

10 March 2025

English

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

**2025 session**

New York, 28 April – 2 May 2025

Item 10 of the provisional agenda\*

**Other geographical names issues**

**100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying  
and its cartographic activities**

Submitted by Austria \*\*

Summary:

The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) was founded on 21 September 1923. The centenary was the occasion to present the company's large, diverse and changing areas of responsibility and to celebrate the anniversary together. A celebratory event with partners and friends of the BEV took place in the festive setting. Afterwards the BEV celebrated its 100th anniversary with the public at open house days in Vienna at two locations.

The most interesting cartographic activity was the new edition of the map "Schneeberg und Rax" (1:25 000).

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\* GEGN.2/2025/1

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## **100th anniversary of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying and its cartographic activities**

The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) was founded on September 21, 1923, as the successor to the “Normal Calibration Commission” and the “Federal Surveying Office”. The centenary was the occasion for the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying to present the company’s large, diverse and changing areas of responsibility and to celebrate the anniversary together (<https://www.bev.gv.at/hundredjahrebev.html>).

On November 30, 2023, a celebratory event with partners and friends of the BEV took place in the festive setting. The guests of honor included two invited keynote speakers, Klaus von Klitzing, Nobel Prize winner for the discovery of the quantum Hall effect, and Rainer Bauer, former head of the department “Digitization, Broadband and Surveying” in the Bavarian State Ministry of Finance. Two specially produced short films were shown, which presented the wide range of the BEV’s portfolio of tasks in a special way.

Afterwards the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV) celebrated its 100th anniversary with the public at open house days in Vienna at two locations.

Open House Day at 1160 Vienna Arltgasse: At the location of the BEV’s metrology and calibration department, the doors were opened to the public for one day on November 25, 2023.

Visitors were offered a varied program that provided an insight into the various specialist areas and types of measuring equipment. Interested guests were able to experience measuring devices and procedures from the fields of traffic speed, temperature, length, force, mass, time, e-charging station, e-meter, water meter and acoustics. At the hands-on stations selected experiments such as breath alcohol measurement could be carried out. A particular highlight was the history room, which offered a great insight into the history of Austrian metrology with historical measuring instruments and documents.

Open House Day at 1020 Vienna Schiffamtsgasse: For three days at the beginning of December, BEV invited visitors to its headquarters at the Schiffamtsgasse. Around 400 visitors took the opportunity to see various specialist areas presented by experts. More than 50 guided groups were accompanied through six stations.

At one station, the centimeter-precise positioning with satellite methods was explained in a short film, and the accuracy of the positioning on your own smartphone could be checked at a “control point”.

A presentation showed the path from aerial images to data from digital sensors as well as the current methods of capturing aerial images, orthophotos, and terrain elevation models. The printed maps ÖK50, ÖK25V, ÖK250 and ÖK500 were presented with the innovations in the legend and the production method. The ÖK50 presented the new legend that reflects an adapted categorization of geographical names. For the first time, the colour green is used for the name of valleys and areas and the colour brown for the name of mountains.

With the free of charge Austrian Map mobile, visitors could surf through the national maps of Austria on their smartphone or tablet.

At this event, a kind of “journey through time” was presented: the new Austrian histMap. With the new Austrian histMap feature of Austrian Map online, the development of Austrian cartography can be visualised. Over 150 years of Austrian history can be experienced and retraced using over 3,000 historical map treasures. The maps tell many fascinating stories, for example by directly comparing any two eras. Automatic time travel is also possible. Background information can be called up for each era. Now everyone can visit

this online at <https://maps.bev.gv.at>.



Figure 1: Logo Austrian HistMap, maps.bev.gv.at (©BEV)

The station “Market surveillance: metrological consumer protection” explained how the BEV ensures the health and safety of Austrian consumers.

At this station “Cadastre and National Boundaries”, the experts explained the change from the land tax system to securing property. While hundreds of years ago the cadastre, started with the “Franzsiszeischer Kataster” (Urmappe 1817-1861), was simply a means of determining the amount of property tax, today it secures the land ownership of Austrians. Online access is free of charge at <https://kataster.bev.gv.at>.

The BEV regularly checks all 26,000 boundary stones on the basis of the state treaties with the eight neighboring states and the State Boundary Law and remeasures them if necessary.

The open house days were a great success and provided an insight into the importance and diversity of the tasks for science, business and society.

### Map “Schneeberg und Rax” 1:25 000

The Schneeberg and Rax area map has the highest information content and level of detail among all state topographic maps, and was republished in 2023 with a new legend. The map contains the highest density of information regarding to geographical names. The legend was adjusted in accordance to the ÖK50 for the new colour scheme of the names. The map has an expanded thematic print on both sides specifically for mountaineers and hikers, and shows special topics like alpine huts and shelters, and also the name of hiking routes.



## Schneeberg und Rax

ÖK25



Bundesamt  
für Eich- und  
Vermessungswesen

Österreichische Karte  
1:25 000

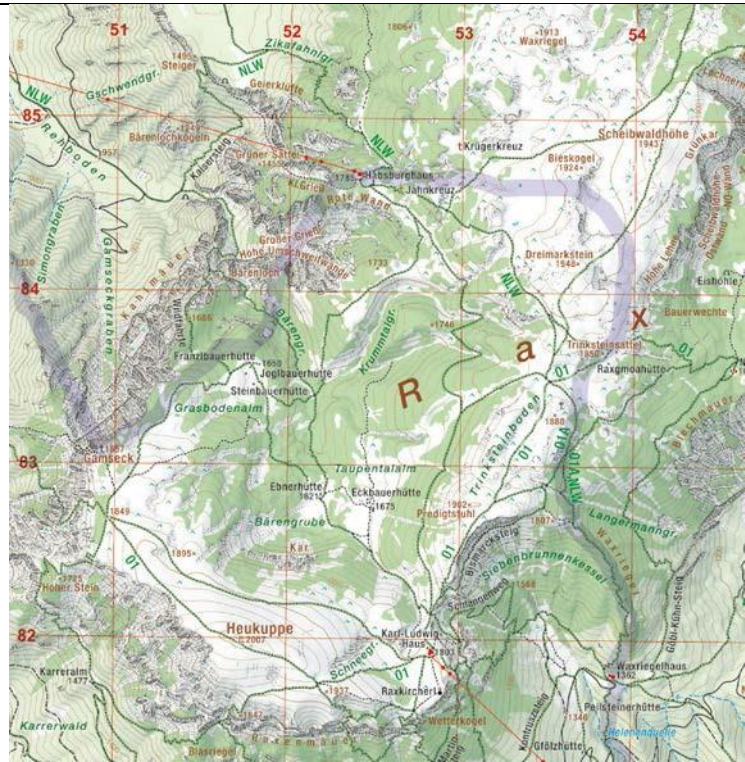


Figure 2-4: Map excerpts from “Schneeberg und Rax” (1:25 000) (2023) (©BEV) (image not true to scale)