

# Speaking Notes – Sweden’s Perspective on Geographical Names

## 1. Opening & Introduction

## 2. National Legislation & Good Place-Name Practice

- In Sweden, **Cultural Heritage Act** forms the foundation.
- From this: concept of “**Good Place-Name Practice.**”
  - Ensures **consistent use** of official names in public sector.
  - Reflects commitment to **cultural heritage, linguistic rights, and administrative clarity.**

## 3. Role of Lantmäteriet

- Our **national mapping agency**, Lantmäteriet:
  - Determines official place names.
  - Covers names in **Swedish** and **national minority languages**:
    - **Sami, Meänkieli, and Finnish (in some regions).**
- On maps/signs in multilingual areas, **names shown side by side.**

## 4. International Name Use

- Cultural Heritage Act doesn’t regulate international use.
- For that, we follow the **Swedish Language Act**:
  - Declares Swedish as the **principal language**—guides naming abroad.

## 5. Access for International Users

- **Toponymic Guidelines** available on Lantmäteriet’s website.
- All official names accessible through **public databases.**

## 6. Approach to Exonyms

- Sweden is **cautious** about exonyms:
  - We don’t officially establish them.
  - We **prefer endonyms**
- Recognize other languages have developed their own forms.

## 7. The Foreign Name Book (Utrikes namnbok)

- Multilingual reference tool:
  - Covers Swedish authorities, EU terminology, country names, demonyms/adjectives.
- Available in seven languages, **published on government website.**

## 8. Use of Foreign Names in Swedish

- Based on **historical usage**:
  - **Well-established exonyms** may stay.
  - New or lesser-known places → **use endonyms.**

- Changes (e.g. Vitryssland → Belarus) done with **care and expert consultation**.

## **9. Conclusion**

- Sweden's approach: **legal clarity, linguistic responsibility, cultural respect**.
- **Support continued international cooperation** on this topic.

## **10. Closing**