

10 March 2025

English

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

2025 session

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 4 (b) 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 Austria for the period 2023 to 2025

Submitted by Austria **

Summary

The report highlights major activities undertaken by Austria since the 2023 session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

- (a) The Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) has held four meetings (all in person) since the last session;
- (b) In November 2023, the AKO organised a two-day international symposium at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) in memory of Josef Breu, Chairman of the UNGEGN from 1977-1982, and Otto Back under the title “Geographische Namen im Gebrauch – Angewandte Toponymie in ihrer Vielfalt” (Geographical Names in Use - Applied Toponymy in its Diversity);
- (c) A selected list of Ukrainian place names using different conversion systems was prepared in cooperation with the StAGN. The list contains a short description of the systems and when they should be applied;
- (d) At the invitation of the AKO the 155th meeting of the Permanent Committee for Geographical Names (StAGN) was held in Vienna from October 9th to 10th 2024 at the ÖAW;
- (e) A bilingual hiking map of Slovenia / South Styria in German and Slovene was published, reflecting not only officially bilingual names of populated places, but also the bilingual names of other geographical feature categories including farm and field names;
- (f) Studies on politically sensitive street names and the offensive naming of geographical features continued;
- (g) A working group of the AKO prepared an edited update of the Austrian Toponymic Guidelines.
- (h) Publications on activities related to place names;
- (i) Members of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names participated in various national and international working group meetings, division meetings, board meetings and other events;

* GEGN.2/2025/1

** Prepared by Roman Stani-Fertl (Austria), Chair of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names.

Report of Austria for the period 2023 to 2025

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(b) In November 2023, the AKO organised a two-day international symposium at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) in memory of Josef Breu, Chairman of the UNGEGN from 1977-1982, and Otto Back under the title “Geographische Namen im Gebrauch – Angewandte Toponymie in ihrer Vielfalt” (Geographical Names in Use - Applied Toponymy in its Diversity); All lectures were held in German. The programme of the symposium is available to download at the following link: <https://ortsnamen.at/gedenksymposium-zu-ehren-von-josef-breu-1914-1998-und-otto-back-1926-2018/>

(c) A selected list of Ukrainian place names using different conversion systems was prepared in cooperation with the StAGN. The list includes a concise description of the systems and their application; The full report can be found under item 5 (c) document GEGN.2/2025/146

(d) The 155th meeting of the Permanent Committee for Geographical Names (StAGN) was held in Vienna from October 9th to 10th 2024 at the ÖAW at the invitation of the AKO.

(e) A bilingual hiking map of Slovenia / South Styria in German and Slovene was published, reflecting not only officially bilingual names of populated places, but also the bilingual names of other geographical feature categories including farm and field names; The full report can be viewed at item 8 (b) document GEGN.2/2025/147.

(f) Research into politically sensitive street names and the offensive naming of geographical features has continued. Reports have been published for the cities of [Braunau am Inn](#), [Salzburg](#), and [Wels](#). Renamings of street names have taken place in the cities of Graz and Salzburg.

(g) The Toponymic Guidelines of Austria have been revised and updated. The 8th edition is available at http://ortsnamen.at/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/k4_Toponymic_Guidelines_AT_2025_08.pdf

(h) Publications on activities related to place names;

(i) Members of the Austrian Board on Geographical Names participated in various national and international working group meetings, division meetings, board meetings and other toponymic events;