Preliminary Results of the Survey on UN/LOCODE

April 24, 2015
Survey Background

Announced on the UNECE website in March 2015, over 100 questions.

Purpose:

• How is UN/LOCODE perceived?
• How is UN/LOCODE used?
• Who is using UN/LOCODE?
• Does UN/LOCODE cover the user needs?
• How to improve UN/LOCODE
The Survey on UN/LOCODE

I. Survey Background

II. Survey Structure

III. Participants

IV. Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

V. Experience with UN/LOCODE

VI. Satisfaction

VII. Suggestion

VIII. Key Findings
Survey Structure

Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

Experience with UN/LOCODE

Satisfaction

Suggestions
Participants

Professional background of participants

- Private Sector
- Governmental Agency
- International Organization
- NGO
- Academic Institution
- Other (please specify)
Participants

When was the first time you heard about UN/LOCODE?
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UN/LOCODE stands for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Codes for Ports and Other Locations</td>
<td>75.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codes for Trade and Transport Locations</td>
<td>58.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Since 2001, UN/LOCODE was renamed after Codes for Trade and Transport Locations. Published on website, but Rec. No. 16 (edition 1998) is outdated.
Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

UN/LOCODE relevance:

- Out of scope

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any geographic location</td>
<td>26.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A location for door-to-door delivery like postal code in the U.S.A.</td>
<td>11.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A location for international trade, for example a seaport, a rail station, an airport and a road terminal, ICD (Inland Clearing Depot), etc.</td>
<td>84.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>Responses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42% of the submitted requests are not within the scope of UN/LOCODE and, as a consequence, limit the ‘address space’ provided by 3-character.
Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

Awareness of potential crisis caused by saturation of ‘address space’
Q12: Do you think Recommendation No 16 addresses your concerns and provides guidelines on UN/LOCODE?
Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

The scope of UN/LOCODE

Q17 In your opinion, what domains can UN/LOCODE be used for?

- Supply chain: 80%
- Transport and logistics: 90%
- Customs: 75%
- Finance: 20%
- Architecture, engineering: 50%
- Insurance: 10%
- Travel, tourism and: 60%
- Healthcare: 5%
- Accounting and audit: 40%
- Environment: 70%
- Entry points: 55%
- Agriculture: 30%
- e-Government: 65%
- Other (please specify): 5%
Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

Understanding on data structure of UN/LOCODE

Each column should be revisited while revising Rec. No.16, especially ‘Function’ and ‘Status’
Knowledge of UN/LOCODE

Cut-off date of UN/LOCODE Publication

Do you know the cut-off date of each UN/LOCODE release?

The publishing date is announced on the UNECE website. Do you think the cut-off date should also be announced?

The UNECE Secretariat often receives complain from users whose requests are not reflected in the latest release.
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Experience with UN/LOCODE

How to use UN/LOCODE

Q41: If you need to download UN/LOCODE, which format do you prefer?

Some 50% of the users consult the UN/LOCODE website to download the database (mainly in Excel format).
Experience with UN/LOCODE

UN/LOCODE Focal Point

Q60: Do you know if there is a Focal Point covering the country location you are requesting?

The role of the UN/LOCODE Focal Points should be clarified to users.
Experience with UN/LOCODE

Q54 Do you know the UN/LOCODE Data Maintenance Request System (http://apps.unece.org/unlocode)?

One third of the users are not aware of the possibility of submitting online requests
Experience with UN/LOCODE

Requests for new codes:

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact the UN/LOCODE Secretariat</td>
<td>11.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit an online request for a new code</td>
<td>41.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact a Focal Point for the country in question for further consultation</td>
<td>17.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>35.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Respondents: 17
Experience with UN/LOCODE

Requests for modification:

We cannot rely only on users to correct errors on entries.
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Satisfaction

Most entries are relevant to International Trade.
Satisfaction

Data quality should be improved.
Satisfaction

Q79 Are you satisfied with the UN/LOCODE directories publication?

Yes

No

Thank you for your comments! 😊
Q81 Are you satisfied with the current update frequency of UN/LOCODE directories?
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Suggestion

To change the UN/LOCODE publication policy would require a major resources effort.
Suggestion

Q92 Do you agree that the UNECE Recommendation No. 16 should be revised?

It is time to revise Rec. No. 16!
The majority of users would welcome the annual organization of a UN/LOCODE Conference.
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Key Findings (1)

• Need to revise Rec. No.16
• Need to reengineer Data Maintenance Request System to:
  - filling in a web form, instead of free-text input.
  - Edit DMRs after submission but before validation by requesters
  - Track DMRs
• Need to improve data quality
• Need to identify sub-locations, like port terminal
• Need for map service
Key Findings (2)

- Need to add more information, such as
  - Indicate sea ports and non seaports, ports which cannot be reached by sea vessels
  - Time zone
  - Local name

- Need to publish cut-off date on the website.
- Need to be notified of new release
- Need more frequent updates
Key Findings (3)

• Need to provide more formats, such as
  - XML
  - Web-based inquiry tool as on IATA website
• Need to make the UN/LOCODE website more user-friendly
• Need to support more search criteria
• Need to organize the UN/LOCODE Conference annually
Thank You