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# Adequate minority place-name representation on topographical maps

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**Keywords:** toponymy, minority place names, topographical maps, Central Europe

**Abstract:**

Besides representation of their place names in public space (in the linguistic landscape) on town signs, road signs, public buildings etc. finding their names also on topographical maps, notably official topographical maps, is very important for linguistic minorities residing in a certain place already for many generations. They regard this as recognizing their presence, their share in the identity of the place. It also means supporting their emotional relation to the place. It is thus also in the interest of the majority since it enforces the minority's loyalty.

Based on Ferjan Ormeling's seminal book (Ormeling 1983), later literature and the author's (together with Přemysl Mácha et al.) recent comparative study of southern Carinthia (Austria) and the Těšín/Cieszyn region (Czechia) (Jordan & Mácha et al. 2021) the paper departs from the assumption that the following were essential indicators of an adequate minority place-name representation on topographical maps:

- a) Relative share of minority names and their spelling according to the orthography of the minority or majority language.
- b) Consistency across feature categories: Does a certain mode of minority-name rendering only affect certain feature categories or all of them?
- c) Consistency across map scales: Do minority names only or predominantly occur in the largest scale or are they – in line with generalization – also reflected in derived scales?
- d) Visual representation of minority in relation to majority names: Are both represented in the same font size and type? Are they separated by a slash or is the minority name set in brackets?

These indicators will be evaluated and exemplified by some minority situations in Central Europe.

**References**

- Ormeling, F., 1983. *Minority Toponyms on Maps. The Rendering of Linguistic Minority Toponyms on Topographic Maps of Western Europe*. Utrecht.
- Jordan, P., Mácha, P. et al., 2021. *Place-Name Politics in Multilingual Areas. A comparative study of southern Carinthia (Austria) and the Těšín/Cieszyn region (Czechia)*. Cham.