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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2025 session**

New York, 28 April–2 May 2025

Item 4 (b) 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 Norway  
(May 2023–April 2025)****Summary\*\***

The three main institutions responsible for geographical names in Norway, which are the Sami parliament (Sametinget), the Language Council (Språkrådet) and the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Statens kartverk), in addition to the Norwegian Language Collections (Språksamlingane), have provided the information presented below.

New supplementary spelling rules for Norwegian and Kven geographical names were approved in August 2024. The Sami parliament adopted supplementary rules for North Sami geographical names in August 2023. The Language Council processed 508 Norwegian and 18 Kven geographical name cases in 2023, with 464 additional recommendations made up to December 2024.

The municipality of Oslo adopted the South Sami name “Oslove” in January 2024, despite recommendations to the contrary from the Sami place name service, which highlighted challenges in interpreting the Place Name Act. The Sami place name service continues to address the historical silencing and rewriting of Sami geographical names.

A tripartite consultation meeting between the Norwegian Mapping Authority, the Language Council and the Sami parliament, with the participation of the Norwegian Language Collections, was held in Guovdageaidnu in October 2023, and was focused on Sami geographical names. The Language Council and the Language Collections participated in international conferences, including the International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, held in Helsinki in 2024, and the symposium of the Nordic Cooperative Committee for Onomastic Research, held in Uppsala, Sweden, in 2023.

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1.

\*\* The full report was prepared by Peder Gammeltoft (Norway), Norwegian Language Collections, University of Bergen. The report will be available at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th\\_session\\_2025/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/), in the language of submission only, as document GEGN.2/2025/77/CRP.77.



The Language Council has updated its e-learning course on standardization procedures. The Norwegian Language Collections are investigating applications of artificial intelligence in various aspects of geographical names standardization. The Language Collections launched a geographical names service (Stadnamnportalen) in June 2024. The Norwegian Mapping Authority maintains the central geographical names register and has developed a proof of concept using optical character recognition and machine learning for processing geographical names from historical maps.

Work continues on collecting, systematizing and digitalizing Sami geographical name materials, and the Sami parliament is engaged in incorporating Pite and Ume Sami into the regulations of the Place Name Act. A request submitted in 2024 for establishing a Sami place name archive was not granted by the Research Council of Norway, and the National Library of Norway has now assumed responsibility for the initiative. The Language Council distributed Nkr 1.465 million in 2023 and Nkr 1.540 million in 2024 for geographical name collection projects. Its collection database has grown to include 169,663 names. In parallel, the Sami parliament provides funding and training for Sami geographical name collection.

Norway maintains its commitment to evidence-based standardization, with an emphasis on Indigenous and minority language names; digital accessibility of historical name forms; the development of artificial intelligence-assisted tools for name processing; and international collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the field of geographical names.

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