

14 February 2023

Original: English

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

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

Geographical names data management**Linked open data developments within the United Nations
Group of Experts on Geographical Names****Summary****

The Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management and the Working Group on Publicity and Funding jointly organized a webinar on the theme “Linked open data developments: – What’s in it for the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and its Experts?” on 30 September 2022. It was the second in the webinar series of the Group of Experts focusing on topics relevant to implementation of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names strategic plan and programme of work 2021–2029 and provided an overview on the challenges and advantages of linked open data and some implementation examples.

The Group of Experts views linked open data as another stage in the evolution of data management methodologies that it needs to consider in order to facilitate the widespread use of standardized geographical names.

The webinar was attended by a global audience of over 100 persons, primarily from national names authorities, national mapping agencies and universities.

In addition to providing an introduction to linked open data from a historical perspective, the webinar provided an overview of fundamental requirements, challenges and advantages. It also featured examples of linked open data implementation at the national level, demonstrating the benefits, methodology, architecture and software of such implementation, as well as the challenges experienced and solutions adopted.

The Group of Experts is encouraged to identify and connect experts in linked open data with geographical names experts nationally and regionally. Specific technical expertise in linked open data is not a common skillset within national names authorities, yet geographical names data are so often fundamental to building useful

* [GEGN.2/2023/1](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/).

** The full report was prepared by Susan Birtles (Australia) and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu (Germany) on behalf of the Working Group on Geographical Names Data Management. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/75/CRP.75, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



linked data ecosystems. Equally, the nuanced nature of geographical names and the various ways in which names data are structured may be challenging to linked open data practitioners wishing to use linked open data. National names authorities, geospatial data management authorities, linked open data practitioners and research institutions must work together on the technical and semantic cross-domain challenges. Therefore, national names authorities are encouraged to connect with relevant national and regional colleagues to further discussions and developments related to linked open data at the local level.

Documentation and a recording of the webinar are available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/>.
