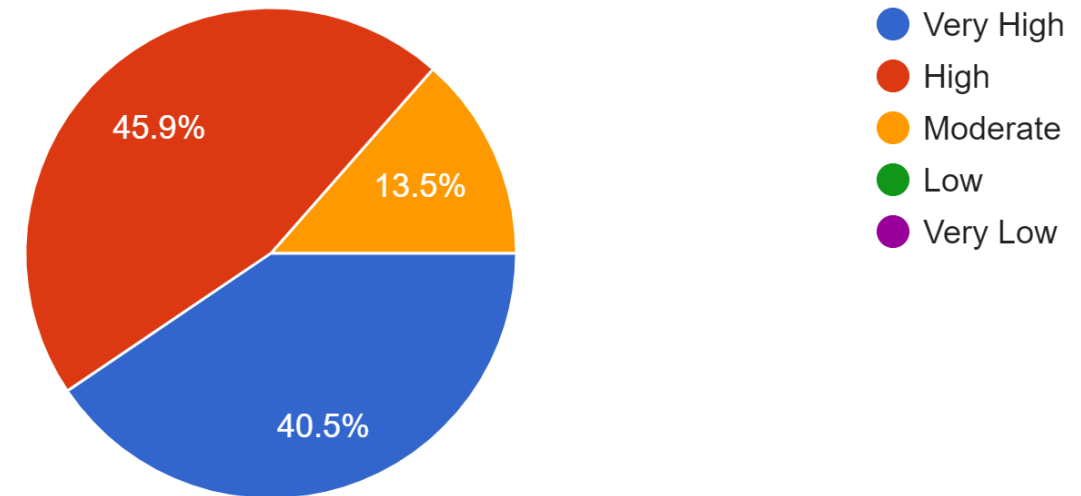


# 1. Review and follow-ups for the 2023 session

- Received 37 responses to the 2023 session survey
- 35% respondents attended the session for the first time
- 54% were attending for more than 3 times
- 89% expected to learn from the experiences of others.
- 100% said that the session met their expectations
- Talking and networking with other delegates was most useful

## 3. How would you rate the success of the session?

37 responses



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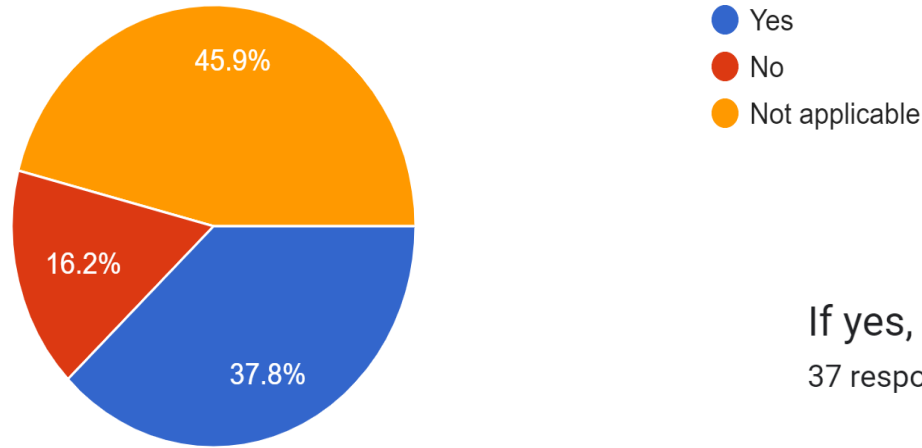




2. (To first-time participants) Did you attend the orientation briefing held on 1 May, 8:30-10:00?

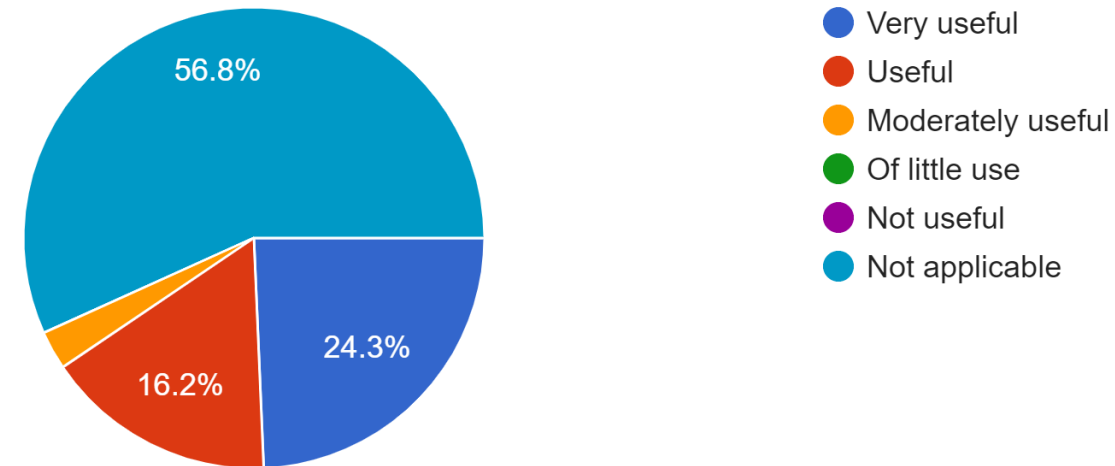
37 responses

# Orientation Session



If yes, how useful was it?\*

37 responses



## COMMENTS

1. Maybe the briefing should happen a week before the session starts.
2. Have multilingual slides/speakers if interpretation can't be provided
3. I would encourage participants who have not been to UNGEGN in a few years to attend. Things do change, and it is useful to learn the latest information.



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# QUESTION: Do you recognize any changes (positive or negative) in this session? If yes, please specify.

1. The thematic approach applied/National dialogue/the approach used for agenda item 4a
2. I enjoyed the summation of common themes in reports and the panel discussion on these topics, as it helped to capture an understanding of priority issues.
3. I think it was very useful and interesting to dispense with systematic presentations by individual states and select only some of the relevant topics from the respective reports. In previous years, the national reports were usually boring and rarely of interest.
4. the way the country papers were organised was good
5. The absence of coffee breaks during the first two days was not good at all (compare importance of informal conversations)!/negative - no breaks until Wed (the third day)
6. Very positive is the new way to present national reports, as well as the discussion panels. However, there was less time for the working papers presentations, and we really had to speed up on Thursday to keep up with the agenda, on subjects that I feel would have welcomed discussion... And we do need the morning and afternoon breaks! :-)
7. better orientation, since this was the third time I've attended the meeting national dialogue - short interesting information



# QUESTION: What would you suggest in order to improve the implementation of resolutions/recommendations?

1. Could we have a session where attendees could learn about all of these
2. Extending the number of national name boards, establishing (or extending the number) of regional name boards, intensifying the dissemination into academia, e.g. by close cooperation with scientific associations like ICA, IGU, ICOS.
3. Having specific reports to be accomplished by members and monitoring progress
4. more effective promotion of resolutions/recommendations
5. easier access to/more prominent publishing of the resolution documents
6. Simplified resumes of the resolutions/recommendations would be great. It will be easier to read these quickly and it will be easier to implement them in our daily work.



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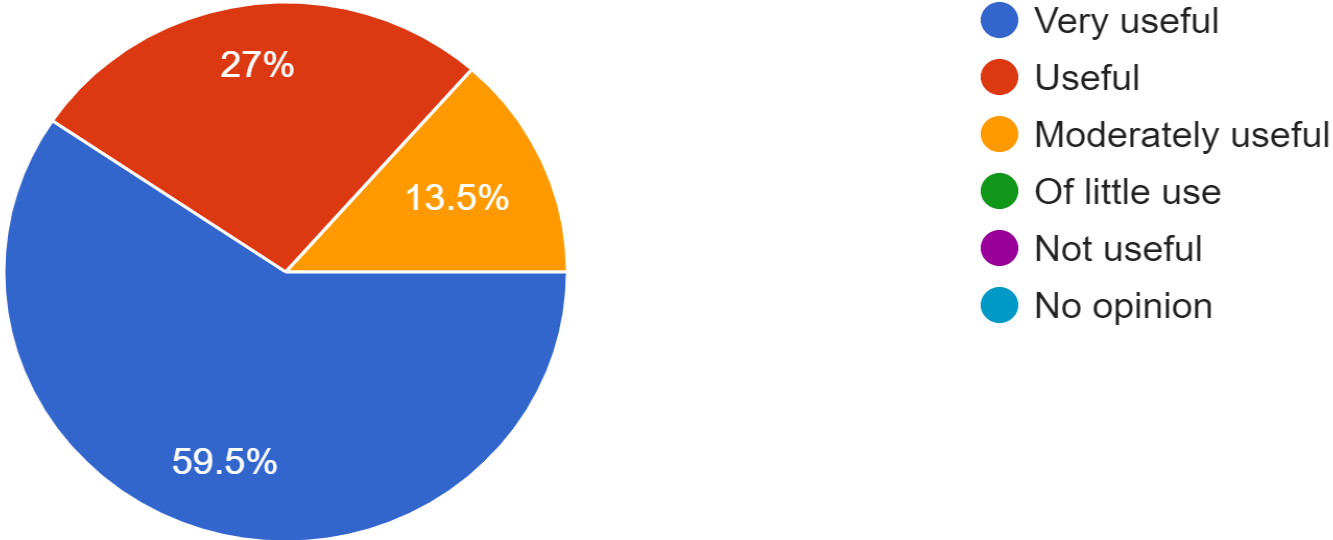
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# Reference to UNGEGN Resolutions and Recommendations

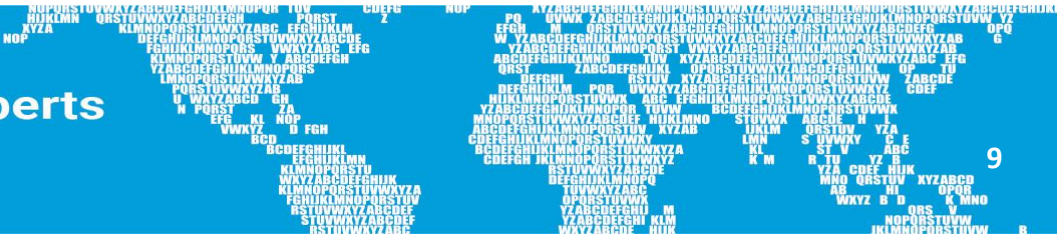
1. How useful do you think it is for managers of geographical names, including yourself, to refer to resolutions of the former UNCSGN and recommend...promoting geographical names standardization?

37 responses



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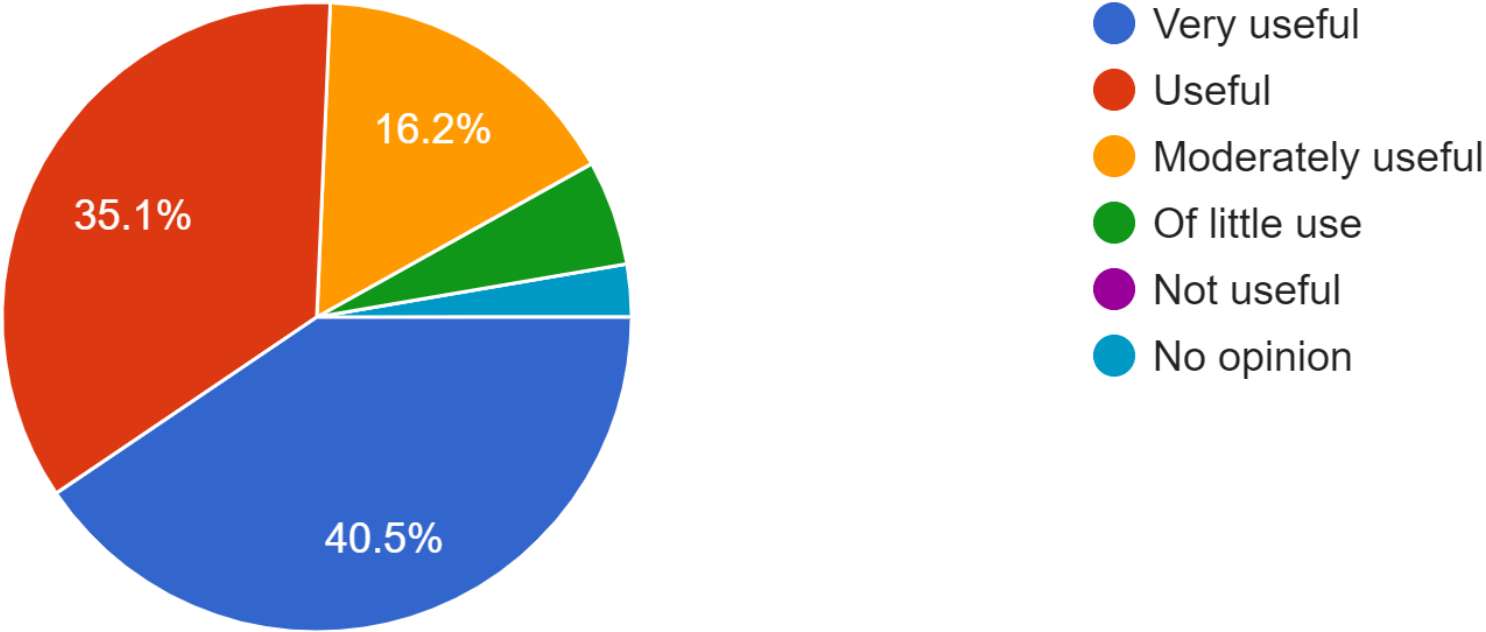
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# Use of the UNGEGN Strategic Plan

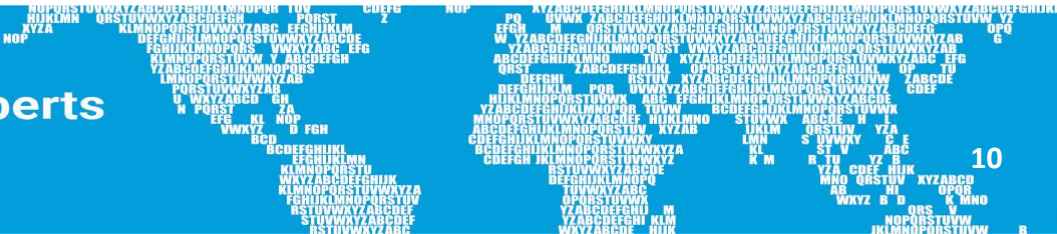
4. How useful do you think it is for managers of geographical names, including yourself, to refer to the 2021-2029 UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programm...I names standardization at the national level?

37 responses



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# Why is the Strategic Plan Useful

1. Because in the different parts of the Strategic Plan, we find ideas and guidelines which can be applied at the national level.
2. this is an opportunity for governments to align their strategic goals where possible, to the benefit of the world community
3. it provides global guidance and direction
4. These goals are rather general and unspecific.
5. are guiding documents that facilitate the regional and national plans and programmes. The UNGEGN mark is guarantee of pertinence and best practices.
6. Useful as an international reference for national work, although resolutions have a higher prestige compared to Strategic Plan
7. it was good, but need to develop more connections between the Plan and implementation
8. It could strengthen the work we do in my country
9. contains many important aspects it is perhaps too extensive to be executed effectively. As we found out in the session, many action items had had only little activity. Of course the covid-19 pandemic has also had it effects on this. Some joint tool to follow and register actions already done could be of benefit. And also to clarify the role of working groups, divisions and member states in executing the plan.

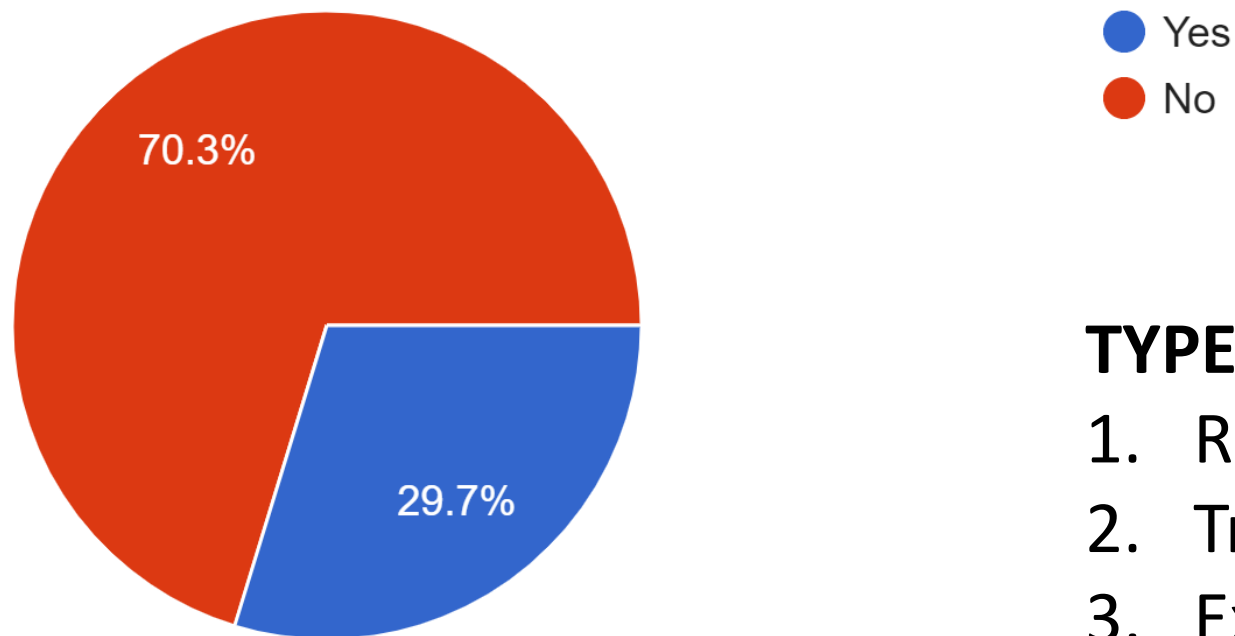


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## 8. Does your country need assistance in establishing a geographical names standardization program?

37 responses



### TYPE OF HELP NEEDED

1. Raising awareness
2. Training course
3. Expert visit
4. Publication of material



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WE NEED  
YOU

**MORE RESPONSES ARE NEEDED**

Division Chairs please encourage your members who attended the 2023 UNGEGN session in May, to complete the evaluation survey. Their input is fundamental to the formulation of UNGEGN's work during the intersessional period and in preparation for the 2025 session.

- **2023 UNGEGN Session Evaluation form** <https://forms.gle/FAPwRAyrKnUY2eXU7>
- **List of Participants** [GEGN.2/2023/INF/3/Rev.1](https://www.un.org/gegn/2023/INF/3/Rev.1)



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# Decision 3/2023/6 - Reports of the divisions

The Group of Experts:

- a) Took note of the report of the Bureau and the Secretariat of the Group of Experts and the reports submitted by divisions;
- b) Acknowledged the need expressed by some divisions for more support from the Bureau and the Secretariat, including space on the website to archive divisional matters;
- c) Adopted the guideline entitled “Responsibilities of Divisional Chairs and Executive Group”;
- d) Encouraged Member States to participate in divisional activities and to revitalize inactive divisions;
- e) Encouraged the divisions to actively contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021–2029 on the strategies and related actions as outlined in table 4 entitled “Strategic Plan and Programme of Work – work items relevant to Divisions” of the report of the Bureau and the Secretariat.



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# UNGEEN Bulletin Themes- which are to be featured?

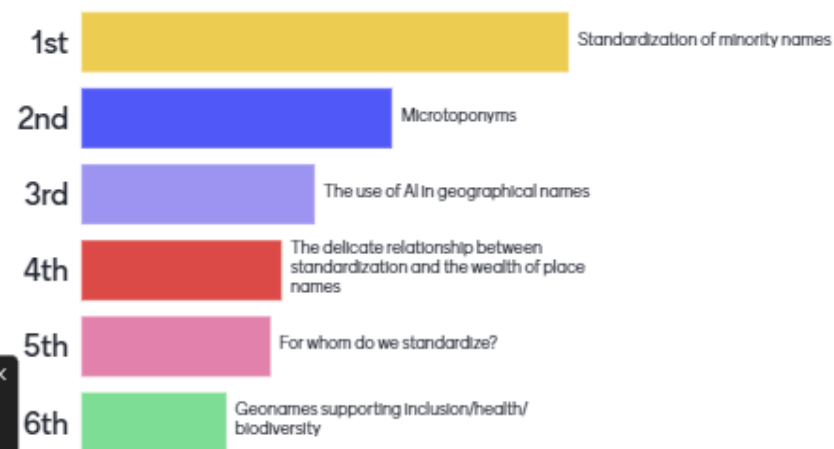
- What topics are of interest to you, and you would wish to have featured in future editions of the UNGEEN Bulletin?
- You are invited to do a quick poll by going to the following link or scan the QR code.
- Select four topics of your choice
- <https://www.menti.com/albg91fx2id3>



[Click to download as image](#)

Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) use code 4848 0932

## Select four (4) themes you would wish to have featured in upcoming UNGEEN Bulletins



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# 3. The World Geographical Names Database



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# 3. Presentation on the World Geographical Names Database

Presentation to be delivered by  
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu  
Convenor

Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management



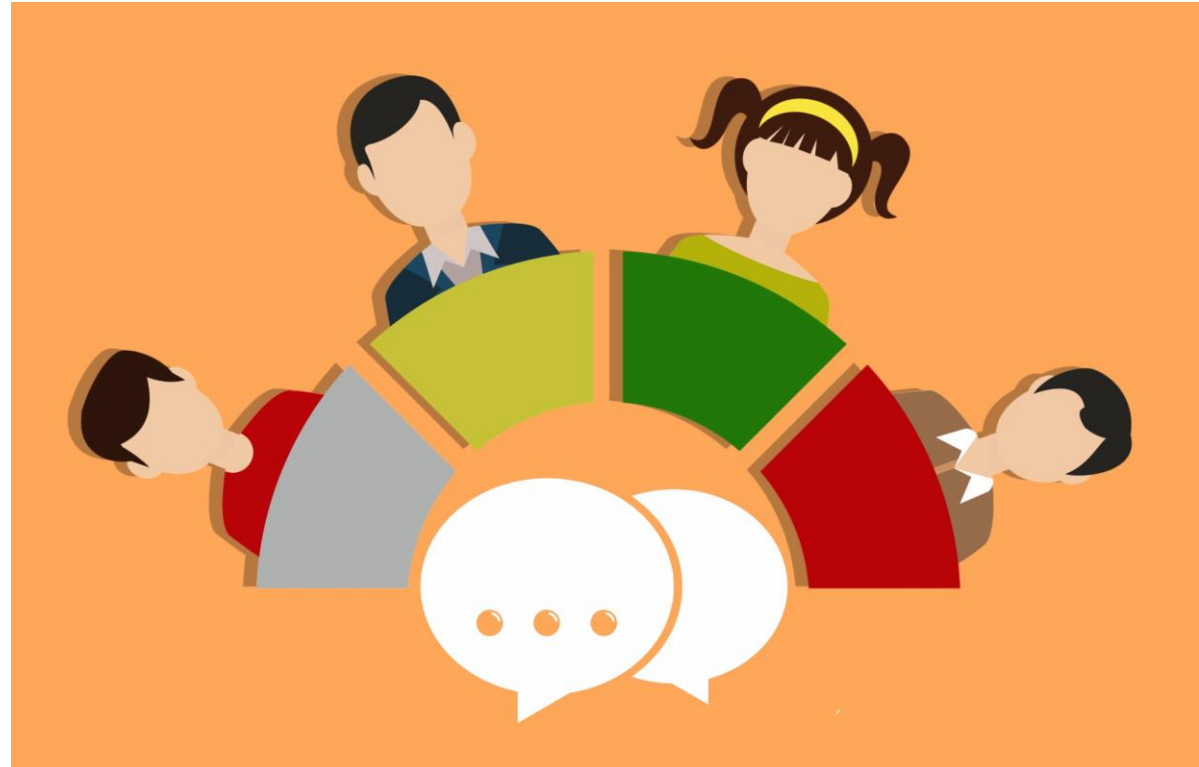
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# WGN - Global unique identifier for cities

Discussion 10 mins.



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# 4. Presentations – Roles and activities of Divisions



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# Presentations – Roles and activities of Divisions



Baltic division  
Maciej Zych, Poland

## Baltic Division of UNGEGN

### Structure, operations and works of the Baltic Division

Maciej Zych  
Chair of the Baltic Division



Latin America Division  
Francisco Medina Parra - Mexico



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# DISCUSSION: Roles and activities of Divisions

Discussion 15 mins.



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# GENERAL UPDATES

1. The Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029
2. Working Group Changes
3. ECOSOC 2024 Coordination Segment – UNGEGN Infographic



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# UNGEGN's Strategic Plan and Programme of Work

1. Divisional Chairs are reminded to encourage their members to align their work to the UNGEGN Strategic Plan and Programme of Work 2021-2029 (SP&PoW)
2. The SP&PoW is currently being updated as per the decisions of the 2023 session and reorganization of the working groups. The revised leaflet/summary is currently available on the UNGEGN webpage.
3. The SP&PoW is to be translated to all UN languages.
  - The French Speaking Division is undertaking the translation to French.
  - Volunteers are needed for translation to Arabic, Chinese and Russian



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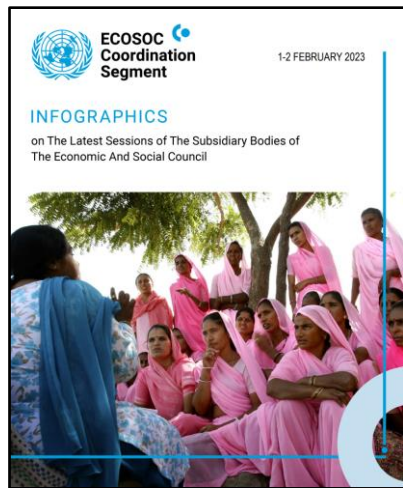
# Re-organizing the UNGEGN structure

1. The WG on Evaluation and Implementation has been disbanded
2. Four functions remain with the coordinator for Evaluation and Implementation
3. The funding function is now with the WG on Training Courses
4. WG on Evaluation, Implementation and Publicity
  - Sungjae Choo – RoK, was appointed as Co-Coordinator with responsibility for Implementation and Evaluation
  - Alison Dollimore – UK, had been appointed as Co-Coordinator of the WG with responsibility for Publicity



# ECOSOC 2024 Coordination Segment UNGEEN Infographic

The website of the 2024 Coordination Segment will be live by end of this week and the infographics will be launched at the same time.



## ECOSOC 2023 Infographics

[ECOSOC Coordination Segment 2023 – compiled Infographics \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/infographics)



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