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**Toponymic data files and gazetteers (data processing and
tools, database management, data dissemination: products
and services) (Working Group on Toponymic Data Files
and Gazetteers)****Status report on gazetteer developments under European
location services****Summary****

EuroGeographics continues to develop means of serving European users with geographical names and other spatial data derived from national mapping and cadastral authorities from a single access point. The work started by the EuroGeoNames service between 2006 and 2009 was significantly improved through the design of the GeoLocator service under the European Location Framework project conducted from 2013 to 2016 and has continued with the further aim of enabling the operation of European location services until the present. The background information was included in the conference paper submitted to the Eleventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

All EuroGeographics projects are aimed at preparing an up-to-date database for a regional gazetteer with pan-European coverage. The current initiative focuses on the development and publication of a regional gazetteer under the EuroGeographics Open European Location Services project for the period 2017–2019.

The Open European Location Services regional gazetteer will contain data on the most important geographical names in Europe at regional and global scales ranging from 1:100,000 to 1:1,000,000. The name data will be extracted from the harmonized EuroGeographics products EuroBoundaryMap and EuroRegionalMap and should be launched as an open regional gazetteer data set and web service on the Open European Location Services website (<https://openels.eu>). EuroBoundaryMap and EuroRegionalMap contain a significant number of toponyms of administrative

* [GEGN.2/2019/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Saulius Urbanas, Service Development Consultant at EuroGeographics, in collaboration with Jeanette Kretz, Marcus Brühl and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu. The report will be available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/1st_session_UNGEGN.html, in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2019/22/CRP.22.



units, populated places, built-up areas and transport and water networks, as well as other topographic themes in Europe.

The toponyms are presented as endonyms. EuroBoundaryMap comprises reference data on all European administrative units for 55 countries and territories. EuroRegionalMap is a multifunctional topographic reference data set of 44 countries and territories, including administrative borders, water and transport networks, settlements, vegetation, landscapes and other objects.

The Open European Location Services regional gazetteer has been expanded with the inclusion of additional content in the form of exonyms and other variant names commonly used by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

Activities relating to the Open European Location Services regional gazetteer are, among other things, considered a further contribution to the larger-scale product, the GeoLocator service. The data in the GeoLocator service vary from country to country but include highly detailed information from national data sources. The service is operated from a centrally maintained database. It has been set up as an online service and, in addition to its data content, has a function that enables the performance of geocoding and reverse geocoding.

A prototype of the Open European Location Services regional gazetteer with the names of built-up areas was launched by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany in 2018. It is expected that the final version will be published in April 2019. Meanwhile the Federal Agency has established a web interface so that the Group of Experts can populate and maintain exonyms in the Open European Location Services regional gazetteer database.
