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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****Minority place-name standardization: a comparison of
regulations and approaches in Europe****Summary****

A research project under the auspices of the Joint International Cartographic Association (ICA)/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy and the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance is to produce a handbook comprising three volumes. The handbook contains a comparison of the regulations on minority place names in European countries with autochthonous linguistic minorities, against the background of ethnic and linguistic structures, historical and political developments, the political landscape, governance structures and external relations. The project also attempts to establish whether minority place-name standardization is part of the general standardization process or if there are specific regulations; whether it is a bottom-up or a top-down process; and which administrative levels are involved. The aim of the project is also to explain the extent to which such regulations satisfy linguistic minorities and help to facilitate the relations between majority and minority groups. Experts of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names contributed to the project.

* GEGN.2/2023/1.

** The full report was prepared by Peter Jordan (Austria), Austrian Academy of Sciences, International Cartographic Association (ICA) liaison officer, ICA Chair of the Joint ICA/International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Toponymy. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/39/CRP.39, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.

