

# Minutes

of the

## 5<sup>th</sup> EuroGeoNames Workshop of the Consortium & the Reference Group on Thursday 15 November 2007, 9 – 17 hours

at EuroGeographics Head Office, F - 77455 Marne-la-Vallée, France

### 1 Executive Summary

The main points to note from the workshop are:

- Regarding the INSPIRE process three experts for the technical working groups (TWG) have been nominated for the theme "geographical names": Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Teemu Leskinen and Jean-Sebastien Majka. Additionally two reference documents (D3.3 Metadata profile and D4.2b Conceptual Schema) have been uploaded to the INSPIRE portal to be considered within the TWG.
- Regarding the feature type classification a new proposal from Adela Alcázar was presented and will be adapted to the country's specifics from the Reference Group members. The final version should be ready until 15.12.2007.
- Regarding the translation of terms the Reference Group was kindly asked to decide upon the national languages in their country being supported by the EGN infrastructure. The finalized feature type classification will be added to the excel sheet and its terms have to be translated by the NMCA in their languages (until 15.01.2008).
- Regarding the definition of the term "single inquiry" there was agreement upon the installation of three accounts
  - 50 inquiries per day for anonymous users, 25 names per page
  - More rights after authentication and authorization
  - Test bed for developers
- Regarding the implementation two applications are planned within the EU-funded period
  - EGN Web GIS reference application provided by ProDV
  - EGN Web GIS Application in a Commercial Context (ArcGIS extension) provided by ESRI
- Regarding the next steps it was agreed that an additional workshop should be held in spring/summer 2008 although it was clarified that limited funds only would be available for travel and subsistence. The locality has to be defined.

## 2 Participants

No	Country / Organisation	Surname	First name
<b>Reference Group</b>			
1	Cyprus	HADJIRAFTIS	ANDREAS
2	Czech Republic	HNÍZDILOVÁ	LENKA
3		ČERNÝ	PETR
4	Spain	ALCÁZAR	ADELA
5		ALONSO	JOSÉ ÁNGEL
6		ABAD POWER	PALOMA
7	Finland	LESKINEN	TEEMU
8		MYLLYMÄKI	TARJA
9	France	MAJKA	JEAN-SEBASTIEN
10		CALVARIN	ELISABETH
11		DUBREIL	FRANCOIS
12	Hungary	POKOLY	BÉLA
13		MIKESY	GÁBOR
14	Latvia	GITENDORFS	ULDIS
15		STRAUTNIECE	VITA
16	Netherlands	STORM	MAARTEN
17	Norway	ANDERSEN	JOHNNY
18	Slovakia	MICHALIK	L'UBOSLAV
19		ČUKAN	JÁN
<b>Consortium</b>			
20	BEV, Austria	WURZER	WALTER
21	EDINA, United Kingdom	REID	JAMES
22	EuroGeographics, France	JUST	LISE
23	ESRI, Germany	BUZIEK	GERD
24		BÖRNER	GEORG
25	Utrecht University, The Netherlands	ORMELING	FERJAN
26	Geodan, NL	BLANKERT	ANNE
27		KNIBBE	FRANS
28	GeoTask/ProDV	ULRICH	MARKUS
29	SMA, Slovenia	MLADENOVIC	UROS
30	BKG, Germany	SIEVERS	JÖRN
31		ZACCHEDDU	PIER-GIORGIO
32		STANI-FERTL	ROMAN
33		SPRADAU	JÖRGEN
34		AFFLERBACH	SABINE

### 3 Attachments

All presentations discussed within the workshop will be uploaded to the EGN website (<http://www.eurogeonames.com/>).

### 4 Agenda

TOP	Topic title
<a href="#">1)</a>	Short summary about the actions taken within the INSPIRE activity concerning geographical names
<a href="#">2)</a>	Presentation of the EGN Conceptual schema
<a href="#">3)</a>	Presentation of the current feature classification proposal
<a href="#">4)</a>	Presentation and discussion of the current EGN architectural design concept
<a href="#">5)</a>	Concise outline of the technical progress in developing the EGN infrastructure
<a href="#">6a)</a>	EGN web services implementation measures – draft interface specifications
<a href="#">6b)</a>	EGN web services implementation measures – translation of terms
<a href="#">7)</a>	Presentation of the variant names and exonyms database (VNE_DB)
<a href="#">8)</a>	Final discussion & outcome
<a href="#">9)</a>	Next steps & Closing

### 5 Minutes and results of the discussion

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<p><b>1 Short summary about the actions taken within the INSPIRE activity concerning geographical names</b></p> <p><i>Sievers</i>, as EGN Project Co-ordinator, welcomes all participants and thanks EuroGeographics for the dinner arrangements last night. Because of the strike problems the dinner place had to be rearranged. <i>Sievers</i> introduces in the ambitious agenda with the main title "EGN web services architecture".</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> informs the audience that there have been two scenarios within the INSPIRE process, one in submitting candidate specification and one in nominating an expert for a technical working group (TWG). EGN did not submit candidate specification as originally planned; but EuroGeographics proposed three experts for the theme "geographical names": Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Teemu Leskinen and Jean-Sebastien Majka.</p> <p>Two reference documents (D3.3 Metadata profile and D4.2b Conceptual Schema) have been uploaded to the INSPIRE portal on 30-10-07 that will be considered within the TWG. The TWGs themselves will be established by the EC in January 2008, the Implementing rules for the Annex I themes including Geographical Names shall be ready in May</p>	Zaccheddu

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<p>2008.</p> <p><i>Sievers</i> raises the concern that there will be too much work for three persons and hopes that maybe other experts can be nominated as well.</p> <p>Concerning the metadata profile <i>Zaccheddu</i> informs the Reference Group that the Inspire Drafting Team (DT) Metadata have slightly changed the Implementing Rules for metadata, so the metadata profile have to be updated if their geographical names data should be compliant with the INSPIRE metadata.</p>	
<p><b>2 Presentation of the EGN Conceptual schema</b></p> <p><i>Reid</i> gives a short presentation about the Conceptual schema/model for EGN. The idea is to define a harmonised data model for Europe.</p> <p>He thanks the Reference Group for their helpful suggestions in improving the data model.</p> <p>He points out that the attributes "status" and "multilinguality" have been most refined. In contrast to the model showed in Madrid, the current model is now slighter, is based on ISO 19112 and includes multilingualism.</p> <p>Concerning the feature classification he mentions that it was not part of the original Description of Work but will be included as EGN project outcome although it is only for search and query.</p> <p><i>Alcázar</i> makes the suggestion to describe the content of the UML schema in more detail. The Reference Group will be provided with the deliverable D4.2c listing all attributes in the textual description. Additionally it was decided that this paper will be amended and more explanations included.</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> points out that from the content's point of view there have been no changes, only the attributes are rearranged in the model. He clarifies that one abstract feature (ReferencableSpatialObject) can have one or many location instances.</p> <p><i>Sievers</i> informs the Reference Group that there has been an intensive discussion about the data model between Edina, BKG and Geodan and that even an external expertise for the fundamental issues has been necessary.</p>	Reid
<p><b>3 Presentation of the current feature classification proposal</b></p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> explains the audience that the feature type classification made by Edina in May 2007 was presented at the UN conference in New York in August and was intensively discussed. The outcome was that</p>	

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<p><i>Adela Alcázar</i> was asked to develop a more suitable feature type classification. This one is based on the feature type classifications from Finland, Canada and Spain.</p> <p><i>Alcázar</i> then gives a presentation about the proposal of the feature type classification. She points out that the classification is divided into two levels, in eight main groups and several subgroups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group 1-4 -&gt; man-made features,</li> <li>- Group 5 -&gt; natural feature</li> <li>- Group 6 -&gt; natural or man-made features related to water</li> <li>- Group 7 -&gt; natural or man-made features, conservation of features</li> <li>- Group 8 -&gt; special group of unclassified features</li> </ul> <p><i>Alcázar</i> explains the groups and subgroups in more detail and points out that it has been difficult to make a general division in populated places. Therefore three subgroups have been invented.</p> <p>Concerning Group 5 it has to be kept in mind that in Finland a lot of lakes also have an association with coastal line. So far the coastal lines are only at the sea. Probably the definition has to be revised.</p> <p><i>Alcázar</i> mentions that maybe subgroup 5.7 "Other terrain features" for features that cannot be classified in classes 5.1-5.6 needs to be added to the classification.</p> <p>Group 6 is a big group, in general because a lot of geographical names are related to water and show the importance of water for human. This more specific classification can be redefined if wished.</p> <p><i>Alcázar</i> makes the suggestion to reclass subgroup 7.1 "World Heritage Sites" to group 3 "Structures and buildings" but is so far classified to 7.1 to point out the importance of world heritage sites.</p> <p>Group 8 is needed for all kind of features not included in Group 1-7.</p> <p>It becomes evident that some misunderstandings of the feature type classification is due to translation problems. Class 2.2 "Village and hamlet" includes also cities without capital functions, so it is decided to add "populated places without capital functions". Another problem is quantification, e.g. when dividing into large and small areas. In some countries, e.g. in Latvia 10 km<sup>2</sup> is considered as a large area whereas this size is a small one in France or Spain. It is necessary to find quantification.</p>	
<p><i>Alcázar</i> kindly asks the audience to provide her with more characteristic definitions, with proposal of reclassification and additional remarks until</p>	Alcázar

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<p>23/11/07. Sievers points out the final classification should be a more general instead of a more specific one. He suggests leaving the main classes (First level) and reducing the number of subgroups. <i>Alcázar</i> will provide the audience with a new version until the 15/12/07. The final version of the EGN feature type classification will then be used by the Reference Group to map their national features to it.</p> <p><i>Buziek</i> raises the question if the work of the feature type classification is probably redundant in the sense of INSPIRE.</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> explains that the data model can link to any other feature catalogue, so it can be linked to INSPIRE feature classification as well.</p>	
<p><b>4 + 5 Presentation and discussion of the current EGN architectural design concept / Concise outline of the technical progress in developing the EGN infrastructure</b></p> <p>At the first workshop in Frankfurt one year ago, it was decided that the data the NMCA will provide should not be stored in a central database. During the development, it has become clear that because of performance problems the EGN consortium shall additionally offer a proposition of caching the data at the central service. There is agreement in the EGN Consortium that Geodan shall propose the Reference Group two solutions, one with storing data only at the NMCA's site, one with storing data in a central index database.</p> <p><i>Knibbe</i> presents the EGN Web Services Architecture and explains the key items. He points out that two free software products for ETL (FDO2FDO (AutoDesk) and Spatial Data Integrator) will be tested if they fulfil the technical requirements. The transformation for the NMCA model to the EGN Model shall be as easy as possible. After the mapping processes have been defined the data has to be transformed according to the respective NMCA mapping process. It was guaranteed that the outcome could be checked by the NMCA all the time. When updating it has to be considered that the data might have been changed in the meantime and therefore the transformation may cause problems or will be wrong. This issue will be considered in the Geodan's design. NMCA who will do the ETL transformation by themselves will be helped by a test implementation to ensure correct transformations.</p> <p>Concerning the Central Service it has to be assured that this index (for name, identifier, bounding box, feature category) is the same as the one in the local service.</p> <p>It is possible that additional data can be stored in the index database if the NMCA's policy allows that. The advantage of doing that is that the</p>	<p>Knibbe/Blankert</p>

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<p>request will be speed up.</p> <p>Updates will be identified via the version number. New or destroyed elements in the local service will be updated to the central service via incremental updating or versioning. The general discussion in the audience comes to conclusion that updating is different in every country.</p> <p>Xlinks will be used for features that are not stored in the index database but are stored only in the local database. There exist two ways of resolving xlinks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Server-side, on the central service</li> <li>- Client-side, it is up to the user to decide</li> </ul> <p>Concerning security EGN will use the Conterra securityManager to avoid misuse of the service. This software as part of the sdi.suite includes access control, authentication and authorization. Between the VARs and EuroGeographics a concept for access control has to be made.</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> emphasises that the access control becomes more and more important if complex inquiries (providing full geometry of features) will be provided and not the single inquiries only. Within the EU-funded period of 30 month, guest users will only be able to do the single inquiry.</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> points out that there are two applications planned within the EU-funded period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EGN Web GIS reference application provided by ProDV</li> <li>- EGN Web GIS Application in a Commercial Context (ArcGIS extension) provided by ESRI</li> </ul> <p>The draft for deliverable D8.1 "EGN Web GIS Application in a Commercial Context – Concept and Requirements" was circulated within the Consortium. The EGN consortium agreed to upload the draft to the EGN website.</p> <p>The draft for deliverable D7.1 "EGN Web GIS reference application – concept and requirements" will also be uploaded to the EGN website.</p> <p><i>Blankert</i> presents the EGN implementing single inquiries and put the main focus on the web feature service (WFS). He explains how it could be implemented and what WFS means for single inquiries.</p> <p><i>Andersen</i> proposes to modify the ISO-code of the language to ISO 639_3. Reid will correct that in the data model.</p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> informs the Reference Group that the metadata of EGN shall be stored in the EuroMapFinder of EuroGeographics, so that more meta information about the geographical names sources can be found</p>	<p>Reid</p>

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<p>through the EGN infrastructure.</p> <p>The term "single inquiry" is explained according to document titled "Definition of the term single inquiry" which was distributed to the Reference Group shortly before the workshop started. The definition was discussed and the document will be amended accordingly.</p> <p><i>Blankert</i> points out that the single inquiry will be the only supported one within the EU-funded period of 30-month.</p> <p>Registered users in contrast to guest users (anonymous account) will be admitted more rights. <i>Börner</i> underlines that Conterra is able to arrange this differentiation in the securityManager if necessary.</p> <p>The audience agreed to install three accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 50 inquiries per day for anonymous users, 25 names per page</li> <li>- More rights after authentication and authorization</li> <li>- Test bed for developers, sign a kind of agreement</li> </ul> <p>It was clarified that the unique identifier not yet available at the NMCA has to be added before the data transformation from the NMCA model into the EGN model via the Extract Transform Load (ETL) software (to be provided by Geodan). Within the EU-funded period this work can be done either by the NMCA themselves or with the assistance of the EGN consortium. The country's point of contact has to guarantee that the unique identifier is really unique in the country.</p> <p><i>Sievers</i> asks the audience if any NMCA is already providing pronunciation either as ipa-format (international phonetic alphabet) or audio-file (*.wav) as an attribute to the feature. Only two countries (Hungary and Spain) are planning to provide the ipa (without indicating a date), Latvia is considering this item.</p>	<p>Knibbe/Blankert</p>
<p><b>6a EGN web services implementation measures – draft interface specifications</b></p> <p><i>Knibbe</i> gives a presentation about the interface specification. A document describing the technical requirements and the impact on the NMCAs, together with a GML application schema will be prepared until mid-December 2007 at the latest.</p>	<p>Knibbe/Blankert/ Reid</p>
<p><b>6b EGN web services implementation measures – translation of terms</b></p> <p><i>Sievers/Zaccheddu</i> present the excel-sheet about the terms provided before the workshop. It has to be translated by the Reference Group.</p>	

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<p>It was decided to delete the following columns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- personal masculine</li> <li>- animated masculine and</li> <li>- inanimate masculine</li> </ul> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> asks the Reference Group to decide upon the national languages in their country which shall be supported by the EGN infrastructure. France mentions that they only have French as official language but will consider providing the EGN consortium with translated terms in other languages, like Basque or Breton. He makes clear that it is up to the NMCA to decide upon the languages in which the attribute information should be translated.</p> <p>The finalized feature type classification will be added to the excel sheet and its terms have to be translated by the NMCA in their languages respectively.</p> <p><i>Alcázar</i> will provide BKG with additional remarks for the excel sheet.</p>	<p>Alcázar</p>
<p><b>7 Presentation of the variant names and exonyms database (VNE_DB)</b></p> <p><i>Stani-Fertl</i> presents the variant names and exonyms database. He explains that it can be checked and corrected by the nominated expert of the respective language group via the online-editing service. A manual about the editing of the database will be provided to the Reference Group in due course.</p> <p>Regarding the proposed classification of variant names, <i>Alcázar</i> remarks that the users are not that familiar with the topic and advises to keep it as simple as possible by avoiding the term "variant name".</p> <p>It was decided to change the title of the database from "variant and exonyms database" into "Exonyms and other database".</p> <p><i>Stani-Fertl</i> kindly asks the Reference Group to provide him with the official list of the country's exonyms.</p>	<p>Stani-Fertl</p> <p>Stani-Fertl</p> <p>All RefGroup</p>

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<p><b>8 Final discussion &amp; outcome</b></p> <p><i>Zaccheddu</i> summarizes the issues discussed today.</p> <p>There is a general agreement to the items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- proposed feature classification to be finalized until <b>15.12.2007</b></li> <li>- amendment of the excel sheet for the translation of terms (to be circulated after the feature classification finalization until <b>15.01.2008</b>)</li> <li>- amendment of the definition of the term “single inquiry” (to be circulated together with the minutes)</li> <li>- the proposed EGN architecture (PPT to be uploaded to the EGN website)</li> <li>- draft interface specifications to be prepared <b>asap (until mid-December at the latest)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Alcázar Zaccheddu</p> <p>Knibbe/Blankert</p> <p>Zaccheddu</p> <p>Knibbe/Blankert</p>
<p><b>9 Next steps &amp; Closing</b></p> <p>The aim is to create a Test environment with a minimum amount of test data <b>until December 2007</b>.</p> <p>The EGN Consortium will further discuss with the Reference Group whether a Call for tender for “Pronunciation” shall be considered in <b>January 2008</b>. This would allow populating the pronunciation attribute for geographical names in some countries.</p> <p>The idea to connect external sources (<a href="http://www.geonames.org/">http://www.geonames.org/</a>, <a href="http://www.fallingrain.com/">http://www.fallingrain.com/</a>) for non-Reference Group countries to the EGN infrastructure has not been accepted by the Reference Group. It was generally agreed that this step will confuse the business model and decided to leave this item to the Value-added resellers.</p> <p>It was agreed that an additional workshop should be held in <b>spring/summer 2008</b> although it was clarified that limited funds only would be available for travel and subsistence. The locality has to be defined.</p> <p>Finally <i>Sievers</i> closes the meeting notifying that this was his last official chairing meeting of the EGN project. He thanks the Reference Group for the good contributions in the project and wishes EuroGeoNames a successful developing.</p>	<p>Knibbe/Blankert</p> <p>EGN Consortium</p> <p>EGN Consortium</p>

S. Afflerbach, P.-G. Zaccheddu