

8 February 2021

Original: English

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

Virtual, 3–7 May 2021

Item 14 of the provisional agenda\*

**Toponymic data files and gazetteers****Status report on the European Open Regional Gazetteer****Summary\*\***

Since 2006, the European Union has supported projects for establishing an up-to-date data infrastructure for a regional European geographical names data service with full coverage of the European region. The Open Regional Gazetteer has been developed under the umbrella of EuroGeographics, the not-for-profit membership association for European national mapping, cadastral and land registration authorities in collaboration with its members. EuroGeographics provides European users with geographical names and other geospatial data from those authorities, as a single access point. The production management for the Open Regional Gazetteer has been taken over by the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy.

The Open Regional Gazetteer contains all geographical names extracted from two EuroGeographics products: EuroRegionalMap and EuroBoundaryMap. The data meet the requirements for geographical names of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe. Currently, the data include the geographical names of 36 European countries and “dependent territories” in 39 languages.

In addition, for those languages, standardized exonyms and variant names are linked with their corresponding endonyms and are classified according to their status.

The geographical categories covered by the Open Regional Gazetteer include a wide range of feature types, such as administrative units, hydrographic features, populated places and protected sites.

The Open Regional Gazetteer is published as a web feature service and can be obtained in GeoPackage format on request.

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

\*\* The full report was prepared by Angela Baker (EuroGeographics), Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu and Jörgen Spradau (Germany), and submitted by Germany. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2021/48/CRP.48, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/).



In addition to providing background information on the content, quality and accessibility of the Open Regional Gazetteer, the report also describes the strategical direction of EuroGeographics for that data set, including its increasing use. Through its new project, Open Maps for Europe, cofinanced by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union, EuroGeographics will provide direction and easy access to pan-European data sets created using official map, geospatial and land information, including geographical names and the Open Regional Gazetteer.

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