

# Minutes

of the

## **EuroGeoNames Closing Workshop**

**Thursday 05 February 2009, 9 – 16:30 hours**

at Fédéral Public Service FINANCES, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 33, 1030 Bruxelles

### **1 Executive Summary**

The main points to note from the workshop are:

- The outcome and findings of the EU-funded project period could be presented successfully.
- The functionality of the EGN infrastructure was explained to potential data providers and users.
- For potential data providers it was further demonstrated how they have to proceed in order to be connected to the EGN infrastructure.
- EGN is providing an INSPIRE compliant gazetteer service for Europe.
- It was always an aim of EGN to be compliant with the INSPIRE IR. This could be demonstrated as well.
- Some countries like Slovenia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, Norway and Germany have already completed their EGN implementation. Additional countries like Belgium, Hungary, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Czech Republic, Spain, Greece and France will finish their implementation either before the end of the funded period or by the end of 2009 at the latest.
- In spring 2009 the EGN project coordination will be transferred to EuroGeographics. The aim within the following “implementation phase 2009 - 2012” is then the connection of at least “EU27”, i.e. EU Member States.

## 2 Participants

No	Country / Organisation	Last name	First name
<b>Reference Group</b>			
1	Belgium	VAN DOREN	KATHLEEN
2		FLANDROIT	DOMINIQUE
3		CHA	SUZANNA
4		FRAISSE	PIERRETTE
5		MORTIER	FREDERIC
6	Cyprus	HADJIRAFTIS	ANDREAS
7	Czech Republic	BOHÁČ	PAVEL
8		HNÍZDILOVÁ	LENKA
9	Finland	LESKINEN	TEEMU
10		MATTÖ	VILLE
11	France	MAJKA	JEAN-SEBASTIEN
12		VIALLE	ROMAIN
13	Greece	CHALARIS	GEORGIOS
14	Hungary	POKOLY	BÉLA
15		MIKESY	GÁBOR
16	Latvia	GITENDORFS	ULDIS
17		STRAUTNIECE	VITA
18	Lithuania	KRYŽANAUSKAS	AUDRIUS
19	Netherlands	SCHUT	TED
20	Norway	ARNTSEN	FRANK
21	Slovakia	KOVACOVA	MARIA
22	Spain	ALONSO	JOSÉ ÁNGEL
23		ABAD POWER	PALOMA
<b>Consortium</b>			
24	BEV, Austria	WURZER	WALTER
25		PAUL	GERHARD
26	EuroGeographics, France	LOVELL	DAVE
27		JAKOBSSON	ANTTI
28		SOKACOVA	PATRICIA
29	ESRI, Germany	BÖRNER	GEORG
30	ESRI, Switzerland	NEUN	MORITZ
31	EDINA, UK	REID	JAMES
32		CORBETT	ANDREW
33	Geodan, NL	BLANKERT	ANNE
34	GeoTask/PRO DV	SCHACH	JOCHEN
35		TUFTE	LARS
36	SMA, Slovenia	MLADENOVIC	UROS
37		BRNOT	MARIJA
38	Utrecht University, The Netherlands	ORMELING	FERJAN
39	BKG, Germany	GRÜNREICH	DIETMAR
40		ZACCHEDDU	PIER-GIORGIO
41		STANI-FERTL	ROMAN
42		AFFLERBACH	SABINE
43		ILLERT	ANDREAS
44		BEINSTEIN	BERND
<b>Other</b>			
45	Canada (UNGEEN)	KERFOOT	HELEN
46	Croatia (associated RefGroup)	HEĆIMOVIĆ	ŽELJKO
47	Estonia (UNGEEN)	PÄLL	PEETER
48	(associated RefGroup)	RENSER	AIME
49		KIVISALU	MALL
50	Germany (StAGN)	SIEVERS	JÖRN
51		PAULIG	HELGE

52	Great Britain (UNGE GN)	BURGESS	CAROLINE
53	Luxembourg (EC)	OLSON	KRISTER
54		PETRI	EKKEHARD
55	Spain (UNGE GN)	PARELLA	MIQUEL
56	United States (UNGE GN)	FLYNN	RANDALL

### 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>	Welcoming address of the host Opening speech Comment by the project initiator Comment by the EC project officer
<a href="#">2)</a>	Summary about the outcome and findings of the EGN project within the eContentplus funded period
<a href="#">3)</a>	Demonstration of the current status of the EGN infrastructure: EGN Local Services & EGN Central Service
<a href="#">4)</a>	Demonstration of the benefits of the EGN infrastructure by showing the EGN Reference Application
<a href="#">5)</a>	Demonstration of an example for a commercial use case by showing the ESRI ArcGIS Extension
<a href="#">6)</a>	Presentation of the exonyms and other variant names' management
<a href="#">7)</a>	Actions and future plans to maintain, extent and license the EGN infrastructure
<a href="#">8)</a>	Final discussion & Closing

### 5 Minutes and results of the discussion

Minutes	Action
<p><b>1 Welcoming address of the host, Opening speech</b></p> <p><i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> opened the workshop, welcomed the participants and thanked the host for organising the workshop and dinner the evening before. He pointed out that the workshop was arranged one month ahead of the end of the EU-funded period in order to allow the reference group members to get in touch with the consortium partners to clarify last uncertainties concerning the EGN infrastructure setup.</p> <p><i>Pierrette Fraisse</i>, the host of the workshop, gave a short presentation about her institution, explained the structure of the Federal Finances and gave an overview about the EuroGeographics project 'State Boundaries of Europe' she is leading.</p> <p>After that <i>Dietmar Grünreich</i> – the president of the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) – gave the opening speech where he explained the importance of geographical names for accessing geoinformation</p>	

<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p>in the context of national and international spatial data infrastructures. Furthermore he presented the German implementation of geographical names (GN-DE). He emphasized that EGN is in line with the INSPIRE initiative but pointed out the importance of connecting as many countries as possible to the EGN infrastructure in order to successfully extend and improve the content of EGN.</p> <p><i>Jörn Sievers</i>, the project initiator put the emphasis on the relation between EGN and the UN where the initial idea came from. First concepts arose in 2002 at the UN conference in Berlin, the actual work started in New York in 2004. Several times EGN project partners met together with the UN Working Group on Toponymic Datafiles and Gazetteers.</p> <p><i>Krister Olson</i> commended the project, especially the work of the consortium partners and the coordinator. One reason for EGN's success was of course the relatively small number of partners within an inner (EGN Consortium) and outer circle (EGN Reference Group, EGN Group of Interest) and the well-elaborated structure of the EGN work plan.</p> <p>He was convinced that EGN would be continued.</p> <p>The eContentPlus programme was completed at the end of last year but he encouraged the audience for new project proposals.</p> <p>More information about the topics presented can be taken from the presentations uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>2 Summary about the outcome and findings of the EGN project within the eContentplus funded period</b></p> <p>After the opening speech session, <i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> gave a presentation about the outcome and findings of the EGN project within the eContentplus funded period. He always linked the major milestones to the INSPIRE process and named open issues for all of them. Amongst others he emphasized that EGN provides an INSPIRE-compliant gazetteer service for Europe fulfilling 100 % of the requirements of the current version of the INSPIRE data specifications for geographical names (v2.0).</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p> <p>After the coffee break the multi-media presentation (video) was shown and appreciated by the audience.</p>	
<p><b>3 Demonstration of the current status of the EGN infrastructure: EGN Local Services &amp; EGN Central Service</b></p>	

Minutes	Action
<p><i>Anne Blankert</i> from Geodan gave a presentation about the EGN infrastructure setup and showed the status of the connected countries. Some countries like Slovenia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, Norway and Germany have already completed their EGN implementation. Additional countries like Hungary, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Greece and France will aim to complete their implementation either before the end of the funded period or by the end of 2009 at the latest.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>4 Demonstration of the benefits of the EGN infrastructure by showing the EGN Reference Application</b></p> <p><i>Jochen Schach</i> from GeoTask/PRO DV gave a presentation about the Reference Application that can be seen as a “window” of the EGN Central Service. He explained the functionality, the integration of EuroRegionalMap data and the connection of metadata profiles from each connected country.</p> <p>The item multilingualism is very important for the EGN reference application and <i>Schach</i> emphasized that it is easy to add additional languages to the existing ones.</p> <p>He pointed out that the data providers should keep in mind the creation of good bounding rectangle information of their spatial objects when being connected to the Central Service. Providing bounding rectangles is very helpful within web map applications (e.g. automatic determination of zoom level for displaying purpose).</p> <p>The application developers can easily follow how the reference application is working and are able to easily use the reference application requests for setting up their own web applications.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>5 Demonstration of an example for a commercial use case by showing the ESRI ArcGIS Extension</b></p> <p><i>Moritz Neun</i> and <i>Georg Börner</i> from ESRI presented the commercial use case application using the EGN Central Service, i.e. the ArcGIS Extension in a live demo. It can be seen as a second “window” of the Central Service. It can also be used for Local Services; there is only one change in the configuration file necessary. The ArcGIS Extension for EGN is available free of charge through the ESRI ArcScripts website which will be linked to the EGN website, too.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>6 Presentation of the exonyms and other variant names’ management</b></p>	

Minutes	Action
<p><i>Roman Stani-Fertl</i> presented the content and especially the link between the exonyms database (EVN-DB) and the Central Service.</p> <p>The online editing service for maintaining and populating the database is restricted to toponymic authorities and language communities only.</p> <p><i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> pointed out the importance of the link between the Central Service and the EVN-DB via the SpatialObjectUniqueID and he encouraged the authorities to populate the EVN-DB via the online editing service.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>7 Actions and future plans to maintain, extent and license the EGN infrastructure</b></p> <p><i>Antti Jakobsson</i> from EuroGeographics Head Office presented the future plans for EGN beyond the funded period. It could be further elaborated as a commercial application provider for the EU or as a free viewing or limited access service. He emphasized that EuroGeographics Head Office will take over the leading role for the project management of EGN after the funded period.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	
<p><b>8 Final discussion &amp; Closing</b></p> <p>Finally <i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> summed up the outcome of the workshop and the most important messages to be conveyed. Amongst others he pointed out that if the NMCAs were quick in starting actions for setting up their EGN Local Services they would get full support from the consortium until the end of the funded period.</p> <p><i>Anne Blankert</i> confirmed that they would try to connect all interested partners.</p> <p><i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> thanked the reference group, as their contribution was very important and pointed out that it was not normal for NMCAs to provide data for free. He thanked the consortium and finally the European Commission.</p> <p><i>Dave Lovell</i> from EuroGeographics Head Office used the opportunity to thank <i>Jörn Sievers</i> and <i>Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu</i> for their successful project coordination.</p> <p>More information can be taken from the presentation uploaded to the EGN website.</p>	

S. Afflerbach, P.-G. Zaccheddu