

4 April 2023

English

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

2023 session

New York, 1 – 5 May 2023

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 2021-2023

Submitted by Austria **

Summary

The report highlights the following major activities undertaken by Austria since the 2021 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held virtually from 3 to 7 May 2021:

(a) The Board on Geographical Names held four meetings (three virtually and one in person) since the previous session; a new Chair was elected;

(b) A list of Austrian Libraries locations abroad was reviewed and adopted in accordance with the resolutions of the Group of Experts;

(c) The library of the Austrian Geographical Society, founded in 1856, was integrated into the library of the Austrian Academy of Sciences;

(d) The national Austrian map series ÖK50, published by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, was redesigned, reflecting a paradigm shift in the field of map fonts for geographical objects; an initial set of three sheets was published;

(e) A bilingual hiking map in German and Slovene was published, reflecting not only officially bilingual names of populated places, but also the bilingual names of other geographical feature categories including farm and field names;

(f) Studies were conducted on politically sensitive street names and the offensive naming of geographical features;

(g) Members of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names attended various national and international working group meetings, division meetings, board meetings and other events;

(h) Information on activities related to place names in Austria was published.

* GEGN.2/2023/1

** Prepared by Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), Chair of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names

Report of Austria for the period 2021-2023

(a) The Board on Geographical Names (AKO) held four meetings, three virtual and one in person since the last session.

At the meeting in October 2022 Roman Stani-Fertl was elected as the new chair and Marietta Calderón was elected the new vice-chair for a period of five years.

(b) A list of the locations of the [Austrian Libraries abroad](#) has been reviewed and adopted in accordance with the resolutions of UNGEGN.

The relevant department of the Federal Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs changed the names of the location according to the list provided.

(c) The library of the Austrian Geographical Society (ÖGG), founded in 1856, has been transferred to the library of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

This move was necessary because the treaty with the Austrian State Archives was not renewed. The library of the ÖGG stock includes approx. 22,000 volumes of monographs from all areas of general geography and regional geography from almost all over the world; approx. 40% date from before 1918. Magazines and periodicals are currently exchanged with 181 exchange partners around the world. The map collection includes about 4,100 units and globes.

(d) The national Austrian map series ÖK50 published by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) has been redesigned.

A paradigm shift has taken place in the field of map fonts for geographical objects. The initial three sheets have been published. Detailed information can be found in document [GEGN.2/2023/37/CRP.37](#).

(e) A bilingual hiking map in German and Slovene was published.

The map not only reflects officially bilingual names of populated places, but also bilingual names of other geographical feature categories including farm and field names. Detailed information can be found in document [GEGN.2/2023/38/CRP.38](#).

(f) Studies have been conducted on politically sensitive street names and offensive naming of geographical features.

For the cities of [Graz](#), [Linz](#), [Salzburg](#) and [Vienna](#) comprehensive reports on politically sensitive street names have been executed. Some renaming of street names were carried out.

(g) 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.

(h) Publications on activities related to place names.

A recently published book on the endonym/exonym divide refers to the distinction between endonym and exonym as a core topic of critical toponomastics. Detailed information can be found in document [GEGN2/2023/40/CRP40.pdf](#)

A handbook on minority place-name standardization in Europe as a cooperative effort of European geographers, cartographers, linguists, historians and toponymists under the auspices of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission on Toponymy and the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance is being elaborated under Austrian editorship (see also [GEGN.2/2023/39/CRP.39](#)).

A comprehensive report of the [activities of the Joint ICA/IGU Commission](#) on Toponymy was prepared by the liaison officer.