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

The Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency changed its name to the Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure in June 2022 in connection with a reorganization. The reorganization did not result in changes within the Agency's mapping department, which is responsible for collecting, registering and mapping Danish place names.

An important recent initiative is crowdsourcing names. The functionality for this is already established. Municipalities are encouraged to supply the register with relevant information, such as the names of local schools and sport facilities. Direct involvement of the municipality in the registration of place names will ensure and up-to-date and valid register.

The current management system used for place name registration is outdated; a new system developed by the Agency based on ArcGIS will be ready for use in the second quarter of 2024. In addition, a new data model is being developed.

The Name Research Archive (newly named in 2022) at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics, Copenhagen University, administers the secretariat of the Danish place names committee and contributes linguistic expertise on standardization matters. In the wake of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) shutdowns, the focus on digital accessibility has increased. The Name Research Archive is contributing to an ongoing digitalization project at the Department, the aim of which is to make all physical archives available online. In 2021/22, a unique and important collection was scanned. The collection, a part of which is the product of a crowdsourcing initiative of the Danish place names committee, contains records,

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

** The full report was prepared by associate professor Rikke Steenholt Olesen (Name Research Archive, University of Copenhagen, Chair of the Danish place names committee) and Marie Pallisgaard Thomsen (Senior Adviser at the Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure). It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/64/CRP.64, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



primarily of field names, written in phonetic transcription. The material will be publicly accessible in 2023.

In 2022, the Name Research Archive and the place names committee celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the book series *Danish Place Names*. The digital version of the series is a database with the same title. In the future, the plan is to incorporate standardized place names into the database. It will then be possible to track changes over time, locate the named localities on a map and extract lists.

Such a plan depends on institutional willingness to support the maintenance of data and infrastructure. In April 2022, the server hosting the website that provides access to the Danish Place Names database (and other databases) was hacked, and a new and secure solution has yet to be put in place. While in many ways catastrophic, this situation will lead institutions to prioritise the security of research data and infrastructure in the future.

An important and urgent task for the near future is updating the list of standardized Danish place names. A number of irregularities identified in 2021 and 2022 need adjustment, and the place names committee and its secretariat need to decide on a strategy to avoid irregularities and errors in the future.
