

5 February 2021

Original: English

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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries
and on the progress made in the standardization of
geographical names****Report of Denmark****Summary****

The cooperation between the Danish State institutions that work to ensure the national standardization of place names has worked well since the 2019 session of the “new” United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and is developing further. The institutions involved are the name research group at the University of Copenhagen, the national mapping and surveying authority, the Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency and the Danish place names committee. The Committee formally nominates name forms to be standardized (authorized) by the Danish Ministry of Culture and is, in principle, open for membership to any State institution to which standardization is relevant. Currently, ten institutions are represented, including the University of Copenhagen and the Agency. The standardization agenda includes the following:

- Defining a normative set of rules for the correct spelling of Danish place names
- Taking steps to formalize the implementation of a spell-checking procedure in the Agency’s register entitled “*Danske stednavne*” (“Danish place names”) in the future
- Taking steps to formalize the definition of roles and the future cooperation between the Danish place name committee and the Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency.

* [GEGN.2/2021/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by associate professor Rikke Steenholt Olesen (name research group, University of Copenhagen, Chair of the Danish place names committee) and Morten Winkler (Senior Adviser at the Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency). It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/24/CRP.24, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/.



Other headlines of the report will be the following:

- Digitizing the essential archives belonging to the name research group at the University of Copenhagen and the place name committee, in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which underlies the need for ease of access, ease of use and expansion of the archives for research and formal standardization proceedings
- General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union, which complicates sustainable activities such as open access to digital research archives
- Registration of certain German versions of Danish place names in the Agency's "*Danske stednavne*" register (2020 was the centennial of the reunion of Nordschleswig with Denmark)
- Project concerning registration of Denmark's colonial place names (initiated by researchers at the University of Copenhagen)
- Description of the variety of use cases for the "*Danske stednavne*" register, which is used as a primary public data resource for geographical names by, for example, rescue and emergency services, environmental data registers and travel planning services; in a recent project, use was made of named built-up-areas to calculate indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Agency of Data Supply and Efficiency and the Danish bureau of statistics have done work on establishing a precise definition of what a built-up-area (city/town/village) is, including a description of the "200-meters' principle"
- Renewed publishing strategy for the national and historical book series *Place Names of Denmark*; the place names committee published the first volume in 1922, and approximately two thirds of the country is covered.
