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Exonyms and other variant names database (EVN-DB)

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¹ The title of the database has been amended to “Database of Exonyms and Other Variant Names”.

² OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

Description

The EVN-DB comprises important names of geographical features in the official languages of the Reference Group of the EGN project, not maintained by the National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs). It is a supplement database to the EGN Central Service.

The EVN-DB will be hosted and maintained by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) in Frankfurt am Main and is connected to the EGN infrastructure. The integration of the EVN-DB into the EGN Central Service is done by unique identifiers (UID). These UIDs are created by the NMCAs for each referencable spatial object. While exonyms and other variant names mapping to this spatial object, the UID is also stored in the EVN-DB.

The structure (database model) and all components of the EVN-DB are documented in Deliverable 5.6 “Database of Exonyms and Other Variant Names specification” [D 5.6]

The EVN-DB has been designed as a “Microsoft SQL Server Express” database. The structure of this database is compatible to most other relational database management system (RDBMS). Datasets are recorded via Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) and “Microsoft Access” forms. A web interface based on Microsoft Active Server Pages .NET (ASP.NET) is the current method for editing the datasets.

An online-service serves to maintain the EVN-DB. It provides the necessary functionality for adding and editing datasets. Access will be conceded to experts denominated by NMCAs of the EGN Reference Group and to geographical names experts of language communities, well known from the UNGEGN community.

EVN-DB supplies three different categories of information for each entry if the source of the exonym and other variant name is providing the appropriate specifications. The core of the database is the table of the exonyms and other variant names (*TAB_VariantNames*) containing all relevant attributes to the respective names provided by national toponymic bodies and names experts.

- *TAB_VariantNames* - information about the exonym or other variant name (language, gender, number, pronunciation...);

Complete information is stored in further tables:

- *TAB_Metadata* - information about the sources providing the data (contact, editor, year, language...);
- *TAB_Gazetteer_Entry* - temporary information for assigning the datasets of exonyms and other variant names to the appropriate entry in the EGN Central Service. These fields will be replaced after linking the EGN_FeatureUID with the appropriate EGN_SpatialObject_UID as provided by NMCAs (endonym, coordinates, feature class...).

Reference:

[D 5.6] EGN Deliverable D 5.6: Database of Exonyms and Other Variant Names specification.