United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 2023 session, New York, May 4th, 2023

The Gazetteers.net web application: a tool for harvesting digital gazetteers

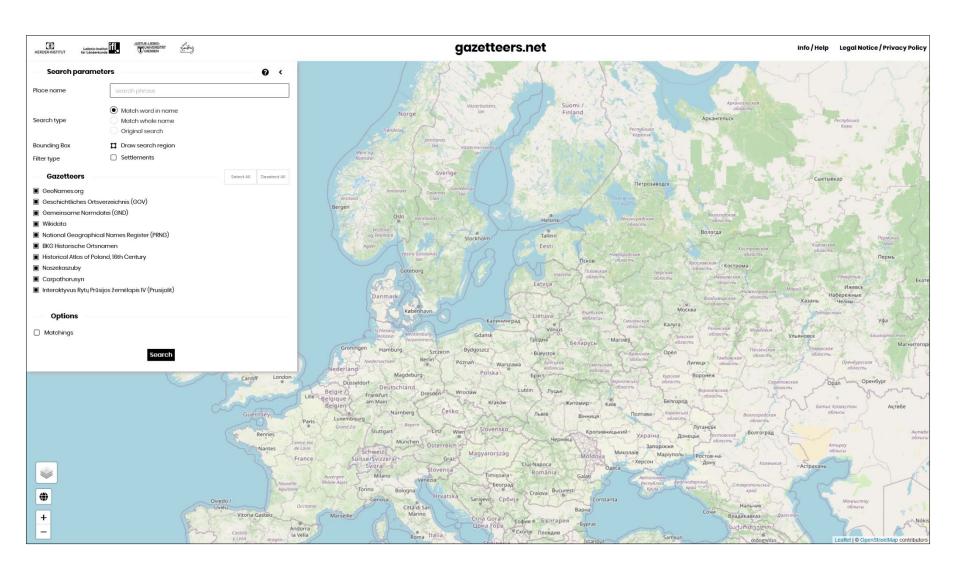
Christian Lotz, Ihor Doroshenko, Dariusz Gierczak

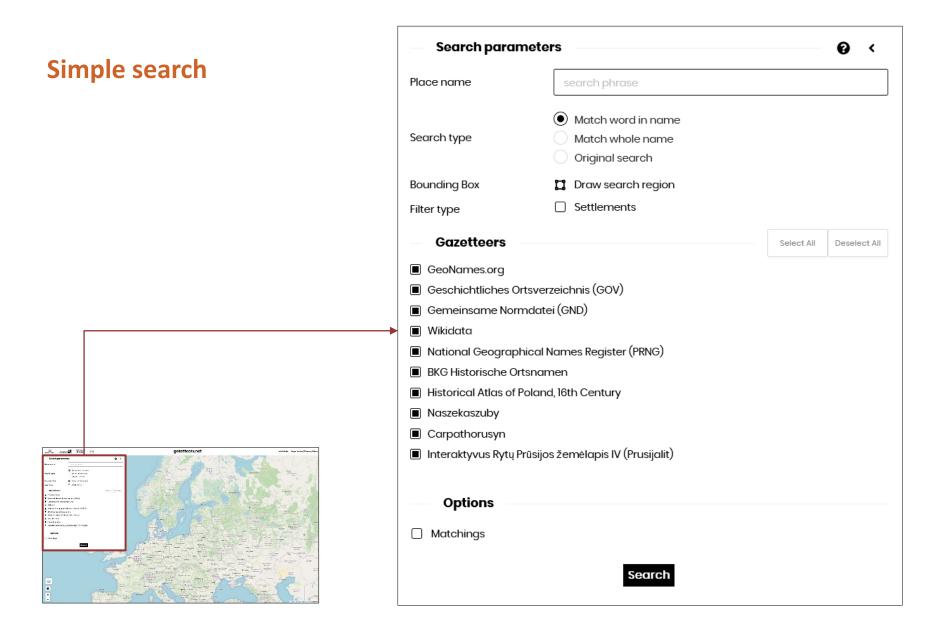


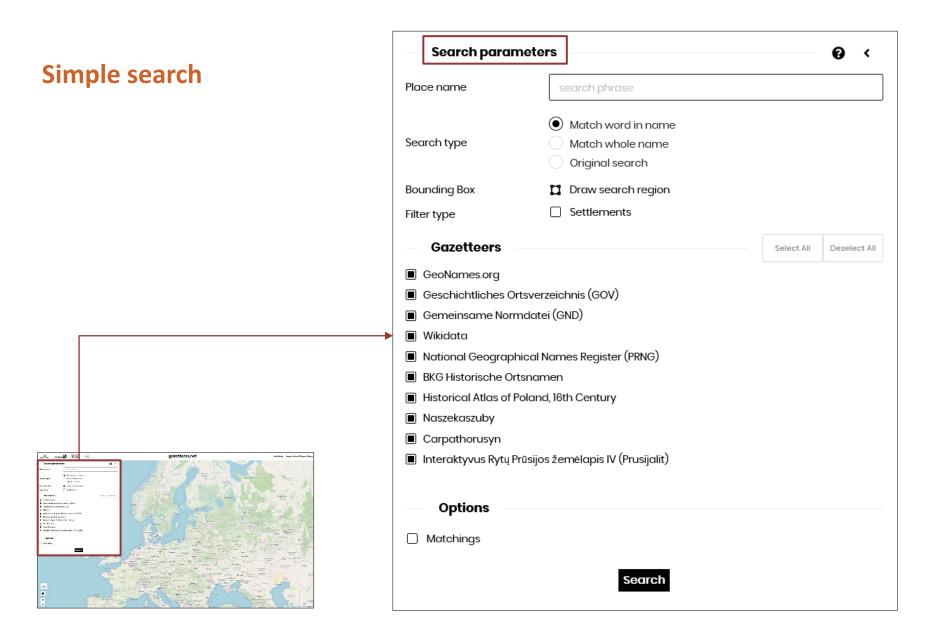


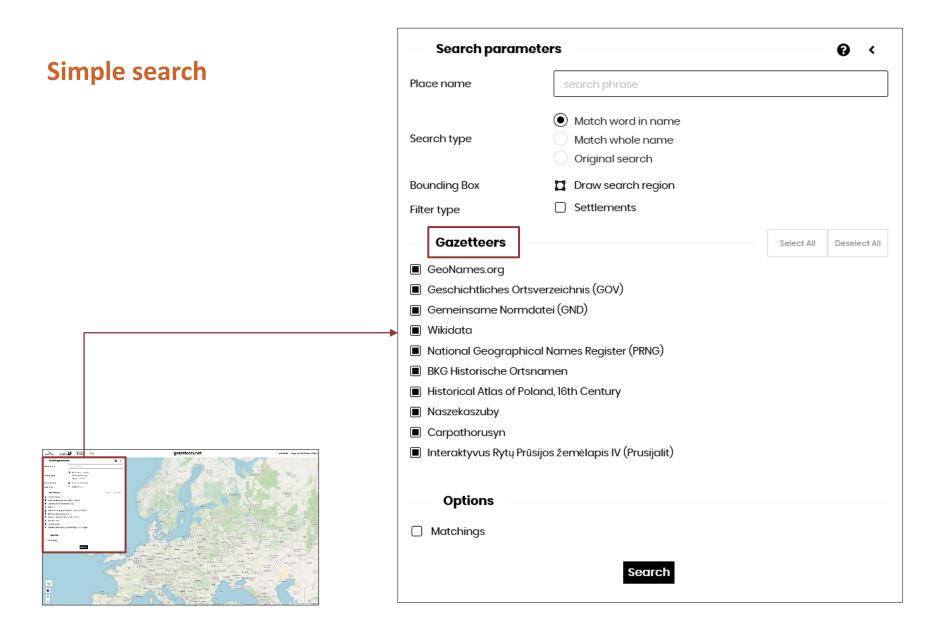
Introduction

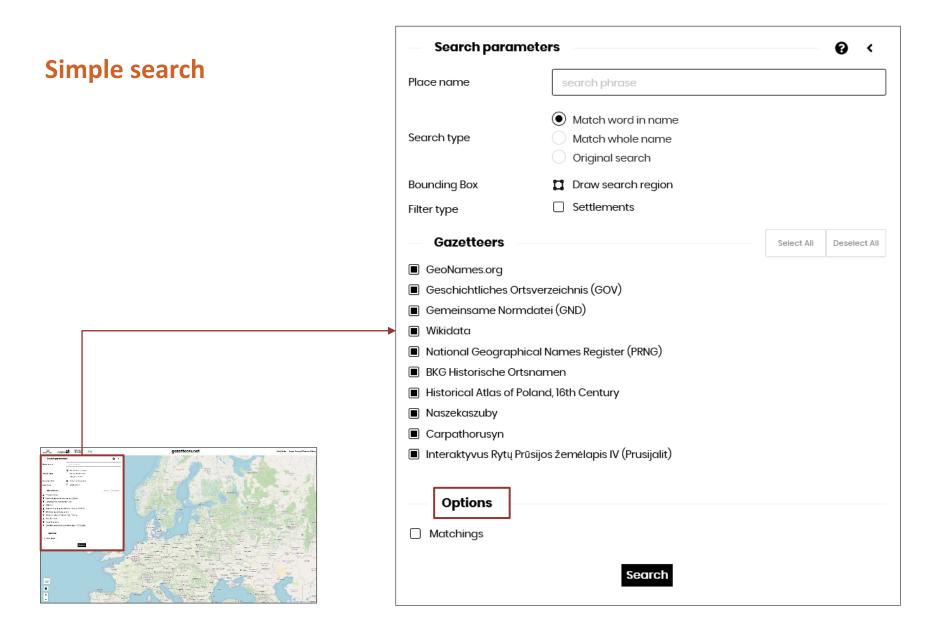
- Large number of existing gazetteers (different metadata standards; remarkably variation in regional and temporal coverage)
- Project goals:
 - (a) to compare the content and metadata standards of existing gazetteers
 - (b) to explore, how these standards have changed over the course of time
- Focus on Central and Eastern Europe (c. 1800 present)
- Comparison of three different types of gazetteers:
 - 1) state official gazetteers: Gemeinsame Normdatei (GND, Integrated Authority File, Germany) and Państwowy Rejestr Nazw Geograficznych (PRNG, National Register of Geographical Names, Poland)
 - 2) gazetteers created by citizen science initiatives which are widely used in Central and Eastern Europe: Wikidata, Geonames, and Geschichtliches Ortsverzeichnis (The Historic Gazetteer, GOV)
 - 3) gazetteers originated in research projects: Kaszëbsczé miestné muiona (Kashubian place names), Carpathorusyn (The Lemko Village Resource Guide) and Interaktyvus Rytų Prūsijos žemėlapis V (Interactive map of Eastern Prussia, pt. V)

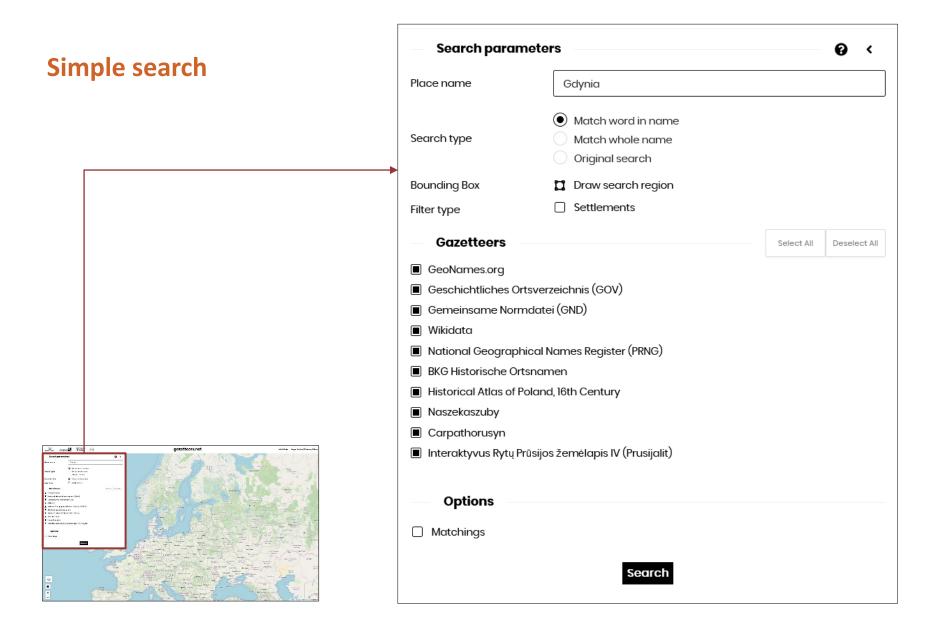




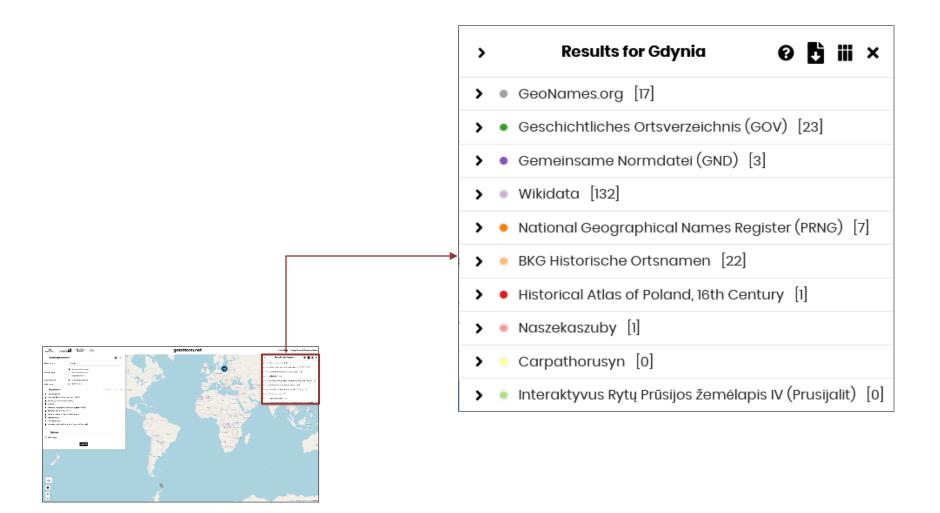


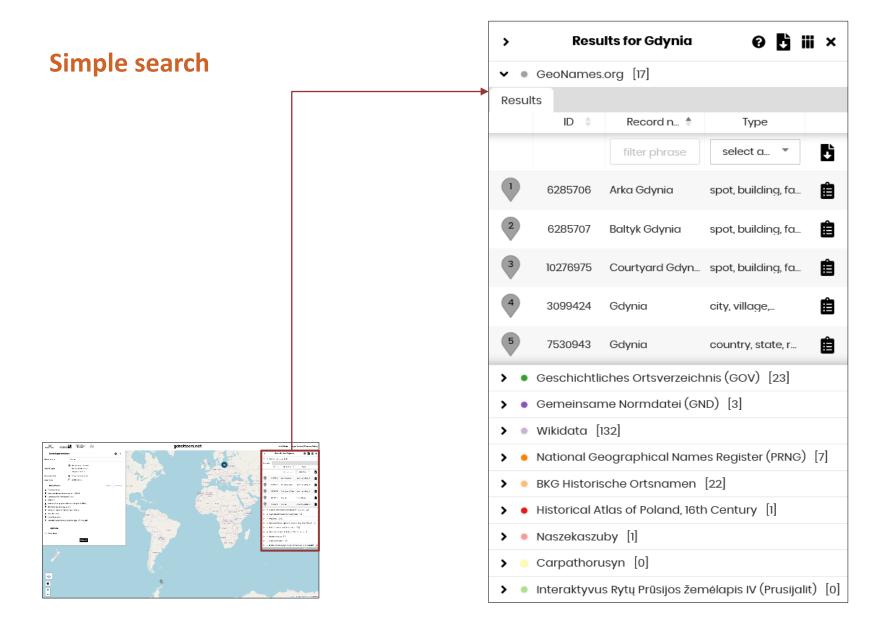




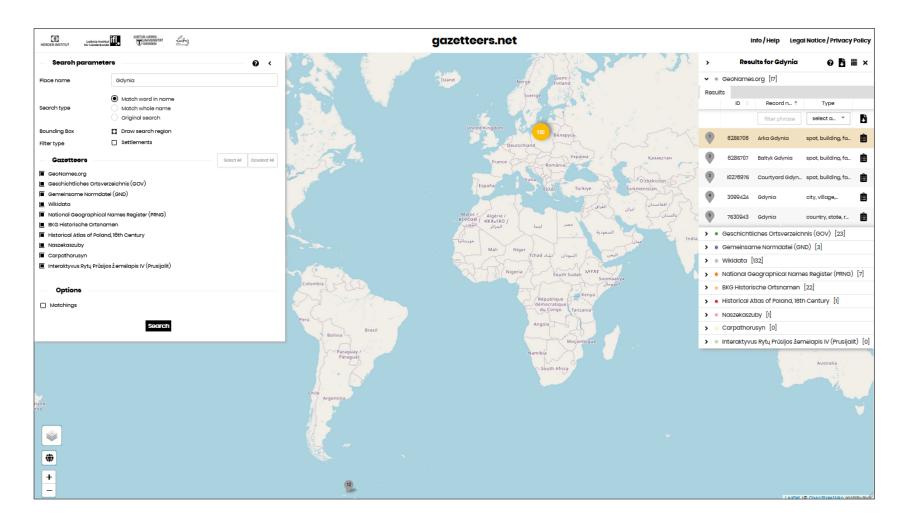


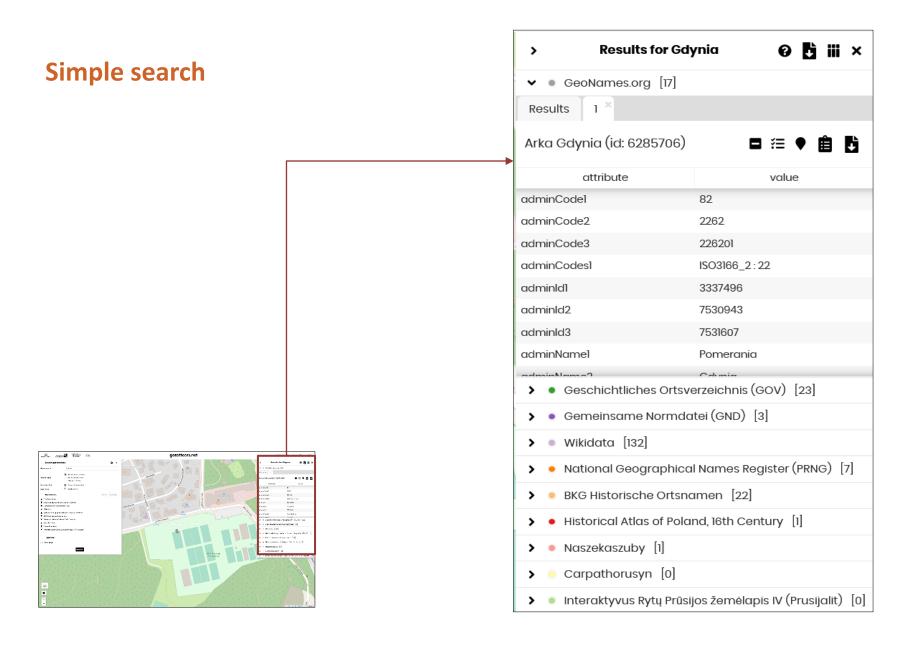
Simple search

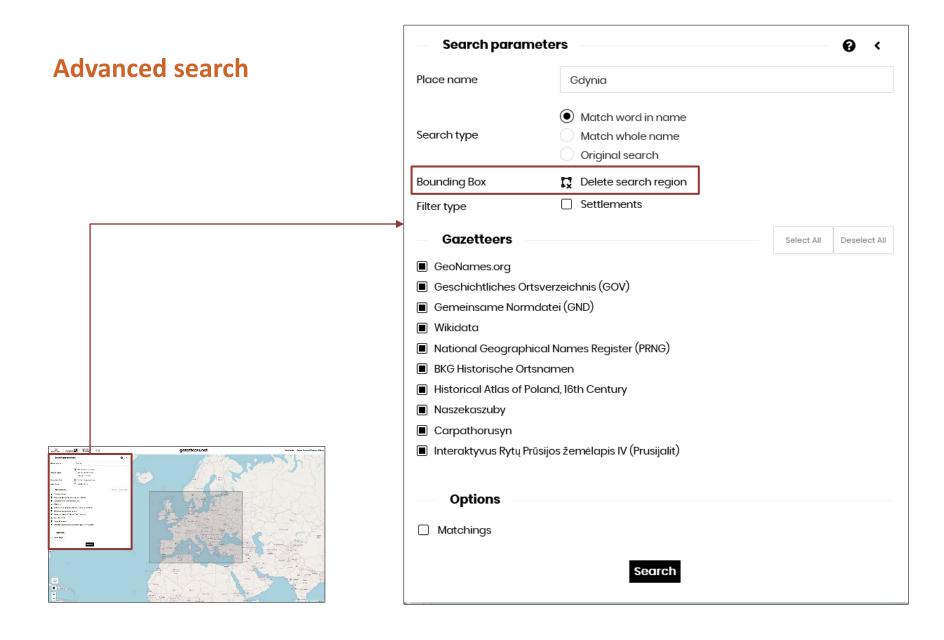




Simple search

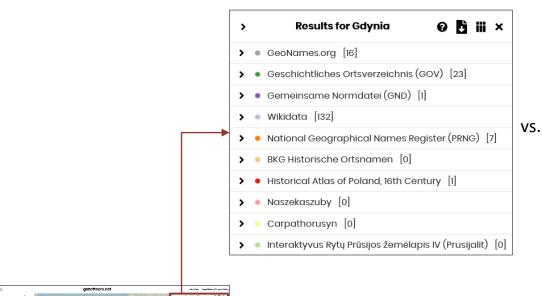




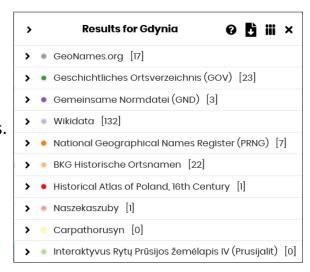


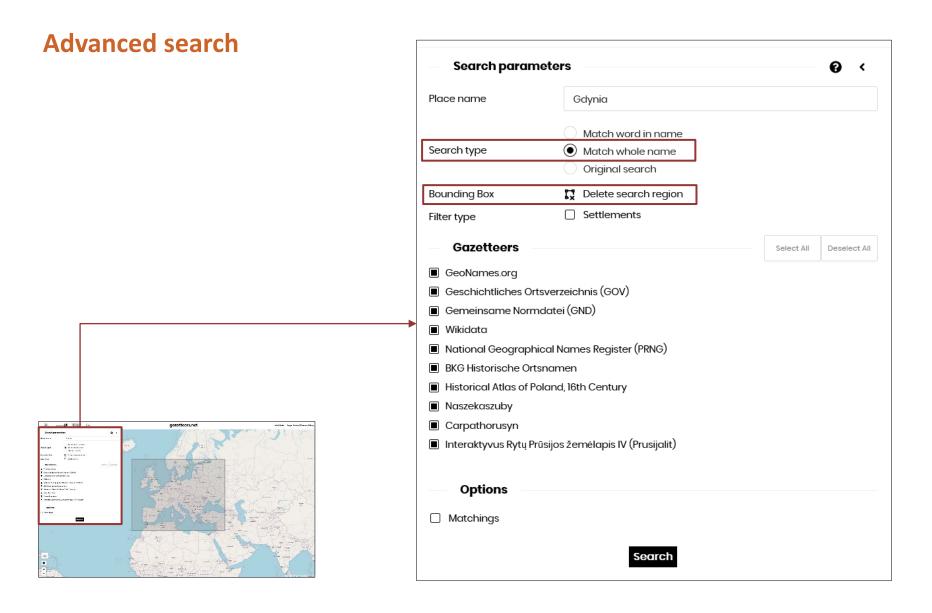
Advanced search





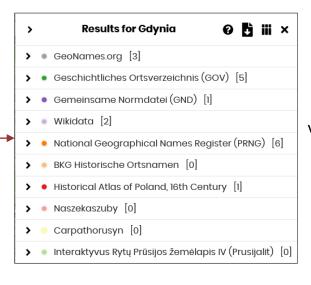
no spatial filter



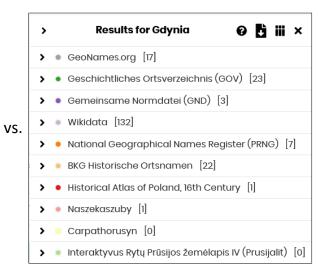


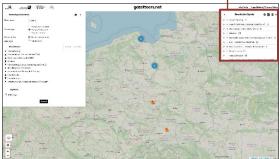
Advanced search

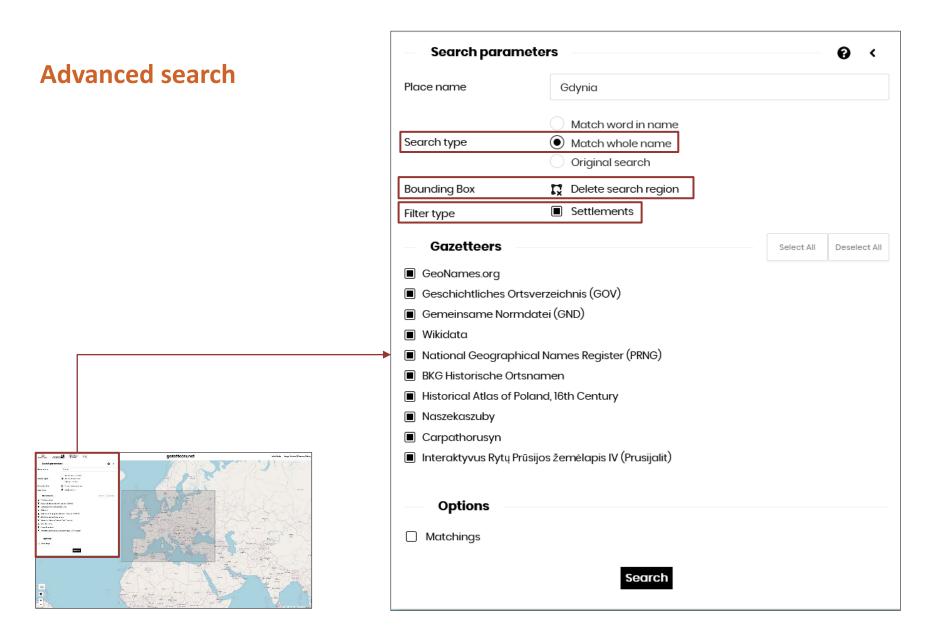
with spatial and whole name filters



no filters

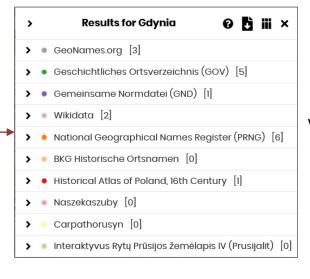




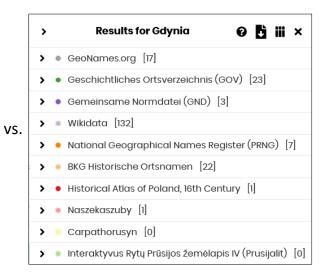


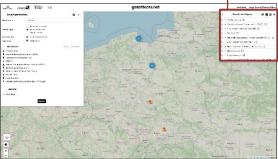
Advanced search

with spatial, whole name, and settlements filters



no filters

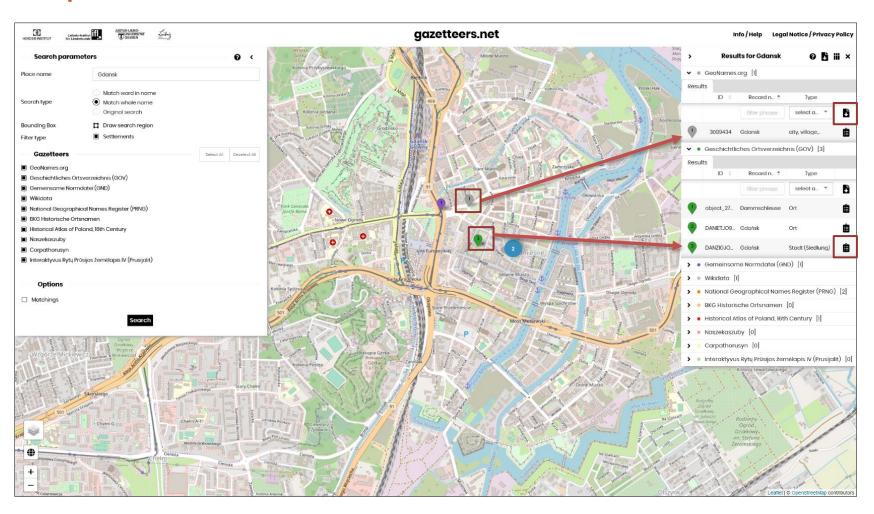




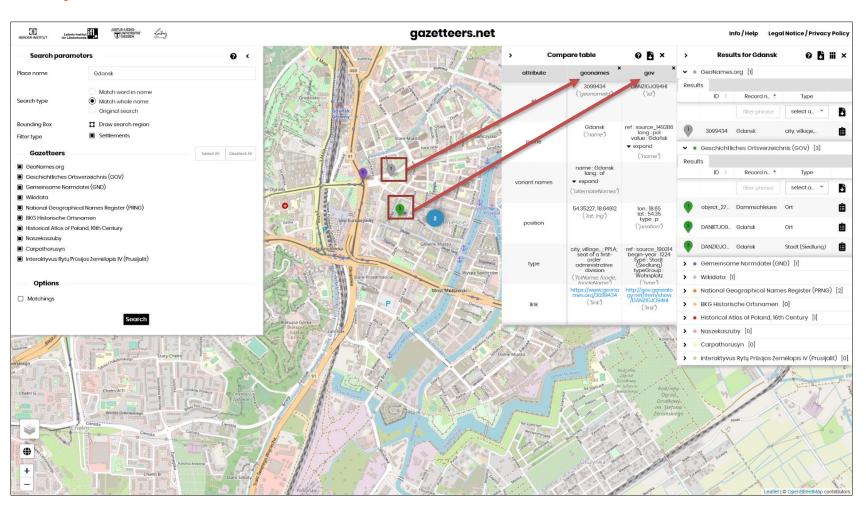
Compare tool

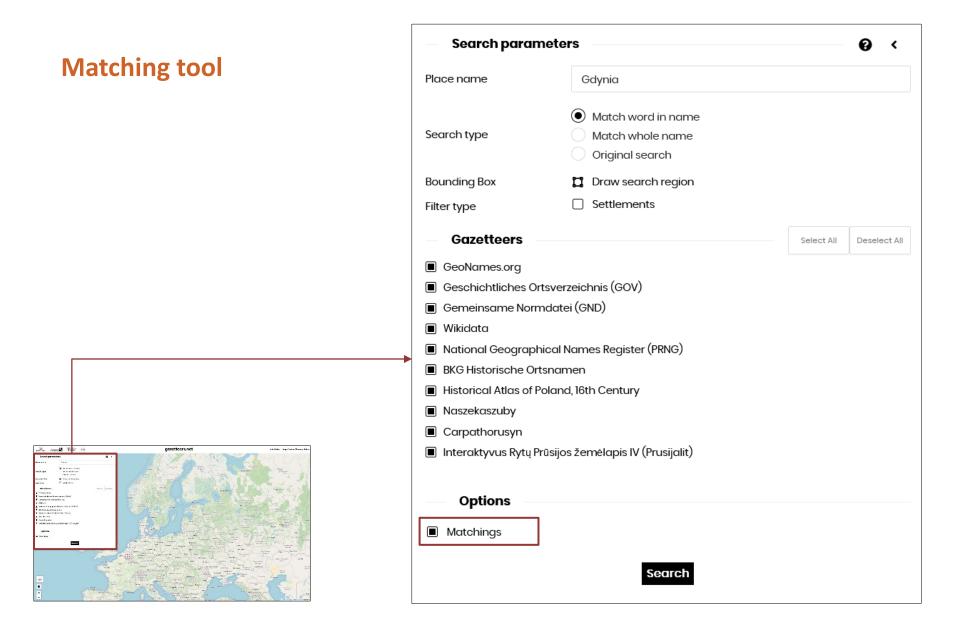


Compare tool

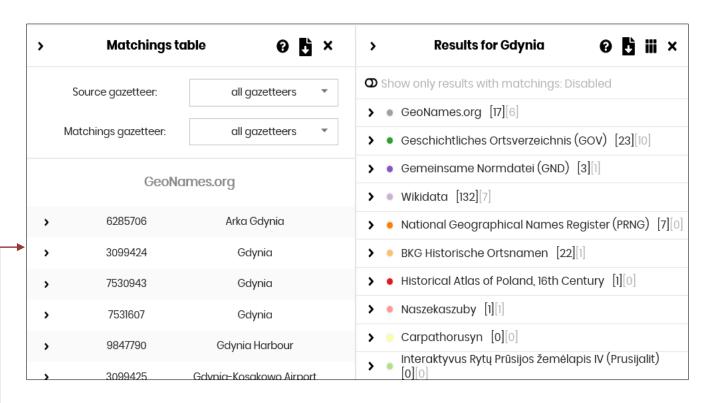


Compare tool



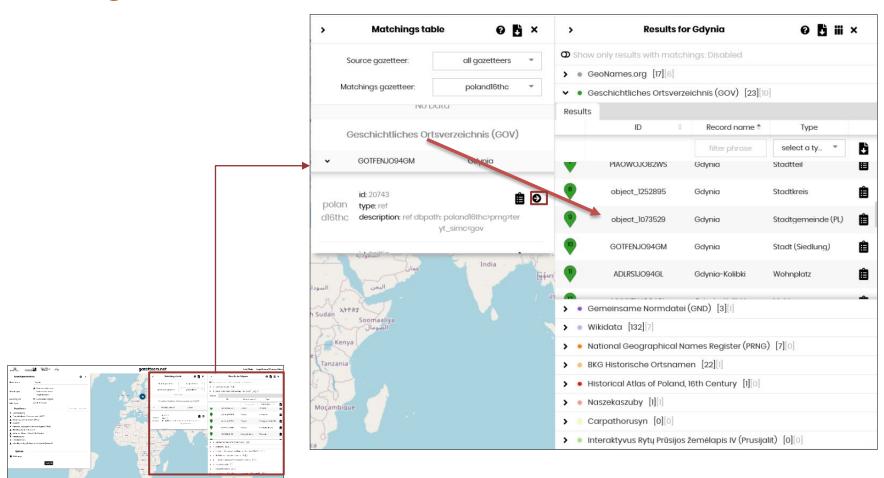


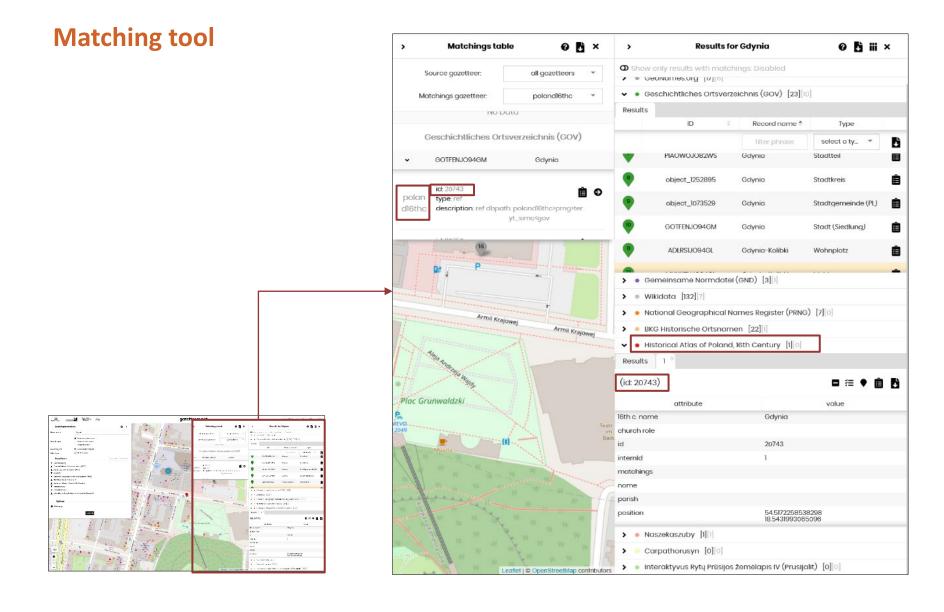
Matching tool





Matching tool





Conclusion

Benefits

- Suitable for a wide user spectrum
- Wide comparison possibilities
- Spatial search (bounding box)
- Simultaneous search in multiple sources
- Flexible selection of the gazetteers
- Name matching
- Possibility to include original data

Limits

- (current) Focus on Central and Eastern Europe
- Live search: decline of responsiveness if linked to several large databases
- Lack of direct possibility to compare several types of populated places
- Knowledge of working with advanced search tools is required

gazetteers.net

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