Update on the UNGEGN WGN Database

Task Team WGN DB

Overall vision of UNGEGN World Geographic Names (WGN) Database
Why are we doing this?

☑ **UNGEGN is mandated by the Economic and Social Council as one of its nine Subsidiary Bodies – this is implementing UNGEGN Decision 2/2019/2**

☑ **Position UNGEGN as the 'go to' for authoritative, comparable, and high-quality geographic names/toponyms – aligned with its Strategic Plan**

☑ **Provide a dramatically improved platform for managing toponymic data**

☑ **Enhance visibility and use of toponymic data, irrespective of language, from across the UN system and globally**

☑ **Focus on data to support evidence-based action**

☑ **Increase visibility of UNGEGN, its intergovernmental role and its work**

WGN System Components

Position the UNGEGN as a global leader in authoritative geographical names

1 **WGN Dashboard - Publicly Accessible Dashboard**

2 **WGN API - Publicly Accessible, read-only geoJSON, API**

3 **WGN Administration System – User Interface for UNGEGN Secretariat**
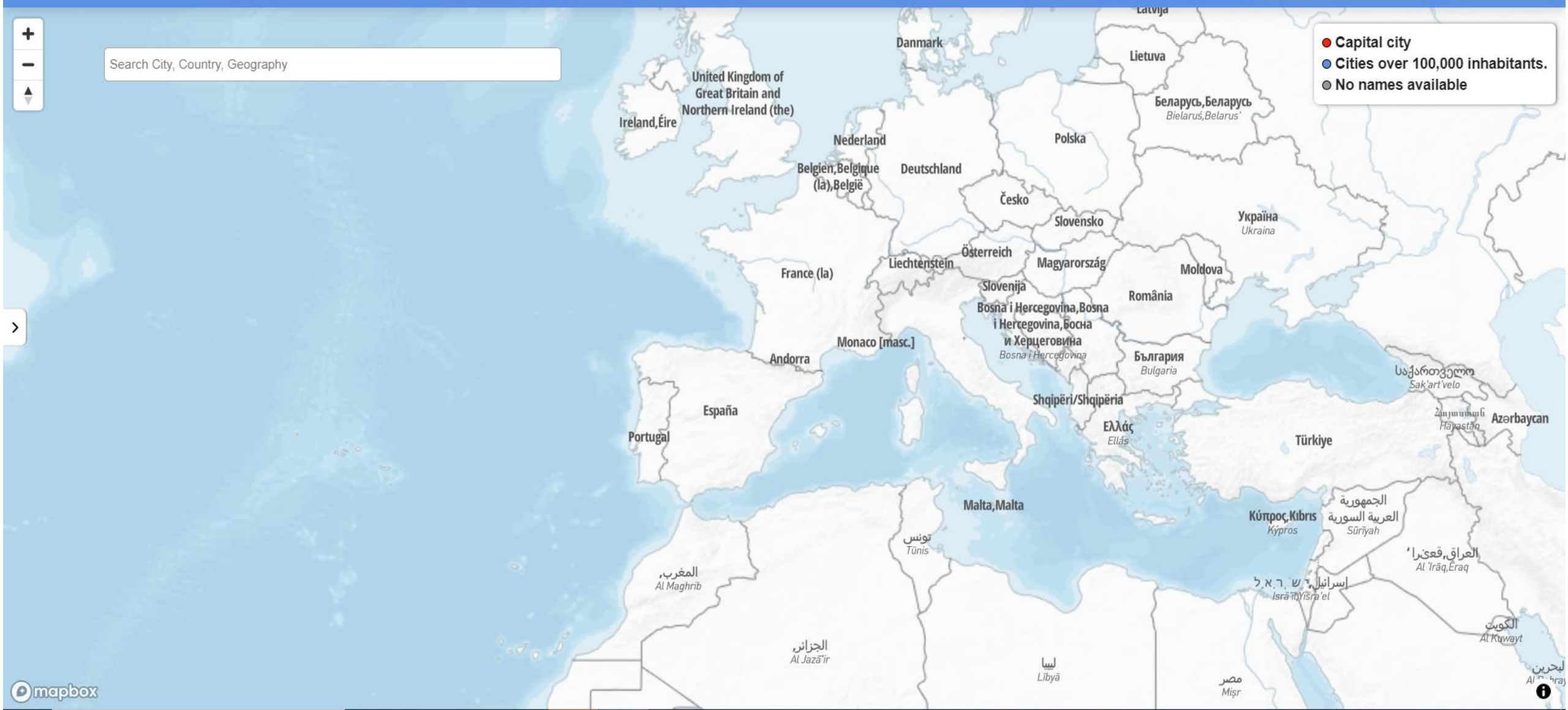
1 WGN Public Dashboard

The WGN Database platform (but not the DATA) is now being extensively tested 'in the real world'

https://ungegn.un.org

2 **WGN API**

The WGN API:

1. **An open access, RESTful API**, provides read-only access to the WGN database, through several API endpoints (Cities – via WGN Unique City ID, Countries – via M49 code, Languages, Romanization Systems, and other endpoints)

2. **Documented via Swagger's** Interface Description Language

3. **Provides Standardised GeoJSON**. Can be downloaded as a standalone file or be consumed into Excel or other GIS applications

4. Meets the highest requirements of the **SG's Data Strategy**, as data is available as Open Access, publicly, without restriction in machine readable formats.

WGN Administration System

UNGEGN World Geographical Names — Log In

Country Details - Bosnia and Herzegovina

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M49 Code
70

ISO2
BA

ISO3
BIH

ISO Standard
ISO 3166-1 alpha 3

Display
☐

UN Member
☐

Continent
5-Europe

Region
16-Southern Europe

First Official Language

SKOS URI

Visualization Order

Map location
15.7364,42.564522,19.619699,45.276901

Historical Progression

Event D890 : State Seceded From	D...	Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia		
Event D70 : State Seceded To			Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	

FootNotes

Toponyms (Since 23-Nov-2021 - 08-Mar-2022)

Endonyms

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Bosnian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Croatian	Bosna i Hercegovina	Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names
Serbian	Босна и Херцеговина / Bosna i Hercegovina	Босна и Херцеговина / Bosna i Hercegovina	UNGEGN Technical reference manual for the standardization of geographical names

United Nations Languages

Language	Short Name	Formal Name	Source
Arabic	البوسنة والهرسك	البوسنة والهرسك	UN terms
Chinese	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	波斯尼亚和黑塞哥维那	UN terms
English	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	UN terms
French	Bosnie-Herzégovine (la)	la Bosnie-Herzégovine	UN terms
Russian	Босния и Герцеговина	Босния и Герцеговина	UN terms
Spanish	Bosnia y Herzegovina	Bosnia y Herzegovina	UN terms

Data Governance

- The Secretariat has revived WGN Database - 6,097 cities globally will be managed within the database.

- The Secretariat is working towards endonymic 'completeness' of this data across the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), integrating authoritative linguistic data from the Demographic Yearbook and the UNTERM database. The positional accuracy of geographic coordinates will be assessed in cooperation with the UN Geospatial Information Section of the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT)

- Geographic names of cultural heritage, maritime areas and other 'geographies' could be explored.

- The Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management (see report GEGN.2/2023/73/CRP.73), as part of its work plan Action Item 1-i-5 – "Promote and support the establishment of an authoritative international database/gazetteer of geographical names to be disseminated to the public through UNGEGN" provides 'day-to-day' Member State governance for the WGN Database

Future Feature Improvement and Development

Feature Improvement

1. The Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management is developing standardization/guidance for a unique identifier for cities to help respond to Recommendation 2 of UNGEGN's 2023 Session, and other decisions pertaining to Linked Data

2. Improved cartography

3. Other features to be defined (resources permitting)

Data Development

1. The Secretariat is collaborating with other members of UNSD, the UN Library, SALB and other sources of geographic data where geographic names are important to integrate and refine the data within the WGN Database.

   This is expected to be completed by late November 2023

2. The Secretariat is working with the convenors of Working Groups on Geographical Names Data Management, Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage and on Romanization Systems to identify bugs and data issues, before initiating a wider consultation – which will be done with the guidance of the UNGEGN Bureau

   Planned to be initiated in early 2024.

UNGEGN Data Integration Flow

Defining engagement with Member States to collect/update geographical names

– what are the potential process(es)?

1. **Member States**
   i. Request review of existing geographic names held within the WGN database
   ii. Request input (in defined format) of new geographical names
   iii. Interlinkages with national geographical names authorities and identify national focal point(s)
   iv. ...?

2. **Authoritative Data from the UN System**
   Short Term
   i. UN Demographic Yearbook – Authoritative Member State provided statistical data
   ii. UNTERM
   Long Term
   iii. UN Gazetteer