Geographic Names Standardization Policy
for Liechtenstein

United States Board on Geographic Names
Foreign Names Committee

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1. Introduction

This geographic names standardization policy has been prepared as an aid to those geographic names experts who are the working staff for the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) in the standardization of the geographic names of Liechtenstein for United States Government use. The BGN and its staff work to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government databases, publications, maps, and charts. The country policies are intended to satisfy, in part, the statutory requirements levied upon the BGN in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

2. Languages and Language Policy

a. Demographics

As of June 2013, Liechtenstein had a population of 36,942. About 65.8 percent of Liechtensteiners are native born, while 20.1 percent of the population comes from other German-speaking countries (10.8 percent from Switzerland, 5.9 percent from Austria, and 3.4 percent from Germany).[1]

b. Language

Standard German (ISO 639-3 code 'deu') is the official language of Liechtenstein[2], with day-to-day affairs conducted in Alemannic (also, Alemannisch, Schwyzerdütsch, Schwytzertuetsch, Swiss German: ISO 639-3 code 'gsw') and Walser (also, Walscher, Walserdeutsch: ISO 639-3 code 'wae') dialects.[3] The historical counties of Vaduz and Schellenberg once marked a boundary across which the two dialects were quite pronounced. Today, the majority of Liechtenstein speaks Alemannic, while only about 1,300 residents of Triesenberg, Planken, Saminatal, and Malbun still speak Walser. Differences in dialects have become less pronounced with the influx of foreign workers from Switzerland and Austria. Appendix E provides a map illustrating Liechtenstein's linguistic distribution.

c. Geographic Names Standardization

According to the *Verordnung vom 12. Juli 2005 über die Amtliche Vermessung* (Ordinance of July 12, 2005, concerning Official Surveying)[4] enacted by the *Landesverwaltung Fürstentum Liechtenstein* (National Administration of the Principality of Liechtenstein), the *Liechtensteiner*

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[1] Another 3.3 percent come from Italy, 3.3 percent from the former Yugoslavia, 2.6 percent from Turkey, and 4.8 percent from other countries. Thus, 34.1 percent of those living in Liechtenstein are not native-born. *Liechtenstein Country Website*, 'Country and People.' English. <http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/country-and-people/society/population/> Accessed March 16, 2015.

[2] Per Article 6 of the *Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein* (1921). *Liechtenstein Legal Gazette No. 15*, issued 24 October 1921. English. <http://www.llv.li/files/rdr/Verfassung-E-01-02-2014.pdf> Accessed March 24, 2015.

[3] *Ethnologue: Languages of the World.* English. <http://www.ethnologue.com/country/li/languages> Accessed April 10, 2015

[4] Landesverwaltung Fürstentum Liechtenstein, Liechtensteinisches Landesgesetzblatt Nr. 152 (2005): 214.311.1. German. <https://www.gesetze.li/lilexprod/lgsystpage2.jsp?formname=showlaw&lgblid=2005152000&gueltigdate=09122015> Accessed March 16, 2015.

Namenbuch (Liechtenstein [Place] Name Book) is authoritative in determining and standardizing place names and boundaries in the country.[5] Any revisions to Liechtenstein names or boundaries must be coordinated with the *Namenbuch*. This resource—which contains topographic, historical, demographic, and linguistic information regarding 10,000 Liechtenstein place names—was compiled over eighteen years by members of the *Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein* (Historical Society of the Principality of Liechtenstein). The Historical Society was founded in 1901 and, with support from the *Kulturstiftung Liechtenstein* (Liechtenstein Cultural Foundation), conducts research in history, folklore, and culture. Contributors to the *Namenbuch* have included scholars in linguistics as well as local and national Liechtenstein government officials.

Since May 2013, the *Liechtensteinische Landesvermessung* (Lichtenstein National Survey)[6] has been based on the *Landesvermessung der Schweiz* (Swiss National Survey). Specifically, the *Amt für Bau und Infrastruktur* (Department of Construction and Infrastructure, ABI) in Liechtenstein and the *Bundesamt für Landestopografie* (Swisstopo) in Switzerland entered an agreement whereby the latter is obliged, in cooperation with the ABI, to create and maintain the Liechtenstein National Survey to the same standards of quality as those of Swisstopo.[7] Thus, spelling of Liechtenstein geographic names found in the online map issued by Swisstopo (www.map.geo.admin.ch) may be considered as authoritative.

3. Toponymic Policies

a. Orthography

The German alphabet as used in Liechtenstein consists of the 26 basic modern Latin letters, differing from the Standard German alphabet in one respect. The letter *ß* ('scharfes S' or 'eszett'; English 'sharp S'; International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) [ɛsˈtsɛt]), though prevalent in Germany and Austria, is not used in Liechtenstein but is represented by *SS ss*.

b. Romanization

Romanization is not required for German.

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[5] See 'Source Material' below for a description of and hyperlink to the *Liechtensteiner Namenbuch*.

[6] The Liechtenstein National Survey provides the foundation upon which to build all survey work in the country, including the development of cadastral surveying and spatial data infrastructure. The Survey is responsible for reference systems, fixed-point networks, cartography, territorial boundaries, orthophotos, elevation models, and landscape models. Source: Landesverwaltung Fürstentum Liechtenstein. German. <http://www.llv.li/#/16179/landesvermessung> Accessed December 9, 2015.

[7] Amt für Bau und Infrastruktur (ABI), Landesverwaltung Fürstentum Liechtenstein. German. <http://www.llv.li/#/11959> Accessed December 9, 2015. Also, Bundesamt für Landestopografie Swisstopo, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft. 'Schweiz und Fürstentum Liechtenstein vereinbaren den Austausch von Geoinformationen.' German. <http://www.swisstopo.admin.ch/internet/swisstopo/de/home/docu/media/schweiz_und_fuerstentum.html> Accessed December 9, 2015.

c. *Diacritics*

The following diacritics are found in Liechtenstein geographic names:

Character Name	Character	Unicode Value
A with diaresis, Latin capital letter	Ä	00C4
A with diaresis, Latin small letter	ä	00E4
O with diaresis, Latin capital letter	Ö	00D6
O with diaresis, Latin small letter	ö	00F6
U with diaresis, Latin capital letter	Ü	00DC
U with diaresis, Latin small letter	ü	00FC

Though sometimes called 'umlaut letters,' *Ä ä*, *Ö ö*, and *Ü ü* generally are not considered to be parts of the German alphabet. These diacritic letters indicate unique vowels. In some alphabetical indexes and gazetteers, they may be converted into digraphs (*Ae ae*, *Oe oe*, *Ue ue*). The BGN uses diacritics rather than digraphs. Names with digraphs should be entered as variants, provided the diacritics are found in approved names.

d. Generic Terms

A generic is a term used to describe a geographic feature, such as 'river,' 'hill,' and 'lake.' If the term does not identify the actual feature, it should be considered a false generic and not be added to the generic field of the Geographic Names Database (GNDB). Generic terms are not collected for populated places. Appendix A contains a reference of common German generic terms that may be encountered in Liechtenstein approved names.

e. Hyphenation, Capitalization, and Spelling

In principle, hyphenation, capitalization, and spelling of geographic names are established officially through inclusion in and coordination with the *Liechtensteiner Namenbuch*. Such names are not governed by general rules of orthography. Thus, regardless of modern spelling rules, naturalized spellings of geographic names based on local dialects may be seen on maps and should be preserved.[8] Examples:

- *Vordera Strich* (Standard German: *Vorderer Strich*)
- *Hindera Strich* (Standard German: *Hinterer Strich*)
- *Uf den Wisen* (Standard German: *Auf den Wiesen*)

As a rule, articles and prepositions within geographic names are in lower case. Adjectives are usually in upper case. Examples:

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[8] Editors of the *Liechtenstein Namenbuch* work closely with local inhabitants to establish geographic names that preserve linguistic and cultural history, regardless of current trends in Standard German orthography: *'Die Geländenamen sind im Laufe der Geschichte aus der Anschauungswelt der einheimischen Bevölkerung herausgewachsen. Sprachlich bilden sie einen Teil der lokalen Mundart. Dies bedeutet, dass die Schreibung unserer Geländenamen sich grundsätzlich nicht nach den für das Hochdeutsche geltenden Regeln zu richten hat; häufig wäre eine solche Anlehnung auch gar nicht möglich, da mancher mundartliche Laut in der Schriftsprache keine Entsprechung hat.'* ['Place names have sprung from native perspectives over a long time. Linguistically, these place names compose part of the local dialect. This means that the spelling of our place names is not governed by the rules of Standard German. Indeed, because some dialect vocalizations have no written equivalents, such a correspondence would be largely impossible.'] Source: *Liechtensteiner Namenbuch, Band 6: Einführung, Quellen, Register*, p. 231.

- *Uf da Gräba* (‘*Auf den Gräben*’)
- *I da Köpf* (‘*In den [Fels]köpfen*’)
- *Undr dr Gassa* (‘*Unter der Gasse*’)
- *Beim Schloss*
- *Ober Mera*
- *Alten Länder*
- *Lang Wesa*

A modifier is a word that limits or qualifies the sense of another word. In geographic names, these are generally adjectives, articles, and prepositions. Examples:

- *Alter Friedhof*
- *Beim Brunnen*
- *Gross Mad*
- *Neuen Wingarten*
- *Nü Renk Weg*
- *Öbers Egg*

   Appendix B contains a list of common modifiers in Liechtenstein place names.

f. Long and Short Forms

Long forms of geographic names are typically seen with administrative and political divisions and a small number of natural and man-made features. Examples:

- Long form: *Gemeinde Planken*   Short form: *Planken*
- Long form: *Fürstentum Liechtenstein*   Short form: *Liechtenstein*
- Long form: *Der Rhein*   Short form: *Rhein*
- Long form: *Haltestelle Schaan-Vaduz*   Short form: *Schaan-Vaduz*

Short forms of such names usually appear on maps and lists. Long and short forms of names of populated places are approved when supported by official evidence. In most instances, the short name should be ranked as the primary name.

g. Abbreviations

Abbreviations in geographic names must be written out in the GNDB:

- *Gemeinde Vaduz*, not *Gde. Vaduz*

   Appendix C contains a list of abbreviations that may be found in Liechtenstein maps.

h. Numbers

Arabic and Roman numerals rarely appear in Liechtenstein geographic names. When found, both Arabic and Roman cardinal numbers should be expanded. Ordinal numbers are always spelled out and declined as appropriate.

4. Political Geography Policy

a. Country Name

Conventional Short Form	Liechtenstein
Conventional Long Form	Principality of Liechtenstein
Local Short Form	Liechtenstein
Local Long Form	Fürstentum Liechtenstein

b. Capital Name

Conventional Short Form	Vaduz

c. First-order Administrative Divisions (ADM1)

Note: In Liechtenstein, an ADM1 ('*Gemeinde*' [municipality]) is the only administrative level within the country. Appendix D contains a map illustrating their location:

Name	GEC	GENC	Seat
Balzers	LS01	LI-01	Balzers
Eschen	LS02	LI-02	Eschen
Gamprin	LS03	LI-03	Gamprin
Mauren	LS04	LI-04	Mauren
Planken	LS05	LI-05	Planken
Ruggell	LS06	LI-06	Ruggell
Schaan	LS07	LI-07	Schaan
Schellenberg	LS08	LI-08	Schellenberg
Triesen	LS09	LI-09	Triesen
Triesenberg	LS10	LI-10	Triesenberg
Vaduz	LS11	LI-11	Vaduz

d. Conventional Names

Name	UFI	UNI	Designation
Alps	-2551001	-3512719	MTS
Principality of Liechtenstein Liechtenstein	-1187161	-1749163	PCLI
Rhine River Rhine	-2152115	-2984289	STM

5. Source Material

***Geodatenportal: Amt für Bau und Infrastruktur* (*ABI*)** offers an interactive map of Liechtenstein to a scale of 1:1500. The user may search for a specific place name or address within a given municipality; draw lines, polygons, and labels on the map; and create a pdf.
http://geodaten.llv.li/geoportal/flurnamenkarte.html

Online interactive map of Liechtenstein, maintained by the *Bundesamt für Landestopografie* (Swisstopo) in Switzerland in collaboration with the *Amt für Bau und Infrastruktur* (Department of Construction and Infrastructure, ABI) in Liechtenstein. Search feature available with scale that varies from entire country coverage down to 10-meter resolution. For a given place, the user may toggle among color maps, gray scale maps, and satellite imagery.
www.map.geo.admin.ch

Liechtensteiner Namenbuch, a six-volume, 3,500 page compendium of topographic, historical, demographic, and linguistic information regarding 10,000 place names throughout all of Liechtenstein. Examples from literary and historical writings—dating as far back as the sixteenth century—are used to trace the etymologies of place names. Begun in 1980 by Hans Stricker, editor of the *Dicziunari Rumantsch Grischun* in Chur (Switzerland), the work is now carried on by the *Historischer Verein für das Fürstentum Liechtenstein* (Historical Society of the Principality of Liechtenstein) with support from the *Kulturstiftung Liechtenstein* (Liechtenstein Cultural Foundation). The *Liecthensteiner Namenbuch* is available in hard copy or online.
http://historischerverein.li/

Appendix A: Glossary of Generic Terms

Generic	Feature Designation Name	Feature Designation Code
Alp	mountain	MT
Au	forest, meadows of a flood plain	FRST,MDW
Bach	stream, brook	STM
Berg	mountain	MT
Brunnen	spring	SPNG
Bühl	hill	HLL
Burg	castle	CSTL
Denkmal	monument	MNMT
Dorf	village	PPL
Egg	crest	MT, HLL
Feld	field	FLD
Fels(en)	cliff, rock	CLF, RK
Friedhof	cemetery	CMTY
Fürstentum	independent political entity	PCLI
Gemeinde	primary administrative division	ADM1
Graben	narrow valley, ditch, gorge	DTCH, GRGE
Grat	ridge	RDGE
Hof	homestead	FRM
Holz / Hölzli	wood, grove	FRST, OCH
Horn	mountain peak	PK, PROM
Joch	pass	PASS
Kanal	canal	CNL
Kapelle	chapel	CH
Kirche	church	CH
Kloster	monastery, convent	MSTY, CVNT
Kopf	mountain	MT
Markt	marketplace	PPL
Meierhof	farm	FRM
Mühle	mill	ML
Sattel	mountain pass	PASS
Schloss	castle, manor-house	CSTL
See	lake	LK
Spitz	mountain peak	PK
Stadt	town, city	PPL
Stein	rock, peak	RK, PK
Steinbruch	quarry	MNQR
Strasse	street, road	ST
Tal	valley	VAL
Wald	wood, forest	FRST
Weg	way, path, road, street	PRMN, RD, ST, TRL
Wiese	meadow	MDW

Appendix B. Modifiers in Liechtenstein Place Names

All German nouns possess one of three genders: masculine, feminine, or neuter. Adjective endings inflect to indicate the case and number of the nouns they modify. In the nominative singular, adjective endings are: -er (masculine), -e (feminine), and -es (neuter). Hence, some single-root adjectives below have multiple entries (e.g., *alt*, *-er*, *-e*, *-es*).

German	*English*
alt, -er, -e, -es	old
auf	on, upon
beim	by the
der, die, das	the
gross, -er, -e, -es	large, great
hinter, -er, -e, -es	hinder, rear
im	in the
in	in
klein, -er, -e, -es	small, little
mittel: mittler, mittlere, mittleres	middle
neu(-), -er, -e, -es	new
ober(-), -er, -e, -es	upper, above
schwarz(-), -er, -e, -es	black
über	above
unter, -er, -e, -es	low, below
vorder, -er, -e, -es	fore
zwischen	between

Note: Alemannic pronunciation differs somewhat from that of Standard German, which may affect orthography. Examples:

- *Under dä Bärgichöpf* (Standard German: *Unter der Bergköpfe*)
- *Bim Stall* (Standard German: *Beim Stall*)

Appendix C: Abbreviations on Liechtenstein Maps

	Expansion
B	Balzers
Be	Bendern
E	Eschen/Nendeln
FL	Fürstentum Liechtenstein
G	Gamprin/Bendern
Gde	Gemeinde ('ADM1')
HSb	Hinterschellenberg
Hst	Haltestelle ('train station')
M	Mauren
N	Nendeln
OL	Liechtensteiner Oberland
P	Planken
R	Ruggell
Rne	Ruine ('ruin')
St	Sankt ('Saint ___')
S	Schaan
Sb	Schellenberg
T	Triesen
Tb	Treisenberg
UL	Liechtensteiner Unterland
V	Vaduz

Source: *Liechtensteiner Namenbuch*, Band 6: Einführung, Quellen, Register, p. 416

Appendix D: First-Order Administrative Division (ADM1) Map of Liechtenstein[9]
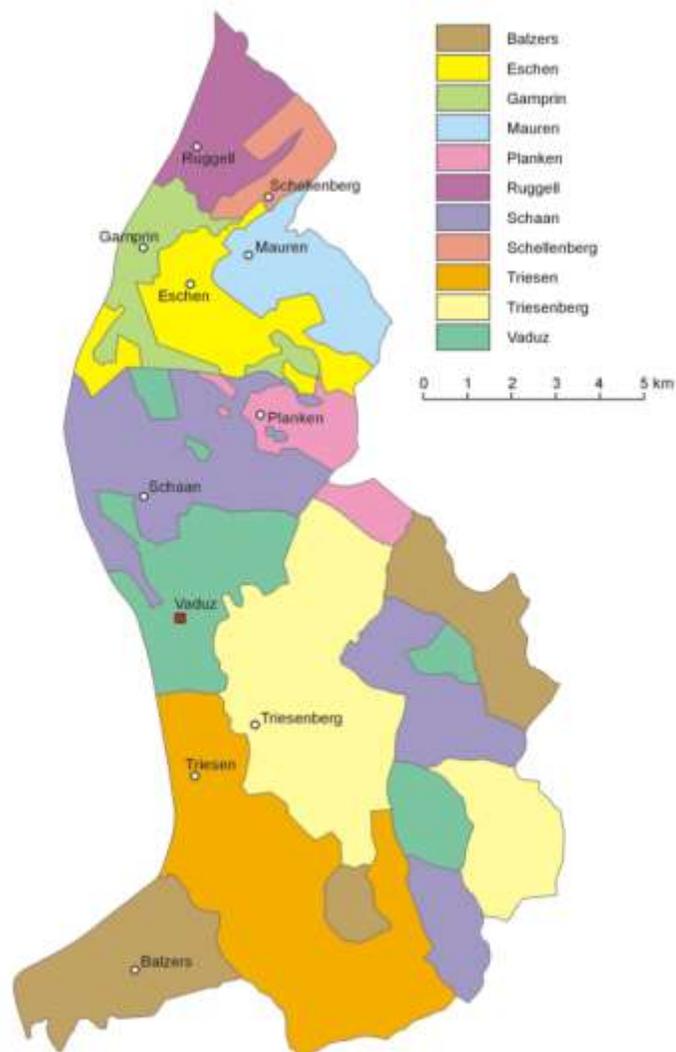
Source: *Deutsche Wikipedia, "Gemeinden Liechtensteins."* German.
<http://de.academic.ru/dic.nsf/dewiki/502544> Accessed March 23, 2015.

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[9] Liechtenstein consists of eleven first-order administrative divisions, seven of which possess enclaves or exclaves. This distribution may be accounted for in two ways. First, Liechtenstein has a long feudal history, with noble families often presiding over multiple non-contiguous land holdings. Vaduz and Schellenberg, for example, were ruled between 1416 and 1613 by the Counts of Werdenberg, Sulz, and Brandis before the House of Liechtenstein purchased the territories from the impoverished Counts of Hohenems in 1699 and 1712, respectively. Second, the flat western part of Liechtenstein, bordering the Rhine River, provides favorable conditions for agriculture. The eastern mountainous part offers rich supplies of timber. Thus, the divided territories of Balzers, Vaduz, Triesenberg, Schaan, and Gamprin were better able historically to supply the needs of their inhabitants than otherwise possible had they been restricted to one region. The importance of exclaves diminished after the Second World War, when Liechtenstein's economy modernized. Source: *Embassy of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Washington, D.C.* <http://www.liechtensteinusa.org/> Accessed March 24, 2015.

Appendix E: Distribution of Liechtenstein Dialects

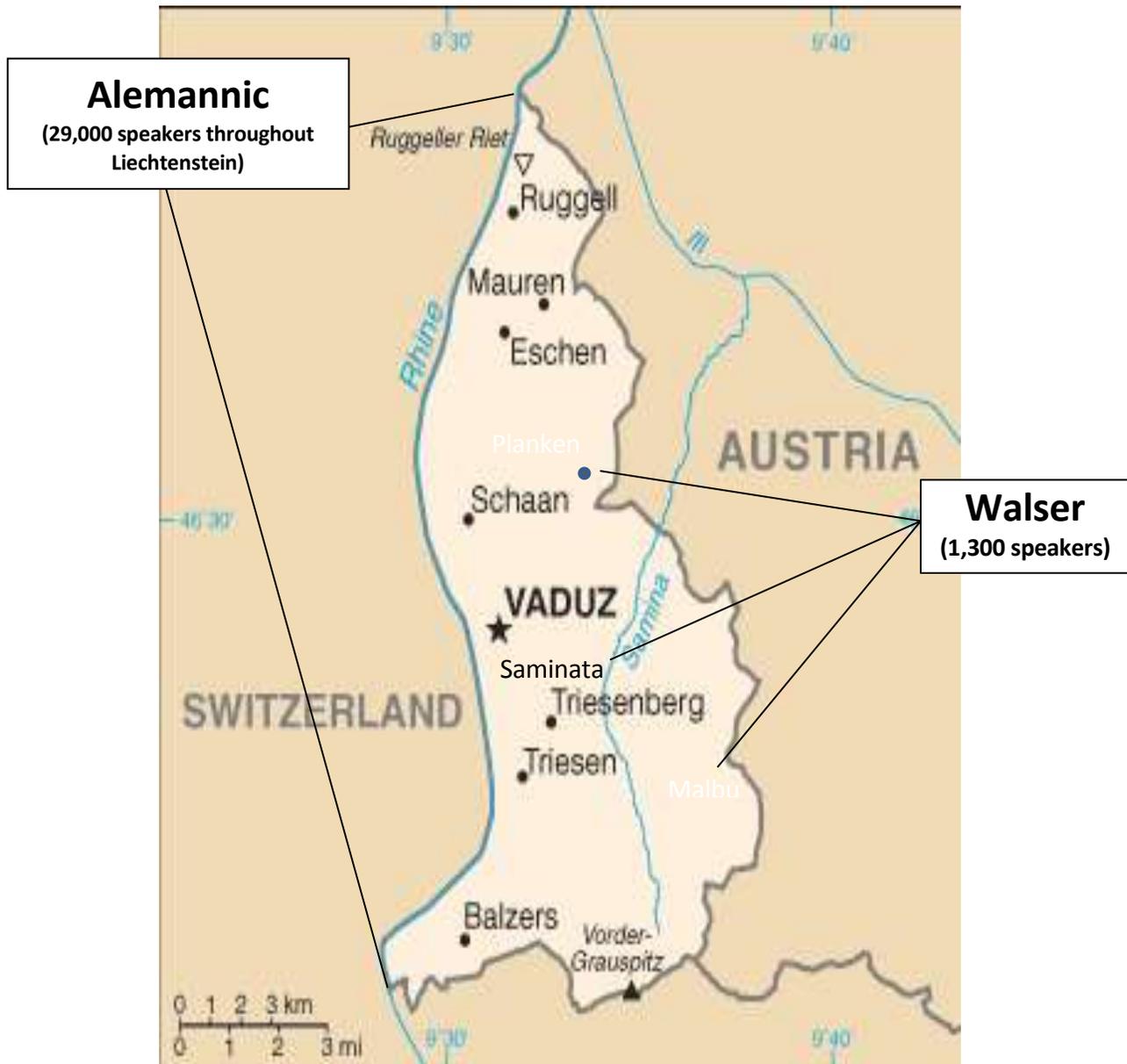Image: *U.S. Department of State*, Liechtenstein. <http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/ls/> Accessed April 13, 2015.

Language Statistics: *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* <http://www.ethnologue.com/country/li/languages> Accessed April 10, 2015.