

5. TRANSFORMATION OF MINORITY TOPONYMS

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In most European countries, minority names used to be adapted on official maps to the majority languages. These adaptations could consist of (see examples*):

1. Adherence to minority language orthography
2. Addition or omission of diacritical marks
3. Addition of articles in majority language
4. Addition of name elements (+generics) in majority language
5. Phonetic rendering in majority language
6. Adaptation of toponym proper to majority language structure
7. Translation into majority language
8. Substitution by new name in majority language
9. Removal of named object

Transformation type	Example
1 Unchanged acceptance of the minority name in the usual spelling	Herzeele-Herzeele
2 The addition of diacritical marks for the benefit of pronunciation	Rexpoede-Rexpoëde
3 The addition of articles or case endings	Kastenwald-LeKastenwald
4a The addition of name elements	Vernet-Vernet les Bains
4b The addition of French generic names	Hohwald-Foret de Hohwald
5 Phonetic representation in the French spelling	Strassburg - Strasbourg
6 Adaptation to the structure of the French language	Weissenburg - Wissembourg
7 Translation into the majority language	St. Kreuz-Ste. Croix aux Mines
8 Substitution by a new name in the majority language	Vilar d'Ovança – Montlouis
9 removal of named object	-

*Examples of adaptation of minority toponyms to the majority language on French topographic maps:

Institutionalised approaches towards geographical names in multilingual situations

- Traditional usage principle
- Juridical principle
- Territorial principle
- Personal principle

For these principles, see Working Paper No. 19, of the Twelfth UNGEGN Session (1986), Minority Toponyms (see [documents](#) or click for [pdf](#) here).

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