5 February 2019

Original: English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names**
First session
New York, 29 April–3 May 2019
Item 15 of the provisional agenda*
**Toponymic data files and gazetteers (data processing and
tools, database management, data dissemination: products and
services) (Working Group on Toponymic Data Files
and Gazetteers)**

Maintaining and publishing the geographical names database within the German spatial data infrastructure

Summary**

In Germany, all geographical names-related information on several (topographic) vector data products based on a scale of 1:250,000 and smaller is maintained in a single database entitled "Geographical names of Germany". Through unique identifiers, the name entered in the database are linked unambiguously to all databases and products provided by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy. At present the database contains about 165,000 entries, including more than 1,700 names in the minority languages Sorbian, Frisian and Danish. Recently, the last remaining geographical names in Sorbian languages were divided into Upper and Lower Sorbian with the help of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for the German-speaking area.

The administrative and maintenance tasks for the database are carried out in Frankfurt am Main, while the (Gazetteer) web service is facilitated through the National Geodata Centre at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy in Leipzig (www.geodatenzentrum.de).

The dataset is currently used for the provision of geographical names data within the German spatial data infrastructure. The database has been brought into conformity with the implementing rules on interoperability of spatial data sets and services (that is, data specification for geographical names (annex I)) of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE).

The geographical names dataset of the Federal Agency (in conformity with INSPIRE) is already available through the European data portal

---

Please recycle

(http://www.europeandataportal.eu/de/). The data portal collects metadata from public-sector information that is available in European countries.

In 2017, the physiogeographical regions of Germany, combined with tourist information, were integrated as map layers within the site Geoportal.de. Plans are under way to add geographical names (exonyms) in languages from bordering States as additional information to the map layers.