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

New York, 3 – 7 May 2021

**Item 12 of the provisional agenda \***

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity, including indigenous,  
minority and regional languages and multilingual issues**

## **Foreign Names of Landscapes in Germany**

Submitted by Germany\*\*

### Summary

The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy has been publishing a map of German landscapes, with boundaries and names, for many years. In cooperation with the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, a survey was conducted and the results were compiled. The survey contains the names of the landscapes in Germany in the languages of the neighbouring countries (Czech, Danish, Dutch, French and Polish). It also comprises exonyms for landscapes situated completely in Germany and endonyms for landscapes that span borders. Accordingly, toponymic experts from the relevant neighbouring countries were involved in the survey.

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\* GEGN.2/2021/1

\*\* Prepared by Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), submitted on behalf of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen – StAGN)

### **Foreign Names of Landscapes in Germany**

Germany shares its border with nine other countries. Three of these countries have German as an official national language. The remaining six countries have five different national languages.

The StAGN conducted a project for collecting place names in the languages of neighbouring countries (i.e. Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, Polish) for landscapes located partly or completely in Germany. Starting point was the inventory of toponyms in the map *Landschaften Deutschlands - Namen und Abgrenzungen* (German Landscapes – Names and Boundaries). These toponyms were matched with gazetteers and lists of exonyms in the five languages of the neighbouring countries. Only names of exonyms in common use and endonyms of border crossing features in the respective languages have been collected and connected with their German counterpart. Historical name forms and names used only for administrative units were not subject matter of this project.

The German map contains 754 toponyms of landscapes. For the five languages the following number of toponyms could be verified: Czech (42) Danish (15), Dutch (29), French (37), Polish (58). The number refers to toponyms in common use and have been crosschecked with toponymic experts of the respective language.

### **Points for discussion**

#### **The Group of Experts is invited to:**

- (a) Take note of the report and the progress made for the naming of landscapes in foreign languages in Germany.
- (b) Comment and provide input on similar work being carried out in other countries.