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**United Nations Group of Experts on  
Geographical Names  
2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*

**Geographical names as culture, heritage and identity,  
including indigenous, minority and regional languages and  
multilingual issues****Bilingual municipal maps in the Austrian federal  
province Carinthia****Summary\*\***

In 2022, a hiking map was published that includes field and farm names in the bilingual (German/Slovenian) municipality of Zell/Sele, which is in the Austrian federal province of Carinthia (Kärnten). The new map was published by the municipality of Zell/Sele in cooperation with the Slovenian Ethnographic Institute Urban Jarnik in Klagenfurt, Austria, and the MapExplorer company. The map includes not only the official bilingual names of populated places, but also the bilingual names of all other geographical feature categories, including farm and field names. The Slovenian versions of such microtoponymy are based on local dialect forms, but adapted to standard Slovenian, while the German names are adapted to standard German. The adaptation was done in accordance with scientific principles and in close consultation with locals, so that they would not perceive these names as being “alien”, or not their own.

The new hiking map of the municipality of Zell/Sele is the first official municipal map in Carinthia that includes traditional, local Slovenian names for all geographical feature categories, thereby preserving geographical names that are components of the local minority language as intangible cultural heritage. Moreover, the map can serve as a benchmark for other municipalities in Carinthia.

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\* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

\*\* The full report was prepared by Martina Piko-Rustia, Slovenian Ethnographic Institute Urban Jarnik. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/38/CRP.38, in the language of submission only, at [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd\\_session\\_2023/](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

