

17 January 2025

English

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

2025 session

New York, 28 April - 2 May 2025

Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda *

**Culture, heritage and language recognition: Indigenous,
minority and regional languages and multilingual issues**

**Notation and standardization of Slovenian geographical names in
Carinthia and Styria**

Submitted by Austria **

Summary

The Urban Jarnik Institute in Klagenfurt am Wörthersee has been receiving an increasing number of requests to check geographical names in projects with reference to bilingualism in the Austrian provinces of Carinthia and Styria. This affects mainly non-official names, i.e. names not reflected by official town signs or official topographical maps. But they are nevertheless used widely in the public, i.e. in print media, radio and television, in publications, in private cartography, on information boards, etc. So, it seemed advisable to subject them to a standardization process.

To this end, on the initiative of the Urban Jarnik Institute and individuals, in a kind of bottom-up process, informal working groups have been constituted that deal expertly with the standardization of Slovenian geographical names in Carinthia and Styria. These groups include experts (geographers, linguists, historians), university institutes of Slavistics, the local population, local Slovenian cultural associations and initiatives (cultural portal FLU-LED, www.flurnamen.at, www.ledinskaimena.si) and the central Slovenian cultural associations in Carinthia, bilingual municipalities in Carinthia, Ethnic Groups Bureau of the Province Carinthia [Volksgruppenbüro des Landes Kärnten], alpine associations, a Slovenian minority association in Styria and the Styrian Provincial Archive as well as the Urban Jarnik Institute which is in permanent contact with the Austrian Board on Geographical Names (AKO) since 2012. First results are uniform methods for the standardization of Slovenian geographical names published in 2012 as part of the EU project FLU-LED.

* GEGN.2/2025/1

** The full report was prepared by Martina Piko-Rustia, Slovenian Ethnographic Institute Urban Jarnik, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, Austria. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2025/147/CRP.147 in the language of submission only at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/4th_session_2025/.