

23 April 2021

English

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

Second session

New York, 3 to 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 Austria for the period 2019–2021

Submitted by Austria **

Summary

The report highlights the major activities undertaken by Austria since the 2019 session of the “new” United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held in New York from 29 April to 3 May 2019. Those included the international scientific conference on place names and migration, held in Vienna from 6 to 8 November 2019 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Austrian names board; updates made to the online version of the glossary of terms for the standardization of geographical names of the Group of Experts, which is accessible on the site of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names; updates made to the map series of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying of Austria; the ongoing efforts to harmonize the names of geographical features that are on two sides of the national border; the development of bilingual Slovene-German signs in Carinthian municipalities; the comparative study on place names in bilingual areas in Carinthia (Austria) and the Těšín area (Czechia); the attendance of members of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names at various national and international working group meetings, division meetings, board meetings and other events; and publishing activities related to place names in Austria.

* GEGN2/2021/2

** The full report was prepared by Gerhard RAMPL (Austria), University of Innsbruck, Department of Linguistics.

The report highlights major activities of Austria since the 1st new Session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names in New York 29 April – 3 May 2019.

Celebration of 50 years Austrian Names Board

The Austrian Names Board celebrated its 50 years anniversary in 2019. An international scientific conference “Place Names and Migration” (6th to 8th November 2019) was held on the occasion. The celebration took place with the participation of distinguished members of UNGEGN, amongst them Pierre Jaillard (UNGE GN Chair), Sungjae Choo (UNGE GN Vice-chair), Helen Kerfoot (former UNGEGN Chair), Ferjan Ormeling (former UNGEGN Vice-chair), Jörn Sievers (former UNGEGN Vice-chair). Peter Jordan published an extensive report of the event in UNGEGN Bulletin No. 58 (pages 31-33).

Updates of the online version of the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms

As pointed out in the Paper GEGN.2/2021/CRP.105 *Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology 2019-2021* the online version of the UNGEGN Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names on the site of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names was updated to reflect changes made in 2019. The link to the database is: https://ortsnamen.at/ungegn_glossary/

Updates on the map series of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying in Austria

There have been various updates of maps from the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying in Austria (BEV). The changes can be viewed in detail on the homepage of BEV: https://www.bev.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=713.3175362&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Other activities or achievements during the two year period since 2019 are addressed in the following UNGEGN papers in this session:

GEGN.2/2021/71/CRP.71	Utilization of communal autonomy for implementing additional bilingual names of populated places and streets in Carinthia (Austria)
GEGN.2/2021/72/CRP.72	Harmonizing names of features intersected by the national boundary of Austria
GEGN.2/2021/73/CRP.73	Exonyms as part of the cultural heritage
GEGN.2/2021/74/CRP.75	Place name politics in multilingual areas: a comparative study of southern Carinthia, Austria, and the Těšín/Cieszyn region, Czechia
GEGN.2/2021/76/CRP.76	Place Names and Migration. Proceedings of the Symposium in Vienna , 6 8 November 2019

Furthermore members of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names attended at various national and international events (WG-meetings, Division-meetings, Board-meetings etc.).