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**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2021 session**

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

Toponymic education**E-learning course on the Norwegian Place Name Act****Summary****

The report contains a discussion on the development, structure, content and experiences to date of an e-learning course and the executive work done on the standardization of geographical names in Norwegian. As with many other countries that have reported previously to the United Nations Group of Expert on Geographical Names, the implementation of standardized name forms is often poor, regardless of the type of regulatory means. The overall goal of the e-learning course is to improve the implementation of standardized forms in accordance with the principles contained in the Norwegian Place Name Act.

The most recent amendment of the Norwegian Place Name Act, which came into force in July 2019, confirmed the role of the Language Council of Norway as the consultative body in the standardizing process. This role includes offering advice on the spelling of a name and on geographical name selection. On behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, the Council has therefore been given the main responsibility for developing the course.

The target group of the e-learning course is mainly employees in the public sector working on geographical names at the local government (municipal) level. With the use of visual and interactive content, the aim is to engage users and encourage them to learn about geographical names and their importance for society and culture. It is hoped that this course will lead to improved understanding of the rationale behind the Norwegian Place Name Act and make the procedures for standardization better known. The course will be released this spring on www.sprakradet.no and several other relevant webpages in the public sector.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).

** The full report was prepared by Ellen Hellebostad Toft and Ingvil Nordland, Norway. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/20/CRP.20, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.

