

The role of UNGEGN

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Vice-chair UNGEGN

Fourth Plenary meeting, UN-
GGIM Europe, Brussels 7-8 June
2017

A flight...

		Longitude	Latitude	Height	Population
From		8.682432754	50.11087997		
To		-43.1728965	-22.9068467		



A flight...

		Longitude	Latitude	Height	Population
From		8.682432754	50.11087997	100	701.350
To		-43.1728965	-22.9068467	31	6.429.923



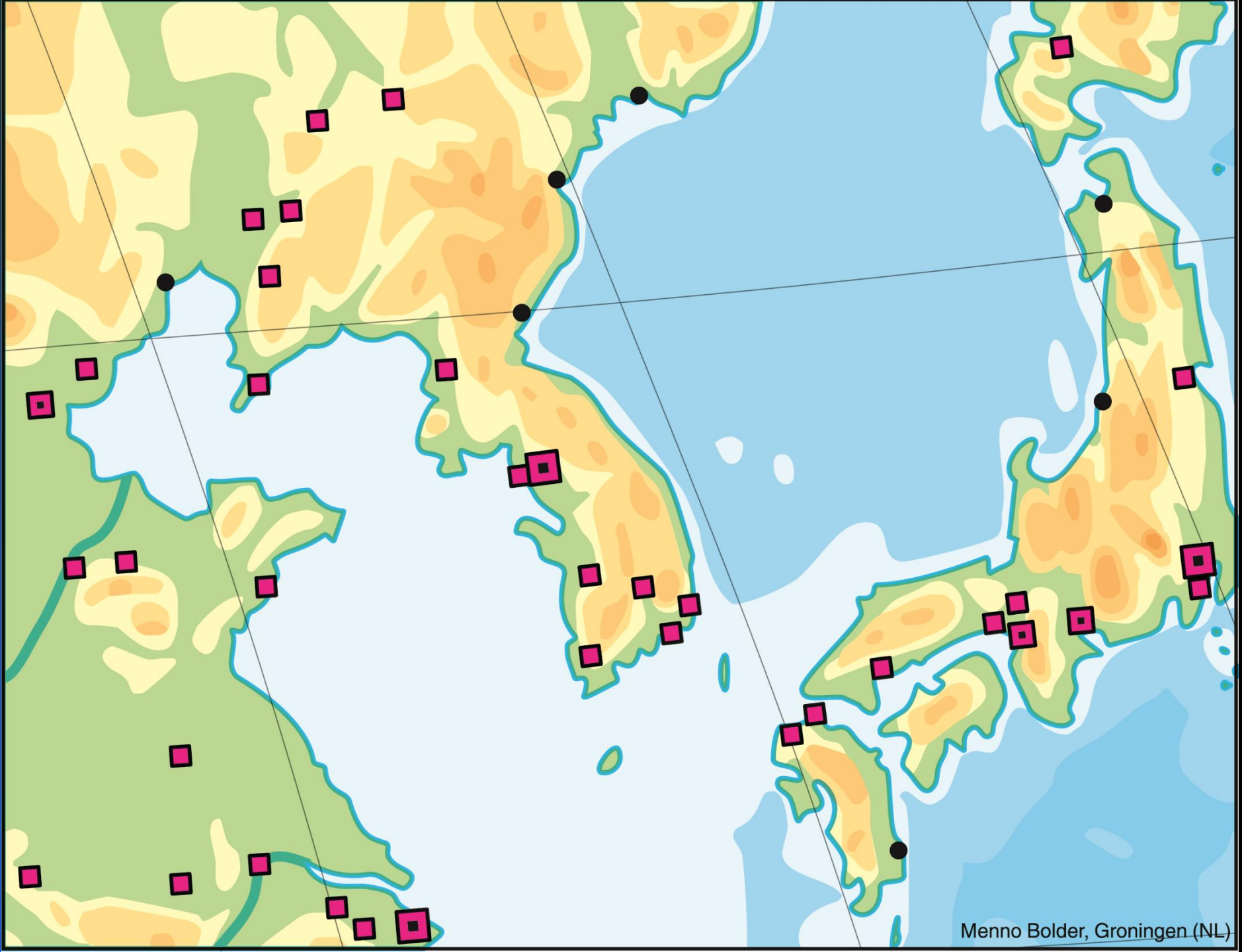
A flight...



	Place name	Longitude	Latitude	Height	Population
<u>From</u>	Frankfurt	8.682432754	50.11087997	100	701.350
<u>To</u>	Rio de Janeiro	-43.1728965	-22.9068467	31	6.429.923



Localize
people,
places,
events,
...









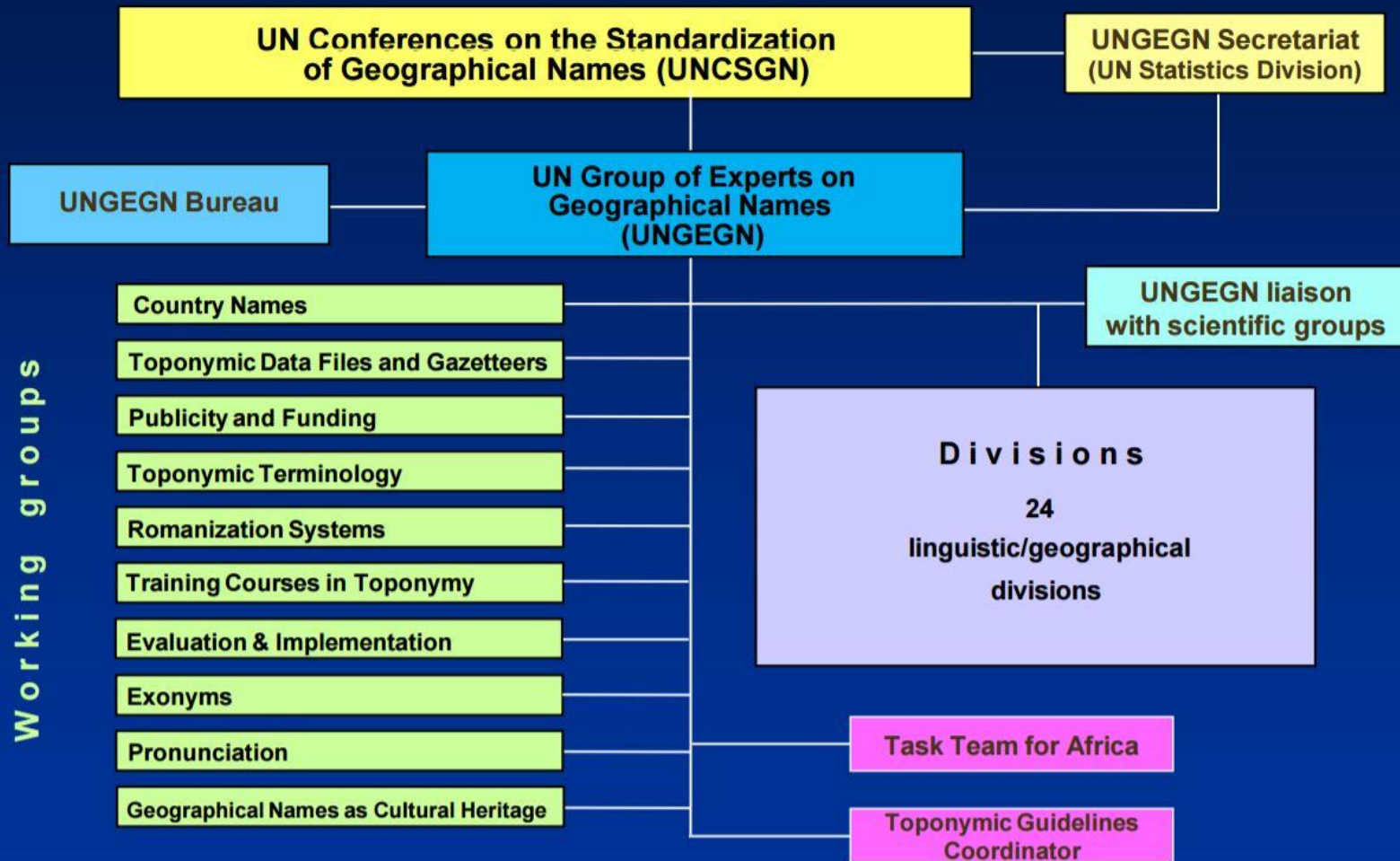
4th Plenary meeting, UN-GGIM
Europe, Brussels 7-8 June 2017









UNGEGN structure





UNGEKN-DIVISIONS

 Afr. C	 Asia E	 China	 French-sp.	 Portuguese
 Afr. E	 Asia SE	 D + Germ	 India Div.	 Romano-Hellenic
 Afr. S	 Asia SW	 EC + SE. EUR	 Latin Am.	 UK Division
 Afr. W	 Baltic	 EE, N. Asia	 Norden	 USA-Canada
 Arab	 Celtic	 East Med.	 Pacific SW	

https://demo.locationframework.eu

ELF

SEARCH

MAP LAYERS

SELECTED LAYERS 2

MY DATA

CREATE EMBEDDED MAP

MAP LEGENDS

USER GUIDE

100 km 100 mi

Terms of Use Copyright

Map Layers

By Theme By Data Provider

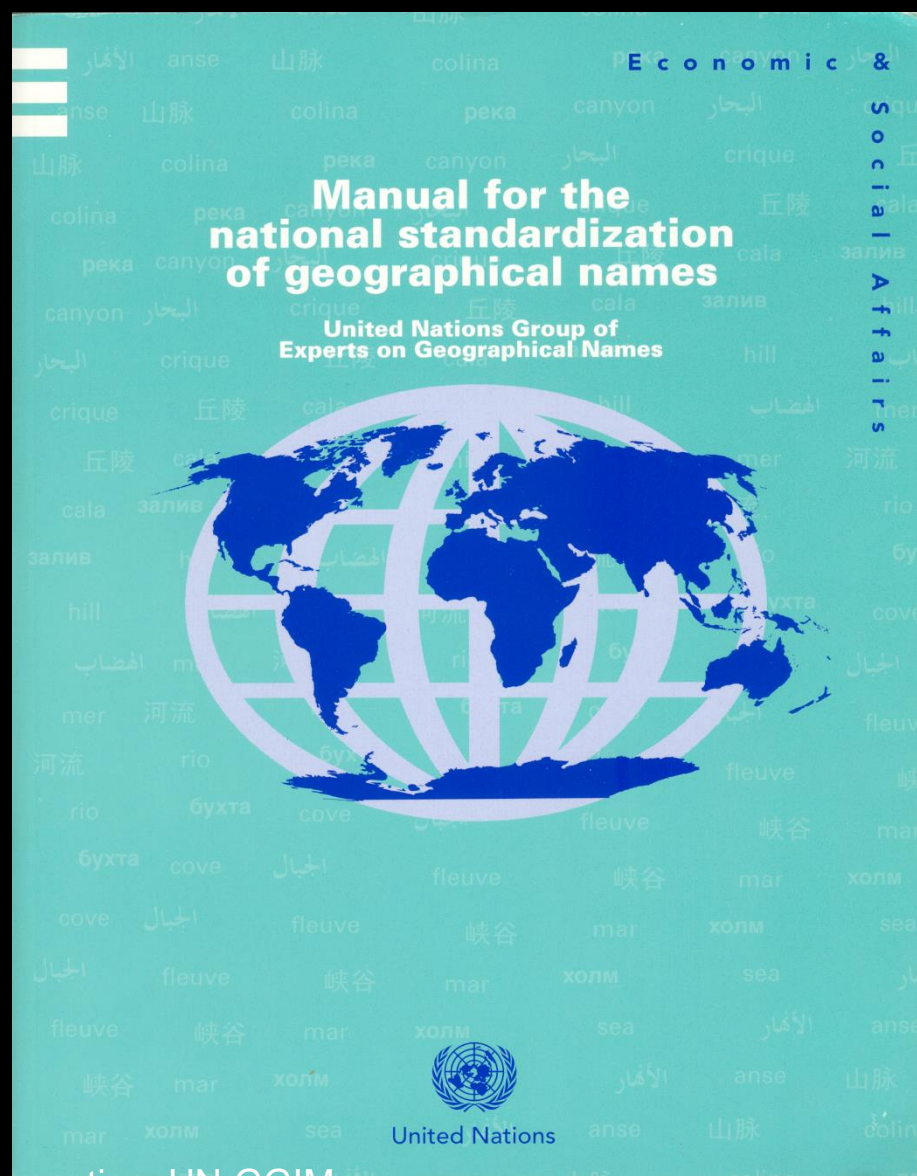
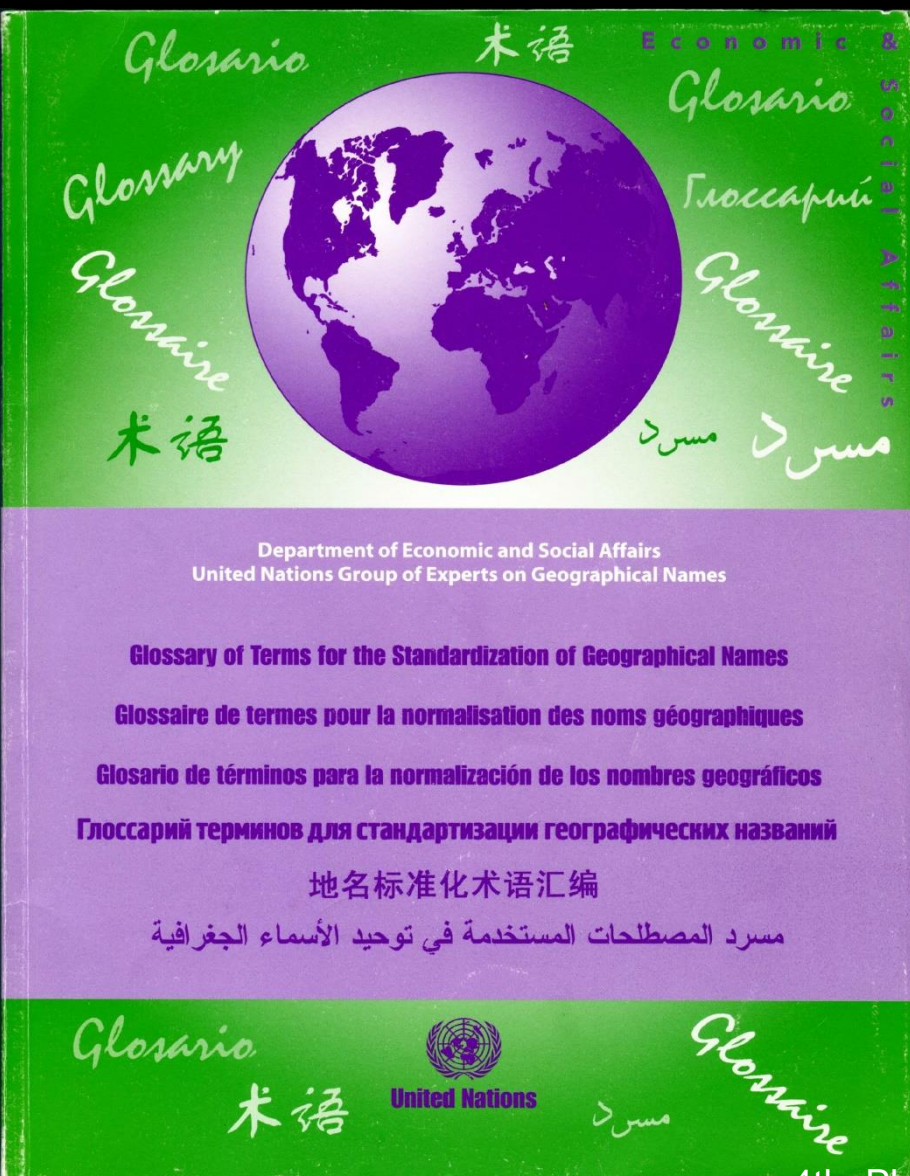
Search map layers.

Search map layers by map layer name, data producer name or keyword.

- Addresses (9)
- Administrative units (24)
- Basemaps (1)
- Buildings (10)
- Cadastral parcels (19)
- Elevation (10)
- Geographical names (11)
 - ☒ Geographical Names (ES)
 - ☐ Named Place (BE)
 - ☐ Named Place (ES)

Map showing Europe with various cities and countries labeled. A red arrow points to the 'Geographical names (11)' category in the Map Layers panel.

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[UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES \(UNGEGN\)](#)

Working Group on Romanization Systems

[[main page](#)] [[status report](#)] [[resolutions](#)] [[other documents](#)] [[working group](#)]

Consistent use of accurate place names is an essential element of effective communication worldwide and supports socio-economic development, conservation and national infrastructure. That is why the United Nations established a Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN). UNGEGN promotes consistent use of accurate place names and prepares documents for the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names that are held every five years. For more information on the activities of UNGEGN see the [links](#) below or refer to the [UNGEGN brochure](#).

Working groups are established by UNGEGN to deal with specific tasks, such as training courses in toponymy, toponymic data files and gazetteers, toponymic terminology, country names, publicity and funding, and romanization systems.

Report on the Current Status of United Nations Romanization Systems for Geographical Names

See also an important [note on links and report versions](#).

Version 4.0. February 2013 – March 2016 [published 2013-02-26, updated 2013-09-24 and 2016-03-30]

- Updates published after the 9th and 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (2007, 2012).
- **Romanization systems**

- ***Languages/scripts covered by systems recommended by the United Nations (30):***

Amharic [[pdf/html](#)] | **Arabic** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Assamese** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Belarusian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Bengali** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Bulgarian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Chinese** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Greek** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Gujarati** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Hebrew** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Hindi** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Kannada** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Khmer** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Macedonian Cyrillic** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Malayalam** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Marathi** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Mongolian** (in China) [[pdf/html](#)] | **Nepali** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Oriya** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Persian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Punjabi** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Russian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Serbian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Tamil** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Telugu** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Thai** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Tibetan** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Uighur** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Ukrainian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Urdu** [[pdf/html](#)]

- ***Other languages/scripts (15):***

Armenian [[pdf/html](#)] | **Burmese** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Dzongkha** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Georgian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Japanese** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Kazakh** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Kirghiz** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Korean** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Lao** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Maldivian** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Mongolian** (Cyrillic) [[pdf/html](#)] | **Pashto** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Sinhalese** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Tajik** [[pdf/html](#)] | **Tigrinya** [[pdf/html](#)]

For a more complete listing see a special [subpage](#).



UNGEKN World Geographical Names

Multilingual, multiscriptual dataset of names of countries, capitals and major cities.

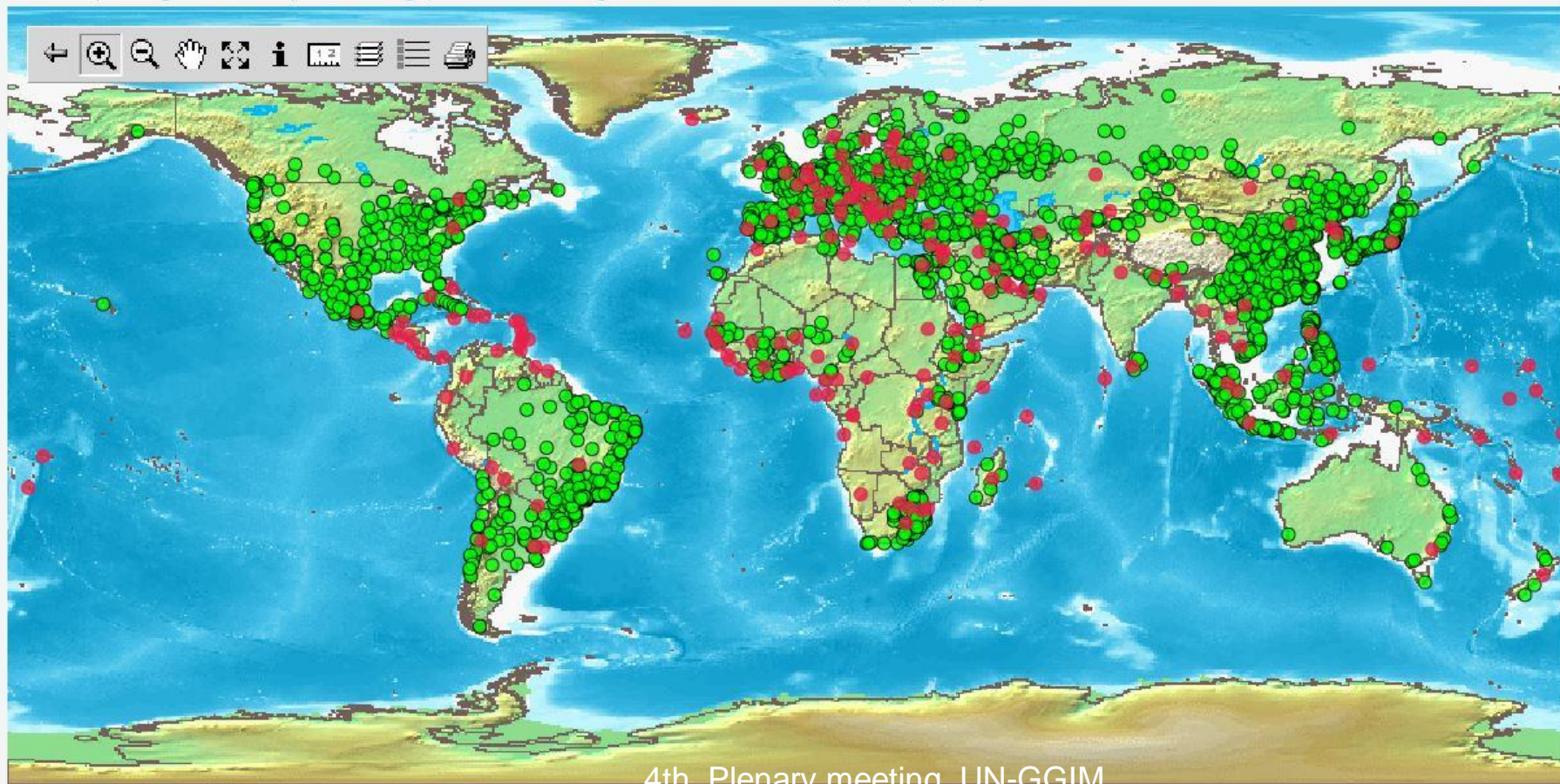
[Geographical Names Database](#) | [About](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Contact](#)

Beta version

Select a country to zoom in and list the names below the map ▼

Roll over a country to display the country name in the six UN languages. Point to a city to see the city endonyms (where available and in romanized form only) and the English name. Capital cities are shown in red, other cities are shown in green.

Note: Depending on the computer settings, some names might not be able to be displayed properly.



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*8th UN Conference on the Standardization on
geographical Names, Berlin, 2002*

Resolution VIII/6

**Integration of geographical names data into national
and international spatial data infrastructures**

The Conference,...

recommends, that standardized geographical names data should be considered in the establishment of national and regional spatial data infrastructures and included in their design, development and implementation.



INSPIRE Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

D2.8.1.3 Data Specification on Geographical Names – Technical Guidelines

Title	D2.8.1.3 Data Specification on <i>Geographical</i> Names – Technical Guidelines
Creator	INSPIRE Thematic Working Group <i>Geographical</i> Names
Date	2014-04-17
Subject	INSPIRE Data Specification for the spatial data theme <i>Geographical</i> Names
Publisher	European Commission Joint Research Centre
Type	Text
Description	This document describes the INSPIRE Data Specification for the spatial data theme <i>Geographical</i> Names



“UNGEEN schema” (proposal): elements

Field Name	Data Type	Description	Example
RecordID	Index	This number is assigned automatically by the system. Do not change it.	
UID	Number (long integer)	A <u>unique identifier</u> assigned to the name (or named feature). In our exercise, each group may start to count from 1 and add the group number multiplied by 100, e.g. 201 for the first name by group 2.	20001 might indicate e.g. 2000 for feature type 'Populated places'
Name	Text (50 char.)	Geographical name in Romanian	Oran
Latitude	Number (double)	Geographical Coordinates, in degrees decimal.	35,...
Longitude	Number (double)		-0,5...
FeatureCode	Text (50 char.)	Feature codes, from an existing feature code table	DDS
AdminUnit	Text (50 char.)	Name of the administrative unit where the name is situated in	<u>Departement d' Oran</u> , Department of Oran
Language	Text (50 char.)	Language of the name	
Description	Text (255 char.)	Field remarks, meaning of the name, language of the name, historical names if any	e.g. capital of a political entity
VariantName	Text (50 char.)	Enter variant names, if any e.g. Hungarian name	<u>Wilaya d' Oran</u> , <u>Wilaya d' Oran</u>
MapSheet	Number (long integer)	Reference to a map sheet in a topographic map series, e.g. 1:250.000	80
Source	Text (255 char.)	Source of the information on the name: - Informant - Interviewer	Mr. XY, old person at xyz, interview by group 1
Status	Text (50 char.)	The status of the name. In our case, the names are not yet approved by the Board.	not approved
Pronunciation	OLE-Object	Audio-files of the pronunciation of the geographical name	e.g *.wav -file
Location information	OLE-Object	Digital pictures of the location	e.g *.jpg – image file



The European (INSPIRE) GN schema: elements

mandatory

- name(s) (text, spelling)
- geometry
- feature type
- unique identifier

‘voidable’

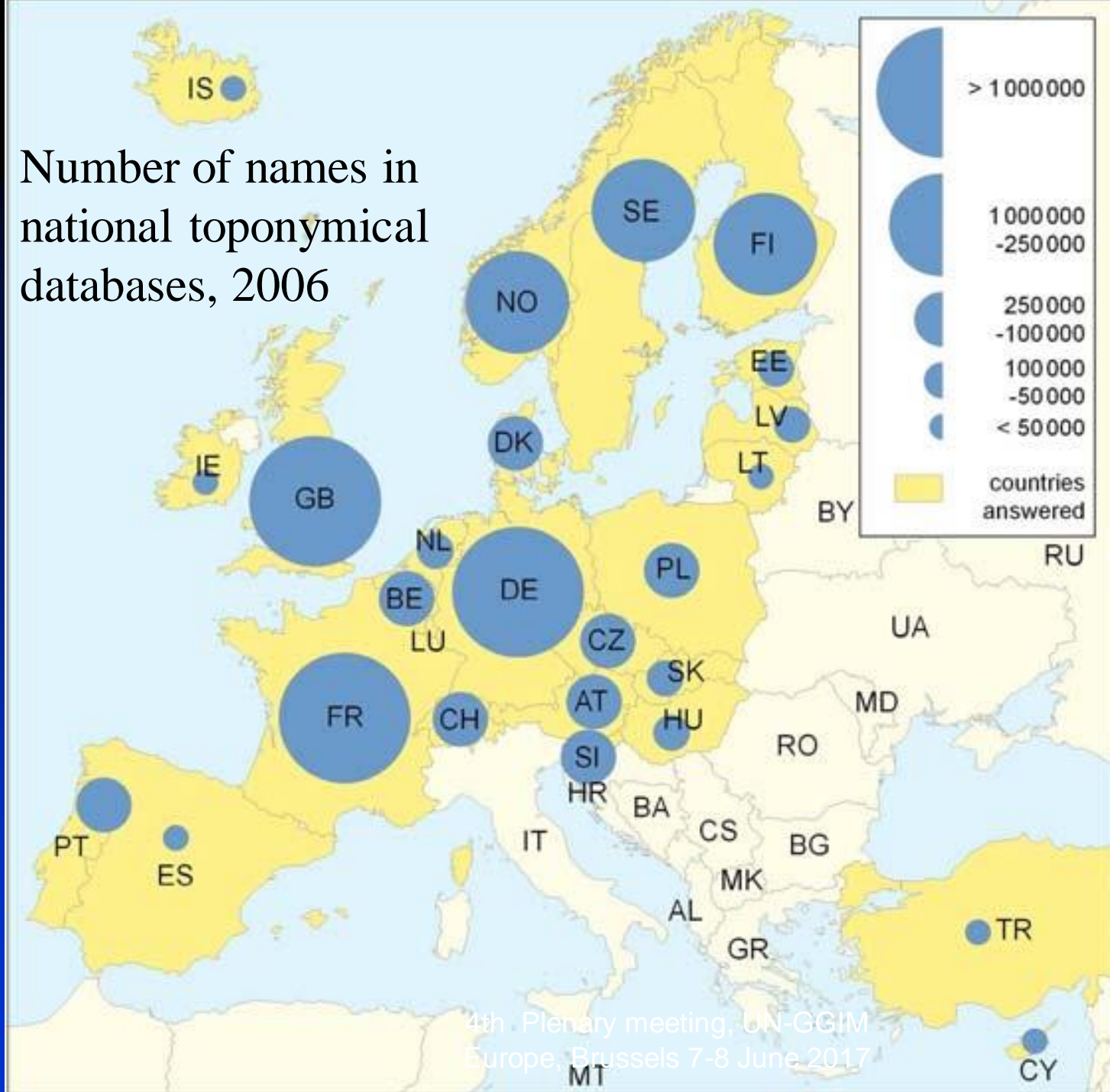
- language {three letter codes from ISO 639-3 or -5}
- nameStatus {official, standardised, historical, other}
- link to relatedSpatialObject
- script {four letters codes defined in ISO 15924}
- nativeness {endonym, exonym}
- transliterationScheme
- grammatical gender {masc., fem., neuter, common}
- grammatical number {singular, plural, dual}
- pronunciation
- sourceOfName
- typeLocal
- lifeCycleInfo (begin/end of the object in the source DB)
- ...

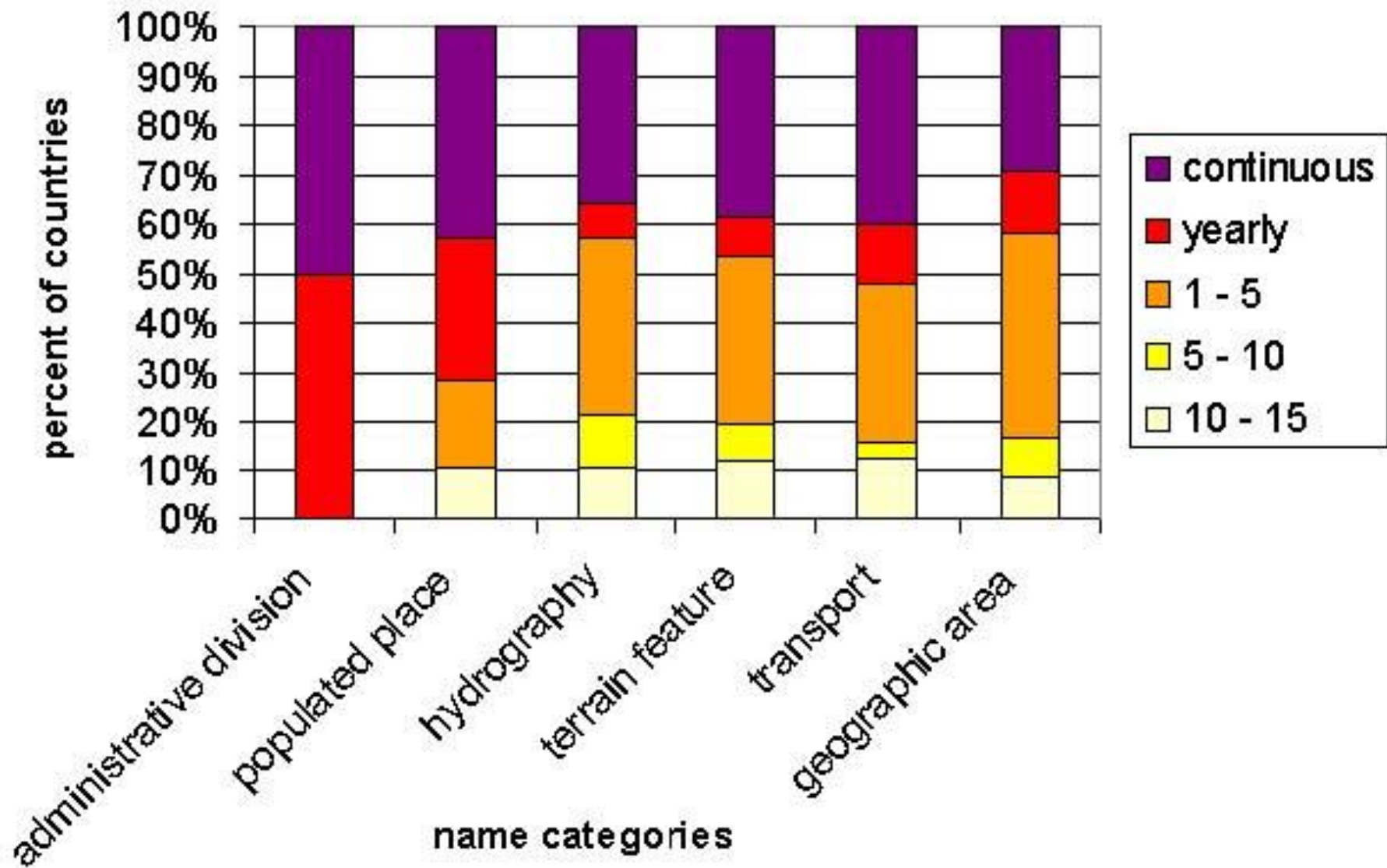
Different names used for the same topographical objects

- by different groups (nomads, linguistic minorities)
- by different genders (Arnhem land)
- depending on differences in perceived social status (high/low Javanese)
- depending on the time of year (Carnaval)
- depending on adherence to different age

Different names used as different objects become visible/discernable during the year (as in the Arctic)

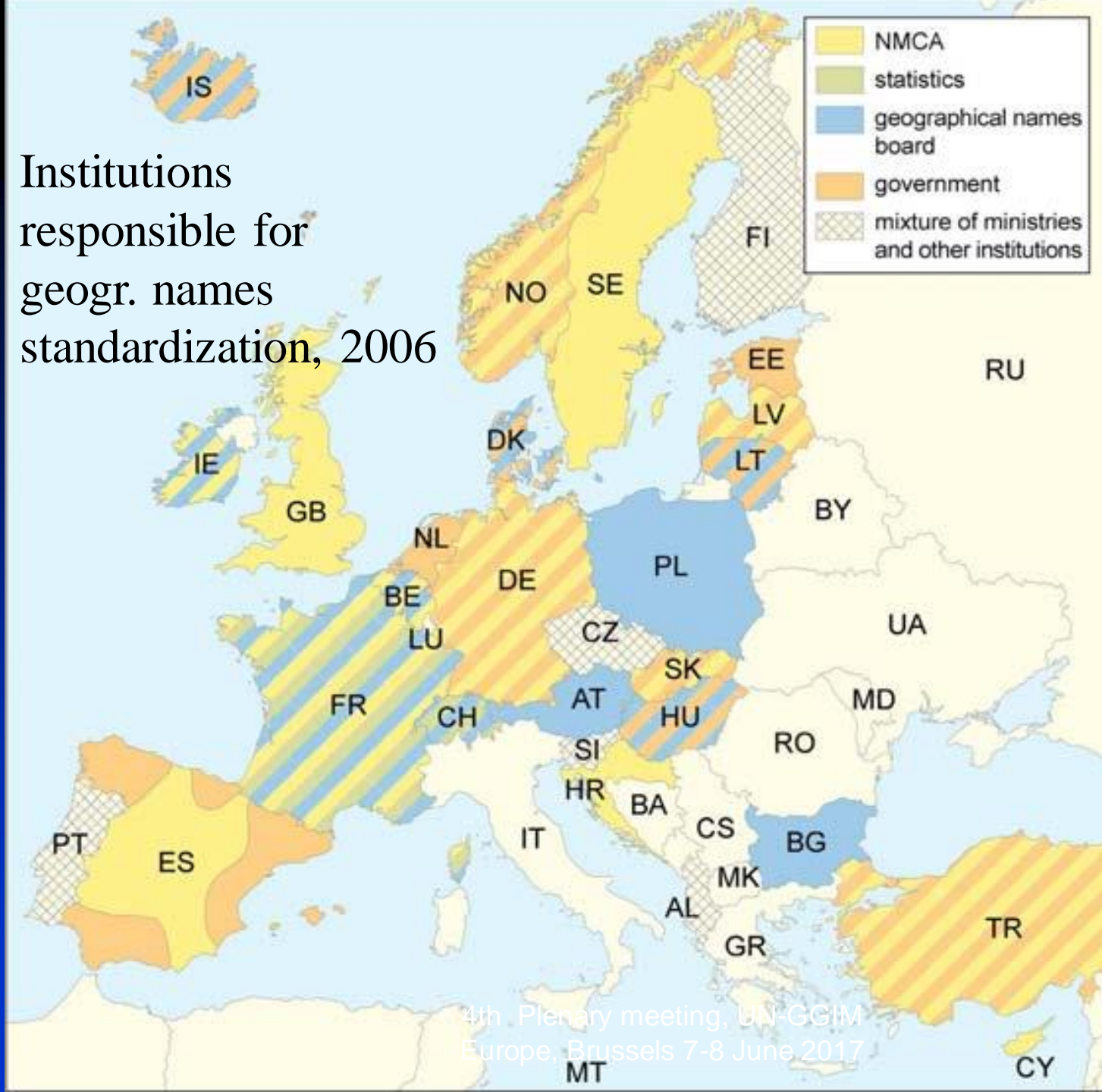
Number of names in national toponymical databases, 2006





Updating frequency of name categories for European countries, 2006

Institutions
responsible for
geogr. names
standardization, 2006



Map scales used as
source for geogr.
names databases, 2006

